

CURRENT

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CONTENT

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurated NIELIT Deemed to be University in Assam

In January 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Railways (MoR), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information (MeitY) and Governor of Assam **Lakshman Prasad Acharya** along with Chief Minister (CM) of Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** jointly inaugurated ‘National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology’ (**NIELIT**) **Deemed to be University**’ at 12 locations including five locations in the North Eastern States at an event held in Guwahati, Assam.

- ✓ During the event, **NIELIT** and Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Tata Electronics Private Limited (**TEPL**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to enhance the semiconductor skill development ecosystem in India.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launched ‘BHARATPOL’ portal to Revolutionize International Crime Investigations

On January 07 2025, Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) launched the ‘**BHARATPOL**’ portal during the event held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ He also awarded 35 Central Bureau of Investigation (**CBI**) officers and officials with the President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation.
- ✓ The portal is developed by the **CBI**, which aims to streamline the process for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in India to seek international

assistance through International Criminal Police Organisation (**INTERPOL**) in criminal matters.

Chhattisgarh: India’s 1st State to Integrate Forest Ecosystems into Green GDP

In January 2024, **Chhattisgarh** has become the **first state** in India to introduce an innovative plan that connects the ecosystem services of its forest with the Green Gross Domestic Product (**Green GDP**). The initiative aims to directly link the environmental contributions of forests like clean air, water conservation, biodiversity and the state’s economic progress.

- ✓ It aligns with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s vision of a ‘Developed India 2047’.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh, where forests cover 44% of the land, relies on its rich natural resources to support the livelihoods of millions.

India-Malaysia First Security Dialogue to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

On January 7, 2025, India and Malaysia held their 1st inaugural **India-Malaysia Security Dialogue** in New Delhi (Delhi) to enhance bilateral cooperation. It aims to strengthen defence and security ties between the 2 nations for deeper cooperation in areas crucial to their mutual interests.

- ✓ The 1st India-Malaysia Security Dialogue was co-chaired by India’s National Security Adviser (NSA) to Indian Prime Minister, **Ajit Doval** and Malaysia’s Director General (DG) of the National Security Council, Raja Dato’ **Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin**.

Titagarh Rail Delivers India's First Driverless 'Make-in-India' Trainset to Bengaluru Metro

In January 2025, **Titagarh Rail Systems Limited**, formerly Titagarh Wagons Limited, has made a significant stride in India's urban mobility sector by delivering **India's 1st driverless, Made-in-India trainset** to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (**BMRCL**).

BDL Partners with Ultra Maritime to Supply Sonobuoys for Indian Navy

In January 2025, Hyderabad-based **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, an Indian Defence Public Sector Undertaking, has partnered with **Ultra Maritime**, the United States of America(USA) based leading global provider of undersea warfare systems, to supply and manufacture **sonobuoys** of the US Navy standard for the Indian Navy (IN).

- ✓ This collaboration was announced by USA National Security Advisor(NSA) **Jake Sullivan** during his visit to India from January 5 to 6, 2025.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Announces 'Cashless Treatment' Scheme for Road Accident Victims

On January 07, 2025, Union Minister **Nitin Jairam Gadkari**, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), announced the upgraded '**Cashless Treatment scheme**' for road accident victims, set to launch by **March 2025**. The announcement was made during a meeting with transport ministers from all states and Union Territories (UTs) held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ He also launched a nationwide scheme for establishing Driver Training Institutes (**DTIs**), offering incentives for setting up DTIs and additional rewards for integrating the infrastructure of Automated Testing Stations (ATSS) and DTIs.

MeitY Partners with IITs for Skill Development to Boost Semiconductor Sector

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has initiated partnerships with various Indian Institutes of Technology (**IITs**) and private institutions and colleges, to provide training activities including skill development in **semiconductor** manufacturing. It was stated by S. Krishnan, Secretary of the MeitY in New Delhi(Delhi) on January 08 2025.

- ✓ The United States of America (USA)-based software tech giant, **Microsoft Corporation, Inc.** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **MeitY** under the IndiaAI Mission, which aims to provide skill development training to **5 lakh students**, teachers, and professionals in AI by **2026**.

WEP Launches 'EmpowHER Biz' Partners with New Shop to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

On January 8 2025, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (**WEP**) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog partnered with **New Shop**, a 24/7 convenience retail chain based in New Delhi(Delhi), to launch the initiative '**EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan**'. It was part of WEP's Award to Reward (ATR) initiative.

- ✓ This collaboration aims to **empower women entrepreneurs** and drive growth in the organized retail sector.

ICAR Launches Kisan Samriddhi Portal to Promote Efficient Agricultural Marketing

In January 2025, **Dr. Himanshu Pathak**, Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launched the '**Kisan Samriddhi Market Portal**' and the **Kisan Samriddhi trademark** at the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod, Kerala.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's visit to AP and Odisha on 8th-9th January, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Andhra Pradesh (AP) and **Odisha** from **8th January to 9th January 2025** to launch various projects worth over Rs 2 lakh crore to promote sustainable development, industrial growth, and infrastructure enhancement.

- ✓ Laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various railway and road projects worth over Rs.19,500 crore in AP. First Green Hydrogen Hub under National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) launched in Pudumadaka, AP.
- ✓ 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention inaugurated in and remotely flagged-off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

UJALA Scheme and SLNP Programme Completed 10 Years of Energy –Efficient Lighting

On January 05 2025, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) for All (UJALA) scheme, a transformative initiative of Government of India (GoI) in energy efficiency and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) have completed **10 years** of successful implementation.

