

FEBRUARY 2025

MONTHLY **CURRENT AFFAIRS** **GK DIGEST**

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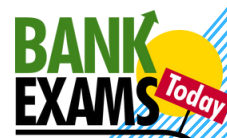


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MONTHLY GK DIGEST ONE LINER : FEBRUARY 2025

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FORBES TOP 10 MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD 2025

Key Parameters for Rankings: Leadership, Economic Influence, Political Influence, Strong International Alliances, Military Strength

Top 10 Countries:

- United States: Topped the list with a **GDP of \$30.34 trillion**, strong leadership, economic, political

influence, international alliances, and military strength.

- China: Secured the second spot with a growing economic and military presence.
- Russia: Known for its military strength and political influence, holding the third position.
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- United Kingdom
- France
- Japan
- Saudi Arabia
- Brazil
- **India:** Secured the 12th spot, with a GDP estimated at **\$4.27 trillion**, strong economic growth, and increasing global influence.

INDIA FEATURED IN UN'S HONOUR ROLL FOR TIMELY PAYMENT OF REGULAR BUDGET ASSESSMENTS

India Featured in UN's Honour Roll for Timely Payment of Regular Budget Assessments

- **UN Honour Roll:** The Honour Roll is a list published by the United Nations that recognizes member states which have paid their regular budget assessments on time.
- **Payment Criteria:** Member states must pay their assessments in full within the 30-day period specified by the UN's Financial Regulations to be included in the Honour Roll.
- **India's Contribution:** For the year 2025, India contributed USD 37.64 million to the UN's regular budget.
- **Recognition:** By paying its assessment on time, India joins an elite group of 35 member states that have met their financial obligations promptly. This timely payment reflects India's commitment to supporting the UN's initiatives and maintaining its good standing within the organization

INTERNATIONAL NEWS-ONE LINER

- India announced on January 31, 2025, that it will host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting in New Delhi from March 3-7, 2025. The event focuses on "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth", with around 45 youth representatives from BRICS countries attending.
- On January 29, 2025, the WHO confirmed that Guinea has successfully eliminated the gambiense

form of Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT), also known as sleeping sickness.

- Niger has become the first African nation to eliminate onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness. This achievement was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) on January 30, 2025. Onchocerciasis is a parasitic disease transmitted through black fly bites.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended replacing regular table salt with potassium-enriched, lower-sodium salt substitutes on January 30, 2025. This guidance aims to reduce sodium intake and improve heart health, particularly in countries with high sodium consumption and low potassium intake.
- Mount Taranaki in New Zealand was recognized as a legal person on January 30, 2025. This decision grants the mountain rights similar to those of a human being, rooted in Māori traditions.
- Sunita Williams set a new record for the longest spacewalk by a female astronaut during the 92nd US spacewalk on January 30, 2025. She surpassed Peggy Whitson's total spacewalk time, logging 62 hours and 6 minutes. Williams and astronaut Butch Wilmore conducted maintenance on the ISS and collected samples for scientific analysis.
- On January 29, 2025, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger officially withdrew from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This decision was driven by their dissatisfaction with ECOWAS's support in combating terrorism and insecurity. They have since formed the Alliance of Sahel States and strengthened alliances with Russia, Turkey, and Iran.
- Tshego Gaelae from South Africa made history on January 31, 2025, by becoming the first Black woman to win the Mrs. World title. This victory marks a significant milestone in the pageant's 40-year history. Gaelae is not only the first South African to win in nearly a decade but also the first Black woman to wear the crown.
- On February 2, 2025, Canada imposed 25% tariffs on \$30 billion worth of U.S. goods. This was in response to tariffs imposed by the United States. This move aims to protect Canadian interests and support local businesses and workers.
- On February 4, 2025, China imposed tariffs on select American imports in response to the U.S. decision to raise tariffs on Chinese products. These include a 15% tariff on coal and LNG, and a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery, and large-engine cars.
- Panama became the first Latin American nation to exit China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on

February 7, 2025. This decision followed increasing geopolitical tensions and pressure from the United States. Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino announced the withdrawal, although he denied that U.S. pressure played a role in the decision.

- Lebanon formed its first full-fledged government in over two years on February 8, 2025. Led by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, the new government aims to implement economic reforms, rebuild the country, and stabilize the region after a devastating war.
- Bangladesh launched Operation Devil Hunt on February 8, 2025, to tackle escalating violence and ensure public safety. Led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus' interim government, the operation involves joint forces including the army, police, and specialized units.
- President Donald Trump raised tariffs on aluminum and steel imports to 25% on February 10, 2025. The move aims to protect U.S. manufacturers from unfair competition but may result in higher prices for products using these metals.

NATIONAL NEWS

UTKARSH ODISHA – MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2025

- **Record Investment Proposals:** The event attracted a staggering Rs 16.73 lakh crore in investment proposals, far surpassing its initial target of Rs 5 lakh crore.
- **Diverse Sectors:** The proposals spanned across 20+ sectors, including chemicals and petrochemicals, textiles, mining and metallurgy, renewable energy, IT/ITeS, tourism, and food processing.
- **Global Participation:** The conclave saw participation from global giants, investors, and policymakers from 16 countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia.
- **Employment Opportunities:** The proposed investments are expected to generate over 12.88 lakh employment opportunities.
- **Prime Minister's Involvement:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the summit and emphasized Odisha's potential as a growth engine for the country.

WATERSHED YATRA LAUNCHED BY THE CENTER TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION

- The campaign is **part of the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0)**.
- **Objectives** of the Watershed Yatra:
 - **Awareness:** To educate communities about the importance of water and soil conservation.
 - **Community Participation:** Encourage local communities to actively engage in sustainable natural resource management.
 - **Best Practices:** Share effective techniques and practices for watershed management to enhance agricultural productivity.
 - **Sustainability:** Promote long-term sustainable practices to ensure the health of watersheds and surrounding ecosystems.

INDIA'S FIRST FERRET RESEARCH FACILITY INAUGURATES AT THSTI IN HARYANA

- **India's First Ferret Research Facility** inaugurates at THSTI in Haryana.
- This state-of-the-art facility is **designed to adhere to global biosafety and research standards**.
- **Key Points:**
 - **Purpose:** The facility will enable critical research on viral pathogens like influenza and SARS-CoV-2, bolstering India's pandemic preparedness.
 - **Research Focus:** It will serve as a crucial resource for vaccine development, therapeutic testing, and research into emerging infectious diseases.
 - This facility positions India at the forefront of global health security efforts.
- **Significance:** Additionally, THSTI also launched the GARBH-INI-DRISHTI data repository, which provides access to clinical data, images, and biospecimens collected from over 12,000 pregnant women, newborns, and postpartum mothers.

'CHANDRAYAAN SE CHUNAO TAK' INITIATIVE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY ECI

- This **unique and futuristic initiative is being implemented at a special polling booth** in Vikasपुरi, West Delhi.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Theme:** The booth is themed around "India's Flight from Chandrayaan to Election," featuring models of the Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan missions.
 - **Interactive Displays:** Voters can enjoy interactive displays of planets through a bioscope and telescope.

- **Astronauts:** Volunteers dressed as astronauts greet and assist voters, adding a fun and innovative touch to the voting experience.
- **Special Attention:** Elderly voters are given roses and a warm welcome as they cast their ballots.
- **Purpose:** The initiative aims to increase voter awareness and enthusiasm while celebrating India's achievements in space exploration.

UNICEF RELEASES NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR CHILD & ADOLESCENT ROAD SAFETY IN INDIA

- **Alarming Statistics:** Road traffic injuries (RTIs) are the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in India. In 2022, there were 16,443 reported fatalities in this age group, with the actual number likely being higher due to underreporting.
- **Daily Impact:** Every day, nearly 45 children under 18 years of age lose their lives in road crashes.
- **Non-Fatal Injuries:** Around 5 million children suffer non-fatal injuries each year, requiring hospitalization.
- **Risk Factors:** The report identifies multiple risk factors, including human behavior (e.g., not wearing helmets), vehicle safety, road conditions, and road safety management.
- **Recommendations:** The roadmap provides a multi-sectoral action plan to improve road safety for young people, including better enforcement of helmet and seatbelt use, improving pedestrian safety, and enhancing trauma care facilities.

NTPC & IA SIGN PPA FOR SOLAR-HYDROGEN MICROGRID IN LADAKH

- The agreement was signed on February 3, 2025, and it **aims to provide 200 kW Renewable Energy Round-the-Clock (RE-RTC)** power for a period of 25 years.
- **Project Location:** Chushul, Ladakh, at an altitude of 4,400 meters, where winter temperatures can drop to -30°C.
- **Objective:** To replace the Army's existing diesel generator sets, eliminating fossil fuel logistics and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1,500 tons per year.
- **Benefits:** The project will contribute to the decarbonization and modernization of the defense sector in border regions of the Himalayas.

UNION CABINET APPROVED THE NEW INCOME TAX BILL

- **Simplified Legal Language:** The new bill will use clearer and more concise language to make it easier for taxpayers to understand.
- **Reduction in Length:** The bill will be about 50% shorter than the existing one, reducing legal complexities and potential disputes.
- **No New Taxes:** The bill will not introduce any new taxes but will focus on simplifying existing tax laws.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The new law is expected to come into effect from the financial year 2025-26.

MOA&FW REVISED MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME GUIDELINES

- **Increased Procurement Limit:** The procurement limit has been raised from 20% to 25% to better support farmers.
- **Direct Benefit Transfers:** Farmers will now receive payments directly into their bank accounts, ensuring quicker and more transparent transactions.
- **Expanded Procurement Agencies:** More agencies will be involved in the procurement process to make it more efficient and accessible.
- These revisions **aim to provide better support to farmers by ensuring they get remunerative prices** for their perishable crops, especially during times when market prices fall below a certain level.

FAO LAUNCHED THE "UGBAAD" CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PROJECT IN SOMALIA

- **Beneficiaries:** Over 2.1 million people will benefit from this project, including 1.15 million direct recipients.
- **Landscape Restoration:** The project aims to restore 41,800 hectares of productive landscapes, which will help improve the environment and agricultural productivity.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Focus on enhancing the ability of communities to adapt to the changing climate, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices and food security.

DOT & CDRI UNVEILED ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S TELECOM RESILIENCE

- The report, titled "**Disaster Risk and Resilience Assessment Framework (DRRAF)**", focuses on enhancing the telecom sector's ability to withstand natural and man-made disasters.
- **Key highlights of the roadmap include:**

- **Conducting a multi-hazard risk assessment** across 0.77 million telecom towers.
- Developing **strategies to minimize service disruptions** and strengthen infrastructure.
- Improving **emergency response mechanisms** and ensuring seamless connectivity during disasters.
- **Promoting satellite-based communication and High Altitude Platform Systems (HAPS)** for maintaining connectivity in disaster-hit regions.
- The study was conducted across five **states—Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat**—focusing on disaster risks and resilience strategies specific to the telecom sector.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- Vasant Panchami, **also known as Saraswati Puja, is celebrated on February 3, 2025.** This festival marks the arrival of spring and honors Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, music, and arts.
- On February 1, **2025, it was announced that 100 Amrit Bharat, 50 Namo Bharat, and 200 Vande Bharat trains** will be manufactured over the next 2-3 years. This initiative is part of the Union Budget 2025-26 and aims to enhance rail connectivity and improve travel experiences across India.
- **Narmada Jayanti in 2025 is observed on Tuesday, February 4th.** This Hindu festival celebrates the birth of the sacred Narmada River. Devotees take holy dips, offer prayers, and perform special pujas, believing that bathing in the Narmada River purifies the soul and brings blessings of prosperity, health, and spiritual well-being.
- The **Maharashtra government announced the establishment of India's first AI university** on February 4, 2025. The initiative aims to promote AI research, enhance AI-driven solutions, and nurture a future-ready workforce.
- On February 3, 2025, **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Sensex Futures & Options contracts** on the India International Exchange (India INX) at GIFT City. This launch allows global investors to invest in the Indian market using US dollars, simplifying their participation.
- India's first white **tiger breeding centre will be set up in Govindgarh, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.** Approved on February 2, 2025, by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), this initiative is part of the Maharaja Martand Singh Judeo White Tiger Safari and Zoo. It aims to boost wildlife tourism and create local jobs.

