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English



30 JANUARY

2025

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State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

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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

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Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Highlights ^{Of} **76th** Republic Day of India ^{Theme} → Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas
(26 January 2025)

Chief Guest - Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo (President of Indonesia)

Awards

- President Confers **942** Awards on Defence Personnel
 - Gallantry Medals - **95**
 - President's Medals for Distinguished Service - **101**
 - Medals for Meritorious Service - **746**
- Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards 2024
 - Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak - **17** ^{Monetary allowance} **Rs 2 lakh**
 - Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak - **9** **Rs 1.5 lakh**
 - Jeevan Raksha Padak - **23** **Rs 1 lakh**

→ President's Tatrakshak Medal → **8** ICG personnel & Tatrakshak Medal

→ President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)

- Anil Kumar Harbola (Additional Director General)
- Homesh Kumar Sharma (Inspector General)

Showcased - **Sinhtoo dance**, a traditional folk dance from Hatti community of HP

Displayed - **Pralay missile**, a short-range tactical missile developed by DRDO

ICG - **Indian Coast Guard**

HP - **Himachal Pradesh**

DRDO - **Defence Research and Development Organisation**

2)

Ashwini Vaishnaw + Gajendra Singh Shekhawat → Various Initiatives → **1st** WAVES
^{MIB} ^{MoT, MoC} ^{Launched} ^{Ahead of}
^{WAVES Bazaar} ^{3 Challenges under CIC} ^{In} ^{New Delhi}

e-Marketplace to connect → Wah Ustad (For young classical vocalists to display their skill)

India's creative talent ^{↳ Driven by Dilli Gharana, MoC & Doordarshan}

with global markets → Make The World Wear Khadi (To promote Khadi within India & globally)

→ Resonate: The EDM Challenge (To showcase talent in EDM production)

MIB - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
MoT - Ministry of Tourism
MoC - Ministry of Culture
WAVES - World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit
CIC - Create in India Challenges
EDM - Electronic Dance Music

3)

^{Launched} DGFT \rightarrow Enhanced eCoO 2.0 System $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$ Streamline certification process for exporters, including Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin

DGFT - Directorate General of Foreign Trade
eCoO - enhanced Certificate of Origin

4)

Digital India Bhashini Division + MeitY $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$ Tripura \rightarrow \uparrow Digital inclusivity & technology for enhanced citizen centric governance
 \downarrow
8th Indian state & 1st NE state to sign MoU with Bhashini

MeitY - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
NE - North Eastern
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding

BANKING & FINANCE

1)

RBI + Yes Bank + Mobikwik $\xrightarrow{\text{To Roll out}}$ CBDC or e-rupee $\xrightarrow{\text{With}}$ Wallet transactions of Max. Rs.50000 per day
 \downarrow Sponsor bank \downarrow India's 1st Fintech Company to launch

RBI - Reserve Bank of India
CBDC - Central Bank Digital Currency

2)

RBL Bank + Piramal Capital and Housing Finance $\xrightarrow{\text{To offer}}$ Co-Lending Business
(Maharashtra)

3)

PNB Limited ^{Unveils} → 1st real time Clari5's NCRP Solution ^{For} → Cybercrime
(New Delhi)

PNB - Punjab National Bank

NCRP - National Cybercrime Reporting Portal

4)

i)
Paytm ^{Launched} → Receive Money QR Widget ^{For} → Android users
↓
1st company to launch in android
^{Aim} ↓
To accept payments directly from smartphone's home screen without opening Paytm app

ii)

Nakul Jain → Resigns ^{From} → MD & CEO ^{Of} → PPSL ^{Effect from} → March 31, 2025

QR - Quick Response

MD - Managing Director

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

PPSL - Paytm Payments Services Limited

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1)

AlonOS + Indosat ^{To} → Transform Indonesia's Artificial Intelligence ecosystem
India ^{Indonesia}

2)

SEBI ^{Unveiled} → Dharohar ^{To} → A digital knowledge repository → Preserve India's securities market legacy

SEBI - Securities and Exchange Board of India

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Highlights → ^{Of} 55th Annual Meeting of WEF → ^{Theme} Collaboration for the Intelligent Age → ^{Held} Switzerland

→ WEF + ^{Released} MHI → Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap
USA

↓
 Women-specific health challenges contribute **USD 400 bn** in GDP annually by 2040

→ ^{Provided} AB InBev → **USD 250 Mn** → ^{To} India → ^{For} Developing beverage sector
Belgium

^{MoUs signed}

→ Telangana secures **Rs.1.78 lakh crore** investments

Telangana + Skyroot Aerospace → ^{Worth} **Rs.500 cr** → ^{To} Establish integrated private rocket manufacturing

→ Maharashtra sign 61 MoUs worth **Rs 15.70 lakh crore**

Maharashtra + {
 → ^{Worth} AWS → **Rs.71,795 cr** → ^{To} Set up a data centre
 → ^{Worth} JSW Group → **Rs.3 trillion** → ^{To} Integrate steel manufacturing with clean green technology

WEF - World Economic Forum

MHI - McKinsey Health Institute

USA - United States of America

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

AWS - Amazon Web Services

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1)

^{Appoints} KRBL Limited → Amitabh Bachchan → ^{As} Brand Ambassador → ^{For} India Gate
(Uttar Pradesh) (Bollywood Actor) (Indian Rice Brand)

2)

Belarus ^{Re-elected} → Alexander Lukashenko ^{As} → President ^{For} → 5 years
(7th consecutive time)

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

ICC ^{Announced} → ICC Awards 2024 ^{From} → Jan 24 to 28, 2025



Lists of Winners

Category	Winner	Country
'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah	India
'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy' for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Amelia Charlotte Kerr	New Zealand
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024	Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah	India
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024	Azmatullah Omarzai	Afghanistan
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024	Smriti Mandhana	India
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024	Arshdeep Singh Aulakh	India
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024	Amelia Charlotte Kerr	New Zealand
'David Shepherd Trophy' for ICC Umpire of the Year 2024	Richard Keith Illingworth	England (United Kingdom)

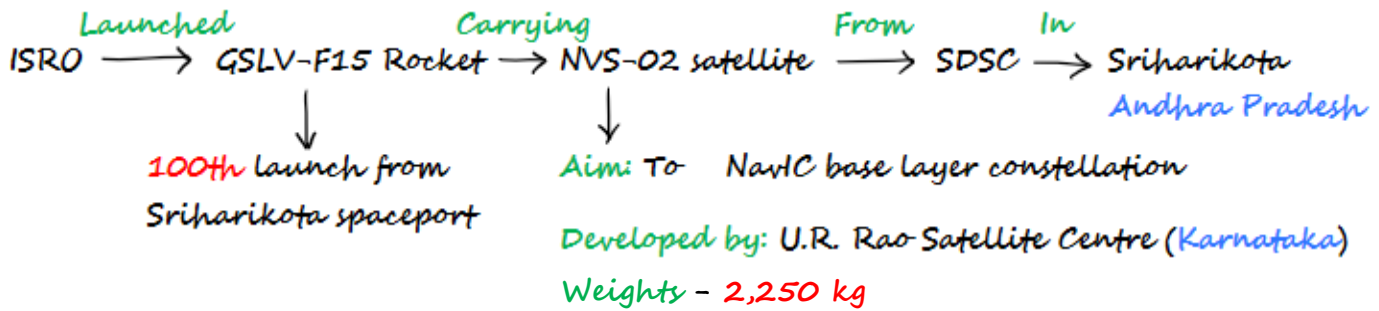
ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024 ^{Captained by} → Rohit Gurunath Sharma
(India)

