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State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

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Weekly

Daily

PIB News



Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



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Ebook



Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English
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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

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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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Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Narendra Modi $\xrightarrow{\text{Inaugurated \& laid foundation}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{For}}$ Railway projects $\xrightarrow{\text{In}}$ J&K, Telangana & Odisha

PM of India

Inaugurated

\rightarrow 742.1 km Jammu Railway Division $\xrightarrow{\text{In}}$ J&K $\xrightarrow{\text{Cost}}$ Rs.11,000 cr

\downarrow

India's longest transportation tunnels \rightarrow $\begin{cases} \text{Sumer-Arpinchala T49 (12.75 km)} \\ \text{Pir Panjal T-80 (11.2 km)} \end{cases}$

\rightarrow Charlapalli New Terminal Station $\xrightarrow{\text{In}}$ Telangana $\xrightarrow{\text{Cost}}$ Rs 413 cr

Foundation stone

\rightarrow Rayagada Railway Division Building $\xrightarrow{\text{In}}$ Odisha $\xrightarrow{\text{Cost}}$ Rs 107 cr

Note - India has 3rd largest metro network in the world after China & the United States of America

PM - Prime Minister

J&K - Jammu & Kashmir

2)

Released

MoE \rightarrow UDISE+ Report 2023-24 \rightarrow Students school enrollment \rightarrow \downarrow to 24.8 cr (2023-24) \nearrow 25.17 cr (2022-23)

\rightarrow Boys enrolled in school - \downarrow by 4.87% to 12.87 cr \nearrow 13.53 cr (2018-19)

\rightarrow Girls enrolled in school - \downarrow by 4.48% to 11.93 cr \nearrow 12.49 cr (2018-19)

Highest drop in students enrollments

Largest no. of schools with zero enrollments

1. Bihar

1. West

2. Uttar

Bengal

Pradesh

2. Rajasthan

3. Maharashtra

3. Telangana

Minorities accounted for around 20% of total enrollment in 2023-24

1. Muslims

2. Christians

3. Sikhs

4. Buddhists

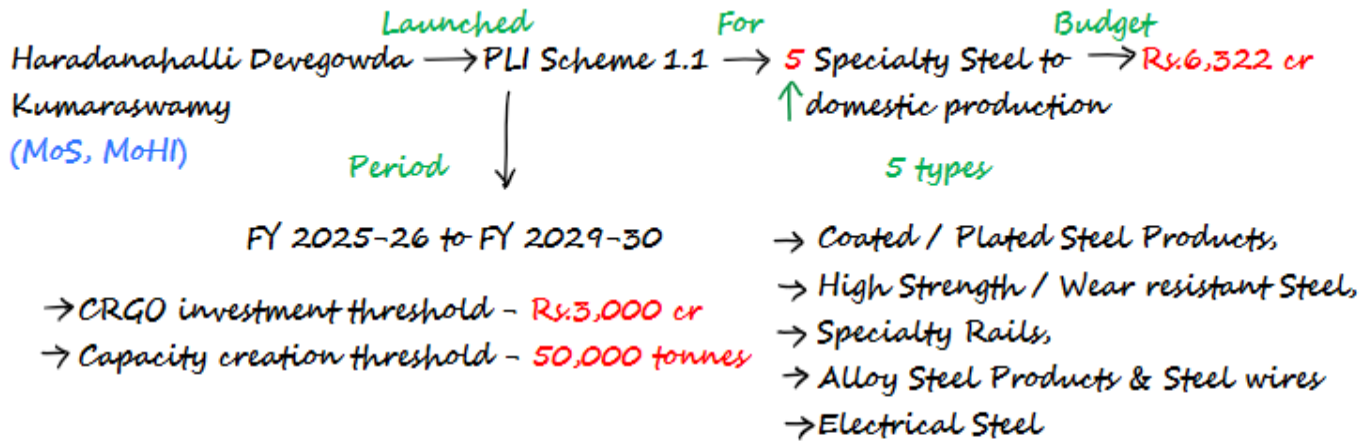
5. Jains (1.3%)

6. Parsis

MoE - Ministry of Education

UDISE+ - Unified District Information System for Education Plus

3)



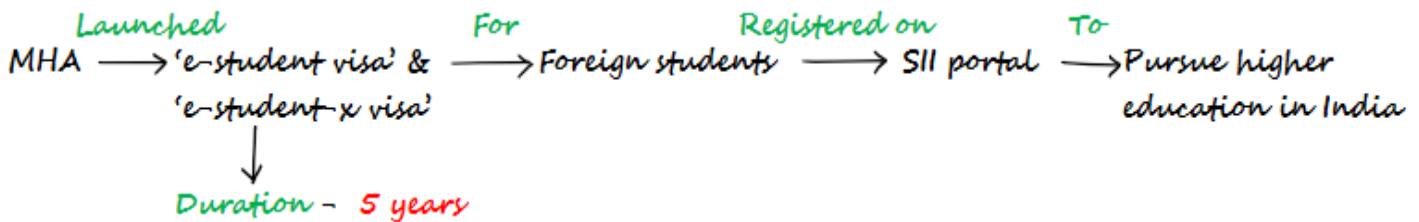
MoS - Ministry of Steel

MoHI - Ministry of Heavy Industries

PLI - Production Linked Incentive

CRGO - Cold-Rolled Grain-Oriented

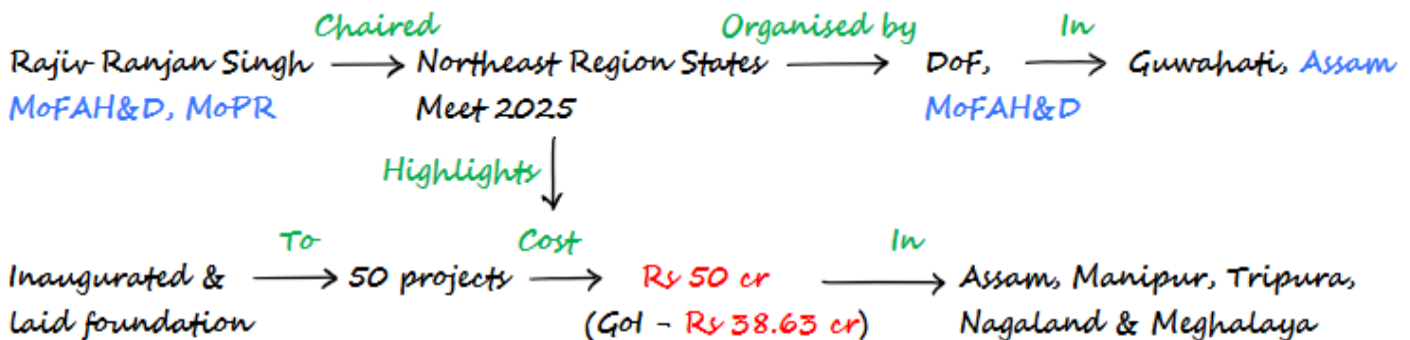
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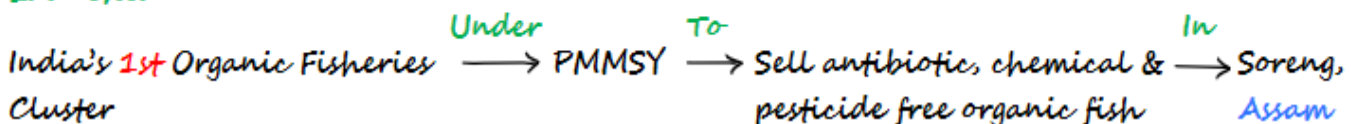
MHA - Ministry of Home Affairs

