

**MONTHLY**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025**

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**USEFUL FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY - FEBRUARY : 2025



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur

# 1. RAJASTHAN AFFAIRS

## January

### 'Karmabhoomi Se Mathrubhumi' campaign

- Construction of recharge shaft structures with the help of Bhamashahs and migrant Rajasthanis.
- Improvement of ground water table, surface water harvesting and ensuring water availability.
- Inspired by the 'Catch the Rain' concept.
- Work started in Sirohi, Pali, Jodhpur, Bhilwara, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur districts.
- Financial support from crowd funding and CSR funding.

### Ladesar Campaign

- Initiatives of Jaipur District Administration.
- Start: 14 January 2025.
- Objective: To improve the condition of malnourished and severely malnourished children.
- Monitoring of nutrition of underweight and extremely underweight children.

### Suposhan Maa Abhiyan (3rd Phase)

- Start: 3 January 2025, Kota.
- Objective: To provide nutrition and health security to pregnant women.
- Beneficiaries: 1500 needy pregnant women.
- 125 Kg Nutrition Kit (Ghee, Flour, Lentils, Jaggery, Peanuts, Dates, Oil etc.).
- Services: Monthly nutrition kits, free medicines, vaccination, medical consultation.
- Launched: March 1, 2020 (Initiative of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla).
- In the first two phases, 1 lakh nutrition kits were distributed to 15,000 pregnant women.

### Rajasthan Desert Flight Initiative

- Start: 9 November 2024, Barmer (by Collector Tina Dabi).
- Objective: To increase women empowerment and self-reliance.
- 11 Major Events:
  - Self Defense, Driving, Cancer Awareness, Financial Management, Digital Literacy, Entrepreneurship.
- Statewide expansion: Applicable from 9 January 2025 across Rajasthan.
- It will act as a model for women empowerment.
- The trained women will inspire other women.
- Cooperation in mental, physical health and skill development.

### Gleeful Initiative

- Event: 21 January 2025, Jaipur (Indira Gandhi Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development).
- Programme: Under Nav Bharat Literacy Programme.
- **Volunteer learning model:**
  - Free education to non-literates of 15 years and above.
  - Volunteers teach without honorarium.

### Sparsch Leprosy Awareness Campaign 2025

- Event: 30 January – 13 February 2025.
- Organizer: State Medical and Health Department.
- Theme: "Let's all work together to raise awareness, dispel misconceptions and provide all possible help to leprosy affected people".
- **Implementation:** Leprosy prevention programmes up to district, block and panchayat level.

### Land Pooling Scheme

- The first scheme under the Rajasthan Land Pooling Scheme Act-2016 will be launched in Jaipur.
- Provision has been made to give 45% of the land to the farmers.
- Modern town planning will be done.
- After successful implementation, it will be implemented in other cities as well.

### Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana - New Provisions

- New provisions come into effect from 1st February 2025 for families in the paid category.
- The policy for new registration will be effective after 90 days.
- The policy for families paying Rs 850 will be valid from 1st February 2025 to 31st January 2026.
- Pre-registered families will get the policy from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026 if they renew by 15 February 2025.

### AgriStack Scheme

- Central Government Project to Develop Digital Infrastructure in Agriculture Sector.
- A database of crop surveys, farmer registry, and geo-referenced maps will be created.
- Schemes like Kisan Credit Card and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi will be easy for farmers to access.
- Pilot project started in Sikar on 13 December 2024, implemented in Rajasthan from February 2025.
- Phased camps will be organized for farmer registry at Gram Panchayat level.



### RIICO Direct Plot Allotment Scheme

- Allotment of plots without auction under Rising Rajasthan MoU.
- Priority based on investment, employment and export potential.
- Land will be made available to industries at an affordable and quick rate.
- The application process from the online portal is simple.
- 50% of the plots in rural areas reserved for MSMEs.
- Provision of application for a maximum of 3 plots.

### Swamitva scheme - 1.5 lakh cards distributed in Rajasthan

- On 18 January 2025, PM Modi distributed 65 lakh Swamitva cards across the country.
- In Rajasthan, 1.50 lakh beneficiaries got ownership cards and pattas.
- Objective: To provide legal documents of property in rural areas.
- So far, property cards of 2.25 crore people have been made.
- Survey by drone technology, land ownership by digital mapping.
- Drone survey of 35,955 villages completed in Rajasthan .

### Rajasthan Navprasar Niti 2025

- Released for the first time in Rajasthan on 5 January 2025.
- Objective: To involve social media influencers in the promotion of public welfare schemes of the state government.
- Policy Implementing Department: Department of Information and Public Relations.

### Categories of Influencers:

Category A	Category B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influencers with 1 lakh subscribers/ more followers.</li> <li>• Selection of 2 Influencers at Division level .</li> <li>• Honorarium of Rs. 25,000 per month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influencers with 7,000 to 1 lakh subscribers/ followers.</li> <li>• Selection of 1 Influencer at Division level and 1-1 Influencer at District level .</li> <li>• Honorarium of Rs. 15,000 per month.</li> </ul>

- This policy was announced in the changed budget of 2024-25 for the promotion of public welfare schemes.

### Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) gets state-level party status

- The Election Commission of India granted the status of a state-level party to the Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP).

- Representation:
- Lok Sabha: 1 MP (Rajkumar Roat, Banswara-Dungarpur Lok Sabha seat).
- Vidhan Sabha: 4 MLAs (Anil Katara - Chaurasi, Umesh Damor - Aaspur, Thawar Chand Damor - Dhariawad, Jai Krishna Patel - Bagidaura).

### Criteria for obtaining state-level party status

- **In the Assembly Elections:**
  - 6% Valid Votes + At least 2 seats, or
  - 3% of the total seats or 3 Seats (whichever is higher).
- **In the Lok Sabha elections:**
  - 6% Valid Votes + At least 1 Lok Sabha seat.
  - Winning at least 1 seat out of every 25 seats .
- **Additional Criteria (Applicable since 2011):**
  - Securing 8% of total valid votes (in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections).

### 8 new Zila Parishads to be formed in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government approved the proposal for restructuring of 8 new Zila Parishads.
- Related Districts: 8 New Districts + 12 Affected Districts.
- The proposal will be prepared: the concerned District Collector.
- Under the Panchayati Raj Act, proposals for reorganisation and restructuring of new Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats will also be prepared.

### Third Session of 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

- Start: 31 January 2025.
- Notification Released: 8th January 2025.
- Governor Haribhau Bagade addressed the nation on 31st January.
- **Office bearers of the Assembly:**
  - Legislative Assembly Speaker: Vasudev Devnani.
  - Leader of the House (Chief Minister): Bhajan Lal Sharma.
  - Minister of Parliamentary Affairs: Jogaram Patel.
  - Principal Secretary of Vidhan Sabha: Bharat Bhushan Sharma.

### Rajasthan to become model state for 3 new laws

- 3 new laws: Indian Judicial Code, Indian Civil Defence Code and Indian Evidence Act
- Rajasthan was chosen as a model state, where these laws will be implemented first.
- Provision for making police station, jail, and court proceedings online.



### Restructuring, Redemarcating and Restructuring of Panchayati Raj Institutions

- Population Standards (2011 census base).
- Gram Panchayat:**
  - Common Area: 3,000 to 5,500
  - Special Area (Sahariya, Desert, Scheduled): 2,000 to 4,000
- Panchayat Samiti:**
  - Restructuring if there are 40+ gram panchayats or 2 lakh+ population.
  - The reconstituted Panchayat Samiti will have at least 25 Gram Panchayats.
- Gram Panchayat Changes:**
  - Villages located within 6 km can be included in another Gram Panchayat (on demand from villagers).

### Cabinet Sub-Committee on Restructuring of Panchayati Raj Institutions

- Chairman: Madan Dilawar (Minister of Education).
- Members: Gajendra Singh, Avinash Gehlot, Sumit Godara and Jawahar Singh Bedham.
- Rights: The right to review, approve or reject proposals.

### Sarpanch will become the administrator of the Gram Panchayat for the first time

- Sarpanch administrators will be appointed in gram panchayats ending on 31 January 2025.
- An administrative committee will be constituted, in which deputy sarpanch and ward panch will be members.
- The Collector has the power to appoint an administrator and constitute a committee.
- Financial Powers:**
  - Administrators (Sarpanches) and Village Development Officers will operate the accounts and do financial work.
- Tenure: One day before the first meeting of the newly elected Gram Panchayat.
- On the lines of states like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand.

### Restructuring of Police Range in Rajasthan

- Home Department abolished 3 Police Ranges (Sikar, Pali, Banswara).
- Now Rajasthan will have a total of 7 police ranges and 2 police commissionerates.
- The police commissionerate in Jaipur and Jodhpur will operate separately.
- Number of Police Ranges:
- Jaipur and Jodhpur have the highest number of 8-8 police ranges.
- Note: The police commissionerates of Jaipur and Jodhpur are separate from the police range.

Range	Areas Covered
<b>Ajmer Range</b>	Ajmer, Bhilwara, Beawar, Tonk, Nagaur and Didwana-Kuchaman
<b>Bikaner Range</b>	Bikaner, Sriganganagar, Hanumanagarh, Churu
<b>Bharatpur Range</b>	Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Deeg, Sawai Madhopur
<b>Jaipur Range</b>	Jaipur Rural, Kotputli - Behror, Dausa, Alwar, Khairthal - Tijara, Bhiwadi, Jhunjhunu, Sikar
<b>Jodhpur Range</b>	Jodhpur Rural, Phalodi, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Balotra, Pali, Sirohi, Jalore
<b>Kota Range</b>	Kota City, Kota Rural, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar
<b>Udaipur Range</b>	Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand, Dungarpur, Banswara and Salumbar

### Krishna Poonia

- Former Olympian Krishna Poonia was elected unopposed to the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) 5-member Athletes' Commission.
- Other members: Anju Bobby George (Karnataka), Bahadur Singh (Punjab), Jyotirmoy Sikdar (West Bengal), M.D. Valsamma (Kerala)
- Objective: Solving the problems of the players.

### Rajesh Nirvan

- Rajesh Nirvan, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, was appointed as the Director General (DG) of BCAS.
- He is currently working as DG Home Guard in Rajasthan.

### Rajasthan High Court appoints 3 new judges

- 3 new judges appointed from judicial officer quota
  - Chandra Shekhar Sharma
  - Pramil Mathur (Former High Court Registrar General)
  - Chandra Prakash Shrimali
- Total number of judges: 34 (including the Chief Justice).
- Recommendation: Supreme Court Collegium (December 2024).

### Neeraj Chaudhary

- Rajasthan mountaineer Neeraj Chaudhary has been declared the 'State Icon' of the Rajasthan Election Department.
- They will participate in voter awareness campaigns.
- Chief Electoral Officer: Naveen Mahajan.

**Mahendra Singh**

- Squadron Leader Mahendra Singh Garati of Pathana village in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district was appointed as the Parade Commander of the Air Force in the Republic Day 2025 parade.

**Dr. Ram Niwas MD**

- On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (10 January 2025) in Bhubaneswar, **President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 'Prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman-2025'**.
- Educated in Rajasthan, currently teaching Sanskrit to monks in Myanmar.

**Dr. Dashrath Singh MD**

- 'Most Educated Person of the World'
- Dr. Dashrath Singh Shekhawat has entered the UN Book of World Records with 108 academic degrees.
- A resident of Khirod village in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan.
- This is his 8th world record.
- First Record (2015): 'Most Qualified Soldier of India' (19 degrees).
- Degrees: History, Philosophy, Sociology, Astrology, Vedas, Yoga, Politics, Law, Economics, Psychology, Cybercrime, National Security etc. in 50+ subjects.
- Current Post: Senior Legal Adviser in the Indian Army.

**Vikram Singh Rathore**

- Rajasthan government appoints brand ambassador for residential plot allotment drive for nomadic, semi-nomadic and denotified castes.
- A resident of Taratara village in Barmer district.
- Objective: To ensure wide public participation in this campaign.

**Udaipur among 31 wetland cities in the world**

- Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) were declared wetland cities by the Ramsar Convention of UNESCO.
- Wetland cities cover not only the reservoir, but also the entire environmental, aquatic and thalia habitat.

**Rajasthan's largest organic cotton yarn exporting hub**

- Bhilwara became the largest exporter of organic cotton yarn.
- India produces 50% of the world's organic cotton yarn.
- 5 spinning units of Bhilwara are producing organic cotton yarn.
- Organic cotton is beneficial for the environment and skin, with no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.

**Rajasthan's first heritage-based Centre of Excellence**

- It is Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences, Jaipur that has been established.
- Cost: Approx. ₹355 crore.
- Structure: Schools, colleges, libraries, tinkering labs, learning centres, hostels and academic blocks.
- Aadhaar: On the lines of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune.

**Flying school approved in Bhilwara**

- Hamirgarh airstrip will be developed and a flying school will be opened.
- Objective: To strengthen local training and aviation infrastructure in the state.
- Proposal: Flying schools to be opened in Pratapgarh and Banswara.
- Rajasthan's first flying school: Kishangarh (Ajmer).
- Launch: Under the Civil Aviation Policy-2024.

**Rajasthan's First History Sheet-Hardcore Monitoring Cell**

- Venue: Jaipur Commissionerate (West).
- Objective: Continuous monitoring of habitual offenders (history-sheeters and hardcore crooks).

**Major Functions:**

- Monitoring the activities of criminals.
- Ensuring confiscation and legal action of illegal properties.

**Ajmer's Regional Driving Training Centre gets international recognition**

- Location: Singwal, Ajmer.
- Specialty: Country's first International Driving Test Centre declared.
- Agreement: Between the Indian and Saudi Arabian governments.
- Significance: Indians interested in driving in Saudi Arabia must take a driving test here.
- After successful test: will get a driver's license and visa from the Saudi Arabian government.
- Training Facility: Testing facility required for overseas employment under the skill verification program of Skill Development Corporation.

**Rajasthan's first solar lift irrigation project**

- Location: Mej River of Bundi District.
- Objective: To generate electricity from solar energy and sell it to discoms and provide free water to farmers.
- **Technical Features:**
  - 2 solar plants of 167 kW each .
  - 522 Solar Power Plates Installed.
- Benefits: Irrigation facility to farmers, energy savings and revenue enhancement.

### Jaipur and Udaipur selected in PM-e drive scheme

- Objective: Development of e-charging infrastructure.
- Selection: 40 cities including Jaipur and Udaipur .
- Significance: Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities were also included.
- **Subsidies:**
  - 80% subsidy by the Central Government; Up to 100% in special circumstances .
  - As many as 72,300 charging stations will be set up across the country.
- Basis of EV Charging Station Selection: Number of Electric Vehicles in Cities.
- Ranking: Delhi is at the top and Jodhpur and Udaipur are at the bottom of the list.

### Kharagada village of Dungarpur has a special place in water conservation.

- Announcement: By Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil.
- Significance: Special place on the portal of the Ministry of Jal Shakti due to the remarkable work in the "Catch the Rain" campaign.

### Integrated Skill Development Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities

- Location: Jamdoli, Jaipur.
- Objective: To provide employment and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.
- Speciality: Cross Disability Intervention Centre where medical and education facilities are available.
- Estimated Cost: ₹30 Crore

### Traffic Park in Srikananpur (Sriganganagar)

- Establishment: By Srikananpur Municipality.
- Objective: To reduce accidents by raising road safety awareness.
- **Attributes:**
  - Traffic rules information, indicators, wall paintings.
  - The damage caused by the violation was symbolically displayed.

### Land Allotment for Rajasthan Petro Zone

- Location: Near Pachpadra Refinery.
- **Land Allotment:**
  - Village Sindhi ki Dhani: 74.50 hectares.
  - Village Khemababa Nagar: 102 hectares.

### New Industrial Area at Piplund in Bhilwara District

- Announcement: Under Rajasthan Budget 2024-25.
- Location: Jahazpur Tehsil, Village Piplund.
- Land allotment: 31 hectares.

### 2,000 MW solar project in Jaisalmer's Bodana village

- Institution: Rajasthan Solar Park Development Limited.

- Location: Nachna Tehsil, Village Bodana.

### 31 M-Sand unit to be set up in Rajasthan

- As an alternative to gravel in Rajasthan, 31 m sand units will be set up in 15 districts.

3M Sand Units	Bundi, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh
2M Sand Units	Ajmer, Nagaur, Sirohi, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Baran, Pali and Sikar
1M Sand Units	Kotputli and Dausa

**Note: The new M Sand policy in Rajasthan was launched on 4th December 2024.**

### Girls Sainik Schools at Thabukara (Jodhpur) and Ramganjmandi (Kota)

- Announcement: Provision to open Sainik Schools in each division under Rajasthan Budget 2024-25.

### Land Allotment for Rajasthan Petro Zone

- Location: Pachpadra Tehsil (Balotra).
- **Land Allotment:**
  - Village Boravas: 97 hectares.
  - Village Bagundi: 26 hectares.

### Industrial Park in Bhiwadi-Neemrana

- Proposal: Singapore's industrial park developer company by Sembcorp.
- Location: Khushkheda-Bhiwadi-Neemrana Investment Region (KBINR).
- Area: 500-600 hectares.
- Objective: To develop an international level integrated and sustainable industrial park.

### EPCH 's First Domestic Fair

- Event: January 23-26.
- Venue: Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC), Boranada (Jodhpur).
- **Importance:**
  - Handicraft furniture exports reach ₹45,000 crore in 35 years

### State level celebration of Republic Day in Rajasthan

- Location: Udaipur.
- **Events on the Eve:**
  - "At Home" program.
  - Cultural events.

### Kishorepura Thana (Kota) – Best Thana Award

- Location: Kota District.
- Award: Awarded after verification by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Base:**
  - Sanitation, facilities for prisoners and policemen.
  - Crime rate and crime control action.
  - Reduction in crime rate (40% decline from the previous year ).



### Udaipur Airport – Bal Chaupal for Kids

- Location: Maharana Pratap Airport, Dabok (Udaipur).
- **Speciality:**
- Special game area for children under 3 years old.
- AAI's first airport to develop such a field.

### Mathuradhish Corridor (Kota)

- Location: Nandgram (Patanpol), Kota.
- Corridor to Mathuradheeshji (Prathamesh) Temple of Vallabh Kul Sampradaya.
- Nandgram will be given a heritage look.
- The temple will be connected to the Chambal riverfront.
- Cost: ₹125 crore
- The construction will take place in three phases.

### Jaipur Sculpture Park – Fifth Edition

- Location: Jaigarh Fort, Jaipur.
- Organizer: Jaigarh Public Charitable Trust.
- **Exhibition:**
  - Diversity of Contemporary Sculpture.
  - Sculptures of bronze, stainless steel, plastic, ceramic, stone, fibre and wood.
- First Sculpture Park: 2017, Nahargarh Fort.

### Rajasthan's largest runway

- Kota will get a greenfield airport.
- Runway length: 3,200 metres (Rajasthan's largest).
- **Attributes:**
  - State-of-the-art Instrumental Landing System (ILS).
  - Emergency landing facility in Kota after Jaipur.
  - Landing of small to large aircraft possible in all weather.

### Padma Shri 2025 award to 3 from Rajasthan

- 139 personalities will be honoured with the Padma Awards 2025 by the Central Government.
- The 3 personalities who have been awarded Padma Shri 2025 from Rajasthan include the following-

SN	Name	Field	District
1.	Shri Sheen Kaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa)	Literature & Education	Jodhpur
2.	Smt. Batool Begum	art	Jaipur
3.	Shri Baijnath Maharaj	spiritual knowledge	Sikar

### Rajasthan wins first prize in Major Mineral Block Auction

- Award: Exemplary Performance in Mineral Block Auction (2023-24).
- Location: Konark, Odisha.
- Recipient: Shri T. Ravikant, Principal Secretary, Rajasthan Mines Department.

- Achievement: Highest number of 31 major mineral blocks auctioned in the country.
  - 22 Mining Lease.
  - 9 Composite License.
- **Mineral Distribution:**
  - Limestone – 22 blocks.
  - Basemetal – 5 blocks.
  - Iron – 4 blocks.

### Jaipur's Mona Agarwal wins Arjuna Award

- Draw Date: 17 January 2025.
- Awarded: Mona Agarwal (Para Shooter, Jaipur).
- **Attainment:**
  - Bronze medal in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- Arjuna Award for Outstanding Performance in Para-Shooting.

### 6 Water Warriors from Rajasthan to be Special Guests at Republic Day Parade in Delhi

- Achievement: Outstanding contribution to Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Awardees: Dhapu Devi, Arjun Kumar Suman, Mohini Devi, Hindu Singh, Sonia Kumari Saini and Mukesh Gurjar.
- Invitation: Republic Day Celebrations, Delhi (by Central Government).

### Rajasthan Youth Icon Award

- The award was given by the state government on January 12, 2025.
- Areas: Art & Culture, Social Work, Science & Technology, Innovation, Education, Environment, Women Empowerment, Sanitation etc.
- Age group: 15-29 years.

### Award Winners

Winner	District
Prince Tiwari, Tanu Prajapat, Dharma Jat, Priya Rathod, Yash Garg	Jaipur
Jaideep Panchal	Alwar
Pooja Sharma & Vanshika Sharma	Jhunjhunu
Nitesh Kumar Sharma	Nagaur
Gauri Maheshwari	Ajmer
Yudhishtira Meena	Bhilwara

### Maj Gen Alok Raj gets Environment Protection Award

- Honours: Honoured by Governor Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde.
- Location: Sapta Shakti Command, Jaipur Military Station.
- Honored for contribution to environmental protection and social service.
- Planted 50,000+ trees in the last 3 years.
- Post: Chairman of Rajasthan Staff Selection Board.

**IG Satyendra Singh and Satyapriya Singh**

- Award: President's Police Medal (for distinguished service).
- Selector: Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 16 police officers and employees, including IG Vikas Kumar, have been awarded police medals.

**ADG S. Sengathir and Sachin Mittal**

- Event: Republic Day, Maharana Bhupal Stadium, Udaipur.
- **President's Police Medal Awardee Officers:**
  - ADG S. Sengathir.
  - Sachin Mittal.

**MoU with Vedanta Group for construction of Nand Ghar**

- Draw Date: 20 January 2025.
- Partnership: Government of Rajasthan and Vedanta Group (Anil Agarwal Foundation).
- **Aim:**
  - To set up 25,000 new Nand Ghars in the state.
  - Eradicate malnutrition and promote early childhood education.
- **Features:**
  - Smart Learning Tools, Digital Facilities, Electricity, Clean Drinking Water, Toilets.
  - Announcement: By Anil Agarwal at the Rising Rajasthan Summit.

**DISCOMs and Tata Power Renewable Energy MoU for Rooftop Solar**

- Draw Date: 31 January 2025.
- Objective: Promotion of PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme.
- Partners: All three Power Distribution Corporations of Rajasthan (DISCOMs) and Tata Power Renewable Energy.
- Target: To install solar rooftop plants on 5 lakh houses in the state.
- Advantages: Making the process from registration to installation simple and effective.

**Rajasthan Government and Bank of Baroda and Bank of Maharashtra MoU**

- Draw Date: 6 January 2025.
- **Loan Provision:**
  - Bank of Baroda: ₹20,000 crore per annum by 2025-2030 (for 6 years )
  - Bank of Maharashtra: ₹10,000 crore per annum
  - Total: Loans of ₹30,000 crore every year.
- **Utility:**
  - Infrastructure development.
  - Investment in Power and Renewable Energy, Roads, Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Project: 5 years action plan under 'Developed Rajasthan 2047'.
- Goal: To upgrade infrastructure and increase the state's economy to \$350 billion.

**Para Asia Cup – 2025**

- Location: Bangkok, Thailand (February 2-11).
- Selected Players: Shyam Sundar Swami (Compound Category) and Dhanaram Godara (Recurve Category) from Bikaner.
- Shyam Sundar Swamy has also participated in the Paris Paralympics 2024.

**Jaipur Open Chess Tournament**

- Date: January 25-26, 2025.
- Winner: Grand Master Mitrabha Guha of West Bengal.
- **Rajasthan Players:**
  - U-9: Greetings Bhaduka (1st).
  - U-7: Vithika Kaushal (1st).
  - Best Rajasthan Player: Vikramaditya Mukhija (1st), Rishen Jilova (2nd), Pratik Chaudhary (3rd).

**Table Tennis – Indian Masters Championship**

- Location: Mumbai.
- Medals: Rajeew Agarwal and Shrikishan Maheshwari won bronze medals.

**Vedanta Hindustan Zinc Invitation Cup**

- Best CII Golfer: Jaswant Singh Miles.
- **Other Awards:**
  - Best Veteran Golfer: Anshuman Gupta.
  - Best Lady Golfer: Ritu Oberoi
  - Handicap (18-24): Gaurav Rungta (Winner).

**Wellington Open Squash Championships**

- Rajasthan's Divyanshi Jain (U-13 Girls Champion).
- Final: beat Kyara Gada of Maharashtra 11-4, 11-6, 11-2

**All India Senior Badminton Ranking Tournament**

- Location: Bengaluru.
- Gold Medal Winners: Mohammad Aman (Tonk) & Dinku Singh (Manipur) – Men's Doubles Category.
- Final match: Beat Delhi's Bhavya Chhabra and Param Chaudhary 21-13, 21-12

**43rd Senior National Shooting Ball Championship**

- Location: Puri, Odisha (17-19 January 2025).
- Medal: Rajasthan's men's team won the bronze medal. (Year 2024 – Gold Medal)
- Women's Team Performance: 4th place.

**Sub-Junior National Judo Championships**

- Location: Pune (18-20 January 2025).
- Medals of Rajasthan: 1 gold, 2 bronze.
- Gold Medal: Rahul Kharol (Boys, 60kg).
- Bronze medal:
  - Drishti (Girls category, 44 kg).
  - Krishna Malakar (Girls category, over 57kg).

**Chess – Open Classical FIDE Rating Rapid Championship**

- Venue: Jaipur (25-26 January 2025, held for the first time).
- Organizers : JHW, Jaipur District Chess Association, Care Health Insurance, Narayana Health.
- **Participant:**
  - Age Limit: 3 to 85 years.
  - Number: 500+ chess players.
  - Special Players: 20+ Internationally rated players.

**National Para Archery Championships**

- Location: Jaipur (11-13 January 2025).
- Participants: 250+ Para Archers from across the country.
- Events: Recurve, Compound, Indian Round (Women & Men).
- Key players: Paralympic medallist Sheetal Devi, 15 international players.
- Attendance: Paralympic Committee of India President Devendra Jhajharia.

**National Kickboxing Competition**

- Location: Goa.
- Medal Winner: Amish Shivdas – Gold and Bronze Medal (for Rajasthan).

**67th National Shooting Championships**

- Location: New Delhi.
- **Medal Winners (for Rajasthan):**
  - Trap Senior Man Team: Vivaan Kapoor, Ali Aman Elahi, Aditya Bhardwaj – Gold Medal.
  - Trap Junior Man Individual: Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat – Gold Medal.
  - Trap Junior Man Team: Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat, Uddhav Singh, Prithviraj Singh Rathore – Silver Medal.
  - 10m Pistol Individual Junior Men: Akash Bhardwaj, Omprakash Mitharwal, Yogesh Kumar – Silver Medal.
  - 10m Pistol Junior Man Civilian Championship: Mayank Chaudhary, Aryan Kumar, Anshul – Bronze medal.
  - 10m Pistol Junior National Championship: Ajit Sharma, Sandeep Bishnoi, Umesh Chaudhary – Bronze medal.

**Anushka Bhati**

- Event: 67th National Shooting Championships.
- Double Trap Senior Team Event: Silver medal with Geetanjali and Rudrakshi.
- Individual event: Bronze medal.

**Harshvardhan Kaviya**

- Event: Double Trap Competition.
- Medals: 2 silver medals (individual and team event).

**Khwaish Sharma**

- Location: Bhopal.
- Event: 67th National Shooting Championships.
- Medals: 1 gold and 1 silver medal.

**41st NTPC Sub Junior National Archery Championship**

- Location: Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- **Medal Winners (for Rajasthan):**
  - Individual 30m event: Pratibha Kandara – Gold medal.
  - Student Team Event: Shobhit Jangid, Himesh Yuvraj, Yatin Ninama – Silver Medal.
  - Mixed Team Event: Shobhit Jangid and Pratibha Kandara – Silver Medal.
  - Team Event: Sachin Cheji, Devansh Singh, Pradyuman Yadav – Bronze Medal.

**Divansh Singh**

- Event: 41st NTPC National Archery Championship.
- Compound Event Individual: Gold medal by defeating Manav Yadav (Maharashtra).
- Compound Men's Team: Bronze Medal.
- Recurve Category: 2 Silver Medals.

**Senior National Judo Championship**

- Event: 4-6 January, in New Delhi.
- Rajasthan won the overall trophy for the first time (2 gold, 1 silver).
- Gujarat Runners-up (2 Gold, 2 Bronze).
- **Medal Winner (Rajasthan)**
  - Gold: Monika Chaudhary (48kg), Akash (81kg).
  - Silver: Himanshu Chaudhary (60kg).

**69th Senior National Volleyball Championship**

- 7-13 January, in Jaipur.
- Men's Category: Kerala Winner.
- Women's category: Railway winners.

**Asian Roll Ball Championship (Goa)**

- Gunjan Kumawat (Rajasthan) won the gold medal.
- The Indian team defeated Iran 3-2 in the final.

**50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship (Haridwar)**

- Both the men's and women's teams of Rajasthan won bronze medals.

**National Boxing Championships (Bareilly)**

- Harsh Chaudhary (Rajasthan) won bronze medal in 85-90kg weight category.

**Anil Joshi**

- He is from Bikaner (Rajasthan).
- Appointed coach of Indian Para Archery team for Para Asia Cup (2-11 February, Bangkok).



**Amateur Soft Hockey Federation of India**

- Dr. Ashutosh Pant (January 19 ) was elected as the new president.
- Ramesh Singh again became the secretary of the federation.
- The 2025 National League will be held in Jaipur, Gwalior, Panaji.

**World Para Throwball Federation**

- Nirmala Rawat (Jaipur) appointed as new president.

**Rajasthan State Wrestling Association**

- Rajiv Dutta appointed Chairman, Umaid Singh as Secretary.
- Rajiv Dutta has previously served as OSD to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

**Heatwave declared as "State Specific Natural Calamity"**

- On 23rd December 2024, the state government issued the notification.
- Announced by the Department of Disaster Management, Assistance and Civil Defence.
- The affected people will be given relief as per SDRF norms.
- This decision is an important step towards ensuring timely and appropriate assistance.

**Rabies declared as notified disease**

- Notified under the "Rajasthan Epidemic Disease (Rabies) Regulations - 2024".
- Rabies reporting mandatory for government and private hospitals.
- **Provisions for Prevention and Surveillance:**
  - Formation of Zoonotic Committee and City Task Force at the district level.
  - State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination 2030 implemented.
  - Ensuring anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin availability at PHCs and CHCs.
  - Appointment of Monitoring and Inspection Officers by the State Nodal Officer.