- On February 4, 2025, **the Haryana Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini**, approved amendments to the Haryana Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961. These amendments exclude certain leased lands from Shamilat Deh and allow Gram Panchayats to sell land occupied by unauthorized houses at market rates.
- On February 3, 2025, researchers from **INST Mohali announced a self-actuating drug** delivery system to treat rheumatoid arthritis. This system targets joint inflammation, releasing therapeutic agents as needed. It uses microspheres loaded with methotrexate, improving outcomes and minimizing side effects.
- On February 4, **2025, India became the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer**. This achievement is due to the 'Make in India' initiative, which boosted domestic production, with over 300 operational manufacturing units producing around 325 to 330 million mobile phones annually.
- The Rajasthan Assembly **tabled the Anti-conversion Bill on February 3, 2025**. Introduced by Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar, the bill aims to prohibit unlawful religious conversions and includes penalties such as imprisonment for up to 10 years and fines up to ₹50,000.
- On February 3, 2025, IIT Madras **launched India's first Cancer Genome Atlas called the Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas (BCGA)**. This initiative aims to identify cancer-specific biomarkers for early breast cancer detection and improve personalized treatment strategies in India.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) **declared the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** as an inter-governmental international organization on February 3, 2025. The Framework Agreement was ratified by Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia.
- GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) joined the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) to promote sustainable aviation**. GAL commits to aligning with UNGC's principles on human rights, labor, the environment, and anti-corruption. All GMR airports are certified by the USGBC or IGBC, supporting sustainability.
- PM Shri Government Senior Secondary **School in Namchi, Sikkim is the only educational institution** from the Northeastern states to receive a Green School Rating. This recognition highlights the

school's commitment to sustainability and environmental education.

- Lakshmi, the last Naxalite in **Karnataka, surrendered in Udupi on February 3, 2025**. Following her **surrender**, Karnataka has been declared Naxalite-free. Lakshmi was entitled to a surrender package of Rs 7 lakh under the 'A' category. She also requested the authorities to relieve her of all charges.
- The Indian government has **expanded quality compliance by mandating Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** for over 150 products, ranging from household appliances to industrial materials. This move, overseen by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), aims to ensure stricter safety and performance standards.
- Maharashtra announced the establishment of India's first AI university on February 4, 2025. The initiative aims to promote research, innovation, and **skill development in AI, positioning Maharashtra as a global hub for AI education and technology**.
- The Himachal Pradesh **Government initiated North India's first 1-MW Green Hydrogen Plant** at Dabhota on February 6, 2025. Developed by HPPCL in collaboration with Oil India Limited, the plant aims to produce hydrogen using renewable energy sources.
- The e-NAM platform has **added 10 new commodities, including dried Tulsi leaves, Besant (Chickpea flour), wheat flour, chana sattu, water Chestnut flour, asafoetida, dried fenugreek leaves, baby corn, dragon fruit, and water Chestnut**. This expansion aims to enhance transparency and fair trading practices for farmers and traders.
- The NSDC **International Academy was inaugurated at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh** on February 6, 2025. This facility aims to provide world-class skill development and training programs, focusing on foreign languages, healthcare, employability skills, and aviation. It is designed to bridge the gap between Indian youth and global employment opportunities.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin **inaugurated India's largest single-location solar plant in Tirunelveli** on February 7, 2025. The 4.3-GW facility, set up by TP Solar Ltd at an investment of Rs 3,800 crore, created 4,000 jobs. The plant will boost solar power efficiency and provide employment, especially for women.
- Karnataka Governor **Thaawar Chand Gehlot launched a Braille-enabled version** of the Indian

Constitution on February 3, 2025, in Bengaluru. This initiative, in collaboration with Sankara Eye Hospital and CII Young Indians (YI) Bengaluru, empowers visually impaired individuals by enabling them to read and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

- The Union Cabinet decided to **extend the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** until March 31, 2028, on February 7, 2025. This aims to uplift sanitation workers, improve working conditions, and achieve zero fatalities during hazardous cleaning tasks.
- The Union Cabinet **approved Rs 8,800 crore for the Skill India Programme** on February 7, 2025. This funding will support the program from 2022-23 to 2025-26, aiming to enhance industry-aligned skills training and build a skilled, future-ready workforce.
- The **Madhya Pradesh government approved the Drone Promotion and Utilisation Policy 2025** on February 5, 2025. The policy aims to boost drone manufacturing with incentives like capital investment subsidies, lease rent subsidies, and R&D grants.
- The historic Fort **William in Kolkata, headquarters of the Indian Army's Eastern Command**, was renamed Vijay Durg on February 6, 2025. This change honors India's heritage by moving away from colonial-era names.
- The BJP regained **power in Delhi after more than 26 years in the Assembly** polls held on February 5, 2025. The BJP won 47 out of 70 seats, unseating the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which secured 23 seats. This victory marks a significant comeback for the BJP, which had been out of power in Delhi since 1998.
- Union **Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched 41 new books** under the PM YUVA 2.0 scheme at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 on February 8, 2025. The event was graced by the Governor of Tripura, Shri Indrasena Reddy Nallu, as the guest of honour.
- The Janjati **Sanskritik Samagam 2025 is being held at the Mahakumbh** in Prayagraj from February 6 to February 11, 2025. The event celebrates the heritage, traditions, and contributions of India's tribal communities. Over 15,000 tribals from across the country are participating in this cultural gathering.
- On February 7, 2025, **Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary virtually launched the Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme**. This initiative targets female students in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram, offering entrepreneurial training, resources, and mentorship.
- **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an LoI with the LEGO Group's Creative Play Lab on February 6, 2025. The collaboration aims to develop electronics and IT-based solutions for the Indian toy industry, fostering growth and equipping young engineers with necessary skills.**
- **India's first indigenous Automated Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant, named Srjanam**, was launched at AIIMS New Delhi on February 10, 2025. Developed by CSIR-NIIST, this eco-friendly plant disinfects biomedical waste without incineration, ensuring safe disposal.
- The creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone was approved by the Cabinet** on February 7, 2025. The new zone will be headquartered in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, and aims to enhance regional connectivity and operational efficiency.
- The Board of **Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) teamed up** for an organ donation awareness initiative called "Donate Organs, Save Lives" during the third and final ODI between India and England on February 12, 2025, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

BANKING

NPCI IMPLEMENTS NEW RULES FOR UPI TRANSACTION ID FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2025

- **Alphanumeric IDs:** Transaction IDs must now be strictly alphanumeric (i.e., only letters and numbers). Special characters like @, #, and ! are no longer allowed.
- **Enhanced Security:** This change aims to enhance security by reducing potential vulnerabilities associated with special characters.
- **Improved Compliance:** The new rules ensure better compliance with international standards and regulatory requirements.
- **Uniformity:** Standardizing transaction IDs will simplify processes for both users and financial institutions.

CRISIL: INDIA'S GDP TO GROW AT 6.5% IN FY26; CAD WIDEN TO 1.3%

- India's GDP is projected to grow at **6.5% in FY26**, supported by lower inflation and expected rate cuts by the RBI.
- The current account deficit (CAD) is expected to widen from **1.0% of GDP in FY25 to 1.3%** in FY26 due to export headwinds from U.S. trade policies.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is projected to ease from **4.7% in FY25 to 4.4%** in FY26.
- The fiscal deficit is expected to decline from **5.6% of GDP in FY24 to 4.4%** in FY26.

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- Russia: Known for its military strength and political influence, holding the third position.
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- **India:** Secured the 12th spot, with a GDP estimated at **\$4.27 trillion**, strong economic growth, and increasing global influence.

SEBI RELEASES FRAMEWORK FOR SAFE RETAIL PARTICIPATION IN ALGORITHMIC TRADING

This framework, which will take **effect from August 1, 2025**, includes several key measures:

- **Broker Responsibility:** Brokers must obtain stock exchange approval for each algorithm before offering it to retail investors.
- **Unique Identifiers:** All algorithmic orders must be tagged with a unique identifier provided by the exchange to ensure an audit trail.

- **Security Measures:** Enhanced security measures, including OAuth-based authentication and two-factor authentication, are required to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Algorithm Categorization:** Algorithms are categorized into "**white-box**" (transparent logic) and "**black-box**" (undisclosed logic), with additional scrutiny for black-box algos.

NABARD APPROVES 127 PROJECTS WORTH RS.903.21 CRORE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **Project Breakdown:** The approved projects include 50 MLA-priority schemes under the Public Works Department worth Rs.412.75 crore and 23 MLA-priority schemes under the Jal Shakti Vibhag worth Rs.179.07 crore.
- **Major Initiatives:** Notable projects include the establishment of a 1.5 LLPD capacity dairy processing plant in Kangra district and 96 electric bus charging stations.
- **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF):** The state government has allocated Rs.1,087.77 crore under the RIDF for 2024-25, marking a 5.28% increase from the previous year.
- **Future Plans:** Over the next three years, the state government plans to introduce various schemes to strengthen the rural economy and generate employment opportunities for local youth.
- **Tourism and Anti-Drug Initiatives:** Efforts are underway to boost tourism in the state, with a focus on religious and tea tourism. The government is also working to root out the drug mafia from the state.

NABFID EXTENDS RS 2,000 CRORE LOAN TO BLACKSTONE-BACKED DATA CENTRE

- **Loan Purpose:** The loan is intended for the construction of a 120 MW data centre.
- **Location:** The data centre will be built at Mahape in New Mumbai.
- **Construction Timeline:** The construction is expected to start in mid-2025.
- **Loan Type:** It is a construction finance loan.
- **Future Plans:** NaBFID is looking to bring other lenders on board by offloading part of its exposure.

TPREL AND BOB SIGN MOU FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR FINANCING UNDER PMSGMBY

- **Aim:** To finance residential rooftop solar systems under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY).
- **Loan Amount:** Up to Rs 6 lakh.
- **Interest Rate:** Starting at 7% per annum, with both fixed and floating rate options.
- **Income Documentation:** No documentation required for loans up to Rs 2 lakh.

- **Margin Contribution:** 10% for loans up to Rs 2 lakh, 20% for loans above Rs 2 lakh.
- **Collateral:** Loans are collateral-free.
- **Repayment Tenure:** Flexible repayment tenure of up to 10 years.