ICC - International Cricket Council

T20I - Twenty20 International

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1)



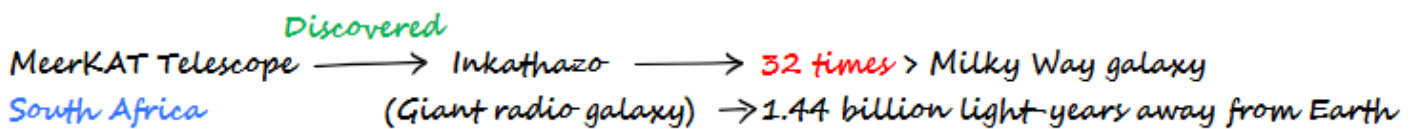
ISRO - Indian Space Research Organisation

NVS - Navigational Satellite

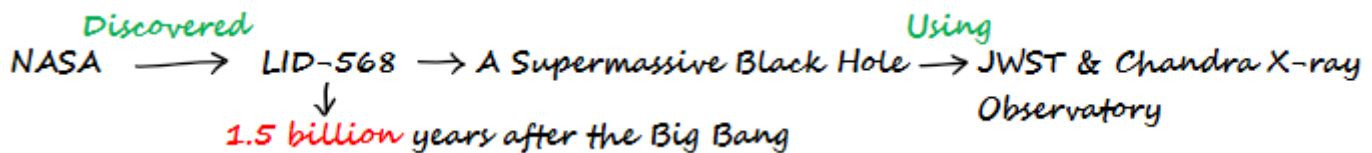
SDSC - Satish Dhawan Space Centre

NavIC - Navigation with Indian Constellation

2)



3)



NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

JWST - James Webb Space Telescope

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Detailed Content

Current Affairs 30 January 2025 : Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH



**ISRO completes
'century' of
missions,
GSLV-F15
successfully
launched**



**76th Republic Day
on Kartavya Path -
January 26 2025**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

30 JANUARY 2025

- 76th Republic Day of India- 26 January 2025
- Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Jointly launched Various Initiatives ahead of 1st WAVES in Delhi
- DGFT Launched Enhanced 'eCoO 2.0 System' to Boost Trade Efficiency
- Tripura becomes the 1st NE State to Sign MoU with Bhashini for Multi-Lingual Governance
- 55th Annual Meeting of WEF held in Switzerland from January 20- 24, 2025: Part II
- Mobikwik becomes India's 1st Fintech Company to Roll out CBDC in Partnership with RBI and Yes Bank
- RBL Bank & Piramal Finance Partner to offer Co-Lending Business
- PNB unveils 1st-ever real time NCRP Solution for Cybercrime
- Paytm Launches 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users
- India's AlonOS signs MoU with Indosat to boost Indonesia's AI growth
- SEBI Unveils 'Dharohar': A Digital Repository for India's Securities Market
- ICC Awards 2024: India's Bumrah, Smriti ,and Arshdeep Singh Win ICC Men's Cricketer , Women's ODI, and Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year Awards
- KRBL Appoints Amitabh Bachchan as Ambassador for Indian Rice Brand 'India Gate'
- Alexander Lukashenko Wins 7th Consecutive Term as President of Belarus
- ISRO Completes 100th Mission, GSLV-F15 Successfully Launched from Sriharikota, AP
- South Africa's MeerKAT Telescope Discovers the "Inkathazo" Galaxy
- NASA Discovers LID-568: A Supermassive Black Hole

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

76th Republic Day of India- 26 January 2025

India celebrated its **76th Republic Day (R-day)** on **26 January 2025** with great patriotism. The Republic Day parades and events took place at **Kartavya Path** (formerly known as Rajpath) in New Delhi, Delhi. Republic Day **commemorates** the **adoption** of the **Constitution of India**, which came into effect on 26 January 1950, making India a sovereign, democratic, and republic nation.



- **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, unfurled the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute using 105-millimeter (mm) Light Field Guns, an indigenously made weapon.

Theme of the Republic Day 2025:

The 76th Republic Day celebrations, themed '**Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas,**' (Golden India: Heritage and Development) highlighted India's military strength, cultural heritage, and development.

About the Chief Guest:

The President of Indonesia, **Prabowo Subianto**, was the Chief Guest for the 76th Republic Day celebrations, marking him as the fourth Indonesian leader to be invited for this honor.

About the 76th Republic Day Parade: The ceremony began with a visit from Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi. The **parade was led** by Lieutenant (Lt.) General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area.

i. A highlight of the parade was a **148-member all-women marching contingent** from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

ii. A 160-member marching contingent and a 190-member band contingent **from Indonesia** participated in the Republic Day parade for the first time.

Highlights of Awards:

President Confers 942 Awards on Defence Personnel:

During the Republic Day 2025 event, a total of 942 personnel from the Police, Fire, Home Guard & Civil Defence (HG&CD), and Correctional Services were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals.

- It is important to note that the Government of India has simplified the award system by combining 16 different gallantry and service medals into four main categories. These are President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM), Gallantry Medals (GM), Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM), State wise/ force wise Medals

Breakup of Medals Given on Republic Day 2025:

Name of the Medals	Number of Awardees
Gallantry Medals (GM)	95

President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM)	101
Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM)	746

About the Awards:

i. The GM is awarded to individuals who perform acts of exceptional bravery, such as saving lives or property, preventing crimes, or capturing criminals, with consideration of the risk involved in relation to their duties.

ii. The PSM is awarded for extraordinary service, MSM recognizes outstanding contributions marked by dedication and responsibility

Key Points:

i Among the **95 Gallantry Medals**, 28 were given to personnel from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 28 from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), 3 from the North-East, and 36 from other regions for their acts of courage.

[Click here for official list of gallantry medals](#)

ii. Out of **101 PSM**, 85 were awarded to Police Service, 5 to Fire Service, 7 to Civil Defence & Home Guard, and 4 to Correctional Service.

[Click here for official list of PSM](#)

iii For the **746 MSM**, 634 went to Police Service, 37 to Fire Service, 39 to Civil Defence & Home Guard, and 36 to Correctional Service.

[Click here for official list of MSM](#)

[Click here for official list of State wise/Force wise medals](#)

iv. President approves the Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards:

The President of India approved the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2024 for 49 individuals, including 17 recipients of Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 9 of Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak, and 23 of Jeevan Raksha Padak. Among them, six awards were given posthumously.

Break-up of Awards Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards 2024:

Awards	Number of Awardees
Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak	17
Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak	9
Jeevan Raksha Padak	23

[Click here for full list of Jeevan Raksha Padak 2024](#)

About the Jeevan Raksha Padak:

The awards were established in 1961. These awards recognize acts of bravery where individuals risk their lives to save others. Each recipient receives a medal, a certificate and a monetary reward.

The awards are given in three categories:

i. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak – Awarded for extraordinary courage in saving lives when the rescuer faces extreme danger.