- ✓ The UJALA scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power (MoP).
- ✓ LED bulbs helps in saving nearly **90%** of energy compared to Incandescent Lamps (ICLs) and 50% in the case of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs).
- ✓ The scheme offers LED bulbs at reduced rates of **Rs 70 per bulb** compared to **Rs 450 to Rs 500 per bulb (2014)**, has further helped in reducing household consumption and contributed to environmental sustainability.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launched 8th Edition of NPOP in New Delhi

On January 09 2025, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce &

Industry (**MoC&I**) launched the **8th** edition of National Programme for Organic Production (**NPOP**) at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa in New Delhi (Delhi). The event was organized by the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

- ✓ During the event, he unveiled NPOP portal, TraceNet2.0, Organic Promotion Portal, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) portal and AgriXchange portal.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Inaugurated “5G Use Case Test Lab” at CMPDI in Jharkhand

On January 09 2025, Union Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**, Ministry of Coal (MoC) and Ministry of Mines (MoM) inaugurated the “**5G Use Case Test Lab**” and launched a new corporate logo of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (**CMPDI**), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- ✓ **Aim:** To promote digital transformation in the coal sector in India through 5G technology and also address the industry's evolving key challenges.

Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled Indian Genomic Data Set & IBDC Portals

On January 9, 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry for Science and Technology (**MoS&T**) unveiled the **Indian Genomic Data Set** at the Genome India Data Conclave held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ He also launched the Framework for Exchange of Data (**FeED**) Protocols and the Indian Biological Data Centre (**IBDC**) **Portals**, providing researchers in India and globally access to 10,000 whole genome samples.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired 2nd IWDC Meet in Assam

The **2nd** Inland Waterways Development Council (**IWDC**) meet, organized by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the nodal agency for the development of waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), was held from **9th January to 10th January 2025** in **Kaziranga, Assam** to discuss upon the policies to enhance inland waterways and its infrastructure in India.

- ✓ The National River Traffic and Navigation System (**NRT&NS**) was launched to create a safe, seamless and sustainable movement of Inland vessels during the event.
- ✓ The **Central Database Module** and Issuance of Certificates was also launched with an aim to streamline out the process of certification for vessel owners.

India became a Member of UN-CEBD

On January 11 2025, India became a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (**UN-CEBD**). This membership highlights India's growing influence in the global statistical community and emphasizes its commitment to utilizing **data** and **technology** for effective policy-making.

- ✓ **Note:** India assumed membership of the United Nations Statistical Council(UNSC) in 2024.
- ✓ India's inclusion in this expert committee contributes to shaping global standards in **Big Data** and **Data Science** for official statistics and also will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of:
 - **Data Innovation Lab:** A platform to experiment with new data technologies.
 - **Exploring Alternate Data Sources:** Including satellite imagery and machine learning for policy-making.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform in New Delhi

On 10 January 2025, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), unveiled the '**Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform**', an initiative at the inaugural Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ It was hosted by the Centre for Indigenous Economic Understanding (CIEU) and Dalberg Advisors, the Bharat Climate Forum is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, and International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches One VEGA-based SoC & Two DIR V VEGA processor based Development Boards in Maharashtra

In January 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched one VEGA-based System on-Chip (SoC) named **THEJAS64** and two DIR V VEGA processor based development boards, Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability (**ARIES**) **ECO** and **ARIES NOVA** at an event held at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**) campus in Pune, Maharashtra.

- ✓ **THEJAS64 SoC ASIC:** Fabricated at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh(Punjab), this 64-bit single-core chip.
- ✓ **ARIES NOVA Development Board:** Designed for Internet of Things(IoT), wearable devices, and robotics, this compact, breadboard-friendly hardware platform is powered by the VEGA ET1031 microprocessor. It offers an affordable and versatile option for developers and innovators.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Z-Morh Tunnel in J&K

On January 13 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Z-Morh Tunnel** in Sonamarg,

located in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir (**J&K**). The tunnel, also known as the **Sonamarg**

Tunnel, enhances connectivity to the Ladakh region, which has defence and tourism value.

- ✓ The two lane, bi-directional Z-Morh Tunnel, measuring **6.5 kilometer** (km) long and **10 metres(m)** wide was built between Gagangir and Sonmarg on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway (NH).
- ✓ It was built at a cost of **Rs.2,700 crore** using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (**NATM**) in view of the fragile Himalayan Geology.

C-DOT Partners with IIT Mandi and IIT Jammu to Develop Spectrum Efficiency Chip

In January 2025, the Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**), New Delhi (Delhi)-based telecom Research and Development (R&D) center under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (**IIT Mandi**) in Himachal Pradesh (HP) and the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (**IIT Jammu**) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to **create a new chip** designed to improve spectrum efficiency.

- ✓ The project is supported by the Telecom Technology Development Fund (**TTDF**), which helps Indian startups, universities, and

research institutions create telecom innovations. Its objective is to improve broadband and mobile services across India.

Indichip Semiconductors to Establish India's First Private Semiconductor Facility in AP

In January 2025, **Indichip Semiconductors Limited**, headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh(UP), in collaboration with its Joint Venture (JV) partner Yitoe Micro Technology Limited (**YMTL**) from Japan, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the government of Andhra Pradesh (**AP**) to establish **India's first** private semiconductor manufacturing facility at the Orvakal Mega Industrial Hub in Kurnool, AP.

28th CSPOC to be hosted in India in 2026

The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) is set to be hosted in New Delhi (Delhi), India in 2026. The announcement was made by **Om Birla**, Speaker of Lok Sabha on January 10, 2025 at the CSPOC Standing Committee Meeting held in Guernsey.

- ✓ CSPOC aims to focus on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media in parliamentary operations for enhancing cooperation among member countries.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GEAPP Partners with ISA to Propel India's Green Energy Future

On January 7, 2025, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (**GEAPP**) partnered with the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**), launched Multi-Donor Trust Fund (**MDTF**), Digitalization of Utilities for Energy Transition (**DUET**), and Energy Transitions Innovation Challenge 2.0 (**ENTICE 2.0**) which aimed at advancing India's renewable energy sector.

- ✓ These partnerships boost India's ambitious target of **500 gigawatts** (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

- ✓ **Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)**: GEAPP strengthened its partnership with ISA by signing **ISA's MDTF** with the goal of raising **USD 100 million** to support solar energy projects in India.
- ✓ **DUET** (Digitalization of Utilities for Energy Transition): The **DUET** program focuses on modernizing India's grid systems to create a digital database of grid assets, including their locations and specifications.
- ✓ **ENTICE 2.0**: This platform is set to launch in **January 2025** and was designed to support startups by offering funding, market access

and mentorship to scale innovative solutions for India's clean energy transition.

Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Reclaimed Title of World's Most Powerful Passport; India Ranked 85th

On January 08 2025, London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based Henley & Partners released the annual edition of [Henley Passport Index 2025](#). As per the index, **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to **195** out of **227 destinations** worldwide, followed by **Japan** which secured 2nd rank with visa-free access to 193 destinations.

- ✓ India's rank dropped from 80th spot (in 2024) to **85th spot (in 2025)** on the list, with visa-free access to only **57** destinations of the world, down from 62 visa-free destinations in 2024. India shared its latest rank with two countries: Niger and Equatorial Guinea.

List of Top 3 & Bottom 3 Countries:

Top 3 Countries		
Rank	Name of the Countries	Visa-Free Access to Destinations
1	Singapore	195
2	Japan	193
3	France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Finland and South Korea	192
India Rank		
85	India, Equatorial Guinea and Niger	57
Bottom 3 Countries		
106	Afghanistan	26
105	Syria	27
104	Iraq	31

WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025: 78 Million New Job Opportunities by 2030

On January 7, 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF) published its **5th edition** of ["Future of Jobs Report 2025 – Insights Report January 2025."](#) revealing that job disruption will equate to **22%** of jobs by 2030 globally. This transformation is driven by technological

advancements, demographic changes, economic pressures, and geopolitical tensions.

- ✓ The report forecasts the creation of **170 million** new jobs and the displacement of **92 million**, leading to a net increase of 78 million jobs.
- ✓ By 2030, around **40%** of existing skills are expected to become outdated. Employers recognize that skill gaps are a major barrier to business transformation, with **63%** of employers identifying this issue.

Tracxn's Annual India Fintech Report 2024: India Ranked 3rd in Global Fintech Funding

According to Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **Tracxn Technologies Limited**, a leading global market intelligence platform, 'Annual India Fintech Report 2024', India ranked at **3rd** position globally in terms of funding received in the fintech segment, despite witnessing a decline of 33% on a Year-over-Year (Y-o-Y) to **USD 1.9 billion**, down from USD 2.8 billion funding garnered in 2023.

- ✓ As per the report, the United States of America (USA) topped the ranking globally, followed by the United Kingdom (UK) which secured 2nd position.

Top Investing Companies in Fintech Sector in 2024:

- ✓ **Top 3 Indian cities which emerged as hub for fintech funding in 2024:** Bengaluru

(Karnataka), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ **Top 3 Investing Companies:** Karnataka-based Peak XV Partners, LetsVenture Technologies Private Limited based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and California (the United States of America, USA)-based Y Combinator, LLC.
- ✓ **Top 3 companies in Seed Investments:** Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based Venture Catalysts Private Limited, Y Combinator LLC, and Singapore-based Antler.

India-Nepal IGC on Trade, Transit, and Cooperation to Combat Unauthorised Trade Held in Kathmandu, Nepal

The India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit, and Cooperation

to Combat Unauthorised Trade was held from January 10 to January 11, 2025 in Kathmandu, **Nepal**. This meeting is a bilateral mechanism which aims at bolstering trade and ties between both countries.

- ✓ India informed that the request of Nepal for supply of **2 lakh Metric Tonne (MT) Wheat** had been accepted by the Government of India (GoI).
- ✓ Also, at the request of Nepal, India may apply the existing regulations of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**) which include maximum axle weight of 18.5 tonnes for two axle vehicles and 28 tonnes for three axle vehicles to Nepali vehicles with respect to the cargo-in-transit on Kakarbhitta (Nepal)-Banglabandha (Bangladesh) via Phulbari (India) route.

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI releases MD on Credit Information Reporting

On January 6, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a '**Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Credit Information Reporting) Directions, 2025**', consolidating its various guidelines for banks and financial institutions regarding the reporting of Customer Credit Information(CCI).

- ✓ RBI issued these directions in the exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 11** of the Credit Information Companies (CICs) (Regulation) Act, 2005.
- ✓ Credit Information Companies (**CICs**) are required to notify customers via Short Message Service(SMS) or electronic mail(e-mail) whenever their Credit Information Report (**CIR**) is accessed by specified users (SUs).

SEBI eases Settlement Norms for Inactive Brokerage Accounts

On January 06 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) eased settlement norms for **brokerage accounts** that remain inactive for **over 30 calendar days**. It will takes effect immediately,

replacing SEBI's August 2024 circular on the same matter.

MFIN Defers new rule to Limit Lenders to 3 per Borrower to April 1 2025

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Microfinance Institutions Network (**MFIN**), the self-regulatory organization (**SRO**) for the microfinance sector, announced a further three-month

postponement for implementing its new rule that limits the number of lenders per borrower to 3, down from 4, to manage microfinance risks.

- ✓ Initially set to take effect on January 1, 2025, but now the implementation of this regulation postponed to **April 1, 2025**.

KredX Receives RBI Approval to Operate as TReDS Platform

On 9 January, 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **KredX**, India's largest supply chain finance platform, received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate as a Trade Receivables Discounting System (**TReDS**) platform. The new business will operate under the brand name DTX (Domestic Trade Exchange).

- ✓ **Note:** KredX is now the **fifth** company to receive this license after Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL), M1 Exchange, Invoice Mart, and C2FO (Collaborative Cash Flow Optimization) Factoring Solutions.

RBI Introduced New 15-Day Credit Reporting Rule Effective from January 1, 2025

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has introduced new credit reporting rule. It has mandated that all lenders must update credit bureau records **every 15 days** instead of previous monthly cycle. This direction came into effect from **January 01, 2025**.

WhiteOak Capital MF Unveils India's 1st Actively Managed Quality Factor Theme Fund

On January 8, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund** (MF) introduced the WhiteOak Capital Quality Equity Fund, an open-ended equity scheme on the Quality Factor theme, through its new fund offer (**NFO**).

- ✓ This is India's first actively managed fund based on the Quality Factor theme. It focuses on companies with robust fundamentals that demonstrate the potential for consistent earnings and resilience to economic stress.

