

# AffairsCloud Daily Scoop



**English**



# 21 JANUARY

# 2025

[WWW.AFFAIRSCLOUD.COM](http://WWW.AFFAIRSCLOUD.COM)

This **PAID PDF** is provided by AffairsCloud's dedicated team that works diligently to provide aspirants with high-quality content. We recommend you to purchase this PDF subscription and seize the opportunity to learn efficiently.

**Help Us to Grow & Provide Quality Service**

# WE ARE HIRING



CareersCloud  
LEARN TO LEAD



For Apply:  
**SCAN** QR CODE

**JOB OPENINGS:**

-  Quantitative Aptitude
-  Reasoning
-  English
-  Current Affairs



VACANT

Click Here to **Apply**

**[Click here to Download the CareersCloud APP](#)**

**[Click here to Join the Telegram Channel](#)**

**[Current Affairs Channel](#)**

**[AffairsCloud Hindu Vocabs](#)**

**Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed**

**[Support@affairscloud.com](mailto:Support@affairscloud.com)**

**BUY CRACK**  
**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**PDF**

GET EXTRA  
**10%**  
DISCOUNT

USE CODE  
**PDF10**



### Crack Current Affairs 2024

Bank & Insurance



Created by : **AffairsCloud**

Path

Articles

Quizzes

Current Affairs English



Current Affairs Hindi



Banking Awareness



CA Exam PDF



Special CA



Topic-Wise Content



Topic-Wise Quizzes



State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

Monthly

Weekly

**Daily**

PIB News



Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English  
Ebook



AffairsCloud Dailyscoop Feb 29 2024 - English  
Ebook



Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English  
**START**

Monthly

**Weekly**

Daily

PIB News



Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English  
Ebook



Weekly Top 60: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English  
Ebook



Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Quiz - English  
**START**

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

**PIB News**



February 29 2024 PIB News - English  
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English  
Article

---

## AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

### Table of Contents

Hand Written Notes .....	5
Detailed Content .....	12

### **Important Notice: CareersCloud Content Sharing and Legal Compliance**

We kindly request our aspirants **not to share or distribute our content, PDFs, videos, or any other materials under our ownership to individuals or through any social media platforms**. Please note that we have implemented a tracking system to monitor such activities. Any violation of this policy may result in the immediate termination of access to our services, and we will not be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused due to such actions. Furthermore, we also reserve the right to take strict legal action, including filing complaints under applicable laws, against individuals or entities found violating this policy.



## Hand Written Notes

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Implemented  
DPIIT, MoC&I → Startup India initiative → To ↑ Innovation & growth of startups across India → Completed 9 years

Declared → January 16 - National Startup Day

#### Accomplishments

- India - 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world with > 1.59 lakh startups (Jan 2025)
- Major hubs for startups in India
  - ↳ Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi
- IT Services - Topped in creating no. of jobs in startups

Report  
→ DPIIT → Startup funding in India → ↑ to USD 115 bn (2024) ↻ USD 8 bn (2016)

#### Features

- Tax Benefits: Eligible startups enjoy tax exemptions for 3 consecutive financial years
- Funding Support: Rs.10,000 cr FFS supports early-stage funding.

#### Events

Launched  
→ Piyush Goyal, MoC&I → PRABHAAV Factbook → Ultimate guide to India's growing startup ecosystem

To Establish To  
→ Maharashtra + SIDBI → Rs.100 Cr Fund → Strengthen startups & small businesses

Launched To celebrate  
→ SPF + DPIIT + Startup India → 'Startup Baithak' & 'Startup Baatchee' → National Startup Day 2025  
(Initiatives)

DPIIT - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

MoC&I - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

IT - Information Technology

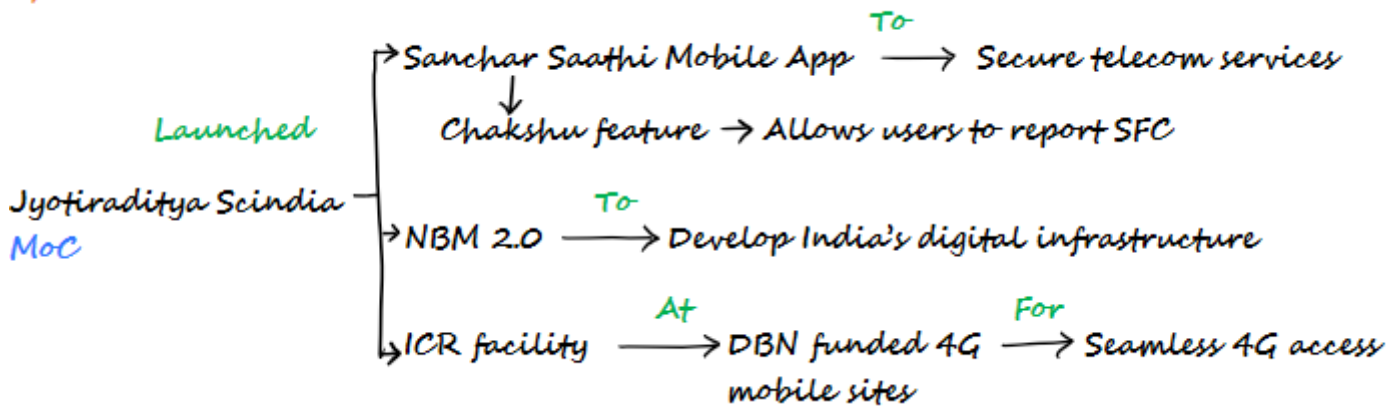
FFS - Fund of Funds for Startups

PRABHAAV - Powering a Resilient and Agile Bharat for the Advancement of Visionary Startups

SIDBI - Small Industries Development Bank of India

SPF - Startup Policy Forum

2)



MoC - Ministry of Communications

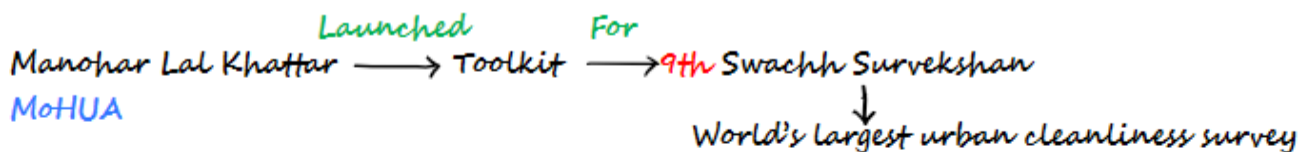
SFC - Suspected Fraudulent Communications

NBM - National Broadband Mission

ICR - Intra Circle Roaming

DBN - Digital Bharat Nidhi

3)



→ **Launched** - 'Super Swachh League' 2024

Separate league of cities performing well in cleanliness

→ Final phase of assessment - From 15th Feb 2025 & will be completed by end of Mar 2025

→ **Cities which are included in SSL**

Category	Selected City
Very Small Cities (<20,000 population)	Panchgani (Maharashtra), Patan (Gujarat)
Small Cities (20,000 - 50,000)	Vita (Maharashtra), Saswad (Maharashtra)
Medium Cities (50,000 - 3 Lakh)	Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), Tirupati (AP)
	New Delhi Municipal Council (Delhi)
Big Cities (3 - 10 Lakh)	Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chandigarh (Punjab)
Million Plus Cities (> 10 Lakh)	Navi Mumbai (Mumbai), Indore (MP)
	& Surat (Gujarat)

MoHUA - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

SSL - Super Swachh League

AP - Andhra Pradesh

MP - Madhya Pradesh

4)