SII - Study in India

5)



Launched



MoFAH&D - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

MoPR - Ministry of Panchayati Raj

DoF - Department of Fisheries

GoI - Government of India

PMMSY - Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

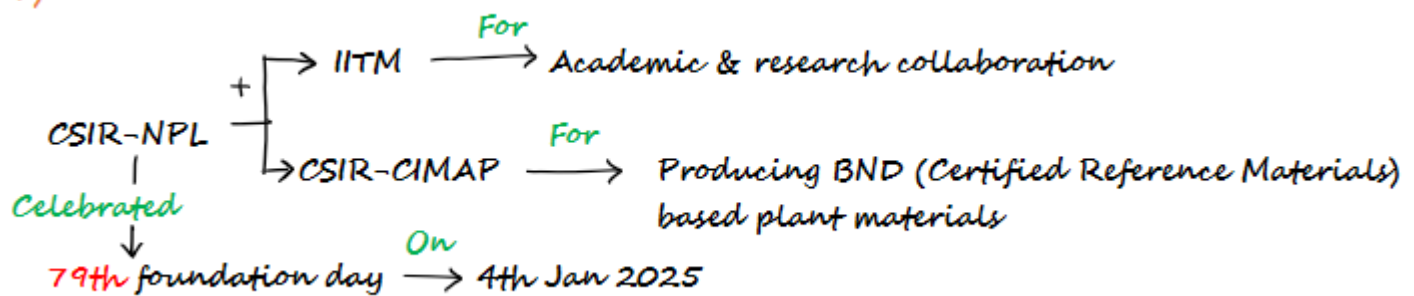
6)

FIU-IND + IRDAI $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$ \uparrow Cooperation to combat money laundering & financing terrorism

FIU-IND - Financial Intelligence Unit-India

IRDAI - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

7)



CSIR-NPL - CSIR-National Physical Laboratory

IITM - Indian Institute of Technology Madras

CSIR-CIMAP - CSIR- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

BND - Bharatiya Nirदेशak Dravya

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

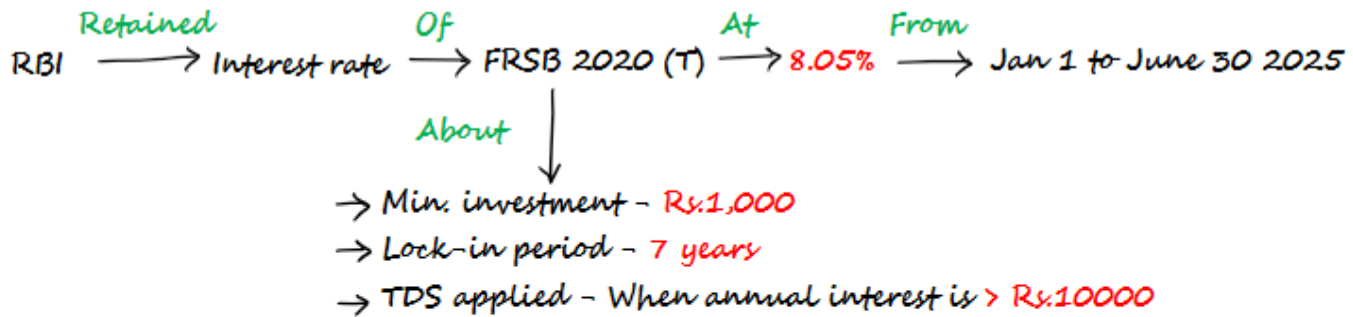
1)



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

BANKING & FINANCE

1)



RBI - Reserve Bank India

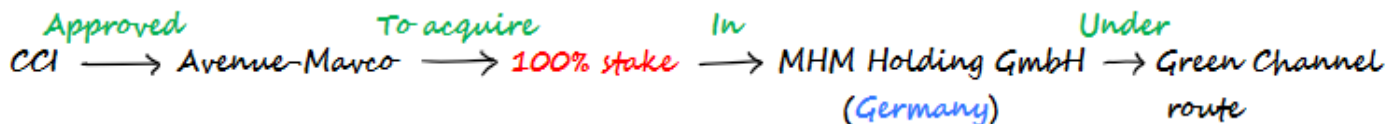
FRSB - Floating Rate Savings Bond

TDS - Tax Deducted at Source

T - Taxable

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

1)

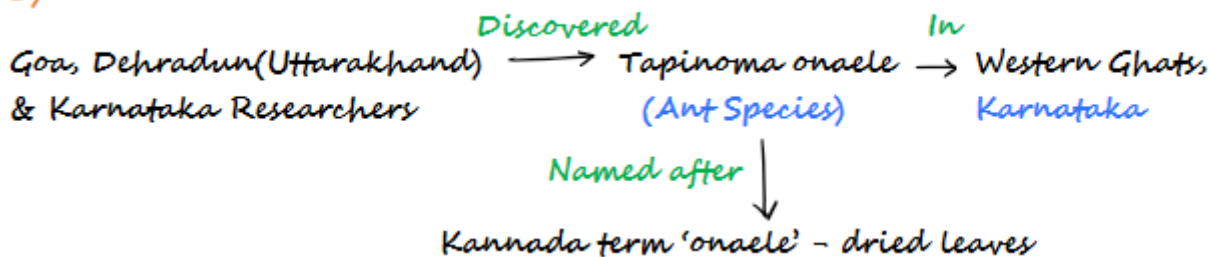


CCI - Competition Commission of India

GmbH - Gesellschaft mit beschraenkter Haftung

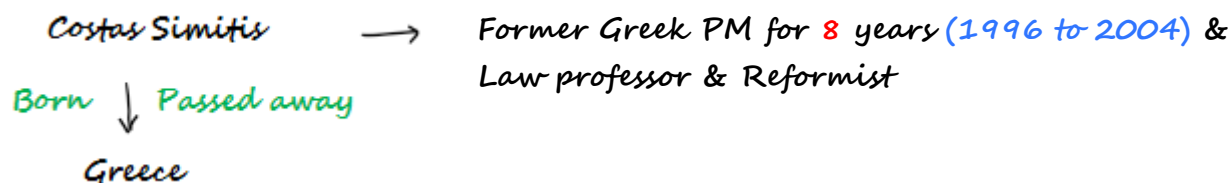
ENVIRONMENT

1)



