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**English**



# 31 JANUARY

# 2025

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< Feb 2024

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**Daily**

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Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English  
Ebook



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Ebook



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

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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

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## AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

### Table of Contents

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

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## Hand Written Notes

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Union Cabinet  $\xrightarrow{\text{Chaired by}}$  Narendra Modi  $\xrightarrow{\text{Has}}$  Approved  
PM of India

#### Highlights

Launch  $\xrightarrow{\text{Of}}$  NCMM  $\xrightarrow{\text{To build}}$  Value Chain for critical  $\xrightarrow{\text{Cost}}$  Rs. 34,300 cr  $\xrightarrow{\text{Tenure}}$  7 years  
mineral resources

CCEA  $\xrightarrow{\text{Approved}}$  Revised Ethanol  $\xrightarrow{\text{For}}$  Public Sector OMCs  $\xrightarrow{\text{For}}$  ESY 2024-25  
Procurement Prices

$\downarrow$   
Ex-mill price of ethanol from CHM  $\rightarrow$  Rs. 57.97 per litre

PM - Prime Minister

NCMM - National Critical Mineral Mission

CCEA - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

OMC - Oil Marketing Companies

ESY - Ethanol Supply Year

CHM - C Heavy Molasses

2)

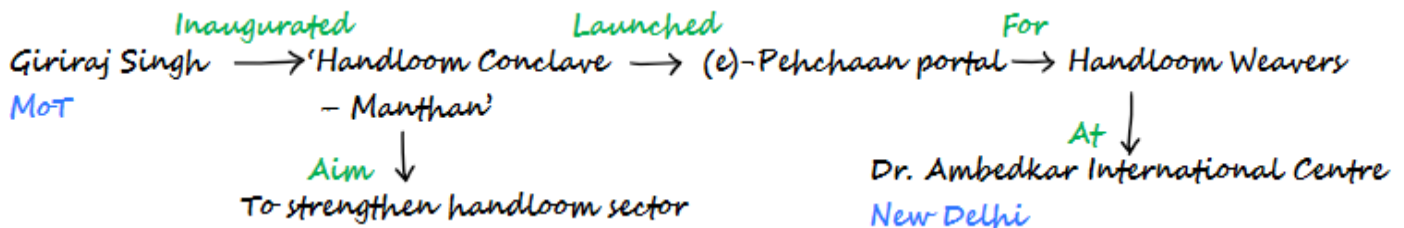
Pratham Foundation  $\xrightarrow{\text{Released}}$  ASER Report 2024  $\rightarrow$  Government Schools Enrolment  
Drops to 66.8% (2024)

#### Highlights

- $\rightarrow$  Govt schools outshined private schools in Post-COVID learning recovery levels
- $\rightarrow$  Drop-out rate for children aged 15-16 remained the same at 7.9% (2024)
- $\rightarrow$  Enrolment in pre-primary institutions among 3-year olds - 77.4% (in 2024)
- $\rightarrow$  Enrolment in Class I (age 5 or below) has decreased to 16.7% (2024)
- $\rightarrow$  Enrolment for 6 to 14 year - 98.1% (in 2024)

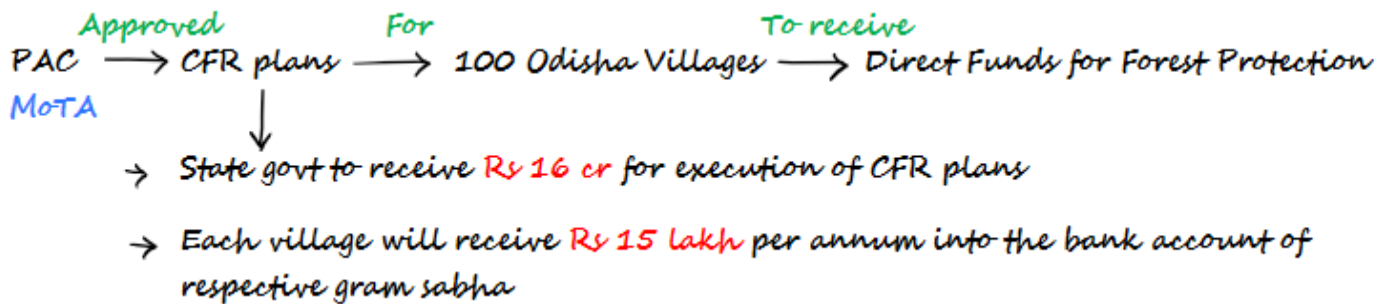
ASER - Annual Status of Education Report(Rural)

3)



MoT - Ministry of Textiles

4)



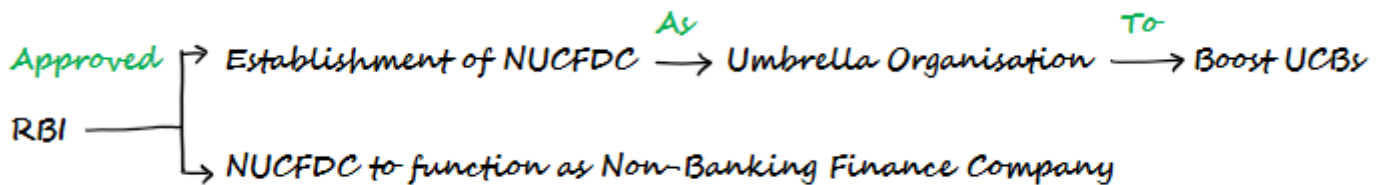
PAC - Project Appraisal Committee

MoTA - Ministry of Tribal Affairs

CFR - Community Forest Resource

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

1)



RBI - Reserve Bank of India

NUCFDC - National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Cooperation

UCB - Urban Co-operative Bodies

2)



RBI - Reserve Bank of India

AIHFPL - Aviom India Housing Finance Private Limited

CGM - Chief General Manager

PNB - Punjab National Bank

3)

BHIM + Fintech Yatra 2025  $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$  ↑ Financial Inclusion & Digital Literacy

BHIM - Bharat Interface Money

4)

SEBI  $\xrightarrow{\text{Launched}}$  iSPOT Portal  $\xrightarrow{\text{To report}}$  Technical glitches by stock exchanges & other MIs  $\xrightarrow{\text{Operational from}}$  3rd Feb, 2025

SEBI - Securities and Exchange Board of India

iSPOT - Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches

MII - Market Infrastructure Institution

5)

HDFC Securities + KFin Technologies  $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$  ↑ Accessibility & adoption of National Pension System

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1)