Monetary allowance: Rs 2 lakh

ii. Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak – Given for significant bravery in rescuing lives under great risk.

Monetary allowance: Rs 1.5 lakh

iii Jeevan Raksha Padak – Conferred for notable courage in life-saving efforts under dangerous circumstances.

Monetary allowance: Rs 1 lakh

The President approved the President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and Tatrakshak Medal (TM) for eight Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel on the 76th Republic Day.

- Since January 26, 1990, these awards have been presented every year on Republic Day to recognize the courage and commitment of ICG personnel in safeguarding India's maritime borders.

Medal	Recipient
President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service) (PTM)	Additional Director General (ADG) Anil Kumar Harbola, Inspector General (IG) Homesh Kumar Sharma
Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) (TM)	Commandant (Comdt) Anshuman Raturi – Assistant Commandant (Asst Comdt) Manish Singh – Sameer Ranjan, Uttam Navik (U/Nvk)
Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service) (TM)	Inspector General (IG) Jyotindra Singh, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Atul Joshi, Shanmugham Sankar, Pradhan Adhikari (P/Adh)

[Click here for official list](#)

President approves 58 Mentioned-in-Despatches awards

President Murmu approved 58 Mentioned-in-Despatches awards for **Armed Forces personnel**, including **four posthumous** awards. These awards honor courage, dedication, and exceptional service in various military operations.

i. The Indian Army (**IA**) received **55 awards**, including 14 for Operation Rakshak (with four posthumous), 8 for Operation Snow Leopard, 6 for Operation Hifazat, 2 for Operation Sahayta, 1 each for Operations Rhino, Meghdoot, Mulkhyama, Reconnaissance, Zokhawthar, and Falcon, 2 for Operation Gurihajan, 4 for Operation Casualty Evacuation (CAS Evacuation), 1 for Internal Security (IS) Duty, and 12 for Miscellaneous Operations.

ii. The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) received 3 awards for Operation Sankalp.

[Click here for official list](#)

The President approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces

and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous. These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous; 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous; one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry); 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), including one posthumous.

[Click here to see full list](#)

31 Tableaux and First-Ever Tri-Services Tableau at Kartavya Path on Republic Day

This year, 31 tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories (UTs) and 10 ministries and departments of the Central Government (CG) **displayed the theme** 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas', showcasing India's diverse heritage and its forward-moving, inclusive growth.

i. For the first time, a Tri-services tableau was featured at Kartavya Path, representing the coordinated efforts of the three branches of India's armed forces.



ii. Haryana's tableau focused on the **Bhagavad Gita**, and Uttar Pradesh's (UP) tableau highlighted the ongoing **Mahakumbh 2025**.

iii. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) showcased a captivating tableau at the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path. The display focused on India's progress in renewable energy (RE).

[Click here for full details about the tableau](#)

Points to Note:

i. For the **first time**, **three government school bands**, including two all-girl teams, performed at the 76th Republic Day parade, captivating the audience. These school bands were part of the 16 teams that competed in the National School Band Competition held on January 24-25 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.

ii. The **Sinhtoo dance**, a traditional folk dance from the Hatti community of Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh (HP) was showcased for the first time at the Republic Day celebrations. The name "Sinhtoo" means "**lion cub**" in the Pahari dialect

- Around 200 artists performed, with lion masks central to the performance, symbolizing wildlife conservation.

iii. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) based in New Delhi showcased its innovations for national security through its tableau, highlighting major achievements of 2024.

A key attraction was the **Pralay missile**, a short-range tactical missile developed in India, which was displayed for the first time.

National School Band Competition Prizes Awarded during 76th Republic Day Celebrations

During the 76th Republic Day Celebrations (RDC), **Sanjay Seth**, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD) **awarded prizes to the winners of the National School Band Competition** on January 25, 2025 in New Delhi.

Culmination of India's 76th Republic Day Celebrations with Beating Retreat Ceremony

The grand finale of 76th Republic Day celebrations took place on 29 January, 2025 with the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk, New Delhi.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Jointly launched Various Initiatives ahead of 1st WAVES in Delhi

In January 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**MIB**) and Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and Ministry of Culture (MoC), jointly launched various initiatives such as: **WAVES Bazaar**; **3 Create in India Challenges**; **WAVES Awards**, among others at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.



- These initiatives were launched ahead of the 1st World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (**WAVES**) scheduled to be held from February 5 to February 9, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- During the event, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishanaw also announced new challenges aimed to promote films that explore India's rich tourism and cultural heritage. These challenges aim to promote creativity, innovation, and international participation.

Key People:

Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, MIB; Arunish Chawla, Secretary, MoC; Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and Gaurav Dwivedi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati, among others were also present at the launch.

Key Initiatives Launched:

About WAVES Bazaar: Harnessing the potential of creative economy:

i. It is an e-Marketplace, designed to bring together creators, buyers, collaborators from across different sectors such as film, Television (TV), music and firms dealing in creative content at one platform.

- It aims to connect India's vast creative talent pool with global markets.

ii. The platform will enable users to showcase their content, pitch projects and engage in meaningful Business-to-Business (B2B) interactions that transcend geographical boundaries.

About 3 New Challenges under Create in India

Challenges(CIC):

The main highlight of the event was the launch of 3 new challenges i.e. "Wah Ustad", "Make The World Wear Khadi" and "Resonate: The EDM Challenge", under CIC.

i. Wah Ustad: This challenge is conceptualized by the MIB, driven by the 'Dilli Gharana' in partnership with the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and Doordarshan. It will provide a platform for young, classically trained vocalists to display their exceptional skills.

- This challenge is open for participants aged 18 years and above, including international participation.
- It is a **two-phased** competition culminating in a Grand National finale at WAVES 2025 whose registrations have been opened on the website of [Prasar Bharti](#).

ii. Make The World Wear Khadi: This challenge is designed to invite advertising professionals and freelancers to develop innovative campaigns that help to position Khadi as an international brand.

- This challenge is open for international participation, which aims to promote Khadi within India and globally.
- The participants are required to explore innovative design concepts across different formats (example: digital, print, video, and experiential).

iii. Resonate: The EDM Challenge: It is hosted by the Indian Music Association (IMA). The challenge invites artists, composers, musicians, and performers from around the globe to showcase their exceptional talent in Electronic Dance Music (EDM) production. All nationalities are allowed to participate in this challenge.

About Create in India Challenges(CIC):

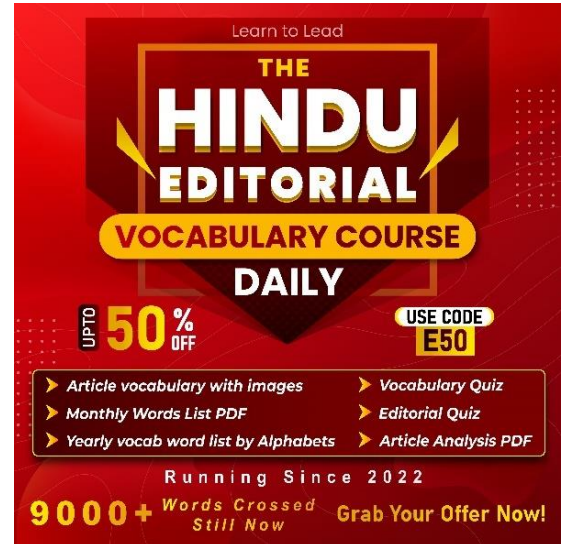
i. CIC, part of the WAVES, a flagship initiative by the MIB. It has witnessed over 70,000 registrations and counting.

iii. Till date, 31 Create in India Challenges have been launched out of which 25 are still open for registration with 22 attracting international participation.

