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English



15 FEBRUARY

2025

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State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



AffairsCloud Dailyscoop Feb 29 2024 - English
Ebook



Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English
START

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



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



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



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

Monthly

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PIB News



February 29 2024 PIB News - English
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English
Article

AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

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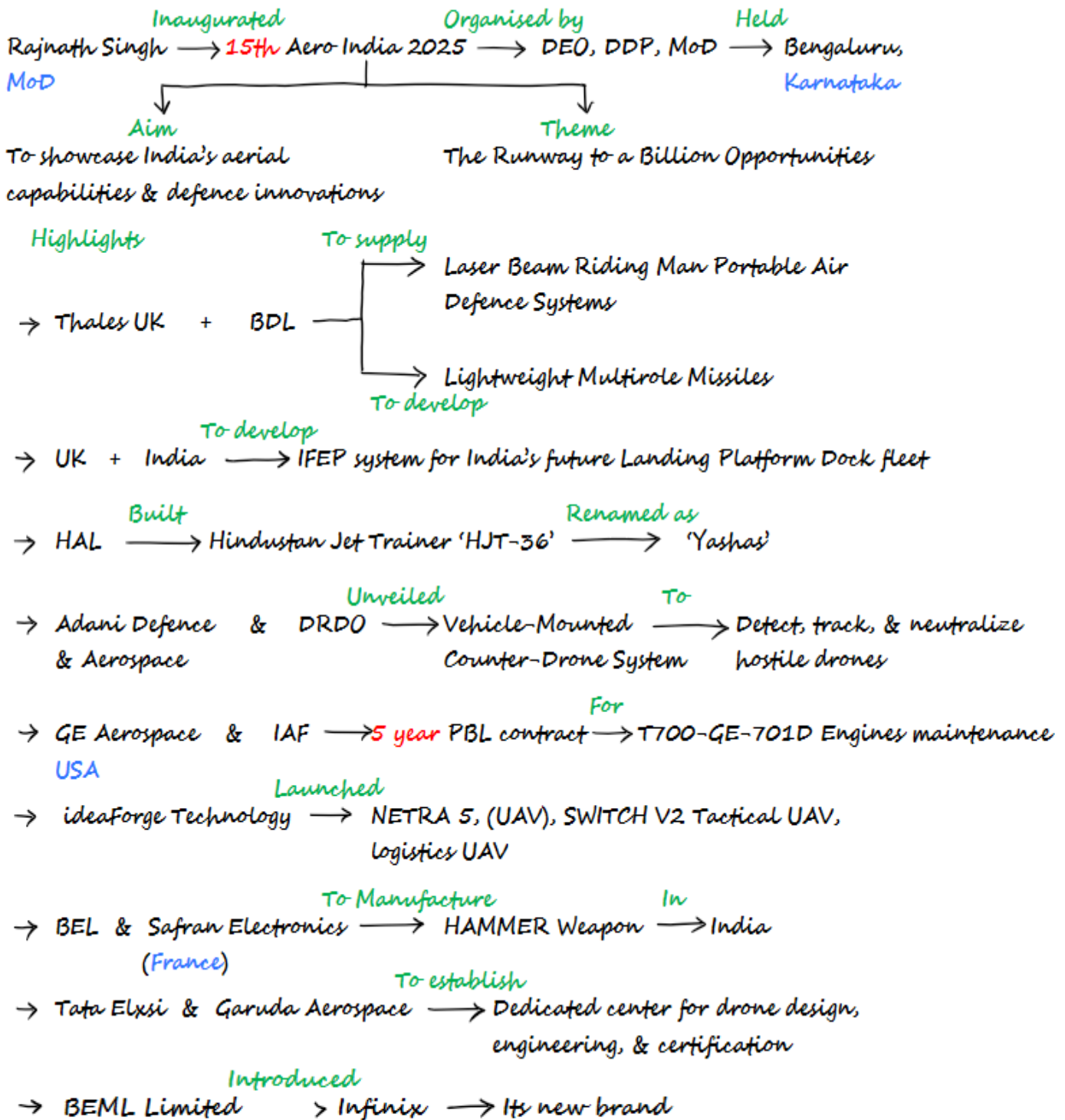
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Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)



MoD - Ministry of Defense

DEO - Defence Exhibition Organisation

DDP - Department of Defence Production

BDL - Bharat Dynamics Limited

UK - United Kingdom

IFEP - Integrated Full Electric Propulsion
DRDO - Defence Research and Development Organisation
IAF - Indian Air Force
UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
BEL - Bharat Electronics Limited
USA - United States of America

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

12th World Government Summit 2025 ^{Theme} → Shaping Future Governments ^{Held} → UAE

Highlights

India ^{Represented by} → Bhupender Yadav ^{Participated} →
(MoEFCC) → XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable
→ HLR on the Future of Mobility

Award

Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 ^{To} → 3 Indian computer science students → Sagar Teotia
(Bronze) → Abhinav Mishra
↓ Anushka Singh
^{Cash prize} → USD 10,000
^{From} → MAIT
New Delhi

UAE - United Arab Emirates
MoEFCC - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
HLR - High-Level Roundtable
EV - Electric Vehicle
PM E-DRIVE - Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement
NGHM - National Green Hydrogen Mission
MMT - Million Metric Tons
PLI - Production-Linked Incentive
MAIT - Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology

2)

India + Indonesia ^{To} → ↑ Traditional medicine quality assurance & global promotion

BANKING & FINANCE

1)

RBI $\xrightarrow{\text{Approved}}$ Easebuzz $\xrightarrow{\text{To operate as}}$ Online Payment Aggregator $\xrightarrow{\text{For}}$ Secure digital payment solutions

RBI - Reserve Bank of India

2)

REC Limited + CVPPL $\xrightarrow{\text{To build}}$ Rs 2,147.51 cr loan $\xrightarrow{\text{On}}$ Pakal Dul HEP $\xrightarrow{\text{In}}$ Marusadar River
Maharatna CPSE (Capacity - 1000 MW) ↓
Jammu & Kashmir

CVPPL - Chenab Valley Power Project Limited

CPSE - Central Public Sector Enterprise

HEP - Hydro Electric Project

MW - Megawatt

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1)

IEA $\xrightarrow{\text{Report}}$ India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 2030 \rightarrow India's natural gas consumption to \uparrow by 60% to 103 bcm annually by 2030
France

Highlights

- \rightarrow Imports are projected to 65 bcm annually by 2030
- \rightarrow India's natural gas demand \uparrow by $>10\%$ in both 2023 & 2024
- \rightarrow India's domestic gas production to grow <38 bcm by 2030
- \rightarrow India's LNG imports - 36 bcm in 2024
- \rightarrow India's CBG production to reach 0.8 bcm annually by 2030

IEA - International Energy Agency

bcm - billion cubic meters

LNG - Liquefied Natural Gas

CBG - Compressed Biogas

2)

NSO $\xrightarrow{\text{Report}}$ India's Retail Inflation \rightarrow \downarrow To 4.31% (Jan 2025) \nearrow 5.22% (Dec 2024)
MoSPI

NSO - National Statistics Office

MoSPI - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

3)

KSSL + L3Harris India ^{To} → ↑ Tactical communication networks for Indian Armed Forces

KSSL - Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited

4)

30th billion-dollar brand 2024 → Maaza → Coca-Cola's 3rd billion-dollar brand in India

↓
^{After}
Thums Up(2021) & Sprite(2022)

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

12th Forbes India '30 Under 30' Class of 2025 ^{Featured} → 42 individuals across 19 categories

Category	Name	Age	Specialization
Agritech Innovations	Devan Chandrasekharan	28	Founder & MD of Fuselage
AI	Rajat Arya	28	CEO of 169Pi.AI
AI	Chirag Arya	24	COO of 169Pi.AI
Ecommerce, Retail, Technologies)	Aniket Shah	25	Founder, Swish (Munchmart)
Consumer Tech			
Entertainment	Aparna Balamurali	29	Actress
Entertainment	Rohit Saraf	28	Actor
Education	Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash	25	Founder & CEO, Bhanzu
Enterprise Research	Anirudh Sharma	26	Founder & CEO, Digantara
Technology			
Music	Karan Kanchan	27	Artist & Entrepreneur
Sports	D Gukesh	18	Chess Player
Sports	Preethi Pal	24	Para Athlete
Sports	Yashasvi Jaiswal	23	Cricketer