USGBC: INDIA RETAINED 3RD SPOT GLOBALLY FOR LEED GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION IN 2024

- **India** retained its third spot globally with **370 LEED-certified projects covering 8.5 million** gross square meters (GSM).
- **China** topped the list with over **25 million GSM certified, followed by Canada with 10 million** GSM.
- The report underscores India's commitment to sustainable development and climate action, contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC) MEETING 2025

- The meeting was organized by the RBI and chaired by the newly appointed Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- **Repo Rate Cut:** The MPC decided to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%.
- **Neutral Stance:** The committee maintained a neutral monetary policy stance, focusing on aligning inflation with the target while supporting economic growth.
- **GDP Growth Projections:** The RBI projected GDP growth for FY26 at 6.7%.
- **Inflation Forecasts:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for FY25 is projected at 4.8%, with FY26 at 4.2%.

RBI INTRODUCED AN ADDITIONAL AUTHENTICATION LAYER FOR ONLINE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL PAYMENTS

- **Purpose:** The RBI introduced AFA to enhance the security of cross-border transactions. This measure aims to provide the same level of security for international transactions as is available for domestic payments.
- **Implementation:** The AFA requires an extra layer of verification, such as a One-Time Password (OTP) or biometric authentication, for online international transactions.
- **Rationale:** The decision was driven by the increasing sophistication of cyber threats and the surge in digital frauds. By extending AFA to international transactions, the RBI aims to protect Indian cardholders from potential fraud risks when shopping from overseas merchants.
- **Impact:** This move is expected to boost consumer confidence in making international online payments,

knowing that their transactions are safeguarded with an additional layer of security.

MOA&FW REVISED MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME GUIDELINES

- **Increased Procurement Limit:** The procurement limit has been raised from 20% to 25% to better support farmers.
- **Direct Benefit Transfers:** Farmers will now receive payments directly into their bank accounts, ensuring quicker and more transparent transactions.
- **Expanded Procurement Agencies:** More agencies will be involved in the procurement process to make it more efficient and accessible.
- These revisions aim to provide better support to farmers by ensuring they get remunerative prices for their perishable crops, especially during times when market prices fall below a certain level.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2024: INDIA HAS BEEN RANKED 96TH OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES

- In this index, India has been ranked **96th out of 180 countries**, with an overall **score of 38**, reflecting a slight decline from the previous year's score of 39.
- The index highlighted Denmark as the top-performing country, securing the **1st place with a score of 90**.
- The global average score **remains unchanged at 43**, indicating persistently high levels of perceived corruption.
- The report emphasized the significant link between corruption and the climate crisis, noting that corruption hampers effective climate action and progress.

INDIA RANKS 38TH IN THE WORLD BANK LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX (LPI)

- This **index evaluates countries based on their logistics performance** across several key dimensions, including customs efficiency, infrastructure quality, international shipments, logistics competence, tracking and tracing, and timeliness.
- **India ranks 38th out of 139 countries**, reflecting its improvements in logistics efficiency and infrastructure.
- **Germany holds the top spot in the 2025 index**, known for its highly efficient and reliable logistics systems.
- **Top Performers:** Germany, Singapore, and the Netherlands continue to lead in logistics performance.
- **India's Progress:** India's improvement in ranking indicates significant advancements in infrastructure and logistics services.

- **Key Metrics:** The LPI measures customs efficiency, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics competence, tracking and tracing, and timeliness.
- **Global Trends:** The report highlights global trends and challenges in the logistics sector, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement and adaptation.

SEBI LAUNCHED MITRA PLATFORM TO HELP INVESTORS TRACE INACTIVE MUTUAL FUND FOLIOS

- MITRA, **which stands for Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant**, is a centralized platform designed to help investors trace and reclaim inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios.
- The platform **aims to ensure KYC compliance, reduce fraud risks**, and promote financial transparency.
- By providing a **comprehensive database of these folios, investors can easily track and retrieve** their investments.

SIDBI & AFD SIGN USD 100 MILLION AGREEMENT TO BOOST GREEN FINANCE FOR INDIAN MSMEs

- The agreement aims to scale up green finance solutions for Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- AFD will provide a credit line of USD 100 million to SIDBI to expand access to affordable financing for MSMEs investing in energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy solutions, and climate-friendly business practices.
- This initiative aligns with India's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2070.

PANCHAYATI RAJ DEVOLUTION INDEX 2024: KARNATAKA TOPS, FOLLOWED BY KERALA & TN

- The report **assesses the progress of decentralization across states and Union Territories**, evaluating six key dimensions: framework, functions, finances, functionaries, capacity building, and accountability.
- The **top three performing states in the index are:**
 - Karnataka
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
- The report **aims to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and realize the vision of Local Self-Government as outlined in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

SEBI LAUNCHED 'RPT PORTAL' TO STRENGTHEN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

- This portal **is designed to enhance corporate governance** and transparency within companies.
- **Purpose:** The RPT Portal aims to track and analyze related party transactions, which are transactions between the company and its related parties, ensuring that they are conducted fairly and transparently.
- **Transparency:** The portal provides standardized and comparable data on RPTs, making it easier for investors and stakeholders to access important information.
- **Democratization:** SEBI Whole Time Member Ashwani Bhatia emphasized that the portal will democratize access to crucial information, thereby encouraging higher standards of corporate governance.

IRDAI UNVEILS BIMA TRINITY SCHEMES FOR INSURANCE REVOLUTION

- **Bima Sugam:** A unified digital marketplace for buying, managing, and claiming insurance policies.
- **Bima Vistaar:** A comprehensive insurance product covering life, accident, property, and surgical hospitalization.
- **Bima Vahak:** A women-centric insurance field sales force operating at the Gram Sabha level.

A MUTUAL CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR MSMEs WAS LAUNCHED BY FM SITHARAMAN

Current Context: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs on February 17, 2025.

KEY FEATURES:

- **Loan Amount:** Provides collateral-free loans up to Rs.100 crore for MSMEs.
- **Usage:** The loans can be used for purchasing machinery or equipment, enhancing production capabilities.
- **Guarantee Coverage:** The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) offers 60% guarantee coverage to member lending institutions (MLIs) for these loans.
- **Beneficiaries:** MSMEs across various sectors, aiming to boost their growth and development.

FUTUREBRAND INDEX 2024: SAMSUNG TOPS; INDIA'S RELIANCE INDUSTRIES RANKS 2ND

- It assesses brands across **18 key attributes**, categorized under two primary pillars: Purpose and Experience.
- These attributes include innovation, authenticity, trust, and engagement, among others.
- In the 2024 edition, **Samsung secured the top spot**, while **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ranked second**, marking a significant achievement for an Indian company in the global brand landscape.

IRDAI LAUNCHES BIMA-ASBA TO MAKE INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENT EASIER VIA UPI

- This new payment mechanism allows policyholders to use the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** to make insurance premium payments more convenient.
- **With Bima-ASBA, policyholders can block funds** in their bank accounts for premium payments.
- These funds are held until the transaction is completed, ensuring smooth and secure payments without immediate debits from the account.
- This system **aims to enhance the ease of paying insurance premiums** and will be effective from March 1, 2025.

25TH PLFS BULLETIN: URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 6.4% IN Q3FY25

- **Urban Unemployment Rate:** The overall urban unemployment rate in India slightly decreased to 6.4% in Q3FY25 from 6.5% in the same quarter of the previous year (Q3FY24).
- **Gender Breakdown:** The unemployment rate for men remained steady at 5.8%, while the unemployment rate for women improved to **8.1% from 8.6% in the previous year**.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The LFPR in urban areas increased to 50.4%, indicating a higher proportion of the urban population is either employed or actively seeking employment.

RBI LAUNCHES 'RBIDATA' APP FOR ACCESS TO MACROECONOMIC & FINANCIAL DATA

- **Access to Data:** The app provides access to over 11,000 series of macroeconomic and financial statistics related to the Indian economy. This includes data on national accounts, price indices, money and banking, foreign exchange, and more.
- **Visualization Tools:** Users can view time series data in the form of graphs and charts, making it easier to analyze trends and patterns.
- **Downloadable Data:** The app allows users to download data for further analysis and research, facilitating detailed economic and financial studies.

- **Bank Locator:** The app includes a feature to locate banking facilities within a 20 km radius of the user's location, making it convenient to find nearby banks and ATMs.

RBI DATA: OUTWARD REMITTANCES UNDER LRS DROP 10% TO USD 22.82 BILLION IN 9MFY25

- **Total Outward Remittances:** Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), outward remittances dropped by 10.15% year-on-year to USD 22.82 billion in the nine-month period from April to December 2024 (9MFY25).
- **Major Segments:** The decline was observed across several major segments:
- **Deposits:** Remittances for deposits dropped by 43% year-on-year to USD 422.28 million.
- **Maintenance of Close Relatives:** Remittances for the maintenance of close relatives declined by nearly 25.2% to USD 2,757 million.
- **International Travel:** The largest segment, international travel, saw a 2.23% year-on-year decline to USD 13.10 billion.
- **Other Segments:** Remittances for gifts fell by 21.38% to USD 2,215.5 million.
- **Positive Growth:** Despite the overall decline, remittances for investments in equity and debt instruments rose by 2.09% year-on-year to USD 1,113.73 million.

SECI SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF MP FOR 200 MW SOLAR PROJECT AT DHAR

- This MoU aims to develop a 200 MW solar project in Dhar, along with a 1000 MWh battery storage project.
- **Phase-wise Capital Investment:** Rs.2500 crore will be invested in phases for renewable energy expansion.
- **Power Supply Agreement:** A 25-year power supply agreement has been established with MP Power Management Company Limited (MPPMCL).
- **Renewable Energy Expansion:** The project is part of efforts to boost renewable energy capacity in Madhya Pradesh and contribute to sustainable development goals.

NSDL AND CDSL LAUNCH UIP TO PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA TO INVESTORS

- This platform aims to provide investors with a consolidated view of their financial holdings, integrating data from **MyEasi by CDSL and SPEED-e by NSDL**.

- **Consolidated Portfolio View:** Investors can access a unified dashboard displaying their demat securities across both NSDL and CDSL accounts.
- **Streamlined Investment Tracking:** The app offers transaction and holding statements in one place, simplifying portfolio management.
- **Enhanced Transparency and Security:** By sourcing data directly from exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations, the platform minimizes the risk of fraud and unauthorized interventions.
- **Additional Features:** Users can monitor open positions, margin details across various exchanges, and vote on shareholder resolutions.

AMFI LAUNCHES 3 NEW INVESTOR INITIATIVES: CHHOTI SIP, TARUN YOJANA, MITRA

- Chhoti SIP offers a **Rs.250 Systematic Investment Plan** to make mutual funds accessible, especially for first-time and underserved investors.
- Tarun Yojana integrates financial literacy into school curricula to educate young students on investment basics.
- **MITRA (Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant)** helps investors and their heirs recover inactive or forgotten mutual fund holdings, ensuring rightful ownership.
- These steps **aim to boost financial inclusion, awareness,** and accessibility in India's growing mutual fund sector.