Tata Steel Limited  $\xrightarrow{\text{Become}}$  India's 1st Steel company  $\xrightarrow{\text{To Develop}}$  API X65 ERW steel pipes for hydrogen transportation  
 $\downarrow$  Manufactured at  
 Tata Steel's Kalinganagar plant, Odisha

2)

RBI  $\xrightarrow{\text{Granted}}$  CoR  $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$  RDCL  $\xrightarrow{\text{Set up by}}$  NHB  $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$  Commence operations by March 2025

$\downarrow$  Aim  $\downarrow$  Paid-up capital

To drive innovation in securitization

Rs.500 crore

RBI - Reserve Bank of India

CoR - Certificate of Registration

RDCL - RMBS Development Company Limited

RMBS - Residential Mortgage-Backed Securitisation

NHB - National Housing Bank

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

Winners for the 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade 2025 <sup>At</sup> → New Delhi



By Judging Panels:

Category

Winner

Best Tableau from Central  
Ministries/Departments

Ministry of Tribal Affairs,  
(Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh)

Best Three Tableaux among States/(UTs)

**First**-UP- (Mahakumbh 2025, Swarnim  
Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas)  
**Second**-Tripura (Eternal Reverence: The  
Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi  
Puja)  
**Third**-AP (Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-  
Friendly Wooden Toys)

Best Marching Contingent among Services

Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent

Best Marching Contingent among  
CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces

Delhi Police Marching Contingent

Special Prize

Central Public Works Department  
(Highlighting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision)

Special Momentum

Jayati Jai Maman Bharatam Dance Group

By Online Poll on MyGov

Best Tableau from Central  
Ministries/Departments

Ministry of Women & Child Development  
(The Multifaceted Journey of Women and Children)

Best Tableau among States/UTs

**First** -Gujarat (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas)  
**Second**- UP (Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat:  
Virasat Aur Vikas)  
**Third**- Uttarakhand (Cultural Heritage and  
Adventure Sports)

Best Marching Contingent  
among Services

Signals Contingent

Best Marching Contingent among  
CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces

CRPF Marching Contingent

UP - Uttar Pradesh

AP - Andhra Pradesh

UTs - Union Territories

CRPF - Central Reserve Police Force

CAPFs - Central Armed Police Forces



2)

*Presented* IBA → Technology Awards 2024 (7 categories) → *During* 20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations, 2024 → *In* Mumbai, Maharashtra

- CUB received awards in all 7 categories for the 2nd consecutive year
- HDFC Bank - Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement award
- SBI - Best Fintech & DPI Adoption and Best FI awards
- BOB - Best AI & ML Adoption and Best IT Risk Management awards
- UBI - Best Technology Talent & Organization & Best Technology Bank awards
- CBI - Best Technology Bank award
- IOB - Best Technology Talent & Organization award
- ESAF Small Finance Bank - Best FI awards

IBA - Indian Banks' Association

CUB - City Union Bank

SBI - State Bank of India

BOB - Bank of Baroda

UBI - Union Bank of India

CBI - Central Bank of India

IOB - Indian Overseas Bank

DPI - Digital Payment Index

FI - Financial Inclusion

AI - Artificial Intelligence

ML - Machine Learning

## SPORTS

1)

*1st* Women's Hockey India → *Winner* Odisha Warriors → *Defeated* JSW Soorma Hockey Club (Punjab & Haryana)  
League Title 2025

- Best Goalkeeper - Savita Punia (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Player of the Tournament - Jyoti Rumavat (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Top Scorers of the Tournament - Yibbi Jansen (Odisha Warriors) & Charlotte Englebort (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)

JSW - Jindal South West

2)

Jyothi Yarraji <sup>Won</sup> → Gold medal <sup>In</sup> → Women's 60 meter hurdles <sup>Held</sup> → France  
(Indian track & field athlete)  
↓  
<sup>Award</sup> 2024 - Arjuna Award

## IMPORTANT DAYS

1)

30 January → World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day <sup>Observed</sup> → WHO

- <sup>Theme</sup> "Unite. Act. Eliminate"
- <sup>Aim</sup> To raise awareness of devastating impact of Neglected Tropical Diseases
- <sup>1st</sup> observed on January 30 2020
- As of December 2024, 54 countries had successfully eliminated at least one Neglected Tropical Diseases

WHO - World Health Organization

2)

30 January → Martyrs' Day (or) Sarvodaya Day <sup>Observed</sup> → Govt  
(or) Shaheed Diwas

↓ <sup>Marks</sup>

77th Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Father of the Nation'

↓ <sup>Aim</sup>

To honour those who sacrificed their lives for the nation

Govt - Government of India

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## Less Important NEWS

- ▶ [Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chairs 152nd MOC Meeting to Begin Preparations for LA 2028 Olympics](#)
- ▶ [AI Touch Receives Grant to Develop AI-Driven 5G RAN Platform with RIC \(RAN Intelligent Controller\), SMO \(Service Management and Orchestration\), and NWDAF \(Network Data Analytics Function\) Under DoT's TTDF \(Telecom Technology Development Fund\) Scheme](#)
- ▶ [NBFC loan growth to decline in FY26 to 18.5% YoY: Ind-Ra](#)
- ▶ [De Beers Group ties up with GJEPC to promote natural diamond in India](#)
- ▶ [French far-right figurehead Jean-Marie Le Pen dies](#)

## Detailed Content

Current Affairs 31 January 2025 : Headlines

 **AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY** **ENGLISH**

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs Wins Best Tableau Republic Day Parade 2025**



**Cabinet approves**  
**January 29, 2025**

**Cabinet approves National Critical Mineral Mission**  
Mission to establish an effective framework for India's self-reliance in the critical mineral sector  
**Outlay: Rs. 34,300 crore over 7 years**

- Mission will encompass all stages of the value chain
- Intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- Aims to create a fast track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects.
- Offer financial incentives for critical mineral exploration and promote the recovery of these minerals from overburden and tailings.