OBITUARY

1)



PM - Prime Minister

2)

Norbert D'Souza → Kannada Novelist & Writer → ^{Awards} 1993 - Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award (Mulugadeya Oorige Bandavaru)
(or) Dr. Na D'Souza
2024 - Pampa award

Born ↓ Passed away
Karnataka

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

82nd Golden Globes Awards 2025 → ^{Held} Beverly Hills (California, USA) → ^{Host} Nikki Glaser → ^{Presented by} HFPA
^{1st woman to solo-host}

Lists of Golden Globes Awards 2025

↓
Carol Burnett Award 2025 - Ted Danson (American Actor) for 'A Man on the Inside'
Cecil B. DeMille Award 2025 - Viola Davis (American actress & film producer) for 'Fences' & 'The Woman King'.

Category

Best Motion Picture (Musical/ Comedy)
Best Motion Picture (Drama)
Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama)
Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama)
Best Original Song (Motion Picture)
Best Original Score (Motion Picture)
Best Director (Motion Picture)
Best Motion Picture (Animated)
Best Actor in a Musical/ Comedy
Best Actress in a Musical/ Comedy
Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language)
Best Actor in a Drama Series

Winner

Emilia Perez (Jacques Audiard)
The Brutalist (Brady Corbet)
Adrien Brody (The Brutalist)
Fernanda Torres (I'm Still Here)
Emilia Perez (El Mal song)
Challengers (Luca Guadagnino)
Brady Corbet (The Brutalist)
Flow (Sideshow / Janus Films)
Sebastian Stan (A Different Man)
Demi Moore (The Substance)
Emilia Perez (Jacques Audiard)
Hiroyuki Sanada (Shogun)

USA - United States of America

HFPA - Hollywood Foreign Press Association

STATE NEWS

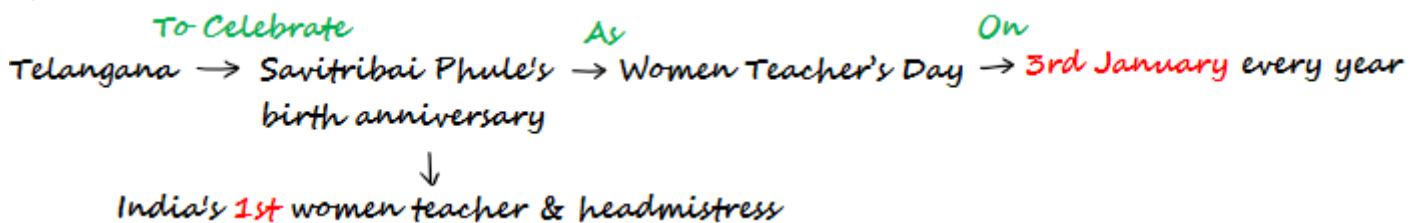
1)



CM - Chief Minister

PBD - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

2)



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- [UP govt appoints street vendors as brand ambassadors under PM SVANidhi Scheme](#)

Detailed Content

Current Affairs 8 January 2025 : Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH



Overview of 82nd Golden Globes Award 2025: *The Brutalist*, *Emilia Perez* and *Shogun* sweep top honours

Brazil announces Indonesia as new member of BRICS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

8 JANUARY 2025

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurates & lays foundation stone for railway projects in J&K, Telangana & Odisha
- MoE Released UDISE+ Report for 2023-24 on School Education; School Enrolment Dropped by Over 1 Crore Compared to 2018-19 Level
- Government launched PLI Scheme 1.1 for specialty steel to boost domestic production
- MHA launches 'e-student visa' & 'e-student-x visa' for foreign students
- Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh chaired the "Northeast Region States Meet 2025" held in Guwahati, Assam
- FIU-IND Signs MoU with IRDAI for Enhanced Cooperation in Combating Money Laundering
- CSIR-NPL Celebrates 79th Foundation Day: Advancing Metrology for National Development
- Indonesia Joins BRICS as 10th Full Member
- RBI maintains the FRSB interest rate at 8.05% from January 1 to June 30, 2025
- Overview of 82nd Golden Globes Awards 2025: Jacques Audiard's 'Emilia Perez' bagged 4 awards
- CCI Grants Automatic Approval to Avenue-Mavco Acquisition of MHM Holding GmbH
- New Ant Species 'Tapinoma onaele' discovered in Western Ghats
- Former Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis passed away
- Renowned Kannada Novelist and Writer Na D'Souza Passed Away at 87
- Odisha CM Inaugurates Adivasi Mela 2025; Launches Shahid Madho Singh Scheme
- Telangana to celebrate Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary as 'Women Teacher's Day'

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates & lays foundation stone for railway projects in J&K, Telangana & Odisha

On January 06 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various railway projects including **Jammu Railway Division**, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), **Rayagada Railway Division Building** of East Coast Railway, Odisha & **Charlapalli New Terminal Station**, Telangana via video conferencing in New Delhi (Delhi).



- These projects aim to create employment opportunities, infrastructure development, promote tourism and lead to overall socio-economic development of the region

Key Dignitaries:

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways (MoR); Union Minister of State (MoS) G Kishan Reddy, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh, (MoES), MoS&T, Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Union MoS V. Somanna, MoR, Union MoS Ravneet Singh Bittu, MoR; Union MoS Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA); Governor of Odisha Hari Babu Kambhampati; Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma; Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha; Chief Minister (CM) of J&K Omar Abdullah; CM of Telangana A Revanth Reddy and CM of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Jammu Railway Division:

i. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division spanning a total length of **742.1 kilometers (km)**.

ii. The division includes:

- Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section (USBRL) (423 route km)
- Bhogpur-Sirwal-Pathankot section (87.21 route km)
- Batala (excluding)-Pathankot section (68.17 route km)
- Pathankot-Joginder Nagar narrow gauge section (163.72 route km)

iii. The USBRL is a milestone in India's engineering, technological and infrastructural strength.