INDIA SET TO BECOME HIGH-INCOME NATION WITH USD 23-USD 35 TRILLION GDP BY 2047

- **Vision:** The report outlines a strategic roadmap to position India as a high-income, developed economy by 2047, with a projected **GDP of \$23–\$35 trillion.**
- **Key Sectors:** It identifies five key sectors—electronics, energy, chemicals, automotive, and services—as strategic growth levers.
- **Technological Advancements:** The report emphasizes advancements in AI, quantum technology, digital manufacturing, and other innovations to drive economic growth.
- **Workforce Development:** It highlights the importance of workforce readiness, with about 200 million individuals expected to join the workforce.

ADB APPROVES USD 200 MILLION LOAN TO EXPAND URBAN SERVICES IN KOLKATA

- **Objective:** Enhance climate-resilient sewerage and drainage systems to address urban flooding, sanitation, and public health challenges in Kolkata.

- **84 km of trunk and secondary sewerage/drainage pipelines.**
- **176 km of lateral pipelines with 50,000 household sewer connections.**
- **1 sewage treatment plant** and 5 pumping stations.
- **Early flood warning** system expansion.

INDIA IS RANKED 5TH IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY RANKING

- This ranking is based on nominal GDP, with India's economy valued at around **\$4.3 trillion in 2025**, following the United States, China, Japan, and Germany.
- The IMF highlights India's robust **7% real GDP growth for FY25**, fueled by strong domestic demand, digitalization, and government reforms like Make in India.
- India is poised to surpass Japan in 2025 and Germany by 2027–28, aiming for **3rd place** with a **projected \$5.4 trillion GDP.**
- Alongside China, India drives nearly **50% of global economic growth**, reflecting its rising influence.

BANKING- ONE LINER

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Ombudsman resolved 95% of complaints** received under the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) during the fiscal year 2023-2024. A total of 9,34,355 complaints were handled within this period.
- On February 3, 2025, the **State Bank of India (SBI) introduced the SBI Patrons Fixed Deposit Scheme** for super senior citizens aged 80 years and above. This scheme offers additional 10 basis points interest over existing senior citizen rates, with deposit limits between Rs 1,000 and Rs 3 crores.
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) joined the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) on February 4, 2025.** By joining PCAF, IOB commits to measuring and disclosing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its financed activities. This move is part of IOB's efforts to support sustainable finance and combat climate change.
- **South Indian Bank launched their startup current accounts on February 4, 2025.** The event took place at the **Andromeda auditorium in Kochi, with key dignitaries in attendance.** The new accounts are designed to support startups and small businesses with features like zero minimum balance and unlimited free digital transactions.

- **CreditAccess Grameen** secured a USD 50 million loan from IFC on February 3, 2025. The funding aims to expand their reach to 40 lakh women borrowers, especially in agriculture. This initiative will strengthen their asset liability management and promote financial inclusion for underserved communities.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a Regulatory Sandbox to test an offline digital payment solution.** This initiative aims to enable transactions without internet connectivity, boosting digital payments in areas with poor network coverage.
- **The 1% Club, led by Sharan Hegde, secured a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) license from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on February 6, 2025.** This license allows them to offer personalized financial planning services and manage assets worth ₹750 crore. This is the first time a finfluencer-led firm has obtained this license.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Findi's acquisition of a 100% stake in Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (TCPSL) on February 3, 2025.** This deal, announced in November 2024, is valued at Rs. 330 crore, with an additional Rs. 75 crore contingent on certain conditions.
- **Beacon launched India Bill Pay on February 4, 2025.** This feature allows NRIs in Canada to pay Indian bills directly using Canadian dollars from their Beacon Money account. The service, available on Google Play and iOS, is a collaboration with Bharat Connect (BBPS) and YES BANK.
- **The Kerala government secured a Rs 2,424 crore loan from the World Bank on February 5, 2025,** to strengthen its healthcare system through the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme.
- **PNB MetLife partnered with Policybazaar to launch the Smart Invest Pension Plan on February 5, 2025.** This plan targets individuals aged 40 to 50 years and offers flexible retirement planning options.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of LX International Corporation's stake in POSCO-India Pune Processing Center by POSCO India Processing Center on February 4, 2025.** This move aims to enhance POSCO's operational efficiency in India's steel processing and distribution market.
- **IDFC FIRST Bank launched an exclusive banking package for senior citizens on February 7, 2025.** It includes an additional 0.5% interest on fixed deposits, no penalty for premature closures, ₹2 lakh cyber insurance, and health benefits such as a MediBuddy membership and discounts at network pharmacies.
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched HERizon Care on February 10, 2025.** It's India's first comprehensive health insurance plan for women, covering critical illnesses, maternal and reproductive health, and wellness, offering holistic protection tailored to women's unique needs.
- **The Board of Directors of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) approved** the setting up of a wholly-owned subsidiary in the UK on February 3, 2025. The new subsidiary, named GIC Re, India Service Company, will be incorporated as per UK laws.
- **The India-EFTA Desk was launched on February 10, 2025, in New Delhi to facilitate** investments of \$100 billion under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states. This initiative aims to promote transparency and ease of doing business for EFTA country businesses investing in India.
- **The RBI formed a working group on February 7, 2025, to review trading and** settlement timings of RBI-regulated financial markets. Chaired by RBI Executive Director Radha Shyam Ratho, the group aims to enhance market efficiency and align with global standards, and will submit its report by April 30, 2025.
- **The RBI announced the introduction of 'bank.in' and 'fin.in' domains on February 7, 2025, to enhance payment security** and reduce cyber threats. These domains are exclusively for Indian banks and non-bank financial entities.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Bart Albert Liliane De Wever	Prime Minister of Belgium
Gopal Vittal	Acting Chair of the (GSMA) Board
K Balasubramanian	Head of Citibank India
Ilie Bolojan	Romania's Interim president
Jotham Napat	Prime Minister of Vanuatu
Konstantinos Tasoulas	Greece's New president

PD Singh	CEO of Standard Chartered India
Gyanesh Kumar	Chief Election Commissioner of India
Rekha Gupta	Chief Minister of Delhi
India	Vice Presidency of the International Association of Aids to Marine Navigation
Shaktikanta Das	Principal Secretary-2 to PM Narendra Modi
B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog,
Shahrukh Todiwala	MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime
Anurag Rastogi	Chief Secretary of Haryana
Professor Sabyasachi Kar	Director of the Institute of Economic Growth
Vijender Gupta	Speaker of the Delhi Assembly
Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Drugs Controller General of India
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation

INDEX AND RANKING

ZEPTO BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND MOST DOWNLOADED FOOD & DRINK APP

- **India's rank:** India ranks 2nd globally in terms of downloads for food and drink apps, with Zepto being the second most downloaded app.
- **Country at 1st place:** The United States holds the top spot, with McDonald's being the most downloaded food and drink app.
- **Other important highlights:**
 - **Zomato ranks 5th, and Swiggy ranks 9th** in the same category.
 - Indian apps accounted for **over 16% of global downloads in the food and drink category.**
 - The number of sessions on Indian apps reached 43,200 million, marking a 21.7% growth from the previous year.
 - Indian apps also dominate other categories, such as retail, video streaming, financial services, travel, and sports.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2024: INDIA HAS BEEN RANKED 96TH OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES

- In this index, India **has been ranked 96th out of 180 countries**, with an overall score of 38, reflecting a slight decline from the previous year's score of 39.
- The index highlighted Denmark as the top-performing country, securing the 1st place with a score of 90.

- The global average **score remains unchanged at 43, indicating** persistently high levels of perceived corruption.
- The report emphasized the significant link between corruption and the climate crisis, noting that corruption hampers effective climate action and progress.

INDIA RANKS 38TH IN THE WORLD BANK LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX (LPI)

- This **index evaluates countries based on their logistics performance** across several key dimensions, including customs efficiency, infrastructure quality, international shipments, logistics competence, tracking and tracing, and timeliness.
- India ranks **38th out of 139 countries, reflecting** its improvements in logistics efficiency and infrastructure.
- Germany holds the top spot in the 2025 index, known for its highly efficient and reliable logistics systems.
- Here are **some important highlights:**
 - **Top Performers:** Germany, Singapore, and the Netherlands continue to lead in logistics performance.
 - **India's Progress:** India's improvement in ranking indicates significant advancements in infrastructure and logistics services.
 - **Key Metrics:** The LPI measures customs efficiency, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics competence, tracking and tracing, and timeliness.
 - **Global Trends:** The report highlights global trends and challenges in the logistics sector, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement and adaptation.

PANCHAYATI RAJ DEVOLUTION INDEX 2024: KARNATAKA TOPS, FOLLOWED BY KERALA & TN

- The report assesses the **progress of decentralization across states** and Union Territories, evaluating six key dimensions: framework, functions, finances, functionaries, capacity building, and accountability.
- The top **three performing states in the index are:**
 - Karnataka
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
- The **report aims to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and realize the vision of Local Self-Government as outlined in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

- It serves as a tool **for cooperative federalism and local** self-governance, enabling states to identify areas for improvement and adopt best practices for more effective Panchayat administration.

FOUR INDIAN UNIVERSITIES FOUND PLACE IN THE WORLD REPUTATION RANKINGS 2025

- This ranking evaluates **universities based on their global academic prestige**.
- Four Indian universities made it to the list:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Madras, and Shiksha 'O' Anusandhan.
- However, all of these institutions saw a decline in their rankings compared to the previous year.
- India's top performer, IISc Bengaluru**, dropped to the 201-300 band from its previous ranking of 101-125.
- IIT Delhi and IIT Madras also** fell to the 201-300 band, while Shiksha 'O' Anusandhan is a new entrant in this category.
- The United States continues to dominate the top of the rankings, with Harvard University retaining its position at the top for the **14th consecutive year**.
- Harvard is followed** by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Oxford, which share the second spot.

FUTUREBRAND INDEX 2024: SAMSUNG TOPS; INDIA'S RELIANCE INDUSTRIES RANKS 2ND

- It assesses **brands across 18 key attributes, categorized** under two primary pillars: Purpose and Experience.
- These attributes include innovation, authenticity, trust, and engagement, among others.
- In the 2024 edition, **Samsung secured the top spot**, while **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** ranked second, marking a significant achievement for an Indian company in the global brand landscape

FORBES' TOP 10 RICHEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD IN 2025

- This ranking lists **the wealthiest women globally**, highlighting their net worth and the sources of their wealth.
- Here are the top **10 richest women** in the world in 2025, according to Forbes:
 - Alice Walton - \$112.5 billion (Walmart)

- Françoise Bettencourt Meyers & Family - \$74.4 billion (L'Oréal)
- Julia Koch & Family - \$74.2 billion (Koch Industries)
- Jacqueline Mars - \$42.3 billion (Mars Inc.)
- Rafaela Aponte-Diamant - \$39.0 billion (Mediterranean Shipping Company)
- Abigail Johnson - \$36.0 billion (Fidelity Investments)
- Savitri Jindal & Family - \$32.3 billion (JSW Group)
- MacKenzie Scott - \$32.3 billion (Amazon)
- Miriam Adelson & Family - \$31.5 billion (Las Vegas Sands)
- Marilyn Simons & Family - \$31.0 billion (Hedge Funds).