**Approval for women battalions in Sikar, Alwar and Barmer**

- Approval for raising of new women police battalions.
  1. Padmini Battalion – Sikar
  2. - Kalibai Battalion – Alwar
  3. Amrita Devi Battalion – Barmer
- These battalions were announced in the 2024-25 budget.
- Each battalion will have a commandant.
- Currently there are 18 battalions, after the new battalions the total number will be 21.

- Rajasthan's first women battalion "Hadi Rani" was established in Ajmer in 2008.
- With the new battalions, Rajasthan will have a total of 4 women battalions.
- Other special battalions, including 14 battalions of Rajasthan RAC, are also operational.

**Plans to raise Industrial Security Force (RISF) scrapped**

- The Rajasthan government scrapped the previous government's plan to set up RISF on the lines of the CISF.
- In Budget 2022-23, the establishment of RISF in Bhiwadi, Balotra and Chittorgarh was announced.

**The Model of Eternal Yogic Farming**

- The Agriculture and Rural Development Division of the Brahma Kumaris institution launched this model on 28 January 2025 in Jahota, Jaipur.
- Objective: To motivate farmers for natural and organic farming.
- Also inaugurates Rajrishi Didi's Rasoi and Poshan Vatika as part of Women Empowerment Initiative.
- This will help in empowering rural women economically and promoting organic agriculture.

**Formation of State Testing Agency (STA) in Rajasthan**

- The state government will create a State Testing Agency (STA) on the lines of NTA.
- **Nodal Department:** State Personnel Department.
- In the first phase under STA, there will be examinations like Pre D.El.Ed, PTET.
- In the second phase, entrance examinations for PhD, PG and management courses will be conducted.
- The government will set up a district testing agency in each district under the STA.

**Youth Parliament on the theme of National Environment**

- Event: 24-25 January 2025, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- Initiative: Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani.
- Organizer: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Rajasthan Branch.
- Objective: To raise awareness of the environment and develop sensitivity towards natural resources.

**Passport Mobile Van Service**

- Launched on 16 January 2025 in Kota.
- Initiative: Under Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's "Student Connect Programme".

- Objective: To provide passport application, biometric and verification facility to students in school and college.

**Additional allocation of 5,000 MW**

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has approved an additional allocation of 5,000 MW to Rajasthan under the PM KUSUM Yojana (Component-A).
- This will give a boost to the setting up of solar plants in the state.
- By the year 2027, the target of providing electricity to farmers during the day will be helped.

**Cabinet Sub-Committee for Reorganization of Urban Bodies**

- The Rajasthan government on 16 January 2025 constituted a cabinet sub-committee for the reorganization of urban wards and bodies.
- Convener: UDH Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra.
- Members: Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat, Forest Minister Sanjay Sharma, Minister of State for Cooperatives Gautam Kumar Dak.
- In 2019, two municipal corporations were created in place of one in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota.

**International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) - State Level Apex Committee**

- The IYC State Apex Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- Objective: To monitor, support and ensure effective implementation of the programmes of the Year of Cooperatives 2025.
- This committee will play an important role in strengthening the cooperative movement in the state.

**State Level Committee for 8th Economic Census**

- As per the directions of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the 8th Economic Census (2025-26) will be conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.
- State level coordination committee formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Pant.
- Under the economic census, information related to the status, ownership, financial management, and employment of industrial units, enterprises of the state will be compiled.

**Rajasthan Foundation launches 14 new chapters for migrant Rajasthanis**

- 5 new domestic chapters: Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Pune, Ranchi, Guwahati.

- 9 new international chapters: Dubai (UAE), Munich (Germany), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Tokyo (Japan), Singapore, Doha (Qatar), Melbourne (Australia), Nairobi (Kenya), Kampala (Uganda).
- Objective: To strengthen relations with the Overseas Rajasthanis.
- The 12 existing chapters will also be revived.
- Note: On 10 December 2024, the Pravasi Rajasthan Conference was held at 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment.

**Rajasthan-Haryana Joint Task Force for Yamuna Water Treaty**

- Decision in the meeting held in New Delhi on 7 January 2025.
- The task force will prepare the DPR and the Upper Yamuna River Board will provide technical support.
- Tripartite agreement between Rajasthan, Haryana and Central Government on 17 February 2024.
- First phase: Drinking water supply in Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and other areas.
- **Phase II:**
  - Churu: 35,000 hectares of irrigation area.
  - **Jhunjhunu:** 70,000 hectares of irrigation area.

**150 seed banks to be set up in Rajasthan**

- 150 Seed Banks for Seed Collection of Rare Nutritious Grasses and Fodder Trees.
- Emphasis on seed collection of Sevan, Dhaman grass and forest fodder plants.
- **Operations by Institutions:**
  - Forest Department: 32 seed banks.
  - Watershed Development Department: 72 Seed Banks.
  - NGO: 46 seed banks.
- **Major Districts:**
  - Udaipur (30), Jaipur (13), Chittorgarh (10), Bhilwara (11), Rajsamand (16), Bikaner (2), Jodhpur (5) etc.
- Benefits: Planting of grass and tree seeds in barren pastures and forest areas, availability of fodder to shepherds.

**National Road Safety Month 2025**

- Event period: 1 to 31 January 2025.
- Theme: 'Caring'.
- National Road Safety Week: 11-17 January 2025.
- Events: Awareness campaigns, workshops, events on traffic rules and road safety.

**Western Rajasthan Udyog Handicrafts Festival**

- Inauguration: 9 January 2025, Jodhpur
- Objective: To encourage handicrafts and artisans of the state

**Initiatives to promote handicrafts**

- Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024 and One District, One Product (ODOP) Policy Implemented
- 2% additional grant by state government in central government's PM Vishwakarma scheme
- PM Unity Mall to be set up in Jaipur
- 50 new clusters of handicrafts, handloom and MSMEs to be developed

**India Solar Expo 2025**

- 4th edition: January 17-19, Sitapura (Jaipur)
- Organizer: Department of Energy and Rajasthan Solar Association (RSA)
- Solar companies across the country sign 125 MoUs worth Rs 10,000 crore

**Global Conference of Startups (TiE Global Summit)**

- Event: December 2025, Jaipur
- 5,000 registered startups in Rajasthan
- **State Government's Startup Funding:**
  - Pre-seed grant: Rs. 2.40 lakh (additional Rs. 60,000 for women startups)
  - Viability grant: Rs 60 lakh
  - Scale-up Fund: Rs 2 crore
  - Equity funding: Up to Rs. 5 crore

**Global Stone Technology Forum (GSTF) 2025**

- 10th Edition: 9-10 January 2025, Kishangarh
- Industrial land auction process ends, direct allotment by RIICO
- **Key discussion topics:**
  - Stone Industry Waste Management
  - Advanced Technology in Stone Processing
- Participation of 500 entrepreneurs from across the country

**National Women and Child Development Camp**

- Event: 10-12 January 2025, Udaipur
- Topic: Discussion on Schemes, Innovations and Implementation related to Women and Children
- Participants: Ministers, Secretaries and officials of the Department of Women and Child Development of all states

**Jaipur International Film Festival 2025**

- Event: 17-21 January 2025, Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur
- Specialty: For the first time Bhojpuri films included
- **Major Awards:**
  - Best Actor: Devesh Ranjan, Prakash Jha
  - Best Actress: Seema Biswas
  - Best Children's Film: Kaikuttai Rani Handkerchief Queen
  - Best Short Documentary: Made in Paradise
  - Best Director: Parthasarathy Mahanta (Unheard Chinkhe)

**International Camel Festival 2025**

- Event: 10-12 January 2025, Bikaner
- Organizer: Tourism Department & District Administration, Bikaner
- Special Events: Heritage Walk, Kabaddi, Sand Art, Kho-Kho, Horse Racing, Tug of War etc.

**CSIR-CEERI's Semiconductor Chip Technology**

- Institute: CSIR-CEERI Pilani (Jhunjhunu)
- **Speciality:**
  - Capable of generating red, blue, green, and white light
  - Indigenous power efficient LED technology
  - Useful in automobile, medical, agriculture, communications, defense and space sectors
- Director: Dr. P.C. Panchariyas

**Development of Indigenous Endoscopes**

- Institute: CSIR-CEERI, Pilani
- **Speciality:**
  - 5 times Better Quality than Foreign Endoscopes
  - Portable and advanced image quality
  - Helpful in surgery

**Recognition of 8th breed of Bhimthadi horses**

- Institute: National Research Centre on Equines, Bikaner
- **Speciality:**
  - Official recognition of Bhimthadi breed by the central government
  - Published in the Gazette, thereby ensuring the rights of breeders

**Jaipur is the second fastest growing city in the country**

- In the Colliers Report 'Top 30 Emerging Cities in India', Nagpur has been ranked first and Jaipur second.
- Criteria of Assessment: Infrastructure, Population and Economic Factors.

**Top-5 Cities:**

1. Nagpur
2. Jaipur
3. Lucknow
4. to be filled
5. Kochi

**Rank of Rajasthan in the Duration of Assembly Session**

- Rajasthan ranked 8th in the 2017-2023 analysis.
- Average Assembly Session: 29 days per annum (should be 60 days as per rules).
- Top State: Kerala (44 days per annum)
- States with the least number of sessions: Haryana, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand (10-15 days).



**Abha ID creation in Rajasthan**

- Abha IDs of about 6 crore people were created.
- **Second place in the country.**
- 11,571 institutions functional as Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

**MoU Ranking at Rising Rajasthan Summit**

- Investment MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore (with 10,640 companies).
- Investment proposals worth Rs 26 lakh crore in energy sector, Rs 9 lakh crore in other industries .
- Proposals worth Rs 3.28 lakh crore in the manufacturing sector .
- Tourism sector ranks 5th in investment.

Field	Investment Proposal (in Rs. crore)	MoU
energy	26,07,804.45	531
Manufacturting	3,28,151.8	3675
Mining	1,72,709.46	1034
Urban Infra	1,21,617.08	637
tourism	73,813.91	1156

**Nirogi Rajasthan Dawa Yojana**

- Bikaner ranks first in the December 2024 ranking of the Chief Minister's Free Nirogi Rajasthan Dawa Yojana (MNNRDY) released by the Medical Department of Rajasthan.
- Jaipur is at 10th position, while Jaisalmer district is at 34th position.

**Top-5 Districts**

1. Bikaner
2. Hanumangarh
3. Sriganganagar
4. Dungarpur
5. Sikar

**Rajasthan Lokayukta Annual Report (2025)**

- Presentation: Submitted to Governor Haribhau Bagade on January 1, 2025.
- Content: Action, investigation and findings by the Lokayukta.
- Current Lokayukta: Justice Pratap Krishna Lohra.
- Headquarters: Jaipur.
- Procedure: The Governor will present the report to the Assembly.

**Work Place Report 2024**

- Issuer: Workplace Culture Consulting Firm 'Avatar'.
- Heading: Top Cities for Women in India-TCWII
- 5 safest cities for women : Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune.

- Women in South India feel more secure at workplace.

- **List of 5 cities of Rajasthan**

1. Jaipur – 16th position
2. Jodhpur – 34th position
3. Ajmer – 39th position
4. Kota – 42nd position
5. Udaipur – 84th position

**Bird Census in Rajasthan (January 28 - February 2, 2025)**

- Organizer: Rajasthan Forest Department.
- **Aim:**
  - Counting of migratory (aquatic) and local birds in reservoirs.
  - Record of rare species recorded.
  - Estimation of number of birds region-wise.

**Online Investor Interface (launched by BIP)**

- Institution: Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP), Department of Industry.
- **Aim:**
  - To encourage and provide guidance to investors.
  - Monitoring of MoU held at Rising Rajasthan Summit.
  - Investors have the flexibility to check the status of the MoU, make suggestions, and make appointments with secretaries.
- Significance: Investors will get updated information and quick resolution.

**February****Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy-2025**

- Approved by the State Government on 5th February 2025.
- Implemented with the aim of making Rajasthan a global garment manufacturing hub.
- The policy will promote sustainable growth, employment generation, skill development, innovation, productivity and exports.
- The efficiency and reliability of local textile producers will increase.
- The state is expected to attract investment worth about Rs 40,000 crore and create new employment opportunities.

**Rajasthan Data Centre Policy-2025**

- Approved by the State Government on 5th February 2025.
- Moving towards making Rajasthan a major hub of data centre industry.

- Incentives will be given for setting up data centres in the private sector.
- Efficiency, security and reliability will be ensured under the policy.
- This includes various financial and policy exemptions such as asset creation incentives, interest subvention, stamp duty and relief in electricity duty.
- Investment of about 20 thousand crore rupees likely in the next five years.

**Rajasthan Logistics Policy**

- The Rajasthan government approved the policy on 5th February 2025.
- Objective: To stimulate industrial development, enhance connectivity and reduce logistics costs.
- There will be mapping of logistics facilities.
- Attracting private investment will boost job creation.
- Warehouses, silos, cold storages, inland container depots, air freight stations, cargo terminals, trucker parks and logistics park developers will get capital subsidy, interest subvention and tax concessions.
- A maximum of 10 acres or 10% of the land will be reserved for logistics facilities in the upcoming industrial areas of RIICO.

**Rajasthan Youth Policy-2025**

- The Rajasthan government approved the policy on 5th February 2025.
- It will replace the Rajasthan Youth Policy-2013.

**Aim:**

- To ensure access to quality education, skills, health, employment, entrepreneurship and basic rights of the youth.
- To promote the participation of youth in social, economic, political and cultural fields.
- To support emerging talents in arts, sports, culture and literature.

**New Rajasthan Excise and Alcohol Restraint Policy (2025-2029)**

- Policy Period: Applicable from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2029.

**Key Provisions:**

- Timely amendments and amendments to the rules through annual reviews.
- The number of liquor shops will remain 7665, restructuring under cluster model in districts.

- The entire process of permissions, licenses and permits is online, automated approvals ensured.
- License Fee: 5% of the annual guarantee amount will be charged.
- Bar Opening Permission:
- Acceptance at airports and hotels with 10+ rooms.
- Seasonal bar license facility in tourist areas (Jaisalmer, Mount Abu, Kumbhalgarh, Pushkar).

**Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Mandi Shramik Kalyan Yojana**

- Beginning: 2015
- Objective: Improving the standard of living of workers in agricultural produce markets.
- Marriage assistance: The assistance amount for the marriage of two daughters of workers was increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.

**Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana**

- Launch: 26 February 2025, from Udaipur.
- Beneficiaries: 1.3 lakh students of government schools in Udaipur division.
- Insurance Cover: Personal Accident Insurance of ₹1 lakh.
- Innovation: Personal Accident Insurance for School Students Launched for the First Time in Rajasthan.
- Insurance Providers: Wonder Cement, Zurich Kotak Insurance, State Bank of India.
- Expansion Plan: Benefit 1 crore school children in future.

**Kota Cares: Student Welfare Improvement Program**

- Launched: 24 February 2025, by Kota District Administration.
- Aim: To reduce stress and suicide cases among students preparing for competitive exams.

**Attributes:**

- Joint initiative of district administration, coaching institutes, hostel associations and local communities.
- Comprehensive reforms will be implemented for student welfare.

**Agro Clinic Scheme in Rajasthan**

- Agro clinics will be set up in 20 districts in the initial phase.
- Objective: Timely investigation of pest diseases and infestation in crops.

- Districts covered: Jhunjhunu, Churu, Sikar, Jaipur, Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Dholpur, Dausa, Tonk, Bikaner, Pali, Udaipur, Hanumangarh, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Jodhpur, Kota and Sriganganagar.
- Cost: ₹11 lakh per clinic.
- Plant disease and agricultural research officers will be appointed at each clinic.

**Chief Minister Sportsperson Insurance Scheme 2024**

- Run by Rajasthan State Sports Council.
- Players native to Rajasthan under the age of 60 are eligible.
- Benefits to medal winners of Olympic, Paralympic, World Cup, Commonwealth, Asian and South Asian Games.

**“Medication at Your Doorstep” Plan**

- Scheme prepared by Rajasthan Health Department.
- More than 64 lakh people above 60 years of age will be provided 1668 medicines at their homes.
- The supply and management of the drug will be done through e-medicine software.
- Pharmacists and delivery workers will prepare medicines through the portal or app.
- This scheme is beneficial for senior citizens suffering from various diseases.

**District Agri-Rural Transformation Plan (DARTP)**

- A scheme run by the NITI Aayog, which aims at the overall development of agriculture and rural economy.
- Focuses on income growth, job creation and improving the standard of living.
- Implemented in seven districts of seven states, including Hanumangarh in Rajasthan.

**AgriStack Scheme**

- The pilot project will start from Sikar in December 2024.
- Farmer registry campaign started at the state level from 5 February 2025.
- Ensuring affordable credit to farmers, high-quality inputs, access to markets and benefits of government schemes.
- Organizing camps at Gram Panchayat level.

**“One District-One Sports” Scheme**

- The «One District One Sports» scheme has been implemented by the Rajasthan Sports Council.

- The games have been allocated to 33 districts of Rajasthan.
- Chairman of Rajasthan Sports Council: Neeraj K. Pawan.

Sport	District
Kabaddi	Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Nagaur, Jaipur
Women's Wrestling	Alwar, Bharatpur
Volleyball	Barmer
Football	Baran, Dausa, Sawai Madhopur
Basketball	Bhilwara, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Pali, Sikar
Archery	Bikaner, Banswara, Sirohi
Athletics	Bundi, Churu, Jalore, Sriganganagar, Tonk, Pratapgarh
Hockey game	Dungarpur, Dholpur, Hanumangarh, Rajsamand
Gymnastics	Jodhpur, Jaisalmer
Wrestling	Kota
Swimming	Udaipur
Tennisball Cricket	Karauli

**Digital map project in 10 cities of Rajasthan**

- Launched on 18th February 2025 under the Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme.
- The Rajasthan government chose Bhiwadi, Kishangarh, Beawar, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Pushkar, Bagru, Behror, Nawalgarh and Nathdwara.
- Digitization of land records will be done through drone survey.
- This will accurately record the demarcation of properties and ownership information.

**Operation Cyber Shield**

- Cyber security campaign conducted in Rajasthan from 2nd to 31st January.
- Objective: Cyber crime prevention and making citizens aware of cyber security.
- Information was given on prevention of online fraud, identity theft and other cyber crimes.

**Operation Vajra**

- Launched on 23rd February 2025 in Jaipur.
- Campaign against illegal vehicles by RTO and traffic police.

**‘Neenv-Ladkiyan Bhaage Sabse Aage’ Program**

- Under the initiative Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign organized by the Baran district administration.

- Objective: To promote the physical, mental and social development of the girl child.
- Operated by 'Hamari Laado Foundation'.
- Students of classes 6, 7 and 8 were given special training for 10 weeks.

**TB Mukht Gram Panchayat Campaign**

- Operated by the State Decay Section, Rajasthan, will run till 24 March 2025.
- Objective: To strengthen TB eradication, timely detection, treatment and prevention.

**'Meri Policy Mere Hath' Campaign**

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana launched in Rajasthan on 4 February 2025.
- Policy distribution in camps at Gram Panchayat headquarters from 5 February to 15 March 2025.
- The scheme will be publicized through Kisan Pathshala.

**Revised PKC (Ramjal Setu) Project**

- Agreement between Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Central Government on 5th December 2024.
- 17 districts of Rajasthan will get 4102.6 MCM water for drinking water, irrigation and industry, out of which 522.60 MCM will be recycled.
- Rajasthan will get 3580 MCM water, out of which 3310 MCM will be used and 270 MCM will be stored in Dungri dam.
- Madhya Pradesh will get 3120.09 MCM water.
- Surplus water from the tributaries of Chambal will be diverted to other rivers.

**Mukhyamantri Shikshit Rajasthan Abhiyan (MSRA)**

- Under the National Education Policy 2020, the goal is to develop Rajasthan as an ideal state.
- Calls for increasing enrolment and improving quality of education in government schools.
- Out of 202 works of policy, 185 works are included in this campaign.
- Improving the education system through actions divided into four key areas.

**Swachhta Halla Bol Campaign**

- Organized by the Municipal Corporation Jaipur Greater, the Swachh Survekshan 2024 focused on increasing public participation.

- Campaign to raise awareness about proper management of waste and sanitation.
- The Municipal Corporation and the Fineloo team together formed 7 teams.
- Awareness programmes on management and proper disposal of dry and wet waste.

**IIFA Green Challenge Campaign**

- Tree plantation in the name of each person participating in IIFA 2025 Jaipur.
- Objective: To promote environmental protection and greenery.
- 15,000+ trees will be planted, including Arjuna, Badam, Gulmohar, Teak, Neem, Kachnar etc.
- The name of the person related to each tree will be added.
- A dedicated portal will be developed for monitoring of tree plantation.
- Local administrations and institutions will assist in care.

**'Babul Ki Bitiya' campaign**

- Launched by Pratapgarh Collector Dr. Anjali Rajoria.
- Goal: To make single women self-reliant by providing administrative support.
- Formation of Special Survey Teams at Gram Panchayat level.
- Assistance will be provided by identifying eligible women receiving pension and disadvantaged.

**Sankalp Project**

- Launched in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan.
- Objective: To reduce neonatal mortality and ensure safe delivery services.
- Powered by the National Health Mission (NHM), Rajasthan.
- Support of ICMR, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other development agencies.

**Rahul Sharma**

- Represented India at the BIMSTEC Summit (19-24 February 2025) in New Delhi.
- He led a 16-member international team and was the chairman of the recommendation committee.

**Madan Rathore**

- BJP elected as Rajasthan BJP chief.
- Rajya Sabha member from Rajasthan.
- Appointed as BJP president in July 2024, term three years.



**Rajiv Singh Thakur**

- Rajiv Singh Thakur, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as an advisor to NITI Aayog.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet temporarily upgraded this post to the post of Additional Secretary.
- Earlier, in December 2024, IAS Sanjay Malhotra was appointed as the RBI governor.

**Justice Manish Sharma**

- On 17 February 2025, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Manindra Mohan Srivastava administered the oath of office to Manish Sharma.
- Became a judge from the advocate quota, the central government issued the appointment notification on 14 February 2025.
- Appointed on the recommendation of the Collegium with the approval of the President.
- The number of judges in the Rajasthan High Court is now 34.

**Sanjay Agarwal**

- Elected President of CII Rajasthan.
- Rajnish Bhandari appointed vice-president, tenure 2025-26.

**C.P. Joshi**

- MP from Chittorgarh.
- Chairman appointed to Lok Sabha Committee on Petitions.
- Member of Committee on Public Undertakings and Committee on Energy.

**Vaidya Tarachand Sharma**

- Awarded Ayurveda's highest Dhanvantari Award.
- Received the honor at the Dhanvantari Award distribution ceremony in Mumbai, 20 February 2025.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, a shawl and a scroll.

**Kapil Dev**

- Kapil Dev Meena, Controller of Accounts and Director of the Indian Meteorological Department, was included in the Antarctica Expedition-2025.
- Expedition Operations from Cape Town (South Africa) to Antarctica.

**Aim:**

- The study of the effects of climate change and global warming.
- Analysis of environmental and scientific aspects of Antarctica.
- Improvement in weather forecasting and research.

**Two pilots from Rajasthan in Suryakiran aerobatics team**

- Two pilots from Rajasthan join IAF's Surya Kiran aerobatics team
  1. Akhil Charcreek (Jaipur)
  2. Rajesh Prajapat (Sikar)
- 14 pilots of the team participated in many prestigious shows of the IAF.
- Created global recognition by participating in more than 750 aerobatics shows.

**Rajesh Sharma**

- Retired IAS Rajesh Sharma was appointed as the chairman of Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC).
- He is currently a member of the Commission.

**IPS Pankaj Kumar Chaudhary**

- For the first time in Rajasthan, a senior IPS officer has been demoted.
- 2009 batch IPS officer Pankaj Chaudhary demoted after investigation into family case.
- Pay from Level 11 to Level 10 for 3 years.
- The Level 10 series gets fresher IPS officers.

**Imran Khan**

- Imran Khan, a resident of Alwar, is the top 10 finalist of the Global Teacher Prize at the World Government Summit.
- He was the only teacher from India, though could not win the award.
- He shared the experiences of the app developed during the Corona epidemic.

**Goal**

- 10-year-old Lakshya (a class 5 student) campaigned against drugs.
- More than 50,000 people were administered the pledge not to take drugs.
- Honored by the Governor.
- The Sriganganagar district administration appointed him as the brand ambassador.

**Sushil Sharma**

- Rajasthan's Sushil Sharma (founder and CEO of Marwari Catalysts) has been appointed as the vice-president of the startup wing of the BICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Objective of the wing: To provide financial and strategic support to potential startups.
- Promote coordination between investors and startups.

**Kamla Bhil**

- Died on 12 February 2025.
- He was a three-time MLA from Sagwara from 1980 to 1992.
- From 1981 to 1989, she was a Minister of State and Deputy Minister in various departments.

**Dr. Mahendra Bhanawat (Demise)**

- Eminent folk art expert, former Director of Bharatiya Folk Kala Mandal (Udaipur).
- Compositions: 'Rajasthan Swar Lahiri', 'Nirbhay Meera'.

**Honour:**

- Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi's Distinguished Literary Award.
- Marwar Ratna Komal Kothari Award by former Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur.
- Dr. Komal Kothari Folk Art Award by West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur.

**Rajasthan's first film city**

- It will be located in the Jawai dam area near Sumerpur in Pali district.
- Total cost 500 crores, area 152 acres.
- The third largest film city in the country (after Hyderabad's Ramoji and Mumbai).
- The target is to complete the construction in three years.
- Located between Marwar and Mewar (Jodhpur-Udaipur).
- Studios, academies, sports centers, urban and rural locations will be available.

**7 districts of Rajasthan included in Cheetah Corridor**

- Plan under the Action Plan of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- A 17,000 sq km corridor on the Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh border, of which 6,500 sq km is in Rajasthan.
- Baran, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar and Chittorgarh in Rajasthan.

**Country's first 'Mission Liver Smile' clinic**

- Rajasthan will become the first state to open liver clinics in every district hospital.
- 'Mission Liver Smile' clinics will be set up in all district hospitals for non-alcoholic fatty liver.
- Liver fibrosis and severity of the disease will be detected with FIB-4 score, CBC, LFT screening.

- In the first phase, the trial will be conducted in 10 districts including Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Alwar.
- According to the ICMR report, liver cirrhosis is the leading cause of death in Rajasthan.

**Largest Panchakarma Centre in India – Jodhpur**

- An international level Panchakarma centre is being set up at Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur.
- Construction at a cost of ₹43 crore in 2.80 hectare area.
- Construction of 100 Panchakarma Huts (Super Deluxe, Deluxe and General) and artificial lake.
- Diseases like insomnia, joint pain, skin diseases and paralysis will be treated with Panchakarma therapy.

**Biological Park approved in Pushkar**

- The Central Government approved the Biological Park in Pushkar (Ajmer).
- The Central Zoo Authority of India approved 12 enclosures.
- Four species of deer – Chinkara, Black Buck, Chital, Sambar and Bengal Tiger, Lion, Panther, Desert Fox, Indian Wolf will be kept.

**Tata Power's Solar Project**

- Established by Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited in Bhanipura (Bikaner).
- Total capacity 300 MW AC, two units (100 MW AC + 200 MW AC).
- Increased efficiency and production from glass-to-glass solar modules.

**1.89 MW Solar Power Plant in Nagaur**

- Established at Muwana (Nagaur), under Rising Rajasthan MoU.
- Developed by Solar 91 Cleantech Ltd.
- Solar power generation with modern technology, reduction in carbon emissions.

**Rajasthan's first Carbon Zero hotel**

- 'The Eco Sattva' begins at Hotel Kota.
- Net Carbon Zero Hotel, 63 rooms in total.
- Operated by Eco Hotels & Resorts Ltd.

**Panorama of Veer Tejaji Maharaj**

- Grand panorama construction proposed at Sursura (Kishangarh, Ajmer).
- The place of nirvana of Veer Tejaji Maharaj.
- A huge fair is held on Bhadrpada Shukla Dashami.

**Establishment of Sports University at Achrol**

- Rajasthan Budget 2024-25 announces Maharana Pratap Sports University at a cost of ₹ 250 crore.
- It will be set up in Achrol, Jaipur, focusing on preparing sports coaches and specialists.
- At the divisional level, sports colleges will be started in temporary buildings at a cost of ₹ 50-50 crore.
- Budget also allocated for 'Ultra Fitness Centre' in Jaipur.

**Rajasthan's first Zero Liquid Discharge Plant**

- Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) plant for water conservation installed at Jaipur Dairy at a cost of ₹20 crore.
- Saving 6.5 lakh litres of water every day and 24 crore litres annually.
- Established for the first time in Rajasthan through the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

**National Criminal Sciences University (NFSU) – Jaipur**

- The new campus of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) will be set up in Jaipur.
- The main campus is located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- NFSU campuses will be opened in 9 states including Rajasthan by the Union Home Ministry.

**Creation of Oxygen Zone in Pali**

- An oxygen zone will be developed on 30 bighas of land in Giradara village of Pali district.
- More than one lakh saplings of 100 species will be planted, which will be 2 feet apart.
- With the Akira Miyawa technique, the plants will grow up to 40 feet in three years.
- This will reduce the temperature by 10 degrees Celsius and provide pure oxygen to the local people.

**NIA Jaipur wins first prize in 'Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan'**

- The National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur bagged the first prize in the first phase of the central government's 'Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan'.
- Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sanjeev Sharma received three citations and awards in the campaign organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and NCISM.
- In the category of PG colleges, NIA Jaipur ranked first in the country, while in terms of numerical terms, it secured the fourth position.

**Shri Fatehsinh Rathore Memorial Wildlife Conservation Award**

- Dr. Kamlesh Sharma was awarded the 'People and Nature' Services to Wildlife Award.
- Awarded by Tiger Watch Institution (Ranthambore).
- Award for Wildlife Conservation and Awareness through Photography on Environmental Issues.

**'Best Creative Film Award'**

- Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2025 was held in Mumbai from 30th January – 1st February 2025.
- Rajasthan Tourism was awarded the 'Best Creative Film Award'.
- The award-winning film 'Romance of Rajasthan' showcases the cultural heritage, natural beauty and tourism of the state.

**State-level Republic Day Celebration 2025 – Best Tableau Award**

- In the ceremony held in Udaipur, the tableau of Banswara district stood first in the district category.
- The theme of the tableau was 'Tribal, Religious and Historical Places'.
- The tableau of the Tourism Department got the first place in the department category, whose theme was 'Pride of India, Rajasthan'.

**Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra Award**

- The award was given to Bhilwara Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).
  - The centre is functioning under MPUAT, Udaipur and ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur.
- Awarded for contribution to innovation and technological transfer in agriculture.
- The award was presented at the International Conference on Agriculture-2025 on February 20-21 in Sangrur, Punjab.

**IDA Award to Ramchandra Choudhary**

- The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) announced the IDA Fellowship Award to Ramchandra Chaudhary, Chairman of Ajmer Dairy.
- The award will be given for his contribution to dairy production, processing and marketing.

**Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) 2025**

- Held in Mehrangarh, Jodhpur from 1-5 February 2025.
- Theme: 'Cinema Spaces – Panorama of Cinema in Rajasthan'.