**CURRENT AFFAIRS** **31 JANUARY 2025**

- Cabinet approvals on January 29 2025
- ASER Report 2024: Government Schools Outshine Private in Post-COVID Learning Recovery; Government Schools Enrolment Drops to 66.8%
- Union Minister Giriraj Singh Inaugurates 'Handloom Conclave – Manthan' in New Delhi; Launched e-pehchaan portal
- 100 Odisha Villages to Receive Direct Funds for Forest Protection under CFR Plans Approved by MoTA
- RBI Approved Established of NUCFDC to boost UCBs
- RBI Takes Over AIHFPL Board Amid Governance and Payment Defaults
- BHIM Partners with Fintech Yatra to Promote Financial Inclusion, Digital Literacy
- SEBI Launches 'iSPOT Portal' for Reporting Technical Issues
- HDFC Securities Partners with KFin Technologies to Enhance NPS Access
- Tata Steel Limited, India's 1st company to Develop Hydrogen Transport Pipes
- RDCL Receives RBI Approval to Transform India's Mortgage-Backed Securitisation Market
- Winners of the 76th Republic Day Parade 2025: Awards and Recognitions
- IBA Technology Awards 2024: CUB Wins 7 Awards for 2nd Consecutive Year
- Odisha Warriors win 1st ever Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025
- Indian Athlete Jyothi Yarraji Sets National Record in 60m Hurdles
- World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2025- January 30
- Shaheed Divas or Martyrs' Day 2025 – January 30



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Cabinet approvals on January 29 2025

On January 29 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** has approved the following proposals: i.Launch of the 'National Critical Mineral Mission' (NCMM) to build a resilient 'Value



Chain' for critical mineral resources essential for Green Technologies with a total cost of **Rs. 34,300** crore over a period of **7 years**.

ii.Revised Mechanism for Procurement of Ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme – Price Adjustment for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25.

### Cabinet approves National Critical Mineral Mission(NCMM):

i.The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with an allocation of **Rs.16,300** crore (USD 1.88 billion), envisaging a total outlay of Rs.34,300 crore over a period of 7 years.

- NCMM aims to attract an investment of **Rs.18,000** crore (USD 2.08 billion) from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other entities.

ii.The announcement for launching the NCMM was made by the Union Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) in the Union Budget for 2024-25.

iii.The mission will cover all stages of the mineral value chain, including exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recycling.

- Additionally, financial incentives will be provided for critical mineral exploration.

iv.The mission will also support Indian PSUs and private companies in acquiring critical mineral assets abroad and strengthening trade ties with resource-rich countries.

v.This initiative aligns with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme to address challenges in critical minerals, essential for sectors like high-tech industries, clean energy, and defence.

### Points to Note:

i.The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act or MMDR Act, 1957 was amended in 2023 to promote exploration and mining of these minerals.

- Following this, the Ministry of Mines (MoM) auctioned 24 blocks of strategic minerals.

ii.The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past 3 years, with 195 projects currently active in the first quarter of Financial Year 2025-26 (FY 26).

- 24 Critical Minerals:** Beryl, Cadmium, Cobalt, Gallium, Glauconite, Graphite, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Nickel, Niobium, Phosphate (without uranium), Platinum group of elements, Potash, Rare earth minerals (excluding Uranium and Thorium), Rhenium, Selenium, Tantalum,



Tellurium, Tin, Titanium and ores (ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene), Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium and ores (including zircon).

iii. The Science and Technology – Promotion of Research and Innovation in Start-ups and MSMEs (S&T PRISM) programme was launched in 2023 to foster innovation and Research and Development (R&D) in this field.

### **Cabinet approves Revised Ethanol Procurement Prices**

i. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the revision of the ethanol procurement price for Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25, starting from 1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025.

ii. This revision, part of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme of the Government of India (GoI), fixes the administered ex-mill price of ethanol from C Heavy Molasses (CHM) at **Rs. 57.97 per litre (l)**, up from Rs. 56.58 per l.

iii. The revised pricing ensures continued stability for ethanol suppliers, reducing crude oil imports and promoting environmental sustainability.

iv. The new pricing will ensure Goods and Service Tax (GST) and transportation charges are separately payable to benefit sugarcane farmers.

v. As of ESY 2023-24, OMCs have achieved an average blending of 14.60%, up from 38 crore litres in 2013-14 to 707 crore litres.

- The program has led to savings of approximately Rs. 1,13,007 crore in foreign exchange and a substitution of 193 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of crude oil.

### **Note:**

i. The government has advanced its target for **20% ethanol blending** in petrol from **2030 to ESY 2025-26**. OMCs plan to achieve 18% ethanol blending in ESY 2024-25.

ii. Investments are also being made to increase the capacity of ethanol distilleries to 1713 crore l per annum.

iii. The EBP programme was launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG).

### **ASER Report 2024: Government Schools Outshine Private in Post-COVID Learning Recovery; Government Schools Enrolment Drops to 66.8%**

In January 2025, the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) **Pratham Foundation** released the “**Annual Status of Education Report(Rural) 2024 (ASER 2024)**”, a nationwide household survey that covers the status of children’s enrolment and learning outcomes in rural India annually. The report highlighted that enrolment in both government and private schools has returned to pre-COVID levels.



- However, the report noted that the government schools outshined private schools in Post-COVID learning recovery levels.
- The report showed that government schools, which saw a surge in enrolment for children aged 6-14 during the pandemic, are now returning to pre-pandemic levels, decreased from 72.9% (in 2022) to **66.8% (in 2024)**. This trend can be seen in every state, except: Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

### About ASER Report 2024:

- i. Since 2005, the survey was conducted by Pratham Education Foundation in collaboration with local organisations and institutions in each district.
  - In 2016, ASER switched to an alternate-year model.
- ii. The survey used the framework of the 2011 Census to randomly select 30 villages from each district, and 20 households from each village.
- iii. The survey was conducted for children which has categorised them into 3 main age groups: Pre-Primary (age group 3-5), Elementary (age group 6-14), and Older Children (age group 15-16).
- iv. The survey generated district, state, and national level estimates of children's enrollment status and their basic reading and arithmetic skills.

### Key Findings of ASER 2024:

The household-based Survey ASER 2025 has almost covered 649,491 children aged 3-16, in 17,997 villages across 605 districts of 29 States/Union Territories (UTs) of India.

#### Pre-Primary (age group 3-5 years):

**i. Enrolment in pre-primary institutions:** The report observed that enrolment in some type of pre-primary institutions such as Anganwadi centre, government pre-primary class, among others, among children aged 3-5 years has improved steadily between 2018 and 2024.

- Enrolment in pre-primary institutions among 3-year olds has increased from 68.1% (in 2018) to 75.8% (in 2022) to 77.4% (in 2024). Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana have achieved near-universal enrolment for this age group.

**ii. Type of Pre-Primary Institution:** Since 2018, over 50% of children aged 3 and 4 are enrolled in Anganwadi centres.

- Over 75% of children are enrolled in Anganwadi centres in both these age groups in states like: West Bengal (WB), Gujarat, and Karnataka.
- Nearly 33% (1/3rd) of all 5-year olds students attend a private school or pre-school in 2024. Enrolment in these pre-schools decreased from 37.3% (in 2018) to 30.8% (in 2022) and again increased to 37.5% (in 2024).
- However, enrolment in government institutions has increased significantly in states like: Punjab (11.2% points) and J&K (7.6% points) since 2018.