INDIA IS RANKED 5TH IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY RANKING

- This ranking is based on nominal GDP, with India's economy valued at around \$4.3 trillion in 2025, following the United States, China, Japan, and Germany.
- The IMF highlights India's robust 7% real GDP growth for FY25, fueled by strong domestic demand, digitalization, and government reforms like Make in India.
- India is poised to surpass Japan in 2025 and Germany by 2027–28, aiming for 3rd place with a projected \$5.4 trillion GDP.
- Alongside China, India drives nearly 50% of global economic growth, reflecting its rising influence.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Deepak Kumar Kedia	"CA in Public Service" award
Chandrika Tandon	First Grammy award for Album "Triveni"
Travis Head	Allan Border Medal, Men's ODI Player of the Year
Varsha Bharath's	NETPAC Award
Tom Cruise	Grande Médaille
Coal India Limited	Golden Peacock CSR Award 2024
Indian computer science students (New Delhi)	Bronze Award, Global Best M-Gov Award 2025
NTPC Ltd.	Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 (Water Resilience)
Natarajan Chandrasekaran	The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)
Sunil Bharti Mittal	Honorary Knighthood (KBE)

Manohar International Airport (Mopa Airport)	Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskaar (Golden Trophy)
N Chandrasekaran	Honorary Knighthood
Conclave	Best Picture, Outstanding British Film, Best Editing, Best Adapted Screenplay
P.R. Sreejesh, Manu Bhaker	Sportstar of the Year (Male), Sportstar of the Year (Female)
Nita Ambani	Governor's Citation
Heart Lamp by Banu Mushtaq	Longlisted for International Booker Prize 2025
Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni	National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards
Raj Kamal Jha	'Banaras Lit Fest Award'
Jay Shah	Icon of Excellence Award, Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025
Akhil Jain	Prani Mitra Award in the category of Advocacy (Individual)
Ramesh Bhai Veljibhai Ruparelia	Prani Mitra Award in the category of Innovative Idea (Individual)
Harnarayan Soni	Prani Mitra Award in the category of Lifetime Animal Service (Individual)
Sri Sri 1008 Sriram Ratandasji Vaishnav Go Sewa Samiti	Prani Mitra Award in the category of Animal Welfare Organization
Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust	Prani Mitra Award in the category of Corporate/PSUs/Government Bodies/Cooperatives
Nisha Subramanian Kunju	Jeev Daya Award in the category of Individual
Bhagwan Mahavir Pashu Raksha Kendra	Jeev Daya Award in the category of Animal Welfare Organization
Master Chaitanya M Saxena, Master Aadi Shah	Jeev Daya Award in the category of Schools/Institutions/Teachers/Children

MOUS SIGNED

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
T-Hub and the Indo-Turkiye	3rd February 2025	To boost innovation, trade, and cultural

Friendship Association		exchanges between India and Türkiye in Hyderabad.
IEPFA and ACCA	3rd February 2025	To Promote Financial Literacy
IICA and CMAI	4th February 2025	To Enhance Capacity for Decarbonisation
Indian Army and IIT Guwahati	4th February 2025	To develop bamboo-based bunkers for high-altitude areas like Arunachal Pradesh.
India and Panama	5th February 2025	To launch the third phase of High-Impact Community Development Projects
German Institute Fraunhofer with IIT Ropar and BITS Pilani	5th February 2025	To enhance collaboration on sustainability and circular economy initiatives.
TPREL and BoB	6th February 2025	For Rooftop Solar Financing Under PMSGMBY
ISLRTC and NBT	7th February 2025	To convert 500 NBT storybooks, general reading materials, and other engaging books into accessible formats for Deaf children through (ISL)
AMSL with MIL & TCL	8th February 2025	For Advanced Defence Solutions
DPIIT with the Korea Transport Institute	10th February 2025	To enhance logistics and infrastructure development in India, leveraging KOTI's expertise.

Ministry of Labour & Employment and Foundt	10th February 2025	To enhance job creation by adding 10 lakh job opportunities annually on the (NCS) portal
Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) and L3Harris Technologies	11th February 2025	To strengthen tactical communication networks for the Indian Armed Forces by developing C4ISR technologies, leveraging L3Harris' experience, and enhancing national security
PNB with ITBP	11th February 2025	Provides financial benefits and insurance coverage to ITBP personnel and their families, including ₹100 lakh Personal Accidental Insurance and ₹150 lakh Air Accidental Insurance
Ministry of Ayush and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	12th February 2025	To enhance geriatric healthcare and combat substance abuse by implementing Ayush-based interventions.
SIDBI & AFD	13th February 2025	To Boost Green Finance for Indian MSMEs
Odisha government and EESL	14th February 2025	To enhance energy efficiency in public buildings, municipal services, clean cooking

		solutions, and electric mobility.
DRDO's ADA & MIDHANI	16th February 2025	To Develop MDN100 Steel for Aeronautical Applications
TRIFED with Meesho, IFCA & Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialisation	18th February 2025	to enhance the economic well-being of tribal communities by expanding market access for tribal products
CSIR and NAST	18th February 2025	To strengthen Indo-Nepal Scientific Cooperation
MoLE with APNA	18th February 2025	To establish a Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition in Hyderabad.
Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd and Tea Trunk	18th February 2025	To bolster the tribal economy by promoting the marketing and development of tribal products, ensuring fair remuneration for tribal communities.
India and Argentina	19th February 2025	To enhance cooperation in lithium exploration and mining.
Bisleri with ASI for Heritage Water Conservation	20th February 2025	With ASI for Heritage Water Conservation
India and Thailand	22nd February 2025	To enhance gem and jewellery exports, harmonize gemstone standards, boost trade in coloured gemstones, and foster innovation in silver jewellery

		between the two nations.
TRIFED with NIFT and HPMC	24th February 2025	To enhance tribal entrepreneurship by focusing on product curation, design development, and horticulture processing.
HAL & BEML	24th February 2025	To collaborate on leadership and technical training programs.
SECI with Government of MP	24th February 2025	For 200 MW Solar Project at Dhar
CAG & IIT Madras	24th February 2025	To Enhance Data Analytic Skills
SIDBI with Tata Capital Limited	25th February 2025	To enhance financial support for MSMEs, focusing on machinery financing, working capital, business loans, and loans against property.
DPIIT with Paytm	26th February 2025	To foster innovation and accelerate the growth of manufacturing and fintech startups in India.
GRSE with the Indian Army	27th February 2025	To strengthen infrastructure in the region by providing quick and reliable connectivity.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1st February 2025	Indian Coast Guard Day	Theme: "Honouring bravery, service, and maritime security"

2nd February 2025	World Wetlands Day	Theme: "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future"
2nd February 2025	Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day	To raise awareness about rheumatoid arthritis
4th February 2025	International Day of Human Fraternity	Theme: "Peace, Human Dignity, and Peaceful Coexistence."
4th February 2025	World Cancer Day	Theme: "United by Unique".
6th February 2025	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	Theme: "Stepping up the pace: Strengthening alliances and building movements to end FGM,".
1st-7th February 2025	World Interfaith Harmony Week	Theme: "Uniting for Peace,"
2nd-8th February 2025	International Development Week	Theme: "Cooperation for a Sustainable Future: Celebrating 35 Years of IDW".
8th February 2025	National Opera Day	Theme: Honors and appreciates the art of opera,
11th February 2025	World Day of the Sick	Theme: "Hope does not disappoint"
11th February 2025	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Theme: "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science".
11th February 2025	Safer Internet Day	Theme: "Together for a Better Internet".
10th February 2025	International Epilepsy Day	Theme: "MyEpilepsyJourney"
11th-14th February 2025	India Energy Week	Theme: "Driving Global Energy Innovation and Collaboration for a Sustainable Future".
12th February 2025	National Productivity Day	Theme: "From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups."
12th February 2025	International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism	Theme: "Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE): A Path to Sustainable Peace,"

13th February 2025	World Radio Day	Theme: "Radio and Climate Change."
13th February 2025	National Women's day	Theme: "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."
14th February 2025	World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day	Theme: "Spreading Hope & Support for Stronger Hearts,"
15th February 2025	World Pangolin Day	Raises awareness about pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammals
15th February 2025	International Childhood Cancer Day	Theme: "Inspiring Action"
17th February 2025	Global Tourism Resilience Day	Theme: "Building Tourism Resilience Through Digital Transformation".
18th February 2025	International Asperger's Day	Theme: To raise awareness about Asperger's Syndrome and honors Hans Asperger
20th February 2025	Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day	Marking its transition to the 24th state of India in 1987
20th February 2025	World Anthropology Day	Theme: "Understanding Human Diversity and Promoting Global Harmony."
20th February 2025	Mizoram Foundation Day	Theme: Mizoram's journey of peace, progress, and cultural preservation
21st February 2025	International Mother Language Day	Theme: "Languages Matter: Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day".
22nd February 2025	World Thinking Day	Theme: "Our Story"
23rd February 2025	World Peace and Understanding Day	Theme: Emphasizing dialogue, mutual respect, and global harmony.
24th February 2025	Central Excise Day	Contributions of the (CBIC) and its officers in managing indirect taxes and promoting economic stability.

27th February 2025	World NGO Day	Theme: -"Building a Sustainable Future: NGOs as Pillars of Resilience and Innovation."
28th February 2025	National Science Day	Theme: "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development"
28th February 2025	Rare Disease Day	Theme: "More Than You Can Imagine,"

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

CENTRE UNVEILS NEW AGRI-TECH SCHEMES FOR HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY

Current Context: On February 4, 2025, the Government of India introduced new agri-tech schemes to boost agricultural productivity, sustainability, and farmers' income.

- **The initiative includes:**
 - **Digital Agriculture Mission:** Leveraging advanced technologies like AI, Big Data, and geospatial data for better crop monitoring, soil management, and weather forecasting. This mission aims to provide farmers with real-time data and predictive insights to make informed decisions.
 - **Resource Management:** Promoting efficient use of resources like water, fertilizers, and pesticides through precision farming techniques. This will help reduce waste and increase crop yields.
 - **Support for Small and Marginal Farmers:** Providing training and skill development programs to empower small and marginal farmers with the knowledge and tools to adopt modern agricultural practices.
 - **Sustainability Initiatives:** Encouraging sustainable farming practices to protect the environment and ensure long-term agricultural productivity.

ODISHA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MULTIPLE INITIATIVES UNDER 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO'

Current Context: The Odisha government launched several initiatives under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme on February 8, 2025 to empower girls and prevent child marriages.

- **These initiatives include:**
 - **Nirbhaya Kadhi (Fearless Bud):** This program targets adolescent girls aged 11-18 in Ganjam district,

promoting awareness and empowering them to reject child marriage.

- **Mo Gelha Jhia (My Dear Daughter):** Also in Ganjam, this initiative focuses on combating sex selection and female foeticide.
- **Kalpana Avijan:** Launched in Dhenkanal, this scheme monitors adolescent girls aged 10-19 and prevents child marriage through local committees and awareness programs.
- **Swarna Kalika:** In Keonjhar, this initiative raises awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage and promotes education.
- **Veerangana Yojana:** In Deogarh, this program focuses on self-defense training for girls to boost their confidence and self-esteem.
- These programs **aim to create a safer environment for girls, promote education, and empower them** through self-defense training.