About WAVES Awards:

i. As per MIB, WAVES Awards will start with nominations opening on February 15, 2025.

ii. The awards feature categories like: Game of the Year, Film of the Year, and Advertising Campaign of the Year. It also features Special Selection Awards, honouring lifetime achievements and significance in various fields such as: technology and social influence.



About Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB):

Union Minister- Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha member- Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Loganathan Murugan (Rajya Sabha member- Madhya Pradesh, MP)

DGFT Launched Enhanced 'eCoO 2.0 System' to Boost Trade Efficiency

In January 2025, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System to simplify the certification process for exporters and improve trade efficiency, with features like multi-user access under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC).



- Starting from 1st January 2025, electronic filing of Non-Preferential CoO is mandatory through the eCoO 2.0 platform, accessible to exporters via <https://trade.gov.in>.

About enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System:

- The platform handles more than 7,000 eCoOs daily, including both preferential and non-preferential certificates, connecting 125 issuing agencies, such as 110 national and regional chambers of commerce, over 650 issuing officers, and all Indian exporters in one unified system.
- The initiative simplifies the certification process and speeds up processing, benefiting global supply chains that involve intermediary trade through India.
- The certificates are issued based on documentary proof from the foreign country of origin and ensure transparency by clearly stating the origin details and supporting documents.

Key features of eCoO 2.0 :

- The system now also supports Aadhaar-based e-signing in addition to digital signature tokens, offering more flexibility.
- It also introduces an **in-lieu Certificate of Origin** feature for requesting corrections to previously issued Certificates of Origin through a simple online application process.
- DGFT has introduced a process for obtaining online **Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin** (Non-Preferential), which apply to goods not originally from India but intended for re-export, trans-shipment, or merchanting trade.
- An integrated dashboard gives exporters easy access to eCoO services, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) details, trade events, and other resources.

About Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT):

Director General(DG) – Santosh Kumar Sarangi

Headquarters – New Delhi (Delhi)

Established – 1991

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Tripura becomes the 1st NE State to Sign MoU with Bhashini for Multi-Lingual Governance

In January 2025, the Government of **Tripura** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Digital India Bhashini Division (**DIBD**) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for multi-lingual governance. The MoU was signed during a state-level workshop titled “Bhashini Rajyam”, held at Pragna Bhavan in Agartala, Tripura under the guidance of Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha, Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura.



- With this, Tripura becomes the **1st** North-Eastern (NE) state, as well as **8th** Indian state to sign a MoU with Bhashini.
- This MoU marks a significant milestone in the state's efforts to promote digital inclusivity and leveraging technology for enhanced citizen centric governance.

Key Points:

- Bhashini will integrate with existing systems of Tripura such as the CM Helpline, eVidhan, Kisan Sahayata application (app) and e-districts to enable multilingual communication.
 - It will also enhance local governance through apps like Amar Sarkar and enhance education with multilingual technologies.
- It will also support the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) platform by translating First Information Reports (FIRs) and enabling voiced-based data entry.
- It will help in reducing the digital divide by easing access to Internet in regional and local languages of Tripura.

About BHASHINI Initiative:

- Bhashini, the National Language Technology Mission (NLTM), is a flagship initiative of Government of India (GoI), launched under the Digital India program in July 2022.
 - It aimed to democratize access to digital content and services across the linguistic spectrum of India.
- It uses cutting-edge of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies to bridge the digital and literacy gaps by enabling internet access and communication in **22 Indian languages**.
- It is being implemented by **DIBD**, an independent business division under Digital India Corporation (DIC), a Section 8 Company of MeitY.

Note: In January 2025, Bhashini project was leveraged to upgrade the e-Shram portal with 22 Indian languages. Previously, the portal was available only in English, Hindi, Kannada and Marathi.

About Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD):

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Amitabh Nag

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 2022

About Tripura:

Chief Minister (**CM**)- Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha

Governor- N Indrasena Reddy

Capital- Agartala

National Parks (NPs) – Clouded Leopard NP, Bison NP

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

55th Annual Meeting of WEF held in Switzerland from January 20– 24, 2025: Part II

The **55th** Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (**WEF 2025**) was held, with the theme “**Collaboration for the Intelligent Age**”, from January 20 to 24, 2025 in Davos-Klosters, **Switzerland**.



Highlights of WEF 2025:

C4IR India released its Impact Journey Report:

i. The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (**C4IR**) India, liaison office of WEF in India, launched its 6-year **Impact journey report** during the WEF Annual meeting 2025.

ii. The **C4IR** India was launched in **2018** in Mumbai (Maharashtra) with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and Reliance Industries as founding partners for promoting responsible and inclusive technological development.

- It has impacted the lives of 1.25 million people and aims to expand its reach to **10 million** citizens.
- The Centre is focusing on cutting-edge areas such as climate technology, and space technologies with key projects like Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) for India 2030, the **Space Economy initiative**, and the **AVIATE** (Aviation – Innovation Autonomy and Technology for Everyone).

iii. WEF has recognized **India** as an emerging global leader in **technological** innovation and economic growth and becoming a startup and digital innovation hub

iv. The WEF's partnership with India is over **40** years old and has made integrated efforts across government, business, academia, and civil society to make development in areas like including AI-driven agricultural programs, healthcare solutions, and sustainable urban frameworks.

India's WASH Innovations Lead Global Discourse:

i. A high-profile discussion on “**India's WASH Innovation: Driving Global Impact in Climate and Water Sustainability**” was held at the India Pavilion in WEF 2025 which highlighted India's efforts towards Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (**WASH**) and its significant role in global climate resilience and sustainable development.

ii. India's achievements through the Swachh Bharat Mission (**SBM**) (the construction of over 95 million toilets) and the Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**) (widespread household tap water connections) were highlighted as WASH initiatives.

iii. The session was followed by two insightful panel discussion,

- The keynote address was followed by two panel discussions: one on “**Bringing Global Impact in Water Sustainability**” and another on “**Innovation in Global Health Through Sanitation.**”

- These discussions included views from National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG), United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF), WaterAid, the Gates Foundation, Riseberg Ventures, and actor-advocate Vivek Oberoi on advancing water sustainability and sanitation worldwide.

iv. During the event, Union Minister C. R. Patil highlighted India's significant role in advancing the United Nations(UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

WEF released "Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap" Report :

During the meeting, the **WEF**, in collaboration with New York City(the United States of America, USA) based McKinsey Health Institute(**MHI**), released a report titled '**Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap: How to Improve Lives and Economies for All**' that highlights the global health condition of women and the need to close the health gap.