- Best Rajasthani Language Film – ‘Plot No. 302’.
- Best Director – Dharmendra Upadhyay (‘Mhari Bindani’).
- Best Actor – Altaf Hussain

**New Norms for Restructuring of Municipal Corporations in Rajasthan**

- In Rajasthan, the process of reorganization of wards of urban bodies has been initiated.
- Survey and ward delimitation will be done for reorganization.
- The purpose of the reorganization is to increase the efficiency of the city administration and carry out administrative reforms.

**New Standards of Ward Reorganisation:**

population	ward
15,000	20 Wards
25,000	25 Wards
80,000	45 Wards
1 Lakh	55 Wards
2 Lakh	60 Wards
3.5 Lakh	65 Wards
5 Lakh	70 Wards
10 Lakh	80 Wards
13 Lakh	100 Wards
15 Lakh	110 Wards
25 Lakh	130 Wards
35 Lakh	150 Wards

**New Guidelines for Restructuring and Restructuring of Panchayats**

- New instructions were issued to the Collectors to facilitate the reorganization and restructuring of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads.
- Reorganization of Gram Panchayats will be given a relaxation of 15% on the basis of population.
- The Panchayat Samiti has been set as a 2 lakh population, in which there will be a provision of 15%.
- The minimum population for the gram panchayat was fixed at 3,000 and the maximum at 5,500.
- In the desert area (parts of Bikaner, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Baran), the scale of

Panchayat Samiti has been fixed at 1.50 lakh population, in which 15% relaxation will be given.

- Collectors were instructed to prepare proposals on the basis of the 2011 census.

**New guidelines for restructuring of panchayats**

- Panchayati Raj Department issues new guidelines to Collectors for reorganization, restructuring and re-demarcation.
- Population relaxation up to 20% in Panchayat formation in Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Churu, Balotra and Phalodi.
- In other districts, collectors can make changes in population up to 15%.
- Guidelines for preparation of proposals of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishads on the basis of 2011 census have been prescribed.

**Allocation to Rajasthan in Union Budget**

- Rajasthan has been allocated Rs 85,716 crore from central taxes this year, an increase of Rs 10,000 crore from last year.
- The state received a 6.26% share in total central taxes.
- Rs 9,960 crore has been allocated for railway infrastructure development.
- This is 14.5 times more than the average annual allocation of 2009-2014 (Rs 682 crore).

**Important Decisions of Rajasthan Government**

- The Rajasthan Land Revenue (Amendment Validation) Bill has been approved, which will settle the cases related to land allotment in the industrial areas of RIICO.
- The Rajasthan Board of Taxes will be merged with the Board of Revenue to ensure time-bound disposal of revenue and tax appeals after the implementation of GST.
- The post of Chief Editor was created in the Assembly Secretariat.

**Change in designation of Vice-Chancellors**

- The Rajasthan Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill-2024 has been approved.
- In State Universities, the designation of «Vice-Chancellor» will be «Kulguru» and «Pro-Vice-Chancellor» will be «Prati Kulguru».
- In the English version, the designations of Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor will remain the same.



### Key Decisions of the Council of Ministers (8 February 2025)

- The bhog amount in 593 temples of the Devasthan department was fixed at Rs 3,000.
- The remuneration of part-time priests will be increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,500 per month.

### MoU between Bikaner Engineering College and Equine Research Centre

- A partnership agreement (MoU) was signed between Bikaner Engineering College and Equine Research Center.
- Aim: To develop a device to control the diet of donkeys and horses.
- Technical base: Use of electronic, embedded and IoT (Internet of Things) technologies

### Rajasthan at 38th National Games 2025

- Held: January 28 - February 14, Uttarakhand.
- Motto: «From Resolution to Summit».
- Mascot: Mauli (Himalayan Monal Bird).
- Torch: Tejaswini.
- Competitions: 32 sports and 4 demonstration events (Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Rafting, Yogasana).
- Participants: Total 11,354 players.
- From Rajasthan: 421 players and 110 officials.
- Medal Tally: 9 Gold, 11 Silver, 23 Bronze (Total 43 Medals).
- Rajasthan finished 15th in this competition.

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Wushu (Most Medals Won)	4	1	7	12
2. Shooting	1	2	0	3
3. Kabaddi	1	0	1	2
4. Archery	1	0	1	2
5. Weightlifting	1	0	0	1
6. Canoeing and Kayaking	1	0	0	1
7. Cycling	0	3	1	4
8. Taekwondo	0	1	1	2
9. Boxing	0	1	1	2
10. Netball	0	1	1	2
11. Athletics	0	1	1	2
12. Wrestling	0	1	0	1

13. Mallakhamb	0	0	2	2
14. Yogasana	0	0	2	2
15. Judo	0	0	1	1
16. Squash	0	0	1	1
17. Volleyball	0	0	1	1
18. Handball	0	0	1	1
19. Badminton	0	0	1	1

- **Wushu:** Rajasthan won the maximum 4 gold medals, Shubham Gaura won the record gold medal.
- **Weightlifting:** Harcharan Singh (109 kg category) won the gold medal with a lift of 347 kg.
- **Canoeing and Kayaking:** Pradyuman Singh Rathore won the gold medal.
- **Archery:** Rajat Chauhan won the individual gold medal in the compound event.
- **Beach Kabaddi:**
  - The Rajasthan men's team won the gold medal for the first time.
  - They beat Haryana 44-42 in the final.
- **Shooting:** Anantjeet Naruka won gold medal in skeet event.

### Bronze medal in Kalaripayattu

- Gurunidhi Singh Ranawat and Harshvardhan Singh Rathore won Rajasthan's first bronze medal in Kalaripayattu.
- This sport was included as an exhibition sport, so did not add to the total medals.

### Para Asia Cup Archery (Bangkok, Thailand)

- Dhanaram Godara and Harvinder Singh won the gold medal in the recurve team event.
- Shyam Sundar Swami (Bikaner) won a total of 2 gold and 1 silver medal
  - Individual event – Gold medal.
  - Mixed Team Event (with Sarita Kumari) – Gold Medal.
  - Compound Team Event (with Rakesh Kumar) – Silver Medal.
- Shyam Sundar Swami finished second in the compound event with 689 points.
- Dhanaram Godara finished third in the recurve event with a score of 634.

### Soft Hockey National Senior and Sub-Junior Championships

- 4th National Soft Hockey Championship: 21-23 February 2025, Faridabad.

- Rajasthan won gold medals in senior men's and sub-junior boys' category.
- Senior Men's Category: Rajasthan beat Haryana 3-0
- Sub-Junior Boys Category: Rajasthan beat Haryana 3-2.
- Junior Boys category: Rajasthan beat Punjab 2-1, silver medal.

**Junior National Archery Championship**

- Event: Bholpur, West Bengal.
- Performance of Rajasthan:
- Men's team: Bronze medal by defeating Haryana.
- Women's team: Bronze medal by defeating Andhra Pradesh.

**71st Senior National Kabaddi Championship**

- Event: Mormajra, Karnal (Haryana).
- The Rajasthan women's team won the bronze medal, it was their fourth bronze medal.
- President of Rajasthan Kabaddi Association: Tejashwi Singh Gehlot.

**National Para Athletics Championship**

- Event: 18-20 February, Chennai.
- Rajasthan won a total of 63 medals:
  - 14 Gold, 23 Silver, 26 Bronze.

**2nd National Senior Legrugge Competition**

- Event: Udaipur.
- Rajasthan won the gold medal.

**Asian Youth Lakros Championships**

- Organized: February 20-23, Okinawa, Japan.
- Selected players from Rajasthan: Mohanlal Gameti, Khumaram Gameti, Pranay Tripathi.

**Junior Asian Track Cycling**

- Event: Nilei, Malaysia.
- Harshita won 4 medals: 2 silver, 2 bronze.

**11th National Ice Stock Championship (1-2 February, Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir)**

- Rajasthan won a total of 4 medals.
- Jaipur's transgender player Nandini Sindhi won 1 silver and 1 bronze medal.
- Ritika Singh, a transgender player from Malpura in Tonk, won 1 gold and 1 silver medal (along with Nandini Sindhi in the team event).

**Achievements of Ritika Singh**

- Won 4 medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze) in the National Ice Stock Championships.

- Gold medal in the Under-23 Singles (Distance Event).
- Silver medal for Rajasthan in the team event.
- Bronze medal in individual target event and team event.
- Ritika is the country's first transgender player.

**2nd National Sub-Junior & Senior Legrooge Championship (Udaipur, Rajasthan)**

- Rajasthan won the title in the senior category (women and men).
- Women's category: Rajasthan beat Haryana 16-3 in the final.
- Sunita Meena and Jula Kumari Gurjar (17 goals each ) joint-best scorers.
- Men's section: Rajasthan beat Odisha 14-3 in the final.
- Rajasthan captain Mohanlal Gameti (21 goals) is the best scorer.
- Sub-Junior Category: Haryana Winner, Rajasthan Runner-up.
- President of Rajasthan Lakerose Association: Ashok Parnami.

**68th National School Girls Cricket Tournament (Under-19) (29 January - 3 February, Udaipur)**

- Maharashtra defeated Uttar Pradesh by 16 runs to finish first.
- Pranjali was adjudged Player of the Match in the final.
- Uttar Pradesh was the runner-up, Rajasthan finished third.

**Junior National Archery Championship**

- Rajasthan's men's and women's teams won bronze medals.
- Men's team: Won medal by defeating Haryana.
- Women's team: Won medal by defeating Andhra Pradesh.

**National Table Tennis Championship**

- Aarna Sawhney won the silver medal in the under-11 girls category.
- The championship (UTT 86th Junior & Cadet) was held at Indore.
- In the final, Keshika, Purkar of Maharashtra lost 3-1.

**Karate State Championships**

- Juhi Sharma won the gold medal in the state championship for the 7th time in a row.

- Secured first place in the under 12 age group.
- She also won a gold medal at the International Karate Championship (58 kg category) in Kolkata.

**Om Prakash Choudhary**

- Om Prakash Chaudhary has been appointed as the coach of the Indian Air Pistol team.
- He was the national champion for 10 consecutive years.
- Won a gold medal at the 2024 Asian Shooting Championships (Jakarta).
- In 2010, he won the 'Best South Asian Shooter' award.

**National Senior Yogasana Competition**

- Dr. Satish Chaudhary (Udaipur) was appointed as the referee.
- The competition was held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- 49th National Senior Men's and Women's Yogasana Competition (13-16 February 2025).

**Rajasthan State Judo Association Elections**

- On 25 February 2025, Harish Chandra Sharma was elected unopposed as the Speaker.
- Vice Presidents: Agra Ram Chaudhary, Gauri Chaudhary.
- Secretary General: Mahipal Grewal.

**Sairaj Bahutule**

- Sairaj Bahutule becomes the new spin coach of Rajasthan Royals.
- He was previously associated with Rajasthan Royals (2018-21).
- He played 2 Tests and 8 ODIs for India.
- Scored 600+ wickets and 6000+ runs in domestic cricket.
- Coached for KKR and Gujarat Lions in IPL.
- Rajasthan Royals Head Coach: Rahul Dravid.

**Special Committee for Media Monitoring**

- The Election Department constituted a 4-member committee under the chairmanship of Assistant Chief Electoral Officer at the state level.
- The committee will coordinate action to be taken at the district level on misleading information and wrong facts.
- A 6-member committee (DMCMC) headed by District Election Officer is working in all the districts.
- Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan: Naveen Mahajan.

**Cancer vaccine manufacturing in Rajasthan**

- The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) gave permission to Mahatma Gandhi Medical College in Jaipur to manufacture dendritic cell vaccine.
- This will be the first medical college in the country where cancer vaccine will be manufactured.
- The Government of India provided a grant of ₹ 3 crore for this project.

**Catchment Tour in Rajasthan**

- The Catchment Journey started from 5th February 2025.
- State level programme organized in Baran under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana 2.0.
- 149 projects (7.50 lakh hectares) approved in the State from 2021-22 to 2026.
- The yatra will pass through 107 projects and 214 gram panchayats in 27 districts.
- Aim: To increase awareness and public participation of catchment activities. \*\*

**Hybrid Barrage in Ramjal Setu Project**

- The hybrid barrage will be built under the «Ramjal Setu Project» at Sripura in Chittorgarh.
- ERCP Corporation floats tender worth ₹693.64 crore.
- Objective: To conserve the wastewater of the Brahmani River and connect it with the Banas River.
- Water will be supplied to the Brahmani river by canal from Rana Pratap Sagar.
- The tunnel will transport water to Bisalpur, 140 km away from Sripura Brahmani Barrage.

**E-vehicle promotion fund**

- The Rajasthan government set up an e-vehicle promotion fund of ₹200 crore under the Electric Vehicle Policy-2022.
- The fund was created to reimburse and grant the State GST amount to the buyers of electric vehicles as per FAME-II guidelines.
- Applicable to electric vehicles purchased after 1st September 2022 and registered in Rajasthan.
- To get the subsidy, the purchase of the vehicle from the state of Rajasthan is mandatory.

**First National Lok Adalat of the year 2025**

- It will be held on 8 March 2025 at Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur.
- Objective: To settle the pending cases with mutual consent.

**Anti-drone system on India-Pakistan border**

- Anti-drone systems will be installed on the border adjacent to Rajasthan and Punjab to prevent drone infiltration from Pakistan.
- These systems will be installed in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar.
- Sriganganagar and Bikaner have the highest number of drugs and weapons smuggled by drones.
- A total of 1,096 km of roads will also be constructed in Rajasthan.

**National Productivity Week**

- National Productivity Day was observed on 12-18 February 2025.
- Objective: To increase quality, efficiency and competitiveness by optimizing the use of resources.
- Organizers: National Productivity Council (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India) & Rajasthan State Productivity Council, Jaipur.
- Theme: «Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups, From Idea to Impact.» «

**Contact Portal 2.0**

- Launch: Sampark Portal 2.0 will be launched in Rajasthan.
- The grievance redressal system will be made more effective with innovative techniques.
- The online tracking system will be more transparent.
- The complainant will get every update of the resolution process.

**Fifth Vande Bharat Express in Rajasthan**

- Operations started from February 2025 between Bikaner to Delhi.
- First: April 2023, Ajmer-Delhi. \*\*
- 2nd: July 2023, Jodhpur-Ahmedabad. \*\*
- 3rd: September 2023, Jaipur-Udaipur. \*\*
- Fourth: September 2024, Udaipur-Kota-Agra.

**12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum**

- Event: 3-5 March 2025, Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.

- Topic: «Towards Circular Societies: Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific».
- Aim: To promote the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and Circular Economy, share policy information.
- Combination: Launched by UNCRD in 2009.

**First All India Conference of Transgenders**

- Location: Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- Event Period: 17-26 February 2025.
- Organizer: Gaddipati Saloni Nayak (in memory of Guru Anita Bai).
- Purpose: To discuss the rights, traditions and spirituality of the transgender community.
- Importance: To strengthen social and cultural identity.

**State Level Conference on Dam Safety and Rehabilitation**

- Event: 17 February 2025, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- Topic: «Dam Safety, Rehabilitation and Dam Safety Act, 2021».
- Program: Detailed discussion on dam development in technical sessions by experts.

**Season spring festival**

- Location: Shilpgram, Udaipur.
- Event Date: February 28 - March 2, 2025.
- Organizer: West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur.
- Highlights: Classical music and dance performances to welcome the spring season.

**ESDM Skill Conclave-2025**

- ESDM: Electronics System Design & Manufacturing.
- Location: CSIR-CEERI, Pilani, Jhunjhunu.
- Organizer: Vijnana Bharati-Rajasthan.

**‘Water Vision 2047’ National Conference**

- Event: 18-19 February 2025, Udaipur.
- Organizer: Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Objective: Discussion on maximum use of water sources and interlinking of rivers.
- Participants: Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Chief Minister, Minister of Water Resources and other officials.

**United Official Language Conference (North, Central, West Zone)**

- Inauguration: 17 February 2025, Jaipur (by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma).



- Special Guest: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.
- Organizer: Central Department of Official Languages.
- Objective: To promote Hindi as the official language.
- Main Activities: Honoring those who have done excellent work in Hindi, distribution of 110 prizes, Rajbhasha Exhibition.

**Conservation Capability Festival "Enabled" 2025**

- Event: Jaipur.
- Organizer: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Oil & Gas Companies.
- Inauguration: 14 February 2025 (by Governor Haribhau Bagade).
- Key Points: Emphasis on promoting sustainable fuel sources (e.g. ethanol blends).

**Jalore Festival 2025**

- Launch: 15 February 2025, Jalore.
- Organizer: Tourism Department, District Administration and Jalore Development Committee.
- Aim: Promotion of folk dance, folk music, cultural heritage and local products.

**Desert Festival 2025**

- Event: 10-12 February 2025, Jaisalmer.
- Organizer: Tourism Department & District Administration, Jaisalmer.
- Objective: To promote traditional folk arts, to provide a platform to artists and musicians.
- Honours: Dheeraj Purohit (Jaisalmer) – Marusree, Komal Siddh (Bikaner) – Miss Mumal.

**Baneshwar Fair 2025**

- Event: 8-12 February 2025, Dungarpur.
- Organizer: Tourism Department & District Administration, Dungarpur.
- Significance: Called the «Kumbh Mela of the Adivasis», showcases the rich culture of the Bhils.
- Main Event: Cultural & Sports Events (Organized by Tourism & Tribal Development Department).

**IIFA Awards 2025**

- Location: Jaipur, Rajasthan for the first time.
- Date: 8-9 March 2025.
- Theme: «Silver is the New Gold».
- Special Initiatives: Film Tourism Policy launched to promote Rajasthan as a film destination.

**Krishi Mahotsav**

- Location: Hanumangarh.
- Event Date: 8-10 March 2025.
- Theme: Prosperous Farmers, Developed Rajasthan.
- Objective: To inform farmers about advanced agricultural techniques, management and farmer welfare schemes.

**31st National Conference on Agricultural Efficiency-Animal Welfare**

- Location: Udaipur.
- Event Date: 26-28 February 2025.
- Topic: Precision Livestock Management Techniques for Agricultural Efficiency and Animal Welfare.
- Participants: 400 scientists and livestock experts.

**Indian Conference on MedTech Innovations 2025**

- Event: AIIMS and IIT Jodhpur.
- Winner: Dr. Deepak Kumar Meena (AIIMS Jodhpur, Department of Neurosurgery).
- Contribution: Presented the idea of a new device to identify complications of the respiratory system.

**State-level National Science Day 2025 Celebration**

- Venue: Apex University, Jaipur.
- Event Date: 27-28 February 2025.
- Composition: Department of Science & Technology, Vijnana Bharati Rajasthan and other institutions.
- National Science Day: 28 February (commemorating C.V. Raman's «Raman Effect» discovery).
- Theme: «Empowering Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Developed India».

**75th Diamond National Jamboree of Bharat Scouts & Guides**

- Organized: 28 January - 3 February 2025, Trichy, Tamil Nadu.
- Achievements of Rajasthan:
- Watching Tower (51 feet): 1st position under the leadership of Shailesh Kumar Palod of Parbatsar, Nagaur.
- First Aid Competition: First place at the national level under the leadership of Dr. Pooja Sharma.
- Color Party Leadership: Jai Pratap Singh.
- March Past: Arnav Sinha (1st position at the national level).

### Country's first patient monitor system

- Developer: Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Pilani, Jhunjhunu.
- Feature: Equipped with indigenous equipment, economical as compared to foreign systems.
- Experiment: Assessment of the condition of patients in hospitals.
- Significance: Helpful in prognosis in severe cases like cardiac arrest.

### Indo-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise "Cy-clone-III"

- Event: 10-23 February 2025, Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner.
- Format: Annual military exercises, the location changes alternately.
- Last edition: January 2024, Anshas, Egypt.
- Objective: Practice the tactics of counter-terrorism operations in desert and semi-desert areas.

### Rajasthan first inPPR vaccination

- Achievement: Rajasthan ranks first in the country in PPR (Pasty des Petitz Ruminants) eradication and surveillance programme.
- Vaccination Percentage: About 78% of the animals in the state have been vaccinated.
- **Position in Animal Number:**
  - First in the country in the number of goats.
  - Third place in the country in sheep offspring.

### District Level Ranking on Sampark Portal (2024)

- Grievance redressal and satisfaction rate in Rajasthan: 62%.
- Top District: Banswara (71.66% achievement) stood first with 1st position.
- Procedure: The complaint is allotted to the concerned department when it is filed.

### Ajmer Railway Division Ranks Top in 'Rail Madad' Portal

- Achievement: First place at the national level in resolving the problems of rail passengers.
- Duration: FY 2024-25 till January 2025.
- Satisfactory Feedback: 76.01%.

### Rajasthan ranks 11th in air passenger numbers

- Total Air Passengers (2024-25): 64.33 lakh.
- Top states with air passenger load: Delhi (5.86 crore).
- Jaipur Airport Passenger Number: 43.93 Lakhs.

### National Ranking of Jaipur Airport

- In 2024 :13th busiest airport.
- In December 2024: 11th place, passenger numbers 5.90 lakh.
- Passenger Growth in 2024: 9% (58.73 lakh passengers).

### Rajasthan's progress in Jal Jeevan Mission

- Target: Deliver tap water to all households by 2028.
- Achievement so far: 46% of rural households have tap connections.
- Remaining works: Connecting 47 lakh houses in the next 3 years.

JJM Top Five Circles (in percentage)	Slippery Circle in JJM (in percentage)
1. Dudu96.49	1. Barmer: 18.18
2. Shahpura: 95.73	2. Deeg :24.57
3. Ganganagar: 90.86	3. Chittorgarh: 28.68
4. Hanumangarh: 84.60	4. Dungarpur: 28.77
5. Deedwana - Kuchaman : 83.96	5. Pratapgarh: 31.61

### Status of Ground Water Exploitation in Rajasthan

- In Rajasthan, 150 per cent groundwater is being exploited.
- In the latest assessment report of the state's groundwater resources, 2024 , a total of 302 units, including 295 Panchayat Samitis (blocks) and 7 urban areas, were assessed.
- Out of these, **214 blocks are over-exploited**, 27 blocks are sensitive, 21 blocks are semi-sensitive, 37 blocks are safe and 3 blocks are in saline category.
- **Note:** The Atal Bhujal Yojana has been implemented in Rajasthan from April 1, 2020.

### Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024

- According to this report, the position of children in basic mathematics skills in government schools of Rajasthan is weak.
- The mathematical ability of children in Rajasthan was found to be low. Only 20% of the students of class 3 can do the number of subtraction. Only 22% of the students of class 5 are able to divide.
- The pupil-teacher ratio in Government schools in Rajasthan has improved.
  - In 2022, 68.5 per cent of schools had this ratio as per standards, which has now increased to 81.6 per cent in 2024.

- There is a decrease in the class teacher ratio.
  - In 2022, the ratio was 77.3 per cent of schools conforming to standards, but in 2024, it came down to 70.6 per cent.
- A number of playgrounds have come to the government schools in Rajasthan.
  - In 2022, 77.3 per cent of schools had playgrounds available, which has come down to 76.1 per cent in 2024.

**Note: The Rajasthan Budget 2024-25 is attached with the Economic Review.**

**Budget 2025-26: Key announcements during discussion**

#### **Administration & Innovation**

- Establishment of high-performance computing infrastructure for AI, ML, VFX, Gaming, Advanced Analytics and Image Processing.
- 'Rajdhara 2.0': Remote sensing and GIS platform to be linked to AI at a cost of Rs 35 crore for optimum utilization of resources.
- Integrated Human Resource Management System: A provision of Rs 15 crore has been made for online work related to posting, promotion and service rules of government officers and employees.

#### **Promoting youth and innovation**

- Atal Innovation Awards: Encouraging innovation to solve problems related to society.
- India Young Leaders Dialogue and Youth Festival Organized.
- Rajasthan Digi Fest organized, collaboration with TiE Global.

#### **Industrial & Cultural Development**

- Establishment of Industrial Park (Shahpura-Bhilwara) and Wood Park (Lalsot-Dausa).
- Saundh Mati Heritage Documentation Scheme: Initiatives to preserve art, culinary arts, historical sites and paintings of tribal artists.

#### **Health Services**

- Under the MAA scheme, high-tech procedures such as robotic surgery, neuro surgery, plastic surgery and cardiothoracic surgery are covered in government hospitals.

- In the next phase of Rajasthan Digital Health Mission, a single window registration system will be implemented for IPD patients.
- The MA scheme and RGHS portal will be linked under IHMS (Integrated Health Management System).

#### **Sports & Youth Development**

- Camps organized at district and block level for preparation of 2,500 participants participating in Rashtriya Jamboree (Chhattisgarh).
- Construction of Hockey Academy (Jaitaran-Beawar) and Multipurpose Stadium (Ajmer).
- Establishment of Sports Stadium (Ausian-Jodhpur, Marwar Junction-Pali, Pratapnagar-Jaipur and Deedwana).

#### **Facilities for students with special needs**

- Academic buildings will be made accessible.
- Construction of portable ramps, disabled-friendly toilets and cineges.

#### **Environmental Protection and Agricultural Development**

- Green Growth: Conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species by establishing 40 plant micro reserves in biodiversity hotspots.
- Govind Guru Tribal Scheme: Establishment of Forest Rights Cell in 18 districts.
- Pest management: The production capacity of 10 laboratories will be increased to 100 metric tons.
- Bio-Informatics Database: For improvement of suitable species suitable for agro-climatic zones.

#### **Agriculture & Animal Husbandry**

- As many as 3,236 small dams will be re-transferred to the Water Resources Department.
- Proposal to set up a College of Veterinary Sciences in Kota.
- Establishment of agricultural markets: Fruit and vegetable markets in Riyabari (Nagaur), Makhupura (Ajmer), Bar (Beawar).

#### **Tribal Development Schemes**

- Tribal Sub Plan Fund: Budget increased from Rs 1500 crore to Rs 1750 crore.
- PM Janman Yojana: 17 multi-purpose centers approved in Sahariya area of Baran district.

## 2. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### January

#### Right to property is constitutional and human right : Supreme Court

- Verdict: The right to property is no longer a fundamental right, but a constitutional right and human right.
- Amendments: After the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978, it ceased to be a fundamental right.
- Current Status: Constitutional rights under Article 300A and recognized as human rights in a welfare state.

#### Uniform Civil Code (UCC) comes into force in Uttarakhand

- Applicable: From 27th January 2025, Uttarakhand became the first state to implement UCC.
- Objective: To ensure equal rights to all citizens.
- Affected Class: All citizens except Scheduled Tribes.
- Provision:
  - Uniform laws on marriage, divorce, succession and inheritance.
  - Registration of all marriages and live-in relationships is mandatory.

#### Wayanad landslide: Central government declares calamity of 'severe nature'

- Declaration: The central government declared it a calamity of 'severe nature'.
- Influence:
  - The State will get financial assistance for rehabilitation.
  - Facility to raise funds from funds including MPLADS fund.
  - Financial assistance available from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

### February

#### President's rule imposed in Manipur

- President's rule was imposed in Manipur from 13 February 2025 due to 21 months of unrest in the state.
- The assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has also been suspended.
- The move was taken under Article 356.
- **Influence:** All government departments and powers are now under the President.

#### National Green Financing Institute to be set up in the country

- This institute will support India in achieving the net-zero target by 2070.
- NITI Aayog is analysing the framework mechanism for operationalisation of a potential National Green Financing Institution.
- India aims to reduce its GDP emission intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
- India has also set a target to achieve 50 per cent of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

#### International Conference on Innovations in Unani Medicine

- Held in New Delhi.
- Theme: «Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrated Health Solutions – Way Forward».
- Event: Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRM).
- Inauguration: By President Droupadi Murmu.



## 3- Economic Affairs

### January

#### Cabinet approves setting up of 8th Pay Commission

- Approval: 16 January 2025, by the Union Cabinet.
- Composition: Chairman and two members to be appointed.
- Role: Determination of salaries and compensation of central government employees.
- Effective Date: Effective January 1, 2026.
- Previous Pay Commission: The 7th Pay Commission came into effect in 2016, valid till 2026.

#### Implementation of Integrated Pension Scheme (UPS)

- Declaration: Officially implemented by the government.
- Effective Date: 1 April 2025.
- Applicable: Central government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS).
- Option:
  - Employees can continue NPS or
  - You can opt for UPS under NPS.

#### Constitution of Working Group for Revision of WPI Base Year

- Decision: Constitution of a Working Group to change the base year of WPI from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- Leadership: NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand.
- Role: To make suggestions on the commodity basket of WPI and Producer Price Index (PPI) for the base year 2022-23.
- Existing WPI:
  - Start: May 2017 (2011-12 base year).
  - Items: 697 (Primary articles - 117, Fuel & Power - 16, Manufactured products - 564)

#### Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Definition: An indicator that measures the change over time in prices received by domestic producers.
- Publication: U.S. Monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### "One Nation, One Membership" Scheme

- Start: Implemented by the government from 1st January 2025.
- Objective: Seamless digital access to research papers, journals and academic materials through a single subscription.
- Beneficiaries: Students, researchers, and higher education institutions from across the country.

- **Coverage:**

- More than 1.8 crore students will get access to research papers published in top international journals.
- In the first phase, 13,400+ international journals are available.

- **Financial Provisions:**

- A budget of Rs.6,000 crores for 3 years.
- Annual financial assistance of Rs. 150 crore for publication in good quality open access journals .

#### Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative

- Launched: By the Ministry of MSME.
- Objective: To help MSMEs adopt digital commerce.
- Budget: Rs 277.35 crore (for 3 years).
- Aim:
  - Connecting 5 lakh MSMEs to the ONDC platform.
  - To support women entrepreneurs from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Connection: A sub-scheme under the RAMP program.

#### First Green Hydrogen Centre under National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Project Location: Pudimadka, Visakhapatnam.
- Foundation Stone: 8 January 2025, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Significance: First centre set up under National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Developed by NTPC Green Energy Limited.

#### "Cashless Treatment" Scheme

- Launch: By Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Objective: To provide financial assistance to road accident victims.
- Profit:
  - Free treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh for 7 days, provided the accident is reported to the police within 24 hours.
  - Ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh to the families of those killed in hit and run cases .
- Management: Implementation by the National Health Authority (NHA) through the IT platform.

#### Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme

- Applicable: Effective 1 April 2025.
- Objective: To promote duty-free import of natural cut and polished diamonds.
- Provision:
  - Duty-free import of diamonds less than 1/4 carat (25 cents).

- Export Obligation: 10% value addition mandatory.
- Eligibility: Two-star export houses or diamond exporters exporting more than \$15 million annually.
- Significance: To provide a level playing field to Indian diamond exporters in global competitiveness.

### **Extension of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (till 2025-26)**

- Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme were extended till 2025-26.
- Budget: Rs 69,515 crore.

### **National Mission on Critical Minerals (NCMM)**

- Approval: By the Union Cabinet.
- Announcement: In the Union Budget of 23 July 2024.
- **Financial Provisions:**
  - Expenditure of ₹16,300 crore.
  - Likely investment of Rs.18,000 crore by PSUs .
- **Aim:**
  - Covering mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing and recovery of final products.
  - Fast-track regulatory approval process for mining projects.