Exim Bank raised USD 1 Billion through 10-year Bonds

In January 2025, Mumbai-based **Export-Import Bank of India** (EXIM Bank), also known as India Exim Bank, has raised United States Dollar (**USD**) **1 billion** (Rs. 8,570 crores) through 10-year bonds in the international market, achieving the lowest-ever spread of 100 basis points (bps) over 10-year United States (US) Treasury securities.

- ✓ The milestone makes EXIM Bank the **first** Indian organisation to issue dollar bonds in 2025, representing a significant achievement for Indian issuers in international capital markets.

World Bank approves USD 35 million to enhance education in Meghalaya

On 7 January 2025, the World Bank's (**WB**) Board of Executive Directors approved **USD 35 million** loan for a project Meghalaya Multisectoral Project for Adolescent Wellbeing, Empowerment and Resilience (**MPOWER**) aimed to improve education quality in **Meghalaya**. The project will help the state's youth by enhancing resources and infrastructure.

- ✓ The project **MPOWER** will strengthen academic results for adolescents in **grades 6-12** and close gaps in students' reading and math skills. The total cost of the project is **USD 45 million** of which USD 35 million will be given by the WB and rest by the Government of India (GoI).

TMB Joins Bajaj Broking to Roll Out 3-in-1 Account Solution

On January 08, 2025, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu, TN)-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (**TMB**) Limited partnered with Pune (Maharashtra)-based **Bajaj Broking**, the broking arm of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), to launch a comprehensive **3-in-1 account solution** combining banking, broking, and investment services.

GSEDPL Secures Rs 21.28 billion loan from IREDA for Smart Meter Project in UP

On January 9, 2025, Uttar Pradesh(UP) based GMR Smart Electricity Distribution (**GSEDPL**), a subsidiary of Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao (GMR) Power and Urban Infra (GPUI), secured approval for a **Rs 21.28 billion** (USD 247.66 million) loan from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (**IREDA**). This loan will help finance the installation of 7.57 million smart meters across UP as part of a larger project valued at Rs 34.67 billion (USD 403.75 million).

DSP Asset Managers Launches India's First BSE Sensex Next 30 Index Fund And ETF

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **DSP Asset Managers Private Limited**, a leading Indian asset management company (AMC) offering a range of mutual funds (MF), introduced a **first-of-its-kind** investment opportunity with the launch of two new schemes: '**DSP BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange) **Sensex Next 30 Index Fund**' and '**DSP BSE Sensex Next 30 ETF** (Exchange-Traded Fund)'.

SEBI Grants License to Strata for SM REIT

In January 09 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) granted the licence to Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Strata Capital Management Private Limited(**SCMPL**) , a real estate fractional ownership platform, for its Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trust (SM REIT), named **Strata SM REIT**.

Groww Asset Management Launches India's First Groww Nifty India Railways PSU ETF

The **Groww Nifty India Railways PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) Index Fund** and **Groww Nifty India Railways PSU ETF (Exchange Traded Fund)** were launched by **Groww Mutual Fund**, an Asset Management Company. Both are passive funds that track the Nifty India Railways PSU Index, focusing on public sector undertakings in the railway sector.

- ✓ **Groww Nifty India Railways (IR) PSU ETF** will be first of its kind in India. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will be available from January 16 to January 30, 2025.

RBI Lifts Restrictions on AMFL and DFPL

On January 8, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) removed business restrictions imposed on Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Ashirvad Micro Finance Limited (**AMFL**) and New Delhi (Delhi) based DMI Finance Private Limited (**DFPL**) following remedial measures initiated by the lenders and their commitment to adhere to fair loan pricing and regulatory guidelines.

PhonePe and ICICI Lombard Unite for Maha Kumbh Mela Insurance

On January 09, 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) – based **PhonePe** and Mumbai (Maharashtra) – based **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited** launched the first-of-its-kind insurance coverage created exclusively for travelers attending the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (**UP**), from January 13 to February 26, 2025.

IBBI Mandates eBKray Platform for Liquidation Asset Auctions

On January 10, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**) mandated that all asset auctions under the liquidation process must use the '**eBKray platform**(now known as Bank Asset Auction Network, **BAANKET**)' starting **April 01, 2025**.

- ✓ IBBI has extended the deadline for Insolvency Professionals (IPs) to submit electronic forms on liquidation and voluntary liquidation processes to **March 31, 2025**, following concerns from liquidators and insolvency agencies about technical issues in form submission.

IDBI Bank launches 'Chiranjeevi-Super Senior Citizen FD'

On January 13 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Limited launched the '**IDBI Chiranjeevi-Super Senior Citizen Fixed Deposit (FD)**' scheme. This special FD product is specifically designed for individuals aged 80 years and above, offering them higher interest rates to cater to their unique financial needs.

PNB Launches 1st 'Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024-25' to Combat Malware Threats

On January 2025, New Delhi based Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched its 1st-ever 'Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024-25' with the theme "Code Against Malware". The hackathon aims to combat the

increasing threat of malware by inviting innovators, researchers, and academicians from across India.

- ✓ This hackathon is being held under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and in line with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) directive for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to host annual hackathons issued on **December 9, 2024**.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

India's GDP Expected to Grow by 6.4% in FY25 against 8.2% in FY24: First Advanced Estimates by NSO

On January 07 2025, the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the [First Advanced Estimates \(FAE\) of Annual Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\) for the Financial Year 2024-25 \(FY25\)](#), along with its expenditure components both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices.

- ✓ **Real GDP Growth:** As per the NSO data, India's Real GDP is expected to grow at a 4-year low i.e. at 6.4% in FY25 against the growth rate of 8.2% in Provisional Estimate (PE) of GDP for FY24 (2023-24).
- ✓ Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) prices is estimated at **Rs 184.88 lakh crore in FY25**, compared to the PE of GDP at Rs 173.82 lakh crore in FY24.
- ✓ **Nominal GDP Growth:** Nominal GDP has registered a growth rate of 9.7% in FY25 compared to the growth rate of 9.6% in FY24.