Highlights:

- The report projected that addressing key women-specific health challenges could contribute **USD 400 billion** in global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually by **2040**.
- The report also emphasizes that women spend **25%** more of their lives in poor health as compared to men.
- It has highlighted **9 key health conditions** to be focused upon which could reduce the global disease burden by **27 million** disability-adjusted life years and equally add **2.5 healthy days** per woman each year.
 - **Five** of these conditions are related to the **total number** of years lived – maternal hypertensive disorders, postpartum hemorrhage, ischemic heart disease, cervical cancer, and breast cancer.
 - **Four** conditions show focus on how many of those years are lived in **good health**– endometriosis, menopause, migraine, and premenstrual syndrome.
- The report has introduced Women's Health Impact Tracking (**WHIT**) platform, which will be used to measure and track health gaps for women.

It emphasizes **five** key actions to be undertaken-

- **Count women**– globally collect data to measure women's health and health outcomes
- **Study women** – understanding hormonal health and women's biology
- **Care for women** – implement clinical practice guidelines for women-specific conditions
- **Include all women** – develop ways for early treatment for women around the world
- **Invest in women** – promote financing for women's health research and interventions

India Secures USD 250 Million Investment from Belgium's AB InBev


During the WEF 2025, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Chirag Paswan, announced that Belgium based **AB InBev** will provide India with an investment of **USD 250 million** for developing its **beverage sector**, which will span over the next two to three years.

- States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh(UP), and regions in South India are set to benefit from these investments

Telangana secures Rs.1.78 lakh crore investments :


The **Telangana** government secured an investment of **Rs 1,78,950 crore**, which will create 49,550 jobs, on the sidelines of the WEF 2025 in Switzerland.

- The state government signed several Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), with major focus on establishing data centres, followed by pumped storage facilities.



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MoUs signed by Telangana Government:

Company	Investment	Purpose
Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL)	Rs.15000 crore	<p>i.A state-of-the-art 2160 Megawatt (MW) Pumped Storage Project worth Rs.11000 crore, to strengthen Telangana's renewable energy capabilities.</p> <p>ii.Establishment of 1,000-Megawatt Hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at various strategic locations across the state Rs.3,000 crore.</p> <p>iii.Development of a luxury wellness resort at Ananthagiri worth Rs.1000 crore</p>
Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited	Rs.500 crore	Establishment of an integrated private rocket manufacturing, integration and testing facility in Telangana.
JSW UAV Limited	Rs. 800 crore	To set up a facility in the state for manufacturing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAV) through the use of technology of a leading US-based defense technology company.
Sun Petrochemicals Private Limited	Rs.45,500 crore	To establish three Pumped Storage Hydro Power projects in the districts of Nagarkurnool, Mancherial, and Mulugu in Telangana. These projects will have a combined capacity of 3,400 MW accompanied by 5,440 MW downstream integrated solar power plants.
Akshat Greentech Private Limited	Rs.7000 crore	Set up a 6.9 GW solar cells and 6.9 GW solar modules manufacturing unit in Hyderabad and is expected to create over 2,500 direct jobs
Amazon Web Services (AWS)	Rs 60,000 crore	To expand its data centre infrastructure in Telangana
Tillman Global Holdings(TGH)	Rs 15,000 crores	To invest in a 300 MW hyperscale data center facility in Telangana.
CtrlS Datacenters Limited	Rs 10,000 crores	For the establishment of an AI data center cluster with a capacity of 400 megawatt (MW).

Ursa Clusters	Rs 5,000 crore	To establish a 100 MW AI-powered data centre hub in Hyderabad.
Blackstone Inc.,	Rs 4,500 crore	To develop a 150MW data centre facility in Hyderabad.

Others:

i.The Ramky Group decided to invest in integrated industrial parks, a dry port and townships, while the MTS Group LLC also committed significant investments.

ii.Software majors such as Infosys Limited (17,000 jobs), HCL Technologies Limited(5,000) and Wipro Limited(5,000) unveiled their plans for expansions in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Maharashtra sign 61 MoUs worth Rs 15.70 lakh crore

Maharashtra government has signed **61** MoUs, including 54 investment proposals and 7 strategic cooperation, at WEF2025 of investment worth **Rs 15.70 lakh crore** and having the potential to provide 16 lakh jobs in the state.

- The sectors include artificial intelligence (AI), data, green energy, hydrogen, and water conservation.

MoUs signed by Maharashtra:

Company	Investment	Purpose
Amazon Web Services(AWS)	Rs.71,795 crore	To set up a data centre.
Hiranandani Group	Rs.51,600 crore	For the infrastructure Project.
Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited	Rs 12,000 crore	<p>i.Establishment of country's first optics park in Maharashtra.</p> <p>ii.The project is expected to start in 2028 and will continue till 2035.</p> <p>iii.It will also create a technology hub for defence, space, automotive, semiconductor and other applications.</p>
Essar Renewables Limited (ERL)	Rs.8,000 crore	<p>i.Develop 2 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity for its green mobility initiative. Support the Electric Vehicle truck charging ecosystem of Blue Energy Motors and Greenline.</p> <p>ii.The projects will start in the fiscal year 2026-27.</p>
JSW Group	Rs.3 trillion	<p>i.Investment made in 3 regions of Maharashtra including naxal-infested Gadchiroli.</p> <p>ii.The investments will include integrating steel</p>

		manufacturing capacities with clean green technology, green energy projects, advanced manufacturing units for new-age electric vehicles and high-performance EV batteries and strengthening the solar energy ecosystem.
Salam Kisan	Rs.300 crore	<p>i. Invest in 'Drone-as-a-Service' (DaaS) initiative over the next seven years which will involve manufacturing drones, setting up training centres and creating a network of 2,00,000 trained Drone Service Providers (DSPs).</p> <p>ii. Maharashtra will co-invest Rs 300 crore to support infrastructure and training in Marathwada.</p> <p>iii. Aim to integrate drone technology into farming practices, covering 5 million acres annually by 2030.</p> <p>iv. Microsoft will act as a technology partner providing Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning and cloud computing solutions in agricultural practices.</p>
Tembo Defence Products Private Limited	Rs1,000 crore	<p>To strengthen defense sector in Maharashtra by building strong defense infrastructure.</p> <p>To generate 300 new job opportunities.</p>
Taural India Private Limited	Rs. 500 crores	<p>i. To expand the company's modern manufacturing facility in Supa, Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.</p> <p>ii. Help to boost industrial growth and create job opportunities.</p>
Economic Explosives Limited	Rs.12,780 crores	<p>i. Develop an Anchor Mega Project.</p> <p>ii. It falls under the "Thrust Sector Incentive Scheme" of the Maharashtra government</p> <p>iii. Includes increase of defence products such as Propellant, War head explosives, Ammunitions, Defence electronics, Drones and UAVs, New Generation Explosives, Energetic binders and new products such as Military transport aircraft.</p>
Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)	USD 40 billion (around Rs	<p>i. Crossrail International (UK) and University of Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (UK) – Strategic study to optimise</p>

	3.5 lakh crore)	<p>and to achieve sustainable urban transport in MMR.</p> <p>ii. Brookfield Corporation (Canada) (USD 12 billion), Blackstone Inc. (USA) (USD 5 billion), Temasek Capital Management (Singapore) (USD 5 billion) and Sumitomo Realty & Development (Japan) (USD 5 billion) – for urban, regional, and infrastructure development.</p> <p>iii. Hiranandani Group (India + Dubai) (USD 6 billion), K Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. (India + Singapore) (USD 5 billion), Everstone Group (Singapore) (USD 1 billion)- investment to boost the economy.</p> <p>iv. Sotefin Bharat Pvt. Ltd. (India + Switzerland) – USD 1 billion investment to improve parking solutions in the region.</p> <p>v. MTC Business Pvt. Ltd. + Mitsui (India + Japan) – Develop a Circular Economy Park in MMR</p>
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Others:

- Other companies that have decided to invest in Infrastructure sector are Blackstone Inc (Rs.43,000 crore), Temasek Capital Management Pte. Ltd. (Rs.43,000 crore), K Raheja Corporation (Rs.43,000 crore) and Sumitomo Realty & Development Company Limited, a leading comprehensive real estate developer in Japan, which will also invest Rs.43,000 crore.
- Reliance Group, which has committed Rs.3.05 lakh crore for investments across petrochemicals, polyester, renewable energy, bioenergy, green hydrogen, green chemicals, retail, telecommunications, data centers, industrial development, hospitality, and real estate.
- One of the key agreements includes MSN Holdings Ltd, which plans to establish an advanced lithium battery and cell manufacturing project under the state's 'Ultra Mega Project' initiative. The project, requiring an investment of Rs.14,652 crore.

[Click Here to View part I of Highlights of WEF 2025](#)

About World Economic Forum(WEF):

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Børge Brende(Norway)

Headquarters– Cologny, Switzerland

Founded– 1971

BANKING & FINANCE

Mobikwik becomes India's 1st Fintech Company to Roll out CBDC in Partnership with RBI and Yes Bank

In January 2025, Gurugram (Haryana)-based **One Mobikwik Systems Limited**, has become 1st fintech company in India, to roll out a full-scale Central Bank Digital Currency (**CBDC**) or e-rupee, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Yes Bank Limited.



- As per this strategic partnership, **Yes Bank Limited** will act as a primary **sponsor bank** to provide the issuance of the CBDC for both these 3rd-party application providers.

Note: CBDC is a digital legal tender issued and supported by the RBI. This digital currency is equivalent to sovereign currency and can be exchanged at a one-to-one ratio with existing physical currency.

Key Points:

- Now, this e-rupee wallet is accessible to all Android users of Mobikwik, which will enable seamless Peer-to-Peer (**P2P**) and Peer-to-Merchant (**P2M**) transactions.
- Users can now pay by scanning any Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) Quick Response (QR) code using e-rupee, as the wallet is completely compatible with UPI.
- Existing users of Mobikwik who have completed their Know Your Customer (KYC) formalities can instantly open e-rupee wallets and make transactions from their bank accounts.
- The wallet allows maximum transactions of **Rs 50,000 per day**, with per transaction limit of Rs 10,000. It supports denominations ranging from Rs 0.50 to Rs 500.

Background:

- It was initially launched on December 01, 2022, as a pilot project for the e-rupee retail segment (e-R) with 4 banks: State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank Limited, Yes Bank Limited and IDFC First Bank in 4 Indian cities.
- In April 2024, RBI allowed non-bank entities to offer digital currency transactions through CBDC.
 - According to the RBI, at present, 15 banks including, SBI, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, among others, offer CBDC wallets.
 - While, 14 participants, which includes both bank and non-bank entities, in the wholesale CBDC pilot.
- In January 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Cred, backed by Tiger Global and Peak XV, launched the beta version of its e-wallet, developed in partnership with the RBI and Yes Bank as the sponsor bank.

About One Mobikwik Systems Limited:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Bipin Preet Singh

Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

Established- 2009

RBL Bank & Piramal Finance Partner to offer Co-Lending Business

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **RBL Bank Limited** (formerly known as Ratnakar Bank Limited) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited** (also known as Piramal Finance), a wholly subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited (**PEL**), announced a partnership aimed at enhancing financial inclusion.

- This is the **3rd co-lending** partnership for Piramal Finance, following similar collaborations with Axis Bank Limited and the Central Bank of India (CBI) Limited.

- i. This collaboration aims to provide **loans** to middle and low-income borrowers in rural and semi-urban areas, with a focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.
- ii. The primary goal is to provide competitive interest rates and customized credit solutions for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) and home loan borrowers.
- iii. This collaboration combines RBL Bank's financial expertise and branch network with Piramal Finance's innovative 'High Tech + High Touch' approach, offering competitive interest rates and customised credit solutions to underserved communities.

PNB unveils 1st-ever real time NCRP Solution for Cybercrime

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) Limited became the **1st Indian bank** to unveil real time Clari5's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (**NCRP**) Integration Solution.

- It was introduced in partnership with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (**I4C**), making PNB a leader in both banking and cybersecurity.
 - This solution is designed to improve fraud prevention and automate complaint management.
- i. Clari5's NCRP Integration Solution **enhances fraud prevention** with automation across various banking channels, including Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Debit Cards, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), etc.
 - ii. The key Features include Real-Time Lien, First In, First Out (FIFO) Logic for faster complaint resolution, Intelligent Debit Freeze, and Whitelisting for account protection.

Note: Bengaluru(Karnataka) based CustomerXPs Software Private Limited founded in 2006. It sells its financial crime risk management software product under the brand name Clari5.

Paytm Launches 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users

On January 28 2025, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) based **Paytm**, subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited(OCL), launched the '**Receive Money Quick Response (QR) Widget**' for android users, enabling them to receive payments directly from their smartphone's home screen without the need to open the Paytm application (app).



- Paytm, became the **1st company** to launch this new feature. This was previously launched for iPhone users.
- This new widget streamlines and accelerates the payment collection process for influencers, freelancers, shopkeepers, delivery partners, and small businesses to receive money quickly and efficiently.

Nakul Jain Announces Resignation as MD & CEO from PPSL:

In January 2025, **Nakul Jain** announced his resignation as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Services Limited (**PPSL**), a subsidiary of OCL to pursue his own entrepreneurial journey.

- His resignation will take effect on **March 31, 2025**, at the close of business or an earlier mutually agreed date.

i. **Nakul Jain** joined PPSL in 2022 as an in-charge of the Online Payments business. He has more than **21 years** of experience in areas like retail banking, product management, wealth management, international banking, and payments.

ii. Prior to joining Paytm, he was part of the Management Team at Standard Chartered Bank.

iii. He also held leadership positions at ICICI Bank Limited and IndusInd Bank Limited.

Points to Note:

i. In August 28 2024, PPSL received approval from the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF) for downstream investment from Paytm into the subsidiary company PPSL.

ii. PPSL has already made an application for Payment Aggregator (PA) licence from the RBI and is awaiting approval.

About Paytm:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Headquarters– Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP)

Established– 2010

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

India's AlonOS signs MoU with Indosat to boost Indonesia's AI growth

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **AlonOS** India Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison (**Indosat or IOH**), a leading Indonesian digital telecommunications company to transform Indonesia's Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem.



- This partnership marks the **1st large scale** AI-focused collaboration between India and Indonesia, under the visionary, Government-to-Government (G2G) initiative.
- The MoU aims to harness the potential of AI to fuel innovation, stimulate economic growth, and drive socio-cultural transformation in Indonesia.

Note: AlonOS, founded in April 2024, is a joint venture between InterGlobe and Assago Group, focused on transforming businesses into AI-driven enterprises.