**iii. Age of Entry to Class I:** The overall percentage of children who are 'underage' (age 5 or below) enrolled in Class I has decreased to 16.7%, the lowest level ever recorded.

#### Elementary (age group 6-14 years):

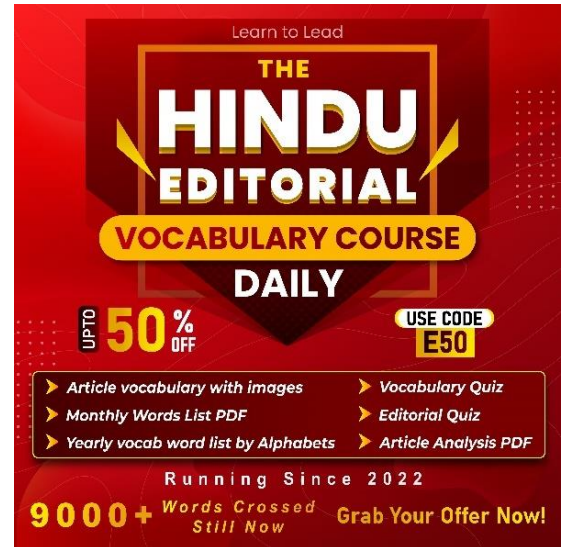
**Enrolment Trends:** The overall percentage of school enrolment for 6 to 14 year-olds increased to more than 95% for nearly 20 years.

- This proportion has remained almost the same, from 98.4% (in 2022) to 98.1% (in 2024).

#### Reading:

The data of the report indicates that reading levels have improved for children in government schools in all elementary grades since 2022.

**i. Class III:** The percentage of Class III students in government schools who can read a Class II textbook, decreased from 20.9% (in 2018) to 16.3% (in 2022) and then increased to 23.4% (in 2024). This indicates that 76.6% of Class III students were unable to read texts, which were provided in 19 different languages.





- The reading level in government schools of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has increased from 12.3% (in 2018) to 27.9% (in 2024).
- Apart from UP, states like: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Odisha recorded a 10% increase in reading levels between 2022 and 2024.

**ii. Class V:** The percentage of Class V students in government schools who can read a Class II textbook increased from 38.5% (in 2022) to **44.8% (in 2024)**.

- While, reading levels for Class V children in private schools, which declined from 65.1% (in 2018) to 56.8% (in 2022) and increased to 59.3% (in 2024).
- Mizoram (64.9%) had the highest percentage of Class V children in government schools able to read Class II text-books, followed by HP (64.8%).

**iii. Class VIII:** The percentage of Class VIII students in government schools who can read a Class VIII textbook increased from 66.2% (in 2022) to 67.5% (in 2024). The performance of private school students remained the same between 2022 and 2024.

- Government schools in states like: Gujarat, UP, and Sikkim witnessed notable improvements in reading levels for Class VIII students.

## Arithmetic:

The report showed that the basic arithmetic level of children at national-level has improved significantly in both government and private schools, reaching the highest level in over a decade.

**i. Class III:** The overall percentage of students in Class III who are able to at least do a numerical subtraction problem, decreased from 28.2% (in 2018) to 25.9% (in 2022) and then increased to 33.7% (in 2024).

**ii. Class V:** The overall percentage of students in Class V who are able to at least do a numerical division problem increased from 25.6% (in 2022) to 30.7% (in 2024). This increase is attributed mainly by the government schools.

**iii. Class VIII:** The performance of Class VIII students in basic arithmetic has increased marginally from 44.7% (in 2022) to 45.8% (in 2024).

## Drop-out Rate :

The **drop-out rate** for children aged 15-16 has declined sharply from 13.1% (in 2018) to 7.5% (in 2022) but remained the same at **7.9%** (in 2024) at national level.

- The survey showed that the drop-out rate for girls, increased marginally from 7.9% (in 2022) to 8.1% (in 2024).
- However, some states witnessed decline in the percentage of drop-out for girls: Madhya Pradesh (MP) (16.1%), Uttar Pradesh (UP) (15%), Rajasthan (12.7%), among others.

## Digital Literacy:

The survey included a **digital literacy section for the 1st time**, to assess the digital literacy awareness among children aged 14-16.

**i. Access:** The report found that almost 90% of both girls and boys among the age group of 14-16 have access to smartphones at home.

- The proportion of those who have access to smartphones and those who can use smartphones is lower for states like: MP, Jharkhand and Bihar compared to other states.

**ii. Ownership:** The report highlighted that personal ownership of smartphone among 14-16 year-olds has increased from 19% (in 2022) to 31% (in 2024).

- 27% of 14-year-olds and 37.8% of 16-year-olds reported having their own phone.



- Among 14-16 years-olds, 36.2% of boys and 26.9% of girls reported having their own smartphone.

**iii.Use:** 82.2% of the children aged 14-16 reported knowing how to use a smartphone (85% of boys as compared to 79.4% of girls).

- Of these, 57% reported using it for an educational activity and 76% for the social media activity during the same period.

**iv.Digital Safety:** 62% of children aged 14-16 knew how to block or report a profile and 55% knew how to make a profile private.

**v.Digi Skills:** The report showed that 70.2% boys and 62.2% girls were able to bring a smartphone to do the digital tasks.

- The report noted that boys outperform girls across most states in digital skills, except in states like: Kerala and Karnataka, where girls match or outperform boys.

### **School Observations:**

**i.Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) activities:** More than **80%** of schools received a directions from the government to implement FLN activities with Class I-II/III both in the last as well as the current academic year.

**ii.Student and Teacher Attendance:** The average attendance of teachers increased from 85.1% (in 2018) to **87.5% (in 2024)**, and the average attendance of students increased from 72.4% (in 2018) to **75.9% (in 2024)**.

**iii.Small Schools and Multigrade Classrooms:** The proportion of government primary schools with less than 60 students enrolled, increased from 44% (in 2022) to 52.1% (in 2024).

- Over 80% of primary schools in states like: J&K, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Karnataka, are small schools.

**iv.School Facilities:** As per the report, only 72% schools have usable girls' toilets, increase from 66.4% (in 2018), while 77.7% schools have drinking water facilities.

- Sports facilities show little improvement; with just **66.2%** of schools having playgrounds in 2024, a slight decrease from 66.5% (in 2018).

### **About Pratham Education Foundation:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Rukmini Banerji

**Headquarters-** Mumbai (Maharashtra), New Delhi (Delhi)

**Established-** 1995

### **Union Minister Giriraj Singh Inaugurates 'Handloom Conclave – Manthan' in New Delhi; Launched e-pehchaan portal**

On January 29 2025, Union Minister **Giriraj Singh**, Ministry of Textiles (MoT), inaugurated the '**Handloom Conclave – Manthan**' at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.