Exercise Devil Strike → Joint exercise <sup>B/w</sup> → Indian Army & Indian Air Force <sup>To</sup> → ↑ Operational readiness & adaptability of the forces

5)

ISM + CG Power + CSPL → Fiscal Support Agreement <sup>To</sup> → Advance India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem

**Key Point**

CG Power + Renesas Electronics America Inc + Stars Microelectronics (Thailand) <sup>To establish</sup> → Semiconductor OSAT unit of CG power

↓ Cost      ↓ In

Rs 7,600 cr      Sanand, Gujarat

ISM - India Semiconductor Mission

CSPL - CG Semi Private Limited

OSAT - Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test

6)

FIU-IND + NHB <sup>To</sup> → Strengthen implementation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

DoR, MoF      MoF

FIU-IND - Financial Intelligence Unit-India

DoR - Department of Revenue

MoF - Ministry of Finance

NHB - National Housing Bank

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

1)

Shriram Life Insurance <sup>Launched</sup> → Shriram Life Sunishchit Laabh <sup>Combines</sup> → Savings & Life insurance benefits

(Savings plan)

↓ <sup>About</sup>

Entry age - 30 days to 60 years

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Released  $\xrightarrow{\text{QS}}$  World Future Skills Index 2025  $\xrightarrow{\text{Topped by}}$  USA  $\xrightarrow{\text{Placed}}$  India at Rank 25  
UK

Overall Ranking:

Rank	Country	Score
1	USA	97.6
2	UK	97.1
3	Germany	94.6
4	Australia	93.3
5	Canada	91.0
25	India	76.6

Future of Work indicator :

Rank	Country	Score
1	USA	100
2	India	99.1
3	Mexico	98.2

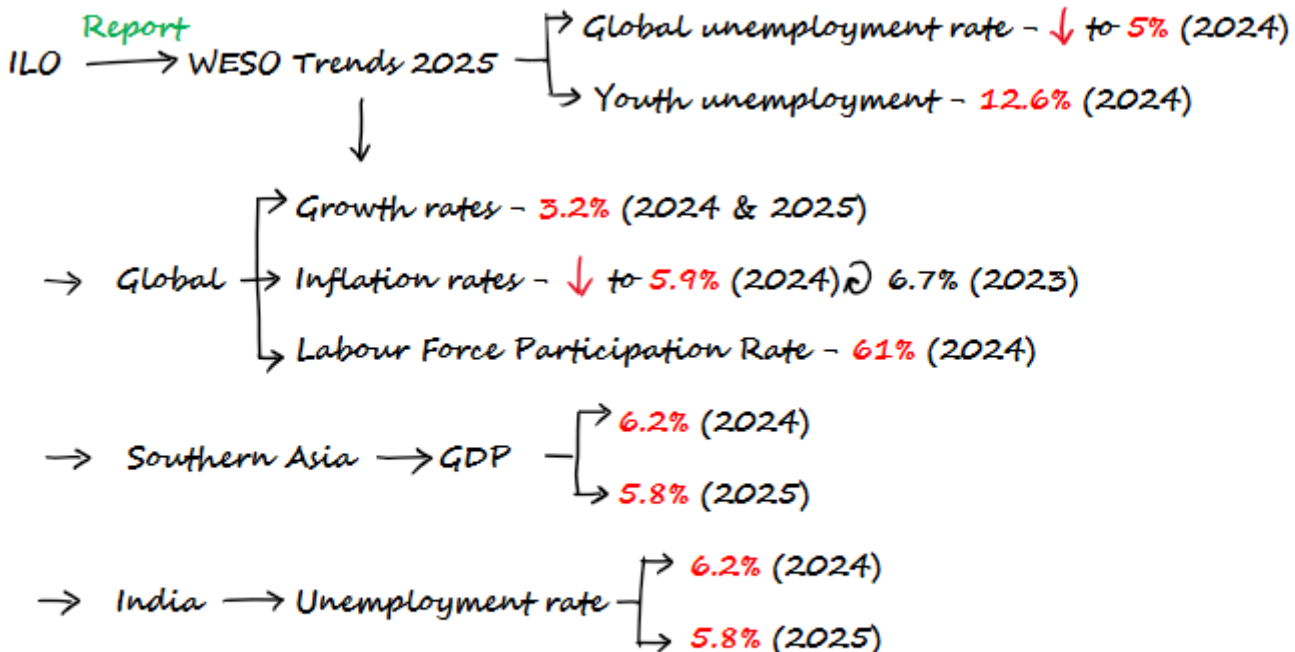
Note: India - 2nd-largest destination for Venture Capital funding (Asia-Pacific)

QS - Quacquarelli Symonds

USA - United States of America

UK - United Kingdom

2)



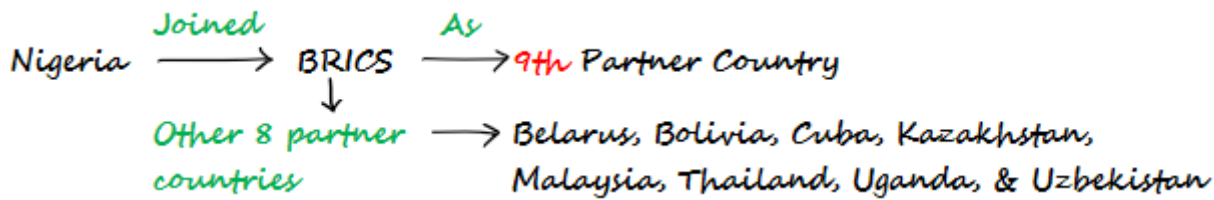
ILO - International Labour Organization

WESO - World Employment and Social Outlook

GDP - Gross Domestic Product



3)



BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

4)



BIS - Bureau of Industry & Security

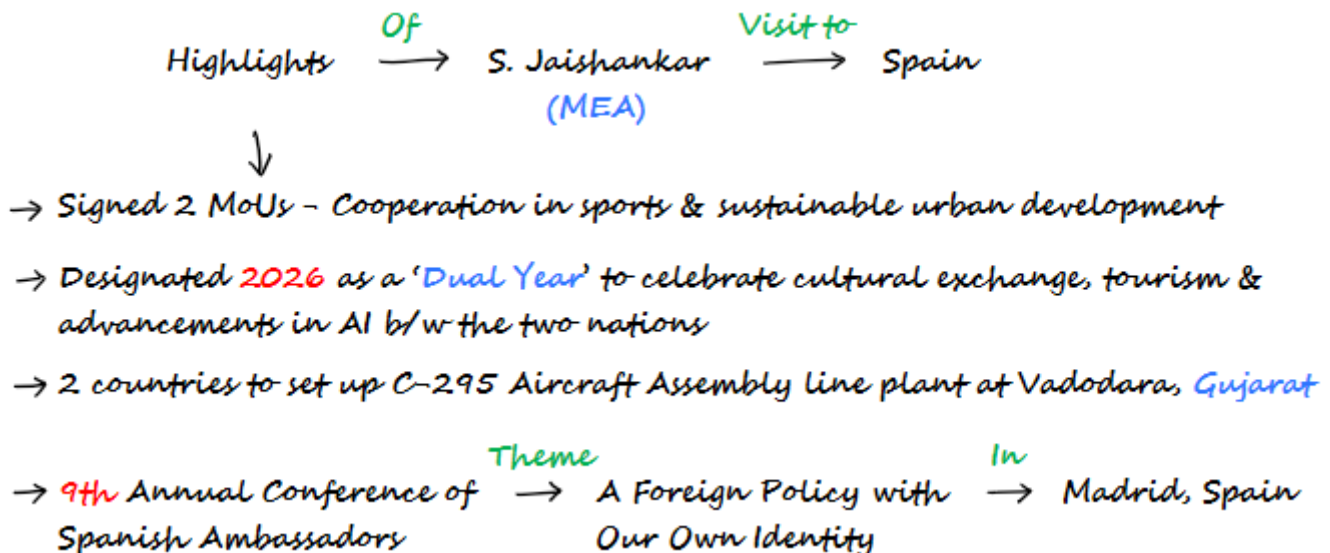
USA - United States of America

BARC - Bhabha Atomic Research Center

DAE - Department of Atomic Energy

IQCAR - Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research

5)