Key Areas :

The collaboration focuses on AI³ (AI for Indonesia and India), an initiative powered by Indosat and AlonOS aimed at reshaping Indonesia's digital economy using AI technology.

i. **Transformative Solutions:** AI³ aims to create transformative solutions, in areas like tourism, knowledge economy, and sustainable agriculture, driving innovations to strengthen Indonesia's global networks.

ii. **Knowledge Economy Development:** The partnership will collaborate with top educational institutions to build an AI-skilled workforce, strengthening Indonesia's position in the knowledge economy.

iii. **Sustainable Food Security:** AI³ will use AI to boost agricultural productivity, improve climate resilience, and support local farmers, enhancing food security across Indonesia..

Key Points:

- i. Indosat and AlonOS will also establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Jakarta (Indonesia) in collaboration with a China-based company, **DeepSeek** that focuses on AI technology.
- ii. In January 2025, DeepSeek launched its open-source AI model, **DeepSeek-R1**, designed to compete with major players like **OpenAI**, offering advanced capabilities in areas such as mathematical reasoning and code generation.

About Indonesia:

President- Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo

Capital- Jakarta

Currency- Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)

SEBI Unveils 'Dharohar': A Digital Repository for India's Securities Market

On January 26, 2025, during India's 76th Republic Day celebrations, Mumbai, Maharashtra based Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled '**Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market**,' a digital knowledge repository.

- This initiative highlights SEBI's commitment to preserving India's securities market legacy while enhancing awareness and understanding among diverse stakeholders.
- This is designed for a broad audience, including students, investors, researchers, journalists, market participants, and the general public.

i. Dharohar documents the 150-year history and evolution of the Indian securities market, showcasing its diverse products, participants, and institutions.

ii. It includes a website with an interactive timeline of significant events and three-dimensional (3D) galleries, providing an engaging experience for visitors.

iii. It currently contains over 3,000 assets, including articles, regulatory evolution, interviews with notable personalities, historic newspaper clippings, share certificates, infographics, videos, committee reports, and more.

iv. It is set to expand, with new content being added regularly to enhance its value for users.

v. Users can access the Dharohar repository at <https://www.mism.org>

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ICC Awards 2024: India's Bumrah, Smriti, and Arshdeep Singh Win ICC Men's Cricketer, Women's ODI, and Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year Awards

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Awards 2024, with **3 Indian cricketers** making their mark on the honours list. The ICC Awards 2024 event took place over five days, from January 24 to 28, 2025, highlighting exceptional performances across various categories.



ICC Awards 2024 : Jasprit Bumrah, Amelia Kerr named ICC Cricketers of the Year

- India's **Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah** claimed the top honor 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024 and the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024 respectively.
- **Smriti Mandhana** was named the Women's One Day International (ODI) Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- **Arshdeep Singh Aulakh** bagged ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer of the Year 2024.

Highlights of 2024 ICC Awards:

Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah: ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024

i. Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah was honoured with 2 awards namely 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024 and "ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024" for his exceptional performance, topping the international Test cricket wicket-taking charts with 71 wickets in 13 matches at an impressive average of 14.92.

- He became the **first Indian fast bowler (Pacer)** to win this award. Prior to him, Sachin Tendulkar (2010) and Virat Kohli (2017) had won the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year award.

iii. He reached a career-high rating of 907 points in the ICC Test Bowling Rankings in 2024, making him the highest-rated Indian bowler in history.

iv. He ranked the **1st bowler** to top the ICC Test Rankings in all three formats and became the fastest Indian pacer to take 200 Test wickets, with an exceptional sub-20 bowling average, the best in history.

Smriti Mandhana – ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024:

i. Smriti Mandhana was named this award for her exceptional performance in 2024, marks the 2nd time of the ICC award, following her earlier success.

ii. She scored 747 runs in 2024, with an impressive average of 57.46, further cementing her as one of the top batters in women's cricket.

Arshdeep Singh Aulakh – Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024

Arshdeep Singh Aulakh, the left-arm seamer was honored with this award for his exceptional performance in 2024, where he claimed 36 wickets, playing a vital role in India's T20I success.

Amelia Kerr Charlotte (New Zealand): ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024

i. Amelia Kerr Charlotte claimed the top honor "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy" ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024 for her outstanding performances throughout 2024.

ii. She scored 743 runs in 19 matches with an impressive average, establishing herself as one of the best all-rounders in women's cricket.

iii. She was also awarded the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024, becoming the **1st Kiwi (first cricketer from New Zealand)** cricketer to win this honour.

Lists of Winners of ICC Awards 2024:

Category	Winner	Country
'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah	India
'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy' for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Amelia Charlotte Kerr	New Zealand
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024	Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah	India

ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024	Azmatullah Omarzai	Afghanistan
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024	Smriti Mandhana	India
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Pasqual Handi Kamindu Dilanka Mendis	Sri Lanka
ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024	Annerie Dercksen	South Africa
ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2024	Merwe Gerhard Erasmus	Namibia
ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2024	Esha Oza	India
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024	Arshdeep Singh Aulakh	India
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024	Amelia Charlotte Kerr	New Zealand
'David Shepherd Trophy' for ICC Umpire of the Year 2024	Richard Keith Illingworth	England (United Kingdom,UK)

Winners of ICC Teams of the Year 2024:

Category	Winners
ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2024	Pat Cummins (Captain,C), Yashasvi Bhupendra Kumar Jaiswal, Ben Duckett, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Kamindu Mendis, Jamie Smith (Wicketkeeper,WK), Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah and Matt Henry
ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024	Rohit Gurunath Sharma (C), Travis Michael Head , Philip Dean Salt , Mohammad Babar Azam , Nicholas Pooran (WK), Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Rashid Khan, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumra, and Arshdeep Singh Aulakh
ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2024	Laura Wolvaardt (C), Smriti Mandhana, Chamari Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Melie Kerr, Richa Ghosh (WK), Marizanne Kapp, Orla Prendergast, Deepti Sharma, and Sadia Iqbal
ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year 2024	Charith Asalanka (C), Saim Ayub, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (WK), Sherfane Rutherford, Azmatullah Omarzai, Wanindu Hasaranga, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, & AM Ghazanfar

ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2024	Laura Wolvaardt (C), Smriti Mandhana, Chamari Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Marizanne Kapp, Ashleigh Gardner, Annabel Sutherland, Amy Jones (WK), Deepti Sharma, Sophie Ecclestone, & Kate Cross
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i. ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2024: This team includes 11 players with Pat Cummins as the Captain who showcased exceptional performances in Test cricket in 2024 .

- Indian players Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah, Ravindrasinh Anirudhsinh Jadeja, and Yashasvi Bhupendra Kumar Jaiswal were featured in the squad.

ii. ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year 2024: Comprising 11 players, this team recognizes standout cricketers from the ODI format.

iii. ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024: This team features 11 top performers from T20I cricket in 2024, with India's Rohit Gurunath Sharma as the captain.

- Other key Indian players in the squad include Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah, Hardik Himanshu Pandya, and Arshdeep Singh Aulakh.

iv. ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2024: The squad includes 11 players, with Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma being key contributors from India, alongside other all-rounders in the team.

v. ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2024: This team comprises 11 players, with India's Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh, and Deepti Sharma featured for their outstanding performances in the T20I format.

