

## Weekly One Liners 27th January to 2nd February 2025

### Economic Survey 2025: Key Highlights, Summary, and Important Points

The **Economic Survey of India 2025** provides a comprehensive overview of India's economic performance, highlighting key trends, challenges, and policy recommendations for sustainable growth. As a precursor to the Union Budget, the survey underscores the resilience of the Indian economy amidst global uncertainties, emphasizing robust GDP growth, declining inflation, and significant strides in sectors such as manufacturing, services, and digital infrastructure. It also addresses critical areas like employment generation, fiscal consolidation, and green energy transition, offering insights into the government's vision for achieving long-term economic stability and inclusivity. **CEA V Anantha Nageswaran** gives an Economic Survey presentation

### Economic Survey 2025: Key Highlights, Summary, and Important Points

#### Chapter 1: State of the Economy: Getting Back into the Fast Lane

- India's real GDP growth is **estimated at 6.4 per cent in FY25** (as per first advance estimates of national income), which equates nearly to its decadal average.
- Real gross value added (GVA) is also estimated to grow by 6.4 per cent FY25.
- The global economy on an average grew by 3.3 per cent in 2023 against the IMF projection of 3.2 per cent growth in the next five years.
- The real GDP growth in **FY26 is expected to grow between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent**, keeping in mind the upsides and downsides to growth.
- Thrust on **grassroots-level structural reforms and deregulation** to reinforce the medium-term growth potential and boost global competitiveness of Indian economy.
- Geopolitical tensions, ongoing conflicts and global trade policy risks continue to pose significant challenges to the global economic outlook.
- **Retail headline inflation** has softened from 5.4 per cent in FY24 to **4.9 per cent in April–December 2024**.
- Capital expenditure (CAPEX) improved continuously from FY21 to FY24. Post general elections, CAPEX grew YOY by 8.2 per cent during July–November 2024.
- India accounts for seventh-largest share in global services exports, underscoring India's global competitiveness in the sector.
- During April to December 2024, non-Petroleum and non-Gems & Jewellery exports went up by 9.1 per cent reflecting resilience of India's merchandise exports amid volatile global conditions.

### Chapter 2: Monetary and Financial Sector Developments: The Card and the Horse

- Bank credit has grown at a steady rate with credit growth converging towards deposit growth.
- **Profitability of Scheduled Commercial Banks improved**, reflected in a fall in gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) and rise in capital to risk weighted asset ratio (CRAR).
- Credit growth outpaced nominal GDP growth for two successive years. The **credit-GDP gap narrowed to (-) 0.3 per cent in Q1 of FY25** from (-) 10.3 per cent in Q1 of FY23, indicating sustainable bank credit growth.
- **Banking sector exhibits improvement in asset quality**, robust capital buffers, and strong operational performance.
- The **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** of Scheduled Commercial Banks declined to a 12-year low of **2.6 per cent of gross loans and advances** at the end of September 2024.
- Under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, **₹3.6 lakh crore realized in resolution of 1,068 plans** till September 2024. It amounts to 161 per cent against the liquidation value and 86.1 per cent of the fair value of the assets involved.
- Indian stock markets outperformed its emerging market peers despite election-driven market volatility challenges.
- The total resource mobilisation from primary markets (equity and debt) stands at ₹11.1 lakh crore from April to December 2024, five per cent more than the amount mobilised during FY24.
- BSE stock market capitalisation to GDP ratio stood at 136 per cent at the end of December 2024, far higher than other Emerging Market Economies like China (65 per cent) and Brazil (37 per cent).
- India's **insurance** market continued its upward trajectory, with total insurance premiums growing by **7.7 per cent in FY24**, reaching ₹11.2 lakh crore.
- India's **pension** sector experienced significant growth, with the **total number of pension subscribers growing by 16 per cent (YoY)** as of September 2024.