- It involves the construction of 38 tunnels spanning a total length of 119 km, including India's longest transportation tunnels, the Sumber-Arpinchala T49 (12.75 km) and the Pir Panjal T-80 (11.2 km).
- Additionally, the project features 931 bridges with a combined length of 13 km, including the world's highest railway bridge, the **Chenab Bridge**, and India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the **Anji Bridge**.

iv. This project, worth **Rs.11,000 crores**, is part of India's 'Made in India' initiative aims to improve connectivity, create jobs, boost tourism, and drive socio-economic development.

Note: As of December 2024, the Indian Railways (IR) operates **17 zones** with 68 divisions across India. With the creation of this division, the IR will have **70 divisions**.

Charlapalli Terminal Station :

i. PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated the **Charlapalli New Terminal Station** in the Medchal-Malkajgiri District of Telangana, a new coaching terminal along with provision of second entry with a cost of around **Rs 413 crore**.

iii. With this new terminal, Charlapalli will handle an additional 15 pairs of train services. It will serve to ease the growing demand for rail transport in the Hyderabad-Secunderabad twin city region.

iii. The station now has 4 new high-level platforms, and the existing 5 platforms have been extended to accommodate full-length trains.

- Additionally, the station has 10 more lines, bringing the total capacity to 19 lines.

Rayagada Railway Division Building in Odisha:

i. PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **Rayagada Railway Division Building** under the East Coast Railway, Odisha, valued at **Rs 107 crore**.

ii. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as the division's new headquarters, offering modern amenities such as a Divisional Control Office, a G+2 Digital Rights Management (DRM) Office Building with **12,000** square metres (sqm) of space, and dedicated housing for officers and staff.

iii. The new headquarters will streamline railway operations across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh (AP), and surrounding regions.



Points to Note:

i. The inauguration of the 'Namo Bharat' train in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region) along with the launch of Delhi Metro project in January 2025, India has been expediting its initiatives in connectivity, with its metro rail network expanding to over **1,000 km** across 11 states and 23 cities.

- Now India has the **third-largest metro network** in the world after China and the United States of America (USA).

ii. In 1984, the first metro line in India, covering 3.4 km between Esplanade and Bhowanipur, opened in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

iii. Kochi (Kerala) became the first city in India to launch a Water Metro Project, connecting 10 islands around the city with electric hybrid boats. This initiative ensures seamless connectivity, with the first boat launched in December 2021.

iv. In 2020, India launched its first-ever driverless metro service on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line, setting a new benchmark for automation in public transport.

v. In 2024, India's first under-water metro tunnel was inaugurated in Kolkata, where the Esplanade-Howrah Maidan section passes beneath the Hooghly River.

MoE Released UDISE+ Report for 2023-24 on School Education; School Enrolment Dropped by Over 1 Crore Compared to 2018-19 Level

In January 2025, the Ministry of Education (**MoE**) released a comprehensive report on the '**Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2023-24**' on school education in India. As per the report, school enrollment of students in India decreased from 25.17 crore (in 2022-23) to **24.8 crore (in 2023-24)**, a drop of nearly 1.22 crore students (6%) as compared to 2018-19.

- The report further revealed that enrollment in schools across the country remained above 26 crore from 2018-19 to 2021-2022, showing consistent increase annually except COVID year of 2020-21.



About UDISE+:

i. Initially, Government of India (GoI) launched UDISE in **2012-13** by integrating Information Management Systems (IMS) in place separately for elementary education and secondary education.

- It was then being managed by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi (Delhi).

ii. Later in 2018-19, the Department of School Education and Literacy (**DoSE&L**) under MoE, introduced UDISE+, which is one of the largest management information systems.

- It has covered over **14.72 lakhs of schools**, 98.08 lakhs of teachers and 24.08 crores of children in India.

iii. The UDISE+ provides online uploading of data at school level with inbuilt validation checks and subsequent data verification at the block, district and state level ensures data reliability and timely competition.

iv. The latest edition of UDISE+ report has captured data on **over 60 fields** for each student and to maintain the uniqueness of the child the Aadhaar details were also collected on voluntary basis.

- It further revealed that over 19.7 crore students provided Aadhaar numbers by 2023-24 voluntarily.
- Other than Aadhaar card, a separate unique Educational ID (EID) for every student has been created in the UDISE+ portal.

Key Findings:

i. As per the report, total number of **boys** enrolled in school has decreased by 4.87%, from 13.53 crore (in 2018-19) to **12.87 crore** (in 2023-24).

- Similarly, the total number of **girls** enrolled in school has declined by 4.48%, from 12.49 crore (in 2018-19) to **11.93 crore** (in 2023-24).

ii. **Bihar**, witnessed the highest drop in enrollments, from over 2.49 crore students (in 2018-19) to 2.13 crore students (in 2023-24), followed by Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) decreased from 4.44 crore (in 2018-19) to 4.16 crore (in 2023-24) and **Maharashtra** decreased from over 2.32 crore (in 2018-19) to 2.13 crore (in 2023-24).

iii. The UDISE+ report showed that the number of single-teacher schools in the country has decreased by 7219, from 1,18,190 (in 2022-23) to **1,10,971 (in 2023-24)**.

- Among the States, Madhya Pradesh (MP) (13,198), recorded the highest number of schools with single teachers, followed by Andhra Pradesh (AP) (12,611).

iv. The report highlighted that enrollment in single-teacher schools has decreased from around 47.43 lakh students (in 2022-23) to 39.94 lakh (in 2023-24).



v. As per the report, the number of schools with zero enrollments has increased from 10,294 (in 2022-23) to 12,954 (in 2023-24).

- Among all Indian states, West Bengal (WB) has the largest number of schools with zero enrollments (3254), followed by Rajasthan (2167) and Telangana (2097).

vi. The report showed that female representation of school teachers has increased to 53.3% between 2018-19 and 2023-24, while male representation decreased to 46.6% during the same period.

vii. Minorities accounted for around 20% of total enrollment in 2023-24. Among the minorities, 79.6% were Muslims, followed by Christians (10%), Sikhs (6.9%), Buddhists (2.2%), Jains (1.3%) and Parsis (0.1%).