MD - Managing Director
AI - Artificial Intelligence
CEO - Chief Executive Officer
COO - Chief Operating Officer

2)
Sportico → ^{Released} 4th Top 100 Highest Paid Athletes 2024



Top 5 100 Highest Paid Athletes

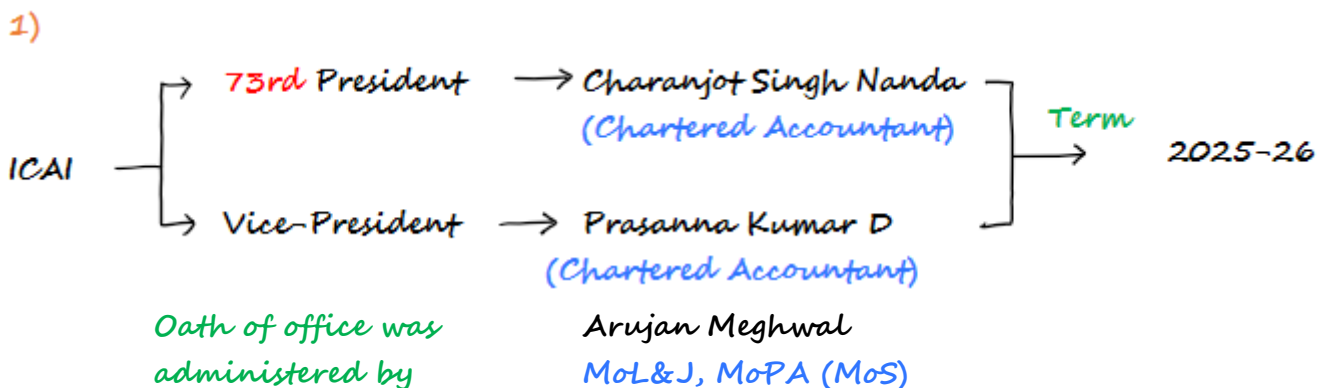
Rank	Name	Sport	Country	Earnings (including Endorsements)
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	Football	Portugal	USD 260 million
2	Stephen Curry	Basketball	USA	USD 153.8 million
3	Tyson Fury	Boxing	England	USD 147 million
4	Lionel Messi	Football	Argentina	USD 135 million
5	LeBron Raymone James	Basketball	USA	USD 133.2 million

→ Coco Gauff, an American Tennis player was highest-paid female athlete in 2024 (2nd consecutive year) with USD 30.4 million

→ Oldest athlete in top 100 - Tiger Woods (49) with USD 62.1 million earnings
Youngest athlete in top 100 - Carlos Alcaraz (21) with USD 40.4 million earnings

USA - United States of America

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS



ICAI - Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
MoL&J - Ministry of Law and Justice
MoPA - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
MoS - Minister of State

2)

President of Greece → Konstantinos Tassoulas ^{Succeeds} → Katerina Sakellariopoulou ^{Tenure} → 5 years

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1)

IRRPL ^{Delivered} → 40,000 AK-203 ^{Produced at} → Korwa Ordnance Factory ^{To} → Indian Army
assault rifles Amethi (UP)

IRRPL - Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited

AK - Avtomat Kalashnikova

UP - Uttar Pradesh

SPORTS

1)

5th Chennai Open 2025 ^{Part of} → ATP Challenger Tour 2025 ^{Held} → SDAT Tennis Stadium in
Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Men's singles title ^{Winner} → Kyrian Jacquet (France) ^{Runner} → Elias Ymer (Sweden)

Men's doubles title ^{Winners} → Shintaro Mochizuki & Kaito ^{Runners} → Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar
Uesugi (Japan) Ramanathan (India)

ATP - Association of Tennis Professionals

OBITUARY

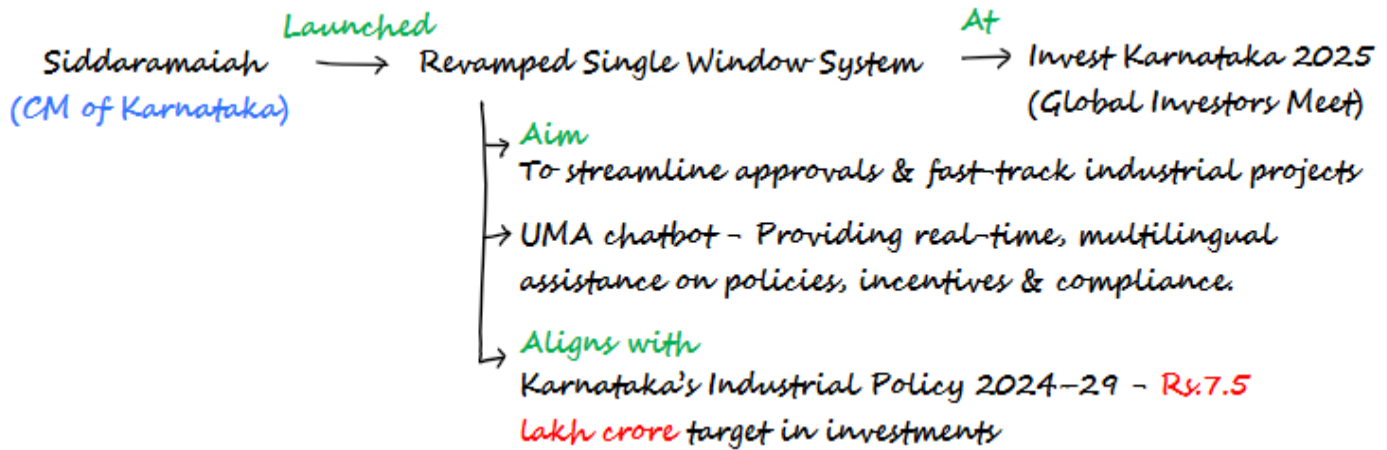
1)

Sukri Bommagowda ^{Awards} → Folk singer → 2017 - Padma Shri award (Arts)
(or) 'Sukrajji'

^{Born} ↓ ^{Passed away}
Karnataka

STATE NEWS

1)



CM - Chief Minister

UMA - Udyog Mitra Assistant

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Detailed Content

Current Affairs 15 February 2025: Headlines

**AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY****ENGLISH**



**Forbes India
30 Under 30
2025 : Aparna
Balamurali
makes it to
Forbes India
30 Under 30 list**



**Aero India 2025: Defence Minister
inaugurates 15th edition of Asia's
biggest A&D exhibition in Bengaluru**



AERO INDIA
The Runway to a Billion Opportunities
10th - 14th February 2025
Air Force Station, Yelahanka
Karnataka, India

CURRENT AFFAIRS**15 FEBRUARY 2025**

- Union Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 15th Edition of Aero India in Bengaluru
- 12th World Government Summit Held in Dubai from 11-13 February 2025
- India & Indonesia Sign Pact to Strengthen Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance
- RBI approves Easebuzz to Operate as Online PA
- REC & CVPPL Ink Rs 2,147.51 crore Term Loan Agreement for Pakal Dul HEP
- IEA Report: India's Natural Gas Consumption to Increase 60%, Imports double by 2030
- India's Retail Inflation Drops to 4.31% in January 2025
- KSSL and L3Harris Sign MoU to Strengthen Tactical Communication Networks for Indian Armed Forces
- Maaza Joins the Billion-Dollar club, Becomes Third Indian Brand to Achieve this Milestone
- Forbes India '30 Under 30' Class of 2025 Lists: Featured 42 Individuals, including Actress Aparna Balamurali
- Sportico's 100 Top Highest-Paid Athletes 2024: Ronaldo Leads the List with USD 260 Million; No Female in the Top 100
- Konstantinos Tasoulas Elected as Greece's New President
- Charanjot Singh Nanda Elected as 73rd President of ICAI for term 2025-26
- Indo-Russia JV IRRPL Delivers 40,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles to IA
- Chennai Open 2025: Kyrian Jacquet Crowned Singles Champion; Mochizuki-Uesugi Clinch Doubles Title
- Folk artist and Padma Shri Awardee Sukri Bommagowda Passed away
- Karnataka Launches Revamped Single Window System to Accelerate Investments and Ease of Doing Business

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 15th Edition of Aero India in Bengaluru

In February 2025, Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated the **15th edition of Aero India**, Asia's largest aerospace and defence exhibition, at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



- The five-day event took place from February 10 to 14, 2025, with the theme “**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities.**”
- The event showcased India's aerial capabilities and defence innovations, bringing together global leaders, experts, and stakeholders.