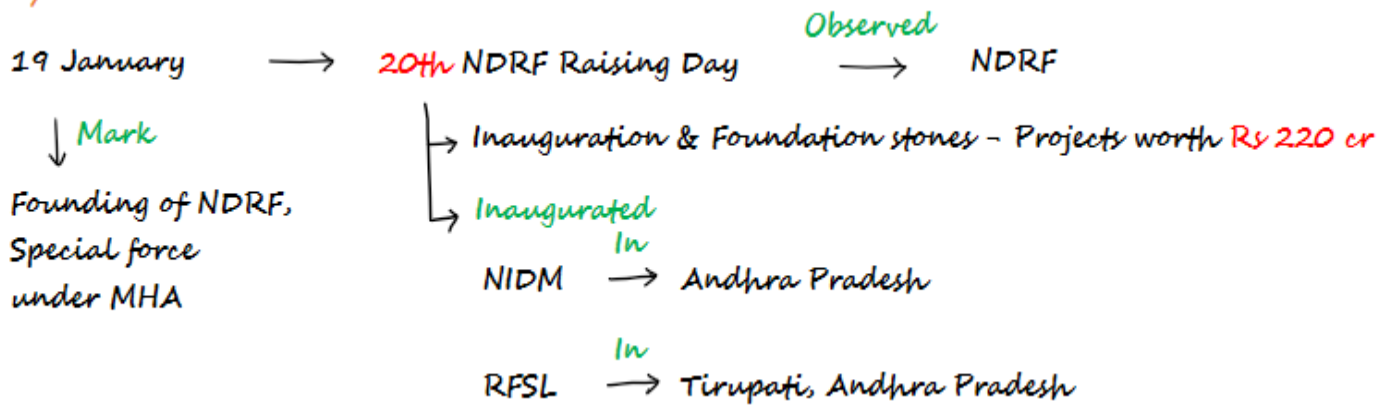
MEA - Ministry of External Affairs

MoUs - Memorandum of Understanding



**IMPORTANT DAYS**

1)



NDRF - National Disaster Response Force

MHA - Ministry of Home Affairs

NIDM - National South Campus of the Institute of Disaster Management

RFSL - Regional Forensic Science Laboratory

**Please Let us Know your Feedback – Handwritten Notes**



[Click here to give Rating](#)

**Disclaimer**

**Aim**

We Try to Cover 15+ Current Affairs Questions in Upcoming Bank Exams from Hand written Notes

**Ultimate Tool for Beginners**

Hand Written Notes, meticulously designed to guide beginners in capturing important points from news and to enlighten the note-taking process

**Mind Mapping**

It helps to understand the news easily and We map the news in a way that boosts your memory power, ensuring you remember important information.

**Note:** In future, Homework Notes can be read only in our mobile App/Website and will no longer be available for download.

## Detailed Content

**Current Affairs 21 January 2025 : Headlines**



# AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

## ENGLISH



**QS World Future Skills Index 2025:**  
**India ranks 2nd in job market readiness, 25th overall**



**Nine Years of Startup India**

-  **1.59 Lakh**  
Startups recognised  
(By 31st January 2025)
-  **16.67 Lakh**  
Employment Generated  
(By 31st October 2024)
-  **73,151**  
Startups with at least one woman director

**Startup India marks nine years:  
1.59 lakh startups recognised,  
16.6 lakh jobs created**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**
**21 JANUARY 2025**

- **Startup India Marks 9 Years: 1.59 Lakh Startups Recognised and 16.6 Lakh Jobs Created**
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Sanchar Saathi App, NBM 2.0 and ICR Facility to Boost Telecom Connectivity**
- **Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Launched the Toolkit for 9th Edition of Swachh Survekshan**
- **Indian Armed Forces Conducts 'Exercise Devil Strike'**
- **ISM, CG Power and CSPL Sign Fiscal Support Agreement**
- **FIU-IND & NHB ink MOU to enhance coordination and information exchange**
- **QS World Future Skills Index 2025: USA topped; India ranked 25th**
- **ILO's WESO Report 2025: Global unemployment slow down at 5%**
- **Highlights of EAM S.Jaishankar's Visit to Spain from 13th to 14th January 2025**
- **Nigeria Joined BRICS as the 9th Partner Country**
- **USA Removed BARC, IGCAR and IREL From Restrictive Entity List**
- **Shriram Life Insurance Launches Sunishchit Laabh Savings Plan**
- **India's GDP Growth Likely to Reach 6.7% in FY26: CRISIL**
- **DoT Extends Robert Jerard Ravi's Tenure as CMD of BSNL and MTNL until April 2025**
- **VP Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective"**
- **Amitav Ghosh's new book, "Wild Fictions" addressing climate change & societal issues**
- **National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2025 - January 19**



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Startup India Marks 9 Years: 1.59 Lakh Startups Recognised and 16.6 Lakh Jobs Created

On January 16 2025, **Startup India**, a transformative initiative of Government of India (GoI) that started in 2016, has successfully completed **9 years**. The initiative aimed to foster innovation and boost the growth of startups across the country. GoI has designated January 16 as **National Startup Day** to celebrate the nation's stride in promoting a robust and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.



- With **over 1.59 lakh** startups (from 500 in 2016) recognised by DPIIT (as of January 15, 2025), India has firmly positioned itself as the world's **3rd** largest startup ecosystem.
- Startup India initiative is being implemented by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (**MoC&I**).

#### Key Accomplishments of Startup India:

**i.** Indian cities like: Bengaluru (Karnataka), Hyderabad (Telangana), Mumbai (Maharashtra), and Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) emerged as major hubs for startups in India, while smaller cities have increasingly contributed to India's entrepreneurial momentum.

**ii.** As of October 31, 2024, a total of **73,151** recognized startups include minimum one women director, demonstrating the increase of women entrepreneurs in India.

**iv.** Over 16.6 lakh direct jobs have reportedly been created by DPIIT recognized startups across various sectors, from 2016 to October 31, 2024.

- The **Information Technology (IT) Services** industry with **2.04 lakh jobs**, has topped among the industries which created maximum number of jobs in startups, followed by Healthcare & Lifesciences (1.47 lakh jobs), and Professional & Commercial Services (with around 94,000 jobs).



#### Flagships Schemes Implemented under Startup India:

**i. Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):** It was launched for a period of 4 years starting from 2021-22 with budget outlay of Rs 945 crore.

- The main objective of the scheme is to support startups in areas like: proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, among others.

**ii. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS):** The scheme provides credit guarantees for loans provided to DPIIT-recognised startups by scheduled commercial banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), and Venture Debt Funds under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

- It is being implemented by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (**NCGTC**).

- As of October 31, 2024, Rs 555.24 crore in loans were guaranteed to 235 startups, including Rs 24.60 crore to 18 women-led startups under this scheme.