- Category-wise: Other Backward Class (OBC) accounted 45.2% of total students registered in UDISE at the national level, followed by General Category (26.9%), Scheduled Caste (SC) (18%) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) (9.9%),

About Ministry of Education (MoE):

Union Minister- Dharmendra Pradhan (Lok Sabha Constituency- Sambalpur, Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha- Uttar Pradesh, UP); Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Constituency- Balurghat, West Bengal, WB)

Government launched PLI Scheme 1.1 for specialty steel to boost domestic production

Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, **Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy** launched the second round of **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Specialty Steel**, termed as **PLI Scheme 1.1** on **6th January, 2025** at the Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi.



- PLI Scheme 1.1 applications will remain open from **6th January to 31st January 2025**.
- The scheme will work within the already allocated funds for the scheme, i.e., **Rs.6,322 crore** and will be implemented for the period of Financial Year (FY) **2025-26 to FY 2029-30**.

Key Highlights:

i. The **PLI Scheme 1.1** has been introduced for **5** product categories with respect to the existing PLI Scheme, namely Coated / Plated Steel Products, High Strength / Wear resistant Steel, Specialty Rails, Alloy Steel Products & Steel wires and Electrical Steel.

ii. In the **2nd** round of PLI Scheme, investment and capacity creation thresholds for Cold-Rolled Grain-Oriented (**CRGO**) steel has been reduced to **Rs.3,000 crore** and **50,000 tonnes** to promote participation in this category.

iii. The first round of PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel was notified on July 2021 by the Ministry of Steel (MoS) with a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,322 Crore.

- In the first round, there were **44** active projects by **26** companies with an investment of about **Rs.27,106 crore** and 24 million tons of downstream capacity creation.
- As of November 2024, the investment made by companies is **Rs 18,300 crore** till now.

About PLI Scheme:

i. The PLI Scheme was launched in **March 2020** with an aim to boost India's manufacturing capabilities, reduce reliance on imports and promotion of exports by offering financial incentives directly related to measurable outcomes such as higher production and incremental sales.

ii. It was initially launched to target **three** industries –

- Mobile manufacturing and electric components,
- Pharmaceutical (critical key starting materials/active pharmaceutical ingredients),
- Medical device manufacturing

iii. Later it was extended to a total of **14** sectors with a total budgetary outlay of **Rs.1.97 trillion**.

iv. The **14** sectors include-

- Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components
- Critical Key Starting Materials/Drug Intermediaries & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- Manufacturing of Medical Devices
- Automobiles and Auto Components,
- Pharmaceuticals Drugs
- Specialty Steel
- Telecom & Networking Products,
- Electronic/Technology Products,
- White Goods (ACs and LEDs)
- Food Products
- Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles
- High efficiency solar PV modules
- Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery
- Drones and Drone Components

v. As of **August 2024**, investments worth **1.46 lakh crore** have been utilized leading to a boost in production and sales, amounting to **Rs.12.50 lakh crore**, and directly and indirectly generating approximately **9.5 lakh** jobs.

Ministry of Steel:

Union Minister– Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy (Mandya, Karnataka)

Minister of State (MoS)- Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma (Narasapuram, Andhra Pradesh)

MHA launches 'e-student visa' & 'e-student-x visa' for foreign students

On January 5 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced two new specialized visa categories: the '**e-student visa**' and the '**e-student-x visa**', designed to facilitate foreign students pursuing higher education at Indian academic institutions.



- The e-student visa is available to eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal, while the e-student-x visa is designated for the dependents of e-student visa holders.

- All interested students are required to register on the Study in India (SII) portal, an initiative launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE), to streamline the admission process for international students seeking long-term or short-term courses in India.

About e-student visa :

i. Eligibility: The e-student visa is for foreign nationals enrolled in full-time Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or other formal programs at institutions recognized by India's regulatory bodies.

- Students can apply for the visa once they receive an admission offer from an SII partner institute.

ii. Duration: Valid for up to **five years** based on course duration, with extensions available in India.

- Visa holders may enter India via any authorized immigration checkpoint.

iii. Registration Process: Students must apply for a visa separately through the <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/>. The authenticity of their application will be verified using their SII Identification(ID).

About the Study in India (SII) portal:

i. The Study in India (SII) portal was launched in **2018** to streamline the admission process for international students pursuing higher education in India.

ii. The platform connects students to over 600 partner institutes in India offering more than 8,000 courses across disciplines like engineering, management, agriculture, sciences, arts, humanities, commerce, law, paramedical sciences (pharmacy, nursing), and niche fields like Buddhist Studies and Yoga.

iii. Foreign students applying for the SII program can receive financial assistance through the Study in India Scholarship or a Fee Waiver.

- The SII Scholarship, valued at **USD 3,200**, is awarded to students who excel in the PRAGATII Exam.

Note: According to Henley Passport Index 2024, India's passport ranked 83rd, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

Union Minister – Amit Shah (Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS) – Nityanand Rai (Constituency – Ujiarpur, Bihar); Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Constituency – Karimnagar, Telangana)

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh chaired the “Northeast Region States Meet 2025” held in Guwahati, Assam

On January 06 2025, Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (**MoFAH&D**) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) chaired the “Northeast Region States Meet 2025” held in Guwahati, Assam.

- The event was organised by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the **MoFAH&D** to review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- During the event, the Union Minister distributed certificates to fisheries beneficiaries, including National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) registration certificates, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) cards, awards for the best Fisheries-based Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) and Fisheries Start-ups.





Key People: Union Minister of State (MoS) George Kurian, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA); Union MoS S.P. Singh Bhagel, MoFAH&D and MoPR; Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries (DoF) under MoFAH&D; Ministers in-charge of Fisheries from other Northeastern Region (NER) states along with several eminent dignitaries were present at the event.

Note: The inland fish production in the NER has increased from 4.03 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 6.41 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, registering an annual growth rate of 5%. Andhra Pradesh (AP) is the largest fish producer in the country followed by West Bengal (WB) and Gujarat.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Inaugurated and Laid Foundation of Projects worth Rs 50 Crore: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, MoFAH&D and MoPR inaugurated and laid the foundation for **50 key projects worth Rs 50 crores** under PMMSY covering all NER states except Arunachal Pradesh (**AR**) and **Mizoram**, during the 'Northeast Region States Meet 2025'.

- Out of total Rs 50 crores, the Government of India (GoI) will provide financial assistance of **Rs 38.63 crore**.