SBI Lowers India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.3% for FY25

On January 07 2025, the State Bank of India (SBI) released its latest [Ecowrap Research Report](#). It has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast to **6.3%** for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), which is marginally lower than the National Statistics Office (NSO)'s estimate of 6.4%.

CIL and IREL Partner for Critical Minerals Developments

On January 7 2025, Kolkata (West Bengal) based Coal India Limited (CIL) under the Ministry of Coal (MoC), signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to collaborate on the development of **critical minerals**.

Tata Elxsi Partners With CSIR-NAL for AAM Solutions

On January 8, 2025, Tata Elxsi Limited, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based global design and technology services provider, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) to innovate in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM).

- ✓ The collaboration aimed to develop **cutting-edge technologies** for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Urban Air Mobility (UAM) and electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

RBIHub partners with IIM-A to launch 'Swanari TechSprint 3.0' For Women's Financial Inclusion

On January 9 2025, the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), the innovation arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has partnered with Gujarat based Indian Institutes of Management Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) startup incubator, **IIMA Ventures** (Formerly IIMA-Centre for

Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, CIIE) to launch the 3rd cohort of the 'Swanari TechSprint 3.0' programme.

- ✓ India has over **556 million** women aged 15–64 who remain underserved in financial services (according to the World Bank, WB).

GHI and H2Carrier sign MoU to Advance Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Solutions

On January 9, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Greenstat Hydrogen India (GHI) Private Limited, a unit of Norwegian renewable energy firm Greenstat ASA and Norway based H2Carrier AS (H2C) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate the development of green hydrogen and ammonia projects in India and Sri Lanka.

UN-DESA's WESP 2025 Report: Indian Economy Likely to Grow 6.6% in 2025

In January 2025, United Nations- Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) released a report titled "[World Economic Situation and Prospects \(WESP\) 2025](#)". The report has projected that India economy will grow by **6.6%** in 2025, mainly driven by strong private consumption and investment growth.

- ✓ Indian economy is further expected to expand by **6.7%** in 2026.
- ✓ The report revealed that Indian economy registered the growth rate of **6.8%** in 2024.
- ✓ The report has projected that global economic growth rate will be at **2.8%** (in 2025) and **2.9%** (in 2026).

Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella's Visit to India

Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Satya Nadella** made a visit to India on **January 2025** as a part of the **Microsoft AI** (Artificial Intelligence) **Tour** with an aim for expansion and investment plans to make India a leader in AI.

- ✓ IndiaAI, an Independent Business Division (IBD) under the Digital India Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft to drive the adoption and

development of artificial intelligence (AI) in India.

- ✓ **Establish "AI Catalysts,"** a Center of Excellence, to promote rural AI innovation in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and equip 100,000 AI innovators and developers through hackathons, community building, and an AI marketplace.
- ✓ Microsoft announced a **USD 3 billion** investment in India over the next **two** years to enhance AI and cloud infrastructure and skilling initiatives in India.

Google Cloud & UP Partner to Launch Open Network for Agriculture

In January 2025, Uttar Pradesh (UP) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Google Cloud (India)** to launch the Gemini-powered and Beacon-enabled UP Open Network for Agriculture (UPONA).

- ✓ The open and decentralized network will give millions of farmers easy access to services like advice, credit, machinery, and market links to sell their produce.
- ✓ This project is **India's first** state-level initiative using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to revolutionize agriculture.

BHEL and ONGC Signed MoU to Collaborate on RE Projects

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi)-based Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited (**BHEL**), a leading Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and New Delhi -based 'Maharatna' CPSE, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore collaboration in the area of New and Renewable Energy (NRE) sector.

APSSDC Partners with Infosys to Bridge Skill Gaps in AP

In January 2025, The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (**APSSDC**) partnered with Bengaluru(Karnataka) based **Infosys Limited**, to

enhance employment prospects and provide technical assistance for the Skill Census programme.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Mumbai's CSMIA becomes India's 1st Airport to Receive Level 5 Accreditation from ACI

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (**CSMIA**) which is operated by Adani Airports Holding Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Group, has become **India's 1st and world's 3rd airport** to receive the prestigious **Level 5 Accreditation** which is the highest distinction awarded from the Airports Council International (**ACI**) for exemplary customer experience standards.

Kerala's Kappad and Chal Beaches Earn 'Blue Flag' Certification

On January 10 2025, Kerala's renowned **Kappad beach** in Kozhikode and **Chal beach** in Kannur respectively received the coveted '**Blue Flag certification**' from the Denmark based non-profit organization 'Foundation for Environmental Education' (**FEE**).

- ✓ **Kappad Beach** has earned the Blue Flag certification for the **4th consecutive** year. The beach underwent upgrades in 2020, including

the installation of **solar-powered lights, bio-toilets, and disabled-friendly pathways**, to meet the stringent criteria required for certification.

- ✓ **Chal Beach** also secured the Blue Flag certification, contributing to Kerala's rising profile as a sustainable tourism destination.

Bihar Sports University Gains UGC Recognition, Set to Offer Academic Courses in Sports and Physical Education

On January 11, 2025, **Bihar Sports University**, located in Rajgir(Bihar), was **recognized** by the University Grants Commission(**UGC**) under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956, enabling it to offer academic courses in physical education and sports sciences, including undergraduate programs, diplomas, and Post Graduate (PG) diplomas.

- ✓ The Chief Minister(**CM**) of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, **inaugurated** Bihar Sports University, the state's first sports-focused educational institution, along with the State Sports Academy (SSA) on August 29, 2023(National Sports Day).

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

V Narayanan appointed as 11th Chairman of ISRO

On January 07 2025, the Government of India (GoI) appointed **V Narayanan** as the **11th chairman** of the Indian Space Research



Organisation(**ISRO**) and **Secretary** of the Department of Space(**DoS**). His tenure starts on January 14, 2025, for a period of **2 years** by replacing incumbent **Sreedhara Panicker Somanath**.

- ✓ The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and was notified by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P).
- ✓ He will also be the Chairman of the Space Commission, playing a key role in India's development of the cryogenic engine.