### **MSME Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme**

- **Profit:**
  - Credit facilities up to ₹100 crore.
  - 60% Guarantee Coverage (by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company - NCGTC ).
- **Key Provisions:**
  - It is mandatory to spend 75% of the loan on machinery and equipment.
  - Maximum repayment period for loans up to ₹50 crore is 8 years (including principal moratorium period of 2 years).
  - Flexible repayment plan on loans above ₹50 crore.
- Eligibility: MSMEs must have an enterprise registration number.
- **Member Lending Institutions:** Scheduled Commercial Banks registered with CGTC, NBFCs and AIFIs.

### **Panchayat to Parliament 2.0 Programme**

- Launched: By Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on 6 January 2025 in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** To educate 500+ women Panchayati Raj representatives on the Constitution and Parliamentary procedures.
- **Attributes:**

- Organised to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda.
- As many as 502 elected ST women representatives from 22 States and Union Territories participated.

#### **Organizer:**

- Parliamentary Democracy Research and Training Institute (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- In collaboration with National Commission for Women and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### **India ranks 6th in textiles and apparel exports**

- Contribution to global trade: 3.9% market share.
- Share in India's total exports: 8.21%.
- Main export destinations: US and EU (47%).
- Imports (2023-24): Textiles and apparels worth USD 8,946 million.

### **Mission Mausam**

- Launched: By Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 14 January 2025.
- Objective: To make India a weather and climate resilient nation.
- **Technological Initiatives:**
  - High-resolution atmospheric observations.
  - Next-generation radars and satellites.
  - High-performance computers.
- Main benefits: Useful for agriculture, disaster management, defence, environment, aviation, water resources, power, tourism and shipping sectors.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
  - India Meteorological Department (IMD).
  - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
  - National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).

### **PLI Scheme 1.1 (for Specialty Steel)**

- Launched: 6 January 2025, by the Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries.
- Objective: To boost domestic production and reduce import dependence.
- The limit of investment and capacity requirements was reduced.
- CRGO (Cold-Rolled Grain-Oriented Steel) : Type high value products included
- Duration: Applicable from FY 2025-26 to 2029-30.
- **Included Product Categories:**
  - Coated/Plated Steel Products.
  - High-strength/wear-resistant steel.
  - Special Rail.
  - Alloy steel products and steel wire.
  - Electrical steel.

**EmpowHER Biz – The Flight of Dreams**

- Launched: By NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), under the Awards to Reward (ATR) programme.
- Partner: New Shop – India's largest 24/7 convenience retail chain.
- Objective: To provide women entrepreneurs with the skills and resources required for success in the organized retail sector.
- **Key features:**
  - Guidance and training on retail management, digital tools, financial literacy and business development.
  - Widespread support for aspiring women entrepreneurs.
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP): Established in 2018 at NITI Aayog as an aggregator platform.

**Launch of National Turmeric Board**

- Launched: 14 January 2025, by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.
- Chairman: Pallo Ganga Reddy.
- Headquarters: Nizamabad, Telangana.
- Speciality of Turmeric: Famous as 'Golden Spice'.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric (62% share in global trade).
- Functions: Focus on welfare of turmeric farmers (in 20 states including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya) and promote R&D of new turmeric products.
- To promote the quality of turmeric products and strengthen international marketing.
- **2023-24 Product Statistics:**
  - Total area under turmeric cultivation: 3.05 lakh hectares.
  - Production: 10.74 lakh tonnes.

**February****Launch of 'One Nation-One Port'**

- Launch: 27 February 2025.
- This initiative has been launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) to standardize and streamline operations in major ports of India.
- **Objective:** To modernize India's maritime infrastructure and strengthen its global trade presence.
- This will remove inconsistencies in documentation and processes.
- In addition, the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for **FY 2023-24 – SAGAR Assessment was also launched** to enhance efficiency and global competitiveness in India's maritime

sector.

- LPPI evaluates all major and non-major ports in bulk (dry and liquid) and container categories.
- **India Global Ports Consortium launched**
  - **Objective:** To strengthen global trade.
- In addition, the **MAITRI logo** (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) was also launched.
- It will streamline business processes, reduce redundancy of bureaucracy and expedite clearances.
- The Union Minister also announced the India Maritime Week to be held from October 27 to 31, 2025 in Mumbai.

**Reclassification of minor minerals into List of major minerals**

- The Union Ministry of Mines has removed the following from the list of minor minerals and reclassified them into the list of major minerals:
  1. Barite
  2. Felspar
  3. Asbestos
  4. Quartz
- This decision has been taken after the Union Cabinet approved the National Critical Mineral Mission.
- These minerals have an important role to play in various new technologies, energy transitions, spacecraft industries, healthcare sector, etc.
- Exploration and scientific mining of these minerals will increase after they are classified as major minerals.

**NAKSHAProgram**

- Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations-'Naksha' programme at a function held in Raisen (Sanchi), Madhya Pradesh on 18th February.
- The Naksha programme will be implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Rural Development Ministry.
- The main objective of the programme is to modernize land survey processes in urban areas.
- Its main objective is to create and update land records, ensure accurate documentation of land ownership, improve urban planning, and reduce land-related disputes.
- It was launched as a pilot project in 152 urban local bodies across 26 states and 3 Union Territories.

- A digital map of the land will be prepared by drone survey.
- Citizens will get a systematic digital record of their property.

**' Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS)'**

- **Launch:** 17 February 2025 from Mumbai.
- MCGS-MSME is a scheme under which Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be provided with term loans of up to Rs 100 crore from eligible lending institutions.
- **Other Highlights of MCGS-MSME**
- **Trust/ Fund:** The Mutual Credit Guarantee Fund - MSME (MCGF-MSME) has been created to manage this scheme.
- It has been constituted by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) of the Ministry of Finance.
- The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) will manage the scheme. It is a wholly-owned company of DFS.
- **Guarantee coverage:** 60% guarantee coverage will be provided by the NCGTC to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for loans sanctioned under MCGS – MSME.
- **Member Credit Institutions (MLIs):** These will be financial institutions like commercial banks, NBFCs registered with the NCGTC under the scheme.
- **Eligible Borrowers:**
  - » MSMEs with valid enterprise registration;
- Must not have non-performing assets with any lender;
- Apparatu/ The minimum for machinery should be 75% of the project cost.
- Scheme Duration: Available for 4 years or till a guarantee of Rs 7 lakh crore is issued (whichever is earlier).

**The Union Government approved the extension of the Integrated "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Income Protection Campaign (PM-AASHA)" scheme till 2025-26**

- The integrated PM-AASHA scheme was launched in 2018. It aims to implement crop procurement operations more effectively.
- Ministry of Implementation: Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Objectives:
  - To provide price assurance to farmers for their crop produce.
  - To reduce price fluctuations of essential commodities.
- **Crop coverage:** Pulses, oilseeds and copra.

- In Budget 2025, the government has announced that up to 100 per cent of the state's production, procurement of tur (arhar), urad and masoor will be continued for the next four years.

**'AI for Entrepreneurship' Micro-Learning Module**

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Corporation and Intel India.
- The program aims to encourage entrepreneurial thinking among young Indian entrepreneurs and clarify AI concepts.
- By 2025, it aims to equip one million young people with the skills required for a technologically advanced economy.
- This includes AI for creative problem-solving, entrepreneurial strategy, and business development.

**India's first dedicated GCC policy has been released by Madhya Pradesh.**

- Madhya Pradesh became the first state to launch the Dedicated Global Capacity Centre (GCC) policy.
- A designated nodal agency will be responsible for its implementation.
- The policy targets sectors such as IT, finance, engineering, human resources, and emerging technologies.
- The policy aims to attract more than 50 GCC and create more than 37,000 jobs.
- The policy is India's first dedicated framework to promote GCC development in tier-II cities.

**RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate from 6.5% to 6.25%.
- This can make all loans cheaper and the EMI will also decrease.
- The interest rate at which RBI lends to banks is called repo rate and banks give loans to their customers from this loan.
- The rate at which RBI pays interest on deposits from banks is called reverse repo rate.

**National committee to be formed to promote natural farming**

- A committee will be formed at the national level to give the National Natural Farming Mission the shape of a movement in the country.
- This committee will work towards increasing awareness among farmers and training them to adopt natural farming methods.

**National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**

- It was approved by the central government in November 2024.



- The NMNFaims to introduce natural farming in an area of 7.5 lakh hectares and set up 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres (BRCs) in 15,000 clusters across all states and union territories.
- Under the scheme, about 2000 NF Model Demonstration Farms will be set up at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Agricultural Universities (AUs) and farmers' fields and will be supported by experienced and trained Farmer Master Trainers.
- This mission will train 18.75 lakh farmers in natural farming and the same farmers will train one crore farmers.

### **Scientific Disposal of Pharmaceutical Waste in Kerala**

- The 'nPROUD' (New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs) initiative will be launched by the Kerala Drugs Control Department.
- Kerala will be the first state in India to scientifically arrange for collection and disposal of expired and unusable drugs at the household level.

### **nPROUD Initiative**

- Enproud: New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs

- The programmewill be launched as a pilot project on February 22 in Kozhikode Corporation and Ullierly Panchayat (District Kozhikode) and then it will be implemented across the state.
  - **Step 1:** Household Storage
  - **Step 2:** Permanent Storage Center
  - **Step 3:** Coordination with Local Bodies
- The collected medicines will be sent to Kerala Enviro Infrastructure Limited (KEIL), a garbage treatment facility approved by state and central environmental authorities.

### **SIDBI & A.F.D. (France) signed Credit Facility Agreement**

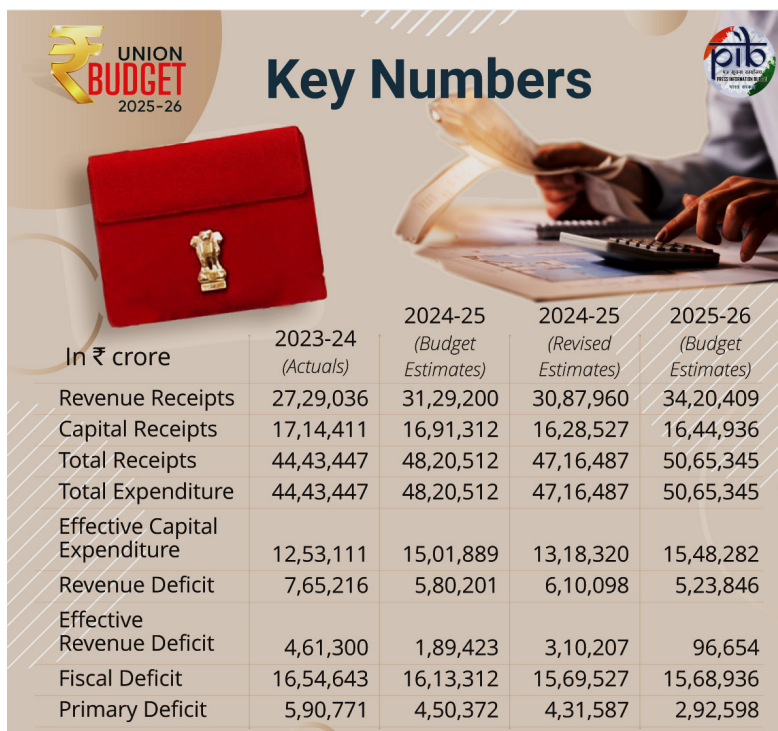
- Objective: To promote green finance solutions for Indian MSMEs.
- Under this, a credit line of \$100 million will be provided to SIDBI by the AFD (Agence Française de Développement).
- It will be used to expand access to affordable financing for MSMEs.
- **A.F.D.** is a French public financial institution, which implements France's development and international solidarity policies.

## **Union Budget 2025-26**

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025-26 in Parliament on February 1, 2025.
- This is the first full-fledged budget of the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government.
- This is Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 8th consecutive budget.
  - Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Pranab Mukherjee are among the top budgeters before Sitharaman.
  - Morarji Desai had presented the budget 10 times while being the finance minister. Between 1959 and 1964, he presented five consecutive full budgets and one interim budget. He then went on to present four budgets between 1967 and 1969.
  - Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram had presented the Union Budget 9 times. Pranab Mukherjee had presented the budget 8 times.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 focuses on employment, skill training, MSMEs and the middle class. The Finance Minister has outlined

the following broad principles of developed India in this budget:

- **Freedom from poverty;** 100% Good Quality School Education; Access to excellent, affordable and universal health services; Meaningful employment with 100 per cent skilled workers; Seventy percent of women in economic activity; And the farmers who make our country the 'Food Basket of the World'.
- In this budget, the proposed development is spread over the following 10 broad areas-
  - i. Accelerating the growth and productivity of agriculture;
  - ii. Rural affluence and adaptive construction;
  - iii. Taking everyone along on the path of inclusive progress
  - iv. Increasing manufacturing in India and taking Make in India further;
  - v. Support to MSMEs;
  - vi. Enabling growth through employment;
  - vii. Investing in the public, the economy, and innovation;
  - viii. Ensuring energy supplies;
  - ix. Promote exports; and
  - x. Nurturing innovation.

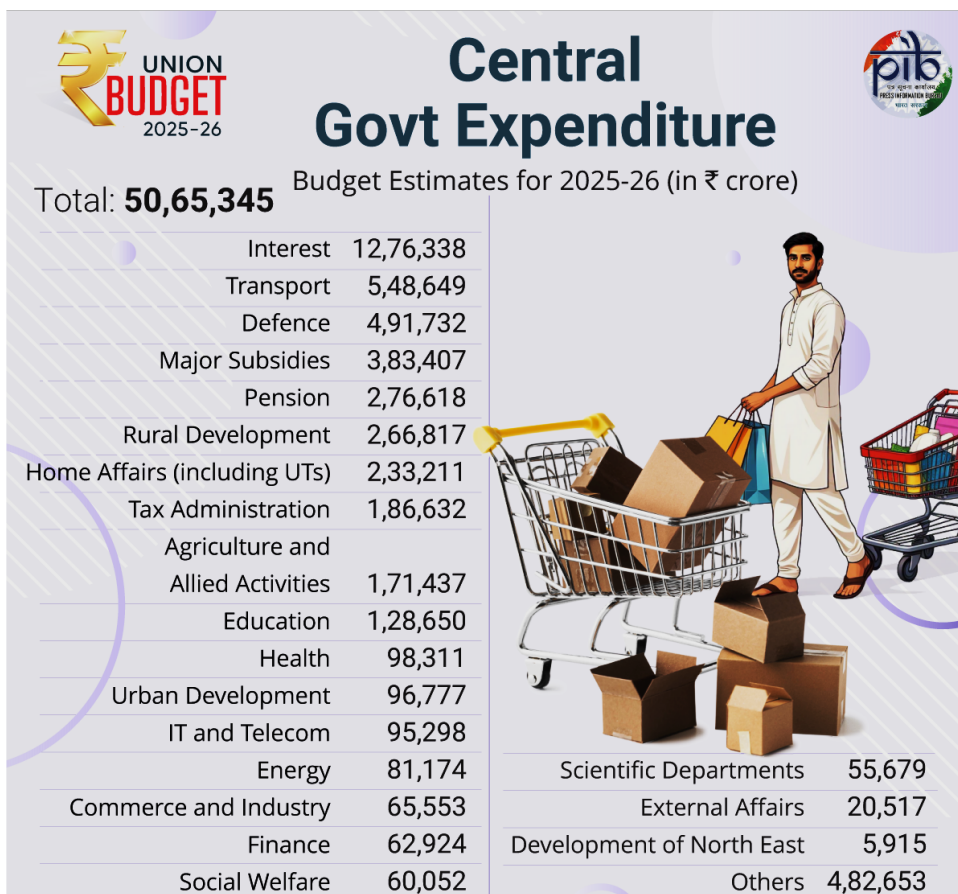


## Key Numbers

In ₹ crore	2023-24 (Actuals)	2024-25 (Budget Estimates)	2024-25 (Revised Estimates)	2025-26 (Budget Estimates)
Revenue Receipts	27,29,036	31,29,200	30,87,960	34,20,409
Capital Receipts	17,14,411	16,91,312	16,28,527	16,44,936
Total Receipts	44,43,447	48,20,512	47,16,487	50,65,345
Total Expenditure	44,43,447	48,20,512	47,16,487	50,65,345
Effective Capital Expenditure	12,53,111	15,01,889	13,18,320	15,48,282
Revenue Deficit	7,65,216	5,80,201	6,10,098	5,23,846
Effective Revenue Deficit	4,61,300	1,89,423	3,10,207	96,654
Fiscal Deficit	16,54,643	16,13,312	15,69,527	15,68,936
Primary Deficit	5,90,771	4,50,372	4,31,587	2,92,598

### Budget Estimates 2025-26

- Total Receipts other than Borrowings: ₹ 34.96 lakh crore
- Total expenditure: ₹ 50.65 lakh crore
- Net Tax Receipts: ₹ 28.37 lakh crore
- Fiscal deficit: 4.4 percent of GDP
- Gross Market Borrowings: ₹ 14.82 lakh crore
- Capex expenditure: ₹ 11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP)



## Central Govt Expenditure

Budget Estimates for 2025-26 (in ₹ crore)

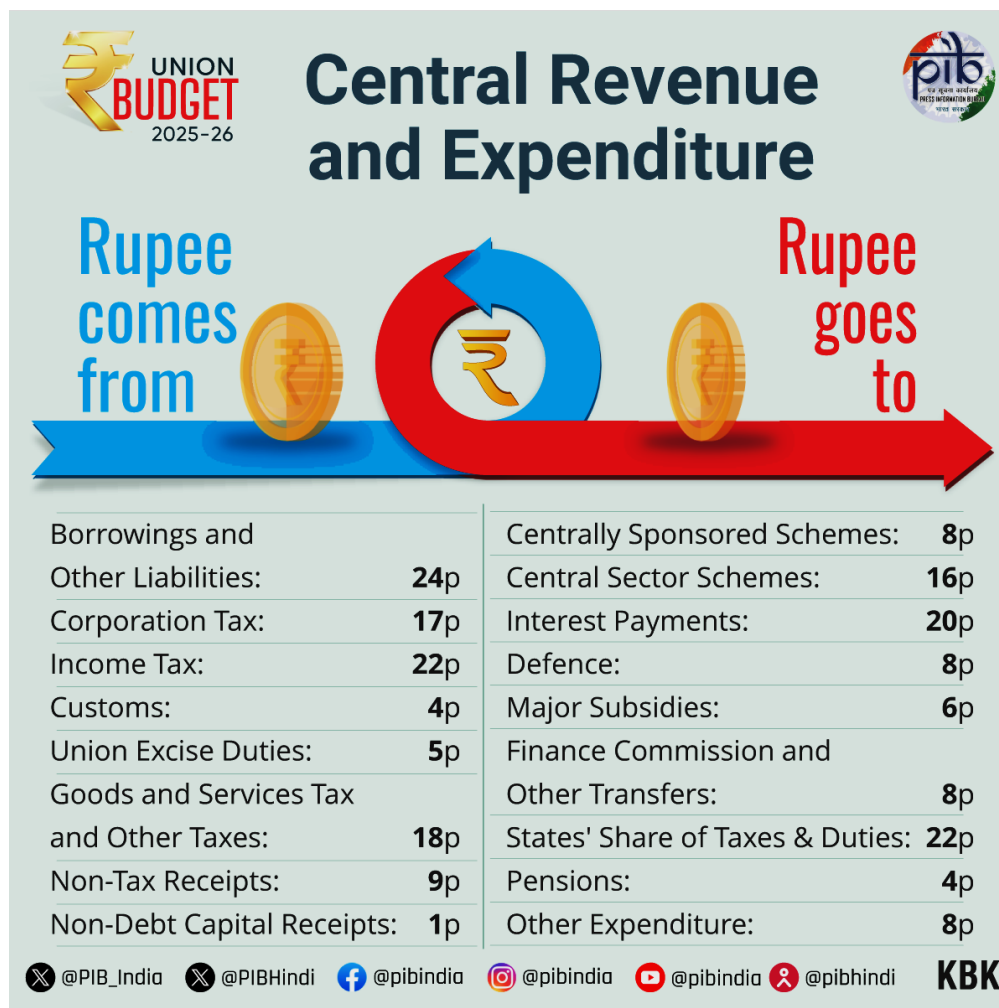
Total: **50,65,345**

Interest	12,76,338
Transport	5,48,649
Defence	4,91,732
Major Subsidies	3,83,407
Pension	2,76,618
Rural Development	2,66,817
Home Affairs (including UTs)	2,33,211
Tax Administration	1,86,632
Agriculture and Allied Activities	1,71,437
Education	1,28,650
Health	98,311
Urban Development	96,777
IT and Telecom	95,298
Energy	81,174
Commerce and Industry	65,553
Finance	62,924
Social Welfare	60,052
Scientific Departments	55,679
External Affairs	20,517
Development of North East	5,915
Others	4,82,653

The Budget aims at transformative reforms in the following six areas:

- (1) Taxation;
- (2) Power Sector;
- (3) Urban Development;
- (4) Mining;
- (5) Financial Sector; and
- (6) Regulatory reforms.

- The Union Budget highlights agriculture, MSMEs, investment and exports as the engines of India's journey towards developed India.



### Agriculture as the First Engine of Growth

- Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana:** Developing Agriculture District Programme: The scheme will be launched with the participation of the states.
- It will cover 100 districts with low productivity, low yields and below average credit norms through convergence of existing schemes and specific interventions.
- Rural Prosperity and Adaptation Building:** This comprehensive multi-sectoral programme will be launched in partnership with the States.
- In the first phase, 100 developing agricultural districts will be included.
- This will address underemployment in agriculture through skilling, investment, technology and revitalizing the rural economy.
- Self-Reliant Mission in Pulses:** This 6-year mission will be launched with special focus on tur, urad and lentils.
- Under this, the central agencies (NAFED and NCCF) will procure these pulses from farmers during the next 4 years.
- The Budget has also envisaged measures for a comprehensive programme for vegetables and fruits.
- Makhana Board:** Makhana Board will be set up in Bihar to improve the production, processing, value addition and marketing of makhanas.

- **National Mission on High Yielding Seeds:** The mission will be launched with the objective of strengthening the research ecosystem, targeted development and dissemination of high yielding seeds and making more than 100 varieties of seeds commercially available.
- **Fisheries:** The Budget has announced the introduction of a framework to promote sustainable fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and deep seas, with special focus on islands such as Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
- **Loans through Kisan Credit Card:** The Finance Minister has announced to increase the limit of loan through Kisan Credit from ₹ 3 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh under the revised interest scheme.
- **Urea plant in Assam:** A plant with an annual production capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes will be set up at Namrup in Assam.
- **Cotton Productivity Mission:** A 5-year mission has been announced to substantially improve the productivity and affordability of cotton farming. It will promote more long staple varieties of cotton.

### MSMEs as a second engine of growth

- Investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs will be increased to 2.5 and 2 times, respectively.
- 10 lakh customised credit cards with a limit of up to ₹ 5 lakh will be issued in the first year for micro enterprises registered on the Udyam portal.
- **Credit guarantee cover:** The credit guarantee cover will be increased to improve access to credit. Under this-
  - For micro and small enterprises, the limit has been increased from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore, for start-ups from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore.
  - Term loans up to ₹20 crore will be given to exporting MSMEs.
- The budget has announced a new scheme to provide term loans of up to ₹2 crore over the next 5 years to 5 lakh women, first-time entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- Plan to make India a 'Global Toy Hub' with unique and eco-friendly high quality.
- **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management:** This institute will be set up in Bihar.
- **National Manufacturing Mission:** The mission will be set up with the objective of promoting 'Make in India' by involving small, medium and large industries.

## Investment as a Third Engine of Growth

### I. Investing in people

- **Cost norms for Anganwadi and Nutrition Support under Poshan 2.0** will be suitably enhanced.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** In the next 5 years, 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs will be set up in government schools.
- **Broadband connectivity:** Under the Bharat Net project, broadband connectivity will be provided to all government secondary schools and primary health centers in rural areas.
- **Indian Language Book Scheme:** The scheme has been announced in the budget to provide books in digital form in Indian languages for school and higher education.
- **National Centre of Excellence in Skills:** 5 National Skill Excellence Centres will be set up with global expertise and partnerships to equip our youth with the skills required for 'Make for India, Make for the World' manufacturing.
- A Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education will be set up with a total outlay of ₹ 500 crore.
- In the next 3 years, facility will be provided to set up day-care cancer centers in all district hospitals. In the year 2025-26, 200 centers will be established.
- **PM SVANidhi:** The scheme will be renewed with UPI linked credit cards and capacity building support with a limit of ₹ 30,000 augmented credit from banks.
- **Social Security Scheme for Welfare of Online Platform Workers:** Under this, the government will provide identity cards for gig workers and registration on e-Shram portal and provide health care under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.

### II. Investment in the Economy

- Infrastructure Ministries will be set up for 3-year pipeline projects in Public Private Partnership.
- The budget has proposed an allocation of ₹1.5 lakh crore for 50 years of interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure and incentives for reforms.
- **Asset Monetisation Scheme 2025-30:** Building on the success of the first asset monetisation scheme announced in 2021, the second asset monetisation scheme for the year 2025-30 will be launched for capital investment of ₹ 10 lakh crore in new projects.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** The mission, which started in 2019, has been announced to be extended till 2028 with an increased total outlay.
- **Urban Challenge Fund:** The government will set up an Urban Challenge Fund of ₹1 lakh



crore to implement proposals for 'Cities as Growth Centres', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities', and 'Water and Sanitation'.

- **Nuclear Power Mission for Developed India:** Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability Nuclear Damage Act.
  - A Nuclear Power Mission will be set up for Research & Development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) with an allocation of ₹20 thousand crore.
  - The budget proposes to operate 5 indigenously developed SMRs by the year 2033.
- A shipbuilding financing policy will be revamped wherein large ships beyond the specified size will be included in the Infrastructure Appropriate Master List (HML).
- **Maritime Development Fund:** The budget has proposed to set up a Maritime Development Fund with an allocation of ₹ 25 thousand crore.
  - The government will contribute 49 per cent of this, the remaining contribution will have to be made by ports and the private sector.
- **UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme:** A modified UDAN scheme has been announced to enhance regional connectivity which will also support helipads and small airports in hilly and north-eastern region districts.
- **Greenfield Airport in Bihar:** The Finance Minister announced a greenfield airport in Bihar in addition to expansion of capacity of Green Patna Airport and Brownfield Airport in Bihta.
- **Western Koshi Canal Project in Mithilanchal:** Financial assistance has been announced for the Western Koshi Canal ERM project in Bihar. This will benefit farmers cultivating more than 50,000 hectares of land in the Mithilanchal region.
- **SWAMIH Fund 2:** The Finance Minister has announced the creation of this fund of ₹ 15 thousand crore with the aim of expediting the completion of 1 lakh more housing units with contribution from banks and private investors.
- **Tourism for Employment-Driven Development:** Top 50 tourist destinations in the country will be developed in a Challenge Mode with the participation of States.
  - Mudra loan will be provided for homestays.

### III. Investing in Innovation

- ₹20 thousand crore will be allocated to implement the private sector-driven research, development, and innovation initiatives announced in the July 2024 budget.

- **Deep Tech Fund of Funds** The possibility of Deep Tech Fund of Funds will be explored to encourage the next generation of startups.
- **Prime Minister's Research Fellowships:** 10,000 fellowships will be provided for technological research in IITs and IIs with enhanced financial support.
- **Gene Bank for Crops Germplasm:** A second gene bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines will be set up for future food and nutritional security.
- **National Geospatial Mission:** The National Geospatial Mission will be launched to develop basic geospatial infrastructure and data.
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** This mission will be launched for surveying, documenting and preserving manuscript heritage with educational institutions, museums and private collectors.
- It will include more than 1 crore manuscripts.

### Export as the IV engine of development

- **Export Promotion Mission:** It is proposed to set up an Export Promotion Mission jointly run by the Ministry of Commerce, MSME and the Ministry of Finance.
  - Under this, targets will be set for different sectors and ministries.
- **Bharat TradeNet:** Bharat TradeNet (BTN) will be set up for international trade as a joint platform for trade documentation and financing solutions.
- A national framework will be developed as a guide to States to promote global competence centres in emerging Tier-II cities.
- The FDI limit in the insurance sector has been increased from 74 to 100 per cent for companies investing full premium in India.
- **Rural Credit Score:** The 'Rural Credit Score' framework will be developed to meet the credit needs of public sector banks, SHG members and people in rural areas.
- The Budget proposes setting up of a High Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms to review all non-financial sector rules, certifications, licenses and permissions.
- **Investment Friendly Index of States:** This index will be launched in the year 2025 to further the spirit of competitive coordinated federalism.
- **Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0:** The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 proposes to decriminalise more than 100 provisions.

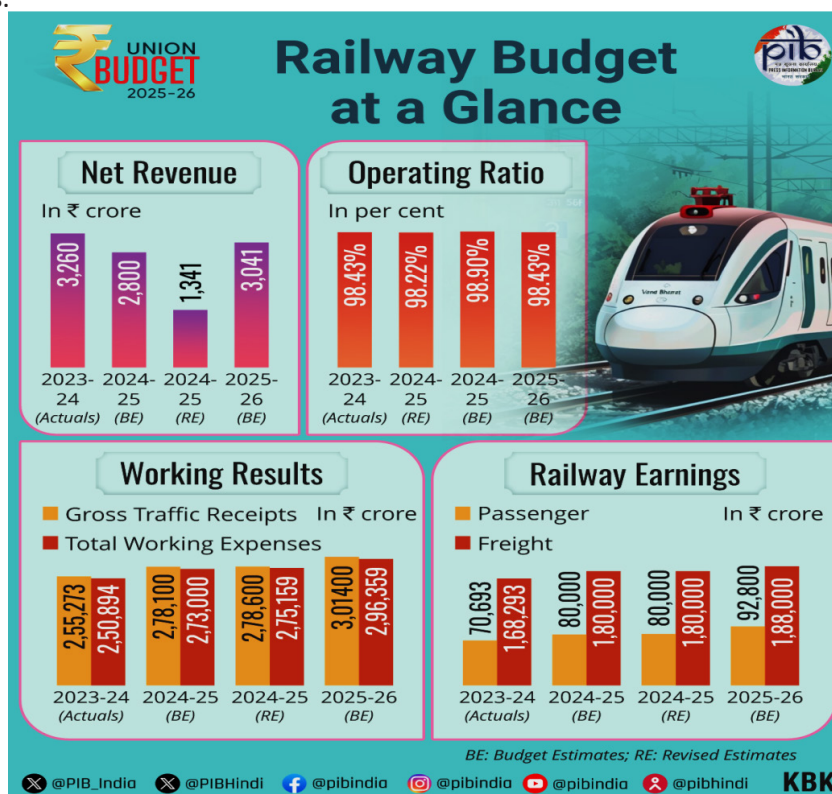
### Defence Budget

- The Ministry of Defence has been allocated ₹ 6,81,210.27 crore keeping in mind the creation of 'Atmanirbhar' armed forces.