PM NARENDRA MODI RELEASED 19TH INSTALLMENT OF PM-KISAN SCHEME IN BIHAR

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on February 24, 2025, in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

- The event saw over 9.8 crore farmers, including 2.41 crore women, receive direct financial assistance exceeding ₹22,000 crore via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Launched in 2019, the PM-KISAN scheme provides ₹6,000 annually to eligible farmer families in three equal ₹2,000 installments, with this latest release bringing the total disbursement to over ₹3.68 lakh crore nationwide.
- Held ahead of Bihar's upcoming assembly elections, the ceremony was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.
- PM Modi also inaugurated development projects, including a milk processing plant in Barauni, the doubling of the Warisaliganj–Nawadah–Tilaiya rail section, and a road overbridge in Ismailpur-Rafiganj, boosting connectivity and rural infrastructure.

REPORTS

USGBC: INDIA RETAINED 3RD SPOT GLOBALLY FOR LEED GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION IN 2024

- The report **highlights the progress made by countries and regions outside the United States** in adopting healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.
- **Key points include:**
 - India retained its third spot globally with 370 LEED-certified projects covering 8.5 million gross square meters (GSM).
 - China topped the list with over 25 million GSM certified, followed by Canada with 10 million GSM.
 - The report underscores India's commitment to sustainable development and climate action, contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

SBI REPORTS 84.32 % RISE IN NP TO RS 16,891 CRORE FOR Q3FY25

- **Highlights of the Report:**
 - **Net Profit:** SBI reported an 84.32% year-on-year increase in net profit, reaching ₹16,891 crore for Q3FY25. This significant growth was driven by higher core income and improved asset quality.
 - **Net Interest Income (NII):** The NII increased by 4.09% to ₹41,446 crore. This represents the difference between the interest earned by the bank on its lending activities and the interest paid on its deposits.
 - **Asset Quality:** SBI's Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) ratio improved to 2.07%, indicating better management of bad loans and a healthier loan portfolio.
 - **Credit Growth:** Domestic advances grew by 14.06% year-on-year, reflecting the bank's ability to expand its lending activities and support economic growth.
 - **Margins:** Despite the growth in net profit and credit, margins were under pressure due to rising deposit costs.

NITI AAYOG RELEASED POLICY REPORT ON "EXPANDING QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH STATES & STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES"

The report was launched by **Suman Bery, Vice Chairman** of NITI Aayog, BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, and other officials.

Here are some key **highlights from the report:**

- **Quality:** Emphasizes the need to strengthen research capabilities and enhance pedagogy in State Public Universities (SPUs). Recommendations include establishing a National Research Policy, forming Centres of Excellence in SPU clusters, and fostering Humanities Research.
- **Funding & Financing:** Stresses the importance of greater financial autonomy and improved infrastructure for SPUs. Key recommendations include setting up State-level Infrastructure Finance Agencies, advocating for tax exemptions for SPUs, and promoting CSR contributions to enhance infrastructure.
- **Governance:** Prioritizes improving governance in SPUs, proposing a State-level Higher Education Vision for 2047 and stronger state higher education councils. Additional reforms include granting greater autonomy to SPUs and enhancing accountability mechanisms.
- **Employability:** Focuses on aligning education with industry needs to improve employability. Recommendations include promoting industry collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship within SPUs.

IEA REPORT: INDIA'S NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION TO INCREASE 60%, IMPORTS DOUBLE BY 2030

- The report highlights that India's natural gas consumption is expected to increase by nearly 60% to 103 billion cubic meters (bcm) annually by 2030.
- It also projects that liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports will more than double to meet the growing demand.
- The report emphasizes the need for further market liberalization, strategic planning, and infrastructure expansion to ensure supply security and competitive pricing.

SPORTICO'S 100 TOP HIGHEST-PAID ATHLETES 2024

- It details the **earnings of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in 2024**, highlighting their income from salaries, winnings, and endorsements.
- Cristiano Ronaldo **leads the list with USD 260 million**. **Notably**, no female athletes are included in the top 100.

- The report **provides insights into the financial landscape of professional sports**, showcasing the dominance of male athletes in terms of earnings.
- It also highlights the **significant contributions of endorsements** to athletes' overall income.
- The top **100 athletes come from eight sports and 27 countries, collectively earning \$6.2 billion in 2024, with \$4.8 billion from salaries and prize money, and \$1.4 billion from endorsements**.

28TH GBBC: WB LEAD IN INDIA'S BIRD COUNT FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

- The report **highlights the participation of thousands of bird enthusiasts** who contributed to the count by observing and recording bird species in their local areas.
- **West Bengal led the count for the third consecutive year**, recording the highest number of species among all participating states and union territories.
- The **report also emphasizes the importance of citizen science** in contributing to bird conservation efforts and understanding bird populations.

MADHYA PRADESH BECAME THE STATE WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VULTURES IN THE COUNTRY

- **Total Vulture Count:** 12,981 vultures were recorded in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Species:** The state is home to seven species of vultures, including four local species and three migratory species.
- **Comparison with Previous Census:** The previous census in 2023-24 recorded 10,845 vultures, indicating an increase of 2,136 vultures.
- **Census Phases:** The census is conducted in two phases, with the first phase completed from February 17-19, 2025, and the second phase scheduled for April 29, 2025.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The report highlights ongoing conservation efforts and the impact of banning diclofenac, a drug harmful to vultures.

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INDIA SET TO BECOME HIGH-INCOME NATION WITH USD 23-USD 35 TRILLION GDP BY 2047

- **Vision:** The report outlines a strategic roadmap to position India as a high-income, developed economy by 2047, with a projected GDP of \$23–\$35 trillion.
- **Key Sectors:** It identifies five key sectors—electronics, energy, chemicals, automotive, and services—as strategic growth levers.
- **Technological Advancements:** The report emphasizes advancements in AI, quantum technology, digital manufacturing, and other innovations to drive economic growth.
- **Workforce Development:** It highlights the importance of workforce readiness, with about 200 million individuals expected to join the workforce.
- **Challenges and Strategies:** The report addresses challenges such as supply chain disruptions, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory issues, and suggests strategies like smart factories and generative AI for growth.

MFIN: MICRO-CREDIT DISBURSEMENTS DECLINE 35.8% TO RS 22,091 CRORE IN Q3FY25

- **Micro-credit Disbursements:** Declined by 35.8% to Rs 22,091 crore in Q3FY25 compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- **Assets Under Management (AUM):** Stood at Rs 1,42,695 crore at the end of December 2024, showing a slight decrease of 0.1% compared to the same period in the previous year.
- **Average Loan Amount:** The average loan amount disbursed per account during the third quarter was

Rs 51,691 crore, registering an increase of 15.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

- **Portfolio at Risk (PAR):** The PAR, defined as unpaid loans of more than 30 days, deteriorated to 8.8% as of December 31, 2024, compared to 3.5% in the previous corresponding period.
- **Debt Funding:** During the third quarter, NBFC-MFIs received debt funding of Rs 12,921 crore, mainly contributed by banks.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

Name of Summit	Organized/ Led By	Venue	Aim/Theme
19th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility	Institute of Directors	Mumbai	To discuss the evolving role of board leadership in shaping the future of CSR
Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue	Ministry of Power, India, and the UK's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	New Delhi	Theme: "Advancing India's Energy Transition"
Paris AI Summit 2025	French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Grand Palais, Paris	Theme: "Unlocking Economic Opportunities Enabled by AI"
32nd session of the Indian Art History Congress	Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida, under the Ministry of Culture	Patna, Bihar	Theme: "Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and Culture"
The IIAS-DARPG India Conference	(IIAS) and the (DARPG), Government of India	New Delhi	Theme: "Next Generation Administrative Reforms: Empowering Citizens and

			Reaching the Last Mile"
International Conference on Unani Medicine	(CCRUM) under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India	New Delhi	Theme: "Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward".
BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Ministry of External Affairs, with the (CII YI)	Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India	Theme: "Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange"
World Government Summit	(WGSO) and Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE.	Dubai	Theme: "Shaping Future Governments",
First edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave	School of Ultimate Leadership	New Delhi	Theme: "Focus, Vision, Resilience, and Leading by Example."
International Women's Conference	Art of Living	Bengaluru, India	Theme: "Just Be"
8th Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman	Muscat, Oman	Theme: "Voyages to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership"
Global Business Summit 2025	The Times Group and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi	New Delhi	Theme: "Evolve, Emerge, Expand".
Waste Recycling and	Recycling and Environment	New Delhi	Theme: "Industry-wide adoption of Circular

Climate Change 2025 Conclave	nt Industry Association of India		Approaches for Sustainable Growth and Resource Efficiency,"
5th International Conference	(DMRC) in partnership with the (CII) and the (IGBC)	New Delhi	Theme: The Future of Urban Mobility
4th Global Ministerial Conference	Morocco and WHO	Marrakech, Morocco	Theme: "Commit to Life,"
9th Asia Economic Dialogue	Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, in collaboration with Pune International Centre (PIC).	Pune, Maharashtra	Theme: "Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Era of Fragmentation".
Global Investors Summit	Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Theme: The Future Ready State"
Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025	Government of Assam, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Veterinary Field, Khanapara, Guwahati	Theme: "Investment and Infrastructure for a Viksit Assam"
Prakriti 2025 Conference	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power	New Delhi	Theme: "Promoting Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and Resources for Integrating Transformational Initiatives"
'Conference For Women Peacekeepers From	Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the	Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi	Theme: "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective".

Global South	Ministry of Defence and the (CUNPK)		
Resumed session of COP16 Conference	Convention on Biological Diversity	Rome, Italy	Theme: Raise \$200 billion annually by 2030, cut harmful incentives by \$500 billion per year, and establish a permanent financial mechanism under CBD by COP17
Bharat Calling Conference	IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated by Union Minister Piyush Goyal	Mumbai, India	Theme: "Path to Viksit Bharat 2047: Pioneering Prosperity for All"
AISEF International Spice Conference	All India Spices Exporters Forum	Bengaluru	Theme: "Building Trust Beyond Borders: Transparency, Sustainability, Confidence".

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- In the first **three quarters of the fiscal year 2024-2025, Public Sector Banks in India** reported a 31.3% year-over-year increase in net profit, reaching ₹1,29,426 crore. This growth reflects improved asset quality, higher recoveries, and increased lending activities.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government approved the Excise Policy for 2025-26 on February 3, 2025**. Key changes include composite shops for selling beer, liquor, and wine from a single counter, and an e-lottery system for allocating liquor shop licenses.
- India's **retail inflation declined to 4.31% in January 2025, reported on February 12, 2025**. This marks a five-month low, mainly due to falling food prices. The previous rate was 5.22% in December 2024, and food inflation also dropped to 6.02% from 8.39%.

