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**INDIA TO HOST NEXT GLOBAL AI SUMMIT
PM MODI**

BUDGET 2025

**NO INCOME
TAX UP TO
₹12 LAKHS**



**INCOME TAX BUDGET 2025: NO INCOME TAX
FOR UPTO 12 LAKH IN NEW TAX REGIME**



INDIA ACHIEVES 100 GW SOLAR POWER CAPACITY

Sections Covered

1. National/International News

2. Banking and Finance

3. Appointments and Resignations

4. Important Dates

5. Defence

6. Sports/Rankings/Awards

7. Government Initiatives/MOUs

8. Science and Technology

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NATIONAL

DELHI ELECTION RESULTS 2025 -

- The Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 have begun, and as the counting of votes takes place, the citizens of the capital are eager to see who will form the government for the next five years.
- The competition in Delhi is fierce, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Arvind Kejriwal, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), seeking to reclaim power after 27 years, as the primary contenders. Below, we provide a detailed list of the leading candidates, their respective parties, and constituencies in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.



HEALTH INITIATIVES IN UNION BUDGET 2025-26 -

- The Union Budget 2025-26 has allocated around Rs 1 lakh crore for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The share of health in the FY26 budget increased marginally to 1.97% from 1.9% in FY25 but overall health allocation remained below 2% of the budget.
- The Economic Survey (ES) 2024-25 and Union budget 2025-26 recommended and announced a number of measures to promote health in the country.
- Among several announcements, the major one is the establishment of Daycare Cancer Centers.
- The National Health Policy 2017 recommends that the health expenditure be increased from 1.15% (2017) of the GDP to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025.



FORT WILLIAMS RENAMED AS VIJAY DURG -

- Fort William, the Indian Army's Eastern Command HQ in Kolkata, has been renamed Vijay Durg to

remove colonial imprints. It is named after Maharashtra's oldest Sindhudurg fort, a former Maratha naval base under Chhatrapati Shivaji.

- Other changes include renaming Kitchener House, inside the fort to Manekshaw House and St. George's Gate to Shivaji Gate.
- The fort is located in Kolkata on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River and was originally named after King William III of England.
- The original fort was built by the British in 1696 under Sir John Goldsborough and completed in 1706.
- It was damaged during the Siege of Calcutta (1756) when Siraj-ud-Daulah defeated the British.
- After the Battle of Plassey (1757), Robert Clive rebuilt it at a new location between 1758 and 1781.



INCOME TAX BUDGET 2025: NO INCOME TAX FOR UPTO ₹12 LAKH IN NEW TAX REGIME -

- In the Union Budget 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced significant changes to the income tax system aimed at providing relief to the middle class and boosting economic growth.
- These changes are expected to increase disposable income, enhance consumer spending, and contribute to India's economic development, with particular focus on simplifying the tax structure and ensuring a more progressive tax environment. Here's a breakdown of the key changes are mentioned below.
- Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh will not need to pay any income tax under the new tax regime.
- For salaried individuals, the exemption limit is ₹12.75 lakh, considering the standard deduction of ₹75,000.

TAXABLE INCOME	NEW TAX RATE
0-4 LAKH	NIL
4-8 LAKH	5%
8-12 LAKH	10%
12-16 LAKH	15%
16-20 LAKH	20%
20-24 LAKH	25%
ABOVE 24 LAKH	30%

RISE IN FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION SAYS ECONOMIC SURVEY -

- The Economic Survey for 2024-25 highlighted a significant rise in the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India, driven largely by women in rural areas joining the workforce.



This increase is considered a key factor contributing to the improvement of overall labour market indicators in the country.

- The findings were presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on January 31, 2025, during the tabling of the survey in Parliament. The surge in FLFPR has been attributed to government schemes, women's entrepreneurship initiatives, and better inclusion of women in economic activities.

KAVACH: INDIA'S PLEDGE TO SAFER RAILWAYS -

- India's railway safety is about to undergo a major transformation with the nationwide rollout of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed that this ambitious project will cover the entire railway network in the next six years.
- The aim is clear – to ensure safer, more efficient train operations while boosting passenger confidence in one of the world's largest railway systems.



ISRO'S NVS-02 SATELLITE FACES ORBIT-RAISING CHALLENGE -

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is addressing a significant technical issue with its NVS-02 navigation satellite, launched on January 29, 2025, aboard the GSLV-F15 rocket.
- Post-launch, the satellite's solar panels deployed successfully, and communication with



ground control was established. However, a malfunctioning valve has prevented the Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) from firing, hindering the satellite's orbit-raising maneuvers. Consequently, NVS-02 remains in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) instead of reaching its designated geostationary orbit.

INCOME-TAX BILL 2025 -

- The Income-Tax Bill, 2025, introduces a new 'Tax Year' concept, replacing the existing Assessment Year, aiming to simplify tax reporting.
- About Income-Tax Bill, 2025
- Simplification:** Streamline the 1961 Income-tax Act by removing obsolete provisions, redundant clauses, and complex legal jargon.
- Modernization:** Reflect evolving economic realities (e.g., digital assets, new income sources).

INSIDE BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT		
Particulars	Income-Tax Act,1961	Bill tabled in LS
Chapters	47	23
Sections	819*	536
Words	5.12 lakh	2.60 lakh

*Effective sections, About 1200 provisos and 900 sections have been removed in the new Bill.

- Schedule II (16 Rows)** Incomes exempt, such as agricultural income
- Schedule III (39 Rows)** Certain persons eligible for exemption on certain income such as partners of firms and HUF. Etc.
- Schedule IV (14 Rows)** Exemptions to non-residents
- Schedule V (8 Rows)** Exemption to business trusts, Sovereign Wealth Funds, etc.
- Schedule VI (12 Rows)** Exemptions to IFSC units
- Schedule VII (48 Rows)** Persons exempt from tax

INDIA'S FIRST OPEN-AIR ART WALL MUSEUM INAUGURATED AT MAUSAM BHAWAN -

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and other key departments, inaugurated India's first "Open Air Art Wall Museum" at Mausam Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The initiative, developed in collaboration with Delhi Street Art, celebrates 150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) through a vibrant series of murals, depicting its history, technological advancements, and contributions to society.
- The unique project merges science and art, offering a visually engaging representation of India's meteorological journey.

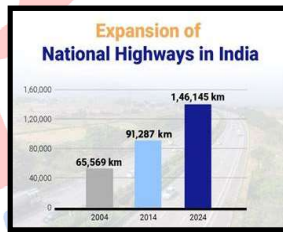


INDIA HAS MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST DECADE THAT IS THE BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. -

- The total infrastructure investment (capital expenditure) in India has increased to Rs 11.2 lakh crore in 2025-26 from Rs 10 lakh crore in 2023-24.

What Infrastructure Initiatives were Announced in Budget 2025-26?

- Infrastructure Financing:** Rs 10 lakh crore worth of assets would be monetised in the next 5 years (2025-30) under the National Monetisation Plan.
- Urban Challenge Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore will be set up to implement the proposals for 'cities as growth hubs', 'creative redevelopment of cities' and 'water and sanitation'.
- Government to provide certainty in taxation of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) in infrastructure.
- States to propose projects funded by India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) loans.
- Railways:** India aims to become the 2nd-largest cargo-carrying railway in the world after China and producing indigenous high-speed 'bullet' trains.
- Indian Railways will complete 100% electrification of its network in FY 2025-26.



- Shipbuilding:** A Rs 25,000 crore fund will be established to support the maritime industry, promoting competition and long-term financing.

LARGEST FOX NUTS PRODUCING STATE IN INDIA -

- Fox nuts, also known as Makhana, are an important crop in India. They are widely used in snacks, sweets and religious offerings. Grown in water bodies, these nutritious seeds are packed with protein and antioxidants. A particular Indian state is the largest producer of fox nuts, contributing significantly to the country's supply. Its suitable climate and traditional farming methods make it ideal for large-scale production.



Fox Nuts Production in India

- India produces around 1,20,000 metric tons of fox nuts (makhana) from 15,000 hectares of land. After processing, this gives about 40,000 metric tons of popped makhana. Bihar is the largest producer, contributing nearly 90% of the total production.
- Bihar is the largest producer of fox nuts, also called makhana, in India. It contributes about 90% of the world's total makhana production. This special seed comes from the water lily plant and is widely used in Indian cuisine, especially during fasting.
- Farmers in Bihar have been growing makhana for a long time, and with new farming techniques, production has increased significantly.

MIGA + MAGA = MEGA PARTNERSHIP: KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM PM MODI'S US VISIT -

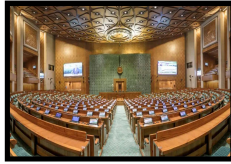
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States has laid the foundation for a stronger partnership between India and the US, emphasizing trade, defense, and strategic cooperation.
- The meeting with US President Donald Trump highlighted key areas of collaboration, aiming



for economic growth and global stability. The visit marked an important milestone in the growing Indo-US relations, with agreements on trade expansion, defense deals, counterterrorism, and regional security.

LOK SABHA EXPANDS TRANSLATION SERVICES TO 6 MORE LANGUAGES -

- In a significant move to promote linguistic inclusivity, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the extension of translation services in the House to six additional languages—Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit, and Urdu.
- This expansion aims to enhance accessibility for Members of Parliament and strengthen democratic participation. The initiative is part of a broader effort to eventually offer translation services for all 22 languages recognized under Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution.
- However, the inclusion of Sanskrit sparked debate, with concerns raised about its communicability and official status in states.



EARTHQUAKE IN DELHI-NCR -

- According to the National Center for Seismology (NCS), a shallow earthquake of 4.0 magnitude struck Delhi-NCR, with a focal depth of 5 km.
- Another 4.0 magnitude earthquake was recorded in Bihar at 8:02 AM, with a depth of 10 km.
- **An earthquake is the shaking of the Earth's crust caused by a sudden release of energy. This release of energy occurs along a fault, which is a break in the Earth's crustal rocks.**
- Earthquakes are caused by the movement of tectonic plates.
- When two tectonic plates slide past each other, the jagged edges can get caught, and when they release, the energy is released as vibrations.



- Earthquakes can also be caused by the injection or withdrawal of magma, or explosions of chemical or nuclear devices.

UTTARAKHAND'S MANUAL FOR UNIFORM CIVIL CODE -

- Recently, Uttarakhand's government approved a comprehensive manual for its Uniform Civil Code (UCC), aiming to standardise personal laws across the state.
- This initiative marks Uttarakhand as the first state of India to implement the UCC, with preparations underway for training officials and launching online services.
- The UCC seeks to streamline processes related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other personal matters, amid ongoing discussions about its broader implications for Indian society.



AYODHYA CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RAM LALLA'S PRAN PRATISHTHA -

- The sacred city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is resonating with devotion and festivity as it marks the first anniversary of the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.
- **The milestone event, celebrated on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, reflects the city's spiritual legacy and the culmination of centuries of devotion and struggle.**
- The grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla took place on January 22, 2024, under the auspices of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a historic moment for the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.
- The ritual, steeped in ancient Hindu traditions, symbolizes the consecration of Lord Ram's idol in the sanctum sanctorum, making it a revered site for millions of devotees.



INTERNATIONAL

TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING TRANS WOMEN FROM WOMEN'S SPORTS -

- President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, titled the "No Men in Women's Sports Executive Order." The order prohibits transgender women and girls from competing in female sports, marking the fourth executive order targeting transgender individuals since Trump took office on January 20, 2025.
- This decision has sparked widespread debate, with the administration justifying it as a measure to protect women's sports, while critics argue it is a direct attack on transgender rights.



INDIA TO HOST NEXT GLOBAL AI SUMMIT: PM MODI -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris. The summit, co-chaired by PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, focused on fostering global cooperation in AI development.
- India's leadership in AI, its commitment to inclusivity, and the establishment of key AI initiatives were highlighted during the event.



INDIAN EMBASSY URGES EVACUATION OF BUKAVU AMID DRC CONFLICT -

- In a crucial move to ensure the safety of Indian nationals, the Indian Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has issued an urgent advisory for Indians in Bukavu to evacuate the city immediately due to escalating violence.

- This announcement follows the rapid advance of rebel forces in the eastern DRC, including the M23 group, which has already captured nearby areas like Goma. The embassy's advisory is a clear reflection of its commitment to protecting Indian citizens during the ongoing crisis.



INDIA-QATAR TO DOUBLE TRADE TO \$28B BY 2030 -

- India and Qatar have decided to upgrade their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and energy. This decision was taken during the two-day visit of Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani to India.
- Both nations aim to double bilateral trade from the current \$14.08 billion to \$28 billion over the next five years. Additionally, Qatar has expressed interest in expanding investments in India's key sectors.



SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE'S LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE UNVEILED -

- On February 2, 2025, a grand inauguration ceremony was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere.
- This temple is part of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Multi-Cultural Centre. The event was graced by South Africa's Deputy President Paul Mashatile and spiritual leader Mahant Swami Maharaj.



- The temple is not only a place of worship but also a hub for cultural exchange, education, and social service.

FMR ALONG THE INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER -

- The revised Free Movement Regime (FMR) has led to the activation of 22 border gates out of the 43 planned crossing points along the India-Myanmar border, aimed at regulating movement while maintaining border security.
- **India's 1,643-km border with Myanmar runs through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km). 1,472 km of the border has been demarcated.**
- FMR: Introduced in 1968 to facilitate movement due to ethnic and familial ties across the largely unfenced northeastern border.
- The free movement limit was reduced from 40 km to 16 km in 2004 and is now 10 km.
- **Assam Rifles:** Oldest paramilitary force in India, established in 1835. Evolved from protecting British Tea estates to maintaining internal security in the Northeast and guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border.
- Assam Rifles played key roles in the Sino-India War (1962), and were known as 'Sentinel of the North East' and 'Friend of the Hill People'.
- **Headquarters:** Directorate General of Assam Rifles in Shillong



TRUMP IMPOSES 25% TARIFFS ON STEEL & ALUMINUM IMPORTS -

- **U.S. President Donald Trump has officially announced a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports, a move set to take effect from March 4, 2025. The decision eliminates previous country-specific exemptions, impacting key exporters like Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea.**



- The administration has framed this as a step to simplify tariff policies, boost domestic production, and address concerns of foreign dumping. This announcement marks a return to the protectionist trade policies that characterized Trump's first term in office.

DRC CONFLICT AND M23 MILITIA -

- The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has escalated with the M23 militia, backed by Rwanda, capturing the mineral-rich city of Goma.
- **The conflict has resulted in 2,900 deaths, displaced nearly 700,000 people, and spread to South Kivu province, a region rich in resources.**
- M23 Formed in 2012 after the failure of a 2009 peace agreement between the DRC government and Tutsi-led National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP).
- **M23 claims to protect Tutsis in DRC, while Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) fights for Hutus.**
- Hutu-Tutsi conflicts have existed since Belgian and German colonial rule, with Tutsis favored in governance.
- **Rwandan Genocide (1994) was a mass killing of the Tutsi ethnic group by Hutu extremists in Rwanda.**
- The DRC supplies 40% of the world's Coltan, used to make Tantalum capacitors for electronics due to its high charge retention.



INDIA AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH -

- **Bridging the Global North-South Divide:** Many developing nations face economic distress due to debt crises and restrictive International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions.
- India offers a collaborative development model, unlike Western or Chinese approaches, with its proposed "Global Development Compact" providing an alternative, non-conditional development cooperation framework.

- Unlike Cold War-era diplomacy, India is deepening ties with the West (US, Europe) while expanding engagement with Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.
- India advocates for a fairer global economic system, aligning with the Global South's interests.
- India advocates for UN Security Council (UNSC) reform, arguing that developing countries deserve greater representation in global decision-making.
- India supports IMF and World Bank reforms to make financing more accessible for Global South nations.

AFTER 15 MONTHS OF WAR, WHICH SAW THE DEATHS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, THE DESTRUCTION OF MUCH OF GAZA AND MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF PAINSTAKING NEGOTIATIONS, HAMAS AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO A CEASEFIRE. -

- The Israel-Hamas ceasefire was implemented after a 15-month-long war that began on October 7, 2023.
- **The war caused severe casualties, with over 46,900 deaths in Gaza, the majority being civilians, and the displacement of nearly 2 million people in Gaza.**
- In Israel, 1,200 people were killed, and 251 individuals were taken hostage by Hamas.
- The ceasefire agreement was brokered through the diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar, and the United States, based on a framework proposed by U.S. President Joe Biden, endorsed by the UN Security Council in June 2024.



7.1 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS TIBET -

- On January 7, 2025, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Tibetan region near the Nepal border. The quake's epicentre was approximately 80 km north of Mt Everest, located 10 km below the surface.
- **By evening, reports indicated at least 95 fatalities and over 130 injuries in China, with extensive property**



damage. Tremors were felt as far away as Kathmandu and Kolkata.

- This event marks the seismic activity in the Himalayan region and raises concerns about future earthquakes.

2025 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WINTER WILDFIRES -

- In January 2025, Southern California experienced a severe wildfire outbreak that devastated large portions of Los Angeles, including celebrity homes and neighborhoods like Hollywood Hills.
- **Wildfires such as the Palisades fire, Eaton fire, Sunset, Hurst, and Lidia fires led to significant destruction, killing 10 people, displacing 130,000 individuals, and delaying the Oscars nominations.**
- Despite winter traditionally being an off-season for wildfires, these fires are particularly intense due to three main contributing factors: wet weather followed by dry conditions, Santa Ana winds, and climate change.



BLOOD MONEY AND PLEA BARGAINING -

- The death sentence of an Indian nurse in Yemen for allegedly murdering her business partner, along with efforts involving blood money (diya under Sharia law) for her acquittal, has reignited debates over its implications.
- **Blood money refers to money paid as compensation for unintentional murder, culpable homicide, or when victims' families forgo retribution (qisas).**
- Even after reconciliation, the state retains the right to impose penalties.
- **India's Position:** India does not formally recognize blood money.
- The legal system offers 'plea bargaining' as a negotiation tool but it is not available for crimes against women or children aged below 14, heinous crimes such as murder or rape etc.



- It outlines a procedure where the accused pleads guilty in exchange for concessions from the prosecutor, potentially including victim compensation.
- **It was introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005 to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (BNSS).**
- It can be taken up only for offences that are penalised with imprisonment of less than 7 years.

U.S. WITHDRAWS FROM WHO AND SUSPENDS FOREIGN AID -

- On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order initiating the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) and suspending all foreign aid for 90 days. This decision has sparked significant global concern and debate.



The executive order cites several reasons for the withdrawal:

- **Mishandling of the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The U.S. administration criticized the WHO's response to the pandemic, particularly its perceived leniency towards China's initial handling of the outbreak.
- **Lack of Independence:** Concerns were raised about the WHO's susceptibility to political influence from member states, undermining its effectiveness in addressing global health issues.

TRUMP WITHDRAWS US FROM PARIS AGREEMENT AGAIN -

- On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump initiated the United States' second withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, a move



that has significant implications for both domestic and international climate policies.

- **Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement is a global accord aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement encourages countries to set and achieve their own emission reduction targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).**

IRAN'S CAPITAL SHIFT TO MAKRAN AND ALEXANDER'S LEGACY -

- Iran plans to relocate its capital from Tehran to the southern Makran coastal region due to economic and ecological concerns.
- **In ancient times, Makran was notable as the region where Alexander the Great lost a third of his men while retreating to Macedonia, after his Invasion of India (327–325 BCE).**
- **Historical Context:** Tehran has been Iran's capital for over 200 years, having been established during the reign of Agha Mohammad Khan, the first ruler of the Qajar dynasty (1794 to 1925) of Iran .
- **Planned Relocation:** Iran intends to move its capital from Tehran to Makran in Sistan and Baluchestan Province due to Tehran's overpopulation, pollution, water scarcity, and energy shortages.
- The idea of relocating the capital was first proposed during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency in the early 2000s.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY


PARIS AI SUMMIT 2025 -

- The Prime Minister (PM) of India visited France to co-chair the Paris Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit 2025. Also, the 2nd India-France AI Policy Roundtable was held on the sidelines of the summit.



- The AI Action Summit is a global forum that brings together world leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and industry representatives to discuss AI governance, ethics, and its role in society.
- **The AI Action Summit in Paris is the 3rd summit, following the Bletchley Park Summit (UK 2023) and the Seoul Summit (South Korea 2024).**
- **Bletchley Park Declaration (28 countries):** Advocated safe, human-centric, and responsible AI.
- **Seoul Summit (27 nations):** Reaffirmed international cooperation and proposed a network of AI Safety Institutes.

CHINA TO BUILD FIRST DEEPWATER 'SPACE STATION' IN SOUTH CHINA SEA -

- After years of deliberation and technical evaluations, China has officially approved the construction of a deep-sea research facility in the strategically significant South China Sea.
- 
- **The facility, referred to as a “deep-sea space station,” will be anchored 2,000 meters (6,560 feet) below the ocean surface. It aims to advance marine exploration and strengthen China’s geopolitical presence in the resource-rich region.**
 - Expected to be operational by 2030, the station will accommodate six scientists for month-long missions, enabling real-time experiments in extreme underwater conditions.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX (WPI) FOR JANUARY 2025: INFLATION RATE AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS -

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for January 2025, reporting an annual inflation rate of 2.31% (provisional) compared to January 2024.
- **The increase in inflation is primarily due to the rising prices in the categories of manufactured food products, food articles, non-food articles, and textiles. The month-over-month (MoM) WPI change for January 2025 stood at (-) 0.45% compared to December 2024, indicating a marginal decline in wholesale prices.**



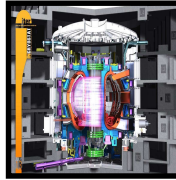
A WOMAN WITH THE RARE 'BOMBAY' (HH) BLOOD GROUP UNDERWENT A SUCCESSFUL KIDNEY TRANSPLANT IN INDIA -

- It was identified in Mumbai in 1952, and also called the hh blood group due to the absence of the H antigen.
- **Antigens are proteins or carbohydrates on blood cells (RBCs, WBCs and platelets) that determine blood type. E.g., AB blood group has both A and B antigens, A has A antigens, B has B antigens, and O has none.**
- In the Bombay blood group, a mutated or absent H antigen gene prevents A, B, or O antigen formation.
- **Rarity:** It is exceptionally rare and found in approximately 1 in 10,000 Indians and 1 in a million people globally.
- **Problems in Blood Transfusion:** Individuals with hh blood groups can't receive any A, B, AB or O blood, including O-negative, as they contain the H antigen.
- The recipient's immune system recognizes donor antigens as foreign (antibodies), and triggers a severe immune reaction.

- **About Blood Group:** Under the ABO blood group system, blood groups are classified into four common blood groups i.e. A, B, AB and O.
- It was first identified by Austrian immunologist Karl Landsteiner in 1901.

INTERNATIONAL THERMONUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR (ITER) -

- **The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) aims to harness fusion energy. Recently, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi visited the ITER facility in France, accompanied by French President Emmanuel Macron.**



- The visit brought into light the progress of ITER, especially the assembly of the world's largest tokamak. This initiative is crucial for demonstrating fusion as a viable, carbon-free energy source.

PM MODI RECEIVES STARSHIP HEATSHIELD TILE FROM MUSK -

- **On February 13, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk at the Blair House in Washington, D.C. During this meeting, Musk gifted PM Modi a hexagonal ceramic heatshield tile that flew on SpaceX's Starship test flight 5 in October 2024.**
- This exchange, which also included Modi gifting Musk's children classic Indian books, symbolized a deeper engagement between India and Musk's ventures in space, mobility, and technology.



ISRO CHAIRMAN V NARAYANAN REVEALS INDIA'S SPACE ROADMAP FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS -

- **V Narayanan, the newly appointed Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), unveiled the future roadmap of India's space missions. Narayanan, who is also the Secretary of the**

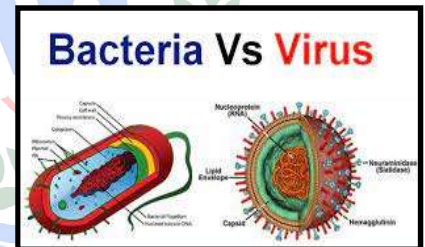
Department of Space, rocket scientist, and aerospace engineer, spoke about India's growing space capabilities and ambitious missions set for the coming years.



- His insights cover launch vehicle technology, human spaceflight, interplanetary missions, space station developments, and much more. Here's a detailed account of what lies ahead for ISRO, as shared by Narayanan.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BACTERIA AND VIRUSES -

- Bacteria and viruses are tiny organisms that can cause diseases, but they are very different from each other. Bacteria are living microorganisms that can survive on their own, while viruses need a host to live and multiply.
- **Some bacteria are helpful, but viruses are usually harmful. Understanding their differences helps us know how they spread, affect us, and how we can treat or prevent them.**
- Bacteria are tiny living organisms called prokaryotes. They can survive in almost any environment, including extreme conditions like hot springs, deep oceans and even volcanic areas. While some bacteria cause disease, many are harmless or even helpful to humans.



THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) HAS RECOMMENDED CAPPING INTERNET TARIFFS FOR WI-FI SERVICE PROVIDERS UNDER THE PM-WANI SCHEME AT TWICE THE RETAIL BROADBAND RATE -

- **Launch Year:** Launched in 2020 by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

- **Aim:** To enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots and create robust digital communication infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Promotes ease of doing business by allowing local businesses to become Wi-Fi providers without licenses or fees.
- **App Provider:** Develops applications to help users locate and connect to nearby PM-WANI hotspots for seamless internet access.
- Managed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT). Maintains records of App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs.

INDIA JOINS UN PANEL ON BIG DATA -

- India has become a member of the United Nations (UN) Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) after its recent induction into the United Nations Statistical Council (UNSC), signaling its growing influence in global statistical frameworks.
- **UN-CEBD is a specialized body under the United Nations, established to leverage Big Data and data science for strengthening global statistical systems.**
- It was established in 2014, under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).
- It has 31 member states (including India) and 16 international organizations.
- Explore the role of big data in monitoring and reporting progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

NEW LAUNCHPAD OF ISRO COMING UP AT SRIHARIKOTA -

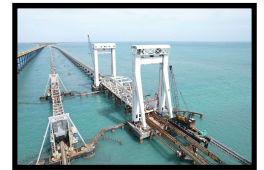
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a third launchpad at ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The project, costing ₹3,985 crore, is a critical step in enhancing India's space transportation capabilities, especially for the Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLVs).



- This launchpad is designed to support future human spaceflight missions and India's ambitious plans for space exploration, including an Indian crewed lunar landing by 2040.

INDIA'S FIRST VERTICAL LIFT RAIL BRIDGE: THE NEW PAMBAN BRIDGE -

- The New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, is replacing the 105-year-old Pamban Bridge to enhance connectivity between the Indian mainland and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.
- This state-of-the-art bridge is a leap in railway infrastructure, designed for speed, safety, and modern train compatibility.
- **The 2.05 km long bridge, built at a cost of Rs 535 crore by RVNL, features a fully automated vertical lift span that provides 22 meters of air clearance for ships. It's designed to handle double tracks and supports high-speed trains.**
- The original Pamban Bridge, constructed in 1914, was decommissioned in December 2022 due to corrosion, and the new bridge is set to replace it after several years of development. Construction began in February 2020, and the project faced delays due to the pandemic, with completion expected by June 30, 2024.

**MAHA KUMBH 2025 TO FEATURE WORLD'S LARGEST AI-POWERED HEADCOUNT -**

- **The Maha Kumbh Mela in 2025 will be a monumental occasion at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, and is expected to draw between 40 and 45 crore devotees.**
- Attendees will gather at the sacred 'Triveni Sangam', where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers converge. The Uttar Pradesh government aims to implement the world's largest AI-powered headcount for this event.



ECONOMY & FINANCE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2025-26 -

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2025-26 in the Parliament today. The highlights of the budget are as follows:



Budget Estimates 2025-26

- The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at ₹ 34.96 lakh crore and ₹ 50.65 lakh crore respectively.
- The net tax receipts are estimated at ₹ 28.37 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP.
- The gross market borrowings are estimated at ₹ 14.82 lakh crore.
- Capex Expenditure of ₹11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP) earmarked in FY2025-26.

NEW INCOME TAX BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT -

- On February 13, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session. The bill aims to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961, which has become bulky and complex due to multiple amendments over the years.
- The new legislation simplifies tax provisions, introduces clearer terminology, and expands the number of sections and schedules. Despite opposition protests, the bill was introduced after a voice vote.
- The Lok Sabha was then adjourned until March 10, 2025, for the second half of the Budget session.



REPO RATE CUT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS -

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India cut the repo rate to 6.25% from

6.5% (25 basis points (bps)) for the first time in 5 years (since 2020).

- After the Union Budget 2025-26 reduced personal income tax to spur consumption, this step aims to revive economic growth amid a slowdown.
- **Growth-Stimulating Budget:** The Union Budget 2025-26 introduced a personal income tax cut and revised TDS limits, increasing disposable income.
- The RBI's repo rate cut supports the government's tax reductions by lowering borrowing costs and sustaining demand.
- **Declining Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased to 5.22% in December 2024, a four-month low, down from 5.48% in November that provides room for monetary easing.
- **Market Liquidity Enhancement:** The RBI recently introduced measures to improve liquidity in the banking system by injecting Rs 1.5 trillion.
- Liquidity injection eased tight credit markets, while the repo rate cut ensured liquidity and lower rates to boost growth.
- **Global Economic Uncertainty:** The recent US tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China sparked trade war fears, weakening the rupee to 87.29 per dollar and raising inflation risks.
- A repo rate cut could help cushion the impact of external shocks and support domestic growth.



UNION BUDGET 2025-26 MEASURES TO BOOST MSMES -

- The Union Budget for 2025-26 has introduced a series of significant measures to enhance the Micro, Small, and

Rs. in Crore	Investment		Turnover	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
Micro Enterprises	1	2.5	5	10
Small Enterprises	10	25	50	100
Medium Enterprises	50	125	250	500

Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, recognising its vital role in driving India's economic growth.

- **Increased Investment and Turnover Limits:** Investment limits raised by 2.5 times and turnover limits by 2 times to allow MSMEs to scale operations and adopt better technology.
- This will enable more businesses to qualify as MSMEs and avail government incentives.
- **Enhanced Credit Availability:** Credit guarantee cover increased from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore for micro and small enterprises, unlocking Rs 1.5 lakh crore in additional credit over five years.
- Startups' guarantee cover doubled from Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore, with a reduced fee of 1% for loans in 27 priority sectors.
- Exporter MSMEs eligible for Rs 20 crore term loans with enhanced guarantee cover, encouraging international trade.
- **MSME Credit Cards:** The 2025 budget introduces MSME credit cards to boost growth and streamline loan access, with experts urging reduced bureaucratic hurdles.
- Rs 5 lakh credit facility will be provided for micro-enterprises registered on the Udyam portal, with 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.

RELATION BETWEEN BOND YIELD AND MARKET -

- The BSE Sensex closed lower for the sixth consecutive day, reflecting a major sell-off among Foreign institutional investors/ Foreign Portfolio Investors (FIIs/FPIs).
- The market was impacted by mixed corporate earnings and concerns over the tightening of the U.S. tariff regime on imports.

About Bond Yield

- Bond yield refers to the return an investor earns from holding a bond until maturity.
- It is influenced by interest rates, market demand, and economic conditions.

- The yield curve represents the relationship between bond yields and their maturity periods.

Types of Yield Curves:

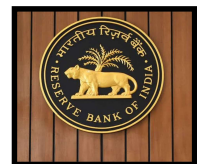
- **Normal Yield Curve:** Long-term bonds have higher yields than short-term bonds, indicating economic growth.
- **Inverted Yield Curve:** Long-term yields are lower than short-term yields, signaling a possible recession.
- **Flat Yield Curve:** Short-term and long-term yields are similar, reflecting economic uncertainty.
- **Bond Price and Yield Relationship:**
 - When bond prices fall, yields rise.
 - When bond prices rise, yields fall.

INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION DROPS TO 4.31% IN JANUARY 2025 -

- **India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 4.31% in January 2025, marking its lowest level in five months. This is a decline from 5.22% in December 2024, bringing some relief to consumers and policymakers.**
- The fall in inflation is mainly attributed to a slowdown in food prices, particularly vegetables, as fresh winter supplies entered the market.
- **The primary reason behind the easing inflation is the sharp decline in food price inflation, which fell to 6.02% in January from 8.39% in December. Within food inflation, vegetable prices saw a significant drop, rising by only 11.35% year-on-year compared to the 26.6% surge recorded in December.**
- This decline has been driven by the availability of fresh seasonal produce, helping to stabilize food costs.

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) HAS ANNOUNCED MEASURES TO INJECT OVER RS 1.5 LAKH CRORE TO INCREASE MONEY LIQUIDITY IN THE ECONOMY -

- **Money Liquidity:** It refers to the availability of cash and easily accessible funds in the economy, influencing spending and investment.



- Liquidity refers to how quickly and easily an asset can be converted into cash without impacting its price much.
- **Reason for Liquidity Shortfall:** The RBI's forex sale to stabilize the rupee amid foreign institutional investors (FIIs) outflows led to a liquidity deficit.
- RBI sells US dollars in exchange for rupees, reducing the supply of rupees in the banking system.
- It led to tighter short-term interest rates and increased borrowing costs.
- **Measures Taken by RBI:** RBI's liquidity infusion plan comprises three measures:
- **Government Bond Buyback:** It means the central bank or the government repurchases bonds from the market before maturity.
- It injects liquidity by paying bondholders (banks, financial institutions, or investors), increasing fund availability in the banking system.
- **Repo Auction:** Repo auction is a liquidity adjustment tool used by the RBI where banks bid for funds at desired borrowing rates, and the RBI accepts the lowest bids until the required amount is allotted.
- **US Dollar-Rupee Swap Auction:** A swap auction increases liquidity in the market by facilitating the temporary exchange of currencies or financial instruments.
- Borrowing dollars stabilizes the domestic currency and prevents a liquidity drain by avoiding rupee sales in the forex market.
- **Potential Repo Rate Cut:** Addressing the liquidity deficit may be a precursor to a possible repo rate cut in the upcoming monetary policy review.

GRAMEEN CREDIT SCORE -

- Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced the Grameen Credit Score (GCS) framework to address the credit needs of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rural populations.

Grameen Credit Score-

- **About:** It is developed by public sector banks to assess the creditworthiness of rural individuals, facilitating easier access to loans.

- It aims to improve repayment discipline and reduce fraud by providing a more accurate evaluation of borrowers in rural areas.
- **Impact:** It will strengthen microfinance, boost financial inclusion, and support sectors like agriculture, rural development, and MSMEs.
- GCS will complement existing microfinance models and work alongside credit scores like CIBIL and CRIF Highmark for assessing loans.
- This score will be integrated with the SVAMITVA Scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RBI MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE 2025 -

- **The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 53rd meeting from February 5 to 7, 2025, under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, the Governor of RBI.**
- The meeting was attended by MPC members Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, and Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao.
- After evaluating the current macroeconomic conditions and future economic trends, the MPC unanimously decided to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) and maintain a neutral monetary policy stance. This decision aligns with the RBI's commitment to inflation control, economic growth, and financial stability.

**PRADHAN MANTRI DHAN DHANYA KRISHI YOJANA (PM DDKY) -**

- The Finance Minister announced PM DDKY in the Union Budget 2025 inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), which aims to uplift underdeveloped regions through convergence, collaboration, and competition.
- Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PM DDKY)
- Aims to support farmers in regions struggling with low crop yields and financial access



- **Budget Allocation:** No separate allocation in the Budget. Funds will be drawn from existing schemes under:
- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with State Governments.
- Department of Financial Services and NABARD assisting with farm credit data collection.

**Objectives of PM DDKY:**

- Enhancing agricultural productivity through better farming practices.
- Promoting crop diversification and sustainable agriculture.
- Improving post-harvest storage at the Panchayat and block level.
- Expanding irrigation facilities to ensure efficient water use.
- Facilitating short-term and long-term credit for farmers.

GENDER BUDGET 2025-26 -

- The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) 2025-26 marks a significant step toward gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), with increased allocations and wider participation from ministries.
- **Rise in Budget:** The Gender Budget for FY 2025-26 is Rs 4.49 lakh crore (8.86% of total Union Budget 2025-26), a 37.5% increase from Rs 3.27 lakh crore in FY 2024-25.
- **GBS 2025-26 is India's largest-ever gender budget, boosting women's welfare, education, and economic empowerment, with 49 ministries reporting gender-specific allocations.**
- **Parts of GBS 2025-26:** The Gender Budget has been categorised into three parts.

**SRI LANKA SEES RECORD DEFLATION IN 65 YEARS -**

- Sri Lanka experienced its highest deflation rate in 65 years, with consumer prices falling by 4.0% in January 2025, according to official data.
- This marks the fifth consecutive month of deflation, highlighting the country's economic transition after its worst financial crisis.
- The record deflation follows sharp reductions in electricity and fuel costs, while inflation, which peaked at 69.8% in September 2022, has drastically declined.
- The Sri Lankan government, under President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, continues to implement IMF-backed economic reforms aimed at stabilizing the economy.