MoF Appoints C S Setty, Uday Kotak as Governing Council Members of NIIFTL

In January 2025, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) appointed **Challa Sreenivasalu Setty**, Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) and **Uday Kotak**, Founder and Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) as the governing council member of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Trustee Limited (NIIFTL), which provides strategic guidance on a number of matters including investment of the corpus of NIIF.

- ✓ C S Setty replaced **Dinesh Khara**, former Chairman of SBI, while Uday Kotak replaced **T V Mohandas Pai**, Chairman of Bangalore (Karnataka) based Aarin Capital.

Former shot putter Bahadur Singh Sagoo Appointed as President of AFI

On January 7 2025, former Indian athlete and Asian Games Gold Medalist **Bahadur Singh Sagoo** was appointed as the **President** of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) for a period of four years, during the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the AFI in Chandigarh, Punjab.

- ✓ He will replace **Adille Sumariwalla**, who served as the AFI president for three consecutive terms from 2012. **Stanely Jones** from Telangana was appointed as the new treasurer and former middle-distance runner **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar** as the joint secretary of the AFI.

Anju Bobby George chaired Athletes Commission: Neeraj Chopra included among 9 athletes

On 8 January 2025, Long-jump great **Anju Bobby George** was named Chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)'s **Athletes Commission**. Two-time Olympic medallist and javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** is one of the members in the Athletes Commission. This commission features India's **nine-athletes** with six women athletes and three men athletes.

- ✓ The commission includes six women athletes: **Anju Bobby George**, a 2003 World Championships bronze medal winner and also

a senior vice president in the AFI; runner **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar**; discus thrower **Krishna Poonia**; hurdler **MD Valsamma**; steeplechaser **Sudha Singh**; and runner **Sunita Rani**.

- ✓ Three men athletes including **Neeraj Chopra**, 3000m steeplechaser **Avinash Sable** and newly-elected AFI president **Bahadur Singh Sagoo**, a shot put gold medal winner at 2002 Asian Games.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg to serve as the country's interim leader

Foreign Minister of **Austria Alexander Schallenberg** (55 years) of the Austrian People's Party (OVP) will be serving as the country's **Federal Chancellor** till the time the far-right Freedom Party is trying to form a new coalition government.

- ✓ Schallenberg was elected for this position after the existing leader **Karl Nehammer** announced his resignation on 4th January 2025. He will resume the office as interim Chancellor of Austria on **10th January 2025**.

Nicolas Maduro Moros Sworn in as President of Venezuela for 3rd consecutive term



On January 11 2025, **Nicolas Maduro Moros** was sworn in as the **53rd President** of Venezuela for the **3rd** consecutive term. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the National Assembly

in Caracas, Venezuela. He will be serving as the President of Venezuela for a period of 6 years until 2031.

- ✓ **Nicolás Maduro Moros** is a Venezuelan politician who began his political career in the 1990s as a Member of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (**PSUV**).

Joseph Khalil Aoun elected as the 14th President of Lebanon

On January 9 2025, General **Joseph Khalil Aoun** was elected as the **14th President** of Lebanon. He won the parliamentary election by securing 99 votes out of 128 votes. The session was the legislature's 13th attempt to elect a successor to former President **Michel Naim Aoun** whose term ended in October 2022.



- ✓ He is the fifth army commander to become president in Lebanon's history. Currently, he is serving as the **Commander of Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)**.

Brijendra Pratap Singh appointed as CMD of NALCO

On January 10 2025, **Brijendra Pratap Singh** was appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (**CMD**) of National Aluminium Company (**NALCO**) succeeding Sridhar Patra. He will be presiding over the corporate office of NALCO located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- ✓ Prior to joining NALCO, he served as the Director-In-Charge for **Burnpur** and Durgapur Steel Plant (**DSP**), West Bengal(WB) and was a member of the Board of Directors (BoD) of Steel Authority of India Limited (**SAIL**).

Justin Trudeau Steps down as PM of Canada



In January 2025, Canadian Prime Minister (**PM**) **Justin Trudeau** announced his resignation to step down as Canada's PM and as leader of the **Liberal Party** after facing a stiff internal revolt. He

leaves the office once a new ruling party leader is elected. Canada's parliament will be suspended until **24 March 2025** when a new leader is chosen.

Devajit Saikia Elected as Secretary of BCCI

On 12 January 2025, **Devajit Saikia**, an advocate and a former wicket-keeper batsman from Assam, was announced as the new **Secretary** of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**), succeeding Jay Shah who took over the role of ICC Chairman in December 2024.

- ✓ **Prabhtej Singh Bhatia**, cricket administrator from Chhattisgarh, was also elected as the **Treasurer** of BCCI, succeeding Ashish Shelar who was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly(MLA) in Maharashtra.

Zoran Milanović re-elected as President of Croatia for 2nd consecutive term

On January 13 2025, **Zoran Milanović**, political leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), was re-elected as the **5th President** of Croatia for the 2nd consecutive term. He won the presidential election by securing **74%** of the votes, defeating **Dragan Primorac**, a candidate from the ruling party Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).



PUMA India appoints PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

On January 13 2025, Global sportswear brand **PUMA India** has officially partnered with two-time Olympic medalist Pusalra Venkata (**PV**) **Sindhu** in a multi-year collaboration as **brand ambassador**. The collaboration is aimed at utilizing the sport's popularity in India.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI approvals on January 7th 2025

On January 7 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following proposals:

- ✓ Tata Electronics Private Limited (**TEPL**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, to acquire a majority stake in Apple's contract manufacturer **Pegatron Technology India Private Limited** (Pegatron India), a subsidiary of Taiwan based Pegatron Corporation Limited.
- ✓ Malaysia based **Gentari Renewables India Management Private Limited** to acquire **21** Special Purpose Vehicles (**SPVs**) owning renewable power generation plants, along with the holding companies of certain SPVs.

- ✓ The United States of America (USA)-based global investment firm **CA Carob Investments** to acquire up to **68.9% stake** in Roop Automotives Limited (**RAL**), a key player in India's automotive components industry.