**iii. Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme:** It was launched in June 2016 with budget outlay of Rs 10,000 crore. The scheme aims to improve access to domestic capital for Indian startups and promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- The scheme is being managed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**), does not invest directly in startups but provides funding to SEBI-registered AIFs which further invest in startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.
- By 2024, Rs 11,148 crore was committed, attracting investments of Rs 21,221.36 crore in 1,165 startups.

#### About BHASKAR initiative:

In September 2024, DPIIT launched the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (**BHASKAR**) platform, a cutting-edge initiative which is a part of the Startup India initiative. The initiative aimed to streamline and centralize interactions within India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- It also aims to foster innovation, collaboration and growth by connecting startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.

#### About Startup Mahakumbh:

**i.** The Startup Mahakumbh which is considered one of the largest get-together of startups, unicorns, investors, and various other ecosystem stakeholders under one roof.

- The 1st edition of Startup Mahakumbh was held in 2024, which hosted over 1,300 exhibitors, showcased across 10 thematic pavilions.
- It was jointly organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation; The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA).

**ii.** The 2nd edition is scheduled to be held from April 03 to April 05, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi (Delhi) under the theme "Startup India @ 2047- Unfolding the Bharat Story".

#### Startup Funding in India Increased to USD 115 billion from USD 8 billion: DPIIT

In January 2025, DPIIT released figures of startup performance in India as a curtain raiser to commemorate National Startup Day on January 16. As per the DPIIT data, startup funding in India has increased significantly from just USD 8 billion (in 2016) to **USD 115 billion (in 2024)**.

- It also revealed that the number of states and Union Territories (UTs) with dedicated startup policies has increased from 4 (in 2016) to 31 (in 2024).

#### Key Findings about Startups in India:

**i.** The data showed that number of unicorns in India increased from just 8 (in 2016) to 118 (in 2024).

**Note:** Unicorns are startups valued at least a billion dollars but not yet listed on a public exchange.

#### Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launched PRABHAAV Factbook, Bharat Startup Challenge on 9th Foundation Day of Startup India

On January 16 2025, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, MoC&I launched two key initiatives including the **PRABHAAV Factbook** (Powering a Resilient and Agile Bharat for the Advancement of Visionary Startups) and **Bharat Startup Challenge** at the celebration of 9 years of Startup India in New Delhi, Delhi.

#### About Newly Launched Initiatives:

**i.** PRABHAAV Factbook will act as the ultimate guide to India's growing startup ecosystem and its growth story from 2016-2024. It will also capture the achievements of every region.

**ii.** Bharat Startup Challenge will unleash 75 challenges across different sectors like: Renewable Energy (RE), Agritech, Healthcare, Blockchain, Social Commerce, among others.

- The challenge will witness 20 industry leaders and innovators invite thinkers to address the challenges in above mentioned sectors.

### Other Key Points:

i. He informed that India has seen **76** Initial Public Offerings (**IPOs**) for the Calendar Year (CY) 2024. Also, startups in India till date have received a total funding of **Rs 13 trillion** from GoI.

### CM of Maharashtra Signed MoU with SIDBI to Establish 100 Crore Fund

In January 2025, **Devendra Fadnavis**, Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with SIDBI to establish a Rs 100 crore fund aimed at strengthening startups and small businesses in the state.

- CM Devendra Fadnavis made the announcement about MoU during the National Startup Day programme organised by the Maharashtra State Innovation Society under the Department of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- He informed that now, **Rs 30 crore fund** will be available at every divisional centre (previously funds were managed at Mumbai).

### Startup Policy Forum Launched 'Startup Baithak' and 'Startup Baatcheet' to Celebrate National Startup Day 2025

Startup Policy Forum (**SPF**), with the support of **DPIIT** and **Startup India**, launched two flagship initiatives namely, 'Startup Baithak' and 'Startup Baatcheet' to celebrate National Startup Day 2025.

- The event was held from January 15 to January 16, 2025 at iconic Group-20 (G20) Summit room in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (Delhi).
- During the event, key policy issues were discussed including data privacy, reverse flipping, Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance, capital market, and fintech regulations.

### Key Points:

i. The Startup Baithak has featured **12** exclusive, close-door roundtables held for over two days. It saw the participation from startups such as: Swiggy, Zerodha, Razorpay, BharatPe, Physics Wallah, among others.

ii. On the sidelines of Bhaitak, SPF also organised Startup Baatcheet, an informal networking event held on January 15, 2025.

- The event brought together founders, investors, startup ecosystem enablers, policymakers, and lawmakers to capture the startup outlook for 2025.

### About Startup:

Income Tax Exemption for 3 years: Startups incorporated on or after 1st April 2016 can apply for income tax exemption. The recognized startups that are granted an Inter-Ministerial Board Certificate are exempted from income-tax for a period of 3 consecutive years out of 10 years since incorporation.

Faster Exit for Startups: The Government has notified Startups as 'fast track firms' enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies.

### About Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI):

**Union Minister-** Piyush Goyal (Constituency- Mumbai North, Maharashtra)

**Minister of State (MoS)-** Jitin Prasada (Constituency- Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

### Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Sanchar Saathi App, NBM 2.0 and ICR Facility to Boost Telecom Connectivity

In January 2025, Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia**, Ministry of Communications (MoC), introduced several citizen-focused initiatives, including the launch of the **Sanchar Saathi Mobile Application (App)**, the unveiling of the National Broadband Mission (**NBM**) **2.0**, and the inauguration of the Intra Circle Roaming(**ICR**) facility at Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)-funded 4G (fourth generation) mobile sites in New Delhi, Delhi.





### About Sanchar Saathi Mobile Application (App):

The Sanchar Saathi Mobile App is a user-friendly platform aimed at enhancing telecom security and empowering citizens. It enables users to secure their telecom services and protect against fraud.

#### Key features:

- i.Chakshu:** Allows users to report Suspected Fraudulent Communications (SFC) such as calls and SMS (Short Message Service) directly from mobile logs.
- ii.** Citizens can **monitor** all mobile connections registered in their name to prevent unauthorized usage.
- iii.** Users can **block, trace, and recover** lost or stolen devices. The app helps users verify the authenticity of mobile handsets, ensuring they purchase genuine products.

**Note:** Sanchar Saathi portal was launched in 2023 by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), MoC.

### About National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0:

NBM 2.0, is an expansion of the earlier NBM 1.0 and aims to further develop India's digital infrastructure.

- Under NBM 2.0, the government intends to connect the remaining 1.7 lakh villages and improve the broadband speed to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second).

#### Key features:

- i.Extending** Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity to 2.7 lakh villages by 2030.
- ii.** Providing **broadband access to 90%** of essential institutions like schools, healthcare centers, and Panchayat offices by 2030.
- iii.** Improving the national average broadband **download speed** from 63.55 Mbps to **100 Mbps** by 2030.
- iv.** Mapping government-owned fibre networks by 2026.
- v.** Reducing Right of Way (RoW) application processing time from 60 days to 30 days by 2030.
- vi.** Increasing the number of rural internet subscribers, Ensuring 30% of mobile towers are powered by sustainable energy by 2030.
- vii.Promoting** the use of the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) app which was launched in 2023, Collaboration with various stakeholders will ensure the implementation of the (Right of Way) RoW Rules 2024.
- viii.Leveraging** Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) from the power sector will improve broadband connectivity and network resilience, particularly in remote areas.

**Note:** NBM 1.0, was launched in 2019 as part of the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018.

Learn to Lead

# THE HINDU EDITORIAL

## VOCABULARY COURSE DAILY

UPTO **50%** OFF
USE CODE **E50**

- Article vocabulary with images
- Monthly Words List PDF
- Yearly vocab word list by Alphabets

- Vocabulary Quiz
- Editorial Quiz
- Article Analysis PDF

Running Since 2022

9000+ Words Crossed Still Now

Grab Your Offer Now!