**Chapter 3: External Sector: Getting FDI Right**

- India's external sector continues to display resilience amidst global uncertainties and headwinds.
- **Overall exports** (merchandise + services) **grew by 6 per cent** (YOY) in the first nine months of FY25. Services sector by 11.6 per cent during the same time.
- India commands **10.2 per cent** of the **global export market** in '**Telecommunications, Computer, & Information Services**', ranking 2nd largest exporter in the world, as per UNCTAD.
- India's current account deficit (CAD) stood at **1.2 per cent of GDP** in Q2 of FY25, supported by rising net services receipts and an increase in private transfer receipts.
- Gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows recorded a revival in FY25, increasing from USD 47.2 billion in the first eight months of FY24 to USD 55.6 billion in the same period of FY25, a YoY **growth of 17.9 per cent**.
- India's FOREX reserves stood at USD 640.3 billion as of the end of December 2024, **sufficient to cover 10.9 months of imports** and approximately 90 per cent of the country's external debt.
- India's **external debt** remained stable over the past few years, with the external debt to GDP ratio standing at **19.4 per cent at the end of September 2024**.

**Chapter 4: Prices and Inflation: Understanding the Dynamics**

- As per the IMF, the global inflation rate moderated to 5.7 per cent by 2024 from its peak of 8.7 per cent in 2022.
- **Retail inflation** in India saw a reduction from 5.4 per cent in FY24 to **4.9 per cent in FY25 (April-December 2024)**.
- **RBI** and the **IMF** project India's consumer price inflation will gradually align with the target of around **4 per cent in FY26**.
- Development of climate-resilient crop varieties and enhanced farming practices are essential to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events and achieve long-term price stability.

**Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook: Deregulation Drives Growth**

- Indian economy is in the middle of a change that represents an unprecedented economic challenge and opportunity. **Geo-Economic Fragmentation (GEF) is replacing globalization** leading to imminent economic realignments and readjustments.
- To realize the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 India will need to achieve a growth rate of around 8 per cent at constant prices, on average, for about a decade or two.
- The Medium-term growth outlook for India must consider the new global realities – GEF, China's manufacturing prowess, and dependency of efforts for energy transition on China.
- India to focus on **systematic deregulation** to reinvigorate the domestic levers of growth and empower individuals and organisations to pursue legitimate economic activity with ease.

- Systemic deregulation or enhancing economic freedom for individuals and small businesses is arguably the **most important policy priority** to bolster India's medium-term growth prospects.
- Focus of reforms and economic policy must now be on systematic deregulation under Ease of Doing Business 2.0 and **creation of a viable Mittelstand**, i.e. India's SME sector.
- In the next step, States must work on liberalising standards and controls, setting legal safeguards for enforcement, reducing tariffs and fees, and applying risk-based regulation.

**Chapter 6: Investment and Infrastructure: Keeping it Going**

- The central focus of the Government in the last five years was on increasing public spending on infrastructure, and speeding up approvals and resource mobilization.
- The Union Government's **capital expenditure on key infrastructure sectors** has **grown at a rate of 38.8 per cent** from FY20 to FY24.
- Under railway connectivity, **2031 km of railway network** was commissioned between April and November, 2024, and **17 new pairs of Vande Bharat** trains were introduced between April and October 2024.
- Under road network, **5853 km of National Highways** was constructed in FY25 (April-Dec).
- Under National Industrial Corridor Development Programme, a total of 383 plots covering **3788 acres have been allotted for industrial use** for various sectors in phase 1.
- Operational efficiency improved reduction in average container turnaround time in major ports from **48.1 hours in FY24 to 30.4 hours during FY25** (Apr-Nov), significantly improving **port connectivity**.
- A 15.8 per cent year-on-year increase in renewable energy capacity of solar and wind power by December 2024.
- The share of renewable energy in India's total installed capacity now stands at 47 per cent.
- Government's schemes like the DDUGJY and the SAUBHAGYA improved electricity access in rural areas, electrifying 18,374 villages and providing electricity to 2.9 crore households.
- The government's digital connectivity initiatives have gained traction, particularly with the rollout of 5G services across all states and union territories by October 2024.
- Efforts to provide 4G mobile services to remote areas under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (now Digital Bharat Nidhi) have made significant strides, with over 10,700 villages covered by December 2024.
- Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, over **12 crore families** have gained access of piped drinking water since its launch.
- Under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, during April to November 2024, 1.92 lakh villages were incrementally declared ODF Plus under the model category, taking the total number of **ODF Plus villages to 3.64 lakh**.