Gol Approved Suzuki Motor Corporation to Acquire 26% Stake in NDDB Mirda Ltd

In January 2025, the Government of India (Gol) has granted approval to **Suzuki Motor Corporation**, headquartered in Shizuoka, Japan, to **acquire a 26% stake** in **NDDB** (National Dairy Development Board) **Mirda Limited**, a bio-gas venture of the NDDB, headquartered in Anand, Gujarat.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MDL delivers 6th Scorpene Submarine 'INS Vagsheer' to IN

On January 9, 2025, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the **6th** and final Scorpene-class submarine, 'Indian Navy Ship (**INS**) **Vaghsheer (S26)**' to the Indian Navy (IN) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, marking the successful completion of **Project P-75**.

- ✓ India aims to be fully self-reliant in defence by **2047**, with numerous ships and submarines under construction in domestic shipyards.
- ✓ **Note:** Other 5 Submarines: INS Kalvari (2015), INS Khanderi (2017), INS Karanj (2018), INS Vela (2021), and INS Vagir (2020).

Pixxel announced partnership with SIIS to supply Hyperspectral Satellite Data in Korea

In January 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **Pixxel**, a space technology startup specialising in hyperspectral earth-imaging technology, announced partnership with Korea-based **SIIS Co., Ltd.** to supply **hyperspectral satellite data** in Korea.

- ✓ The agreement was signed in November 2024, during the Satellite Utilization Conference in

Seoul, South Korea, a major milestone in the process of providing hyperspectral data to relevant institutions and companies in the country.

DRDO completes HIMKAVACH Clothing System user trials for Cold Weather Military Operations

On January 10, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that its **HIMKAVACH** multi-layer clothing system has successfully completed user trials in extreme cold weather conditions.

- ✓ The system is designed to protect soldiers in temperatures ranging from **+20 degree celsius (°C) to -60°C**, making it ideal for high-altitude military operations, particularly in the Himalayan region.

China launches 'Shijian-25' satellite to test orbital refueling in space

In January 2025, **China** successfully launched the '**Shijian-25**' satellite into Geostationary Transfer Orbit(GTO) aboard a **Long March 3B** rocket marking its first space mission of 2025. The launch took place

from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in southwest China. This launch marked China's first rocket launch in 2025 and the 555th mission of Long March series carrier rockets.

- ✓ The satellite is been developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight

Technology (**SAST**), to conduct tests related to developing technologies for **in-orbit refueling** and extending the operational lifespan of satellites.

ENVIRONMENT

New Pangolin species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh by ZSI team

In January 2025, a new species of pangolin named, the Indo-Burmese pangolin, scientifically called '**Manis indoburmanica**', was discovered by researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (**ZSI**) from

Arunachal Pradesh (**AR**). It separated from the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) about 3.4 million years ago.

- ✓ Researchers have found two rare Order Neuroptera species, '**Glenochrysa zeylanica**' and '**Indophanes barbara**' from Kerala.

SPORTS

Australia beats India 3-1 to win Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years

Australia beats India 3-1 in 5 match test series to win Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years and final test of the Series was held on **5th January 2025** at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Australia.

- ✓ The Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 was scheduled from **22nd November 2024 to 7th January 2025** in Australia.
- ✓ This marks the first time Australia had won the series over India in the last **10** years since they won at home in **2014-15**.
- ✓ India has won **four** consecutive series (**2016-17, 2018-19, 2020-21 and 2022-23**) including two in Australia.
- ✓ Jasprit Bumrah has become the fastest Indian bowler to reach **200** Test wickets.
- ✓ Rishabh Pant smashed the fastest Test **half-century** in just **29** balls in Australia by a visiting batter.

New Zealand Cricketer Martin Guptill Retires from International Cricket

On 9th January 2025, New Zealand cricketer 38-year-old **Martin Guptill** announced his retirement from international cricket. He played 367 games for New

Zealand in total and scored 13,463 runs in his 14-year international career.

- ✓ He became the first New Zealand cricketer to score an ODI double-century achieving an unbeaten 237 in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup 2015 quarter-final against the West Indies at Wellington Stadium, New Zealand.

Bangladesh Batsman Tamim Iqbal Khan Retires from International Cricket

On January, 10, 2025, a 35-year-old **Bangladesh** left-handed batsman **Tamim Iqbal Khan** announced his retirement from all forms of International Cricket. He became the first Bangladeshi player to reach 50 half-centuries in ODIs.

Spanish Super Cup: FC Barcelona defeats Real Madrid to win 15th title

In January 2025, **Futbol Club(FC) Barcelona**, defeated **Real Madrid** by 5-2 to win the **41st** edition of **Spanish Super Cup** (also known as Supercopa de España) Clasico final held at the King Abdullah Sports City stadium in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**. The Supercopa de Espana 2025 has a prize money pool of **USD 20.7 million**. Barcelona has won the Spanish

Cup for the **15th** time after this win which is two more than Real Madrid (13).

OBITUARY

Renowned Writer-filmmaker and Padma Shri Awardee Pritish Nandy passed away

On January 8 2025, Renowned Writer-filmmaker and Padma Shri Awardee **Pritish Nandy** passed away at the age of **73** in Mumbai (Maharashtra). He was born on 15 January 1951 in Bhagalpur, Bihar. Pritish Nandy has received numerous awards including the 'Padma Shri' award.

- ✓ In 1997, he received the '**Padma Shri**' India's 4th highest civilian award at the age of 26 for his exceptional contributions to Indian literature.
- ✓ In 2012, he was awarded '**International Humanitarian Award**' at the Genesis Awards from the Humane Society of the United States of America (USA) for his contributions to the film industry.
- ✓ He also received the 'Friends of Liberation War Honour' and the EM Forster Literary Award and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia Pacific Heritage Award.

Renowned playback singer P Jayachandran passed away

On January 9 2025, Renowned playback singer **P Jayachandran**, affectionately called as '**Bhava Gayakan**' passed away at the **age of 80** in Thrissur (Kerala). He was born on March 3 1944, in Ernakulam.