About Aero India:

i. Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition, organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD).

ii. The 14th edition of Aero India was held from February 13-17, 2023 in Bengaluru.

Key Dignitaries : Several dignitaries attended the event, including Sanjay Seth, Minister of State (MoS); MoD, Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister (CM) of Nagaland; Doddalahalli Kempegowda (D.K.) Shiva Kumar, Deputy CM of Karnataka; Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary (CS) of Karnataka ; Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, MoD, Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) and defence officials such as Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS); Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS); Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and VSujeet Pushpakar (S.P.) Dharkhar, ice Chief of the Air Staff.

Participants:

Over 900 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies, are participating, making this the biggest-ever Aero India edition. Representatives from over 90 countries, including 30 Defence Ministers and 43 Air Chiefs, are attending the event.

Highlights of Aero India 2025:

The first three days, from February 10 to 12, 2025 are designated as business days, while February 13 to 14, 2025 are reserved as public days for visitors.

- The event features: the Defence Ministers' Conclave, the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Roundtable, the inauguration of the India Pavilion and Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Pavilion, the Manthan iDEX event, the Samarthya Indigenisation event, and an exhibition of aerospace companies.



Aerial Displays and Aircraft Showcases:

i. The **Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) delivers a stunning aerial performance, executing intricate formations with precision.

- A flypast of **IAF's SU-30** fighter jets in the Trishul formation marks a powerful opening ceremony.

ii. The **IAF's MI-17** helicopters perform a Dhvaj formation flypast, IAF's Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) demonstrates its agility and speed.

iv. The second day featured an impressive aerial display by the United States of America (**USA**) Air Force's **F-35 fighter** and **Russia's Sukhoi (SU)-57** multirole fighter jet was displayed on the ground.

v. Bengaluru (Karnataka)- based National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)'s **Hansa** aircraft successfully completes a sortie, underlining progress in civil aviation.

Inauguration of India, iDEX, and Karnataka Pavilions at Aero India 2025:

In February 2025, Union Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the India Pavilion, Innovations for Defence Excellence (**iDEX Pavilion**), and **Karnataka Pavilion** at Aero India 2025.

I. The **India Pavilion** presents India's advancements in **defence manufacturing, innovation, and design**. It represents the 'Flight of Self-Reliance', reflecting coordination among the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), Indian Air Force (IAF), and the space sector.

- India's defence advancements are showcased through **275+ exhibits** from Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), private companies, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and start-ups.

i. Featured **platforms** include full-scale model of India's first 5.5 Generation stealth aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (**AMCA**), Combat Air Teaming System (**CATS**), and Twin-Engine Deck-Based Fighter (**TEDBF**).

ii. DRDO showcased advanced defence technologies through working models, full-scale prototypes, interactive exhibits, indoor pavilions, outdoor displays, and live demonstrations

iii. A special section **showcases winners** of the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with Innovations for Defence Excellence (**ADITI with iDEX**) scheme, featuring advancements in critical defence technologies.

II. The **iDEX Pavilion** focuses on indigenous technological advancements, covering areas like Aerospace, DefSpace, Aero Structures, Anti-Drone Systems, Autonomous Systems, Robotics, Communication, Cybersecurity, Surveillance & Tracking, and Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs).

i. During the event, the Union Minister Rajnath Singh released three publications:

- **iDEX Report 2024**, highlighting key achievements in defence innovation.
- **iDEX Coffee Table Book**, recognizing the contributions of innovators.
- **iDEX Finance Manual**, simplifying financial procedures to support faster project execution and innovation.

III. The **Karnataka Pavilion** displays cutting-edge technologies from the state's defence and aerospace industries, supported by over 2,000 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

India-UK Expand Defence Cooperation:

India and the United Kingdom (UK) have taken a significant step in strengthening their defence collaboration with the launch of Defence Partnership – India (**DP-I**) and **multiple agreements** signed at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru.

- UK Defence Minister Lord Vernon Coaker inaugurated the **UK-India Defence Partnership Pavilion**, establishing a programme office within the UK's Ministry of Defence to facilitate bilateral defence cooperation.

Key Agreements:

i. A major development in defence cooperation is the agreement between **Thales UK** and Hyderabad, (Telangana) – based Bharat Dynamics Limited (**BDL**), operating under MoD, to supply Laser Beam Riding Man Portable Air Defence Systems (**LBRM**).

- The contract includes the initial delivery of High Velocity Missiles (STARStreak) and launchers.

ii. Additionally, Thales and BDL will collaborate on the development of Lightweight Multirole Missiles (**LMMs**), integrating Indian manufacturers into Thales' global supply chain.

Note: Matra BAe Dynamics (**MBDA**) UK and **BDL** are working together to establish an Advanced Short-Range Air-to-Air Missile (**ASRAAM**) assembly and testing facility in Hyderabad (Telangana) to support both India's fighter aircraft fleet and export markets.

iv. On the maritime front, the UK and India have signed a Statement of Intent (**SoI**) to develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (**IFEP**) system for India's future Landing Platform Dock (**LPD**) fleet.

HAL's HJT-36 Renamed 'Yashas':

Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary of Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD, unveiled the new name of Hindustan Jet Trainer 'HJT-36', now called '**Yashas**', at Aero India 2025.

- The renaming follows **extensive modifications** to improve departure characteristics and spin resistance, ensuring enhanced performance.
- It is a subsonic intermediate jet trainer aircraft designed and developed by Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC) and built by Bengaluru based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

i. Yashas is powered by a Full Authority Digital Engine controlled (**FADEC**) – **AL55I jet engine**, for high thrust-to-weight ratio.

ii. A state-of-the-art glass cockpit, equipped with Multi-Function Displays (MFDs) and a Head-Up Display (HUD), improves operational control and armament carriage up to 1,000 kilograms (kgs).

Adani Defence & DRDO Unveil Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System:

Ahmedabad (Gujarat) – based **Adani Defence & Aerospace**, in partnership with the New Delhi (Delhi)-based Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) operating under MoD, introduced a **Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System** at Aero India 2025. This system is designed to detect, track, and neutralize hostile drones with high precision

- The launch was led by **Dr. B.K. Das**, Director General (DG), (Electronics & Communication System, ECD), DRDO.

i. The system is mounted on a 4×4 vehicle, ensuring high mobility and rapid deployment.

ii. It features a high-energy laser for drone neutralization and a 7.62 millimeter (mm) gun for aerial engagement.

iii. It is equipped with radars, electro-optical sensors, and jammers for real-time tracking and interception up to 10 kilometres (Km).

GE Aerospace Signs 5-Year Contract with IAF for T700 Engines maintenance:

General Electric (**GE**) **Aerospace**, headquartered in Ohio, United States of America (USA), has signed a **five-year** Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) contract with the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) to support the sustainment of **T700-GE-701D engines** powering its AH-64E-I Apache helicopters.

- Under this agreement, GE Aerospace will handle the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (**MRO**) of the T700 engines and flight line components, ensuring optimal engine availability for the IAF.
- The PBL model aims to enhance the Apache fleet's operational readiness.

ideaForge Launches NETRA 5 and Advanced UAVs at Aero India 2025

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based ideaForge Technology Limited introduced its latest Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), **NETRA 5**, along with the **SWITCH V2 Tactical UAV** and a **logistics UAV** concept at Aero India 2025.

i. **NETRA 5** is a lightweight, advanced drone designed for both defence and civilian applications.

- It weighs approximately 8 kgs and operates within a range of 10-15 km. The drone can remain airborne for up to 75 minutes and features a drop mechanism capable of carrying payloads between 1.5 to 2 kg.

ii. The UAV includes a primary payload equipped with dual Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) sensors and a secondary payload bay that supports various technologies such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), Multispectral Imaging, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

iii. NETRA 5 is **particularly useful** for mapping, mining area planning, and volumetric estimation in oil and gas fields and plays a crucial role in counter-insurgency efforts, crime control, anti-terror operations, and coastal security.

BEL and Safran Partner to Manufacture HAMMER Weapon in India

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has partnered with **Safran Electronics & Defense**, a aerospace company, based in France to establish a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing and maintaining Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) weapons in India.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by **K.V. Suresh Kumar**, Director (Marketing) of BEL, and **Alexandre Ziegler**, Executive Vice President of Safran Electronics & Defence at Aero India 2025.

i. These precision-guided air-to-ground weapons are used on the Rafale fighter jets of the IAF.

ii. Additionally, BEL and Safran plan to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on strengthening India's defence technology and manufacturing capabilities.