- The conclave aligned with Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi's **5F vision** : "Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign", emphasizing a holistic approach to boosting the handloom industry.
- The event also explored ways to make the sector a driving force in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

**Key Highlights:**

i. The event featured **three** specialized sessions aimed at strengthening the handloom sector. The sessions focused on:

- **Encouraging Start-ups in Handloom:** Discussed ways to support new businesses in the industry.
- **Effective Marketing for Handloom Products:** Focused on expanding market reach and improving sales strategies.
- **Inspiring Youth to Join Handloom Weaving:** Explored methods to attract and retain young artisans in the sector.

ii. The **key outcomes** of the technical sessions include: integrating handloom weaving into formal education, focusing on niche products to stand out in the market, and promoting sustainable employment opportunities in the handloom sector.

iii. He emphasized the need to promote sustainable, eco-friendly handloom products, especially with the online market projected to reach **USD 325 billion** by 2030.

**Launch of Digital Initiatives:**

During the event, Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched the **Handloom Weavers Electronic (e)-Pehchaan portal** and an **online module for Handloom Awards**, marking a significant step in digitizing the sector.

- The MoT will **introduce an award** for corporates, producer companies, and start-ups that create sustainable job opportunities for weavers, ensuring they have work for at least 300 days a year.
- This initiative **aims** to provide social security and fair wages to handloom workers.

**About Ministry of Textiles (MoT):**

**Union Minister**– Giriraj Singh (Constituency -Begusarai , Bihar)

**Minister of State (MoS)**– Pabitra Margherita ( Rajya Sabha – Assam)

**100 Odisha Villages to Receive Direct Funds for Forest Protection under CFR Plans Approved by MoTA**

In January 2025, the Project Appraisal Committee (**PAC**) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has approved Community Forest Resource (**CFR**) plans for **100** villages in phase-I under the Forest Right (FRA) Act, 2006. This number is less than Odisha government proposal to implement it in 400 villages of the state.



- With this approval, as many as 100 villages of Odisha will receive funds directly in the bank accounts of Gram Sabhas instead of Gram Panchayats for the first time to carry out forest protection, management and convergence works in respective community lands.

**Key Points:**

- i. The state government will receive **Rs 16 crore** for development and execution of CFR management plans of 100 villages.
- ii. The State will prioritise these CFR plans based on Minor Forest Produce (MFP) available, preparedness of the plans, community and gram sabha participation and set up of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- iii. **Gram Sabhas** of villages are entrusted with responsibility to carry out tree plantation and prepare need-based development plan.
- iv. Each village will receive **Rs 15 lakh per annum**, which will be directly deposited into the bank account of the respective gram sabha. Also, technical agencies will receive Rs 1 lakh for developing management plans.
- v. CFR management plan proposed in various districts of state: Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, and Bargarh.

**Note:** As per MoTA, **Maharashtra** topped among states in recognizing Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR), with 8,661 villages granted titles as of November 2024, followed by Chhattisgarh (with 4,328 titles), Odisha (with 3,659 titles).

## BANKING & FINANCE

**RBI Approved Established of NUCFDC to boost UCBs**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the establishment of National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Cooperation (NUCFDC) as an Umbrella Organisation (UO) to boost Urban Co-operative Bodies (UCBs) across India. It has also approved NUCFDC to function as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC).



- In January 2025, Union Minister **Amit Shah**, the Ministry of Cooperation inaugurated the corporate office of the NUCFDC during the inaugural function of International Year of Cooperatives 2025 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Key Functions of NUCFDC:**

RBI has mandated NUCFDC to provide two types of services: Fund-based support and Non-fund based support to UCBs which are its shareholder-members.

**i. Fund-based support:** NUCFDC is required to provide capital support to UCBs as per regulations and guidelines & terms and conditions.

- It is also required to offer secured credit lines on merits to UCBs to handle temporary liquidity mismatches.
- It will help in re-financing UCBs against their loans.
- It will manage deposits and borrowings from UCBs and Financial Institutions (FIs).
- Investments

**ii. Non-Fund based services:** NUCFDC will support the rollout of a shared Information Technology (IT) platform offering a comprehensive suite of services.

- It will provide treasury management, payment and settlement services, and other operational solutions to enhance the capabilities of UCBs.
- It will also provide training, consultancy and Human Resource (HR) support to ensure UCBs are well-equipped to adapt evolving regulatory and market demands.

### Key Points:

- i. In February 2024, NUCFDC obtained registration from RBI after raising paid up capital of Rs 117.95 crore.
  - ii. NUCFDC requires the RBI approval to act as Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for UCBs, with functions prescribed by the RBI.
- However, NUCFDC will receive this approval only if it attains the paid up capital of Rs 300 crore within 1 year from the date of registration by RBI i.e. up to 7th February, 2025.

### About National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Cooperation (NUCFDC):

**Chairman-** Jyotindra M. Mehta

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** – Prabhat Chaturvedi

**Headquarters-** Mumbai, Maharashtra

### RBI Takes Over AIHFPL Board Amid Governance and Payment Defaults

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) replaced the board of directors of New Delhi (Delhi) based Aviom India Housing Finance Private Limited (AIHFPL) over governance issues and payment defaults after audits revealed fraud and governance lapses.



- This action was taken under Section 45-IE(1) of the RBI Act, 1934, following the recommendation of the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- i. The RBI appointed **Ram Kumar**, former Chief General Manager (CGM) of Punjab National Bank (PNB), as the administrator of AIHFPL under Section 45-IE(2) of the RBI Act, 1934.
  - ii. RBI to initiate the resolution process of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019 (FSP Rules, 2019).

### About Aviom India Housing Finance Private Limited (AIHFPL):

**Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** – Kaajal Aijaz Ilmi

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Founded** – 2016

### BHIM Partners with Fintech Yatra to Promote Financial Inclusion, Digital Literacy

In January 2025, Bharat Interface Money (BHIM), India's flagship digital payments application (app) powered by Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with the **Fintech Yatra 2025** as a Principal Partner.

- This strategic collaboration aims to accelerate the adoption of digital payments, enhance financial inclusion, and promote digital literacy across the country.



- i. The Fintech Yatra is a 10,000 kilometer (km) long epic road journey, which aimed to identify, understand, and boost players in financial services across India. It is a platform that connects startups, Financial Institutions (FIs), and investors while simultaneously promoting digital independence.
- ii. As part of this collaboration, over 200 individuals from select Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) will be trained under a train-the-trainer model, empowering them to raise awareness about digital payments.