- This amount is 9.53% more than the budget estimate for FY 2024-25 and 13.45% of the Union Budget, which is the highest among all the ministries.
- India has the fourth largest defense budget after China, America and Russia.

### Railway Budget

- The budget has a provision of ₹ 2,55,445 crore for the Ministry of Railways, in which ₹ 3,445 crore will be spent in revenue expenditure and ₹ 2,52,000 crore in capital expenditure.
- 17,500 general coaches will be manufactured along with 100 Amrit Bharat, 50 Namo Bharat, 200 Vande Bharat trains.



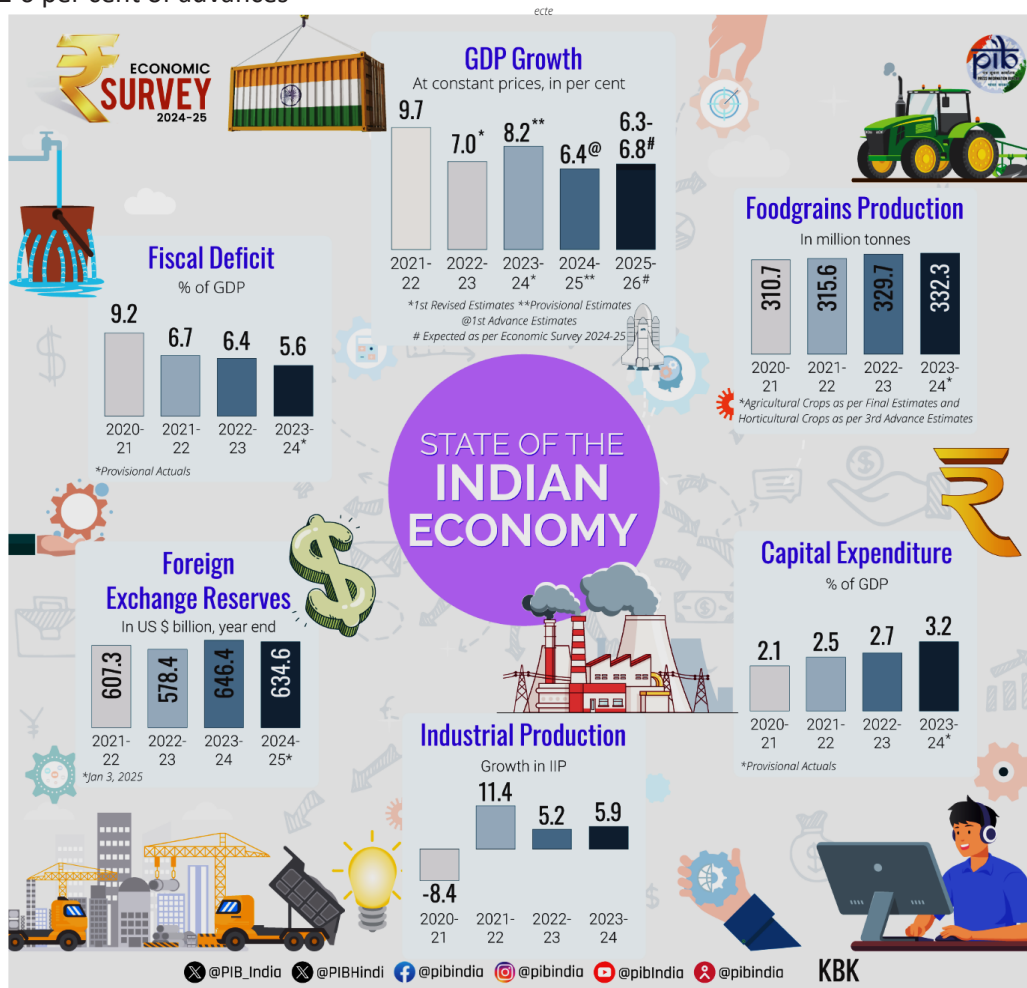
### Tax Reforms

- Under the new tax regime, income up to ₹ 12 lakh (i.e. average income of ₹ 1 lakh per month excluding specific rate such as capital gains) will not be payable income tax.
  - For salaried taxpayers, this limit will be ₹ 12.75 lakh due to standard deduction of Rs 75,000.
- The exemption on interest income for senior citizens has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.
- The limit of TCS on remittances abroad under the RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) has been increased from ₹7 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh.
- TDS deduction limit for rental income increased from ₹2.40 lakh to ₹6 lakh.
- The time limit for individuals filing updated Income Tax Returns (ITR) for any assessment year was also increased to four years.
- Foreign Direct Investment for Insurance Sector to be increased from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.
- In the Budget, 36 life saving drugs and medicines have been fully exempted from basic customs duty.
- Exemption has been given on 35 additional capital items for manufacturing of batteries of electric vehicles and 28 additional capital items for manufacturing of mobile phone batteries.
- Basic customs duty has been exempted for the next 10 years on shipbuilding raw materials, components, consumables or parts.

### Economic Survey 2024-25

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2024-25 in Parliament on January 31, 2025, the main points of which are as follows:
- India's real GDP growth is expected to be 6.4% in FY 2025 (as per advance estimates of national income).
- In 2023, the global economy grew at 3.3 percent.
- Central Government's capital expenditure in key infrastructure sectors increased by 38.8 percent from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

- India's current account deficit (CAD) stood at 1.2% of GDP in the second quarter of FY 2025.
- Real Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to be 6.4% in FY 2025.
- Real GDP growth will rise between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent in FY26.
- Retail inflation (headline) declined from 5.4% in FY 2024 to 4.9% in April-December 2024.
- Non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports stood at 9.1% in April-December 2024.
- India's insurance market (total insurance premium) grew at a rate of 7.7% in FY 2024, reaching ₹11.2 lakh crore.
- In the first 9 months of FY 2025, total exports (trade + services) registered a growth of 6 percent (year-on-year).
- India accounts for 10.2% of the global export market of telecom, computer and information services sector. (According to UNCTAD, India ranks second in the world in this area.)
- **Gross Foreign Direct Investment:** It has increased from \$47.2 billion in the first 8 months of FY2024 to \$55.6 billion in the same period of FY2025, (a year-on-year growth of 17.9%).
- **India's foreign exchange reserves (as in December 2024):** \$640.3 billion (sufficient for 10.9 months of imports and 90 per cent of the country's external debt).
- It is stable at \$634.6 billion as of 3 January 2025.
- **Retail Inflation in India:** 4.9% in FY 2025 (April-December, 2024)
- It was 5.4% of FY 2024. India's consumer price inflation will remain at 4% in FY 2026.
- Private final consumer spending at constant prices is projected to grow at 7.3 per cent.
- **Food inflation determined by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)** increased from 7.5% in FY 2024 to 8.4% in FY 2025 (April-December).
- According to the RBI and IMF, consumer price inflation will be around 4 per cent in FY26.
- The Total Tax Revenue (GTR) has increased by 10.7 per cent on a year-on-year basis during April-November, 2024
- The revenue expenditure of the states has increased by 12 percent (YoY) during April-November 2024.
- The increase in subsidy and discharge of responsibilities was 25.7 per cent and 10.4 per cent, respectively.
- Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system have declined to a 12-year low of gross loans and 2.6 per cent of advances.



## Investment and Infrastructure

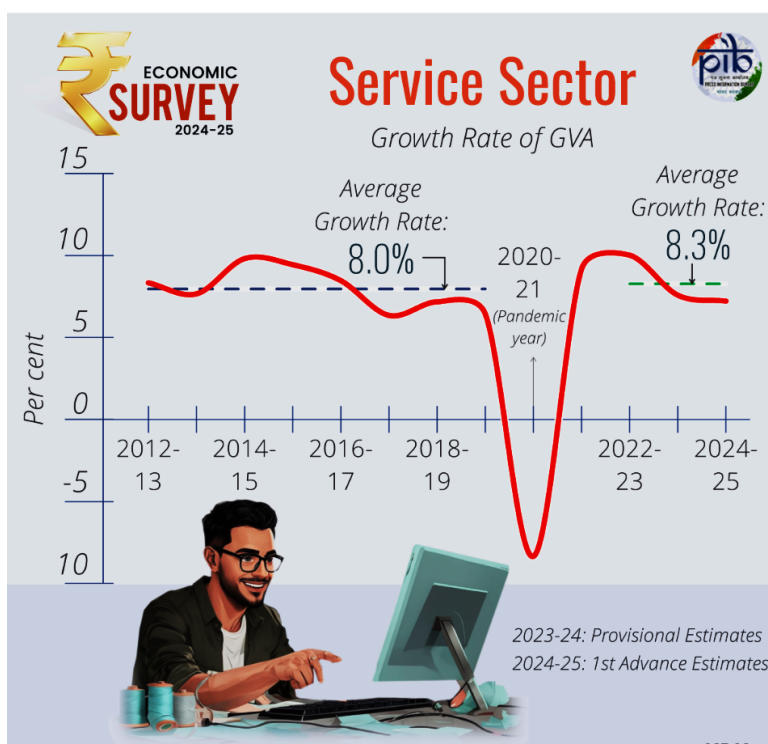
- The central government's capital outlay on key infrastructure sectors has increased at the rate of 38.8 per cent in FY 2020-2024.
- In FY 2025 (April-December), 5853 km of national highways were constructed.
- The energy sector network has grown by 7.2 percent year-on-year to 456.7 gigawatts as of November 2024.
- The share of renewable energy in India's total installed capacity has increased to 47 percent.
- **Year-on-Year Growth in Renewable Energy Capacity of Solar and Wind Energy (till December, 2024):** 15.8% Since the inception of the Jal Jeevan Mission, 12 crore households have received the facility of drinking water supply from the tap. **Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (Phase-II):** Total number of ODF+ villages has gone up to 3.64 lakh.
- In the model category, 1.92 lakh villages were declared ODF+ by April-November, 2024.
- Metro and rapid rail systems are operational or under construction for more than 1000 km in 29 cities of the country.

## Industry Sector

- The industrial sector has registered a growth of 6.2 per cent in FY25 (1st Advance Estimates).
- Domestic sales in the automobile sector grew by 12.5 percent in FY 2024.
- From FY 2015 to FY 2024, domestic production of electronic goods grew at a compound annual growth rate of 17.5%.
- 99% of smartphones are now being manufactured in the country domestically.
- According to the WIPO Report 2022, India is among the 10 countries filing patents in the world.
- For equal monetary support in the MSME sector, the government has set up 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Fund' with a fund of ₹ 50 thousand crore.

## Service Sector

- The services sector is expected to grow by 7.2 percent in FY 2025.
- Contribution of Services Sector to Gross Value Added (GVA): It has reached 55.3% in FY 2025 (First Advance Estimates). (FY 2018) As of 2014, it was 50.6% :)
- In 2023, India ranked 7th in the world with a 4.3% share of global services exports.
- Average growth rate in the services sector: It stood at 8% till pre-pandemic (FY 2013-2020). Post-pandemic (FY 2023-2025) it has been 8.3%.
- **Services exports:** India's services exports are projected to grow by 12.8% in FY 2025 (April-November).
  - In FY24, it stood at 5.7 per cent.
- **Computer-Based Services:** The sector grew by 12.8% in the decade FY 2013-2023.
  - With this, its share in Gross Value Added (GVA) has increased from 6.3% to 10.9%.





- **Indian Railways:** Indian Railways has recorded a record growth of 8% in traffic since FY 2024.
- In FY 2024, freight traffic has earned a revenue of 5.2%.
- In the area of railway connectivity, 2031 km of railway network was added between April 2024 and November 2024.
- 17 new Vande Bharat additions have been added to Indian Railways. Tourism Sector The sector's contribution to GDP has reached 5% in the financial year 2023 from the pre-pandemic level.

**Agriculture and Food Management**

- The agriculture sector is projected to grow by 3.8% in FY 2025. Contribution: Agriculture and allied sectors contributed 16 per cent to GDP on a current basis in FY2024 (preliminary estimates ).
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) covered an area of 95.58 lakh hectares, which is about 104.67% higher than the pre-PDMC period.
- Kharif food grain production in the year 2024 is expected to reach 1647.05 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) (an increase of 89.37 LMT over the previous year).
- This is 5.7% higher than in 2023-24 and 8.2% higher than the average food grain production during the last 5 years.

## 4- International Affairs

### January

#### Indonesia becomes full member of BRICS group

- Declaration: On 6 January 2024 by Brazil, which is the Chair of BRICS in 2024.
- Approval: During the BRICS Summit in August 2023.
- Newest partners: Nigeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan.
- BRICS formation: joined in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, China; in 2010 by South Africa.
- Current members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Indonesia.
- Pending Application: Saudi Arabia (invited).

#### India-Indonesia Bilateral Cooperation

- Summit: Discussion between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.
- Agreements: On health, digital infrastructure and defence cooperation.
- Technical Cooperation: Fintech, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Digital Public Infrastructure.
- Declaration of 2025 as India-ASEAN Year of Tourism.
- **India's Republic Day Celebration of the Year 2025 :**
  - In 2025, President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest.
  - Indonesia was the first chief guest in 1950.

#### Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project (Bhutan)

- Project: 6×170 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project.
- Company: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- Partnership: Under the bilateral agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan.
- Location: In Wangdu District of Bhutan.

#### India to host 28th CSPOC Conference (2026)

- Announcement: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla made in Guernsey, United Kingdom.
- Topic: Use of Artificial Intelligence and Social Media in Parliamentary Processes.
- Pre-hosted: 1970-71, 1986, 2010.

#### China unveils CR450 high-speed train

- Speed: 450 km/h (400 km/h more than the CR100 ).

- Features: Water-cooled permanent magnet traction, high-stability bogie system.
- Purpose: To increase China's high-speed rail capabilities.

#### India joins UN-CEBD

- India became a part of the United Nations' Big Data and Data Science Expert Committee (UN-CEBD).
- Role: Contributing to shaping global standards of big data and statistics.
- UN-CEBD Formation: 2014, under the auspices of UNSC.
- First President: Australia.
- Members: 31 countries, 16 international organizations.

#### US lifts sanctions on Indian nuclear installations

- Institutions: IREL, BARC, IGCAR.
- Reason: Strengthening Indo-US nuclear cooperation.
- The result: simplification of licensing procedures in nuclear energy and research.

#### India becomes observer of Eurodrone programme

- Announcement: by OCCAR on 21 January 2025.
- Benefits: Indian defence industries will get a technological advantage.
- **Eurodrone Features:**
  - Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS).
  - €7 billion four-country initiative (Germany, France, Italy, Spain).
  - India is the second Asia-Pacific observer country after Japan.
  - Other defense projects under OCCAR: A400M Atlas airlifter, Tiger attack helicopter, FREMM frigate.

#### Romania and Bulgaria became full members of the Schengen Area

- Change: Land border control abolished, full membership gained.
- Symbolic step: the barrier on the Danube Bridge was removed.
- Current status: The Schengen area now has 25 European Union (EU) member states (excluding Cyprus and Ireland).
- Impact: Free movement of 425 million EU citizens possible.
- Exclusive: The largest free movement zone in the world.
- Previous status: Partial membership in March 2024 (limited to air and sea route only).

**Israel-Hamas Gaza Ceasefire Agreement**

- on January 19, 2025.
- Duration: 42 days.
- **Impact:** Release of Israeli detainees and Palestinian prisoners, ceasefire in Gaza, increased humanitarian aid.

**Expanding the Global Plastics Action Partnership (GPAP)**

- Founder: World Economic Forum (WEF), September 2018.
- New achievement: Now 25 countries included, covering a total population of 1.5 billion.
- New members: Angola, Bangladesh, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania.
- Objective: To promote circular plastics economy (recycling and reuse).

**55th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)**

- Event: 20-24 January 2025, Davos, Switzerland.
- Objective: Discussions on global and regional challenges.

**India's Participation**

- Representation: Five Union ministers (Ashwini Vaishnaw, C.R. Patil, K. Rammohan Naidu, Chirag Paswan, Jayant Chaudhary).
- State representatives: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala.
- Objective: To strengthen global partnerships, attract investment, strengthen India's position in sustainable development and technological innovation.

**Georgia declared malaria-free by WHO**

- WHO certification: Mandatory interruption of indigenous malaria transmission for three years.
- Status: Turkey is now the only European country where malaria is present.
- History: Three parasitic species were active in Georgia in the 20th century.
- Result: Georgia joins 45 other countries and one region.

**The United States withdrew from the WHO**

- **Factor:**
  - Alleged flaws in COVID-19 management.
  - Lack of freedom from political influence.
  - The Trump administration has imposed a 90-day moratorium on US foreign aid.

**DeepSeek-R1 (China's AI startup)**

- Developer: DeepSeek, China.
- Competition: With OpenAI's O1 model.

**Attributes:**

- Solving complex problems in chemistry, math, coding.
- "Open-weight" systems – allowing researchers to analyze algorithms and improve.
- Cost: Developed at \$6 million, while Meta's Llama 3.1 405B model needed \$60 million and 11 times more computational power.

**February****16th Session of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) (COP16)**

- **Event:** From February 25 to 27, 2025.
- **Location:** in Rome (Italy).
- The conference was part of the initial COP16 meeting held in Cali (Colombia) in 2024.
- **Objective:** To resolve pending issues related to the financial mechanism to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- The 'Cali Fund' was launched at the conference.
- The Cali Fund will seek financial support from private companies that use genetic data in their industries.
- The Kelly Fund will accelerate biodiversity conservation efforts globally.

**Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) Initiative**

- This initiative has been launched by Denmark to strengthen cooperation on sustainable energy solutions with India.
- This will help in the commitment to achieve global carbon neutrality.
- It will create an ecosystem promoting cooperation between businesses, government bodies, research institutions and financial stakeholders of both countries.
- The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), the Indo-Danish Chamber of Commerce (IDCC), the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI), and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Energy Consortium are the partners of this alliance.

**India and Qatar have agreed to elevate their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.**

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the Kingdom of Qatar paid a State Visit to India from 17-18 February 2025.
- This was the second state visit of His Highness the Emir to India.
- A 'Bilateral Strategic Partnership Establishment Agreement' was signed between the two sides.
- Two agreements and five MoUs were signed during the state visit of the Emir of Qatar.

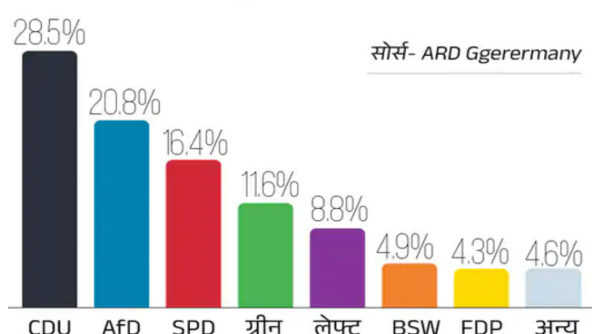
1.	Agreement on Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership
2.	Revised Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Tax on Income and its Protocol
3.	MoU between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Qatar on Financial and Economic Cooperation
4.	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports
5.	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Documents and Archives
6.	MoU between Invest India and Invest Qatar
7.	MoU between Confederation of Indian Industry and Qatar Traders' Association

### Gold Card Investor Visa Program

- The United States has announced a new program for wealthy immigrants.
- US President Donald Trump announced the new visa program called 'Gold Card' on February 25, 2025.
- This new 'Gold Card' visa can be purchased for \$ 5 million (44 crore Indian rupees).
- This program will replace the existing EB-5 visa.
- EB-5 grants immigration privileges to people investing between \$800,000 and \$1.05 million.

### Election results in Germany 2025

- In Germany, a coalition of conservative opposition leader Friedrich Mertz's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party has won 208 seats. (28.5% Votes)
- In addition, the far-right party (AFD) has won 151 seats. (20.8% votes)
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats Party (SDP) came third, winning just 121 of the 630 seats. (16.5% of the Vote)
- For the first time since World War II, a radical right-wing party has won so many seats in Germany.
- In Germany, 315 seats are required for a majority. Therefore, there is a possibility of forming a coalition government.



- Germany has a democratic and parliamentary system like India.
- Germany's Lok Sabha is called the Bundestag, which has 630 seats.
- In India, the head of government is the Prime Minister, while in Germany the Chancellor is the Chancellor.

### Chief Guest at Mauritius' National Day Celebrations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest at the Mauritius National Day celebrations.
- Mauritius' National Day celebrations will be held on March 12.
- Mauritius celebrates its National Day on March 12 every year, which marks its independence from British rule in 1968.
- Mauritius is an island nation in the western Indian Ocean.

### Bay of Bengal Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)

- Event: 20 to 22 February 2025 in Lankafinolhu, Maldives.
- India assumed the Presidency of BOBP-IGO on 21st February 2025.

### BOBP-IGO

- Origin: 2003
- Objective: It is an inter-governmental organization that promotes cooperation and provides technical advice for sustainable coastal fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region.
- Members: Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand are non-contracting associate parties.

### Operation Huscknight

- It is a military operation against Boko Haram by the country of Chad.
- The operation took place in Boko Haram strongholds in the Lake Chad region
- Boko Haram: It is a terrorist group based in Nigeria, which aims to enforce Islamic law in the country. Its name means "Western education is forbidden." "
- Lake Chad: Located in northwest Africa, the Lake Chad region extends to Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad.

### Brazil will host the BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro in July 2025.

- The Brazilian government has announced that the next BRICS summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7, which will be attended by Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and other member states.



- The summit will be attended by leaders of 20 member and partner countries.
- BRICS aims to strengthen relations with developing countries and reform Brazilian-led global institutions.
- The BRICS grouping was founded in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa included in 2010 as a counterbalance to the Group of Seven major industrialized nations.
- In 2024, the group has been expanded to add Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.

### **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025**

- The WEF 2025 meeting concluded in Davos, Switzerland, with representatives from various countries discussing key global issues on the theme "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age".

#### **India's Participation in WEF 2025:**

- India received investment commitments of more than Rs 20 lakh crore.
- **Contribution of States:**
  - Maharashtra received about 80% of the total investment.
  - Telangana attracted investments worth Rs 1.79 lakh crore.
  - Kerala gave priority to its industrial transformation.
  - Uttar Pradesh underlined its goal of becoming a Zero Poverty Free and USD 1 trillion economy by 2029.

#### **World Economic Forum (WEF):**

- **Founded:** Founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab (German engineer and economist) as the European Management Forum, renamed WEF in 1987.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **8th Indian Ocean Conference**

- **Event:** Took place on 16-17 February in Muscat, Oman.
- The event was organised by the Bharat Foundation in collaboration with Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The theme of the conference was "Journey to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership".
- Later this year, Bangkok, Thailand will host the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit on April 2-4.
- Bangladesh will next chair the BIMSTEC Summit.

#### **4th India-EU Urban Forum**

- Held on 13th February 2025 in New Delhi

- The 4th India-EU Urban Forum focused on strengthening India-EU cooperation towards sustainable urban development.

#### **India-EU Urban Forum:**

- It is a high-level forum for coordination and cooperation between India and the European Union (EU) on Smart and Sustainable Urbanization.
- It was established as part of the 2017 Joint Declaration on Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization.
- **Objective:** To facilitate discussion among officials, experts and stakeholders in order to exchange best practices, policies and innovative solutions for sustainable urban development.
- **Target Areas:** Urban Alliance and Integrated Approaches, Innovation and Inclusive Urban Mobility.

#### **International Maritime Shipping Assistance Organization**

- The first General Assembly of IALA was held in Singapore between 18 and 21 February 2025.
- India was elected as the Vice-Chair of the International Maritime Shipping Assistance Organization (IALA) in Singapore.
- Shri T.K. Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways led the Indian delegation to the meeting.
- India will host the IALA Council meeting in December 2025 and the IALA Conference and General Assembly in Mumbai in September 2027.

#### **International Maritime Shipping Assistance Organization (IALA):**

- It was established in 1957 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).
- It is an international organization, dedicated to coordinating and standardizing the means that aid maritime navigation.

#### **9th Asia Economic Dialogue**

- **Event:** Pune, Maharashtra.
- The theme of this dialogue was "Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Age of Fragmentation".
- It discussed contemporary topics – Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation, Economic Essentials of Cyber Security etc.
- It aims to address issues of economic fragmentation and identify actionable pathways for resilience and revival.

#### **First Edition of Soul Leadership Conclave**

- **Event:** 21-22 February in Delhi.
- **Inauguration:** By Prime Minister Modi on February 21.

**Chief Guest: Bhutan's Prime Minister Dashi Tshering Tobgay**

- It aims to broaden the landscape of political leadership in India through formal training.
- It aims to include those in politics who move forward not just through hereditary politics but through merit, commitment and passion for public service.

**MoU signed for Lithium Mining and Exploration**

- between India and Argentina.
- Meeting: Held in New Delhi.
- Objective: To enhance cooperation in the mining industry, particularly in the areas of investment opportunities and lithium exploration.

**Tri-Nation Buddhist Motorcycle Expedition**

- It began in February 2025 in Lumbini (the birthplace of Lord Buddha), Nepal.
- It is a historic initiative uniting Nepal, India and Sri Lanka through their shared Buddhist heritage.
- The route of this journey includes the following major Indian Buddhist sites:
  - **Sarnath** - Buddha's First Teaching Place
  - **Bodhi Gaya** - Buddha's Enlightenment Place
  - **Nalanda** - Ancient University
  - **Nagarjuna Sagar** - Buddhist Education Centre
  - **Udayagiri** - Buddhist Monastic Site
  - **Karnataka** - Various Buddhist Sites
- **Organizer:** In collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the Land Ports Authority of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) and Nalanda University, Rajgir.

**First Regional Dialogue on Social Justice**

- **Inauguration:** 24-25 February 2025 in New Delhi.
- It was held under the aegis of the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

**Global Coalition for Social Justice**

- Established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2023.
- **Objective:** To address the gaps in social justice and promote progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Its membership is voluntary and India is a member.
- It is for governments, organizations, businesses and academia.

**4th No Money for Terror Conference**

- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the 4th No Money for Terror Conference (NMFT) in Germany on 13th February 2025.

- India emphasized global solidarity in dealing with terrorism and reiterated its proposal for a permanent secretariat of NMFT in New Delhi.

**No Money for Terror Conference:**

- Inception: It was launched by France in 2018.
  - » Previous conferences: France (Paris, 2018), Australia (2019) and India (2022).
- Objective: It aims to promote international co-operation in curbing the financing of terrorism.

**61st Munich Security Conference**

- Held in Munich (Germany) from February 14 to 16, 2025. On behalf of India, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in this conference.

**About Munich Security Conference**

- It is the world's leading diplomatic forum for discussing international security policy and important security concerns.
- It provides a space for diplomatic initiatives, both official and non-official.
- Motto: Establishing Peace through Dialogue
- Establishment : In the year 1963
- Objective: To contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts by maintaining continuous, orderly and informal dialogue within the international security community.

**PRAKRITI 2025 - International Conference on Carbon Markets**

- **'PRAKRITI' Full Form:** Promoting Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and Resources for Integrating Transformational Initiatives
- **'Prakriti' Full Name:** Promoting empowerment, awareness, knowledge and resources to integrate transformative initiatives.
- **Event:** By the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- A premier forum for in-depth discussion on global carbon market trends, challenges and future pathways.
- **Objective:** To understand the role of carbon markets and develop effective strategies to combat climate change.
- It brought together national and international experts, policy makers, industry leaders, researchers and businessmen.

**Carbon Market:**

- It is an arrangement where carbon credits are bought and sold to control and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):**

- **Founded:** on March 1, 2002.

- **Formation:** The Government of India under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

### Women's Peacekeepers Conference

- The first conference for UN women peacekeepers was held in New Delhi on 24 and 25 February 2025
- The conference was attended by 35 countries.
- India is the second largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations.
- **Organizer:** Ministry of External Affairs, Union Ministry of Defence, United Nations Peacekeeping Centre of the Indian Army (CUN-PK) (Auxiliary)
- Theme: "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective"
- Objective: To explore the emerging role of women in UN peacekeeping operations.

### 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF)

- **Inaugurate:** Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj in **New Delhi**.
- India hosted this forum for the second time.
- Earlier in 2007, the 8th AFAF was held in Kochi (Kerala).
- **Events and Participation:** The Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) organized the event in collaboration with ICAR, Department of Fisheries (Government of India), and Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), Mangalore.
- Theme of 14th AFAF: "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific"
- AFAF is a global fisheries and aquaculture conference, organized every 3 years by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS).

## 5- Space & Defence Technology

### January

#### Space Technology

##### 100th launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

- **Launch:** 29 January 2025)
- **Mission:** GSLV-F15 NVS-02.
- **Attributes:**
  - Satellite placed in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit with Indigenous Cryogenic Stage.
  - Launch from the second launch pad of the space center.
- **NVS-02 Satellite:**
  - Part of the NavICsystem.
  - Designed, developed and integrated at the UR Satellite Centre (URSC).
  - India and provides precise navigation services within a radius of 1,500 km.
- **Background:** The first second-generation satellite NVS-01 was launched on 29 May 2023 onboard GSLV-F12.

##### Historic Docking Success of ISRO's SpaDeX Mission

- **Mission:** Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
- **Launch:** 30 December 2024, PSLV-C60 rocket, Sriharikota.
- **Major Achievement:**
  - Successful control of two satellites after docking.
  - India became the fourth country (after America, Russia, China).
- **SpaDeX Docking Process:**
  - PSLV-C60 launched two small spacecraft - 'Chaser' (SDX01) and 'Target' (SDX02) (220 kg per vehicle).
  - Installed in an orbit of 470 km, capable of docking-undocking.
- **Significance:** The groundbreaking technology for future on-orbit servicing and space stations will be developed.

##### Cabinet approves setting up of Third Launch Pad (TLP) at Sriharikota

- on 16 January 2025.
- **Venue:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Features of Launch Pad:**
  - Designed for Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLVs).
  - will act as a standby for the second launch pad (SLP).

- Helpful for human space flight missions such as Gaganyaan and Deep Space Exploration.
- Capable of handling semi-cryogenic stages and large configurations of LVM3.
- Utilization of existing launch pad infrastructure with maximum industry participation.

##### Existing launch infrastructure at Sriharikota:

- **First Launch Pad (FLP):**
  - In operation for 30 years.
  - Mainly used for PSLV and SSLV missions.
- **Second Launch Pad (SLP):**
  - Active for 20 years.
  - Supports GSLV and LVM3 missions.
  - Acts as a backup for PSLV.

##### Launch of India's first private satellite constellation 'Firefly'

- **Company:** Bengaluru-based space-tech company Pixel.
- **Launch location:** Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (USA).
- **Mission:** Launch on SpaceX's Transporter-12 rideshare mission.
- **Attributes:**
  - Fireflies are the world's most high-resolution commercial-grade hyperspectral satellites.
  - 5-meter resolution, 30 times clearer than existing 6-meter resolution satellites.
  - India's first commercial hyperspectral satellite constellation.

##### World's Most Powerful Hydrogen Fuel Train Engine (Indian Railways)

- **Specialty:** A 1,200 horsepower hydrogen train engine developed by Indian Railways, which is the most powerful in the world.
- **Trial Route:** Early trial on Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana.
- **Comparison:** Hydrogen engines from other countries (Germany, France, Sweden, China) are of 500-600 HP.