Details of the Projects:

i. Out of these 50 key projects which will be developed under PMSSY, 24 will be implemented in Sikkim, followed by **Assam (12), Manipur (7), Tripura and Nagaland (3 each) and Meghalaya (1)**.

i. An Integrated Aqua Park will be established in the Darang district of Assam, with a capacity to produce 150 tonnes of fish annually generating up to 2,000 job opportunities.

ii. A large fish feed plant will be set up in the Kamrup district, Assam with a capacity to produce 20,000 tonnes of feed annually and hatchery projects will be established in various districts with the objective of producing 50 million spawns annually.

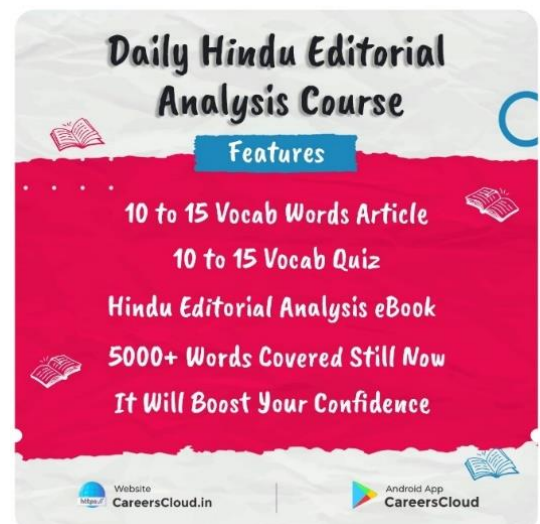
iii. Ice plants and cold storage units will be established in Thoubal and Imphal districts of Manipur, to preserve fish produce and reduce post-harvest losses.

iv. The projects in Meghalaya will emphasize on promoting recreational fisheries in the East Khasi Hills district.

v. Three projects will be developed in Nagaland which include: the construction of freshwater finfish hatcheries in the Mokochung and Kiphire districts. These hatcheries are estimated to produce collectively 21 million fry annually.

vi. Ornamental Fish Rearing units and finfish hatcheries will be set up in Tripura.

vii. Sikkim will implement 24 projects which include the setting up of Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) to give boost to the sustainable farming, the construction of fish kiosks in Gangtok and other towns of the state, and the development of ornamental fish rearing units.



India's first Organic Fisheries Cluster launched in Sikkim:

During the event, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh also launched **India's first organic fisheries cluster**, under the PMMSY initiative in **Soreng district** of Sikkim, which will boost farmer incomes and promote sustainability in aquaculture.

- The cluster will incorporate ecological fish farming methods, avoiding harmful chemicals and promoting minimal environmental pollution.
- The project also aimed to sell antibiotic, chemical and pesticide free organic fish in eco-conscious markets across the world.

Key points:

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will be a key stakeholder in developing fisheries and aquaculture organic clusters in Sikkim.
- Apart from providing financial and technical assistance for the requisite fisheries infrastructure and capacity building, NABARD will also facilitate in the growth of the organic cluster by engaging fisher's cooperatives and formation of FFPOs in the state.

Note: So far, DoF had notified 4 fisheries related clusters in India: Pearl Cluster in Hazaribagh district (Jharkhand), Ornamental Fisheries Cluster in Madurai district (Tamil Nadu, TN), Seaweed Cluster in Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep and Tuna Cluster in Andaman & Nicobar.

About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

i. The PMMSY was launched in September 2020 with an aim to double the income of fish farmers and fishers in the country.

- The initiative delves into the domain of inland fisheries and aquaculture, recognizing their pivotal role in bolstering production and ensuring robust food security.

ii. It is being implemented for a period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore.

iii. It is an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

About Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D):

Union Minister- Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (Constituency- Munger, Bihar)

Minister of State (MoS) – S.P. Singh Baghel (Constituency- Agra, Uttar Pradesh, UP); George Kurian (Rajya Sabha- Madhya Pradesh, MP)

FIU-IND Signs MoU with IRDAI for Enhanced Cooperation in Combating Money Laundering

On January 6, 2025, the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (**FIU-IND**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) to foster mutual cooperation between FIU-IND and IRDAI in areas critical to Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) within the insurance sector



- This MoU is part of a broader strategy to implement the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (**PMLA**) and related rules effectively.

Note: IRDAI, is a statutory body formed under an Act of Parliament, **IRDA Act, 1999** for overall supervision and development of the Insurance sector in India.

Signatories: The MoU was signed by **Vivek Aggarwal**, Director, FIU-IND and **Satyajit Tripathy**, Member (Distribution), IRDAI in New Delhi (Delhi).

Key Areas of Focus:

i. Sharing of Intelligence: The MoU focuses on exchanging pertinent intelligence and information to ensure timely action on suspicious activities.

ii. Reporting Procedures: It will define clear guidelines for how regulated entities in the insurance sector report suspicious financial transactions under the PMLA rules.

iii. Training and Skill Development: Both organizations will organize training sessions to upskill personnel within the regulated insurance entities, focusing on the identification of risks and suspicious activities.

iv. Risk Assessments: Regular assessments will be conducted to understand the vulnerabilities in the insurance sector and enhance the compliance efforts related to AML/CFT obligations.

v. Appointments: The agreement also includes the appointment of a nodal officer and an alternate nodal officer by each party to the MoU.

About Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU IND):

FIU-IND is an organisation under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF) which collects financial intelligence about offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002(PMLA).

Director- Vivek Aggarwal

Headquarters- New Delhi (Delhi)

Established- 2004

CSIR-NPL Celebrates 79th Foundation Day: Advancing Metrology for National Development

On 4th January 2025, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (**CSIR-NPL**) celebrated its **79th Foundation Day** in New Delhi (Delhi).

- CSIR-NPL is India's National Metrology Institute (NMI), entrusted with the development, maintenance, and dissemination of National Standards across industries, strategic sectors, and scientific research.

i. During the event CSIR-NPL signed Memorandums of Understanding (**MoU**) with **IITM (Indian Institute of Technology Madras)** (Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN) for academic and research collaboration and with CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (**CIMAP**) for producing Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND) (Certified Reference Materials) in plant-based materials.

ii. During the event, CSIR-NPL introduced 2 new BNDs:

- Lanthanum Hexaboride Powder (**BND-2025**) for calibration standards in powder X-ray diffraction.
- White Portland Cement Standard (**BND-5064**), developed with the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Indonesia Joins BRICS as 10th Full Member

On 6 January 2025, **Brazil**, serving as the BRICS chair for 2025, announced that **Indonesia**, world's fourth-most populous nation, has become a **10th full member** of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) alliance.