Tata Elxsi and Garuda Aerospace Collaborate on Indigenous Drone Technologies:

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **Tata Elxsi** Limited has partnered with Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-headquartered **Garuda Aerospace** Private Limited at Aero India 2025 to establish a dedicated center for **drone design, engineering, and certification**.

- This initiative aims to develop advanced drone technologies for defense, agriculture, and smart city applications.

i. Tata Elxsi will handle key aspects such as designing, developing, testing, and certifying drone subsystems.

ii. Garuda Aerospace will manage business acquisition and project execution.

BEL Limited Unveils New Brand Identity 'Infinix' :

BEL Limited (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) – based in Bengaluru, introduced its new brand identity, '**Infinix**', at the Aero India 2025 event.

- Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), unveiled the **new logo** at the BELM stall, alongside Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BELM Ltd.
- At the event, BELM showcased its latest advancements in aerospace, defense, and strategic engineering, highlighting its Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) like Vihangam-35 for reconnaissance and surveillance, developed with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Kanpur), Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Abhinandan HNX50, a next-generation Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS).

Other Points:

i. During Aero India 2025, Union Minister Rajnath Singh met with Defence Minister of Republic of Fiji's Pio Tikoduadua.

- The discussions focused on strengthening military ties through the India-Fiji Joint Working Group (JWC), maritime security and naval capacity building.
- ii. Union Minister Rajnath Singh also met with Defence Minister of Republic of Tanzania, **Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax**; Chief of Staff of the People's National Army of Algeria, **General Saïd Chanegriha**; and Defence Minister of the Republic of Zambia **Ambrose Lwiji Lufuma**.
- iii. Chief of the Air Staff Amar Preet (AP) Singh and Chief of the Army Staff Upendra Dwivedi flew together for the first time in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) **Tejas** during a 45-minute flight at Yelahanka Air Force Station.
- iv. Aero India 2025 showcases India's advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous systems, and drone warfare, featuring innovations like an Autonomous Multi-Mode Amphibious Drone, an AI-powered mission planning & Debrief System, and the MBC2 Swarm Drone System.

About Ministry of Defence (MoD):

Union Minister– Rajnath Singh (Constituency-Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

Minister of State (MoS)– Sanjay Seth (Constituency- Ranchi, Jharkhand)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

12th World Government Summit Held in Dubai from 11-13 February 2025

The **12th** edition of the World Governments Summit (WGS) was held from **11-13 February 2025** in **Dubai**, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the theme '**Shaping Future Governments**', The 2025 Summit aims to inspire and empower the next generation of governments, brought together governments, international organizations, thought leaders and private sector leaders worldwide to foster international cooperation.



- The Summit was led by **Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi**, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Government of UAE, and Chairman of the World Governments Summit Organisation.

Note: The **WGS** was established in **2013** under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President (VP) and Prime Minister (PM) of the UAE.

About the WGS 2025:

i. The 2025 Summit addressed 6 thematic conversations namely:

1. Effective Governance and Accountability;
2. Financing the Future and the Global Economy;
3. Climate, Crisis Mitigation, and Resilient Cities;
4. Human-centric Futures and Capacity Building;
5. Global Health Transformations; and
6. Emerging Frontiers and the Future.

ii. The Summit held various ministerial meetings, roundtables, interactive sessions, workshops, and forums to explore key future trends in governance and critical sectors.

- The event features multiple forums, including the Future of Work Forum, Government Experience Exchange Forum, Government Services Forum, Artificial Intelligence Forum, Future of Education Forum, Future of Mobility Forum, and Gender Balance Forum.

iii. The key speakers of the 2025 Summit include Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google and Alphabet, Indian Former Tennis Player Leander Paes, Elon Musk, CEO and Product Architect of Tesla Motors, and others.

India's Participation at WGS 2025:

i. **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), represented **India** at the **WGS 2025**. He participated in 2 major sessions:

1. High-Level Roundtable (HLR) on the Future of Mobility

2. XDGs 2045 (the next global development agenda) Ministerial Roundtable

ii. Bhupender Yadav's participation in the Ministerial Roundtable highlights 2 crucial challenges for developing nations:

- The need for Capacity Building (CB) in clean technology and infrastructure
- The importance of securing adequate financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation

iii. His address at the HLR on the Future of Mobility indicated several major policy initiatives focused on sustainable mobility and manufacturing.

India's Major Transportation & EV Initiatives:

i. A new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy offering incentives to attract global EV investments and establish India as a manufacturing hub.

ii. The Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) incentive scheme worth USD 1.3 billion to promote EVs.

iii. The PM Electric Bus (e-Bus) Seva Scheme aims to deploy 10,000 e-buses nationwide.

iv. 12% growth in India's mobility industry over the past year.

Climate & Energy Goals of India:

i. Reaffirmation of India's goal to achieve net zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2070

ii. The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) with Rs 19,000 crore investment, India aims to produce 5 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of Green Hydrogen (GH) annually by 2030.

iii. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) and NGHM lead to reducing GHG emissions in urban areas of India.

Manufacturing Focus of India:

i. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores, aims to boost the domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive technology products.

ii. SemiCon India program with an outlay of Rs. 76,000 crores to develop a domestic semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem.

About the WGS awards program:

i. The WGS awards program recognises the outstanding achievements of ministers, businesses, and innovators who utilise new technologies and build critical partnerships to address global challenges and advance governance and society.

ii. The awards include: Global Best M-Gov Award, The GovTech Prize, Best Minister Award, World Data Visualization Prize, Shaping Future Governments and Edge of Government.

Indian Students Won Bronze at Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 :

3 Indian computer science students **Sagar Teotia** (Team Lead), **Abhinav Mishra**, and **Anushka Singh** from the Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology (MAIT), New Delhi (Delhi) secured the **Bronze Award** at the **Global Best M-Gov Award 2025** during the WGS 2025 in Dubai.

- This award highlights the pioneering role of universities and youth in addressing local and global challenges and building a better world.

i. The award and a cash prize of **USD 10,000** was presented to the 3 students by Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE during the WGS 2025 summit.

ii. **Recognition:** They were recognised for their Application (App) AccessWay, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform that integrates Augmented Reality (AR), AI, and crowdsourced data to provide accessible navigation, social connections, and emergency tools for individuals with disabilities.

India & Indonesia Sign Pact to Strengthen Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance

In February 2025, **India** and **Indonesia** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to enhance the quality assurance, standardization, and global promotion of traditional medicine systems.



- This strategic partnership focuses on fostering collaboration in traditional medicine quality assurance, with both parties committing to various forms of cooperati

Background:

The MoU is a recent development of an earlier exchange in January 2025, between India's Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy (PCIM&H), under the Ministry of Ayush and Indonesia's Food and Drug Authority.

- PCIM&H, certified under International Organisation for Standardisation **IS/ISO 9001:2015**, ensures robust quality management systems.

Key People:

The MoU was signed by India's Union Minister of State(MoS) (Independent Charge,IC), **Prataprao Jadhav**, Ministry of AYUSH(Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoeopathy) and **Budi Gunadi Sadikin**, Health Minister of Indonesia in the presence of Prime Minister(PM) Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and Union Minister Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs(MEA).

Key Significance:

i. **Focus on Quality Assurance and Standardization:** Establishes standardized protocols for production, testing, and certification of traditional medicines.

- Ensures safety, efficacy, and quality to meet global standards and combat counterfeit products.
- Develops regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in traditional medicines.

ii. **Promoting Research and Innovation:** Encourages joint research to scientifically validate traditional medicine practices.

- Facilitates knowledge exchange through collaboration between academic institutions, researchers, and industry stakeholders.

iii. **Economic and Trade Benefits:** Boosts bilateral trade in traditional medicinal products, creating opportunities for manufacturers and exporters.

- Enhances market access for Ayurvedic and Jamu products, supporting industry growth. Aligns with India's goal to make Ayush products a global healthcare choice

Global Leadership in Traditional Medicine: Supports the World Health Organization (WHO) Traditional Medicine Strategy promoting integration into global healthcare systems.

- Positions India and Indonesia as global leaders in traditional medicine, setting a precedent for other nations.

About Indonesia:

President – Prabowo Subianto

Capital – Jakarta

Currency – Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI approves Easebuzz to Operate as Online PA

In February 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Pune (Maharashtra) based **Easebuzz** Private Limited, a digital payment solution provider to operate as an **Online Payment Aggregator** (PA) for secure digital payment solutions.