##### Green Hydrogen

- Hydrogen generated from renewable energy sources, which is considered the fuel of the future.
- **Production method:** By water electrolysis process, which does not emit carbon dioxide.
- **National Initiative:** Government of India's 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' (launched – 4 January 2023).



**ISRO 's CROPS test (study of plant growth in space)**

- Test Objective: Germination of cowpea seeds to study plant growth in space.
- पेलोड: CROPS (Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies)
- Projection: PSLV-C60 via POEM-4.
- Developer: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

**India's First Space Robotic Arm (ISRO)**

- Technique: Relocable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD).
- Specialty: Robotic arm with 7 degrees of freedom (DoF).
- Developer: IISU ( under ISRO).

**SCOT Mission (by Indian startup Digantara)**

- Company: Indian space startup Digantara.
- Launch: Under SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission.
- Aim:
  - More efficient monitoring of the Earth's Low Orbit (LEO).
  - Identification of objects smaller than 5 centimeters in length.
  - Helpful in increasing Space Positioning Awareness (SSA).

**Defence Technology****Indian Army's first 'Bhargavastra' anti-drone micro-missile**

- Project: Developed the first micro-missile system of the Bhargavastra counter-drone system.
- Objective: Protection against swarm drones (mass drone attacks).
- Successful Tests: Two tests at the Gopalpur Seward Firing Range (GSFR) in Odisha.
- Manufacturer: Economic Explosives Limited (part of Solar Industries India Limited).
- Technical Feature:
  - Ability to penetrate targets at a distance of more than 2.5 km.
  - Ability to identify and neutralize small aerial vehicles at a distance of more than 6 km.
  - Ability to launch 64+ micro missiles simultaneously.
  - Cost-effective solution against large-scale drone attacks.

**INS Nilgiri, INS Waghsheer and INS Surat**

- Commissioning Date: 15 January 2025, Mumbai Naval Dockyard.
- Prime Minister: Chaired by Shri Narendra Modi.

**INS Surat**

- Category: P15B guided missile destroyers.

**Speciality:**

- The fourth and last destroyer ship of the P15B project.
- One of the largest and most advanced destroyers in the world.
- Equipped with advanced network-centric capabilities and state-of-the-art weapons.
- Capable of facing threats from air, surface and underwater.

**INS Nilgiri**

- Category: P17A stealth frigate.
- Specialty:
  - The first ship of the P17A project.
  - Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau.
  - Equipped with advanced stealth, seaworthiness and survivability.
  - Proficient in anti-submarine, surface warfare and other maritime missions.

**INS Waghsheer**

- Class: P75 Scorpene submarine.
- Specialty:
  - The sixth and final submarine under the P75 project.
  - Built in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.
  - Equipped with advanced stealth and underwater warfare capabilities.
  - Suitable for anti-ship, anti-submarine, intelligence and surveillance missions.

**Amulya & Renewable Fast Petrol Vessel (FPV) launched**

- Launch Date: 05 January 2025, Goa.
- Manufacturer: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- Usage: Indigenously designed and manufactured for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Attributes:
  - The third and fourth vessels in a fleet of eight FPVs built by GSL.
  - The first two ships of the same series (Adamy and Akshar) will be launched in October 2024.

**Flourishing multi-purpose ship**

- Launch Date: 13 January 2025, L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai.
- Manufacturer: L&T Shipyard.
- Ministry of Defence Agreement: 25 March 2022.
- Attributes:
  - The second of two multi-purpose ships built for the Indian Navy.
  - Maximum speed of 15 knots.
  - The ability to pull ships, launch and retrieve various targets.
  - Use as a test platform for operating unmanned autonomous vehicles and indigenous weapons.

**Indo-US Interoperable Sonobuoy Development**

- Objective: To strengthen the Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy.
- Technique: For tracking submarines in the deep sea and oceans.
- **Cooperation:**
  - by Ultra Maritime (UM) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
  - Under the US-India ICET initiative (May 2022), advanced sonobuoys adapted for the Indian Ocean will be developed.

**Trajan 155 mm towed artillery gun system**

- Co-Developer: India (L&T) and France (KNDS France).
- Trial by the Indian Army.
- **Export:**
  - Armenia decided to include it in its army.
  - Armenia also purchased the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system and other defence equipment from India.

**Sanjay – Battlefield Surveillance System (SAN-JAY-BSS)**

- Launch Date: 24 January 2025, New Delhi.
- Introduction: An automated system that integrates input from all ground and air battlefield sensors.
- **Attributes:**
  - Prevents duplication by verifying the authenticity of the input.
  - Common surveillance images are created through secure military data networks and satellite communications.
  - Helpful in increasing battlefield transparency and strategy formulation.
  - The command and the army will provide the decision support system to the headquarters.
  - Equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and analytics.

**Successful test of third generation anti-tank missile 'Nag Mk-II'**

- Date: 14 January 2025.
- Manufacturer: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Test site: Pokhran Field Range.
- **Attributes:**
  - Third generation 'Anti-Tank Fire and Forget Guided Missile'.
  - Designed to deal with modern armored threats.
  - Fire-and-Forget Technology: The operator can lock the target before launch.
  - Accurate attack capability in complex battlefields.

**SSI Mantra – India's Indigenous Surgical Robotic System**

- Achievement: Two robotic heart surgeries were successfully performed through telesurgery at a distance of 286 km.
- Surgery Location: At Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, Controlled from Gurugram.
- Developer: SS Innovations.
- **Attributes:**
  - SSI Mantra 3 is the world's only robotic system that received regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.

**Himkavach – Multi-layer Textile System developed by DRDO**

- Introduction: Designed for use in cold weather for the military.
- **Attributes:**
  - Effective in temperatures from +20°C to -60°C.
  - Suitable for military operations in Himalayan regions.
  - Completed all user tests successfully in actual operation.

**CAR T-Cell Therapy Quaterm Approved**

- Developer: Immuneel Therapeutics.
- Purpose: For the treatment of adult B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (B-NHL).
- Approval: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- **India's First CAR-T Therapy:**
  - NexCAR19, developed by Tata Memorial Centre and ImmunoACT.
  - Launch: 4 April 2024, at IIT Bombay, by President Droupadi Murmu.

**CAR-T Cell Therapy**

- T-cells manage the immune response and destroy cells infected with pathogens.
- White blood cells detect disease and infection throughout the body.

**Prototype of India's first air taxi 'Zero' launched**

- Developer: Bengaluru-based startup Sarala Aviation.
- Target: Electric flying taxi launch in Bengaluru by 2028.
- **Attributes:**
  - 20-30 km Flight range, maximum speed 250 km/h.
  - Maximum capacity of 6 passengers, 680 kg load carrying capacity.
  - Based on EVTOL (Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing) technology.

**Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV)**

- Recent cases: Confirmed in two infants in Karnataka and Gujarat.

- Introduction: Common respiratory virus, causes upper respiratory infections (colds).
- Seasonality: more active in winter and early spring, similar to RSV and flu.
- Risk groups: children, people with weakened immune systems, and the elderly.
- Mode of infection: Spread through contact with an infected person or infected surface.

**IIT Bombay develops bacteria to tackle soil pollution**

- Objective: To reduce soil pollution and promote agriculture.
- **Attributes:**
  - Destroys toxic pollutants of the soil and produces nutrients.
  - Breaks down harmful substances and promotes growth hormone.
  - Helpful in preventing the growth of harmful fungi.

**Exercises****La Peros multilateral exercise**

- Host: France
- Participating Countries: Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, U.K., U.S.
- Location: Malacca, Sunda and Lombok Straits (Strategic area between the Indian Ocean - Pacific Ocean)

**Surya Kiran Exercise 2024**

- Type: Indo-Nepal Military Exercise
- Duration: 31 December 2024 - 13 January 2025
- Location: Saljhandi, Nepal

**Mount Aconcagua Joint Expedition**

- Partnership: Indian Army and Argentine Army
- Duration: 3 - 20 January 2025
- Location: Cerro Aconcagua, Argentina
- Significance: It is the highest peak in South America (6,995 m).

**Practice Devil Strike**

- Participants: Distinguished Airmen of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force
- Duration: 16 – 19 January 2025
- Objective: testing advanced airborne operations and logistical strategies in hostile terrain.
- Location: training area and firing range.

**February****NASA's Moon mission Athenalaunched**

- The US space agency NASA launched the lunar mission 'Athena' on February 26, 2025.
- It will land on the surface of the moon on March 6, 2025.
- It was launched from a SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket.

- It will study the chemical composition of the soil in the south polar region of the Moon.
- The mission is part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme.

**Technology Adoption Fund (TAF)**

- **Launch:** By Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).
- It is a funding project for India's space startups and MSMEs.
- Objective: To accelerate the development of indigenous space technology to reduce dependence on imported solutions
- **Amount:** Rs 500 crore
- The fund will provide financial assistance up to 60% of the project cost and 40% for large industries.
- Under this, a maximum of Rs 25 crore per project will be funded.
- This will accelerate future R&D from the development of new space products to the creation of intellectual property.

**Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**

- Establishment : In the year 2020.
- An autonomous agency under the Department of Space, Government of India
- Objective: To enable the participation of the Indian private sector in space activities.
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

**FEASTSoftware**

- Launch: By Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Feast: Finite Element Analysis of Structure.
- Objective: To promote indigenously developed finite element analysis software.
- The 'Feast' software has been developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- It is a structural analysis software based on the Finite element method, which will be used to analyze the behavior of structures under different loads in the fields of aerospace, automobile, civil, mechanical and marine engineering.
- It will help engineers to conduct virtual testing of designs before physical construction.

**Discovery of the most energetic neutrinos**

- Scientists have discovered the highest-energy neutrinos using the **KM3NeT (Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope) observatory** in the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is 30 times more energetic than any particle seen in the past.
- It is 10,000 times more powerful than the Large Hadron Collider particle, the world's largest particle accelerator.
- Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope (KM3NeT):

KM3NeT is a European research facility under construction in the Mediterranean Sea, which studies neutrinos.

- It is designed to detect neutrinos coming from distant sources and the Earth's atmosphere.
- **Note:** India's Neutrino Observatory project will be set up in a 1,200-metre-deep cave in Pottipuram village in Theni district of Tamil Nadu.
- Neutrinos are electrically neutral, almost massless subatomic particles that rarely interact with matter.
  - They are also called «ghost particles».

### **Indigenous semiconductor chip developed by IIT Madras for ISRO**

- Significant step in indigenous semiconductor technology under Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- 'IRIS' (indigenous RIS-V controller) developed from 'Shakti' processor, which is useful in IoT and computing systems.
- ISRO's Inertia Systems Unit (IISU) and IIT Madras collaborated on the chip design.
- The project was supported under the 'Digital India RISC-V' (DIR-V) initiative.

### **Defence Ministry signs contract worth Rs 10,147 crore for Pinaka**

- The Defence Ministry signed a Rs 10,147 crore deal for the Indian Army's Pinaka multi-launcher rocket system.
- The Defence Ministry has signed the contract with Nagpur-based Economic Explosives Ltd and Pune-based Muncisons India Ltd.
- It will be supplied by Economic Explosives Limited to Area Denial Munitions (ADM).
- Muncisons India Limited will make long-range rockets for the army.
- Area denial will help prevent enemy tanks, vehicles and soldiers from advancing, while munitions advanced range rockets will be able to penetrate deep into enemy territory and carry out precision strikes.

### **World's largest 10-ton propellant mixer launched**

- India has developed the world's largest 10-tonne propellant mixer for solid rocket motors in a major technological breakthrough.
- ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre has designed the mixer in collaboration with the Central Institute of Manufacturing Technology in Bengaluru.
- The mixer weighs 150 tons and has a height of 8.7 meters, a length of 5.4 meters and a width of 3.3 meters.
- This ensures precise and safe mixing of solid propellant material required for rocket launch.

### **Majorana 1**

- Microsoft has launched a chip called Majorana 1.
- It is the world's first quantum chip powered by topological core architecture. The aim of which is to revolutionize quantum computing.
- It is the first quantum chip that uses topological superconductors (topoconductors).
- It is made of indium arsenide (semiconductor) and aluminum (superconductor), which improves quantum stability and performance.
- It has eight qubits, but its topological core structure enables error-resistant scaling up to one million qubits.

### **Successful wet test of fourth generation deep-ocean manned scientific submersible 'Matsya-6000'**

- The test was carried out under the Samudrayaan project.
- As part of the Deep Ocean Mission initiative, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has commissioned the National Institute of Ocean Technology to develop a fourth generation deep-sea submarine Matsya-6000 under the Samudrayaan project.
- This test is a significant step towards conducting the test in shallow waters up to a depth of 500 meters by the end of 2025.
- This state-of-the-art submarine with a diameter of 2.1 meters is designed for operation of three persons.

### **Samudrayaan Project**

- It has been launched under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The Deep Ocean Mission is a central sector scheme. It aims to carry out Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration; To support Blue Economy initiatives such as Deep Ocean Mining.
- Objective: To send three persons to a depth of 6000 meters in the sea on a vessel named 'Matsya 6000'. These will search for resources such as minerals in the deep sea.
- Implementation period: 5 years (2020-2021 to 2025-2026).

### **Lumpy skin disease vaccine 'Biolumpivexin' approved**

- The Drug Regulatory Authority of India (CDSCO) approved Bharat Biotech's lumpy skin disease (LSD) vaccine BioLumpivacin.
- The vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech group company Biovet for dairy cattle and buffaloes.
- Biolumpivaccine is the world's safest DIVA (Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals) marker vaccine.



- This indigenous live-attenuated marker vaccine has been developed in collaboration with ICAR-NRCE, Hisar and Biovet.
- Lumpy skin disease is a transboundary animal disease that has affected cattle health and the dairy industry.

### Exercises

#### Sixth "Dharma Guardian 2025" Exercise

- It is a joint Indo-Japan military exercise.
- The exercise will be held from 24 February to 9 March 2025 at the Eastern Fuji Training Area in Japan.
- The main objective of this military exercise is to enhance inter-operability in urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.

#### Indo-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise «Cyclone-III»

- The joint Special Forces Exercise «Cyclone-III» between India and Egypt began on 10 February 2025 at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The previous edition was held in Anshas, Egypt in January 2024.
- **Objective:** To practice and validate the tactics of counter-terrorism operations in desert and semi-desert areas.

#### Multilateral Naval Exercise 'Komodo'

- The fifth multilateral naval exercise Komodo hosted by the Indonesian Navy began on February 16.
- It is scheduled to take place from February 16 to 22, 2025.
- More than 30 ships from over 15 countries are participating in the exercise.
- Russia, China, India and the United States are participating in the exercise.
- The theme of the exercise is "Maritime Partnership for Peace and Stability".

## 6- SPORTS

### January

#### Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25

- Host: Australia (22 November 2024 – 5 January 2025)
- Winner: Australia (Win over India 3-1)
- Speciality: Test cricket series played between India and Australia.

#### World Blitz Chess Championship 2024

- Location: New York, U.S. (30-31 December 2024)
- Winners: GM Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi (jointly)
- **Women's Category:**
  - Indian chess player R Vaishali won the bronze medal.
  - In the semi-finals, Xu Wenjun of China lost.

#### Anahat Singh – British Junior Open Squash Championships 2024

- Title: U-17 Girls Singles Winner
- Location: England
- Final: India's Anahat Singh beat Egypt's Malika El Karoxi 3-2.

#### Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024

- Winner: Karnataka (beat Vidarbha by 36 runs)
- Final Venue: Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara
- Trophy Identification: Also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy.
- Karnataka 1st Trophy: 2013–14
  - Total wins: 5th time winner

#### Santosh Trophy 2024-25

- Final Venue: GMC Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad (31 December 2024)
- Winners: West Bengal (beat Kerala 1-0)
- West Bengal won the title for the 33rd time.

#### Kho Kho World Cup 2025

- 1st edition: 13-19 January 2025, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- Winner: India (both men's and women's category)
- Men's Final: India beat Nepal 54-36.
- Women's Final: India beat Nepal 78-40
- Team participation: 20 men's and 19 women's teams.
- **Indian Men's Team:**
  - Captain: Prateek Waikar, Coach: Ashwini Kumar Sharma
- **Indian Women's Team:**
  - Captain: Priyanka Ingale, Coach: Sumit Bhatia

#### India Open 2025 Badminton

- Venue: K.D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (14-19 January 2025)
- **Conqueror:**
  - Men's Singles: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
  - Women's Singles: An Se-young (Korea)
  - Men's Doubles: Sez Phi Goh and Noor Izzuddin (Malaysia)
  - Women's Doubles: Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)
  - Mixed Doubles: Zheng Bang Jiang & Ya Xin Wei (China)

#### 23rd National Para Athletics Championship 2025

- Venue: Tamil Nadu (17-20 February 2025)
- Participants: About 1,700 para-athletes

#### Australian Open 2025

Class	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Janick Sinner	Alexander Zverev
Women's Singles	Madison Keys	Aryna Sabalenka
Men's Doubles	Harry Heliowara / Flickr Henry Patton	Simone Bolelli / Andrea Vavassori
Women's Doubles	Katerina Siniakova   Taylor Townsend	Hsieh Su-wei / Flicker Jelena Ostapenko
mixed doubles	By Olivia Gadecky John Pearce	By Kimberly Birrell John-Patrick Smith

#### Spanish Super Cup 2025

- Winner: Barcelona (beat Real Madrid 5-2).
- Barcelona's first trophy led by manager Hansi Flick.
- Lewandowski: 26 goals in 27 matches in all competitions.
- Tournament debut (1982): Competition between La Liga and Copa del Rey winners.

#### First Women's Hockey India League

- Winner: Odisha Warriors (beat Surma Hockey Club 2-1 in the final).
- Final place: Ranchi
- **Main Prizes:**
  - Best Goalkeeper: Savita (JSW Surma Hockey Club).
  - Emerging Player: Sonam (JSW Surma Hockey Club).
  - Best Player: Jyoti (JSW Surma Hockey Club).

### FIDE Chess World Cup 2025

- Host: India (31 October – 27 November 2025).
- India last hosted it in 2002 in Hyderabad.
- Winner in 2002: Viswanathan Anand.

### 86th Senior National Table Tennis Championships

- **Conqueror:**
  - Women's Singles: Diya Chitale (beat Sreeja Akula in final).
  - Men's Singles: Manush Shah (beat Payas Jain in final).
- Venue: Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium, Surat.
- Dia Chitale: A paddler from Mumbai, she plays for the RBI.

### Khelo India Winter Games 2025

- 1st place: Ladakh (7 medals including 4 gold ).
- 2nd place: Tamil Nadu (5 medals including 3 gold ).
- 3rd place: Maharashtra (10 medals but only 2 gold).
- **Key Performances:**
  - Ladakh Women's Ice Hockey Team: Beat ITBP 4-0 to win gold.
  - Indian Army beat ITBP 2-1 to retain men's ice hockey title.
  - Tamil Nadu's Yashasri: Gold in women's 500m skating event.
- Phase 1: 27 January 2025, NDS Stadium, Leh.
- Phase 2: 22-25 February 2025, Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir.

### Indian Winners at the 20th ICC Awards 2024

- ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year: Arshdeep Singh
- ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year: Jasprit Bumrah
- ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
- Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian to win the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award for the second time.

## February

### 38th Summer National Games 2025

- Uttarakhand hosted the games in 12 cities from 28 January to 14 February 2025.
- The Games are organised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and hosted by the State/UT Governments.
- Opening Ceremony: 28 January 2025, took place in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the event.
- Closing Ceremony: 14 February 2025, held at International Sports Complex, Haldwani, Uttarakhand. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was the chief guest.

- At the closing ceremony, the flag of the National Games was handed over to Meghalaya, which will host the 39th Summer National Games in 2027.
- Mascot: "Mauli" – Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- For the first time in the history of sports, competitions will be held in 7 cities of a state.
  - **7 cities:** Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Shivpuri and New Tehri.
- It includes 32 sports as well as four demonstration events.
  - **4 Demonstration Events:** Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Rafting, Yogasanas.
  - Mallakhamb and Yogasana were first kept as demonstration sports, but later these were included in the medal games.
  - Kalaripayattu and rafting demonstrations were played, in which no medals were awarded.
  - A total of 35 sports were held – 33 medal sports and 2 non-medal sports.

### Army team to win Raja Bhalinder Singh Trophy for 5th time

- The 'Raja Bhalinder Singh Trophy' is given to the team that wins the most gold medals in the Summer National Games.
- Services (Services Sports Control Board) won this trophy 5 times – 2007, 2011, 2015, 2022 and 2025.
- The services team comprises players from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.
- In the previous edition (2023), Maharashtra won the trophy by topping the medal tally.

### Medal tally of the 38th Summer National Games

Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Services Sports Control Board (Army)	68	26	27	121
2	Maharashtra	54	71	73	198
3	Haryana	48	47	58	153
4	Karnataka	34	18	28	80
5	Madhya Pradesh	33	26	23	82
15	Rajasthan	9	11	23	43
33	Sikkim	0	0	2	2

### 39th Summer National Games 2027

- The Indian Olympic Association chose Meghalaya to host the 39th National Games to be held in February/March 2027.
- Meghalaya will host the National Games for the first time.

- The northeastern states have previously hosted Manipur (1999, 30th National Games) and Assam (2007, 33rd National Games).

**Mohun Bagan win second ISL Shield title**

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant Football Club won the Indian Super League (ISL) Shield title in the final held in Kolkata on February 23.
- Mohun Bagan defeated Odisha FC Club 1-0 in the final.
- This is Mohun Bagan Super Giant's second consecutive title.
- He has also become the first team to win this title twice.

**Indian Super League (ISL)**

- It is a club-based football competition.
- - All India Football Federation (AIFF)

**Virat Kohli**

- Virat Kohli became the first batsman in the world to score 14,000 ODI runs in the shortest innings during the Champions Trophy 2025 match against Pakistan in Dubai on February 23.
- Virat Kohli achieved this feat in 287 innings. (Sachin Tendulkar (350 innings))
- Kohli is only the third batsman in the world to score 14,000 runs in ODIs, after Tendulkar and Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (378 innings).
- Kohli scored his 51st century in this match (record for most centuries in ODIs)
- In this match, Virat became the highest catcher in ODIs. (158 catches)

**Mohammed Shami**

- Mohammed Shami has become the second fastest bowler to reach 200 ODI wickets.
- Before him, only Mitchell Starc (102 matches) had achieved this feat.
- Shami took 202 wickets in 104 ODIs at an average of 23.63. '
- Shami has taken 200 ODI wickets in just 5,126 balls, making him the fastest bowler to do so according to balls.
- He achieved the feat on February 20 in Dubai in the ICC Champions Trophy match between India and Bangladesh.
- Also, Mohammed Shami became India's highest wicket-taker in ICC ODI tournaments with 60 wickets.

**The first edition of the Olympic eSports Games will be held in Saudi Arabia in 2027.**

- The first Olympic eSports Games 2027 will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The IOC is setting up a dedicated commission to explore opportunities for the younger generation involved in gaming.
- A six-member committee has been formed to include sports in the first edition of the eSports Olympics.
- **Note:** Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Football World Cup.

**Pankaj Advani wins Indian Snooker Championship**

- 36th National and 10th Men's Snooker Title at Yashwant Club.
- Scored an impressive break of 84 in the bout.
- The Asian Snooker Championship begins on February 15.

**India wins 3rd SABA Women's Championship 2025 title**

- Recently, India won the 3rd SABA Women's Championship 2025.
- India won the championship by defeating Maldives in the final.
- The match was played at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- The Indian team participated in the SABA Women's Championship for the first time.

**3rd SABA Women's Championship 2025**

- - **Held:** February 23-26
- **Organizer:** South Asian Basketball Association and Basketball Federation of India
- **Host:** India

**Wriddhiman Saha**

- Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The 40-year-old Saha, who made his international debut in February 2010, represented India in 49 matches including 40 Tests and nine ODIs.
- Saha played his last international match against New Zealand in 2021.
- In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Saha has played for several franchises.



## 7- Awards & Honours

### January

#### Padma Awards 2025

- A total of 139 names have been announced for the Padma awards for the year 2025.
- The list includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards.
- Among the awardees, 23 are women and the list includes foreigners in the category/category. NRIs / NRIs Pio/ There are also 10 individuals from the OCI and 13 posthumous awardees.
- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian awards in India.
- It is awarded in three categories, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

#### Padma Vibhushan (7)

S.No.	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Sri Duvvur Nageswara Reddy	medicine	Telangana
2.	Shri Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar	Public Affairs	Chandigarh
3.	Smt. Kumudini Rajinikanth Lakhia	art	Gujarat
4.	Shri Lakshminarayan Subramaniam	art	Karnataka
5.	Mr. M. T. Vasudevan Nair (posthumously)	Literature & Education	Kerala
6.	Mr. Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Japan
7.	Smt. Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)	art	Bihar

#### Padma Bhushan (19)

S.No.	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Shri A. Surya Prakash	Literature & Education-Journalism	Karnataka
2.	Shri Anant Nag	art	Karnataka
3.	Shri Bibek Debroy (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	NCT Delhi
4.	Shri Jatin Gaswamy	art	unequal
5.	Mr. Jose Chacko Periyappuram	medicine	Kerala
6.	Shri Kailash Nath Dixit	Other-archaeology	NCT Delhi
7.	Shri Manohar Joshi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
8.	Sri Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetty	Trade & Industry	Tamil Nadu
9.	Shri Nandamuri Balakrishna	art	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Shri P.R. Sreejesh	sport	Kerala
11.	Shri Pankaj Patel	Trade & Industry	Gujarat
12.	Shri Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous)	art	Maharashtra
13.	Shri Ram Bahadur Rai	Literature & Education-Journalism	Uttar Pradesh
14.	Sadhvi Ritambhara	social work	Uttar Pradesh
15.	Shri S. Ajith Kumar	art	Tamil Nadu
16.	Mr. Shekhar Kapur	art	Maharashtra
17.	Ms. Shobhana Chandrakumar	art	Tamil Nadu
18.	Shri Sushil Kumar Modi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
19.	Shri Vinod Dham	Science & Engineering	United States

#### National Sports Awards 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards to the winners of the National Sports Awards 2024 on 17 January 2025.
- These awards were announced recently by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

### Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- It is the country's highest sporting honour.
- The award was instituted in 1991–92.
- The winner of this award is given ₹ 25 lakh as prize money.
- This year, four sportspersons were given the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. These players are-

SN	Player Name	Competition
1.	Mr. Gukesh D	chess
2.	Shri Harmanpreet Singh	hockey game
3.	Shri Praveen Kumar	Para Athletics
4.	Ms. Manu Bhaker	marksmanship

### Arjuna Award

- The Arjuna Award is given to the best performing players for four consecutive years.
- This award was started in 1961.
- The Arjuna Awardee receives a statuette, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.
- This year, Arjuna Awards were given to 32 sportspersons. These players are-

SN	Player Name	Competition
1.	Ms. Jyoti Yaraji	athletics
2.	Ms. Annu Rani	athletics
3.	Ms. Neetu	boxing
4.	Ms. Sweety	boxing
5.	Ms. Vantika Agarwal	che
6.	Ms. Salima Tete	hockey game
7.	Mr. Abhishek	hockey game
8.	Mr. Sanjay	hockey game
9.	Shri Jarmanpreet Singh	hockey game
10.	Shri Sukhjot Singh	hockey game
11.	Shri Rakesh Kumar	Para-Archery
12.	Ms. Preeti Pal	Para Athletics
13.	Ms. Jiwanji Deepti	Para Athletics
14.	Shri Ajit Singh	Para Athletics
15.	Shri Sachin Sarjerao Khilari	Para Athletics
16.	Mr. Dharambir	Para Athletics
17.	Shri Pranav Surma	Para Athletics
18.	Mr. H. Hocato Sema	Para Athletics
19.	Simran Ji	Para Athletics
20.	Mr. Navdeep	Para Athletics

21.	Shri Nitesh Kumar	Para-Badminton
22.	Ms. Tulsimathi Murugesan	Para-Badminton
23.	Ms. Nitya Shri Sumathi Sivan	Para-Badminton
24.	Ms. Manisha Ramdoss	Para-Badminton
25.	Shri Kapil Parmar	Para-Judo
26.	Ms. Mona Agarwal	Para-Shooting
27.	Ms. Rubina Francis	Para-Shooting
28.	Shri Swapnil Suresh Kusale	marksmanship
29.	Shri Sarabjot Singh	marksmanship
30.	Shri Abhay Singh	squash
31.	Shri Sajan Prakash	Act or art of swimming
32.	Mr. Aman	wrestling

### Dronacharya Award

- The Dronacharya Award is given to those coaches who have won medals in international events.
- The award was instituted in 1985.
- The Dronacharya (life) award carries a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakh and a regular Dronacharya awardee of Rs. 10lakhs.

### Dronacharya Award 2024

- This year Dronacharya Awards (regular and life-long) were given to 5 coaches. These coaches are:

### Dronacharya Award: Regular Category

S. No.	Coach's Name	Competition
1.	Shri Subhash Rana	Para-Shooting
2.	Ms. Deepali Deshpande	marksmanship
3.	Mr. Sandeep Sangwan	hockey game

### Dronacharya Award: Lifetime Achievement Category

S. No.	Coach's Name	Competition
4.	Shri S. Muraleedharan	badminton
5.	Mr. Armando Agnelo Colaco	football

### Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports

- The Dhyan Chand Award is given to sports persons who have made special contributions in the field of sports. Dhyan Chand
- The awardee will receive a statuette, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh.
- This year 2 players will be given this award. These are:

S. No.	Player Name	Competition
1.	Shri Sucha Singh	athletics
2.	Shri Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Para-Swimming

- Chandigarh University was awarded the Maulana Abbul Kalam Azad MAKATrophy for its highest performance in the Khelo India University Games.

### Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2025

- Institutional Category Winner: Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
- Establishment: Union Ministry of Home Affairs for outstanding work in disaster management.
- Announcement Date: 23 January (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti).
- Prize Money:**
  - Institution: ₹51 Lakh + Certificates.
  - Individuals: ₹5 lakh + certificates.

### Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

- Establishment: 1999, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Recognized as the top tsunami service provider by UNESCO.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025

#### Dr. Syed Anwar Khurshid

- Honours: Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.
- Contributions: Healthcare, community wellness, strengthening India-Saudi Arabia relations.

#### Christine Carla Kangu

- Country: President of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Contributions: Exceptional achievements in public life and contribution to enhancing India's international prestige.
- Chief Guest at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.
- Conference Venue & Date: 8-10 January 2025, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### Indian short film "Anuja" nominated at Oscars 2025

- Category: Best Short Film (Live Action).
- Direction: Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai
- Contributors: Guneet Monga (two-time Oscar winner), Priyanka Chopra, Mindy Kaling.