- In urban areas, the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has completed over 89 lakh houses.**
- City transportation network is expanding rapidly, with metro and rapid rail systems operational or under construction in 29 cities, covering over 1,000 kilometers.
- Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016, ensured regulation and transparency of Real Estate sector. By January 2025, **over 1.38 lakh real estate projects registered**, and 1.38 lakh complaints were resolved.
- India currently operates 56 active space assets. The government's Space Vision 2047 includes ambitious projects like the **Gaganyaan** mission and the **Chandrayaan-4** Lunar Sample Return Mission.
- Public sector investment alone cannot meet the requirements of infrastructure, and **private sector participation will be crucial** to bridge the gap.
- The government has created mechanisms such as the National Infrastructure Pipeline and National Monetisation Pipeline to facilitate private sector involvement in infrastructure.

**Chapter 7: Industry: All about Business Reforms**

- The industrial sector expected to grow by 6.2 per cent in FY-25 (first advance estimates), driven by robust growth in electricity and construction.
- The government has been actively promoting Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0, supporting the establishment of **SAMARTH Udyog centres.**
- In FY24, the **Indian automobile domestic sales grew by 12.5 per cent.**
- The domestic production of electronic goods has grown at a CAGR of 17.5 per cent from FY15 to FY24.
- **99 per cent smartphones now manufactured domestically**, drastically reducing India's dependence on imports.
- The total **annual turnover of pharmaceuticals in FY24 was ₹4.17 lakh crore**, growing at an average rate of 10.1 per cent in the last five years.
- As per the WIPO Report 2022, **India ranks sixth among the top 10 patent filing offices** globally.
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant sector of the Indian economy.
- To provide equity funding to MSMEs with the potential to scale up, the government launched the **Self-Reliant India Fund** with a corpus of ₹50,000 crore.
- The government is implementing the Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme to develop clusters across the country.

**Chapter 8: Services -New Challenges for the Old War Horse**

- The service sector's contribution to total GVA has risen from **50.6 per cent in FY14 to 55.3 per cent in FY25 (First Advance Estimates).**
- The average growth rate of the services sector was **8 per cent in the pre-pandemic years (FY13 -FY20). It stood at 8.3 per cent in the post-pandemic period (FY23-FY25).**

- India held a 4.3 per cent share in global services exports in 2023, ranking seventh worldwide.
- India's services export growth surged to **12.8 per cent during April-November FY25, up from 5.7 per cent in FY24.**
- Information and computer-related services grew at a trend rate of 12.8 per cent over the last decade (FY13-FY23), increasing their share of overall GVA from 6.3 per cent to 10.9 per cent.
- Indian Railways recorded an 8 per cent growth in passenger traffic originating in FY24. Revenue-earning freight in FY24 grew by 5.2 per cent.
- The tourism sector's contribution to GDP returned to its pre-pandemic level of 5 per cent in FY23.

**Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management: Sector of the Future**

- The 'Agriculture and Allied Activities' sector contributes approximately 16 per cent of the country's GDP for FY24 (PE) at current prices.
- High-value sectors like horticulture, livestock, and fisheries have become key drivers of overall agricultural growth.
- Kharif foodgrain production for **2024 is expected to reach 1647.05 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), an increase of 89.37 LMT from the previous year.**
- For the fiscal year 2024-25, the MSP for Arhar and Bajra has been increased by **59 per cent and 77 per cent** over the weighted average cost of production, respectively.
- The fisheries sector has shown the highest compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **8.7 per cent, followed by livestock with a CAGR of 8 per cent.**
- National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) marked a fundamental shift in the approach to food security.
- The provision of free food grains under PMGKAY for another five years, reflects the long-term commitment of Govt towards food and nutrition security.
- As of 31st October, over 11 crore farmers have benefitted under PM-KISAN, while 23.61 lakh farmers are enrolled under PM Kisan Mandhan.