- The inclusion of Indonesia aligns with Brazil's **theme** for its presidency: "Enhancing Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."



Background:

In 2024, BRICS countries agreed to admit Indonesia as a member. This decision followed the guidelines set during the 2023 BRICS meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa (SA).

- The expansion shows the group's focus on strengthening ties with emerging economies.

About BRICS:

BRIC was established as a formal group in 2006 with its original members: Brazil, Russia, India, and China, headquartered in **Shanghai, China**.

i. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

ii. In 2010, the group evolved from BRIC to BRICS with the inclusion of **South Africa**.

iii. In 2024, BRICS expanded by adding four new members: **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran** and the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). With Indonesia's inclusion in 2025, the group now has **10 members**.

Points to Note:

i. The 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia, under Russia's chairmanship in 2024.


ii. The 17th BRICS Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 2025.

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI maintains the FRSB interest rate at 8.05% from January 1 to June 30, 2025

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank India (RBI) has announced the interest rate for RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds (Taxable) **FRSB 2020 (T)** for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2025 will remain at **8.05%**, comprising the National Savings Certificate (NSC) rate of **7.70%** and an additional spread of **0.35%**.


- The interest rate on RBI FRSB is not fixed, adjusted semi-annually based on the interest rate of the NSC.
- i. Interest earned on RBI FRSB is taxable, with no tax deductions allowed for the investment. Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) applies if annual interest exceeds Rs.10,000.
- ii. The bonds require a minimum investment of **Rs.1,000** additional investments in multiples of Rs.1,000, and no upper limit. The bonds cannot be pledged as collateral for loans.
- iii. The RBI FRSB has a **seven-year lock-in period** and does not allow early withdrawal, except for senior citizens.
- Seniors can withdraw early with a penalty after a minimum lock-in period include six years for aged 60–70, five years for aged 70–80, and four years for those aged over 80.



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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Overview of 82nd Golden Globes Awards 2025: Jacques Audiard's 'Emilia Perez' bagged 4 awards

The **82nd edition** of Golden Globes Awards 2025 was held on **5th January, 2025** at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (USA). The Golden Globes Awards are held annually and are presented by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (**HFPA**).



- The 2025 award recognizes excellence in films of both American International and American Television (TV) 2024.
- American comedian and actress **Nikki Glaser** made history at the 2025 award ceremony as the **1st woman** to solo-host the event.

Nominations of 82nd Golden Globes Award:

- The nominations of the 82nd Golden Globes Awards under **27 categories** were announced by American comedian & actress, **Mindy Kaling** and American actor, **Morris Chestnut**.
- The event marked the **1st time**, the organization hosted a special ceremony for the recipients of its 2 historic honours of Golden Globes 2025: '**the Cecil B DeMille Award**' & '**the Carol Burnett Award**'.
- American actor & 3-time Golden Globes winner **Ted Danson** received the **1st ever** 'Carol Burnett Award 2025' for his role in Netflix's 'A Man on the Inside'.
- American actress & film producer **Viola Davis** was presented with the 'Cecil B. DeMille Award 2025' for her powerful performances in 'Fences' and 'The Woman King'.
- The film 'All We Imagine As Light' directed by Indian filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** featured in double nominations for the categories: Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language) and the Best Director (Motion Picture).

Highlights:

- Emilia Perez** (French musical crime comedy) led with 10 nominations, including Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy), Best Director (Jacques Audiard) & Best Actress (Karla Sofia Gascon).
 - The film won **4 awards**, including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress (Zoe Saldana), Best Non-English Feature & Best Original Song.
- The Brutalist** (A24 film) followed closely with 7 nominations & won **3 awards** including Best Actor (Adrien Brody), Best Director (Brady Corbet) and Best Movie (Drama).
- On the television front, The Bear (FX) led with 5 nominations. Shogun (FX) & Only Murders in the Building (Hulu) had 4 nominations each.
 - Jeremy Allen White won Best Actor (Comedy or Musical) for The Bear.
 - Jean Smart won Best Actress (Comedy or Musical).
- Shogun** swept all **4 of its categories**, winning Best Series, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor & Best Supporting Actress.

Lists of Golden Globes Awards 2025:

Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture (Musical/ Comedy)	Emilia Perez (Jacques Audiard)
Best Motion Picture (Drama)	The Brutalist (Brady Corbet)
Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama)	Adrien Brody (The Brutalist)
Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama)	Fernanda Torres (I'm Still Here)
Best TV Series (Drama)	Shogun (Jonathan van Tulleken)
Best Actress in a TV Series (Drama)	Anna Sawai (Shogun)
Best TV Series (Musical/ Comedy)	Hacks (Jean Smart & Hannah Einbinde)
Best Limited Series/ Anthology Series	Baby Reindeer (Richard Gadd)
Best Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	Wicked (John M. Chu)
Best Original Song (Motion Picture)	Emilia Perez (El Mal song)
Best Original Score (Motion Picture)	Challengers (Luca Guadagnino)
Best Director (Motion Picture)	Brady Corbet (The Brutalist)
Best Motion Picture (Animated)	Flow (Sideshow / Janus Films)
Best Actor in a Musical/ Comedy	Sebastian Stan (A Different Man)
Best Actress in a Musical/ Comedy	Demi Moore (The Substance)
Best Actress in a Limited Series/Anthology Series	Jodie Foster (True Detective: Night Country)
Best Actor in a Limited Series/Anthology Series	Colin Farrell (The Penguin)
Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language)	Emilia Perez (Jacques Audiard)
Best Stand-Up Comedy Performance	Ali Wong (Ali Wong:Single Lady)
Best Screenplay (Motion Picture)	Conclave (Writer Peter Straughan)
Best Actor in a Musical/ Comedy Series	Jeremy Allen White (The Bear)
Best Supporting Actor (TV Series)	Tadanobu Asano (Shogun)

Best Supporting Actress (TV Series)	Jessica Gunning (Baby Reindeer)
Best Supporting Actor (Motion Picture)	Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain)
Best Supporting Actress (Motion Picture)	Zoe Saldana (Emilia Perez)
Best Actress in a Musical/ Comedy Series	Jean Smart (Hacks)
Best Actor in a Drama Series	HiroYuki Sanada (Shogun)

About Golden Globes Awards:

The Golden Globes Awards, referred to as ‘Hollywood’s Party of the Year’, is the largest award show in the world celebrated to honor artists and professionals from both American TV’s & films.