### About Intra Circle Roaming(ICR) facility:

With the launch of Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) at Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)-funded 4G sites, **subscribers of multiple** Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) can now access 4G services from the same tower, improving connectivity with lower costs.

- It will provide **seamless 4G access** to over 35,400 villages across approximately 27,000 towers.

**Note:** The **DBN**, formerly Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), funds mobile towers to improve telecom connectivity in rural areas.

### Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Launched the Toolkit for 9th Edition of Swachh Survekshan

In January 2025, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the toolkit for 9th edition of 'Swachh Survekshan(SS)', the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, in its new version- simpler, sharper, systematic and all-inclusive.



- A special category- Super Swachh League (SSL) has been introduced for the year 2024, creating a separate league of cities performing well in cleanliness.
- SS which was initially launched by MoHUA in 2016 promotes urban sanitation improvement through citizen participation and 3rd party validation.

**Key People:** S. Katikithala, Secretary of MoHUA; Roopa Mishra, Managing Director (MD), Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U); Principal Secretaries of Urban Development, State Mission Directors, Municipal Commissioners (MCs) representatives from various States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and officials from the MoHUA were present at the event.

### Key Features :

i. Cities have been classified into 5 population categories: **Very Small**(less than 20,000 population), **Small** (20,000- 50,000 population), **Medium** (50,000- 3lakh population), **Big**(3- 10 lakh population), and **Medium-Plus**(more than 10 lakh population).

- Each category will be examined based on population and parameters customised to its specific size and requirements.
- For each category, awards will be given to clean cities, thus making new SS inclusive.

ii. This year, the assessment will include Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and adopting Swabhav Swachhata Sanskar Swachhata(4S) (behavior change in daily lives).

iii. The assessment will focus on key parameters like: eliminating dark spots, visible cleanliness, setting up Reduce Reuse Recycle(RRR) Centres, and more.

CareersCloud Formerly AffairsCloud

**Daily Current Affairs**

**HANDWRITTEN**

**Notes**

- ✓ Sure 15+ Marks
- ✓ Easy Understanding
- ✓ Time Saving

**New Feature**

Option Revision Implemented in Quiz

**Sample Download**

SCAN TO BUY

Available in

**Crack Current Affairs Course**

Buy & Get 31+ Add-on Courses

11% Discount Use Code **HW11**

- Also, school assessments have been introduced this year as part of SS, to foster the integration of swachhata values in educational institutions and inspire young minds to adopt cleanliness and sustainability.

iv. All indicators in the new SS toolkit have been organised into **10** buckets, with assessment parameters simplified for better understanding by the ULBs.

- These are: visible cleanliness; segregation, collection and transportation of waste; solid waste management; access to sanitation; used water management; mechanization of desludging services; advocacy for Swachhata; strengthening of eco-system & institutional parameters; overall welfare of sanitation workers and citizen feedback and grievance redressal.

v. The last and final phase of SS- Field Assessment for the 9th edition will start on **February 15, 2025** and will be completed by the end of **March 2025**.

### About Super Swachh League:

i. The cities who have been in the top 3 rankings for minimum 2 years in the last 3 years (2021-23) will be included in this league.

- Based on the above mentioned parameters, **12 cities** have been included in the SSL.
- Also, top 3 ranking cities in each population category will be included in the league for the subsequent years.

ii. ULBs in SSL will be evaluated on additional aspirational indicators and are required to maintain a score of 85% or higher to retain their position.

iii. Cities which are included in the SSL are:

Category	Selected City
Very Small Cities	Panchgani (Maharashtra), Patan (Gujarat)
Small Cities	Vita (Maharashtra), Saswad (Maharashtra)
Medium Cities	Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh, AP), New Delhi Municipal Council (Delhi)
Big Cities	Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP), Chandigarh (Punjab).
Million Plus Cities	Navi Mumbai (Mumbai), Indore (Madhya Pradesh, MP) and Surat (Gujarat)

### About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):

**Union Minister-** Manohar Lal Khattar (Constituency- Karnal, Haryana)

**Minister of State (MoS) –** Tokhan Sahu (Constituency- Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh)

### Indian Armed Forces Conducts 'Exercise Devil Strike'

The Indian Armed Forces conducted '**Exercise Devil Strike**', a joint exercise involving the elite airborne forces of the Indian Army (IA) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) from January 16-19, 2025 at the training areas and firing ranges, validating critical drills and improving operational preparedness.

### About Exercise Devil Strike:

i. Exercise Devil Strike evaluates and improves logistical sustaining plans to ensure troops remain operational and well-equipped under challenging circumstances.

ii. It includes state-of-the-art equipment and advanced technologies that enable the precise and effective delivery of airborne forces to remote locations.



iii. It demonstrates the dedication of the Indian Armed Forces to sustaining operational excellence and flexibility in the constantly changing military environment.

iv. The exercise has improved combined operational capabilities and reaffirmed the readiness of the Indian Armed Forces to protect the interests of the country and respond effectively to any emerging threat.

**About Indian Army (IA):**

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) – General Upendra Dwivedi

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Established** – 1895

**Motto** – Seva Parmo Dharma (Service Before Self)

**About Indian Air Force (IAF):**

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) – Amar Preet Singh

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Established** – 1932

**Motto** – Nabha Sparsham Deeptam (Touch the sky with Glory)

**ISM, CG Power and CSPL Sign Fiscal Support Agreement**

In January 2025, the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **CG Power** and Industrial Solutions Limited (also known as Crompton Greaves Limited), and Ahmedabad, (Gujarat) based CG Semi Private Limited (**CSPL**) signed a Fiscal Support Agreement (FSA) to advance India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.



- The agreement supports CG Power's Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility, which was approved under the Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem.

**Key Points:**

i. CG Power will establish its semiconductor OSAT unit in Sanand, Gujarat, in collaboration with Renesas Electronics America Inc. and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand) Public Company Limited with an investment of **Rs 7,600 crore**.

ii. ISM will provide **50%** pari-passu fiscal support for the project's eligible Capital expenditures (CAPEX), demonstrating the commitment of the Government of India (GoI) to strengthening India's position as a



major participant in the global semiconductor value chain.

**iii.**CG Power will contribute significantly to India's goal of reaching the USD 500 billion production target in electronics by 2030.

**Note:** India has set a target of reaching USD 500 billion worth of electronics production by 2030.

**About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):**

**i.**The ISM was launched in **2021** with a total financial outlay of **Rs 76,000 crore** under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**).

- It has been set up as an Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation(DIC).

**ii.**It aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystems.

**iii.**The following four schemes have been introduced under the programme:

- Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India.
- Modified Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India.
- Modified Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/ Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP)/OSAT facilities in India.
- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

**FIU-IND & NHB ink MOU to enhance coordination and information exchange**

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Financial Intelligence Unit-India (**FIU-IND**) under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Delhi (Delhi) based National Housing Bank (**NHB**), under **MoF** to collaborate on a range of critical areas, including intelligence sharing, capacity building and risk assessment.



- It aims to strengthen the implementation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), and its associated rules as part of ongoing efforts.

**Signatories:**

The MoU was signed by **Vivek Aggarwal**, Director of FIU-IND, and **Sanjay Shukla**, Managing Director (MD) of NHB, along with other dignitaries present at the event in New Delhi, Delhi.

**FIU-IND and NHB will collaborate in areas of mutual interest, including the following:**

- Each party will appoint a nodal officer and an alternate nodal officer to coordinate with the other.
- Sharing relevant intelligence and information from their databases as outlined in the MoU.
- Establishing the procedure and manner in which supervised/reporting entities report to FIU-IND under the PML Rules.
- Providing outreach and training for supervised/reporting entities.