- It enables Easebuzz to remain an authorized payments platform, enabling it to process online payments for Indian businesses across various sectors, including e-commerce, travel, tourism, education, and real estate.
- With this, Easebuzz joins companies like Razorpay, MSwipe, Google Pay (GPay), Cashfree, Zomato, CC Avenue, and Innoviti Payments, all of which have secured PA licenses from RBI.

i. Earlier Easebuzz entered into B2B (business-to-business) payments and launched an invoice management and payments platform in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay (NBBL)

ii. It has also been certified as a Biller Operating Unit (BOU) under the Bharat Connect (formerly named Bharat Bill Payment System, BBPS).

Note: PA license permits companies to handle e-commerce transactions, offer early settlements to select merchants and provide credit in the form of term loans in partnership with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and banks.

REC & CVPPL Ink Rs 2,147.51 crore Term Loan Agreement for Pakal Dul HEP

On February 11, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **REC Limited** (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the Ministry of Power (MoP) signed an agreement with Chenab Valley Power Project Limited (CVPPL) to provide a term loan of **Rs 2,147.51 crore** for the development and construction of the **Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project** (HEP) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- The agreement was signed by **Ramesh Mukhiya**, Managing Director (MD) of CVPPL, and **Bhupesh Chandolia**, Chief Project Manager (CPM) of REC Limited at the Regional Office of J&K in the presence of other officials.

i. The Pakal Dul HEP is to utilise renewable energy resources, enhancing J&K's energy security, and supporting India's transition to clean energy.

ii. The project is developed on the **Marusudar River**, situated in the Kishtwar District of J&K.

iii. The project has a capacity of **1,000 megawatts (MW)** and a total estimated cost of **Rs 12,669.67 crore**.

Note: CVPPL is a joint venture formed in 2011 between National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited (51%) and J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) (49%).

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

IEA Report: India's Natural Gas Consumption to Increase 60%, Imports double by 2030

According to Paris (France)-based International Energy Agency (IEA)'s report titled **"India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 2030"**, India's natural gas consumption is expected to increase by nearly **60% to 103 billion cubic meters (bcm) annually by 2030**. This growth will be mainly driven by robust growth in city gas distribution, industrial demand and power generation.



- While, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports are projected to more than double between 2023 and 2030, **to 65 bcm annually**, driven by steady demand growth and a much slower increase in domestic production.
- The key findings of the report were released during the India Energy Week (IEW) celebration held in New Delhi, Delhi.

Note: India aims to increase the share of gas in its energy mix from a slightly over 6% to 15% by 2030.

Key Findings:

i. As per the report, targeted strategies and policy interventions could push India's total gas consumption beyond the projected trajectory to around **120 bcm annually by 2030**.

- The report has outlined certain targeted strategies like: promoting higher utilization of gas-based power plants, faster adoption of LNG in heavy-duty transport, and further boosting expansion of city gas infrastructure.

ii. The report projected that City Gas Distribution (CGD) will lead to the growth in consumption through 2030, driven by rapid expansion in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) infrastructure and competitive pricing against liquid fuels.

- Also, heavy industry and manufacturing sectors like: iron and steel production are projected to add around 15 bcm of demand during this period, while gas use in oil refining is expected to increase by more than 4 bcm as more refineries are connected to the network.

iii. The report revealed that India's natural gas demand increased by **more than 10% in both 2023 and 2024**, which indicates an inflection point. While, total consumption in 2023 was marginally higher than 2011 levels.

- This growth is driven by 3 main factors: rapid infrastructure expansion, recovering domestic production, and an expected easing of global gas market conditions.

iv. Since 2019, the number of CNG stations and residential gas connections in India, has increased by nearly 4 times and more than two times, respectively. It has also expanded its natural gas transmission pipeline by 40%.

- The report has projected that CNG stations and residential gas connections in India are likely to double again, while the gas transmission grid is expected to expand by another 50%.

v. India's domestic gas production, which met 50% of demand in 2023, is estimated to grow gradually, reaching just **less than 38 bcm by 2030**, or around 8% above 2023 levels.

vi. As per the report, India's LNG imports increased by **70%** between 2013 and 2023, and reached 36 bcm in 2024, matching the previous record set in 2020 and consolidating India's position as the world's 4th largest LNG importer.

- However, the report cautioned that the gap between contracted LNG supply and estimated LNG demand is expected to widen, particularly after 2028. This will leave India more exposed to the volatility of the spot LNG market unless additional LNG contracts are secured in coming years.

vii. The report projected that India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) production is expected to reach **0.8 bcm annually by 2030**. It has also estimated that India's CBG potential will be around 87 bcm annually.

- The report highlighted certain challenges that may hinder the consistent availability and commercial viability of CBG production: availability of land, limited offtake, seasonal biomass supply and inadequate logistics.

Keyfacts:

i. Japan has the largest LNG import capacity in the world. As of 2024, Japan's LNG import terminals boasted a combined capacity of nearly 242 million metric tons(MMT) per year.

ii. In 2024, the United States of America(USA) became the largest LNG exporter in the world with 11.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d).

iii. In 2024, China is the world's largest importer of LNG with 76.65 million tons(MT).

About International Energy Agency (IEA):

Executive Director (ED)- Dr. Fatih Birol(Turkey)

Headquarter- Paris, France

Member nations- 32 (India joined IEA as association member nation in 2017)

Established- 1974

India's Retail Inflation Drops to 4.31% in January 2025

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Retail Inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to **4.31%** in January 2025, marking a **5-month low**. This decline marks a significant reduction from 5.22% in December 2024 and 5.1% in January 2024.



- The decrease in food prices played a major role in lowering inflation. Food inflation stood at **6.02%** in January 2025, down from **8.39%** in December 2024.

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- The rural inflation in January 2025 was slightly higher at 4.64% while it was 3.87% in urban areas.
- Food inflation with urban areas experienced a **5.5%** increase in prices, while rural regions faced a higher inflation rate of **6.3%**.
- Prices of items like vegetables, eggs, pulses, cereals, education, health, and clothing saw a reduction.

Note: The NSO has collected the price data from 1114 urban markets and 1181 villages across all States and Union Territories (UTs) on a weekly basis.

Retail Inflation:

i. Retail inflation refers to the rate at which the **prices of goods and services** purchased by consumers increase over time.

ii. It is a key indicator of the cost of living and is typically measured by the CPI, which tracks the average change in prices paid by **urban consumers** for a fixed basket of goods and services.

Key Points:

i. **Vegetable Prices:** The inflation rate for vegetables dropped to **11.3%** in January 2025 from 26.6% in December 2024, contributing significantly to the overall decrease in food inflation.

ii. Items such as coconut oil (54.20%), potato (49.61%), and coconut (38.71%) recorded the **highest** year-on-year (YOY) inflation.

iii. Items like jeera (-32.25%), ginger (-30.92%), dry chilies (-11.27%), brinjal (-9.94%), and Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG) (-9.29%) observed the **lowest** YOY inflation.

iv. **States:** Kerala (6.76%), Odisha (6.05%), and Chhattisgarh (5.85%) reported the highest inflation, while Delhi (2.02%) and Telangana (2.22%) recorded the lowest.

v. The weakening of the Indian rupee (INR) has led to rising costs for imported goods, especially **edible oils**, which recorded a **33-month** high in inflation at **15.6%**.

About National Statistics Office (NSO):

NSO of India is a subordinate office of the MoSPI and was formed by merging the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

Director General, **DG (Central Statistics)** – Narender Kumar Santoshi

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Established– 2019

KSSL and L3Harris Sign MoU to Strengthen Tactical Communication Networks for Indian Armed Forces

On February 11, 2025, Pune (Maharashtra) based **Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL)**, a subsidiary of Bharat Forge Limited (BFL), signed a 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with New Delhi (Delhi) based **L3Harris India** to advance defence and security solutions for India.

- The partnership focuses on Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (**C4ISR**) technologies.
- The MoU enables L3Harris to leverage KSSL's local expertise to develop customized tactical communication networks for the Indian Armed Forces.

i. The collaboration aims to enhance national security and deliver advanced tactical radios and equipment to the Indian forces.

ii. With over **1 million** fielded radios used globally, L3Harris brings extensive experience in military communications.

iii. The agreement aligns with the United States (US)-India Defence Industrial Cooperation framework, promoting the development of next-generation defense technologies.