About International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards:

The ICC Awards recognize the top cricket performers of the year across all formats. There are 13 different categories in which these prestigious honors are awarded.

Chairman- Jay Shah

Headquarters – Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Founded: 1909 (for the ICC); ICC Awards introduced in 2004.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

KRBL Appoints Amitabh Bachchan as Ambassador for Indian Rice Brand 'India Gate'

In January 2025, Noida(Uttar Pradesh, UP) based KRBL Limited, an Indian rice processing and exporting company, has appointed Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as the **brand ambassador** for its flagship '**India Gate**' brand.

- This decision aimed to strengthen the brand's connection with consumers and enhance its global presence in the basmati rice market.
- Amitabh Bachchan is the brand ambassador for several well-known products in India, including upGrad, FirstCry, Maggi, Kalyan Jewellers, Cadbury Dairy Milk, Parker Pens, Gujarat Tourism, ICICI Prudential Life, and Maaza.

i. KRBL Limited(formerly known as Khushi Ram Behari Lal Ltd.,) was founded in 1889 in Lyallpur, Punjab by two brothers namely Khushi Ram and Behari Lal.

ii. It is recognized as one of the world's largest rice millers. It is best known for its India Gate brand of basmati rice, which is the largest selling rice brand in India.

iii. Anil Kumar Mittal is the Chairman and Managing Director(MD) of KRBL Limited.

Alexander Lukashenko Wins 7th Consecutive Term as President of Belarus

In January 2025, **Alexander Lukashenko** was re-elected as **president of Belarus** for the **7th** consecutive five-year term. He received 86.8% of the vote in the presidential election.

- The Republic of Belarus was formed in 1991 shortly after declaring itself independent of the Soviet Union. In 1994, Alexander Lukashenko was elected as the first president of Belarus. As of January 2025, he is the **only person** to have served as President of Belarus.
- Belarus, officially called the Republic of Belarus, is a landlocked (without coastal line) country in Eastern Europe. It shares borders with Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia.
- The capital of Belarus is Minsk and its currency is the Belarusian Ruble (BYN). **Roman Alexandrovich Golovchenko** is the Prime Minister (PM) of Belarus.

Belarusian Parliament :-

The Belarusian Parliament is also known as the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus with the total capacity of 174 member, it consists of two chambers:

- The Council of the Republic – the upper house consists of 110 members.
- The House of Representatives – the lower house consists of 64 members.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Completes 100th Mission, GSLV-F15 Successfully Launched from Sriharikota, AP

On January 29 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched **GSLV-F15/NVS-02** mission, carrying the **NVS-02 satellite**, from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). With the successful launch of this mission, ISRO completed its **100th** launch from Sriharikota spaceport.



- This mission marks the **17th** flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and **11th** flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.
- It is also the 8th operational flight of GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic stage.

Points to Note:

- ISRO launched its 1st mission on August 10, 1979, which was the experimental flight of Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (**SLV-3 E10**) carrying the Rohini Technology Payload (RTP) from Sriharikota, AP.
- Since 1979, ISRO has conducted 99 launches with Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) carrying out 62 launches, followed by GSLV (16), Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) (7), Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) (4), among others.

About GSLV-F15 Rocket:

- The GSLV-F15 rocket is equipped with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage has successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (**GTO**).
- It is a 3-stage launch vehicle, with lift-off mass of 420.7 tonne (t) and height of 50.9 meter (m).
- The GSLV-F15 payload fairing is a metallic version with a diameter of 3.4 m.

About NVS-02 satellite:

i. It is **2nd** out of the 5 second-generation Navigational Satellite (NVS) series (NVS-01/02/03/04/05), which are designed to augment Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) base layer constellation with improved features for ensuring the continuity of services.

- The NVS series of satellites uses L1 band Standard Positioning Service (SPS) signals to enhance adoption of NavIC services.
- It operates in the L1, L5, and S bands, essential for accurate navigation signals and improved positioning services.

ii. The satellite was designed, developed and integrated at Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC).

iii. It weighs around **2,250 kilogram (kg)** and power handling capacity of nearly 3 kilo-Watt (kW).

iv. It will be placed at 111.75 degree E, and will replace IRNSS-1E, the 5th navigation satellite of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

Note: In May 2023, ISRO launched GSLV-F12 mission, placed the 1st satellite of the 2nd-generation NVS, NVS-01 into GTO.

About NavIC System:

i. It is previously known as IRNSS, is an independent regional satellite system of India, designed to provide precise Position, Velocity and timing (PVT) service to users in India as well as in regions extending around **1,500 kilometer (km)** beyond Indian land mass.

- It will consist of 7 satellites placed in Geosynchronous and inclined geosynchronous orbits.

ii. NavIC will provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and Restricted Service (RS).

iii. SPS of NavIC will provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m and timing accuracy better than 40 nanoseconds (ns) over the service area.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

It is one of the six largest space agencies in the world.

Chairman- V Narayanan

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established- 1969

South Africa's MeerKAT Telescope Discovers the "Inkathazo" Galaxy

In January 2025, a team of South African researchers and astrophysicists discovered a new giant radio galaxy (GRG), named '**Inkathazo**,' using the **MeerKAT telescope** (formerly known as the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT)) in the Northern Cape province of South Africa.

- It spans 3.3 million light-years from end to end, **32 times** the size of our Milky Way galaxy, and is 1.44 billion light-years away from Earth.
- This discovery was published in the scientific journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* (MNRAS).

i. Inkathazo, meaning "trouble" in South Africa's isiXhosa and isiZulu languages, was named due to the challenges in understanding the physics behind this discovery.

ii. GRGs are enormous cosmic structures that emit jets of hot plasma, extending millions of light-years into space

iii. These glowing jets, visible at radio frequencies, are driven by supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies.

NASA Discovers LID-568: A Supermassive Black Hole

In January 2025, **NASA**(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) of United States(US) government has unveiled a discovery “**LID-568**”, a supermassive black hole that challenges current beliefs about how black holes form and grow.



- Supermassive black holes are one of the most common types in the universe. They are usually found at the center of most galaxies.

Key Highlights:

- LID-568 was identified using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** and the **Chandra X-ray Observatory**.
- This black hole exists approximately **1.5 billion years after the Big Bang**, making it one of the earliest known black holes in the universe.
- The mass of LID-568 is estimated to be around 10 million times that of the Sun, positioning it as a low-mass supermassive black hole.
- LID-568 exhibits a remarkable feeding rate, consuming material at a pace **40 times greater** than the established Eddington limit, a phenomenon known as **super-Eddington accretion**. Super-Eddington accretion refers to a rare phenomenon where a black hole consumes material at a rate much higher than the Eddington limit.
- The study, led by Hyewon Suh from the International Gemini Observatory/NSF NOIRLab, was published in Nature Astronomy in November 2024.

LID-568 Comparison with Other Supermassive Black Holes:

- Sagittarius A:** Located at the center of the Milky Way, Sagittarius A, has a mass of about 4.3 million solar masses. While LID-568 is heavier, both are categorized as low-mass supermassive black holes.
- M87:** In contrast, M87, another well-known supermassive black hole, has a mass of around 6.5 billion solar masses, highlighting the significant difference in mass when compared to LID-568.

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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	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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