INDIA'S SMARTPHONE EXPORTS REACH ₹1.5 TRILLION, BOOSTED BY PLI SCHEME

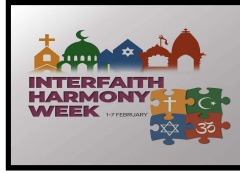
- India's smartphone exports have reached an all-time high of Rs 1.55 trillion in the April 2024 to January 2025 period, reflecting a 56% surge from Rs 991.2 billion in the same period last year.
- This growth has been primarily fueled by the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which has strengthened India's smartphone manufacturing ecosystem and boosted exports. The rise in shipments is being driven by global giants like Apple and Samsung, with Apple leading the way by contributing nearly 70% of the total exports.
- The government's push for local production has played a crucial role in transforming India into a major hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports.



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

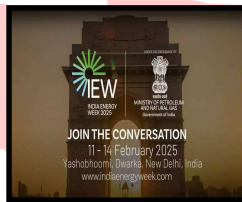
WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2025: 1-7 FEBRUARY -

- **World Interfaith Harmony Week** has been observed on 1-7 February by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), serves as a global initiative to promote mutual understanding, interfaith dialogue, and cooperation among different religious communities.
- Each year, World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed with a specific theme that resonates with contemporary global issues related to religious harmony and peace.
- **2025 Theme:** 'Uniting for Peace'



INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2025 -

- At India Energy Week 2025, India signed multiple strategic agreements and MoUs aimed at enhancing energy security, diversifying supply sources.
- **India Energy Week:** India Energy Week 2025, held in New Delhi organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and jointly by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), it features over 700 exhibitors from across the global energy sector.
- **The event emphasizes energy access, security, sustainability, and decarbonization efforts.**
- FIP is an apex Society of entities in the hydrocarbon sector and acts as an industry interface with the Government.
- **Key MoUs Signed:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) partnered with Petrobras (Brazil) to import up to 6 million barrels of crude, diversifying India's oil imports.
- To strengthen India's transition to a natural gas-based economy, Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and ADNOC (UAE) signed a USD 7 billion contract for 1.2 million



metric tons per annum (MMTPA) liquefied natural gas (LNG) over 14 years starting 2026.

PARAKRAM DIWAS 2025 -

- **On January 23, 2025, India celebrates Parakram Diwas to honor the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, a visionary freedom fighter and one of India's greatest leaders.**
- Known for his indomitable spirit and revolutionary ideas, Netaji's legacy continues to inspire generations.
- While his contributions to India's independence are widely known, here are 10 lesser-known facts about him that shed light on his extraordinary life.



WORLD HINDI DAY 2025- CELEBRATING THE GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HINDI

- The World Hindi Day, popularly called the 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas', is celebrated on January 10 every year to promote Hindi as one of the most widely spoken languages around the world, along with English and Mandarin.
- **World Hindi Day is an occasion that celebrates Hindi as a global language. Recognized as one of the most spoken languages in the world, Hindi is not merely a medium of communication but an emotion that binds millions of people.**
- With a rich history and cultural significance, Hindi has evolved over the centuries, incorporating words from various languages and becoming more refined and understandable. From the media to contemporary writers, Hindi has established itself as a vital language of expression.



MANIPUR, MEGHALAYA AND TRIPURA CELEBRATE STATEHOOD DAY 2025 -

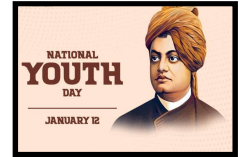
- Every year on January 21, the northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their Statehood Day, marking the historic moment they attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
- This day holds significant importance for the region, not only as a commemoration of their statehood but also as a celebration of their rich cultural heritage, vibrant history, and significant contributions to India's identity.
- The northeastern states, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," are renowned for their unique culture, history, and natural beauty, and this day serves as a reflection of their growth into integral and empowered states within the Union of India.

77TH INDIAN ARMY DAY 2025- HONOURING VALOR AND PATRIOTISM -

- Every year on January 15, India marks Indian Army Day, a significant occasion that celebrates the foundation of the Indian Army and the pivotal moment in history when power was handed over to Indian leadership. This day represents both India's military independence and the nation's progress toward self-reliance in defense matters.
- Indian Army Day pays tribute to the valor and sacrifices of soldiers who dedicated their lives to the service of the country.
- This event is not just a celebration of the Indian Army's achievements but also an effort to instill a deep sense of patriotism and unity among citizens. The day is a reminder of the unwavering commitment of our armed forces in ensuring the nation's security.



growth, national integration, and youth empowerment, Swamiji's life and teachings remain an inspiration to India's youth.



- The Government of India declared his birthday as National Youth Day in 1984 to encourage young people to follow his ideals and work towards a progressive, united, and self-reliant India.

BSF'S 60TH RAISING DAY PARADE CELEBRATED WITH POMP -

- Amit Shah honored BSF's valor and announced an anti-drone unit to combat weapon and drug smuggling across borders.
- Border Security Force:
 - **Formed:** 1 December 1965.
 - **Constituting instrument:** Border Security Force Act, 1968.
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
 - **Motto:** जीवन पर्यन्त कर्तव्य (Duty Unto Death).
 - **Director General:** Daljit Singh Chaudhary.
 - **First Director General:** K F Rustamji.

**ISRAEL EXPANDS SETTLEMENTS IN GOLAN HEIGHTS AMID REGIONAL SHIFTS -**

- Israel recently approved a settlement expansion plan in the Golan Heights, allocating over \$11.13 million to boost population and infrastructure in the region.
- **This decision comes amidst rising regional tensions following political changes in Syria, particularly the fall of the Assad regime. Israel aims to double the population in this strategically significant territory.**
- The Golan Heights, captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed in 1981, remains unrecognized as Israeli territory by most of the international community.
- **The plateau holds strategic value for defense and water resources. Currently, the region houses about 50,000 residents, including 20,000 Israeli settlers and an equal number of local Druze Arabs and Alawites.**

**NATIONAL YOUTH DAY JANUARY 12TH -**

- National Youth Day, also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas, is celebrated annually on January 12 to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Recognized for his contributions to spiritual

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AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RBI TO ISSUE ₹50 BANKNOTES WITH GOVERNOR SANJAY MALHOTRA'S SIGNATURE -

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the issuance of new ₹50 denomination banknotes featuring the signature of its newly appointed Governor, Sanjay Malhotra.
- Malhotra took charge as the 26th RBI Governor in December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das.
- **These new banknotes will maintain the existing design under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, ensuring continuity in India's currency framework. Importantly, all previously issued ₹50 notes will remain valid and continue to be legal tender, as confirmed by the RBI.**



USHA VANCE, THE FIRST INDIAN-AMERICAN AND HINDU SECOND LADY OF THE UNITED STATES -

- On January 20, 2025, Usha Vance made history by becoming the first Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady of the United States.
- **Her husband, J.D. Vance, was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the United States, marking a significant milestone in American politics. Usha's journey, deeply rooted in her Indian heritage and her remarkable accomplishments, has garnered widespread attention and admiration.**



PRESIDENT MURMU HONORS NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2025 WINNERS -

- On January 17, 2025, the prestigious National Sports Awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu in a glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The awards, including the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and the Arjuna Awards, recognized the remarkable achievements of India's sporting champions.

- **Among the honored were double Olympic-medalist shooter Manu Bhaker, chess prodigy and youngest world champion D. Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, and Paralympic gold-medalist high jumper Praveen Kumar.**
- The event also highlighted the significant contribution of India's para-athletes, who had a spectacular performance at the Paris Paralympics, bringing home 29 medals, including 7 golds and 9 silvers.
- The ceremony not only celebrated the athletes' achievements but also recognized the coaches and institutions that have contributed to their success.



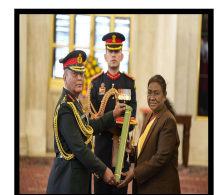
TRUMP NAMED TIME'S PERSON OF THE YEAR -

- Time magazine has named Donald Trump as its Person of the Year for 2024, marking the second time he has received this prestigious recognition.
- **The decision highlights Trump's substantial political influence, his historic comeback following his victory in the November 5 election over Vice President Kamala Harris, and his role in reshaping the American presidency. Time's recognition of Trump underscores the significant impact he has had on American politics and the world stage.**



PRESIDENT MURMU CONFERS HONORARY GENERAL RANK TO NEPAL ARMY CHIEF -

- President Droupadi Murmu, honored Nepal's Army Chief, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, with the prestigious honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army.'



- This event, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, reflects the enduring tradition of mutual respect and deep military ties between India and Nepal, which dates back to 1950.
- This ceremony also emphasizes the shared commitment of both nations to further strengthen their defense collaboration and friendly relations.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER -

- Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kushan has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). His appointment was decided by a three-member Selection Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- His appointment coincides with the Supreme Court hearing on a challenge to the new CEC & Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
- CEC & Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023
- **Headed by :** Law Minister (Currently Arjun Ram Meghwal).
- **Members :** Two senior bureaucrats serving as secretaries to the Government of India.
- **Function:** Shortlists five candidates for the Selection Committee.



Selection Committee:

- Headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- Other Members: A Union Minister nominated by the PM and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha.
- Power: Can consider names beyond the shortlist (Under Section 8 of the Act).
- Appointment: The President appoints the selected candidate.

V. NARAYANAN TAKES OVER AS ISRO CHIEF AND SPACE SECRETARY -

- Dr. V. Narayanan, a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion, has been appointed as the new Secretary of the

Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- He will succeed S. Somanath, effective from January 14, 2025, as per the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Currently serving as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Dr. Narayanan brings a wealth of expertise in liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems.
- His leadership has been instrumental in several landmark ISRO missions, including the development of the GSLV Mk III and Chandrayaan-3 propulsion systems.



V. RAMASUBRAMANIAN APPOINTED NHRC CHAIRPERSON -

- The post of Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) remained vacant since Justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra completed his tenure on June 1, 2024.
- The appointment of former Supreme Court judge, V. Ramasubramanian, was confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu on December 23. Ramasubramanian's appointment marks a new chapter in the NHRC, following Mishra's tenure from June 2021 to June 2024.

3 INDIANS IN FORBES '2024 POWER WOMEN LIST -

- Forbes has unveiled its 21st annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women, a prestigious ranking that celebrates influential figures across business, entertainment, politics, philanthropy, and policymaking.
- This year, three Indian women have made their mark on the global stage with remarkable achievements in their respective fields.
- They include **Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, whose contributions to their industries have earned them prominent spots on the list.



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PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

ONE YEAR OF PM SURYA GHAR: A BRIGHT MILESTONE -

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) marks its first anniversary on February 13, 2025, celebrating a year of promoting affordable solar energy for Indian households.
- **Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2024, the scheme aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore households by March 2027, reducing electricity costs and promoting sustainability. The scheme has significantly boosted India's renewable energy sector and contributed to environmental conservation.**
- **Largest Rooftop Solar Initiative:** The world's largest domestic rooftop solar scheme, aiming to benefit one crore households by 2027.
- **Current Progress:** As of January 27, 2025, over 8.46 lakh households have installed solar panels.
- **Increased Installation Rate:** Monthly installations have surged tenfold, reaching 70,000 per month.
- **Financial Support:** ₹4,308.66 crore in Central Financial Assistance (CFA) has been disbursed to 5.54 lakh households.
- **Subsidy Benefit:** Up to 40% subsidy, with an average subsidy of ₹77,800 per household.
- **Zero Electricity Bills:** 45% of beneficiaries now receive zero electricity bills, depending on usage.



- The initiative aims to provide comprehensive crop insurance to Indian farmers, safeguarding them against various risks like natural disasters, pests, and diseases.
- **Over these nine years, the scheme has proven to be a vital tool for farmers, disbursing ₹1.75 lakh crore in claims to over 23.22 crore farmers. This has not only helped in stabilizing farmers' incomes but also fostered a culture of innovation and sustainable agricultural practices.**

JAL JEEVAN MISSION EXTENDED TILL 2028 -

- Union Budget 2025-26 has extended the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till 2028 with the aim of benefiting the remaining (20%) rural households.
- **About:** The JJM was launched in 2019 with the aim to provide drinking tap water supply to every rural household by 2024, targeting 55 liters per person per day.
- **Progress:** In 2019, only 3.23 crore (17%) of rural households had tap water connections.
- As of 2024, it covered 15 crore households (80% of rural India).
- **Focus:** The extension of the Mission will focus on improving the quality of infrastructure and ensuring the operation and maintenance of rural piped water supply systems, with a strong emphasis on public participation.
- **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs):** New MoUs will be signed with states and union territories to ensure the sustainability and citizen-centric water service delivery.



PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA TURNS NINE -

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), India's flagship crop insurance scheme, has completed nine years since its launch on February 18, 2016, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



GYAN BHARATAM MISSION AND NMM -

- The Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission', aimed at surveying, documenting, and conserving India's vast manuscript heritage.



- **Objective:** The initiative seeks to conserve over one crore manuscripts housed in academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections.
- **Budget Allocation:** To accommodate this new initiative, the budget allocation for the National Manuscripts Mission (NMM), has been increased from Rs 3.5 crore to Rs 60 crore.

National Manuscripts Mission (NMM)-

- NMM was launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2003 under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA).
- It aims to preserve and make accessible India's vast manuscript heritage.
- IGNCA was established in 1987 as an autonomous institution for research, academic pursuit, and dissemination in the arts.

PM-AASHA SCHEME EXTENDED TO SUPPORT FARMERS UNTIL 2025-26 -

- The Government of India has extended the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme until 2025-26.
- This move is aimed at providing better income support to farmers by ensuring that they receive remunerative prices for their produce. PM-AASHA also helps stabilize the prices of essential food commodities, benefiting both farmers and consumers alike.

**9TH ANNIVERSARY OF STARTUP INDIA INITIATIVE -**

- 16th January 2025 marked the 9 years of completion of Startup India Scheme since it was launched on 16th January 2016.
- This day has been recognized as National Startup Day. Startup India initiative aims to cultivate innovation, support startups, and stimulate investments.
- **The Startup India initiative is a government program launched in 2016 that supports entrepreneurs and startups in India.**

- The goal of the initiative is to create a strong ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship that will drive economic growth and employment by supporting startups through measures such as tax benefits, easier compliance, and access to funding.

UJALA - 10 YEARS OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING -

- The UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th January 2015, has completed a decade of impactful service to the nation.
- **This initiative, originally launched as the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), revolutionized India's domestic lighting sector by providing affordable, energy-efficient LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans to households across the country.**
- It has contributed to not only lowering energy consumption but also reducing carbon emissions, making India a global leader in energy-efficient lighting. The UJALA scheme, along with the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), has significantly impacted the country's energy efficiency, economic savings, and environmental sustainability.

**INDIA TO INVEST ₹50,000 CRORE IN NATIONAL WATERWAYS OVER 5 YEARS -**

- In a significant move to enhance the country's inland water transport infrastructure, the Indian government has announced an investment of ₹50,000 crore over the next five years. This initiative aims to develop and improve national waterways, promoting sustainable and efficient transportation.
- **New Waterways and Green Shipping:** Approximately 50% of the total investment is earmarked for the development of new national waterways and the promotion of green shipping initiatives. This includes the



introduction of 1,000 green vessels to bolster eco-friendly transportation.

- **Expansion of Water Metro Projects:** Building on the success of Kochi's Water Metro project, the government plans to extend similar projects to 15 cities, including Guwahati, enhancing urban water transport connectivity.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The plan includes constructing six floating steel jetties on the river Godavari (National Waterway 4) at locations such as Gandipochamma Temple, Pochavaram, and Perantapalli village in Andhra Pradesh, facilitating better access and trade opportunities.

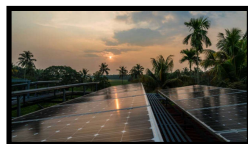
CHEETAH CUBS BIRTH IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK -

- A cheetah at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (NP) gave birth to two cubs, bringing the total to 26 cheetahs, including 14 cubs.
- **About Kuno NP:** Kuno NP (Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh) was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1981 and upgraded to a national park in 2018.
- **Geography:** It primarily consists of dry deciduous forest and the Kuno River, a major Chambal tributary, flows through the park.
- It is located in the Vindhyan Hills.
- **Fauna:** Leopard, Striped hyena, Indian wolf, Blackbuck Sambar deer, Gharial (Kuno river).
- It was selected under the Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India.



INDIA ACHIEVES 100 GW SOLAR POWER CAPACITY -

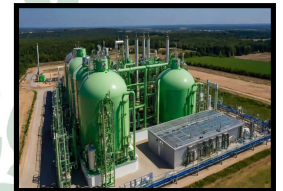
- India has achieved a major milestone in its renewable energy journey by reaching 100 gigawatts (GW) of installed solar power capacity. This achievement is a crucial step in the country's goal of transitioning to cleaner energy sources and reducing its dependence on fossil fuels.



- **The milestone, announced by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, highlights India's progress in meeting its renewable energy commitments.**
- India had set a target of installing 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022. However, due to multiple challenges such as land acquisition issues, financing difficulties, and supply chain disruptions, the target was delayed.
- As of June 2023, India had installed 70.10 GW of solar power, with an additional 55.90 GW in various stages of implementation .

HIMACHAL SETS STAGE FOR NORTH INDIA'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN FACILITY -

- In a significant step toward green energy transition, Himachal Pradesh has initiated North India's first Green Hydrogen Plant at Dabhota in Nalagarh, situated in the state's industrial belt of Baddi-Brotiwala and Nalagarh near Chandigarh.
- **Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu laid the foundation stone for the 1 MW plant, which aligns with the state's goal of becoming India's first green state by March 31, 2026.**
- The Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), in collaboration with Oil India Limited, will develop this project at a cost of ₹9.04 crore. The plant is expected to be operational within a year and will contribute to reducing carbon emissions by utilizing renewable energy sources for hydrogen production.



INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE -

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) officially became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization and international legal entity on 23rd January 2025 with headquarters in India.
- **IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, and was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.**

- Implementation: IBCA established through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- It functions as a global platform to share conservation expertise, fund conservation initiatives, and create a repository of technical knowledge.
- **Objective:** The initiative's main objective is the conservation of seven major big cat species: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Membership:** The Republic of Nicaragua, Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of India, Federal Republic of Somalia, and Republic of Liberia have ratified the IBCA framework agreement.
- Membership is open to all United Nations member states, including range countries where these species naturally occur and non-range countries interested in supporting big cat conservation.



INDIA ADDS 4 NEW RAMSAR WETLANDS, FIRST FOR JHARKHAND & SIKKIM -

- India has made a significant stride in wetland conservation, with four new sites recently added to the prestigious Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.
- **This brings the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 89. Among the new additions, two wetlands from the northeastern region, one from Gujarat, and Udhwa Lake from Jharkhand have been recognized.**
- The inclusion of these sites, especially the first-ever Ramsar recognitions for Jharkhand and Sikkim, highlights India's commitment to preserving its diverse ecosystems.



JURASSIC FOSSIL DISCOVERY IN CHINA REVEALS CLUES TO BIRD EVOLUTION -

- A research team led by Professor Wang Min from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and

Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has discovered two Jurassic-era bird fossils in Fujian Province, China.

- **These fossils, dating back approximately 149 million years, provide new insights into the early evolutionary history of birds. Published in Nature, this study challenges previous assumptions about bird evolution and suggests that birds were more diversified by the end of the Jurassic period than previously thought.**
- The discovery of *Baminornis zhenghensis*, the oldest short-tailed bird, pushes back the origin of this feature by nearly 20 million years, refining our understanding of avian evolution.



FLAMINGO FESTIVAL 2025 CONCLUDES IN ANDHRA PRADESH -

- **The three-day Flamingo Festival 2025 in Andhra Pradesh concluded on January 20, 2025, with calls to protect the rich biodiversity of the region, specifically in Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.**
- The event, which attracted numerous visitors, particularly bird watchers and photographers, was hailed as a major success.
- The closing ceremony saw the participation of Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and Anagani Satya Prasad, who expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for the revival of the festival, which had been dormant for some time.



REPORTS & INDICES

INDIA THE SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY IN FISH PRODUCTION -

- India became the second largest fish producer due to strong financial and technical support provided to farmers by the current government.
- **The fisheries sector is an important part of India's economy. It plays a key role in food security, providing employment, and earning export revenue.**
- India has a long coastline, large inland water resources, and diverse aquatic ecosystems.
- **These resources make India one of the top fish producers in the world. Fisheries in India have grown from traditional practices to a more organized and modern industry.**
- It includes marine fishing, inland fishing, and aquaculture.



INDIA AIMS FOR TOP 25 IN GLOBAL LOGISTICS BY 2030 -

- India is set to strengthen its logistics sector through initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy, aiming to enter the top 25 of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2030.
- Currently ranked 38th out of 139 nations, India is witnessing rapid infrastructure development, multi-modal transformation, and policy-driven logistics advancements.
- **With an expected market size of \$484.43 billion by 2029, the government aims to reduce logistics costs from 13-14% of GDP to single digits. The study, released ahead of LogiMAT India 2025, emphasizes the role of advanced technologies and public-private partnerships in positioning India as a global logistics hub.**



ECONOMIC SURVEY 2024-25 -

- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2024-25 in Parliament, It provides a roadmap for reforms and growth, setting the stage for the Union Budget 2025.



- The Economic Survey is an annual report presented by the government before the Union Budget to assess India's economic condition.
- **Prepared by the Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance under the Chief Economic Adviser's supervision, it is tabled in both houses of Parliament by the Union Finance Minister.**
- The survey assesses economic performance, highlights sectoral developments, outlines challenges and provides an economic outlook for the coming year.
- The Economic Survey was first presented in 1950-51 as part of the budget and became a separate document from the Union Budget in 1964, tabled a day before the budget.

Key Highlights of the Economic Survey 2024-25-

- **Global Economy:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected 3.2% global growth in 2024 (3.3% in 2025), with manufacturing slowing due to supply chain disruptions, while services remain strong. Inflation eased globally, yet services inflation remained persistent, leading to divergent monetary policies across central banks.
- **Geopolitical Uncertainties:** Russia - Ukraine war and Israel-Hamas conflict have impacted trade, energy security, and inflation.
- **India's Economy:** India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow between 6.3-6.8% in FY26 (2025-26), with real Gross Value Added (GVA) estimated at 6.4% in FY25 (2024-25).

Sector-Wise Performance:

- **Agriculture:** 3.8% growth in FY25, driven by record Kharif production and strong rural demand.
- **Industry & Manufacturing:** 6.2% growth in FY25, with manufacturing slowing due to weak global demand.
- **Services:** Fastest-growing sector at 7.2% in FY25, led by Information technology (IT), finance, and hospitality.
- **External Sector:** Overall exports (merchandise+services) grew by 6% (YOY) in the first nine months of FY25. Services sector by 11.6% during the same time.

INDIA RANKS 4TH IN GLOBAL FIREPOWER INDEX 2025 -

- India has been consistently ranked as the fourth most powerful military in the world, according to the Global Firepower Index 2025. This ranking underscores India's significant military capabilities, placing it just behind the United States, Russia, and China.
- The Global Firepower Index ranks 145 countries based on their conventional military strength across land, sea, and air. It evaluates over 60 factors, including manpower, natural resources,



finance, and geography, without considering nuclear capabilities.

- In the 2025 edition of the Global Firepower Index, India maintains its position at number four, with a score of 0.1184. The index evaluates the military strength of 145 countries based on over 60 parameters, including manpower, natural resources, finance, and geography. A score of 0.0000 represents an ideal military strength, which no country possesses.

The top ten countries in the 2025 ranking are:

- United States of America – Score: 0.0744
- Russia – Score: 0.0788
- China – Score: 0.0788
- India – Score: 0.1184
- South Korea – Score: 0.1656
- United Kingdom – Score: 0.1785
- France – Score: 0.1878
- Japan – Score: 0.1839
- Turkey – Score: 0.1902
- Italy – Score: 0.2164

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KUMBH MELA AND MAHAKUMBH MELA -

- The Kumbh Mela and Mahakumbh Mela are two of the largest religious gatherings in India, attracting millions of devotees. Both events hold immense significance in Hinduism, where people gather to bathe in holy rivers to cleanse their sins.
- However, they differ in terms of their frequency, spiritual importance and scale. While the Kumbh Mela is held every 3 years, the Mahakumbh Mela takes place once every 12 years.
- Kumbh Mela is a religious festival held every three years in four holy cities of India: Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik and Prayagraj. During this event, devotees take a dip in sacred rivers like the Ganges, Shipra, Godavari and the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj. People believe that this act cleanses sins and brings spiritual renewal.



DEFENCE

SAAB & HAL JOIN FORCES FOR ADVANCED LASER WARNING SYSTEM IN INDIA -

- Swedish defence firm Saab has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collaborate on the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310).



- The agreement, signed on February 13, 2025, focuses on strengthening India's defence sector by allowing HAL to manufacture the advanced laser warning system domestically.
- This move aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative and aims to enhance self-reliance in critical defence technology.