Maaza Joins the Billion-Dollar club,Becomes Third Indian Brand to Achieve this Milestone

In February 2025, **Maaza**, Coca-Cola's mango-based beverage, achieved a historic milestone in 2024 by surpassing USD1 billion in annual sales. This marks Maaza as Coca-Cola's third billion-dollar brand in India, following **Thums Up(2021) and Sprite(2022)**. This positions Maaza as the 30th billion-dollar brand for the beverage globally.

- Maaza is one of India's most popular mango-flavored drinks, originally launched by Parle Bisleri in 1976.
- In 1993, Coca-Cola acquired Maaza along with other leading Indian beverage brands, including Thums Up, Limca, and Gold Spot.
- In 2024, The Coca-Cola Company reported net gains of USD13 million in the December quarter and USD303 million for the entire year through the refranchising of its bottling operations in India.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Forbes India '30 Under 30' Class of 2025 Lists: Featured 42 Individuals, including Actress Aparna Balamurali

In February, 2025, Forbes India unveiled its 12th Edition [Forbes India 30 Under 30 Class of 2025](#), honoring 30 young professionals and entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions across 19 categories including the newly added Artificial Intelligence.



- The 2025 list features **42 individuals** including Actress **Aparna Balamurali**; Actor **Rohit Saraf**, Founder of Swiss, **Aniket Shah** were recognized across 19 categories.
- The 2025 Lists features includes **12** number of Professionals and a 11 Number of Women.
- World Chess Champion of 2024, D Gukesh was the youngest award winner in the list 2025
- The 2025 list spans various sectors such as technology, healthcare, finance, and entertainment, reflecting the multifaceted talents of India's youth.

About Forbes India '30 Under 30':

- The Forbes India 30 Under 30 list, launched in **2014**, has become a platform recognizing young professionals and entrepreneurs across a wide range of sectors.
- The list has continuously evolved to reflect market changes, with updates like the separation of Music and Entertainment, the addition of Education during the edtech boom, and the inclusion of Cryptocurrency (**Web3**) in 2023.

Selection Process:

- The Forbes India 30 Under 30 selection process is meticulous and transparent, with the editorial team evaluating individuals **under 30** as of **February 28, 2025**.
- Candidates are assessed on their achievements, impact, and potential to shape their respective industries.

iii. Special focus is given to enterprises with co-founders, ensuring that at least one founder is under 30, showcasing truly young leaders driving innovation.

Forbes India '30 Under 30' Class of 2025 List:

Category	Name	Age	Specialization
Agritech	Devan Chandrasekharan	28	Founder & Managing Director (MD) of Fuselage Innovations Private Limited
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Rajat Arya	28	Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), 169Pi.AI
	Chirag Arya	24	Chief Operating Officer (COO), 169Pi.AI
Art	Rabiul Khan	27	Artist
B2B (Business-to-Business)	Deepak Meena	25	Co-founder & CEO, Flyzy Application (App)
	Arjit Singh	26	Co-founder & COO, Flyzy App
	Hansraj Patel	25	Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Flyzy App
Clean Energy and Climate Change	Abhinav Shekhar Vashistha	29	Co-founder & CTO, WeVOIS Labs Private Limited
Design & Architecture	Brinda Dudhat	29	Co-founder, Morii Design
	Simoul Alva	29	Visual Design Lead, Ripple
Digital Content Creators	Kavya Karnatac	27	Founder, Kavya Karnatac (KK) Create
	Prakhar Gupta	28	Podcaster
Ecommerce, Retail, Consumer Tech	Pallav Bihani	29	Founder, Boldfit (Bling Brands Private Limited)

	Aniket Shah	25	Founder, Swish (Munchmart Technologies Private Limited)
	Ujjwal Sukheja	24	Co-founder, Swish
	Saran S	24	Co-founder, Swish
	Anshita Mehrotra	25	Founder, Fix My Curls (Brand Name)
Education	Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash	25	Founder & CEO, Bhanzu
	Devulapalli Lakshmi Prachotan	25	Co-founder, Head of Business Development (HBD), Bhanzu
	Alluru Uday Kiran	26	Co-founder, Head of Operations, Bhanzu
	Jonnalagadda Sai Krishnakanth	27	Co-founder, Head of Research & Development (R&D), Bhanzu
Enterprise Technology	Anirudh Sharma	26	Founder & CEO, Digantara Research and Technologies Private Limited
Entertainment	Aparna Balamurali	29	Actress
	Rohit Saraf	28	Actor
Fashion	Khushi Shah	25	Creative Director & Co-founder, Shanti Banaras (Brand Name)
	Nancy Tyagi	21	Fashion Designer & Content Creator
Finance	Anant Mohta	28	Vice President (VP), Bain Capital Private Equity LP
	Rajit Uboweja	29	Partner, Stride Ventures Capital Private Limited

Food and Hospitality	Raghav Simha	27	Co-founder, Operations Head, Project Hum (Restaurant)
	Pragun Bajaj	28	Co-founder, Kitchen Operations, Project Hum
	Jatin Talreja	27	Co-founder, Business Head, Project Hum
Healthcare	Devika Gholap	27	Co-founder & Chief Product Officer (CPO), OptraScan Inc.
	Siddhant Dangi	25	Co-founder & CEO, Nexstem India Private Limited
	Deepansh Goyal	26	Co-founder & CTO, Nexstem
Industry & Manufacturing	Divanshu Kumar	28	CEO & Co-founder, Solinas Integrity Private Limited
Music	Karan Kanchan	27	Artist & Entrepreneur
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) & Social Entrepreneurship	Rishabh Suri	28	Co-founder & CEO, Qudrat (Marikar Green Earth Private Limited)
	Soumya Dabriwal	29	Co-founder, Project Baala
	Aradhana Ral Gupta	29	Co-founder, Project Baala
Sports	D Gukesh	18	Chess Player
	Preethi Pal	24	Para Athlete
	Yashasvi Jaiswal	23	Cricketer

Notable Honorees:

- i. **Devan Chandrasekharan** was recognized for his contributions to agritech company, that enhances agricultural efficiency through advanced technologies like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence (AI). He is a Founder and managing director of Fuselage Innovations.
- ii. Actress and Playback Singer **Aparna Balamurali** was recognized for her outstanding contributions in the South Indian film industry, notably in the Tamil movie Raayan, and the Malayalam film Kishkindha Kaandam.

iii. World Chess Champion of 2024, **D Gukesh** was the youngest award winner in the list 2025, highlighting his exceptional achievements in the world of chess.

iv. **Rajat Arya** and **Chirag Arya**, the Co-founders of 169Pi AI were recognized for their impactful contributions in advancing the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

v. **Neelakantha Bhanu's** "Bhanzu" established in 2020, was recognized for offering personalized learning experiences, that make **math subject** enjoyable, accessible and aimed at addressing math anxiety.

- Bhanu, recognized as the **world's fastest human calculator**, has previously been featured in Forbes Asia's 30 Under 30 list in 2022.

About Forbes India:

Editor- Suveen Sinha

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established- 2009

Sportico's 100 Top Highest-Paid Athletes 2024: Ronaldo Leads the List with USD 260 Million; No Female in the Top 100

In February 2025, Sports industry news site Sportico's released [4th Annual list of 100 Top Highest-Paid Athletes](#), **Cristiano Ronaldo**, a Portuguese professional footballer is the **world's highest-paid athlete** in 2024 for the **2nd** consecutive year, earning **USD 260 million**, including USD 215 million from Salary/Winnings (from Saudi Pro League club Al Nassr) and USD 45 million from endorsements.



- **Stephen Curry** (USD 153.8 million), an American professional basketball player secured **2nd** place, and **Tyson Fury** (USD 147 million), a British former professional boxer secured **3rd** place on the list.

Female athletes were **absent** from the top 100 for the **2nd** straight year; The top 100 also doesn't include a single sportsperson from India.

Coco Gauff, an American professional Tennis player was the **highest-paid female athlete in 2024** for the **2nd** consecutive year with USD 30.4 million.

Points to Note:

i. In 2024, **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the **1st men's player** to score **900** career **goals** and played in his record **6th** Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) European (**Euro**) Football Championship.