### 82nd Golden Globes Awards (2025)

- Event: January 5, Los Angeles.
- Key Winners:**
  - "Shogun" (Television Category) – 4 Awards

- Best Series (Drama)
- Best Actress (Drama)
- Best Actor (Drama)
- Best Supporting Actor

- "The Brutlist" – 7 nominations, Adrien Brody won the Best Male Actor in a Motion Picture-Drama.
- "The Last Showgirl" – Pamela Anderson won the award for Best Female Actor in a Motion Picture-Drama.
- "El Mal" ("Emilia Perez") – Best Original Song.
- "Flow" – winner in the motion picture-animated category.

- Indian film: Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine as Light" received two nominations, but no awards.

### Lionel Messi – Presidential Medal of Freedom Winner

- Honor: The highest civilian honor of the United States.
- Contribution: Contribution to the prosperity, security, world peace, or society of the United States.
- The first male footballer to win this honor.
- Second player: Earlier this honor was received by female footballer Megan Rapinoe.

### Republic Day 2025 – Best Tableau Awards

- Best Tableau: Uttar Pradesh – "Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Heritage and Development".
- 2nd place: Tripura – "Eternal Faith: Worship of 14 Gods in Tripura – Kharchi Puja".
- 3rd place: Andhra Pradesh – "Attikoppaka Bommalu-Eco-friendly wooden toys".
- Best Union Ministry Tableau: Ministry of Tribal Affairs – "Year of Tribal Pride".
- Marching Detachment Category: Jammu & Kashmir Rifles (Best among the Services).
- Special Prizes:**
  - Central Public Works Department – "75 Years of the Indian Constitution".
  - "Jayati Jai Mam: Bharatam" Dance Group.

### Tarun Das – Singapore's Honorary Civilian Award

- Honours: Singapore's highest honorary citizen award.
- Provider: President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam.
- Contribution: Outstanding contribution to Singapore's development and economic growth.
- Second Indian Winner: Earlier this honor was given to Ratan Tata.
- Post: Former Director General of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

**Krishna Ella – INSA India Fellowship 2025**

- Honours: Indian National Science Academy's (INSA) Prestigious India Fellowship 2025.
- Post: Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech International.
- **Contribution:**
  - Development of new vaccine technologies.
  - Significant improvements in existing technologies.
  - Contribute to new scientific discoveries and knowledge enrichment.

**February****Purnima Devi Burman named Time magazine's 'Woman of the Year'**

- Indian biologist and wildlife conservationist Purnima Devi Barman has been named Time magazine's 'Woman of the Year'.
- Purnima Devi Barman is the only Indian woman on this year's list.
- The list includes 13 women, including actress Nicole Kidman and France's Gisele Pelicot.
- Purnima Devi is known for her tireless efforts in protecting the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork, locally known as Hargila.
- It is one of the rarest storks in the world.

**Manu Bhaker named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year**

- Recently, Olympian Manu Bhaker was chosen as the winner of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award 2024

**BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award**

- **Inception:** Year 2020 (by BBC India)
- **Aim:** To highlight the achievements of Indian women players and motivate them to move forward.

**'Vantara' wins National Animal Friend Award**

- On February 27, 2025, the Central Government gave the 'National Animal Friend' Award to 'Vantara', an organization related to animal welfare, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Vantara of the Reliance Group Foundation is an organisation dedicated to the rescue, treatment and lifelong care of elephants.
- It is located in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- The world's largest elephant hospital has also been established by Vantara.

**Natarajan Chandrasekaran gets honorary knighthood**

- Tata Sons chief Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been awarded an honorary knighthood by the UK for his contribution to UK-India trade relations.

- He was awarded the United Kingdom's "Order of Outstanding (Civil Division) of the British Empire", which is given to those who have made special contributions to social service, art, science, and business.
- Other international celebrities who received this prestigious honor include names like Dagmar Dolby, Eric Schmidt, Jason Furman and Rajinder Datta.

**Sunil Bharti Mittal gets honorary knighthood medal**

- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal was awarded an honorary knighthood medal by the United Kingdom.
- This honor was given for furthering business relations between the United Kingdom and India.
- He was given the insignia of the "Knight Commander of the Most Outstanding Order of the British Empire" (KBE).

**NTPC Wins Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025**

- NTPC Limited was awarded the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the 'Water Tensile Category'.
- The award was given by UN Global Compact Network India, which was received by NTPC representatives Shri Harekrushna Dash and Shri K Karthikeyan.
- The award is in recognition of NTPC's efforts in water conservation and sustainable water management.
- The Forward Faster Sustainability Awards honours organisations that promote sustainability and are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- NTPC has achieved self-sufficiency in the use of freshwater at its RGPP plant.
- Note: NTPC is established as India's largest integrated power unit.

**National Dhanvantari Ayurveda Award**

- The awards were presented by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India to 3 physicians for the year 2025.
- The awardee received a citation, a trophy bearing the statue of Lord Dhanvantari and a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.

**Award Recipients:**

1. Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma (Famous Nadi Vaidya and Writer)
2. Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal (Experience and Ayurveda contribution in the field of Dravyaguna)
3. Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni (Founder of World Gramarmala National Conference and World Ayurveda Prabodhini)



**Banaras Lit Fest Awards 2025**

- The awards were officially announced by the Banaras Lit Fest, a prestigious platform of literature and culture, on 23 February 2025 in New Delhi.
- These awards will be given at the grand Banaras Lit Fest to be held from 7 to 9 March 2025 at Hotel Taj, Banaras.
- One of the highest honours in Indian literature, these awards are given to writers who have made outstanding contributions in poetry, fiction, non-fiction prose and translation.
- Each winner will receive a cash prize of Rs. 10,000. A cash prize of Rs. 51,000, certificates and trophies will be awarded.
- Renowned author **Raj Kamal Jha** has been awarded the 'Ruskin Bond Fiction Book Award' for his novel "The Patient in Bed No. 12".
- Eminent writer of Hindi literature **Kashinath Singh** will be honoured with the 'Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award'.

## 8- Person in news

### January

#### V. Narayanan – ISRO Chairman

- Appointment: Appointed Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Tenure: For two years with effect from 14 January 2025.
- Other positions: Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Space Commission.
- Predecessor: S. Somnath.
- Specialization: Rocket and spacecraft propulsion.

#### Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran

- He became a judge in the Supreme Court .
- Sworn in: 16 January 2025 by CJI Sanjiv Khanna.
- Previous post: Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
- Judicial Strength: Now 33 judges in the Supreme Court .

#### Bahadur Singh Sagoo

- Appointment: President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- Predecessor: Adile Sumariwalla.
- Other appointments: Sandeep Mehta was elected secretary of the federation.
- Sports Achievement: Asian Games Gold Medalist.

#### Gyanendra Pratap Singh

- Appointment: Director General of CRPF appointed.
- Batch: 1991, IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- Tenure: Till 30 November 2027.
- Approval: By the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

#### M. Mohan

- Appointment: Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Center (LPSC).
- Previous post: Director (Project) at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- Predecessor: Dr. V. Narayanan.
- Special Task: System Leader of the Moon Impact Probe (MIP) of the Chandrayaan-1 mission.

#### Bhuvnesh Kumar

- Appointment: CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- Assumed office: 1 January 2025.
- Other Posts: Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Predecessor: Amit Agarwal.

#### Devjit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia

- Devajit Saikia – Secretary of BCCI.
- Prabhtej Singh Bhatia – Treasurer of BCCI.
- Selection: Unopposed.

#### Donald Trump

- He became the 47th President of the United States .
- Sworn in: On 20 January 2025, he became the 47th President of the United States.
- Predecessor: Joe Biden (46th President).
- Sworn Officer: Chief Justice John Roberts.
- Vice President: JD Vance (50th Vice President).
- Representing India: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- Exclusive: Usha Vance becomes first Indian-American Second Lady.

#### John Mahama

- Appointment: Became President of Ghana for the third time.
- Predecessor: Nana Akufo-Addo.
- First oath: In July 2012.

#### Zoran Milanović

- Re-elected President of Croatia.
- Opponent: Defeated the ruling Conservative Party candidate.
- Policy stances: Critics of the EU and NATO.
- Capital: Zagreb.

#### Michael Martin

- He became the Prime Minister of Ireland.
- Party: Fianna Fáil Party leader.
- Previous tenure: Prime Minister from 2020 to 2022.

#### Lukashenko

- Became President of Belarus.
- Election Victory: Elected President for the seventh time.
- Vote percentage: about 87%.
- Tenure: President continuously since 1994.
- Belarus is located in Eastern Europe.

#### Joseph Aoun

- Election: Elected President by the Parliament of Lebanon.
- Background: Fifth former army commander to become President of Lebanon.
- Chief of Army Staff: Appointed in March 2017.
- Justin Trudeau
- On 6 January 2025, he resigned as Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Liberal Party.

- Tenure: Became Prime Minister in 2015 at the age of 44.
- Interim role: Will remain in office until the election of a new leader.

## **Demises**

### **K. S. Manilal**

- Died: 1 January 2025
- Botanist, Padma Shri awarded.
- The ancient Latin text "Hortus malabaricus" was translated into English and Malayalam.
- He was a former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut.

### **Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram**

- Died: At the age of 88
- He was an Indian nuclear scientist.
- **Contribution:**
  - Playing a key role in India's nuclear weapons programme.
  - The chief scientist of the first nuclear tests of 1974 and the Pokhran-II tests of 1998.

## **February**

### **Gyanesh Kumar**

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- He will retire on January 26, 2029. He is the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- He replaced Rajiv Kumar.
- CEC Gyanesh Kumar is a former IAS officer. He is a 1988 batch officer of Kerala cadre.
- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Dr. Vivek Joshi as the newly appointed Election Commissioner.
- He is a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.
  - Gyanesh Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law.
  - **Selection Committee:** Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Cabinet Ministers
  - Election Commissioner Sukhbir Singh Sandhu will continue in his post.

### **Tuhin Kanta Pandey becomes new SEBI chairman**

- Recently, India's Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the 11th chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
  - His tenure will be for three years.
  - He will replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who was the first woman chairman of SEBI
  - Tuhin Kanta Pandey is a 1987 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre.

### **SEBI**

- Founded: 12 April 1988
- Statutory Body Formed: 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Shaktikanta Das**

- Shaktikanta Das was appointed as the second Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister on February 22.
- His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- His tenure will coincide with the prime minister's term or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Shaktikanta Das is a retired IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.
- He has been the 25th Governor of RBI.
- He has also been a member of the G-20 Sherpa of India and the 15th Finance Commission.
- PK Mishra is also currently serving as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

### **B V R Subramaniam**

- The government has extended the tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) BVR Subramaniam by one year.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the extension of Subramaniam's tenure as CEO of NITI Aayog.
- He was appointed CEO of NITI Aayog in February 2023 for two years.

### **Rekha Gupta**

- She was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Delhi on February 20.
- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy.
- Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.
- Six cabinet ministers were also sworn in along with him.
- Rekha Gupta is the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi and the fourth woman Chief Minister.
- Former women Chief Ministers of Delhi: Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi Singh.
- Rekha Gupta is a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh in Delhi.
- Earlier, she has also been elected as a member of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.
- Rekha Gupta is the 18th woman Chief Minister of India.
- Sucheta Kripalani was the first woman Chief Minister of India.
- Delhi Assembly seats: 70
  - The BJP won 48 seats and the Aam Aadmi Party won 22 seats.
- Note: The Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by the President.

**V. Ananth Nageswaran**

- The tenure of the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India, V. Anantha Nageswaran, has been extended till March 2027. The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The office of the Chief Economic Advisor is tasked with advising the government on various economic policies and drafting the Economic Survey.

**P D Singh**

- Standard Chartered has announced the appointment of PD Singh as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for India.
- He will replace Zareen Daruwala, who will retire on March 31.
- Standard Chartered is a British multinational bank that operates in wealth management, corporate and investment banking, and treasury services.

**Charanjot Singh Nanda**

- Charanjit Singh Nanda has been appointed as the new chairman of the world's largest accounting body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the term 2025-26.
- The Central Council of ICAI, who was earlier serving as the Vice-President of ICAI, elected him as the 73rd President during a meeting in New Delhi.
- D. Prasanna Kumar, a chartered accountant from Andhra Pradesh, was elected as the vice-president.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, who is currently serving as the Minister of State for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, administered the oath of office.

**Shikhar Dhawan**

- Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan has been appointed by the International Cricket Council as the event ambassador for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.
- The tournament will be held from February 19 to March 9 in Pakistan and Dubai.
- Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy-winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson and New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee have been named as the other three ambassadors.
- Dhawan is India's highest run-scorer in the history of the Champions Trophy, having scored 701 runs in two editions.
- He is the only player to win consecutive Golden Bats to score the most runs in the tournament.

**Jotham Napat**

- Jotham Napat was elected as the new Prime Minister of Vanuatu on 11 February 2025.
- He was elected by voting in Parliament in Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu.
- Napat will lead a coalition government made up of five political parties – Leaders Party, Vanuaku Party, Green Mo Justice Party, Reunification Movement for Change and Iuko Group.
- In addition, Johnny Konapo Russau has been appointed as Deputy Prime Minister.

**Constantine Tasoulas**

- Former Parliament Speaker Constantine Tassoulos was elected as the new President of Greece on 12 February 2025 by the Parliament of Greece.
- He will succeed the first female President of Greece, Katerina Sakellaropoulou.
- On 13 March 2025, he will be sworn in as the head of the state.

**Kash Patel**

- He has become the 9th director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States.
- He is the first Indian-origin director of the FBI.
- The Senate of the USA (upper house of the United States Congress) approved his appointment on February 20, 2025.

**Demises****Mayadhar Raut**

- He was a Odissi dancer, who passed away at the age of 92.
- Mayadhar Raut is considered as the "Father of Odissi Dance".
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2010, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977).
- He was the first to present the Geeta Govinda 'Ashtapadi' on stage, depicting the Shringar Rasa.



## 9- Places in news

### January

#### Indore & Udaipur – Ramsar Wetland Recognized City

- Indore and Udaipur became the first two Indian cities to be included in the list of global wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention.
- **Ramsar Convention:**
  - An intergovernmental treaty that ensures the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources.
- **Global Situation:**
  - Thirty-one new cities were recognized, bringing the total number to 74.
  - China (22 cities) and France (9 cities) lead the list.
- **In India:**
  - At present, 85 wetlands are protected under the Ramsar Treaty.
  - This recognition is given only to cities that meet the six international criteria.

#### Inauguration of Sonamarg Tunnel (Z-Morh Tunnel)

- Location: Located in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Inauguration: 13 January 2025, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It was formerly called the Z-Morh Tunnel.
- Length: about 12 km.
- Construction cost: Over ₹2,700 crore
- The distance from Gagangir to Sonamarg on the Srinagar-Leh highway has been reduced from 1 hour to 15 minutes.
- The Sonamarg tunnel is part of the Zojila tunnel project.

#### Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji on the banks of Pangong Lake

- Location: Eastern Ladakh, on the banks of Pangong Lake.
- **Speciality:**
  - At an altitude of 14,300 feet, the Indian Army installed the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji.
  - Unveiled by officers of the Maratha Light Infantry.
  - The location is located close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- **Pangong Lake:**
  - Elevation: 4,350 meters (the highest saltwater lake in the world).
  - Length: 160 km, of which 1/3 in India, 2/3 in China.

#### 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025

- Event: 8-10 January 2025, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- Theme: 'Contribution of Overseas Indians to Developed India'
- Chief Guest: President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Cangaloo.
- Inauguration: By Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Concluding: President Droupadi Murmu joined on January 10.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):**
  - It is celebrated on 9th January every two years.
  - It is celebrated on 9 January 1915 when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.
  - Launched: 2003, by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

#### India's First Organic Fisheries Cluster

- Location: Soreng District, Sikkim.
- Launch: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- **Key features:**
  - First of its kind organic fisheries cluster in India.
  - Developed under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
  - Fisheries systems free of harmful chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides.
  - The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is playing a major role in this.

#### Dibrugarh will be the second capital of Assam

- Announcement: Dibrugarh will become the second capital of Assam by 2027.
- **Key Developments:**
  - An assembly complex will be set up here.
  - Tezpur will be declared as the 'cultural capital' and a Raj Bhavan will come up there.
  - A mini secretariat and the office of the Chief Secretary will be set up in Silchar.
  - The construction of the permanent assembly building in Dibrugarh will begin on 25 January 2026.
  - The assembly session will be held in Dibrugarh every year from 2027.

**Archaeology Experiential Museum**

- Location: Vadnagar, Gujarat
- Inauguration: 16 January 2025, by Union Home Minister Amit Shah
- **Highlights:**
  - Spread over an area of 12,500 square metres, the construction cost was ₹298 crore.
  - Shows the rich cultural history of Vadnagar.
  - The first of its kind museum in India, where visitors can experience the archaeological site.
  - More than 5,000 artifacts on display.
- Vadnagar is one of the ancient living heritage cities of India.

**Oil & Gas Exploration Approved in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Approval: By the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).
- Location: Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam.
- **Highlights:**
  - Approval for oil and gas exploration drilling in Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
  - It is named after the country's only ape species, the Hoolock Gibbon.

**First state to link forest ecosystem to green GDP**

- State: Chhattisgarh
- **Aim:**
  - The twenty-ninth consonant of the Devanagari syllabary
  - Green GDP will be implemented to improve planning.

**World Monuments Watch 2025**

- **Selected Destinations of India:**
  - Musi River Historical Buildings of Hyderabad.
  - Bhuj Historical Water Systems of Gujarat.
- The list highlights 25 sites affected by water crisis and climate change.
- Launched in 1996 by the New York-based World Monuments Fund (WMF).
- The World Monument Watch is announced every two years.
- This list includes sites nominated by individuals and community-based organizations around the world.

**'Yala Glacier' added to Global Glacier Casualty List**

- Location: Nepal
- One of the most studied glaciers of Nepal.
- Between 1974 and 2021, 680 meters have shrunk.
- It is expected to disappear completely by 2040.
- The only glacier in the entire Himalayas to be included in the Global Glacier Casualty List.
- There are a total of 15 glaciers in this list.
- The Yala Glacier was placed in the «Critically Endangered» category.

**India's first glass bridge over the sea**

- Location: Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
- It connects the Thiruvalluvar statue and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.
- Length: 77 meters, width: 10 meters.
- Construction cost: ₹37 crore
- Visitors facilitate safe movement between the two sites with a view of the sea.
- Arched arch structure, designed to endure the saline air coming from the sea and high humidity.

**Asia's Largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility**

- Venue: IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu
- Developed to meet India's coastal and marine engineering needs.
- Established under the National Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts Technology (NTCPWC).
- It will address challenges related to Indian ports, waterways and coastal structures.
- The impacts of 3D waves will be tested for port, offshore, coastal and inland waterway projects.

**South India's first infectious disease research and diagnostic laboratory**

- Venue: Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), Bengaluru
- **Highlights:**
  - South India's first Infectious Diseases Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL) will be set up.
  - Infectious disease research will get a boost in Bengaluru.
  - Focus on diseases caused by bacteria, fungi and parasites.
  - It will be helpful in quick diagnosis and better management.
  - Part of government's initiative to set up special laboratories in medical colleges.

**1,200-year-old Buddhist monastery**

- Location: Ratnagiri Buddhist Site, Jajpur District, Odisha
- The Buddhist monastery complex was found in excavations by the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India).
- Stone statues of Lord Buddha, votive stupas, engraved stones, pottery, beads, stone pillars and ancient brick walls were discovered.
- A five-foot monolithic elephant statue was found.
- Fragments of a huge head statue of Buddha and statues of Buddhist deities were also found.
- **Note:** The fall of Ratnagiri was due to the invasion of Muslim rulers in the 13th century AD.

**27th International Glass Congress (ICG) 2025**

- Location: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Event: 20-24 January 2025
- Inauguration: By Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Conducted By: CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI).
- This was the second time this event took place in India, the first time was in 1986.
- **Theme** : "Glass: A Smart and Indispensable Material for Sustainable Society"

**Nadi Tarangini: India's First Ayurvedic Medical Device**

- Producer: Atreya Innovations, Hinjewadi, Pune
- It is the first Ayurvedic medical device approved by CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organization).
- Ayurvedic pulse diagnostic tool, developed for pulse examination.
- Developed by Dr. Aniruddha Joshi after six years of research at IIT Bombay.
- The accuracy of the pulse waveform is about 85%.
- CDSCO
  - The national regulatory body for drugs, medical devices and cosmetics in India.

**India's First Battery Energy Storage System**

- Location: Kilokri, South Delhi
- Start: March 2025
- India's first commercial utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS).
- 20 megawatts (MW)/ A group of batteries with a capacity of 40 megawatt-hour (MWh).
- Cost of the project: Approximately ₹120 crore (\$14 million).
- BSES is the largest power distribution company in the capital city of Delhi (a joint venture of Reliance Group and Delhi Government).
- Main financier: Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), a non-profit alliance dedicated to renewable energy investments.

**Maha Kumbh Mela 2025**

- Location: Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- Begins: 13 January 2025 (Paush Purnima, starting with Amrit Snan)
- Ends: 26 February 2025 (till Mahashivratri)
- The world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering.
- Devotees bathe at Triveni Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers).
- A month-long «Kalpvas» till Magha Purnima.
- Special because of the rare astronomical alignment that occurs only once in 144 years.

**First state to develop dedicated AI policy**

- State: Maharashtra
- The Maharashtra government constituted a 16-member committee to give

recommendations on AI Policy 2025.

- Maharashtra will be the first state in India to develop a dedicated AI policy.
- The committee will be chaired by: Director, Directorate of Information Technology, Mumbai.
- The AI policy will be based on the framework of the AI Mission Policy of the Government of India.
- The policy will suggest measures to complement the central government's AI mission.

**Miscellaneous****Defence Ministry declares 2025 as 'Year of Defence Reforms'**

- Announcement: 1 January 2025
- **Aim:**
  - Improve military capabilities and operational readiness.
  - To promote efficiency, coordination and technological advancement in the defence forces.
  - Launching new reform initiatives.

**"When-Listed" Platform**

- Launch: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- **Key Points:**
  - Trading platform of stocks that have completed the IPO but are yet to get listed.
  - Aim to reduce 'grey market activities'.

**SEBI's "Sachetization" Scheme for Investing in Mutual Funds**

- Objective: To promote financial inclusion.
- **Key Points:**
  - Making mutual fund investment easier for small investors.
  - It is possible to start investing with as little as ₹ 250.
  - Strategy of presenting financial products in small, accessible packages.

**Entity Locker**

- Developer: National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Key Points:**
  - Digital platform for managing and verifying documents of businesses and organizations.
  - Secure cloud-based solution.
  - Useful for MSMEs, startups, corporations, trusts, and societies.
  - Part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure Initiative.

**‘BHARATPOL’ Portal**

- Launch: 7 January 2025, by Home Minister Amit Shah
- Developer: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- **Aim:**
  - Helps law enforcement agencies to get faster assistance from Interpol.
  - Investigations and exchange of information with 195 member states possible.

**Bharat Battlefield Darshan App**

- Launch: 15 January 2025, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Army Day
- Developer: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism and Indian Army
- **Aim:**
  - The battlefields associated with the wars of 1962, 1971 and 1999 will be developed as tourist destinations.
  - Ladakh (Rezang-La, Galwan), Arunachal Pradesh (Kibithu, Bum-La), Siachen Base Camp to be opened for tourists.

**‘Impact Factbook’**

- Launch: By Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal
- Developer: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- **Aim:**
  - To showcase the evolution of India’s startup ecosystem from 2016-2024.
  - To provide financial and mentorship support to startups through the Bhaskar platform (BHASKAR).

**iSPOT Portal**

- Launch: By Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- **Aim:**
  - Improve the reporting and resolution of technical problems of stock exchanges and market institutions (MIIs).
  - Streamlining the process of early and final root cause analysis (RCA) reports.

**Communication Companion Mobile App**

- **Aim:**
  - Strengthen Telecom Security and Empower Citizens.
  - Available on both Android and iOS platforms.
  - Useful measures to provide protection against telecom frauds.

**National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0**

- Connecting India’s 1.7 million remaining villages with broadband connectivity.
- Broadband service to reach at least 60% of households in rural areas .

- Ensuring a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps.
- Broadband users to increase from 66 crore to 94 crore.

**Conferences/Festivals****85th All India Presiding Officers Conference**

- Location: Patna
- Inauguration: By Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla
- Topic: Contribution of Parliament and State Legislative Bodies in Strengthening Constitutional Values
- Lok Sabha Speaker unveils 8th edition of book «Parliamentary Studies and Procedure».

**3rd National Mining Ministers’ Conference**

- Location: Konark, Odisha
- Organizers: Ministry of Mines and Government of Odisha
- **Key Initiatives:**
  - Mining Tenement System (MTS) launched
  - Digital Platform to Increase Transparency and Efficiency in Mineral Resource Management

**First Olympic Research Conference**

- Venue: National Defence University (RRU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Date: 27-30 January 2025
- **Aim:**
  - Discussing strategies and financing on building «sustainable» sports infrastructure
  - Making India a strong contender to host the 2036 Olympics

**Rural India Festival 2025**

- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Date: 4-9 January 2025
- Inauguration: By Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Theme: «Building a Resilient Rural India for Developed India’
- Objective: To promote rural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage

**Aero India 2025**

- Version: 15th
- Location: Bengaluru
- Date: 10-14 February 2025
- **Theme :** ‘Runway to a Billion Opportunities’
- **Aim:**
  - Promoting Indigenisation
  - Demonstration platform showcasing state-of-the-art technologies for Indian and foreign defence companies

**‘Sun, Space Weather and Solar-Stellar Connection’ Conference**

- Location: Bengaluru
- Date: 20-24 January 2025



- Conducted By: Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)
- Exclusive: Held to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)

**International Saraswati Mahotsav**

- Location: Adi Badri, Yamunanagar, Haryana
- Inaugurate: By Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini
- Duration: 29 January – 2 February 2025
- **Importance:**
  - Adi Badri is considered to be the origin of the Saraswati River.
  - A three-day International Conference on «Holy Saraswati River» was held at Kurukshetra University.
- Objective: To increase the global recognition of India's great civilization.

**6th International Millet Festival**

- Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Theme: «Transformation of Agri-Food Systems through Agro-Ecology: A Global Perspective»
- **Special:**
  - Experts from 10+ countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Italy, Peru, England, attended.
  - Karnataka is the leading producer of millets in India.
  - It also hosted the first International Millet Festival in 2017.

**Kerala's Kappad and Chawl beaches get 'Blue Flag Certification'**

- Provider: Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- **Land:**
  - Kappad Beach (Kozhikode, Kerala)
  - Chawl Beach (Kannur, Kerala)
- Blue Flag Certification Criteria:
  - 3.3 Awarded on meeting stringent environmental, safety, water quality and sustainable development standards.

**Indian beaches with Blue Flag certification**

- India's first Blue Flag beach: Chandrabhaga Beach, Odisha
- Total certified beaches (now 13):
  - Odisha: Golden Beach
  - Gujarat: Shivrajpur Beach
  - Kerala: Kappad Beach, Chawl Beach
  - Diu: Ghoghla Beach
  - Andaman & Nicobar: Radhanagar Beach
  - Karnataka: Kasarkod Beach, Padubidri Beach
  - Andhra Pradesh: Rushikonda Beach
  - Tamil Nadu: Kovalam beach
  - Puducherry: Eden Beach
  - Lakshadweep: Minicoy Thundi Beach, Kadmat Beach

**'Boda Festival' Celebration of Hati Tribes**

- Location: Himachal Pradesh (Trans-Giri Region)
- Start: 10 January 2025
- Local name: Festival of Magho
- **Importance:**
  - The largest annual festival of the Hati tribes.
  - A culturally important festival.
  - The name of the Hati tribe originated from the 'haat' (local market) where they sold vegetables, crops, meat and wool.

**India Mobility Global Expo 2025**

- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Duration: 17-22 January 2025
- Theme: «Beyond Borders: Co-Creating the Automotive Value Chain of the Future»
- **Aim:**
  - Promote collaboration and innovation in the automotive and mobility sectors.
  - Accelerating sustainable and cutting-edge technological advancements.

**Generation Beta's first baby born in India**

- Location: Mizoram
- Date of Birth: 1 January 2025, 12:03 AM
- Name: Frankie

**Generation Beta**

- Time period: Generation born between 2025 and 2039.
- **Attributes:**
  - A generation that grew up between the internet and digital facilities.
  - A generation born in technological advancements and the immense influence of smart devices.
- Person who gave the definition: Mark McCrindall (sociologist)

**India has the world's third largest metro network**

- Announcement: By Prime Minister Narendra Modi (5 January 2025)
- Project Cost: Over ₹12,200 crore
- **Important Projects:**
  - 13 km long section of Lli-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor inaugurated.
- **Global Situation:**
- India ranked third in the length of operational metro network, surpassing Japan.

**February****Blue-cheeked bee-eater's first breeding ground in India**

- **Location:** The mill is in the plains of Andivilai near the Manakudi mangroves in Tamil Nadu.

**Blue-cheeked bee-eater**

- Scientific Name: Merops persicus
- Lineage: Merops

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Historically, this bird was known as a winter migratory bird in India.

### India's first vertical bidirectional solar plant inaugurated

- **Location:** On the metro viaduct of Okhla Vihar Metro Station.
- By Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Vertical bidirectional solar panels can capture sunlight from both sides.
- It will use the tall structure of the metro for solar power generation without any additional land.

### International Conference on 'Green Metro Systems - Future of Urban Mobility'

- **Event:** In Delhi.
- **Organized:** DMRC, Confederation of Indian Industry and Indian Green Building Council.

### First Biobank in Zoo

- Padmaja Naidu is India's first wildlife biobank located in the Himalayan Zoological Park (Darjeeling Zoo).
- In the biobank (frozen zoo), the genetic material of animals is preserved for conservation and research.
- It is part of the National Conservation Plan in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Bio-banks will be set up at Delhi National Zoo and Nandankanan Zoo (Odisha).

### Darjeeling Zoo:

- It is the largest high-altitude zoo in India.

### India's first "open-air art wall museum" inaugurated

- India's first "Open Air Art Wall Museum" was launched at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi.
- It contains 38 unique murals depicting India's meteorological history, development of meteorological forecasting and its impact on agriculture, disaster management and everyday life.
- The initiative has been developed in collaboration with Delhi Street Art.

## Miscellaneous

### Asia's First Global Hyperloop Competition (GHC) 2025

- **Event:** 21-25 February by IIT Madras.
- The event was attended by 150 industry representatives from across the globe.
- **Organizer:** IIT Madras, IITM Promoter Technologies Foundation and SAE India with additional support from Ministry of Railways and Government of India.

- **Objective:** To unite global talent, industry leaders, and researchers, promote collaboration, innovation and real-world implementation of Hyperloop technology.
- Hyperloop is the fifth mode of transport. It is a train that travels in a near-vacuum tube.
- This low air resistance allows the capsule inside the tube to reach speeds of more than 1000 km/h.

### India's first assembly to have translator facility

- Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- It will have translation facilities in Awadhi, Braj, Bhojpuri, Bundelkhand and English.

### 'Waste recycling and climate change 2025'

- The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on February 18.
- The conference was organized by the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI).
- It aims to streamline waste management and promote eco-friendly production in industries.
- India generates about 62 million tonnes of waste annually, with the amount of plastic, electronic and hazardous waste increasing rapidly.