**Chapter 10: Climate & Environment: Adaptation Matters**

- India's ambition to achieve developed nation status by 2047 is fundamentally anchored in the vision of inclusive and sustainable development.
- India has installed electricity generation capacity of **2,13,701 megawatts** from non-fossil fuel sources, which accounts for 46.8 per cent of the total capacity as of 30 November 2024.
- As per the Forest Survey of India 2024 an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO2 equivalent has been created between **2005 and 2024.**
- The India-led global movement, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), aims to enhance the country's sustainability efforts.
- By 2030, it is estimated that LiFE measures could save consumers around **USD 440 billion globally** through reduced consumption and lower prices.



**Chapter 11: Social Sector -Extending the reach and driving empowerment**

- The social services expenditure of the government (combined for Centre and States) increased at a compound annual growth rate of 15 per cent from FY21 to FY 25.
- Gini coefficient, a measure of inequality in consumption expenditure, is declining. For rural areas it declined to **0.237 in 2023-24 from 0.266 in 2022-23, and for urban areas, it fell to 0.284 in 2023-24 from 0.314 in 2022-23.**
- Various fiscal policies of the government are aiding in reshaping the income distribution.
- Government health expenditure increases from 29.0 per cent to 48.0 per cent; share of out-of-pocket expenditure in total health expenditure declines from **62.6 per cent to 39.4 per cent, reducing financial hardship endured by households.**
- The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has played a decisive role in the significant reductions in expenditure with over ₹1.25 lakh crore in savings being recorded.
- The strategy of —Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been adopted to ensure that budgets at the Gram Panchayat levels align with the SDG objectives.

**Chapter 12: Employment and Skill Development: Existential priorities**

- Indian labour market indicators have improved with unemployment rate declining to **3.2 per cent in 2023-24 (July-June) from 6.0 per cent in 2017-18 (July-June).**
- With around 26 per cent of the population in the age group of 10-24 years, India stands at the cusp of a unique demographic opportunity, as one of the youngest nations globally.
- To give a fillip to women’s entrepreneurship, the government has launched several initiatives in terms of easier access to credit, marketing support, skill development, and support to women start-ups, etc.
- The growing digital economy and renewable energy sectors are providing enhanced opportunities for job creation, essential for achieving the Viksit Bharat’s vision.
- The government is establishing a resilient and responsive skilled ecosystem to keep pace with emerging global trends such as automation, generative AI, digitalisation, and the effects of climate change.
- The Government has implemented measures to boost employment, foster self-employment, and promote worker welfare.
- The recently launched PM-Internship Scheme is emerging as a transformative catalyst for employment generation.
- The net payroll additions under EPFO have more than doubled in the past six years, signalling healthy growth in formal employment.

**Chapter 13: Labour in the AI Era: Crisis or Catalyst?**

- **Developers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) promise** to usher in a new age, where a bulk of the economically valuable work is automated.
- AI is anticipated to surpass human performance in critical decision-making across various fields, including healthcare, research, criminal justice, education, business, and financial services.
- Barriers to large-scale AI adoption persist in the present, which include concerns over reliability, resource inefficiencies, and infrastructure deficits. These challenges, along with AI’s experimental nature, create a window for policymakers to act.
- Fortunately, due to AI presently being in its infancy, India is afforded the time necessary to strengthen its foundations and mobilise a nation-wide institutional response.
- Leveraging its young, dynamic, and tech-savvy population, India has the potential to create a workforce that can utilise AI to augment their work and productivity.
- The future revolves around ‘Augmented Intelligence’, where the workforce integrates both human and machine capabilities. This approach aims to enhance human potential and improve overall efficiency in job performance, ultimately benefiting society as a whole.
- Collaborative effort between government, private sector, and academia essential to minimise adverse societal effects of AI-driven transformation.