Top 5 100 Highest-Paid Athletes:

Rank	Name	Sport	Country	Earnings (including Endorsements)
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	Football	Portugal	USD 260 million
2	Stephen Curry	Basketball	USA	USD 153.8 million

3	Tyson Fury	Boxing	England	USD 147 million
4	Lionel Messi	Football	Argentina	USD 135 million
5	LeBron Raymone James	Basketball	USA	USD 133.2 million

About the 2024 List:

i. The top 100 highest-paid athletes include players from 8 sports and 27 countries and earned a total of USD 6.2 billion (a 14% increase from 2023),

- It includes USD 4.8 billion in salary, prize money, and USD 1.4 billion from endorsements.

ii. The 2024 list is based on earnings from January to December 2024.

iii. In the top 100, the representation of the National Basketball Association (NBA) includes **36 players** (40 in 2023), and the National Football League (NFL) represents **22 players**, (16 in 2023).

- The combined impact of these 2 leagues accounts for nearly 60% of the top 100.

Key Highlights:

i. The United States of America (USA) dominates the list with **64 athletes**; In the United Kingdom (UK) **5 athletes** made the top 100. **Japan** and **France** each had **3** representatives.

- The highest-paid athletes come from 8 different nationalities, with only two Americans.

ii. **Tiger Woods** (49) is the **oldest athlete** in the top 100 with earnings of USD 62.1 million, while **Carlos Alcaraz** (21), a Spanish tennis player is the **youngest athlete** who earned USD 40.4 million.

iii. Brazilian Football player **Neymar Da Silva Santos Junior** (33 years) is the **only player under 36** among the top 8 highest earners. 11 athletes under 25 made the list

iv. **Scottie Scheffler**, an American Golfer made USD 104.3 million, achieving the highest on-course earnings in golf history.

- Scheffler became the **2nd non-LIV golfer** to earn USD 100 million in a year after Tiger Woods.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Konstantinos Tasoulas Elected as Greece's New President

On February 12, 2025, **former House speaker of Greece Konstantinos Tasoulas**, the candidate from the ruling conservative New Democracy (ND) party, was elected as the **President of Greece** (Officially Hellenic Republic) for a five-year term, effective from March 13, 2025, by the Greek Parliament.



- He won the presidency by securing 160 votes in the fourth round of voting in Greece's 300-member parliament.
- He will succeed **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, Greece's first female president, as her five-year term comes to an end on March 13, 2025.

About Konstantinos Tasoulas:

- i. Konstantinos Tasoulas is a lawyer and a former speaker of the Hellenic Parliament.
- ii. In 2000, he was elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Ioannina, Greece.
- iii. In 2006, he was appointed as the parliamentary representative of the ND party, and in 2010, he became its General Secretary.
- iv. In 2007, he served as the Defense Deputy Minister of Greece
- v. From 2014 to 2015, he served as the Minister of Culture and Sports in Greece.
- vi. From 2019 to 2025, he served as the President of the Hellenic Parliament.

About Greece:

President – Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Prime Minister (PM) – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Capital – Athens

Currency – Euro (EUR)

Charanjot Singh Nanda Elected as 73rd President of ICAI for term 2025-26

Chartered Accountant (C.A.) **Charanjot Singh Nanda** has been elected as **73rd** President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), world's largest accountancy body for the term **2025-26** during the 26th ICAI Council meeting held in New Delhi, Delhi. He has succeeded CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal.



- The council has also elected **Prasanna Kumar D**, a C.A. from Andhra Pradesh (AP), Southern India Regional Council, as Vice-President of ICAI for the term 2025-26.
- The oath of office was administered by Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, I/C) Arujan Meghwal, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA).

About C.A. Charanjot Singh Nanda:

- i. Charanjot Singh Nanda is a Fellow Member who has been practicing CA since 1991.
- ii. He was elected chairman of the Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of ICAI during 2002-03.
- iii. He was elected to the Central Council of ICAI in 2004 and since then, he has served 6 terms at the council.
 - He is already serving 7th term as member of the council for 2025-26.
- iv. Previously, he was elected as Vice President of ICAI during the year 2024-25
- v. During his extensive career, Nanda chaired various committees of ICAI, including the Internal Audit Standards Boards (IASB), the Committee for members in Industry and Business, and the Women Members Empowerment Committee.
- vi. He has represented ICAI as member of various committees formed by the central government and regulatory bodies: Quality Review Board, Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Advisory Committee on Primary Market (2007-10) and Committee on Mutual Funds (MFs) (2007-10); among others.
- vii. He also represented the institute at various international platforms like: at South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE).

About CA Prasanna Kumar D:

- i. He was elected to the Central Council of ICAI for 3 consecutive terms i.e. for 24th Council, 25th Council and 26th Council.
- ii. He has served as chairman of the Visakhapatnam Branch of ICAI during 2001-02.
- iii. He worked as the Southern India Regional Council from 2007 to 2016. He also served as the Chairman of the region in 2013-14.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indo-Russia JV IRRPL Delivers 40,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles to IA

In February 2025, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a Joint Venture (JV) between India and Russia, delivered **40,000** Avtomat Kalashnikova (AK)-203 assault rifles to the Indian Army (IA).

- These rifles were produced at the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).



- The rifles are being produced with complete technology transfer from Russia, with the goal of achieving 100% localization in India.
- It aligns with India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, focusing on achieving self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

Background:

i. In July 2021, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India (GoI) and Russian Defence Minister General Sergey Shoigu signed a contract valued at Rs 5,124 crore.

ii. It involves a JV between IRRPL and Rosoboronexport (RoE) for the production of more than 6.1 lakh 7.63×39 millimeter (mm) AK-203 rifles in India, with technology transfer from Russia.

Note: On January 25, 2022, the first batch of 70,000 AK-203 rifles was delivered to IA. An additional batch of 35,000 AK-203 rifles was delivered between May and July 2024.

Features of AK-203 Assault Rifle:

i. AK-203 assault rifles will replace India's indigenously developed Indian Small Arms Systems (INSAS) rifles, which have been in service with IA for over three decades, and AK-47 rifles.

ii. It is chambered in 7.62x39mm ammunition, delivering superior stopping power compared to the 5.56mm INSAS rifle.

iii. It weighs 3.8 kilogram (kg) and measures 690 mm in length with the stock folded, or 930 mm with the stock extended. Its rate of fire is 700 rounds per minute (RPM).

iv. It offers troops superior accuracy, ease of maintenance, lightweight design, and compatibility with advanced optics and accessories, greatly enhancing their operational readiness.

About IRRPL:

Founded in 2019, IRRPL is a joint venture between India's Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) (42.5%), Munitions India Limited (MIL) (8%), and Russia's Kalashnikov Concern (42%) and Rosoboronexport (RoE) (7.5%).

About Indian Army (IA):

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) – General Upendra Dwivedi

Headquarters – New Delhi (Delhi)

Established – 1895

SPORTS

Chennai Open 2025: Kyrian Jacquet Crowned Singles Champion; Mochizuki-Uesugi Clinch Doubles Title

The 2025 Chennai Open ATP Challenger concluded with France's **Kyrian Jacquet** clinching the men's singles title and the Japanese duo of **Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi** securing the doubles crown.

- 2025 was the 5th edition of Chennai Open, part of the 2025 ATP Challenger Tour, held from February 3 -9, 2025 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).



- The Chennai Open offering 100 ranking points and a prize money of USD 22,730 to the singles champion while runner up will receive USD 3350 and will get 50 points

Singles Final: Jacquet Outlasts Ymer in Straight Sets

- Winner: **Kyrian Jacquet (France)**
- Runner-up: Elias Ymer (Sweden)
- Score: 7-6(7-1), 6-4
- World No. 273 Kyrian Jacquet claimed his maiden ATP Challenger title by defeating Sweden's Elias Ymer (ranked 332).

Doubles Final: Japanese Duo Stuns Defending Champions

- Winners: **Shintaro Mochizuki / Kaito Uesugi (Japan)**
- Runners-up: Saketh Myneni / Ramkumar Ramanathan (India)
- Score: 6-4, 6-4
- The all-Indian pair of Myneni and Ramanathan, defending champions from 2024, faced fierce resistance from Japan's Mochizuki and Uesugi. The Japanese duo capitalized on aggressive net play and consistent serves to secure straight-set victory

About the ATP Challenger Tour:

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) organizes the ATP Challenger Tour, which serves as a developmental circuit for professional male tennis players aiming to improve their rankings and qualify for higher-tier ATP Tour events.

- The Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune events are ATP Challenger 100 tournaments, while the Delhi Open is an ATP Challenger 75 event.
- These tournaments provide valuable opportunities for players to gain experience, earn ranking points, and compete at higher levels within the professional tennis circuit.