Do you have a doubt in Quants, Reasoning, English, General Awareness & Exams  
No worries, CareersCloud is here to help you

➤ **Post your doubt & Get answers from our caring aspirants and Experts**

Visit [CareersCloud.in](https://careerscloud.in)





- v. Enhancing Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) skills in supervised/reporting entities.
- vi. Assessment of AML/CFT risks and vulnerabilities in Housing Finance Companies in India.
- vii. Identifying red flag indicators for Suspicious Transaction Reports HFCs in India.
- viii. Supervising and monitoring the compliance of supervised/reporting entities with their obligations under PMLA, PML Rules, and Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/NHB guidelines.
- ix. Complying with each other's obligations under relevant international standards.
- x. Conducting quarterly meetings to discuss the above, along with typologies/trends in AML/CFT crimes, cases with imposed sanctions, etc.

**About Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):**

It is responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information related to suspicious financial transactions under the PMLA.

**Director** – Vivek Aggarwal

**Headquarters** – New Delhi (Delhi)

**Founded** – 2004

**About National Housing Bank (NHB):**

**Managing Director (MD)** – Sanjay Shukla

**Headquarters** – New Delhi (Delhi)

**Founded** – 1988

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### QS World Future Skills Index 2025: USA topped; India ranked 25th

In January 2025, London (the United Kingdom, UK-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released its first '[World Future Skills Index 2025](#)'. India secured **25th** position globally earning a score of **76.6**, which classifies it as a "future skills contender."



- India secured the **2nd** position globally, behind the United States of America (USA) in the '**Future of Work**' category indicating its strong readiness for technology-driven roles and industries of the future, especially in digital skills, artificial intelligence (AI), and green technologies.
- The **USA** leads the rankings with a score of **97.6**, followed by the UK (97.1), Germany (94.6), Australia (93.3), and Canada (91.0) in the top 5 positions, categorized as "future skills pioneers."

### **About the QS World Future Skills Index:**

- i. The QS World Future Skills Index is a thorough assessment that evaluates how effectively countries are preparing to address the changing needs of the global job market.
- ii. The index assesses four main areas: skills fit, academic readiness, future of work, economic transformation.

**iii. The assessment covers:** Over 190 countries, 280 million job postings, 5,000 universities, 5 million employer skill requirements, and 17.5 million research papers were analysed to compile the rankings.

### Highlights of the Report:

**i.** India scored only **15.6** in the sub-parameter focused on future-oriented innovation in sustainability.

- India has maintained its position as the 2nd-largest destination for Venture Capital (VC) funding in the **Asia-Pacific** region.

**ii.** For the Skills Fit indicator, India had a score of 59.1 and global ranking 37th while for academic readiness its score stood at 89.9 and 26th position. On the economic transformation index, India stood at 40th position with a score of 58.3.

**iii.** Group of 7 (G7) countries scored **68.3**, showing India's need for increased investment and innovation in sustainable practices.

### Overall Ranking:

Rank	Country	Score
1	USA	97.6
2	UK	97.1
3	Germany	94.6
4	Australia	93.3
5	Canada	91.0
25	India	76.6

### Skills Fit indicator:

Rank	Country	Score
1	United Kingdom (UK)	100
2	USA (United States of America)	94.4
3	Canada	90.9
37	India	59.1

### Academic Readiness indicator :

Rank	Country	Score
1	UK	100
2	Germany	99.6
3	Netherlands	99.3

26	India	89.9
----	-------	------

**Future of Work indicator :**

Rank	Country	Score
1	USA	100
2	India	99.1
3	Mexico	98.2

**Economic Transformation Indicator:**

Rank	Country	Score
1	South Korea	100
2	Israel	98.9
3	USA	97.9
40	India	58.3

**Key Recommendations :**

- i. Curriculum Evolution:** Universities should integrate creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial thinking into their curriculum to improve students with the skills needed for the future.
- ii. Industry-Academia Collaboration** is necessary to ensure that educational programs align more closely with real-world job demands.
- iii. Reskilling and Upskilling:** Initiatives like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS), to support the reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.

**ILO's WESO Report 2025: Global unemployment slow down at 5%**

On January 18 2025, the International Labour Organization (ILO) released its flagship report titled '[World Employment and Social Outlook : Trends 2025\(WESO Trends 2025\)](#)', highlighting the current state of global labour markets and the social outlook. The report provides an in-depth analysis of global employment trends, challenges, and prospects for the near future.



- According to the report, the global unemployment rate slowed down at 5% in 2024 and is projected to tick lower again in 2026 to 4.9%. However, Youth unemployment remain high at 12.6% in 2024.

- The unemployment rates for the overall number of jobs missing, stood around **402.4 million** in 2024 globally.

### Highlights of the Report:

#### Global Economic Recovery:

i. According to the report, Global growth rates remain stable, hovering around **3.2%** in 2024 and 2025.

- Inflation rates have come down from **6.7%** in 2023 to 5.9% in 2024 and are expected to decelerate further in 2025.

ii. The global Labour Force Participation Rate (**LFPR**) remained at **61%** in 2024.

ii. In 2024, the number of young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) in Low-Income Countries (LICs) increased.

- Around 15.8 million young men (20.4%) and 28.2 million young women (37.0%) were **NEET**, which is an increase of 500,000 and 700,000 compared to 2023.

iii. Globally, there were 85.8 million young men (13.1%) and 173.3 million young women (28.2%) who were NEET in 2024, marking an increase of 1 million and 1.8 million, respectively, in 2023.

iv. The global jobs gap in 2024 is estimated to reach **402.4 million** people, that includes 186 million unemployed people, 137 million discouraged workers, and 79 million people who want to work but are unable to due to other responsibilities like caring for others.

#### Southern Asia Recovery:

The ILO report indicates a strong economic performance in **Southern Asia** which is expected to experience a **6.2%** growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2024, with a slight slowdown to **5.8%** in 2025.

- While some European countries like **South Africa**, reported unemployment fall at stubbornly high levels above **30%** in 2024.

#### National Economic Recovery:

i. According to the report, the unemployment rate in **India** is projected to grow by **6.2%** in 2024 and **5.8%** in 2025.

iii. This performance is primarily attributed to **monetary policy easing**, robust domestic demand, and public investment in infrastructure.

#### About International Labour Organization (ILO):

Director- General (**DG**)- Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Established- 1919

### Highlights of EAM S. Jaishankar's Visit to Spain from 13th to 14th January 2025

Union Minister **S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) made a **2-day visit** to Spain from January 13th to 14th, 2025 which marks his second visit to Spain and first visit as External Affairs Minister (EAM).

- The aim of the visit was to meet the leadership of Spain and hold wide range discussions with the Spain's Foreign Minister **Manuel Albares**.





- He also addressed the 9th Annual Conference of Spanish Ambassadors and met the Indian community.

**Note:** Spanish President **Pedro Sanchez** made an official visit to India in October 2024 at the invitation of Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi.

### Highlights of the visit:

i. During his visit to Spain, Union Minister Jaishankar met the Spanish King Felipe VI and President Pedro Sanchez.

ii. Both the countries discussed upon bilateral partnerships including trade, investment, defense, security, urban development, railways, green hydrogen, climate action and people-to-people ties.