## SEBI Launches 'iSPOT Portal' for Reporting Technical Issues

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched a web-based portal named the 'Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT)' for submission of preliminary and final Root Cause Analysis (RCA) reports of technical glitches by stock exchanges and other Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

- The portal will be operational from **3rd February, 2025**. It is integrated with SEBI's Intermediary (SI) portal, allowing MIIs to access it using their existing login credentials.
  - It aimed to simplify the reporting process of technical glitches across MIIs and establish a centralized repository for all such incidents.
- i. With the introduction of iSPOT, MIIs will now share preliminary and RCA reports of technical glitches with SEBI through this portal, ensuring better data quality, traceability, and improved compliance monitoring.
- Previously, MIIs, including stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories, were required to report technical glitches and submit RCA reports to SEBI via a dedicated electronic mail Identification (email ID).
- iii. iSPOT will send automated reminders to MIIs for RCA submissions and generate system-driven reports for regulatory monitoring.

## HDFC Securities Partners with KFin Technologies to Enhance NPS Access

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Securities** Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank Limited, entered into a strategic partnership with Hyderabad (Telangana) based **KFin Technologies** Limited to improve accessibility and adoption of the National Pension System (NPS).

- The partnership aims to simplify NPS management by offering features like flexible transaction downloads and real-time Short Message Service (SMS) notifications.
  - The collaboration brings together HDFC Securities' network of more than 3.5 lakh subscribers and 2,700 corporate clients with KFin's Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) platform.
- i. CRAs are crucial to the NPS ecosystem as they manage subscriber records, ensure transparency, and facilitate smooth account operations.
- ii. CRA platform includes advanced security features such as dual-factor authentication, utilizing passwords, and one-time passwords (OTPs).
- iii. Subscribers can also use dedicated portals, WhatsApp services, and a missed-call facility to easily monitor investments and make changes.

**Note:** In 2024, the Government of India (GoI) has increased tax benefits under corporate NPS from 10% to **14%** of basic income.

# ECONOMY & BUSINESS

## Tata Steel Limited, India's 1st company to Develop Hydrogen Transport Pipes

On January 29 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Tata Steel Limited (TSL), formerly known as Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), became **India's 1st Steel company** to demonstrate the capability to

develop steel pipes for hydrogen(H<sub>2</sub>) transportation, marking a significant step toward supporting India's National Hydrogen Mission (NHM).



- The company successfully developed hydrogen-compliant **API X65 ERW** steel pipes, which are crucial for the transport of **100%** pure gaseous hydrogen under high pressure (100 bar).

**Note:** API X65 ERW steel, is also called ISO 3183 L450 pipe, manufactured according to the American Petroleum Institute (API) 5L standard, specifically designated as “Grade X65” and produced using the Electric Resistance Welding (ERW) process.

#### **Development and Testing Process:**

- The pipes were processed at Tata Steel's **Khopoli plant**, Mumbai (Maharashtra) utilizing steel and was manufactured at Tata Steel's **Kalinganagar plant**, Odisha.
- The technology development, including the design and manufacture of **hot-rolled steel** and pipe production, was carried out entirely in-house by TSL.
- Testing & Certification:** The hydrogen qualification tests for the pipes were conducted by RINA Consulting – Centro Sviluppo Materiali (**CSM**) S.p.A., **Italy**, a leading agency for hydrogen-related testing.
- The API X65 ERW pipes passed all critical tests required for hydrogen transportation, confirming their suitability for high-pressure hydrogen transport.

#### **Points to Note:**

- This development supports India's NHM, which aims to produce **5 million metric tonnes (MMT)** of green hydrogen annually by **2030**, with the potential to increase to 10 MMT for export.
- The demand for hydrogen-compliant steel pipes will begin in **2026-27**, with an estimated total requirement of 350 kiloton (KT) over the next 5-7 years.

#### **About Tata Steel Limited(TSL):**

In 2024, TSL became the 1st Indian steel company to produce **hot-rolled steel** for the transportation of gaseous hydrogen.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)– Thachath Viswanath Narendran

**Headquarters**– Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Established**– 1907

#### **RDCL Receives RBI Approval to Transform India's Mortgage-Backed Securitisation Market**

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based RMBS(Residential Mortgage-Backed Securitisation) Development Company Limited (**RDCL**) received its Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) marking a major milestone for India's housing finance sector.

- The paid-up Capital of RSDL is **Rs.500 crore** and is expected to commence operations in **March 2025**.
- RDCL is designed to create new opportunities for long-term institutional investors, including Insurance Companies, Pension Funds (PFs), and Provident Funds (PFs).

#### **About RDCL:**

- The National Housing Bank (**NHB**), a statutory body under the Government of India (GoI), has set up RDCL

as the single largest shareholder.

ii.RDCL is supported by a diverse group of investors, including Banks, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and Insurance Companies.

iii.RDCL aims to drive innovation in securitisation, boost investor confidence, support housing finance policies, and collaborate with key stakeholders.

#### **Key Objectives :**

i.**Enhancing Housing Finance Liquidity:** RDCL will invest in RMBS issuances to support liquidity in the housing finance sector.

ii.**Providing Risk Management Solutions:** By offering 2nd-loss credit enhancements, RDCL will help manage risks in the RMBS market.

iii.**Addressing Liquidity Challenges:** RDCL will offer liquidity solutions to Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs), helping them overcome short-term funding challenges.

iv.**Standardizing Practices:** RDCL will focus on standardizing processes and documentation to ensure transparency and foster trust among stakeholders.

#### **Significance of RMBS Market Development:**

i.The RMBS market plays a crucial role in meeting the growing demand for housing finance in India by broadening funding sources, complementing traditional funding methods, providing liquidity to PLIs, and creating opportunities for investment in the secondary market.

ii.Between March 2019 and March 2024, the outstanding individual housing loans in India grew from **Rs 17.95 Lakh Crore** to **Rs. 33.19 Lakh Crore**, achieving a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 13.1%.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

### **Winners of the 76th Republic Day Parade 2025: Awards and Recognitions**

Winners were announced in different categories for the participants of the 76th Republic Day Parade in 2025, with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) winning the **Best Tableau award** in the Ministries/Departments category. The award was given for **their vibrant display** celebrating the “Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh” and the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.



- The awards were decided through **two methods**: one by a panel of judges and the other through an online public vote held on the MyGov platform.
- This year, 31 tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories (UTs) and 10 ministries and departments of the Central Government (CG) participated in R-day Parade 2025 at Karvyapath, New Delhi, Delhi.