### "Shatavari – For Better Health" Campaign

- Launch: 06 February 2025.
- In order to raise awareness about the health benefits of medicinal plants, a species-centric campaign named "Shatavari-For Better Health" was launched today by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of AYUSH.
- Campaigns have been conducted by NMPB for Amla, Moringa, Giloy and Ashwagandha in the past. These initiatives have contributed to spreading awareness about the health benefits of medicinal plants across the country.

### Inauguration of NSDC International Academy

- Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) inaugurated the NSDC International Academy in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The academy is a flagship initiative of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India.
- This academy is designed to provide world-class skill development and training programs.
- The academy will act as a centre of excellence that will offer specific training programmes tailored to the skill demands of countries like Germany, Japan and Israel.

**'Innovate with GoStats' Hackathon**

- It is a hackathon, launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The hackathon will take place between February 25 and March 31 on the MyGov platform.
- The theme of this hackathon will be "Data-driven insights for Developed India".
- **Objective:** To motivate students and researchers to use the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to create innovative data-driven approaches.

**'Nayanamritam 2.0'**

- It is the world's first AI-powered chronic eye disease screening programme launched by Kerala.
- The initiative uses Artificial Intelligence to enhance early detection and streamline eye disease screening.
- This will make quality eye care more accessible and efficient throughout the state.
- It has also included screening for two other major long-term eye diseases such as glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

**Chalukya era Kannada Inscription**

- Recently, three rare Kalyana Chalukya era Kannada inscriptions have been identified for the first time at the village of Pudur Mandal Ka Skeleton in Vikarabad district of Telangana.
- These inscriptions date back to 1129 AD. It dates back to 1130 AD and 1132 AD when Emperor Someshwara-III of the Chalukya dynasty of Kalyani was ruled by Bhulokamalla Deva.

**Inscription**

- The first inscription mentions the construction of the Bijeshwar temple, the consecration of a Shivalinga and the donation of 100 martars (then land measurement) by Bijjarasa, a local headman of Kankal village.
- The second inscription mentions the donation of some land and cash to the Bijeshwar temple by Somideva Peggada, local Chaudhry (chief) and Karanam Bijjarasa.
- The third inscription mentions the donations made to the temple by Somaparamnadi, Chaudhry Gundarasa, Bemminayaka, Nabhanayaka and Bilnayak.

**'Mitra' Platform**

- The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the new platform called 'MITRA'.
- **MITRA Full Form:** Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant.
- This platform will assist investors in tracking and retrieving their unclaimed or dormant mutual fund folios.

- According to Sebi, a mutual fund folio will be considered inactive if there has been no transaction in the last 10 years, but the unit balance still exists in it.
- The Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) will jointly manage the 'Mitra' platform.

**Memory League World Championship 2025**

- **Event:** From January 5 to February 2, 2025.
- India's student Vishwa Rajkumar won the Memory League World Championship 2025.
- In this, Rajkumar won by memorizing a sequence of 80 random numbers in 13.50 seconds and 30 images in 8.40 seconds.
- Vishwa Rajkumar is in first place with 5,000 points.

**India becomes 2nd country in the world to introduce digital pilot license**

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu launched the Electronic Personnel License of India on 20 February 2025.
- Electronic Personnel License has been introduced after getting approval from the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- The objective of this initiative is to increase safety, transparency and efficiency in the process of pilot licensing.
- The Electronic Personnel License can be accessed through the EGCA mobile application.

**Dinesh Khara Committee**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 7-member committee under the chairmanship of Dinesh Khara to review the Insurance Act, 1938.
- This is in line with the proposed Insurance Amendment Bill, which aims to increase the FDI limit from 74% to 100%.
- IRDAI is a statutory body established under the IRDA Act, 1999 and is responsible for regulating and promoting the insurance industry in India.

**Fort William renamed as 'Victory Fort'**

- Fort William, the headquarters of the Indian Army's Eastern Command in Kolkata, has been renamed as 'Vijay Durg'.
- This change was aimed at freeing the colonial symbol.
- The new name is inspired by Maharashtra's Sindhudurg Fort, which was the Maratha naval base under Chhatrapati Shivaji.

**Jharkhand bans gutka and tobacco-based pan masala**

- The Jharkhand government has imposed a complete ban on the manufacture, distribution, sale and storage of gutka and pan masala containing nicotine and tobacco.

- According to a notification issued by the Jharkhand Health Department, the ban will remain in force for one year from the date of notification.
- After this, the situation will be reviewed and the extension of the ban period will be considered.

### **Aadhaar Good Governance Portal**

- It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Objective:** To streamline the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests.
- The Aadhaar Good Governance portal allows both government and private entities to obtain Aadhaar authentication for public interest services.
- This will help citizens to easily access services in sectors such as healthcare, education, e-commerce, and hospitality.

### **DPIIT signs MoU with Paytm to promote startups**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has entered into an agreement with fintech company Paytm on February 26, 2025, to promote startups.
- Under this agreement, Paytm will provide mentoring, infrastructural support, and market access opportunities to startups.
- The agreement will help startups develop state-of-the-art payment and financial technology solutions.
- DPIIT is a government body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### **'RBIDATA' App**

- **Launch:** By the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It will provide access to over 11,000 different series of economic data related to the Indian economy.
- Users will be able to view the time series data in graphs/charts and download the data for analysis.

### **Magazine 'Sashakt Bharat'**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the Ministry of Defence's biennial Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat' on February 27, 2025.
- The magazine highlights the valour, patriotism and sacrifice of the armed forces personnel.

### **DPIIT signs MoU with Korea Transport Institute**

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for logistics and infrastructure development was signed on February 10.
- Location: Sejong National Research Complex of Korea.
- Signatories: KOTI President Yangchun Kim and Ambassador of India Amit Kumar.

- Aim: Logistics collaboration, knowledge exchange and infrastructure development under PM Gati Shakti scheme.

### **Conferences/Festivals**

#### **27th Meeting of Western Zonal Council**

- **Event:** 22 February 2025 in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Chairperson: Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah.
- **Includes:** Chief Ministers of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu.
- **Organizer:** The Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.

#### **World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES)**

- The summit will be held from May 1 to 4, 2025, at the Jio Convention Centre in Mumbai.
- The Waves Comics Creators Championships is a joint initiative of the Indian Comics Association (ICA) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India.
- It aims to foster innovation, creativity and collaboration in the media, entertainment and technology sectors.
- The summit will bring together creators, industry leaders, and investors to explore new opportunities in animation, gaming, visual effects, and XR (Extended Reality).

#### **India Calling Conference 2025**

- **Inauguration:** By Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in Mumbai on 27 February 2025.
- **Event:** IMC Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- **Theme:** 'Developing India The Path to 2047: Leading to Prosperity for All'
- It discussed investment in India and India's opportunities in global economic growth.

#### **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0**

- The third edition will be held from 15-24 February 2025 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The event is being organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with various ministries and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- Its main theme is "Focus on Sage Agastya's contribution to health, philosophy, science, classical Tamil literature and cultural unity".

#### **India Energy Week 2025**

- **Event:** In New Delhi.
- **Organizer:** Under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and jointly by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industries (FIPI).



- The event emphasized energy access, security, sustainability and decarbonization efforts.
- FIPI is an apex society of entities in the hydrocarbon sector and acts as the industry interface with the government.

**Key MoUs:**

- India signed a number of strategic agreements and MoUs aimed at enhancing energy security and diversifying supply sources.
  - BPCL and Eco Wave Power (Israel) signed **an agreement to set up India's first wave energy pilot in Mumbai.**
  - BPCL entered into a partnership with Petrobras (Brazil) for import of 6 million barrels of crude oil, which will diversify India's oil imports.

**Bharat Tex 2025**

- On February 16, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Bharat Tex 2025, a mega global textiles event held in New Delhi.
- The event showcases cultural diversity through India's rich textile traditions including various regional styles such as Chikankari, Bandhani and Kanjeevaram silk.
- India's textile and apparel exports grew by 7%, and the country is now the world's sixth-largest exporter.

**'Elecrama-2025'**

- 'ELECARAMA-2025' was held from February 23-26, 2025 at India Expo Mart, Noida.
- ELECARAMA 2025 is the world's largest electrical show.
- It was the 16th edition of Elecrama.
- It showcased electrical and energy technologies from across the world, including India.

**Pusa Agricultural Science Fair 2025**

- **Inaugurate:** Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi.
- **Theme:** 'Advanced Agri-Developed India'.
- There will be a live demonstration of state-of-the-art varieties and technologies developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

**Nyokum Yulo Festival**

- The first joint Mega Nyokum Yulo festival was held in Arunachal Pradesh on February 26, 2025.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the chief guest of the festival.
- The festival was held at Bosimla in Kamle district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The festival was organized to highlight the importance of tribal culture and tribal heritage in Northeast India.

**98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan**

- **Event:** 21 to 23 February in New Delhi.
- **Inauguration:** By Shri Narendra Modi on 21st February.
- **Aim:** To celebrate India's rich literary tradition and the timeless relevance of the Marathi language.
- The conference was held in Delhi after 71 years.
- Panel discussions, book exhibitions, cultural programmes and interactive sessions of litterateurs were organized during the conference.
- **Note:** Recently Marathi has been given the status of classical language.

**32nd Conference of Indian Art History Congress**

- The 32nd Conference of the Indian Art History Congress (IAHC) was held from 8th to 10th February 2025 at the Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida.
- **Topic:** "Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and Culture".
- **Objective:** To highlight diverse forms of artistic expressions based on epics.
- **Event: Organized by** the Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida under the Ministry of Culture.

**38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela**

- Union Minister for Culture and Tourism inaugurates 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad district of Haryana.
- Event period: 7 February to 23 February 2025.
- The fair will showcase the art, craftsmanship and talent of artisans from India and across the world.
- Describing it as more than just a marketplace, the Union Minister underlined its role in preserving and promoting ancient crafts.

**'Ali e Ligang' festival**

- Recently, the Mising tribe, the largest tribal community of Assam, celebrated the Ali-e-Ligang festival at Shankarpur in Jorhat.
- **Meaning of Ali e Ligang:** The first sowing of roots and fruits.
- It is made up of three words, 'ali', legumes, 'ai', seeds and 'ligang' sow.
- It is celebrated between February-March or on the first Wednesday of the month of 'Gin-mur Polo'.
- During this time, the Gumrag dance is performed by the tribe.

**Aadi Mahotsav 2025**

- Recently, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsava-2025.
- The inaugural ceremony was held at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.

- The festival will run from February 16 to 24, 2025.
- Aadi Mahotsav is a celebration of India's rich tribal heritage, culture, arts, crafts, food and commerce.

**5th Saras Aajeevika Mela- 2025**

- The Saras Aajeevika Mela-2025 is being organized from February 21 to March 10 at Shilp Haat, Noida.
- Organizer: Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- Objective: To help rural artisans and craftsmen to promote their livelihood and inclusive growth.
- Theme for the year 2025: "Developing the Export Potential of Lakhpati Didi".

**Herath Poshte**

- It is a sacred festival of Kashmiri Pandits.
- Herath, also known as 'Har Ratri' or 'Shiv Ratri', is the most important religious and cultural festival of Kashmiri Pandits.

- It is celebrated on the Trayodashi Tithi of Krishna Paksha of the month of Phalguna, which usually falls between February and March.
- On the occasion of Herath festival, Shiva-Parvati and other gods and goddesses are worshiped in Kashmiri Pandit families.

**Jhumoir Dance**

- At the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit on 24 February 2025 in Guwahati, 8,888 artists from the 'tea tribes' of Assam performed the 'Jhumur Dance'.
- On the completion of 200 years of Assam tea industry, Jhumoir Binandini (Mega Jhumoire) 2025 program was organized.
- Jhumoir Binandini dance is the main dance of tea garden workers.
- In this dance, women are the lead dancers and singers, while men play traditional instruments such as madal, dhol, or dhak (drum), cymbals, flutes, and shehnais.

# 10- Index & Reports

## January

### Henley Passport Index 2025

- Issuer: Henley & Partners
- Top Location: Singapore (strongest passport)
- Last place: Somalia (102nd, visa-free score: 35)
- India's rank: 85th (visa-free score: 57)
- India was ranked 80th in 2024.
- Pakistan: 103rd (101st in 2024)
- Bangladesh: 100th place (97th in 2024)
- In this index, the passport of that country is considered the strongest, whose citizens can travel visa-free to the most countries.

### The 5 most powerful passports in the index

Rank	Country
1	Singapore
2	Japan
3	Finland, France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Spain
4	Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden
5	Belgium, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom

### Next Generation Geothermal Energy Potential in India

- Source: International Energy Agency (IEA)
- India's position: 3rd largest market by 2050
- Geothermal Energy: Renewable energy sources generated from the Earth's core, Uses - Heating and Power Generation
- Top countries: China, USA, and India (75% of global production )
- Conventional geothermal potential in India: ~14 terawatt (TW) at a depth of 5 km
- **Key Areas:**
  - Gujarat
  - East Coast of Andhra Pradesh
  - Central Sone-Narmada Fault Zone

### Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2024

- Issuer: Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil (31 December 2024)
- By Assessment: Joint Efforts of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States/UTs
- **Groundwater Statistics:**
  - Total annual recharge: 446.90 billion cubic meters (BCM)
  - Extractable Resources: 406.19 BCM

- Annual groundwater withdrawal: 245.64 BCM
- Average Ground Water Withdrawal Level: 60.47%
- Classification of 6746 Assessment Units:
  - Safe (73.4%) – 4951 units
  - Semi-Critical (10.5%) – 711 units
  - Serious (3.05%) – 206 units
  - Over-exploitation (11.1%) – 751 units

### India's first 'Coastal-Aquatic Bird Census'

- Event Date: 3-5 January 2025
- Location: Jamnagar, Marine National Park and Sanctuary
- Organizers: Gujarat Forest Department and Gujarat Bird Conservation Society (BCSG)
- Marine National Park: India's First Designated Marine National Park
- **Bird Diversity:**
  - 300+ Local & Migratory Bird Species
  - 50+ Aquatic Bird Species
- Protected Areas: Established for Gulf of Kutch, Marine Biodiversity and Mangrove Conservation

### India becomes world's 7th largest coffee producer

- Export value (FY 2023-24): \$1.29 billion
- Comparison to 2020-21: Almost double from \$719 million
- Exports in the first half of January 2025: 9,300 tonnes
- Main Importing Countries: Italy, Belgium, Russia
- Main Export Products: Unroasted Coffee Beans

### QS World Future Skills Index 2025

- Released by: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- India's Digital Skills Ranking: 2nd Rank
- India leads: Canada and Germany
- AI & Green Skills Preparation: Second Ranked After USA
- India's overall rank: 25th position
- Category: «Future Skills Contender»
- Top 10 countries (e.g. USA, UK, Germany) Category: «Future Skills Pioneers»
- Top Place: USA (Score 97.6)
- **4 Key Indicators of Evaluation:**
  - Skill Fit
  - Academic Readiness
  - Future of Work
  - Economic Transformation

### Global Firepower Military Power Ranking 2025

- Basis: Assessing the military power of 145 countries on 60+ factors

### Top 5 countries:

1. USA – 0.0744 (at the top since 2005)
  2. Russia – 0.0788
  3. China- 0.0788
  4. India – 0.1184
  5. South Korea
- India's defence spending (2023): Increased by 4.2% compared to 2022 due to increase in defence and strategic investment.
  - Japan (7th), Turkey (8th), Iran (14th) – defense capabilities are increasing

### Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025

- **Issuer:** By NITI Aayog.
- The first issue of this report was released by Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
- The financial situation of 18 major states has been evaluated from the financial data of 2022-23.
- **Objective:** To understand the financial health of the states, help in policy-making for their development.
- The report covers five key points: **quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index and debt sustainability.**

Class	State/UTs
'Achievers Category' (Best Performing States)	Goa, Jharkhand and Gujarat including Odisha and Chhattisgarh
'Aspirational' Category (Worst Performing States)	Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab
'Front Runner' Category	Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka
'Performer' Category	Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Bihar and Haryana

- Odisha has secured the top position in the report with the highest overall score of 67.8.
- Odisha has topped the Debt Index (99.0) and Debt Stability Index (640).

### Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025

- The subject-wise ranking of universities worldwide for 2025 was released by Times Higher Education (THE) on January 22, 2025.
- The ranking includes eleven categories. These are Arts and Humanities, Business and Economics, Computer Science, Education Studies, Engineering, Law, Life Sciences, Medicine and Health, Physical Sciences, Psychology and Social Sciences.

### Subject-wise Top Institutes

Subject	Top Institutions	Country
Arts & Humanities	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	America
Business & Economics	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	America
Computer Science	University of Oxford	Britain
Education Studies	Stanford University	America
engineering	Harvard University	America
law	Stanford University	America
Life Sciences	Harvard University	America
Medical & Health	University of Oxford	Britain
Physical Sciences	California Institute of Technology	America
Psychology	Stanford University	America
Social Sciences	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	America

- Universities in the United States ranked first in 9 out of 11 disciplines.
- Asian universities did not secure the top position in any subject.

### India's Position

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is the only Indian institute to feature in the top 100 global rankings for computer science.
- For the first time, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 in the university rankings by subject, and secured the 99th position.
  - The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) secured the 96th position in the Computer Science rankings and 99th in the Engineering category.

### February

### Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2024

- It has been published annually since 1995 by the non-governmental organization Transparency International.
- It measures public sector corruption levels in 180 countries on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (least corrupt).
- **Global Ranking:**
  - Denmark ranked at the top as the least corrupt nation.



- Finland and Singapore finished second and third respectively.
- Status of India and Neighbouring Countries:
- India – 96th position (was ranked 93rd in 2023.) )
- China – 76th position
- Pakistan – 135th place
- Sri Lanka – 121st position
- Bangladesh – 149th position

### Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2024

- Issuer: **World Bank.**
- India ranks 38th out of 139 countries.
- Turnaround Time of Indian Ports: 0.9 days (USA – 1.5 days, Australia – 1.7 days).
- India ranks 22nd in the International Shipments category.
- Top countries: Singapore (1), Finland (2), Germany (3), Netherlands (4).
- Estimate: By 2030, India can be in the top 25 countries.
- The logistics market is expected to grow from \$317.26 billion in 2024 to \$484.43 billion by 2029.
- India's logistics spending is 13-14% of GDP.

### Devolution Index Report 2024 on Panchayat Devolution in States

- Union Minister S.P. Singh Baghel released a report titled 'Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States – An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024' in New Delhi.
- The report evaluated six key aspects of panchayats: framework, function, finance, function, capacity building and accountability.
- The report shows the progress of decentralization across the states and union territories of the country.
- Between 2013-14 and 2021-22, the devolution of rural local bodies has increased from 39.9% to 43.9%.

### Top 10 States in the Devolution Index 2024 (DI Score > 55):

rank	State/UT	Index Points
1	Karnataka	72.23
2	Kerala	70.59
3	Tamil Nadu	68.38
4	Maharashtra	61.44
5	Uttar Pradesh	60.07
6	Gujarat	58.26
7	Tripura	57.58,
8	Rajasthan	56.67
9	West Bengal	56.52
10	Chhattisgarh	56.26

### Report on Internet Shutdown

- **Issuer:** "Access Now" (Digital Rights Organization)
- According to this, the highest internet shutdown in the world was in Myanmar.
- India stood second in this regard. India recorded 84 internet shutdowns in 2024. (Highest among democracies) (ranked first last year.) )
- Of the 84 shutdowns in India, 41 were related to protests, while 23 were caused by communal violence.
- Manipur had the highest number of internet shutdowns (21) in the country.
- It was followed by Haryana (12) and Jammu and Kashmir (12) at the second and third positions respectively.
- In 2024, the social media platform "X" was the most blocked platform in the world. (Blocks 24 times in 14 countries)

### Climate Risk Index 2025

- **Issuer:** By Germanwatch.
- India has been ranked sixth in this index 2025.
- This report assesses the countries affected by extreme climate events between 1993 and 2022.
- Top 5 most affected countries: Dominica, China, Honduras, Myanmar and Italy.
- Other countries in the top 10: Greece, Spain, Vanuatu, Philippines.

### Impact on India (1993-2022)

- India was among the 10 most affected countries in the world.
- In this period, India recorded 10% of the total deaths and 4.3% of the total economic damage caused by global climate disasters.
- India faced more than 400 extreme climate events, which caused a loss of \$180 billion and the deaths of at least 80,000 people.

### List of Asia's Richest Families 2025

- **Issuer:** Bloomberg Institution.
- In this, 4 business families of India are included in the top 10.
- **1st place:** Mukesh Ambani's family (\$90.5 billion)
- **4th place:** Mistry family (\$37.5 billion)
- **7th place:** Jindal family (\$28.1 billion)
- **9th place:** Birla family (\$23 billion)
- Apart from this, India's Bajaj family is also included in the top 20.
- The Chiravanant family (\$42.6 billion) (Thailand) and the Hartono family (\$42.2 billion) (\$42.2 billion) (\$ Indonesia) are in second and third place respectively.

**Madhya Pradesh becomes the state with the highest number of vultures in the country**

- The number of vultures in Madhya Pradesh has increased to 12,981.
- A total of 7 species of vultures are found in the state. Out of these, 4 species are local and 3 species are migratory.
- Vultures are large predatory birds that mainly eat rotten meat (dead animals).

**Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**

- It is one of the largest bird counting programmes in the world.
- GBBC 2025 took place from 14 to 17 February.
- A total of 1,068 species were recorded in India.
- West Bengal topped the list with a count of 543 bird species. (For the third time in a row)

**Top 3 states (by number of bird species):**

1. West Bengal – 543 species
  2. Uttarakhand – 446 species
  3. Assam – 414 species
- Darjeeling counted the highest number of species in Bengal at 252, though it was lower than the 308 species in 2024.
  - GBBC was started in 1998, and India started participating in it from 2013.
  - Observers with the highest number of species sightings: Baharuddin S.K. (310 species)
  - Participants who uploaded the most checklists: Shantanu Manna (112 checklists)

**World Reputation Ranking 2025**

- **Issuer:** By Times Higher Education (THE).
- Four Indian universities were included in it.
- According to the World Reputation Rankings 2025, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru is the best university in India.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Madras and Education 'O' Research are the other universities that have found a place in this ranking.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been ranked in the 201-300 range in this ranking.
- Along with this, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras are also included in the same ranking between 201-300. The aggregate score of these institutions is between 26.9 and 34.2.
- Apart from this, Education 'O' Research Deemed University is also ranked fourth in India in terms of prestige.
- Education 'O' Research, which entered the rankings for the first time, is also placed in the 201-300 range.
- Harvard University has secured the first place in The World Reputation Rankings for the 14th consecutive year.
- Six US institutions are in the top 10 in the ranking.

**India ranks 5th in the global economy ranking.**

- According to NITI Aayog, India is ranked 5th among the world's top economies.
- Its real gross domestic product (GDP) will be \$4.3 trillion by 2025.
- India's real GDP will grow from \$2.4 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025.
- India also recorded the highest inflation-adjusted growth of 77% among the top 20 countries.

# 11. Important Days and Weeks

## January

### Savitribai Phule Jayanti 2025

- Date: 3rd January 2025 (194th Birth Anniversary)
- Significance: India's first female teacher, who empowered women and untouchables through education

### World Braille Day 2025

- Date: 4 January 2025
- Significance: Celebrated in memory of Louis Braille's birthday (1809, France)
- Contribution: Inventor of Braille

### World Hindi Day 2025

- Date: 10 January 2025
- Significance: Celebrated in commemoration of the first World Hindi Conference (10 January 1975, Nagpur)
- Other Hindi Days: 14 September (Hindi Day in India)

### National Youth Day 2025

- Date: 12 January 2025
- Significance: Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
- Inception: Since 1985 is being celebrated as National Youth Day

### Indian Army Day 2025

- Date: 15 January 2025
- Significance: To remember the sacrifices of the Indian Army
- Historical Event: 15 January 1949 - Lieutenant General KM Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from Francis Butcher

### First Foundation Day of Lokpal

- Date: 16 January 2025 (1st Anniversary)
- Establishment: 16 January 2014, under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013
- Current Lokpal Chairperson: Justice A.M. Khanwilkar

### National Startup Day

- Date: 16 January 2025
- Announced: Made in 2022
- Significance: India has 1.6 lakh government-recognized startups, making it the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

### Statehood Day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya

- Date: 21 January 2025
- Significance: These states got full statehood in 1972

### Parakram Diwas

- Date: 23 January 2025
- Significance: Being celebrated since 2021 in honour of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

### National Girl Child Day

- Date: 24 January 2025
- Significance: To raise awareness about girls' rights and gender equality

### 15th National Voters' Day 2025

- Date: 25 January 2025
- Significance: On the foundation day of the Election Commission of India
- Theme: «Nothing like voting, we will definitely vote»

### International Customs Day

- Date: 26 January 2025
- Establishment: In 1953 by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)

### National Geographic Day 2025

- Date: 27 January 2025
- Significance: To commemorate the establishment of the National Geographic Society

### Mahatma Gandhi's 77th Death Anniversary and Martyrs' Day

- Date: 30 January 2025
- Significance: Mahatma Gandhi's Memory and Sacrifice Day

### International Year of Glacier Conservation and World Glacier Day

- Declaration: 2025 declared as «International Year of Glacier Conservation» by the United Nations
- World Glacier Day: 21 March 2025
- Objective: To raise awareness of the contribution of glaciers to the climate and water cycle

**February****International Zero Tolerance Day for Female Genital Mutilation 2025**

- This day is celebrated on February 6 every year.
- This year, the theme of this day is 'Step Up the Pace'.

**World Radio Day - 13 February.**

- It is celebrated to recognize the importance of radio and its role in information dissemination.
- The theme of 2025: «Radio and Climate Change».
- Designated by UNESCO in 2011, international recognition by the United Nations in 2013.

**National Women's Day 2025**

- National Women's Day is celebrated every year on 13 February in India.
- This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year.

**Global Tourism Resilience Day 2025**

- Global Tourism Resilience Day is observed every year on 17 February.
- The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Global Tourism Resilience Day on 17 February 2023.

**Birth Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated every year on 19 February
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birth anniversary is celebrated on two dates-
  - According to the Gregorian calendar- February 19
  - According to the Hindu calendar- Phalguna Krishna Paksha Tritiya

**World Day of Social Justice**

- World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February
- Its main objective is to ensure peace, security, and equality among nations.
- It calls for global action to address poverty, exclusion and unemployment.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day on November 26, 2007, and has been celebrated annually since 2009.

**Statehood Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh**

- The foundation day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was celebrated on 20 February.

**Mizoram**

- **1972:** Mizoram got the status of Union Territory.

- **1986:** The historic Mizo Peace Accord was signed between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- **February 20, 1987:** Mizoram becomes the 23rd state of India.

**Arunachal Pradesh**

- Earlier the area was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
- In 1972 it was made a Union Territory and named «Arunachal Pradesh».
- On 20 February 1987, it was declared the 24th state of India.

**22nd Foundation Day of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

- The 22nd Foundation Day of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was celebrated on 19th February.

**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

- **Founded:** 19 February 2004
- Under the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003
- **Constitutional provisions:** Article 338-A (Constitutional body)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Current Chairman: Shri Antar Singh Arya
- It consists of a chairman, a vice-president and three other members.

**International Mother Language Day**

- International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21 February
- The day aims to preserve languages, promote multilingual education and spread awareness of linguistic diversity.
- The theme for the year 2025 is - «Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day».

**Swami Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti**

- Swami Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti was celebrated on February 23 this year.
- According to the Hindu calendar, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti is celebrated on the tenth day of Krishna Paksha in the month of Phalguna.

**Central Excise Day**

- Central Excise Day is celebrated in India on 24 February every year.
- The objective is to recognise the contribution of the Central Excise Department and make taxpayers aware of the tax system.
- Central excise duty has been a major instrument of indirect tax collection for the Government of India.
- It is also called excise duty. It has now been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST).



- **Note:** Some products like petrol, diesel and alcohol still come under the purview of central excise duty.

**Veer Savarkar's death anniversary**

- Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's death anniversary is celebrated on February 26.
- Born: 28 May 1883, in Bhagur village, Nashik
- Died: 26 February 1966
- In **his book** 'The Indian War of Independence 1857', he declared the revolt of 1857 as the first war of independence.

**World Protein Day**

- It is celebrated annually on 27 February.
- **Aim:** To raise awareness among people about the importance of protein in nutrition.
- Gerardus Johannes Mulder discovered protein in 1938.
- The scientist discovered the atomic structure of proteins in 1956.

**Chandrashekhar Azad's Martyrdom Day**

- Tributes were paid to freedom fighter Chandrashekhar Azad on his 94th martyrdom day on 27 February 2025 in India.
- He was a revolutionary freedom fighter.
- In 1922, he became a leading member of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
- He was martyred on 27 February 1931 at Alfred Park, Allahabad (now Prayagraj).

**National Science Day**

- National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February every year.
- It was on this day in 1928 that CV Raman discovered the 'Raman Effect'.
- The theme of National Science Day for the year 2025 is 'Empowering Indian youth for global leadership in science and innovation for a development India'.
- CV Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in the year 1930 for the discovery of 'Raman Effect'.

**Financial Literacy Week 2025**

- **Event: Will run** from 24 to 28 February.
- Conducted by: **Reserve Bank of India.**
- Theme: «Financial Literacy – Women's Prosperity».
- This theme emphasizes on empowering women economically and socially.
- The campaign will create awareness about the risks and precautions to be taken while using these platforms.



## An Institute For Civil Services

**क्लास 12<sup>th</sup> के बाद ग्रेजुएशन  
के साथ 3 वर्षीय कोर्स**

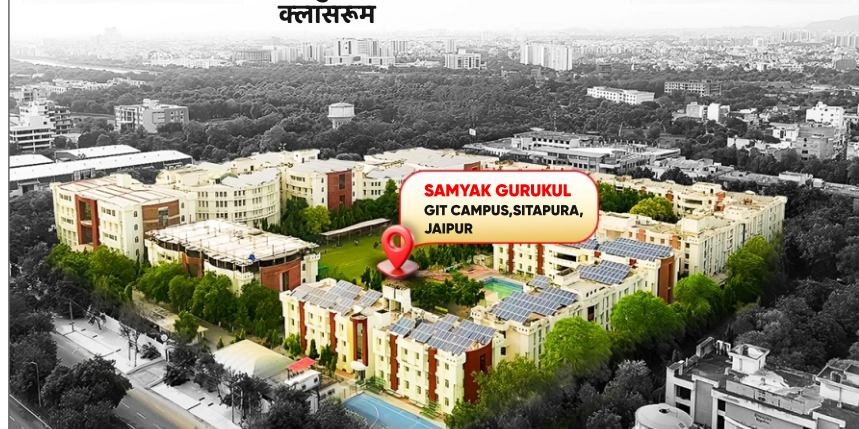
**क्लास 12<sup>th</sup> के बाद ग्रेजुएशन  
के साथ 3 वर्षीय कोर्स**

# PAPER 1<sup>st</sup> & PAPER 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Toppers' Strategic Sessions

## Selection

**लाइब्रेरी**



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