- The **Odisha Cabinet approved the Antyodaya Gruha Yojana on February 8, 2025**, to provide pucca houses for weaker sections. The scheme aims to construct 2.25 lakh houses over three years with a budget of Rs 7,550 crore. Beneficiaries will receive Rs 1.20 lakh for construction, with additional incentives for early completion.
- West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a ₹3.89 lakh crore budget for FY26 on February 12, 2025**. The budget focuses on social welfare, rural growth, and infrastructure. Key highlights include a 4% DA increase for state government employees, ₹1,500 crore for rural road improvements, and ₹9,600 crore for the "Banglar Bari" housing project.
- Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal presented the State Budget for 2025-26 on February 7, 2025**. The budget focuses on infrastructure development, social security, education, and technology. Key allocations include ₹750 crore for Wayanad landslide victims, ₹402 crore for the noon meals program, and ₹100 crore for power generation projects.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation declined from 2.37% in December 2024 to 2.31% in January 2025**, driven by a significant fall in food prices. The data was released on February 14, 2025. The food index inflation dropped to 7.47% in January 2025 from 8.89% in December 2024, contributing to the overall decline in WPI inflation.
- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi presented the state's annual budget for the 2025-26 fiscal on February 17, 2025**. The ₹2.90 lakh crore budget prioritizes capital expenditure, infrastructure, urban development, agriculture, and irrigation.
- On February 18, 2025, **it was reported that the unemployment rate in urban areas for the October-December 2024 quarter declined to 6.4%**. This slight decrease is compared to the same period the previous year.
- Diya Kumari, Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, presented the state budget for 2025-26 on February 19, 2025**. Key highlights include job creation, infrastructure development, and welfare measures such as 5 lakh new electricity connections, 150 free units for households, solar panels for eligible families, 1.25 lakh government jobs, 1.5 lakh private sector jobs, and Green Budget initiatives worth ₹27,854 crore.

- **India's overall exports from April 2024 to January 2025 reached USD 682.59 billion, showing a growth of 7.21% compared** to the same period in the previous year. Merchandise exports were valued at USD 358.91 billion, while services exports totaled USD 323.68 billion.
- On 20 February 2025, **Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna presented a ₹8.08 trillion state budget for FY26**. The budget prioritizes infrastructure, education, and agriculture, aiming to position Uttar Pradesh as a growth engine of India.
- On 20 February 2025, **Uttarakhand Finance Minister Premchand Aggrawal presented a ₹1,01,175 crore budget for FY26** in Dehradun. The budget focuses on infrastructure, education, health, and rural development. Key allocations include ₹14,763 crore for infrastructure development and ₹1,843 crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Moody's Analytics projected India's GDP growth to slow to 6.4% in 2025** on 20 February 2025. This slowdown is attributed to new US tariffs and softening global demand, which are expected to weigh on exports.
- **S&P Global Market Intelligence has projected India's GDP to grow at 6.4% for both FY25 (2024-25) and FY26 (2025-26)**, as announced on February 24, 2025. This forecast reflects a slight downward revision from their December estimate of 6.5% for FY25, while maintaining the 6.4% projection for FY26.

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- **Boris Spassky, the iconic Russian chess grandmaster**, passed away on February 27, 2025, at the age of 88. Spassky was best known for his 1972 "Match of the Century" against Bobby Fischer.
- **Ron Draper, the oldest Test cricketer**, passed away at 98 years on February 27, 2025, in South Africa. Draper played two Test matches for South Africa against Australia in 1950 and had a distinguished first-class cricket career.
- **Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commissioner of India**, passed away on February 1, 2025, at the age of 79. He had been **Horst Koehler, former President of Germany and former Managing Director of the IMF**, passed away on February 1, 2025, at the age of 81. He died in Berlin after a brief illness,

surrounded by his family. admitted to Apollo Hospital in New Delhi for brain surgery.

- **Horst Koehler, former President of Germany and former Managing Director of the IMF**, passed away on February 1, 2025, at the age of 81. He died in Berlin after a brief illness, surrounded by his family.
- Veteran Akashvani news reader **R. S. Venkatraman** passed away on February 4, 2025, at the age of 102 in Chennai. He was renowned for reading the news bulletin in Tamil that announced India's independence on August 15, 1947.
- **Namibia's first democratically elected president, Sam Nujoma**, passed away on February 8, 2025, at the age of 95. He was a key figure in Namibia's fight for independence and was revered as the "father of the nation."
- **Gyalo Thondup, elder brother of the Dalai Lama, passed away at 97 on February 8, 2025, in Kalimpong, West Bengal**. He was a significant Tibetan political operator and diplomat, known for his role in international diplomacy and negotiations with China.
- **Renowned folk artist and Padma Shri awardee Sukri Bommagowda** passed away on February 13, 2025, at the age of 84. Known as the "Nightingale of Halakki," she preserved Karnataka's folk traditions with a repertoire of nearly 5,000 songs.
- **Noted Bengali vocalist Pratul Mukhopadhyay passed away on February 15, 2025, at the age of 82**. He was known for his iconic songs like "Ami Banglay Gan Gai" and "Dinga Bhashao Sagore."
- **Veteran Telugu actress and producer C. Krishnaveni** passed away on February 16, 2025, at the age of 102. She was known for her pion Veteran space scientist and Padma Shri awardee **R. Manicka Vasagam** passed away on February 14, 2025, in Bengaluru at the age of 91.
- **Milind Rege, Mumbai cricket's encyclopedia, passed away on February 19, 2025, at 76 due to cardiac arrest**. A former Mumbai captain and renowned selector, he played a pivotal role in spotting talents like Sachin Tendulkar. eering contributions to Telugu cinema and introduced legendary actors like N.T. Rama Rao.
- **Renowned Odissi dancer Mayadhar Raut passed away at the age of 92 on 22 February 2025 in Delhi**. Raut played a crucial role in reviving and codifying

the Odissi dance form, helping it gain classical dance status.

- **Veteran Odia film star Uttam Mohanty passed away** on February 27, 2025, at the age of 66, while undergoing treatment at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. He was known for his significant contributions to the Odia film industry.
- **Renowned Gujarati poet and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Anil Ramanath Joshi passed away** on February 26, 2025, at the age of 84. He was known for his significant contributions to modern Gujarati literature, including works like "Kadach" and "Statue".
- **Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman passed away on February 17, 2025**, at the age of 95. He was found deceased alongside his wife, Betsy Arakawa, in their Santa Fe, New Mexico home. Hackman was renowned for his roles in iconic films such as "The French Connection" and "Unforgiven".

BOOKS

- **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the book "I Am?"** on February 8, 2025, at the Vice President Enclave in New Delhi. The book, compiled by Gopichand P. Hinduja, emphasizes the universal relevance of Bharatiyata and unity in diversity.
- **General Upendra Dwivedi launched the memoir titled "I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder"** on February 9, 2025. The book is authored by Geetika Lidder, the wife of late Brigadier Lakhwinder Singh Lidder, who tragically died in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
- **Namita Gokhale's latest collection, "Life on Mars: Collected Stories,"** marks a significant literary comeback. Released on February 21, 2025, the anthology features both old and new stories, reflecting her journey from "Paro: Dreams of Passion" to her resurgence through short stories.

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE-LINER QUESTION BANK

Q1. Which Indian-origin artist won the Grammy Award for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album in 2025?

- a) Chandrika Tandon
- b) AR Rahman
- c) Ricky Kej
- d) Zakir Hussain

MONTHLY GK DIGEST ONE LINER: FEBRUARY 2025

Answer: a) Chandrika Tandon became a Grammy Award winner at the 67th Grammy Awards in 2025 for her album Triveni in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category.

Q2. Where is India's first Drone City being developed by Garuda Aerospace?

- a) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- b) Hyderabad, Telangana
- c) Orvakal, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh
- d) Pune, Maharashtra

Answer: c) Garuda Aerospace announced this project in Orvakal village, Kurnool district, with a significant investment to develop India's drone technology ecosystem.

Q3. When was the Michibiki 6 navigation satellite launched by JAXA?

- a) January 1, 2025
- b) February 2, 2025
- c) March 3, 2025
- d) April 4, 2025

Answer: b) JAXA launched the Michibiki 6 navigation satellite on February 2, 2025, to enhance GPS accuracy as part of Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS).

Q4. Who won the Allan Border Medal at the 2025 Australian Cricket Awards?

- a) Steve Smith
- b) Pat Cummins
- c) David Warner
- d) Travis Head

Answer: d) Travis Head won his maiden Allan Border Medal at the 2025 Australian Cricket Awards for his exceptional performances across all three formats of the game.

Q5. Which institution launched India's first Cancer Genome Atlas, Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas (BCGA), on February 3, 2025?

- a) AIIMS Delhi
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IISc Bangalore
- d) Tata Memorial Hospital

Answer: b) IIT Madras launched the Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas (BCGA) to study genetic variations in cancer patients in

India, aiming to enhance early detection and personalized treatment strategies.

Q6. Who was the new Prime Minister of Belgium on February 3, 2025?

- a) Bart De Wever
- b) Alexander De Croo
- c) Charles Michel
- d) Sophie Wilmès

Answer: a) On February 3, 2025, Flemish nationalist Bart De Wever took office as Belgium's new Prime Minister after seven months of coalition negotiations.

Q7. Which organization provided the USD 50 million loan to CreditAccess Grameen?

- a) World Bank
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer: c) The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, provided the loan to support financial inclusion and asset liability management.

Q8. Who was appointed as the Acting Chair of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) Board on February 3, 2025?

- a) Gopal Vittal
- b) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- c) José María Álvarez-Pallete
- d) Mukesh Ambani

Answer: a) Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Bharti Airtel, was appointed as the Acting Chair of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) Board on February 3, 2025.

Q9. Who has been appointed as the new head of Citibank India on February 5, 2025?

- a) Ashu Khullar
- b) Sandeep Bakhshi
- c) Uday Kotak
- d) K Balasubramanian

Answer: d) K Balasubramanian has been appointed as the new head of Citibank India, effective February 5, 2025. He succeeds Ashu Khullar.

Q10. Which two organizations signed an MoU to make books accessible for Deaf children through Indian Sign Language (ISL)?

- a) Ministry of Education & ISLRTC
- b) ISLRTC & National Book Trust (NBT)
- c) NBT & National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- d) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) & ISLRTC

Answer: b) The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and the National Book Trust (NBT) signed this MoU to promote inclusive education by converting books into Indian Sign Language (ISL) for Deaf children.

Q11. How much loan has the Kerala government secured from the World Bank on February 5, 2025, for healthcare system improvement?

- a) ₹1,500 crore
- b) ₹2,424 crore
- c) ₹3,000 crore
- d) ₹2,100 crore

Answer: b) The Kerala government secured a ₹2,424 crore loan from the World Bank on February 5, 2025, under the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme.

Q12. In which weight category did Lovlina Borgohain win the gold medal at the 38th National Games 2025?

- a) 51kg
- b) 60kg
- c) 69kg
- d) 75kg

Answer: d) Lovlina Borgohain, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medalist, competed in the Women's 75kg category and won the gold medal at the 38th National Games held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, on February 7, 2025.

Q13. What is the total value of the contract signed by the Defence Ministry with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) on February 8, 2025?

- a) ₹642 crore
- b) ₹500 crore
- c) ₹450 crore
- d) ₹700 crore

Answer: a) The contract worth ₹642 crore was signed for the procurement of Electro-Optical Fire Control Systems (EOFCS) for the Indian Navy.

Q14. Which award did Varsha Bharath's Tamil film Bad Girl win at the 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR)?

- a) Golden Globe
- b) NETPAC Award
- c) Academy Award
- d) Best Director Award

Answer: b) Bad Girl won the prestigious NETPAC Award at the 54th IFFR, which is specifically given to the best Asian film that promotes cultural diversity and artistic innovation.

Q15. Who was appointed as the Prime Minister of Lebanon in February 2025?