- They also discussed ways of increasing collaboration in new and emerging sectors of digital technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Renewable Energy(RE), and space.

iii. During the meeting, India and Spain signed two Memorandum of Understanding (**MoUs**) that focused on cooperation in **sports** and **sustainable urban development**.

iii. Addressing the Indian diaspora in Spain, Union Minister Jaishankar highlighted that **2026** has been designated as a '**Dual Year**' to celebrate cultural exchange, tourism, and advancements in AI between the two nations.

- He also announced that Spain will establish a consulate in Bengaluru(Karnataka) to strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Spain.

iv. He mentioned that over **230** Spanish companies currently operate in India and urged Spain to contribute to India's "**Make in India**" initiative.

- The two countries have made significant developments in defense and security, with special focus on setting up of **C-295 Aircraft** Assembly line plant at Vadodara, Gujarat.

### 9th Annual Conference of Spanish Ambassadors:

i. On January 13 2025, Union Minister Jaishankar was addressed at the 9th Annual Conference of Spanish Ambassadors held in Madrid, Spain. The theme of the Conference was '**A Foreign Policy with Our Own Identity**'.

ii. He became the first foreign ambassador /foreign minister to address the global conference of Spanish ambassadors.

### Points to Note:

i. India's annual trade with **Mediterranean** countries stands at **USD 80 billion** and its companies operating ports in the Mediterranean region and involvement in defense, security, and green hydrogen projects.

ii. India and Spain currently have an annual trade worth **USD 10 billion**, with collaborations in railways, clean technology, drones, and space exploration.

### About Spain:

Prime Minister(**PM**)– Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón

**Capital**– Madrid

**Currency**– Euro(EUR)

### Nigeria Joined BRICS as the 9th Partner Country

In January 2025, the government of Brazil, which holds the BRICS (**Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**) bloc presidency in 2025, announced that **Nigeria**, the world's 6th largest population and Africa's largest country, has officially joined BRICS as the **9th Partner Country**,

- Other Partner countries of BRICS bloc are: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

### About BRICS:

i. BRIC, as a formal grouping, initiated following the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India, and China held in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2006.



ii. The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of foreign ministers of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India China) countries held on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the United States of America (USA) in 2006.

- The 1st BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009.

iii. BRIC group was renamed as BRICS after South Africa was accepted as full member of BRIC in 2010.

iv. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the chairmanship of Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, in Kazan (Russia) from October 22 to 24, 2024.

- Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security".

### **New Member Countries of BRICS Bloc:**

i. In January 2024, countries namely Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) officially joined BRICS bloc.

ii. In January 2025, **Indonesia** formally became the full member of the BRICS bloc. With this, it has become the 1st SouthEast (SE) Asian country to join this bloc.

### **About Nigeria:**

**Capital-** Abuja

**President-** Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu

**Currency-** Nigeria Naira (NGN)

### **USA Removed BARC, IGCAR and IREL From Restrictive Entity List**

In January 2025, the United States of America (USA)'s Bureau of Industry & Security (BIS) has **removed 3** prominent Indian nuclear entities from its restrictive Entity List. This move aims to strengthen bilateral ties between India and USA and also focus on promoting advanced energy cooperation.

- The entities removed from the USA entity list are: Trombay, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Bhabha Atomic Research Center (**BARC**), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE); Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **IREL (India) Limited** (formerly Indian Rare Earths Ltd); and Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu, TN)-based Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (**IGCAR**).
- The updated listing also includes modifications to one existing entry of India.

**Note:** The USA has imposed restrictions on more than 200 Indian entities following India conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan in 1998.

### **About US Entity List:**

i. The list is prepared by USA's BIS which publishes the names of certain foreign persons, including businesses, research organisations that are subject to specific license requirements for the export, re-export and/or transfer (in-country) of specified items.

ii. The persons whose names are included on the list are subject to individual licensing requirements and policies.

iii. The entities on the list indicate that the USA government suspected them engaging in activities contrary to US national security or foreign policy interests.

iv. The inclusion of name on the Entity list imposes stringent licensing requirements that complicate

international business dealings.

**About United States of America (USA):**

**President-** Donald John Trump

**Capital-** Washington, D.C.

**Currency-** United States Dollar (USD)

## BANKING & FINANCE

### **Shriram Life Insurance Launches Sunishchit Laabh Savings Plan**

In January 2025, **Shriram Life Insurance** launched **Shriram Life Sunishchit Laabh**, a non-participating individual savings plan that guarantees high returns of up to 668% of the total premium paid.

i. The plan offers a combination of savings and life insurance benefits for people looking for long-term payout options and financial security.

ii. Individuals aged **30 days to 60 years** are eligible for the plan with an annual premium starting at **Rs 30,000**.

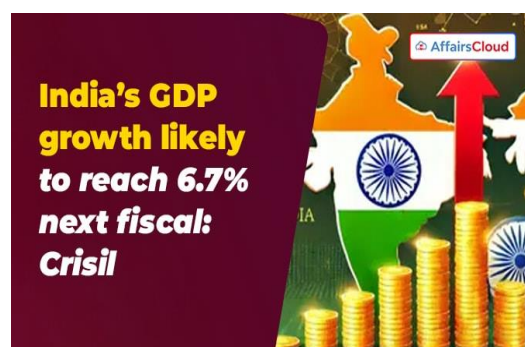
iii. This premium can be made on a Rs 15,500 half-yearly, Rs 8,000 quarterly, or Rs 3,000 monthly basis, and the plan offers tax-free maturity payouts for periods between **10 to 40 years**, up to the maximum age of **101 years**.

iv. It offers death benefits up to 160 times the annualized premium by providing additional financial security for the families of policyholders.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### **India's GDP Growth Likely to Reach 6.7% in FY26: CRISIL**

According to the **CRISIL Ratings Limited's** (formerly Credit Rating and Information Services of India Limited) Report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is likely to improve to **6.7%** in Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**).



- The report has outlined 3 main drivers i.e. the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rate cuts, lower crude oil prices and a normal monsoon, that are expected to support this growth projection.

#### **Key Findings:**

i. The report cited that a sustained decrease in food inflation, along with stable non-food inflation, could possibly lead to rate cut by the RBI in the next months.

ii. As per the report, headline inflation is making progress towards the RBI's 4% inflation target as Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has decreased from 5.5% (in November) to 5.2% (in December).

- Similarly, food inflation has declined from 9% to 8.4%, while non-food inflation remained stable at 3.1%.

- iii. As per the report, CPI inflation is projected to average **4.6%** for the current fiscal year (FY25), with a slight upward bias in the forecast.
- iv. The report revealed that the Index of Industrial Production (**IIP**) has increased to 5.2% in November, up from 3.7% in October (revised from previous estimate of 3.5%).
- This growth was mainly attributed to strong performance in investment goods and consumer durables, supported by a low base effect.
- v. The report has estimated that agricultural growth is likely to increase, as high reservoir levels bode well for rabi crop output, which is further expected to boost farm incomes and rural consumption.
- Additionally, increased agricultural production is expected to reduce pressure on food inflation during the remainder of the current fiscal year, which could further boost discretionary consumption.

**About CRISIL Ratings Limited:**

Managing Director (**MD**)– Subodh Rai

**Headquarters**– Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Established**– 1987

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**DoT Extends Robert Jerard Ravi's Tenure as CMD of BSNL and MTNL until April 2025**

In January 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC) has extended the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of **BSNL** (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) and **MTNL** (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) assigned to **Robert Jerard Ravi** for another **three months** with effect from January 15, 2025, till April 14, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, subject to approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

- i. Ravi is currently serving as **Deputy Director General** (Standards Research and Innovation) and was assigned additional charge of telecom public sector undertakings as their CMD on July 13, 2024.
- ii. He has played a vital role in finalizing the tender for the third phase of the **BharatNet** project and boosting BSNL's 4G network rollout during his tenure as CMD.
- BharatNet Phase 3 aims to provide broadband connectivity to 6.4 lakh villages and all 2.64 lakh Gram panchayats across India.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

**VP Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective"**

In January 2025, the Vice-President (VP) of India, **Jagdeep Dhankhar** launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective" in New Delhi (Delhi). The book was authored by **Dr. KS Chauhan**, Senior Advocate, at VP's Enclave, New Delhi (Delhi).