India is set to host four ATP Challenger tournaments in 2025:

1. Chennai Open: February 3–9, 2025
2. Bengaluru Open: February 10–16, 2025
3. Pune Open: February 17–23, 2025
4. Delhi Open: February 24 – March 2, 2025

OBITUARY

Folk artist and Padma Shri Awardee Sukri Bommagowda Passed away

On February 13 2025, renowned folk singer **Sukri Bommagowda** also known as ‘**Sukrajji**’ passed away at the age of 88 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. She was born in 1937 in Badigeri, Karnataka, into the Halakki Vokkaliga tribe.



- In 2017, she was honored with **Padma Shri award**, India’s fourth highest civilian award, for her contribution to the field of **Arts** (in folk music).

About Sukri Bommagowda:

i. Sukri Bommagowda, known as the “walking encyclopedia” of the Halakki community, played a key role in preserving and sharing the community’s folk traditions.

- She composed over 4,000 Halakki tribal folk songs, earning the title “Nightingale of the Halakki Vokkaliga community”.

ii. One of her key efforts was combating alcohol addiction in Ankola and nearby areas. She used her speeches, stories, and folk songs to educate people about the negative impact of alcohol on individuals and families.

iii. She was known for her involvement in music and the anti-alcohol movement and led a life full of remarkable achievements.

Awards:

Sukri Bommagowda was recognised for her significant contributions to the field of arts, especially in cultural preservation and promotion of folk music.

i. She received the **Rajyotsava Award in 1988** and **Janapada Shri Award in 1999** from the Government of Karnataka.

ii. In 2006, she received **Nadoja Award** from Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka.

iii. In 2009, she was conferred the **Sandesha Arts Award** by the Sandesha Foundation for Culture and Education and **Alva’s Nudisiri Award** by the Alva’s Education Foundation.



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Note: The Halakki Vokkaliga tribe is an indigenous community primarily located in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka, India. They are known for their distinct cultural heritage, which includes a rich tradition of folk music, dance, and rituals.

STATE NEWS

Karnataka Launches Revamped Single Window System to Accelerate Investments and Ease of Doing Business

In February 2025, the Karnataka Chief Minister(CM) **Siddaramaiah**, unveiled a revamped Single Window System (**SWS**) at the Global Investors Meet, *Invest Karnataka 2025*.

- The digital-first Platform(<https://investkarnataka.co.in/>), aims to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles, streamline approvals, and fast-track industrial projects across the state.

Key Points:

i.Udyog Mitra Assistant (UMA) AI: A generative Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot providing real-time, multilingual assistance on policies, incentives, and compliance.

ii.GIS-Based Land Management: Investors can use the Geographic Information System(GIS) Industrial Information System to verify zoning compliance and explore land parcels via Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). This reduces risks in land acquisition.

iii.End-to-End Digital Integration: The SWS integrates over 150 business services from 30+ state departments, including land allotment, environmental clearances, and building plan approvals. Investors can now apply, amend, and track approvals through a unified portal, replacing the need to navigate multiple offices.

iv.A Common Application Form (CAF) simplifies district- or state-level in-principle approvals, while APIs ensure seamless data sharing across departments

Economic Impact and Investor Response:

i.The SWS aligns with Karnataka's Industrial Policy 2024–29, which targets Rs.7.5 lakh crore in investments, a 12% manufacturing growth rate, and 20 lakh jobs by 2029.

ii.The system also integrates with the National SWS, enabling access to central approvals and reinforcing Karnataka's role in sectors like semiconductors (60% of India's electronics exports) and aerospace (65% of national output)

iii.At *Invest Karnataka 2025*, the state secured USD 115 billion in commitments, including:

- Mahindra Group: Rs.40,000 crore for renewable energy(RE) and electric vehicles.
- JSW Group: Rs.1.2 lakh crore for steel, green hydrogen, and hospitality.
- Lam Research Corporation: Rs.10,000 crore for semiconductor manufacturing.

Less Important NEWS

- [SECL Launches Post-Retirement Benefit \(PRB\) Cell](#)
- [Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the Guna Head Post Office and Passport Seva Kendra Extension Building](#)
- [Centre's wildlife panel clears oil and gas exploratory drilling in Assam sanctuary](#)
- [ISRO successfully brings satellites to 3-meter range under SpaDex](#)
- [Ira Jadhav becomes highest individual scorer in Women's U19 One Day trophy](#)

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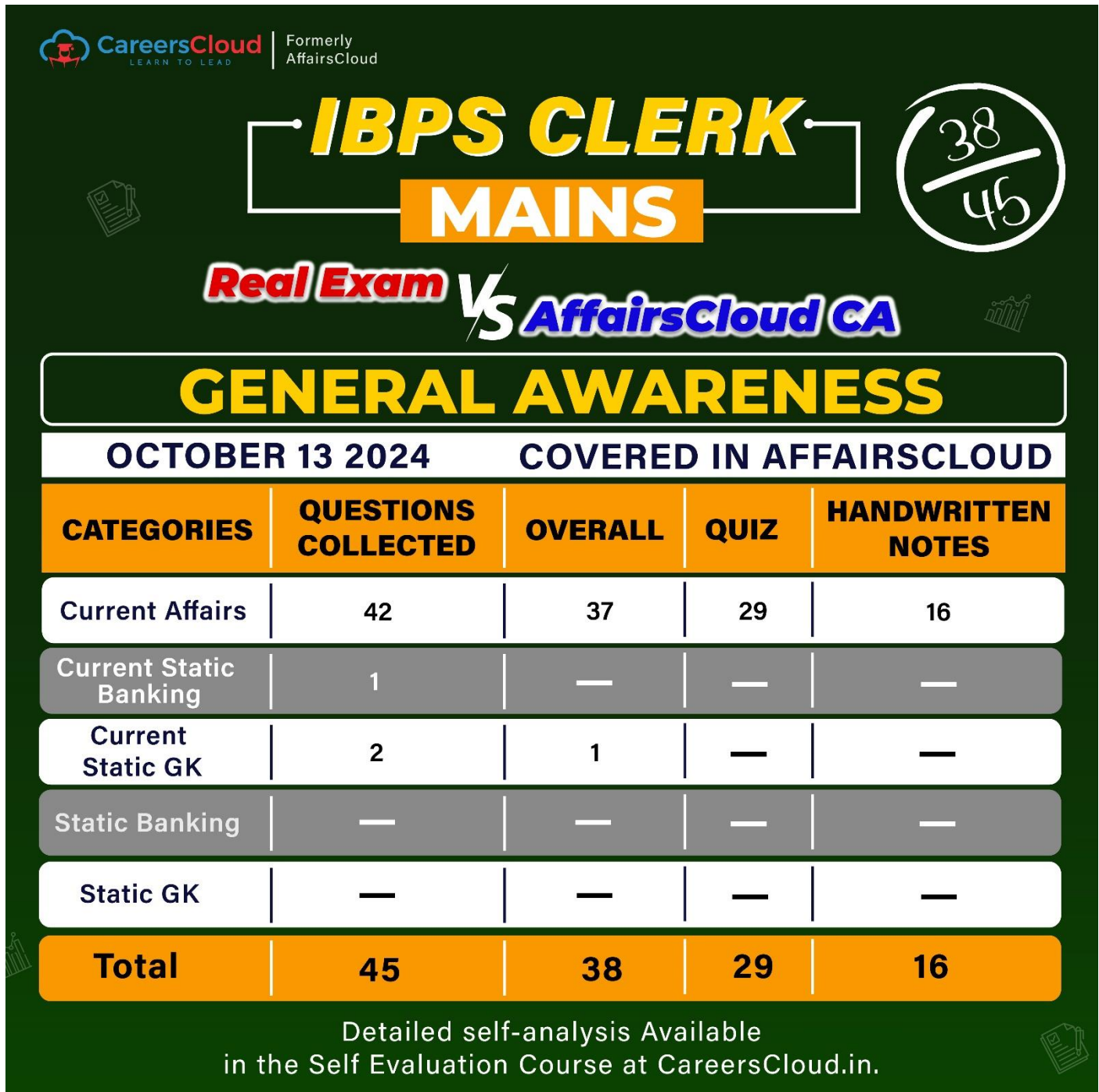
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- [Affairscloud's Self Analysis for General Awareness Section](#)

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





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

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