#### **Judging Panels:**

Three separate panels of judges were formed to evaluate the performances of:

i.Marching contingents from the three services

ii.Marching contingents from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or other auxiliary forces,

iii. Tableaux displayed by different States, union territories (UTs), and central government departments.

### Online Poll:

An online poll was held on the **MyGov web page** from January 26 to January 28, 2025. Registered citizens can vote for their favorite Marching Contingents and Tableaux in the 'Popular Choice' category.

### Highlights:

- i. The Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**) **Rifles Contingent** was awarded the Best Marching Contingent among Services Category by the panel of judges.
- ii. Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) won the **first prize** in the **Best Tableaux category** by the panel of judges for its depiction of Mahakumbh 2025 and Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas.
- iii. The Ministry of Women & Child Development (**MoWCD**) received the **People's Choice Award** for Best Tableau from the Central Ministries/Departments Category.

### Results for the best Marching Contingents & Tableaux for the Republic Day Parade 2025 (By Panel of Judges)

Category	Winner
Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments	Ministry of Tribal Affairs, (Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh)
Best Three Tableaux among States/(UTs)	First-Uttar Pradesh (UP) – (Mahakumbh 2025, Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas) Second-Tripura (Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja) Third-Andhra Pradesh, AP (Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys)
Best Marching Contingent among Services	Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Rifles Contingent
Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces	Delhi Police Marching Contingent
Special Prize	Central Public Works Department (CPWD) (Highlighting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision)
Special Momentum	Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam Dance Group

### Results for the best Marching Contingents & Tableaux for the Republic Day 2025 Parade (By Online Poll on MyGov):

Category	Winner
Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments	Ministry of Women & Child Development, MoWCD (The Multifaceted Journey of Women and Children)
Best Tableau among States/UTs	First -Gujarat (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas) Second- Uttar Pradesh (Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim



	Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas) Third- Uttarakhand (Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports)
Best Marching Contingent among Services	Signals Contingent
Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces	CRPF Marching Contingent

#### 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.

- Commander (Cmdr) Manoj Sebastian led the massed bands. The ceremony concluded with the patriotic song.

#### Guinness World Record for Largest Indian Folk Dance Performance at Republic Day 2025

The Guinness World Records **recognized the cultural performance titled Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam** for setting the record for **“The Largest Indian Folk Variety Dance.”** The performance was curated by the Ministry of Culture, along with Sangeet Natak Akademi.

- This recognition was announced by Guinness officials during a special ceremony at the Pusa Institute in New Delhi.

#### IBA Technology Awards 2024: CUB Wins 7 Awards for 2nd Consecutive Year

In January 2025, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) presented the technology awards in **seven categories** to honor top technology providers in the banking industry at the **20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations, 2024** held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- The conference was organized by Indian Banks Association (IBA) and awards presented by RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar.
- City Union Bank Limited (**CUB**) and Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**) win awards in all seven categories, while Karnataka Bank Limited (**KBL**) secures wins in six categories.

#### IBA Technology Awards 2024:

The awards are presented across 7 categories of Banks in 7 citation categories. Each award was presented to various Banks under three status :Winner, Runner-Up and Special mention.

- Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement
- Best Information Technology (IT) Risk Management
- Best Fintech & Digital Payment Index (DPI) Adoption
- Best Financial Inclusion (FI)
- Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML) Adoption

vi. Best Technology Talent & Organization and

vii. Best Technology Bank

**Highlights:**

i. **CUB** received awards in all 7 categories for the **second consecutive year**.

- In the winner category, CUB won awards in Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement, Best IT Risk Management, Best Fintech & DPI Adoption and Best FI.
- In the winner category, BoM won awards in Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement, Best IT Risk Management and Best Fintech & DPI Adoption.

ii. **HDFC Bank** Limited won the award for Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement.

iii. **State Bank of India (SBI)** won the Best Fintech & DPI Adoption and Best FI awards.

iv. **Bank of Baroda (BOB)** won the Best AI & ML Adoption and Best IT Risk Management awards.

v. **Union Bank of India (UBI)** won the Best Technology Talent & Organization and Best Technology Bank awards.

vi. **Central Bank of India (CBI)** won the Best Technology Bank award.

vii. **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** won the Best Technology Talent & Organization award.

viii. **ESAF Small Finance Bank** Limited won the Best FI awards

[Click here for the full list of IBA 2024 award winners.](#)

**About IBA awards:**

The IBA awards are designed to honor top technology providers in the banking industry, fostering competition and encouraging the showcase of innovative products, purposeful initiatives, and substantial value through best practices in customer service.

**Recent Related News:**

In December 2024, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Central Bank of Sri Lanka has imposed monetary penalty of Rs 5.85 Lakhs (2 million Sri Lankan rupees (LKR)) on Chennai (Tamil Nadu (TN))- based Public Sector Bank (PSB), Indian Bank Limited for not complying with the provisions of Sri Lanka's Financial Transactions Reporting Act No.6 of 2006 (FTRA). At present, Indian Bank has its two branches in Sri Lanka i.e. in Jaffna and Colombo.

**About Indian Banks Association (IBA):**

**Chairman** – Matam Venkata Rao

**Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Founded** – 1946

## SPORTS

### Odisha Warriors win 1st ever Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025

In January 2025, Odisha Warriors won the **1st ever** 'Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025' by defeating JSW ((Jindal South West) Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana.

- The 'Odisha Warriors' secured 2-1 in the final tournament held at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

i. Rutuja Dadaso Pisal was the Star player of the show for the 'Odisha Warriors' as she scored both the goals for her side in the 20th and 56th minute.

ii. She gave the 'Odisha Warriors' the lead in the 2nd quarter but Penny Squibb (28') equalised for JSW Soorma Hockey Club.

**iii. Other Winners:**

- Best Goalkeeper – Savita Punia (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Player of the Tournament – Jyoti Rumavat (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)

- Top Scorers of the Tournament – Yibbi Jansen (Odisha Warriors) and Charlotte Englebert (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Upcoming Player of the Tournament: Sonam (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)

### Indian Athlete Jyothi Yarraji Sets National Record in 60m Hurdles

In January 2025, Jyothi Yarraji, Indian track and field athlete from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) clinched the Gold medal in the women's 60 meter(m) hurdles held at the Elite Indoor Meeting in Nantes, France.

- Jyothi Yarraji, broke her own National Record twice in one day and clocked **8.07 seconds** in the heats and **8.04 seconds** in the final, setting a new National Record for India.

i. Her previous record was **8.12 seconds**, set at the 2024 Asian Indoor Championships in Tehran (Iran) where she also won Gold medal in the 60m hurdle.