- i. The book consists of two volumes and was published by Mohan Law House (MLH) Publishing Private Limited.
- ii. The book explains about the functions of Parliament, its special rights, and its important role in holding the government accountable, especially in shaping the India's democracy.



### Amitav Ghosh's new book, "Wild Fictions" addressing climate change & societal issues

On January 10 2025, A new book named 'Wild Fictions' authored by **Amitav Ghosh** was published by the Fourth Estate India at the 41st Dr CD Deshmukh Memorial Lecture at the India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book explores climate change, societal issues, and political instability in "time of monsters" addressing urgent global crises like biodiversity loss, climate change, and emerging diseases.
- i. He is the author of several acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction including The Shadow Lines, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, the Ibis Trilogy (comprising the novels Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of Fire), Gun Island, The Great Derangement, The Nutmeg's Curse, Jungle Nama and The Living Mountain.
- ii. In 2019 he was the 1st English-language writer to receive the 'Jnanpith Award', India's highest literary honour for his writings on the planetary crisis and climate change.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2025 – January 19

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) **Raising Day** is observed annually across India on **January 19** to mark the founding of the NDRF, a special force under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- January 19, 2025 marks the observance of the **20th** NDRF Raising Day.



**Note:** The NDRF, is a 'Specialist Force' to handle emergencies, trained to respond to both natural disasters like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, and man-made disasters like chemical spills and terrorist attacks.

#### Background:

- India experienced a series of devastating natural disasters between 1990 and 2004, which led to the creation of the **Disaster Management (DM) Act** on December 26, 2005.
- The Act paved the way for the establishment of the NDRF under Section 44, with the force being officially raised on January 19, 2006, to become India's premier disaster response unit.
  - Since then, NDRF Raising Day has been observed annually on January 19.
- The mission is to develop and implement comprehensive plans, policies, and guidelines for effective disaster management across India.

#### Organization and Structure:

**i. Formation and Expansion:** Initially formed in 2006 with 8 battalions, NDRF at present comprises 16 battalions from various forces of personnel from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) including: Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

**ii. Team Composition:** Each battalion consists of 18 specialised Search and Rescue (SAR) teams, each with 45 personnel. The teams include: Engineers, Technicians, Electricians, Dog Squads and Medical/Paramedic staffs.

**iii. Total Personnel and Infrastructure:** Each battalion has a strength of 1,149 personnel, with 28 Regional Response Centers (RRCs) and 24 Tactical Pre-Positioning Locations (TPLs) across India. The sanctioned strength of the force was 18,556.

- The battalions are well-equipped to handle both natural and man-made disasters, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

### Achievements:

**i. Rescue Operations:** NDRF has rescued over 1.55 lakh lives and evacuated more than 7.88 lakh stranded individuals during critical situations.

**ii. Global Interventions:** The force has also provided assistance during global crises such as: Japan Triple Disaster (2011), Nepal Earthquake (2015) and Türkiye Earthquake (2023).

**iii. In 2024,** NDRF conducted a record **1,038 operations**, rescuing more than 4,000 lives and evacuating 63,000 people to safety.

### 2025 Events:

The 20th Raising Day ceremony of the NDRF was held at the 10th Battalion of NDRF located in Kondapavuluru, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh (AP) with Union Minister, **Amit Shah**, MHA as the Chief Guest.

- During the event, Union Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated several projects and laid foundation stones for various initiatives worth approximately **Rs 220 crore**.

### Key People:

Chief Minister (CM) of AP, **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, Union Minister, **K. Rammohan**, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Union Minister of State, **Bandi Sanjay Kumar**, MHA, Home Secretary **Govind Mohan**, and NDRF Director General (DG) Piyush Anand.

### The projects include:

**i.** Inaugurated the National South Campus of the Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), AP.

**ii.** Inaugurated the 10th Battalion of NDRF.

**iii.** Inaugurated the Regional Response Centre (RRC) at Supaul (9th Battalion) Campus, AP.

**iv.** Laid foundation stone for 'Integrated Indoor Shooting Range' at the National Police Academy (NPA) in Hyderabad, Telangana worth Rs. 27 crore.

- This range will be used to train Indian Police Service (IPS) probationary officers in shooting skills. The range will be 50 meters (m) long and have 10 lanes, so 10 people can practice shooting at the same time.
- It will be operational in all weather conditions and will use advanced, automated technology that meets international standards. This will be a unique facility for police forces in India.

**v.** Inaugurated the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) Building in Tirupati, AP.

### About National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):

Director-General (DG)- Piyush Anand

**Headquarters**- New Delhi, Delhi

**Established**- 2006

## Less Important NEWS

- ▶ [Aeromexico, Saudia rank among the most punctual global airlines for 2024](#)
- ▶ [Governments must act on AI risks despite uncertainty, warns report](#)
- ▶ [NSDC International partners with IDP India to enhance global employability of skilled Indian professionals](#)
- ▶ [Bandhan Life Insurance and Policybazaar launch iInvest Pension Plan](#)
- ▶ [West Bengal-based artist and researcher wins first T.M. Krishna-PARI award](#)

## Aspirant Queries

**Aspirant:** Does Affairscloud covers all the Current affairs topics related to examinations?

**Affairscloud:** We Guaranteed All the Important topics related to examination are covered in Our Daily CA content and Daily CA Quizzes.

**Aspirant:** Why is there a delay in news?

**Affairscloud:** As some of the major news sites doesn't provide the required data on the exact day, we take extra time for important data to be presented to the aspirants on the examination basis to ensure nothing is missed.


**Example:** In 'Important Days' topics the International Organisations publish their reports and Rankings in the evenings, to make sure every data is covered, we delay the topics to the next day Candidates appearing for Competitive Exams. Kindly Share the General Awareness questions, which asked in their respective exams to “[gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com](mailto:gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com)”

## GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [Affairscloud's Self Analysis for General Awareness Section](#)

**Most Trusted Source!!!!** Since 2014, nearly 85% of the questions in the General Awareness section on Bank Exams have been covered by [Affairscloud@Careerscloud](mailto:Affairscloud@Careerscloud).

**Detailed Analysis of GA Questions asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2024:**



Formerly  
AffairsCloud

# IBPS CLERK

## MAINS

*Real Exam* VS *AffairsCloud CA*

38  
45

## GENERAL AWARENESS

OCTOBER 13 2024	COVERED IN AFFAIRSCLOUD			
CATEGORIES	QUESTIONS COLLECTED	OVERALL	QUIZ	HANDWRITTEN NOTES
Current Affairs	42	37	29	16
Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>

Detailed self-analysis Available  
in the Self Evaluation Course at [CareersCloud.in](https://careerscloud.in).





# Features

Crack

# Current Affairs

Course

QUIZ



PDF



ARTICLE



## Top Products

**Daily:** Dailyscoop PDF, Daily CA Quiz, Daily CA Q&A PDF

**Weekly:** Weekly Top 60 Quiz, Weekly CA Content PDF, Weekly Overall Q&A PDF

**Monthly:** Top 100 Q&A PDF, Monthly CA Pocket PDF, Monthly CA Study PDF, Exam PDF, Banking & Economy PDF