Awards and Honors:

- ✓ He received the '**National Film Award**' for Best Male Playback Singer (1986) for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.
- ✓ He received the '**J C Daniel Award**' the highest award in Malayalam cinema, for his contributions to Malayalam industry (2020).

Veteran Soldier Havaladar Baldev Singh Passed Away

In January 2025, Veteran soldier (retired) **Havaladar Baldev Singh**, who fought four wars against Pakistan, passed away at the age of 93 in Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). He was born on 27th September 1931 in Nauniyal village, Nowshera, J&K.

H Lakshmanan, former ED of TVS passed away

On January 10 2025, **H Lakshmanan** former Executive Director (ED) of Sundaram Clayton Limited (SCL) (now TVS Holding Limited) and the Director of Thirukkurugudi Vengaram Sundaram (TVS) Motor Company Limited passed away at the **age of 92** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born in 1933 in Shenkottai, TN.

Senior Advocate Iqbal M Chagla passed away

In January 2025, **Iqbal M Chagla**, senior advocate and one of India's leading lawyer, passed away at the age of 85 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on March 7 1939 in Mumbai.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'How India scaled Mt G20: The inside story of the G20 Presidency' authored by Amitabh Kant

In January 2025, the book titled '**How India scaled Mt G20: The inside story of the G20 Presidency**' written

by **Amitabh Kant** was released. This book was published by Rupa Publications India. The book explores India's pivotal role in hosting and shaping the Group of Twenty (G20) during its presidency (December 1, 2022 and ended on November 30, 2023).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Earth's Rotation Day 2025 – January 8

Earth's Rotation Day is observed globally on **January 8** to highlight the importance of Earth's rotational motion. It commemorates the anniversary of French physicist **Léon Foucault's** scientific demonstration in 1851.

- ✓ **January 8 2025** marks the observance of the **174th** anniversary of Léon Foucault's demonstration. The day honors his 1st public display of Earth's rotation in Paris (France), emphasizing its scientific significance.
- ✓ The spinning of the Earth around its axis is called 'rotation.' Earth completes a full rotation on its axis every 23 hours and 56 minutes, rounded up to **24 hours**.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 – January 9

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (**PBD**), also known as Non-Resident Indian (**NRI**) Day, celebrated once in two years on **9th January** is a significant event that honors the contributions of the Overseas Indian community (Indian diaspora) in the development of India.

- ✓ On 8th January 2025, the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event was inaugurated jointly by the Union Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, MEA, Union Minister **Mansukh L Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), and the Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, **Mohan Charan Majhi**.
- ✓ On 10th January 2025, the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (**PBSA**), highest honour conferred on overseas Indians,

to 27 People to distinguished members of the Indian diaspora.

World Hindi Day 2025 – January 10

World Hindi Day or **Vishwa Hindi Diwas** is annually observed across the globe on **10 January** to highlight the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people globally.

- ✓ The day is observed to honor Hindi's global significance and to showcase its cultural diversity to the world, as well as to promote Hindi as an international language.
- ✓ The **theme** of this year is "A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride," which aims to promote linguistic and global interchange through the use of Hindi.

AICTE declared 2025 as 'Year of AI' to shape India as global leader

The **All-India Council for Technical Education** (AICTE) has announced **2025** as the "**Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**" to shape India as a global leader in AI. This initiative will be adopted by all AICTE-approved institutions, empowering around 14,000 colleges and benefiting 40 million students nationwide.

National Road Safety Week 2025 – January 11 to 17

National Road Safety Week, organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), is annually observed across India from **January 11-17** every year to raise awareness about road safety. It highlights the need for responsible driving, pedestrian safety, and

better road infrastructure to prevent and reduce accidents and save lives.

- ✓ 2025 marks the observance of the **36th** National Road Safety Week. The National Safety Council of India (**NSC**) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), also organises the National Road Safety Week.

National Youth Day 2025 – January 12

National Youth Day, also known as ‘Rashtriya Yuva Divas’ in Hindi and ‘Vivekananda Jayanti’, is observed annually across India on **12th January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, a Hindu spiritual leader, Philosopher and

social reformer in India, who played a crucial role in shaping modern India.

- ✓ 12 January 2025 marks the **162nd** birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The day aims to inspire and motivate youths by promoting the life and message of him encouraging their participation in nation-building.
- ✓ On January 11 2025, Union Minister **Mansukh L Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports(MYAS), inaugurated the ‘Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue’ and the ‘28th National Youth Festival(NYF)’ at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi(Delhi).

STATE NEWS

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Launched KSRTC Arogya Scheme for Cashless Medical Services

In January 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka **Siddaramaiah** launched the health insurance scheme ‘Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (**KSRTC**) **Arogya**’, to provide cashless medical treatment to KSRTC employees and their families at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Karnataka launches ‘Garudakshi’ portal for Forest Protection

In January 2025, Karnataka’s Forest Department launched ‘**Garudakshi**’ portal to register an online First Information Report (**FIR**) cases for forest crimes such as encroachments, poaching, and illegal logging.

- ✓ The initiative was inaugurated by the Minister of Forests, Ecology, and Environment **Eshwar B. Khandre**, which was developed in collaboration with Noida(Uttar Pradesh, UP) based Wildlife Trust of India (**WTI**).

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav Launches PARTH Yojana

On January 10, 2025, Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister (CM) of **Madhya Pradesh** (MP) launched **PARTH (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar) Yojana** at the State Level Youth Festival to train the youth of MP for recruitment in the Indian Army (IA), police, paramilitary forces, and other related services.

- ✓ The initiative aims to promote patriotism, skill development, and enhance employability among the state’s dynamic and patriotic youth.

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren Launches Maiyyaan Sampan Yojana

In January 2025, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launched the **enhanced ‘Maiyan Samman Yojana’** in Namkum(Jharkhand) by transferring assistance for two months totalling Rs 5,000 each to the accounts of over 56.61 lakh women beneficiaries. Initially launched in August 2024, the scheme provided Rs 1,000 per month to women aged 18 to 50.