TROPEX-25: SHOWCASING INDIA'S MARITIME POWER AND JOINT MILITARY READINESS -

- TROPEX-25, or the Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise 2025, is one of the most significant military exercises conducted by India, with the Indian Navy at its core.
- This biennial exercise is designed to showcase jointness among the armed forces, demonstrate India's ability to address challenges, and project power in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Held in January 2025, TROPEX-25 underscores India's evolving military doctrine, emphasizing integrated operations, fleet coordination, and rapid response capabilities.



THE INDIAN NAVY'S THEATRE LEVEL OPERATIONAL EXERCISE (TROPEX) - 2025 IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IOR) OVER

A DURATION OF 3 MONTHS (JAN - MAR 2025) -

- About TROPEX:** It is the Indian Navy's biennial and largest maritime exercise that strengthens joint operations against maritime threats with participation from the Army, Air Force, and Coast
- Objective:** Validate the Indian Navy's warfighting skills and ensure an integrated response to conventional, asymmetric, and hybrid maritime threats posed by countries like China.
- China, the world's largest navy with over 360 warships and submarines, deploys 7-8 naval vessels and spy ships in the IOR at all times.**
- Phases:** It includes Harbour and Sea Phases, featuring combat operations, cyber & electronic warfare, live weapon firings, and Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX).



DEFENCE BUDGET 2025: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ANALYSIS -

- The Union Budget 2025-26 has allocated Rs 6,81,210.27 crore for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), reflecting a 9.53% increase over the previous year's budget. This accounts for 13.45% of the Union Budget, making it the highest allocation among all ministries.
- The budget aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' and focuses on a technologically advanced and 'Aatmanirbhar' Armed Forces.

Key Highlights and Analysis of Defence Budget 2025

- Capital Outlay:** Rs 1,80,000 crore (26.43%) for modernisation and infrastructure.
- Revenue Expenditure:** Rs 3,11,732.30 crore (45.76%) for pay, allowances, and operational needs.
- Defence Pension:** Rs 1,60,795 crore (23.60%) for 34 lakh pensioners.
- Civil Organisations:** Rs 28,682.97 crore (4.21%).

INDIA-U.S. COLLABORATION ON SONOBUOY PRODUCTION FOR INDIAN NAVY -

- India and the U.S. have entered into a significant partnership for co-producing U.S. sonobuoys to enhance undersea domain awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy.



- This move is part of a broader collaboration aimed at improving naval capabilities and tracking submarines in the deep seas, in response to the growing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**
- Ultra Marine (UM), a U.S.-based leader in undersea warfare technology, and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) will jointly manufacture sonobuoys, ensuring interoperability between the U.S. and Indian navies, as well as allied nations like Australia and Japan.

INDIA UNVEILS 'UTKASH' AS SECOND MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL -

- On January 13, 2025, the second of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy was launched at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The event was graced by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy and L&T Shipyard. The vessel, named 'Utkarsh', signifies a leap forward in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and aligns with the country's broader vision of self-reliance in defense manufacturing.**

**COMMISSIONING OF NILGIRI, SURAT AND VAGHSHEER -**

- The Indian Navy announced the commissioning of Nilgiri, Surat, and Vaghsheer, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), on 15th January 2025, at Mumbai.

- Nilgiri:** The lead ship of Project 17A, represents a major upgrade over the Shivalik-class frigates, featuring advanced stealth technology and state-of-the-art weapon systems to strengthen naval defense.



- Surat:** The fourth and final destroyer under Project 15B, is an enhanced version of the Kolkata-class destroyers, equipped with long-range missiles and indigenous weapons systems.
- Project 15B is an initiative by the Indian Navy to design and construct four advanced guided-missile destroyers
- Vaghsheer:** The sixth submarine in the Scorpene-class (Project 75), is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines globally, capable of anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, and special operations.
- Project-75 (India) aims to build 18 conventional submarines and six nuclear-powered submarines for the Indian Navy.

INDIA TESTS 'BHARGAVASTRA' MICRO-MISSILE FOR COUNTERING DRONE SWARMS -

- India has successfully tested its first indigenous micro-missile system, 'Bhargavastra,' designed to counter swarm drone threats. This development marks a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's defense capabilities against emerging aerial threats.

Key Features of the Bhargavastra Micro-Missile System

- Detection and Neutralization:** Capable of detecting small aerial vehicles at distances exceeding 6 km and neutralizing them using guided micro munitions.
- Simultaneous Launch Capability:** Designed to launch over 64 micro missiles simultaneously, enabling effective countermeasures against swarm formations.
- Mobile Platform:** Mounted on a mobile platform for rapid deployment across diverse terrains, including high-altitude regions.
- Versatile Design:** Engineered to operate across varied terrains, meeting specific requirements of the Indian military.

SPORTS

38TH NATIONAL GAMES 2025 CONCLUDES WITH GRAND CEREMONY -

- The 38th National Games 2025 came to a grand conclusion in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, marking the end of an event that showcased India's growing sports culture.
- **Hosted from January 28 to February 14, 2025, the Games emphasized sustainability under the theme 'Green Games', with initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact. The event saw participation from over 10,000 athletes across 35 sports disciplines, making it one of the biggest sporting events in India.**

SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST INAUGURAL OLYMPIC ESPORTS GAMES 2027 -

- In July 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made a groundbreaking decision to introduce the Olympic Esports Games, marking a significant step in bridging the gap between esports and traditional sports. In this historic move, Saudi Arabia has been selected to host the first-ever Olympic Esports Games in 2027.
- **The IOC has partnered with the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee (SOPC) to bring this vision to life, and the Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF) has been named as the Founding Partner of the event. This collaboration aims to innovate esports, expand opportunities for global players, and create a lasting impact on the gaming industry.**



INDIA TO HOST FIDE CHESS WORLD CUP 2025 -

- **The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 27, 2025. This tournament is of paramount importance as it features a knockout format with over 200 players from around**

the world. It also serves as a vital gateway to the Candidates Tournament, offering three qualification spots.

- These spots are highly coveted as the Candidates Tournament determines who will challenge the reigning World Chess Champion.
- Originally, FIDE, the international chess governing body, had listed India as the host nation in its 2025 calendar. However, the announcement was retracted on Monday, with a "to be announced" status replacing it.



DJOKOVIC BREAKS FEDERER'S RECORD FOR GRAND SLAM MATCH COUNT -

- Novak Djokovic, one of tennis' greatest players, added another milestone to his illustrious career on January 17, 2025, by breaking a tie with Roger Federer for the most Grand Slam matches played in tennis history.
- **The Serbian tennis star achieved his 430th Grand Slam match during the second round of the Australian Open, where he won a challenging match against Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria. This victory added to Djokovic's growing list of records, highlighting his unparalleled success in tennis.**



INDIA WINS INAUGURAL KHO KHO WORLD CUP 2025 -

- India emerged as the champions of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025, clinching both the men's and women's Kho Kho World champions titles by defeating Nepal in the finals.
- **Kho Kho World Cup 2025:** The tournament was backed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), it included group stages and knockouts for both divisions (men's and women's).

- **Kho Kho's Historical Significance:** It is one of India's oldest traditional tag games, believed to have evolved from the Chakravyuha, a war formation in the Mahabharata, resembling a defensive tactic similar to Kho Kho's ring play.
- Experts believe that Kho Kho originated in Maharashtra, and was initially played on chariots. The modern foot version emerged in 1914 during World War I, with Pune's Deccan Gymkhana Club formalizing its rules and structure.
- A Kho Kho team consists of 9 active players, with 3 substitutes available. Players alternate between chasing, defending, and tagging opponents.

KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES 2025 LEH AND GULMARG ANNOUNCED AS HOSTS

- The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) have emerged as a premier event in India's sporting calendar, promoting winter sports and identifying talent for international competitions.
- **The 2025 edition promises to continue this tradition with thrilling ice and snow events hosted in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. With a strong emphasis on fostering young talent and promoting winter sports culture, the KIWG serves as a vital platform for aspiring athletes, especially from remote Himalayan regions.**
- **Ladakh (Ice Events):** January 23 to 27, 2025.
- **Jammu & Kashmir (Snow Events):** February 22 to 25, 2025.

FIFA WORLD CUP HOSTS UNVEILED FOR 2030, 2034 -

- FIFA has officially announced the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 Men's Football World Cups. Spain, Portugal, and Morocco will jointly host the 2030 tournament, with additional matches in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay to commemorate the centenary of the competition.
- **Saudi Arabia has been chosen to host the 2034 tournament. These decisions were confirmed during an Extraordinary FIFA Congress meeting, with votes cast by FIFA's 211 member associations.**

The process has sparked mixed reactions, including support, abstentions, and criticisms of the bidding process.

GUKESH SHATTERS RECORDS TO BECOME YOUNGEST WORLD CHAMPION -

- Dommaraju Gukesh's rise to becoming the youngest chess world champion is a story of relentless ambition, focus, and resilience. At the age of 18, Gukesh defeated reigning champion Ding Liren in a grueling three-week-long contest in Singapore, surpassing Garry Kasparov's record as the youngest chess world champion in history.
- His journey from a young boy declaring his ambition to this historic feat showcases extraordinary dedication and talent.
- **Champion:** D Gukesh of India, youngest world champion at age 18.
- **Defending Champion:** Ding Liren of China, who won the title in 2023.
- **Venue:** Singapore.
- **Format:** 14-round "classical" chess event with a prize fund of \$2.5 million.
- **Final Score:** Gukesh – 7.5, Ding – 6.5.
- **Decisive Game:** Gukesh, playing with black pieces, won the 14th game after Ding's critical blunder.



INDIA MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM MOVES TO 5TH IN LATEST FIH RANKINGS FOR 2025 -

- The Indian men's hockey team has clinched the fifth spot in the latest FIH world rankings, following a stellar performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where they secured back-to-back Olympic medals for the first time since 1972. This marks a significant achievement in Indian hockey, which has a rich history of success in the sport.



- The Netherlands retains the top position with 3,267 points, continuing their dominance after winning the gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the FIH Hockey Pro League, and EuroHockey Championship in 2023.
- **England (3139) and Belgium (3124) follow in second and third, respectively, while India (2955) and Australia (2814) occupy the fourth and fifth spots.**

DELHI TO HOST 2025 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- India is set to host the 2025 Para Athletics World Championships, marking a historic moment for the country as it becomes the first time this prestigious event will be held in India.
- **The competition is scheduled to take place between September 26 and October 5, 2025, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. This event will be the 12th edition of the Para Athletics World Championships and the fourth time it is being held in Asia.**
- More than 1,000 athletes from over 100 nations are expected to participate in this landmark event, which will also serve as a critical qualifier for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

INDIA TO HOST ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP 2025 -

- India has been announced as the host of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2025.
- This prestigious event highlights India's growing reputation as a global hub for shooting sports.
- **It marks the ninth top-level shooting championship hosted by the country over the past decade and adds another accolade to the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) commendable track record.**

BIHAR TO HOST KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES AND PARA GAMES IN 2025 -

- **In a landmark development, Bihar will host the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) in April 2025, showcasing the state's growing capabilities in hosting major sporting events.**
- This follows the successful organization of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, further cementing Bihar's reputation in the sports arena.
- The announcement was made by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who emphasized the importance of sports in achieving the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

INDIA'S SPORTS INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO \$130 BILLION BY 2030 -

- **A recent report predicts that India's sports sector could grow to \$130 billion by 2030 at an annual rate of 14 percent, which is almost double the growth of India's GDP, driven by increased government investments.**
- A shift towards a multi-sport culture is also evident. Furthermore, the rise of digital platforms is reshaping how fans engage with sports.
- **The sports sector has the potential to create 10.5 million jobs by 2030. It could also generate \$21 billion in indirect tax revenue.** This economic boost will benefit various industries linked to sports.
- The growing interest in sports will stimulate demand for sports goods and services. As a result, a thriving ecosystem will emerge, enhancing overall economic growth.



IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. R-37M Missile is developed by which country ?
a) Australia
b) India
c) Russia
d) France
- Q2. What is the name of the joint airborne exercise conducted by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force in February 2025 ?
a) Exercise Winged Raiders
b) Exercise Gagan Shakti
c) Exercise Yudh Abhyas
d) Exercise Vayu Shakti
- Q3. Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?
a) Himachal Pradesh
b) Uttarakhand
c) Madhya Pradesh
d) Maharashtra
- Q4. Which country has developed Iskander-M tactical ballistic missile ?
a) Russia
b) China
c) Japan
d) South Korea
- Q5. PRASAD Scheme was launched by which ministry?
a) Ministry of Culture
b) Ministry of Tourism
c) Ministry of Defence
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- Q6. Which Indian city is home to Fort William, recently renamed Vijay Durg ?
a) Mumbai
b) Chennai
c) Hyderabad
d) Kolkata
- Q7. What is the rank of India in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ?
a) 25th
b) 29th
c) 36th
d) 38th
- Q8. Constantine Tassoulas has been elected as president of which country in February 2025 ?
a) Indonesia
b) Greece
c) Egypt
d) Vietnam
- Q9. The Panchayat Devolution Index Report is released by which ministry ?
a) Ministry of Agriculture
b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
c) Ministry of Finance
d) Ministry of Rural Development
- Q10. What is “Stryker” that was recently seen in news ?
a) Invasive plant
b) Infantry combat vehicle
c) Indian Naval Ship
d) None of the Above
- Q11. Which organization is the nodal agency for International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in India?
a) National Biodiversity Authority
b) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
c) National Tiger Conservation Authority
d) None of the Above
- Q12. Which state is home to India’s first white tiger breeding centre ?
a) Maharashtra
b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Gujarat
d) Rajasthan
- Q13. What is the India’s rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024 ?
a) 76
b) 93
c) 96
d) 121

- Q14. What was the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January 2025 ?
- 3.8%
 - 4.0%
 - 4.3%
 - 4.7%
- Q15. Which state will host the 39th edition of the National Games in 2027 ?
- Uttarakhand
 - Assam
 - Meghalaya
 - Manipur
- Q16. Who has been named as the pilot for Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) ?
- Mohana Singh
 - Narinder Chatrath
 - Aruna Kumar Datta
 - Shubhanshu Shukla
- Q17. Point Nemo, which was seen in news, is located in which ocean ?
- Atlantic Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Arctic Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
- Q18. In which state was the International Saraswati Mahotsav 2025 held ?
- Gujarat
 - Haryana
 - Punjab
 - Uttar Pradesh
- Q19. What is the fiscal deficit target for India in the Union Budget 2025-26 ?
- 5.2% of GDP
 - 4.8% of GDP
 - 4.4% of GDP
 - 4.2% of GDP
- Q20. How much has been allocated for the Samudrayaan project under India's Deep Ocean Mission in Budget 2025?
- ₹500 crore
 - ₹600 crore
 - ₹700 crore
 - ₹550 crore
- Q21. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced in Budget 2025 that a special Makhana Board will be established in Bihar. What is the key benefit that farmers will receive from the Makhana Board ?
- Free land for cultivation
 - Direct financial loans from the government
 - Training, support, and access to government schemes
 - Export licenses for international trade
- Q22. Who has been appointed as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner ?
- Rajiv Kumar
 - Nripendra Mishra
 - Gyanesh Kumar
 - Syed Akbaruddin
- Q23. Under the AI for Entrepreneurship initiative launched by the Government of India, how many lakh youths are targeted to be trained ?
- 1 lakh
 - 2 lakh
 - 3 lakh
 - 4 lakh
- Q24. Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Elon Musk Meet in Washington, D.C.. What did Elon Musk give to PM Modi during the meeting ?
- A Tesla Model X
 - A SpaceX astronaut helmet
 - A hexagonal ceramic heatshield tile from Starship Test Flight 5
 - A prototype of Tesla's Cybertruck
- Q25. Which organization has developed India's man-portable air defense missile system called VSHORADS?
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
 - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
 - Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

- Q26. What is the theme of World Cancer Day 2025 (4th Feb)?
a) Debunk the Myths
b) Close the Care Gap
c) United by Unique
d) We Can. I Can
- Q27. What is the name of mission recently announced by Indian government for development of small modular reactors (SMRs) ?
a) Atmanirbhar Nuclear Mission
b) Green Energy Nuclear Plan
c) Nuclear Energy Mission
d) Sustainable Atomic Energy Plan
- Q28. What is the aim of the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 ?
a) To create new manuscripts for educational purposes
b) To survey, document, and conserve India's manuscript heritage
c) To digitalize all ancient Indian texts
d) To print and distribute manuscripts for public use
- Q29. What is the main goal of the National Geospatial Mission announced in Budget 2025-26 ?
a) To increase agricultural production
b) To modernise land records and enhance urban planning
c) To support rural development
d) To improve educational infrastructure
- Q30. India's Zepto has become the world's second most downloaded mobile app in the foods and drinks category in 2024. Which app was the most downloaded mobile app in the foods and drinks category in 2024 ?
a) Swiggy
b) Zomato
c) Dunzo
d) McDonald's
- Q31. In February 2025, which company did Bharti Airtel partner with to expand 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) solutions ?
a) Ericsson
b) Huawei
c) Nokia
d) Samsung
- Q32. National Women's Day is observed annually in India on February 13th. Whose birth anniversary is commemorated on National Women's Day in India ?
a) Indira Gandhi
b) Sarojini Naidu
c) Rani Lakshmi Bai
d) Kalpana Chawla
- Q33. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and ISRO have developed an indigenous microprocessor named 'SHAKTI'. What will the SHAKTI microprocessor primarily be used for ?
a) Weather forecasting
b) Space command and control systems
c) Financial analysis
d) Autonomous vehicles
- Q34. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Asia's biggest Aero India show in Bengaluru. What is the theme of the Aero India show 2025 ?
a) Innovation for Defence
b) Runway to a Billion Opportunities
c) Future of Aerospace
d) Global Defence Partnership
- Q35. Which state will host the world's largest Jhumur dance on February 24, 2025 ?
a) West Bengal
b) Assam
c) Tripura
d) Manipur
- Q36. US President Donald Trump has officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" and designated February 9 as "Gulf of America Day" through an executive order. According to the executive order, which two countries share the maritime boundary of the newly named Gulf ?
a) Canada and Cuba
b) Mexico and Canada
c) Mexico and Cuba
d) Cuba and Jamaica
- Q37. Where was the 2nd India-France AI Policy Roundtable held ?
a) New Delhi
b) Bengaluru
c) Paris
d) Mumbai

- Q38. What is the India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024?
a) 76
b) 93
c) 96
d) 121
- Q39. In which category did India achieve the 22nd rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023?
a) Infrastructure
b) Logistics Competence
c) Timeliness
d) International Shipments
- Q40. Which country is the host of 9th Asian Winter Games ?
a) China
b) India
c) Indonesia
d) Malaysia
- Q41. What is the primary objective of the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme ?
a) Promoting English-language learning
b) Encouraging foreign-language education
c) Establishing new universities
d) Providing digital textbooks in Indian languages
- Q42. Who has been named as the pilot for Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) ?
a) Mohana Singh
b) Narinder Chatrath
c) Aruna Kumar Datta
d) Shubhanshu Shukla
- Q43. Which two countries launched the TRUST initiative to boost cooperation in critical minerals in February 2025 ?
a) India and Russia
b) India and United States
c) Russia and China
d) India and Japan
- Q44. BrahMos NG missile is jointly developed by India and which country ?
a) Russia
b) China
c) Australia
d) Japan
- Q45. What is the rank of India in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ?
a) 25th
b) 29th
c) 36th
d) 38th
- Q46. Which country is the host of BRICS summit 2025 ?
a) Russia
b) Brazil
c) China
d) India
- Q47. Which two countries launched the TRUST initiative to boost cooperation in critical minerals in February 2025 ?
a) India and Russia
b) India and United States
c) Russia and China
d) India and Japan
- Q48. Which Indian cities have been included in the inaugural Wetland City Accreditation list of cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ?
a) Bhopal and Jaipur
b) Indore and Udaipur
c) Chennai and Bengaluru
d) Delhi and Kolkata
- Q49. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France:
1. The visit focused on deepening collaboration between India and France in nuclear energy, especially the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
2. The defense cooperation discussions included India's offer to sell its Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) system to France.
3. The two nations launched the "India-France Year of Innovation," which will be celebrated starting in March 2026.
How many of the above statements are correct ?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) All three
d) None
- Q50. Consider the following statements regarding the AI Action Summit held in Paris on February 10-11, 2025:

1. The AI Action Summit concluded with the signing of the “Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet” statement by over 50 countries, including India, China, and the European Commission.

2. The U.S. and the U.K. were signatories to the “Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI) for People and the Planet” statement.

3. India was a founding member of the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable AI, launched by France in collaboration with UNEP & ITU.

4. The Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-enabled Weapon Systems was endorsed by India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3 only

Q51. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ?

- It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
- It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
- It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 2 and 3 only

Q52. Which of the following is the most likely implication of the U.S. President's memorandum to modify or rescind sanctions waivers related to Chabahar Port ?

1. India may lose access to a key trade route, resulting in increased dependence on Pakistan for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

2. India's diplomatic relations with the U.S. may become more strained, given the continued partnership with Iran over Chabahar, which contradicts U.S. sanctions.

3. Afghanistan's trade and economic stability could significantly improve, as the port will be fully under U.S. sanctions, boosting its own domestic economy.

4. India might strengthen its ties with regional powers like China and Russia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Q53. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France:

1. The visit focused on deepening collaboration between India and France in nuclear energy, especially the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

2. The defense cooperation discussions included India's offer to sell its Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) system to France.

3. The two nations launched the "India-France Year of Innovation," which will be celebrated starting in March 2026.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None

Q54. Consider the following statements regarding the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI):

1. India's rank in the 2024 CPI is 96th, reflecting a decline of three positions from the previous year.

2. Denmark is ranked the most corrupt country in the world according to the 2024 CPI.

3. The Corruption Perceptions Index uses data from 13 external sources, including institutions like the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.

4. The CPI scale ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 represents a very clean public sector and 100 signifies high corruption.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 3
- d) All four

Q55. Consider the following economic measures:

1. Increasing interest rates to control inflation

2. Implementing price controls on essential goods

3. Providing subsidies to domestic agricultural producers

4. Reducing corporate taxes to encourage investment

How many of the above measures can be classified as Supply-Side Economics policies ?

- a) Only 1

- b) Only 2
c) Only 3
d) All four
- Q56. With reference to United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), consider the following statements:
1. Recently, United States has withdrawn from UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
2. It is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
3. The members of the Council serve for a period of three years and they are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) All three
d) None
- Q57. What is the main reason behind Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania's decision to disconnect from the Russian power grid ?
a) To reduce electricity costs
b) To improve energy security and reduce dependence on Russia
c) To increase their reliance on renewable energy sources
d) To join the European Union's electricity network immediately Answer
- Q58. Consider the following statements regarding India's solar power capacity:
1. India's installed solar power capacity surpassed 100 GW by January 31, 2025, marking a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey.
2. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh are leading states contributing to India's overall solar power capacity.
3. The rooftop solar sector installed 10 GW of new capacity in 2024, reflecting a 53% increase from 2023.
4. India's solar module manufacturing capacity increased from 2 GW in 2014 to 60 GW in 2024, with plans to reach 100 GW by 2030.
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) Only three
d) All four
- Q59. Consider the following statements regarding "Cybercrimes":
• The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime was the first international treaty to address cybercrime.
• The UN Convention against Cybercrime is a legally binding treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly.
• Cybercrimes fall under State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.
How many of the above given statements are correct ?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
- Q60. Consider the following statements regarding Triple Talaq:
1. Triple talaq, or talaq-e-bid'ah, is a practice under Islamic personal law that allows a Muslim man to divorce his wife instantly by pronouncing "talaq" three times in succession.
2. The Supreme Court of India, in the case of Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017), declared triple talaq unconstitutional.
3. The Indian government enacted a law in 2019 to criminalize the pronouncement of triple talaq.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) 2 and 3 only
c) Only 1 and 2
d) All of the above
- Q61. The government has launched the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' under the Union Budget 2025. This six-year initiative aims to promote domestic pulse production. Which pulses will be given special focus under the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' ?
a) Moong, Chana, and Rajma
b) Tur, Urad, and Masoor
c) Wheat, Rice, and Maize
d) Mustard, Barley, and Jowar
- Q62. World Wetlands Day is observed annually on February 2 to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands in sustaining biodiversity and supporting human well-being. What is the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2025 ?
a) Wetlands for Climate Action