- The 1st Golden Globes Award was held on **January 20 1944**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI Grants Automatic Approval to Avenue-Mavco Acquisition of MHM Holding GmbH

On January 04 2025, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted automatic approval to the Murugappa family affiliate Mavco Investments and Avenue Capital Group to acquire **100% ownership** of Germany based ‘MHM Holding Gesellschaft mit beschraenkter Haftung (**GmbH**)’ under its Green Channel route.

i. Mavco Investments Private Limited (Mavco), a private investment firm linked to members of the Murugappa family, is working with Avenue India Emergence Private Limited, an arm of New York-based Avenue Capital Group.

ii. Avenue India Emergence Private Limited (Avenue), part of the Avenue Capital Group, specializes in specialty lending and investments, with operations in markets across the United States (US), Europe, and Asia.

iii. MHM Holding GmbH, is the parent company of Hubergroup, a global leader in printing inks and chemicals with significant presence in India and Europe.

ENVIRONMENT

New Ant Species ‘Tapinoma onaele’ discovered in Western Ghats

In January 2025, a team of researchers from Goa, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Karnataka discovered a new ant species named ‘**Tapinoma onaele**’, in the Western Ghats, Kodagu district, Karnataka. This species, named after the Kannada term ‘**onaele**’, meaning “dried leaves,” reflects its natural habitat in the leaf litter of the forest floor.

i. This discovery follows previous notable finds, such as **Protanilla flamma** and **Probolomyrmex procne**, a species not seen in India for 3 decades.

- Goa is only the 3rd known location where it has been documented in India.

ii. Leaf litter, composed of fallen leaves and organic material, is vital for the ecosystem which provides shelter and nourishment for a range of organisms, including ants.

- These ants help with decomposition, soil movement, and pest control, playing an essential role in forest ecology.

OBITUARY

Former Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis passed away

Former Greek Prime Minister (PM) **Costas Simitis**, a law professor and a reformist, has passed away at the age of 88 in Corinth, Greece. He was born on 23rd June 1936 in Piraeus, Greece.



- He served as the PM of Greece for eight years from 1996 to 2004.
- He was credited as the architect of Greece's joining the common European currency, the euro.

About Costas Simitis:

- Costas Simitis was a notable Greek politician and academic, was a founding member of the Socialist Panhellenic Socialist Movement (**PASOK**) party.
 - In 1996, he was elected as President of PASOK at the 4th Congress of the party, as former PM Andreas Papandreu passed away.
 - He served as the leader of the PASOK from 1996 to 2004 and as Greece's PM during the same period.
 - He lowered the public debt and budget deficit during his administration and paved the way for Greece to join the eurozone in 2001.
- He also helped Cyprus join the European Union(EU) in 2004.

Renowned Kannada Novelist and Writer Na D'Souza Passed Away at 87

On January 05 2025, Prominent Kannada Novelist and writer **Norbert D'Souza**, popularly known as Dr. Na D'Souza, passed away at the age of **87** in Mangalore, Karnataka. He was born in Sagar, Karnataka on June 6, 1937.

- He was known for his inspiring works on **social justice, human rights**, and human relationships and was one of those early Kannada writers who created awareness on environment and climate change.
- His stories reflected the struggles faced by the people of **Malnad region**.

About Norbert D'Souza:

- Na D'Souza began his career as typist in Karnataka's Department of Public Works and worked for **37**
- He has written over **40** novels, various short stories, plays, and children's literature, totalling more than 94 published books.
- In 2014, he presided over the 80th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Madikeri, Karnataka.
- Moreover, some of his works were also adapted into critically acclaimed films, including Kadina Benki, Dweepa, Baluvali, Antharya, and Bettada Puradaditta Makkalu.

Awards and Honors:

- Na D'Souza has received various awards including **Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award** in 1993 for his work "MulugadeyaOorigeBandavaru" and the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 1998.
- He also won the Pampa award in 2024 by the Karnataka government.

STATE NEWS

Odisha CM Inaugurates Adivasi Mela 2025; Launches Shahid Madho Singh Scheme

On January 5 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, **Mohan Charan Majhi**, inaugurated the **Adivasi Mela 2025**, ahead of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD) program, at the Exhibition Grounds in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



- He also launched the **Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme** with a budget of Rs 156 crore, during the event to support tribal students and honored nine tribal talents and ten tribal farmers for their outstanding contributions at the event.
- A special edition of the journal '**Banja-2025**', published by the Tribal Language and Culture Academy of Odisha, was also released during the event.

Note: The 18th PBD Convention is being organized in partnership with the State Government of Odisha from January 8 to 10, 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

About Adivasi Mela:

- i.This annual fair, a celebration of Odisha's tribal heritage and culture, will be held from January 5 to January 15, 2025.
- ii.This year's fair features 147 stalls showcasing tribal art, handicrafts, and food, 15 live demonstrations of traditional practices, and a dedicated Bhagwan Birsa Munda Pavilion.

About Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme:

The scheme is named after Shaheed Madho Singh, a freedom fighter and tribal landowner from the Ghansa area of Bargarh district, Odisha, who played a significant role in India's independence movement.

- This initiative aims to reduce dropout rates and increase students' interest in education.

Key Points:

- i.Tribal students who pass Class 8 and join Class 9 or 10 will receive a one-time incentive of **Rs.5,000 per year**.
 - Students enrolling in Class 11 will also be eligible for this benefit.
- ii.The scheme has been implemented for the current academic year 2024-2025 and is exclusively available to Scheduled Tribe(ST) students whose annual family income does not exceed **Rs 2,50,000**

About Odisha:

Chief Minister (**CM**)– Mohan Charan Majhi

Governor– Hari Babu Kambhampati

Capital– Bhubaneswar

National Park (**NP**)-Similipal NP, Bhitarkanika NP

Telangana to celebrate Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary as 'Women Teacher's Day'

The **Telangana** government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Savitribai Phule** as a state function on **3rd January** as '**Women Teacher's Day**' every year to pay tribute to her contributions to women's education.

- Savitribai Phule was a social worker, poet, and teacher and worked actively towards women's freedom and situation in Indian society.

i. She opened India's **first** school for girls in **1848** in **Pune** and became India's first woman teacher and first Indian headmistress.

ii. She published her first collection of poems, named Kavya Phule ('Poetry's Blossoms') in 1854 and also published Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), in 1892.

Note: Pune University, Pune (Maharashtra), is named after Savitribai Phule as a tribute to her efforts for women's education in India.

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Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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