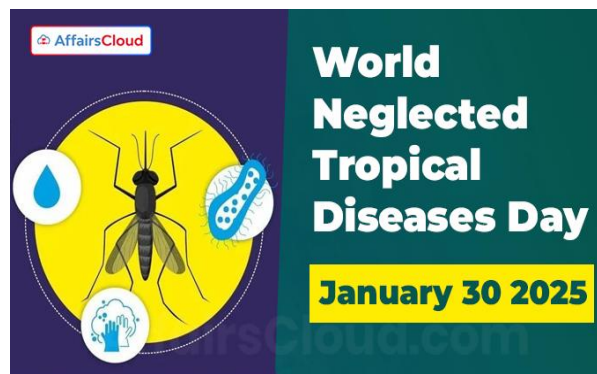
ii. On January 17, 2025, she was awarded the '**Arjuna Award 2024**' for her performance in the 100 m hurdles in athletics at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Delhi).

**Note:** In the men's 60m hurdles, **Tejas Shirse** secured the Bronze Medal with a time of 7.68 seconds and set a national record in Luxembourg with a time of 7.65 seconds.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2025- January 30

The World Health Organization's (WHO) World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (**WNTDD**) is observed annually on **January 30** across the globe to raise awareness of the devastating impact of NTDs on the most vulnerable populations around the world.



#### Theme:

- The theme of WNTDD 2025: "**Unite. Act. Eliminate**" emphasizes the collective commitment needed to end these diseases.
- The theme urges leaders and communities to unite and make bold, sustainable investments to eliminate NTDs and free an estimated **1.5 billion** people in the most vulnerable communities from the cycle of disease and poverty.

#### Background:

i. WNTDD was 1st announced by the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the 2019 Reaching the Last Mile Forum held in Abu Dhabi.

- The inaugural observance was observed on **January 30 2020**.

ii. On May 31, 2021, the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) designated January 30 as WNTDD through decision **WHA74(18)**, a proposal supported by the UAE, Oman, Brazil, and other member states.

iii. This day is now recognized as one of the 11 Global Health Days and 2 Global Health Weeks by the WHO.

**Note:** As of December 2024, **54 countries** had successfully eliminated at least one NTD worldwide.

### Why January 30?

- i. On 30th January 2012, WNTDD marked the release of the **1st NTD Roadmap** (2012-2020) alongside the adoption of the London Declaration on NTDs, which highlighted the global impact of neglected tropical diseases.
- ii. The WHO launched the new NTD road map (2021-2030) on January 28, 2021.
- iii. The WHO's NTD roadmap (2021-2030) and the Kigali Declaration 2022 on NTD set ambitious targets for control and elimination.
  - The primary goal of WHO is to eliminate at least one NTD in 100 countries by **2030**.

### About Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs):

- i. NTDs are a group of treatable and preventable conditions caused by parasites, bacteria, viruses, and fungi, impacting over **1 billion** people worldwide.
- ii. These diseases comprise around **20 conditions** and are most common in tropical and subtropical areas, where poor living conditions, limited access to sanitation, clean water, and healthcare exacerbate their spread.
- iii. Affecting the world's most impoverished populations, NTDs contribute to 1000 of preventable deaths each year

### Global Challenges:

- i. NTDs affect millions globally, with burdens in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean and South-East Asia regions.
- ii. Interventions for NTDs benefit from one of the largest global medicine donation programs, with 12 manufacturers providing donations of 20 different medicines to support NTD efforts.
  - An estimated **75 million** people require interventions against NTDs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- iii. In South-East Asia, 16 NTDs remain endemic, with **833 million** people still needing interventions, in each of the 11 Member States.
- iv. Between 2010 and 2022, the number of people requiring interventions against NTDs in the Region decreased by **54%**.
- v. Between 2011 and 2024, nearly 30 billion tablets and vials were delivered to countries, with 1.8 billion tablets and vials donated and delivered for treatments in 2024 alone.
- vi. In 2024, 7 countries achieved the elimination of an NTD and in **2023**, over **860 million** people received treatment for NTDs through mass drug administration and individual disease management efforts.
  - 10 countries in the Region had eliminated at least one NTD by 2024.

### NTDs Elimination Strategies:

The Regional Strategic Framework for the elimination of NTDs in the South-East Asia Region (2024-2030) outlines a clear and comprehensive roadmap to tackle these diseases through 3 strategic pillars. It includes:

- i. Strengthening Country ownership, Leadership and Stewardship,
- ii. Accelerating Programmatic Actions, and
- iii. Intensifying Integrated and Cross-Cutting Approaches.

### About World Health Organization (WHO):

Director-General (DG)-Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Established- April 7, 1948



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## Shaheed Divas or Martyrs' Day 2025 – January 30

**Martyrs' Day**, also known as **Sarvodaya Day or Shaheed Diwas**, is annually observed across India on January 30 to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

- This day also marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Father of the Nation'.



- 30th January 2025 marks the 77th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

### Background:-

- Martyrs' Day was officially declared in 1949, a year after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on January 30, 1948, to honour his memory and the sacrifices of other freedom fighters.
- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30th January 1948 by Nathuram Godse, in Birla House, New Delhi, Delhi.

### About Mahatma Gandhi:

i. Mahatma Gandhi was born as "Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi" on 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat.

ii. He was a lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and politician who played a major role in India's freedom struggle.

iii. Gandhi played a pivotal role in movements like the Khilafat Movement, Quit India Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, and Champaran Satyagraha.

### Books:

i. "The Story of My Experiments with Truth" the autobiography of Gandhi, covers his life through to 1921. It was originally written in Gujarati and was translated into English by **Mahadev Desai**.

ii. His other noted works include, 'Gokhale: My Political Guru'; 'The Law and the Lawyers', and 'Satyagraha in South Africa'.

iii. He translated John Ruskin's "Unto This Last" in Gujarati as "Sarvodaya".

### Honours:

i. In 1930, he was named TIME Magazine's "**Man of the Year**" (Now awarded as 'Person of the Year'). To date, he remains the only Indian to be honoured with the title.

ii. On the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary (2nd October 1995), the Government of India launched the International Gandhi Peace Prize as a tribute to Gandhi.

### Other Martyrs' Day observed in India:

- **23rd March** – to commemorate the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar.
- **19th May** – observed as Bhasha Shahid Divas (Language Martyrs' Day), to remember the martyrdom of 11 people who were killed during the Bengali Language Movement.
- **19th November** – to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai, the Maratha queen who ruled the Princely state of Jhansi.

## **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](https://www.careerscloud.in).



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://www.careerscloud.in).

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



# Features

Crack

# Current Affairs

Course

QUIZ



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