- b) Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future
c) The Future of Wetlands and Wildlife
d) Wetlands: Our Life Source
- Q63. What is the primary objective of the India-US TRUST initiative ?
a) To promote trade between India and the US
b) To counter China's dominance in the critical minerals supply chain
c) To enhance cooperation in defense and security
d) To promote investment in renewable energy
- Q64. Assertion (A): The M23 rebel group, which captured Goma in January 2025, is reportedly supported by Rwanda.
Reason (R): The DRC holds about 40% of the world's Coltan supply.
Which of the following is the correct explanation ?
a) Both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
b) Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
c) The assertion is correct, but the reason is incorrect.
d) The assertion is incorrect, but the reason is correct.
- Q65. Assertion(A): The U.S. imposition of tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China could lead to a trade war that disrupts global trade relations.
Reason(R): Trade wars starts when each country retaliates by imposing higher tariffs or other trade barriers.
Which of the options given below is/are correct?
a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A.
b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A.
c) A is true, while R is false.
d) A is false, while R is true.
- Q66. Consider the following statements with reference to Union Budget 2025-2026:
1. The FDI limit for the insurance sector is increased from 74% to 100% for companies that invest their entire premium in India.
2. Fiscal deficit is targeted at 4.4% of GDP in 2025-26.
3. Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually will not have to pay income tax under the new tax regime.
4. The Makhana Board in Uttar Pradesh will be established to improve production.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 4 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only
- Q67. Consider the following statements hanks:
1. The Motion of Thanks is discussed only in the Lok Sabha.
2. It is at the discretion of the presiding officer to accept or reject a no-confidence motion.
3. It is necessary to put all motions to a vote in the House.
How many statements given above are correct ?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) All three
d) None
- Q68. In which countries is UPI fully functional?
a) UAE, Bhutan, and Singapore
b) Nepal, Mauritius, and France
c) Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bangladesh
d) USA, UK, and Australia
- Q69. Consider the following statements about the Income-tax Bill, 2025:
1. The Bill will replace the Income-tax Act of 1961 and is expected to come into effect from April 1, 2026.
2. The new Bill reduces the word count by half and cuts down the number of chapters from 47 to 23.
3. The Bill introduces a "Tax Year" concept, replacing the old Assessment Year system, aligning it with the financial year.
4. Cryptocurrencies and other digital assets will be classified as property and subject to capital gains tax.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1, 2, and 3 only
b) 2, 3, and 4 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Q70. Assertion (A): The M23 rebel group, which captured Goma in January 2025, is reportedly supported by Rwanda.
Reason (R): The DRC holds about 40% of the world's Coltan supply.

Which of the following is the correct explanation ?

- a) Both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- b) Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- c) The assertion is correct, but the reason is incorrect.
- d) The assertion is incorrect, but the reason is correct.

Q71. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ?

- 1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
- 2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
- 3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 2 and 3 only

Q72. Which of the following is the most likely implication of the U.S. President's memorandum to modify or rescind sanctions waivers related to Chabahar Port ?

- 1. India may lose access to a key trade route, resulting in increased dependence on Pakistan for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- 2. India's diplomatic relations with the U.S. may become more strained, given the continued partnership with Iran over Chabahar, which contradicts U.S. sanctions.
- 3. Afghanistan's trade and economic stability could significantly improve, as the port will be fully under U.S. sanctions, boosting its own domestic economy.
- 4. India might strengthen its ties with regional powers like China and Russia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Q73. With reference to Bird Flu, consider the following statements:

- 1. All avian influenza viruses infect humans.
- 2. There is one vaccine against H5N1.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

Q74. What is the significance of Thai poosam festival in Hinduism?

- a) It commemorates the birthday of Lord Murugan.
- b) It marks the victory of good over evil and the power of faith and wisdom in overcoming difficulties.
- c) It celebrates the marriage of Lord Murugan and Goddess Parvati.
- d) It honors the departure of Lord Murugan from the world.

Q75. Which of the following criteria are used to determine Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) ?

- 1. A pre-agriculture level of technology.
- 2. A stagnant or declining population.
- 3. Low literacy.
- 4. A subsistence level of economy.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a) 1, 2, and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3, and 4
- c) 2, 3, and 4 only
- d) 1 and 4 only

Q76. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental rights such as equality (Article 14), abolition of untouchability (Article 17), and the right to life (Article 21), to manual scavenger people.
- 2. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenger Act, 2013, focuses on the rehabilitation of manual scavengers but does not ban the practice itself.
- 3. The NAMASTE scheme encourages mechanized sanitation and aids in the rehabilitation of manual scavengers, providing an essential step toward eliminating the practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) Only 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q77. Assertion (A): The M23 rebel group, which captured Goma in January 2025, is reportedly supported by Rwanda.

Reason (R): The DRC holds about 40% of the world's Coltan supply.

Which of the following is the correct explanation ?

- Both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- The assertion is correct, but the reason is incorrect.
- The assertion is incorrect, but the reason is correct.

- All three
- None of the above

Q78. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France:

- The visit focused on deepening collaboration between India and France in nuclear energy, especially the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- The defense cooperation discussions included India's offer to sell its Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) system to France.
- The two nations launched the "India-France Year of Innovation," which will be celebrated starting in March 2026.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- All three
- None

Q79. Which of the following can be best economic impact of reciprocal tariffs on global trade ?

- Encourages tariff-free trade between nations
- Reduces price volatility in global commodity markets
- Enhances multilateral trade agreements and WTO-led negotiations
- Leads to increased protectionism and potential trade wars

Q80. Consider the following statements:

- President's Rule was imposed in Manipur.
- Under President's Rule, the elected Council of Ministers and Chief Minister are allowed to continue functioning until new elections are held.
- The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur is the 10 th time it has been imposed in the state, the highest among all Indian states.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

- Only 1
- Only 2

Q81. Javelin anti-tank guided missile has been developed by which country ?

- United States (US)
- Russia
- France
- China

Q82. Which country is the host of BRICS summit 2025 ?

- Russia
- Brazil
- China
- India

Q83. BrahMos NG missile is jointly developed by India and which country ?

- Russia
- China
- Australia
- Japan

Q84. Consider the following statements:

- Gyanesh Kumar was appointed 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC).
- The appointment process was governed by Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
- This is the first appointment after the new act come into force.

How many statements are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- All three
- None of these

Q85. Consider the following statements about Delhi's Seismic Risk and Shallow Earthquake:

- Delhi lies in Seismic Zone IV, which is a high-risk area for earthquakes.
- The February 17, 2025 earthquake in Delhi was an inter-plate event caused by tectonic plate movements.
- The Delhi-Haridwar Ridge and the Aravalli Fault System are key fault lines affecting the seismic risk in Delhi.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1 and 3
b) Only 2 and 3
c) 1 and 2
d) All of the above
- Q86. The Mising tribe is primarily found in which Indian states ?
a) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
b) Manipur and Tripura
c) Jharkhand and Bihar
d) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- Q87. Which state has become the first in India to have a translation system in the legislative assembly ?
a) Uttar Pradesh
b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Maharashtra
d) Bihar
- Q88. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?
a) Karnataka
b) Kerala
c) Tamil Nadu
d) Maharashtra
- Q89. What is the IUCN status of the African Cheetah ?
a) Critically Endangered
b) Vulnerable
c) Endangered
d) Least Concern
- Q90. Consider the following statements regarding Project Cheetah:
1. Project Cheetah is an initiative by the Government of India to reintroduce cheetahs, which went extinct in India in 1952.
2. The project began in 2020 with cheetahs arriving from South Africa.
3. One of the goals of Project Cheetah is to promote tourism and restore ecological balance in the areas where cheetahs are being reintroduced.
Which of the above statements are correct?
a) Only 1
b) 1 and 3
c) All three
d) Only 3
- Q91. Which state has recorded the highest number of bird species during the Great Backyard Bird Count ?
- a) Gujarat
b) Assam
c) West Bengal
d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q92. Which country has become the second in world after China to launch an Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots ?
a) France
b) Russia
c) India
d) Australia
- Q93. Manikaran pilgrimage site, which was seen in news, lies in which state ?
a) Punjab
b) Uttarakhand
c) Haryana
d) Himachal Pradesh
- Q94. Consider the following statements:
1. The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) will be held in India in 2025.
2. India has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
3. The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
How many statements are correct ?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) All three
d) None
- Q95. Consider the following statements regarding the protection status of elephants in India:
1. Elephants are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, elephants are listed in Schedule I, granting them the highest level of protection.
3. Elephants are included in Appendix II of CITES, allowing limited international trade with proper permits.
How many of the above statements is/are incorrect ?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None

- Q96. Where was the first breeding site of the Blue-Cheeked Bee-eater recently discovered in peninsular India ?
a) Sundarbans, West Bengal
b) Chilika Lake, Odisha
c) Rann of Kutch, Gujarat
d) Saltpans of Aandivilai, Tamil Nadu
- Q97. Jhumoir Binandini is a traditional dance performed in which state ?
a) Arunachal Pradesh
b) Sikkim
c) Assam
d) Manipur
- Q98. What type of disorder is Parkinson's disease (PD) that was recently seen in news ?
a) Neurodegenerative
b) Cardiovascular
c) Autoimmune
d) Metabolic
- Q99. Consider the following statements.
Assertion (A): An MP who is absent for 60 consecutive sittings without permission automatically loses their seat under Article 101(4).
Reason (R): The Constitution mandates that all absentee cases must be decided by the Election Commission of India.
Which one of the following is correct ?
a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation for A
b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation for A
c) A is correct, but R is incorrect
d) Both A and R are incorrect
- Q100. Consider the following statements regarding Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) :
1. PMI measures the total output of the manufacturing and services industries.
2. It is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a monthly basis.
3. A PMI below 60 indicates economic contraction.
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
- Q101. The 6th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian is scheduled to take place in which country ?
a) India
b) Japan
c) United States
d) Australia
- Q102. In which state was the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' conducted in 2025 ?
a) Maharashtra
b) Kerala
c) Tamil Nadu
d) West Bengal
- Q103. Which organization launched the "Imagine a World with More Women in Science" campaign ?
a) World Health Organization (WHO)
b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
d) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Q104. Consider the following statements regarding Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:
1. He was the first ruler to establish a standing army in India.
2. He implemented guerrilla warfare tactics effectively against the Mughals.
3. His administration was highly centralized, similar to the Mughal Empire.
How many of the above statements are correct ?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
- Q105. Which of the following best describes the primary objective of the Naxalite movement when it originated in Naxalbari, West Bengal ?
a) To promote communal harmony
b) To demand constitutional reforms
c) To redistribute land and resources to oppressed communities
d) To impede industrialization in tribal areas
- Q106. Who is set to become Germany's next chancellor after the 2025 national election ?
a) Olaf Scholz
b) Friedrich Merz

- c) Angela Merkel
d) Annalena Baerbock
- Q107. Which Hyderabad-based startup is set to launch the ELEVATION-1 satellite ?
a) Skyroot Aerospace
b) Agnikul Cosmos
c) XDLINX Spacelabs
d) Bellatrix Aerospace
- Q108. What does PRISM stand for in the context of India-Australia space collaboration ?
a) Promoting Research in Space Missions
b) Perspectives on Regulatory Issues in Strategic Markets
c) Policy Reform in Space Management
d) Partnership for Research in Space and Manufacturing
- Q109. Consider the following statements regarding internet shutdowns in India:
1. India has the highest number of internet shutdowns in 2024 among democratic nations, with 84 shutdowns recorded.
2. Internet shutdowns in India were primarily linked to government job placement exams and educational purposes.
3. The revised Telecommunications Act 2023 and Telecom Suspension Rules 2024 introduced an independent mechanism for reviewing internet shutdown orders in India.
How many of the above statements are correct ?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) All three
d) None
- Q110. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is strategically important because it connects which two major water bodies ?
a) Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Aden
c) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
d) Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea

**ANSWERS**

1- c	2-a	3-a	4-a	5-b	6-d	7-d	8-b	9-b	10-b
11-c	12-b	13-c	14-c	15-c	16-d	17-b	18-b	19-c	20-b
21-c	22-c	23-a	24-c	25-a	26-c	27-c	28-b	29-b	30-d
31-c	32-b	33-b	34-b	35-b	36-c	37-c	38-c	39-d	40-a
41-d	42-d	43-b	44-a	45-d	46-b	47-b	48-b	49-b	50-a
51-a	52-c	53-c	54-b	55-b	56-b	57-b	58-c	59-c	60-d
61-b	62-b	63-b	64-b	65-a	66-a	67-a	68-a	69-d	70-b
71-a	72-c	73-c	74-b	75-b	76-c	77-b	78-c	79-d	80-a
81-a	82-b	83-a	84-c	85-a	86-a	87-a	88-b	89-b	90-b
91-c	92-c	93-d	94-b	95-a	96-d	97-c	98-a	99-d	100-d
101-b	102-d	103-b	104-a	105-c	106-b	107-c	108-b	109-a	110-c