- a) Saad Hariri
- b) Najib Mikati
- c) Nawaf Salam
- d) Hassan Diab

Answer: c) Lebanon formed its first full-fledged government in over two years, led by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, to implement economic reforms and rebuild the country.

Q16. Which initiative was launched by Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary on February 7, 2025, to support women entrepreneurship in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram?

- a) Udyam Sakhi Yojana
- b) Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme
- c) Mahila Samridhi Yojana
- d) Women Startup India Initiative

Answer: b) The Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme was launched to provide training, resources, and mentorship to female students in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram, promoting entrepreneurship.

Q17. What was the theme of the IN Chiefs' Conclave 2025 held in New Delhi?

- a) Strengthening India's Maritime Borders
- b) Future of Warfare & Maritime Strategy
- c) Indo-Pacific Security and Strategy
- d) Naval Modernization and Defense Cooperation

Answer: b) The conclave, chaired by the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), focused on discussions about the future of warfare and maritime strategies.

Q18. Which company recently secured a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license from NPCI for UPI services?

- a) Infibeam Avenues' subsidiary, Rediff.com India
- b) Paytm Payments Bank
- c) Google Pay
- d) Razorpay

Answer: a) RediffPay, a subsidiary of Infibeam Avenues, secured a TPAP license, enabling it to offer UPI payment services with Axis Bank as its payment service provider.

Q19. What is the aim of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recent amendments to the TCCPR 2018?

- a) To increase mobile tariffs
- b) To promote 5G infrastructure
- c) To strengthen consumer protection against Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC)
- d) To regulate mobile internet speed

Answer: c) These amendments aim to strengthen consumer protection against unsolicited commercial communications (UCC) by simplifying complaints, redefining categories, and implementing stricter measures against unregistered telemarketers.

Q20. Who has been named the official Ambassador for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025?

- a) Virat Kohli
- b) MS Dhoni
- c) Shikhar Dhawan
- d) Rohit Sharma

Answer: c) Shikhar Dhawan was named the official Ambassador for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on February 12, 2025.

Q21. Which Indian bank launched a new mobile app feature allowing customers to book Fixed Deposits (FDs) using funds from non-bank accounts via UPI and Net Banking?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Axis Bank
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) State Bank of India

Answer: b) Axis Bank introduced this feature on February 11, 2025, leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem to simplify FD booking.

Q22. Who was elected as the 73rd President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on February 12, 2025?

- a) Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal
- b) Nihar Jambusaria
- c) Charanjot Singh Nanda
- d) Debashis Mitra

Answer: c) CA Charanjot Singh Nanda was elected as the 73rd President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on February 12, 2025.

Q23. Which Indian beverage brand joined the billion-dollar club in 2024, as announced by Coca-Cola on February 11, 2025?

- a) Frooti
- b) Maaza
- c) Limca
- d) Slice

Answer: b) On February 11, 2025, Coca-Cola announced that Maaza, the popular mango-based drink, achieved the billion-dollar revenue milestone in 2024.

Q24. Which company received RBI's final approval to operate as an online payment aggregator on February 11, 2025?

- a) Paytm
- b) Easebuzz
- c) Razorpay
- d) CCAvenue

Answer: b) On February 11, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted final authorization to Easebuzz to function as an online payment aggregator (PA).

Q25. Which company acquired a 100% stake in Ayana Renewable Power for ₹19,500 crore?

- a) Tata Power
- b) ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited (ONGPL)
- c) Reliance Green Energy
- d) Adani Renewables

Answer: b) ONGPL acquired Ayana Renewable Power, expanding its renewable energy portfolio to 4.1 GW.

Q26. Which Indian athletes won the Sportstar of the Year awards at the Sportstar Aces Awards 2025?

- a) Neeraj Chopra & P.V. Sindhu
- b) P.R. Sreejesh & Manu Bhaker
- c) Virat Kohli & Mithali Raj
- d) Rohan Bopanna & Mary Kom

Answer: b) P.R. Sreejesh (Hockey) and Manu Bhaker (Shooting) won the top honors at the Sportstar Aces Awards 2025.

Q27. What is the key feature of South Indian Bank's 'SIB Quick FD' launched on February 15, 2025?

- a) Minimum deposit of ₹10,000
- b) Requires a savings account
- c) Fully digital FD opening without a savings account
- d) Available only to senior citizens

Answer: c) 'SIB Quick FD' allows customers to open an FD instantly starting at ₹1,000 without needing a savings account.

Q28. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Standard Chartered India, effective April 1, 2025?

- a) PD Singh
- b) Zarin Daruwala
- c) Sandeep Bakhshi
- d) Uday Kotak

Answer: a) PPD Singh will succeed Zarin Daruwala as CEO of Standard Chartered India starting April 1, 2025.

Q.29 When and where will the inaugural Olympic Esports Games be held?

- a) 2026, Paris, France
- b) 2027, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- c) 2028, Los Angeles, USA
- d) 2029, Doha, Qatar

Answer: b) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the first-ever Olympic Esports Games will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2027.

Q.30 Which Indian legislative body has become the first to introduce a translation facility for multiple languages?

- a) Lok Sabha
- b) Rajya Sabha
- c) Uttar Pradesh Assembly
- d) Maharashtra Assembly

Answer: c) The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has become the first legislative body in India to introduce a translation facility, allowing discussions in multiple regional languages along with English.

Q.31 Who honored Nita Ambani with the Governor's Citation on February 16, 2025?

- a) Kamala Harris
- b) Gavin Newsom
- c) Maura Healey
- d) Ron DeSantis

Answer: c) Nita Ambani was honored by Maura Healey, the Governor of Massachusetts, for her contributions to education, healthcare, and women's empowerment.

Q.32 Which state in India has launched nPROUD, the first initiative for collecting and disposing of expired and unused medicines?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Karnataka

Answer: b) The Kerala Government launched nPROUD (New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs) to safely collect and dispose of expired and unused medicines, making it India's first such initiative.

Q.33 The Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) received which prestigious award in 2024?

- a) Green India Award
- b) National Environmental Excellence Award
- c) SKOCH Award
- d) UNDP Sustainable Development Award

Answer: c) The Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) was recognized with the SKOCH Award 2024 for its contributions to sustainable forest conservation and improving rural livelihoods.

Q.34 As per ICRA's projection, what is the expected GDP growth rate of India for Q3 FY2025?

- a) 5.8%
- b) 6.2%
- c) 6.4%
- d) 7.0%

Answer: c) According to the ICRA report released on February 18, 2025, India's GDP growth is expected to rise to 6.4% in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2025.

Q.35 Who has been appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, effective from February 22, 2025?

- a) Shaktikanta Das
- b) Urjit Patel
- c) Rajiv Gauba
- d) Subhash Chandra Garg

Answer: a) Shaktikanta Das, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as the Principal Secretary-2 to PM Narendra Modi.

Q.36 Which company topped the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list?

- a) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Infosys

Answer: b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) topped the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list as the most valuable company for the fourth consecutive year.

Q.37 Which Indian airport became the first to win the Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy) in 2025?

- a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai
- b) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- c) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- d) Manohar International Airport, Goa

Answer: d) On 14 February 2025, Goa's Manohar International Airport (Mopa Airport) became the first airport in India to win the Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy) for its exemplary Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) performance.

Q.38 What is the projected GDP growth rate of India for 2025, as per Moody's Analytics report on 20 February 2025?

- a) 6.4%
- b) 7.0%
- c) 5.9%
- d) 6.8%

Answer: a) Moody's Analytics projected on 20 February 2025 that India's GDP growth would slow to 6.4% in 2025 due to factors like new US tariffs and weakening global demand affecting exports.

Q.39 Who has been appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, effective from February 22, 2025?

- a) Shaktikanta Das
- b) Urjit Patel
- c) Rajiv Gauba
- d) Subhash Chandra Garg

Answer: a) Shaktikanta Das, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as the Principal Secretary-2 to PM Narendra Modi.

Q.40 Which company topped the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list?

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- b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Infosys

Answer: b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) topped the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list as the most valuable company for the fourth consecutive year.

Q.41 Which Indian airport became the first to win the Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy) in 2025?

- a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai
- b) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- c) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- d) Manohar International Airport, Goa

Answer: d) On 14 February 2025, Goa's Manohar International Airport (Mopa Airport) became the first airport in India to win the Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy) for its exemplary Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) performance.

Q.42 What is the projected GDP growth rate of India for 2025, as per Moody's Analytics report on 20 February 2025?

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- a) 6.4%
- b) 7.0%
- c) 5.9%
- d) 6.8%

Answer: a) Moody's Analytics projected on 20 February 2025 that India's GDP growth would slow to 6.4% in 2025 due to factors like new US tariffs and weakening global demand affecting exports.

Q.43 Which author released the book "Life on Mars: Collected Stories" on February 21, 2025?

- a) Jhumpa Lahiri
- b) Namita Gokhale
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Amitav Ghosh

Answer: b) Namita Gokhale's latest collection, "Life on Mars: Collected Stories," marks a significant literary comeback, released on February 21, 2025.

Q.44 Who won the 14th Asian Snooker Championship title in Doha on February 20, 2025?

- a) Aditya Mehta
- b) Amir Sarkhosh
- c) Ding Junhui
- d) Pankaj Advani

Answer: d) On February 20, 2025, Pankaj Advani won his 14th Asian Snooker Championship title in Doha.

Q.45 Which Kannada book was longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2025?

- a) "Heart Lamp"
- b) "The Shadow Lines"
- c) "Blue Hills"
- d) "The Silent Sea"

Answer: a) "Heart Lamp," a short story collection by Banu Mushtaq and translated by Deepa Bhashti, became the first Kannada book to be longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2025.

Q.46 What is the projected GDP growth rate of India for FY25 and FY26, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence?

- a) 6.5% for both years
- b) 6.4% for both years

- c) 6.3% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26
- d) 6.2% for FY25 and 6.4% for FY26

Answer: b) S&P Global Market Intelligence projected India's GDP growth at 6.4% for FY25 and FY26, revising the previous estimate of 6.5% for FY25.

Q.47 Who was appointed as the Chairman of the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation (RTEF) in February 2025?

- a) Mukesh Ambani
- b) Ratan Tata
- c) N Chandrasekaran
- d) Sundar Pichai

Answer: c) N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was appointed as the Chairman of RTEF, a Section 8 company managing Tata's ₹10,000 crore philanthropic estate.

Q.48 Which country launched the Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) in 2025 to enhance sustainable energy collaboration with India?

- a) Germany
- b) Denmark
- c) France
- d) Japa

Answer: b) Denmark launched GTAI on February 25, 2025, as an initiative to strengthen cooperation on carbon neutrality and sustainable energy.

Q.49 Who was appointed as the new Chairman of SEBI on February 27, 2025?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Madhabi Puri Buch
- c) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- d) Rajiv Kumar

Answer: c) A 1987-batch IAS officer, Tuhin Kanta Pandey was appointed SEBI Chairman effective March 1, 2025, succeeding Madhabi Puri Buch.

Q.50 Which Indian airport ranked 8th in the 'Top 10 Busiest Global Airports in 2025' list by OAG?

- a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- b) Kempegowda International Airport
- c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- d) Indira Gandhi International Airport

Answer: d) The Official Airline Guide (OAG) released the ranking, with Dubai International Airport (DXB) securing the top position.