**Economic Survey 2024-25: Important Points**

- **GDP Growth:** 6.4% in FY25, projected 6.3-6.8% in FY26.
- **Inflation:** Softened to 4.9% (FY25).
- **Exports:** Resilient, with non-petroleum exports up 9.1%.
- **CAPEX:** Grew 8.2% YoY (July-Nov 2024).
- **Bank Credit:** Outpaced GDP growth, NPAs at 12-year low (2.6%).
- **Stock Market:** BSE market cap/GDP at 136%, outperforming peers.
- **Insolvency Resolutions:** ₹3.6 lakh crore recovered under IBC.
- **Insurance & Pension:** Premiums grew 7.7%, pension subscribers up 16%.
- **Exports:** Overall growth of 6%, services exports up 11.6%.
- **FDI:** Inflows rose 17.9% to USD 55.6 billion (FY25).
- **FOREX Reserves:** USD 640.3 billion, covering 10.9 months of imports.
- **CAD:** Stable at 1.2% of GDP.
- **Global Inflation:** Fell to 5.7% (2024) from 8.7% (2022).
- **Retail Inflation:** Eased to 4.9% (FY25), targeting 4% by FY26.
- **Agriculture:** Climate-resilient crops key to price stability.
- **Growth Target:** 8% needed for Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- **Deregulation:** Focus on Ease of Doing Business 2.0 and SME growth.

- **Global Challenges:** Geo-economic fragmentation and China's dominance.
- **CAPEX:** Grew 38.8% (FY20-FY24).
- **Railways:** 2031 km added, 17 new Vande Bharat trains.
- **Renewables:** Capacity up 15.8%, now 47% of total energy.
- **Digital Connectivity:** 5G rolled out, 4G in 10,700 villages.
- **Growth:** Industrial sector to grow 6.2% (FY25).
- **Smart Manufacturing:** Push for Industry 4.0 and SAMARTH Udyog.
- **Pharma & Electronics:** ₹4.17 lakh crore turnover, 99% smartphones made in India.
- **MSMEs:** Self-Reliant India Fund with ₹50,000 crore corpus.
- **Contribution:** 55.3% to GVA (FY25).
- **Exports:** Services exports up 12.8% (Apr-Nov FY25).
- **Tourism:** Back to pre-pandemic 5% GDP contribution.
- **Contribution:** 16% to GDP.
- **Foodgrain Production:** Kharif output up 89.37 LMT (2024).
- **MSP Hikes:** Arhar (+59%), Bajra (+77%).
- **Food Security:** PMGKAY extended for 5 years.
- **Renewables:** 46.8% of total energy capacity.
- **Carbon Sink:** 2.29 billion tonnes CO2 added (2005-2024).
- **LiFE Initiative:** Aims to save USD 440 billion globally by 2030.
- **Health:** Govt spending up to 48%, out-of-pocket expenses down to 39.4%.
- **Inequality:** Gini coefficient declined in rural and urban areas.
- **SDGs:** Gram Panchayats aligning budgets with SDGs.
- **Unemployment:** Fell to 3.2% (2023-24).
- **Demographics:** 26% population aged 10-24.
- **Skill Development:** Focus on AI, automation, and digitalisation.
- **Formal Jobs:** EPFO payroll additions doubled in 6 years.
- **AI Potential:** To surpass human performance in key sectors.
- **Challenges:** Reliability, infrastructure, and resource gaps.
- **Augmented Intelligence:** Human-machine collaboration for productivity.
- **Policy Action:** Govt, private sector, and academia must collaborate.

**UNION BUDGET 2025-26**

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

**Budget Estimates 2025-26**

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

**Agriculture as the 1st Engine of Development**

- **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana – Developing Agri Districts Programme:** The programme to be launched in partnership with the states, covering 100 districts with low productivity, moderate crop intensity and below-average credit parameters, to benefit 1.7 crore farmers.
- **Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience:** A comprehensive multi-sectoral programme to be launched in partnership with states to address under-employment in agriculture through skilling, investment, technology, and invigorating the rural economy. Phase-1 to cover 100 developing agri-districts.
- **Aatmanirbharta in Pulses:** Government to launch a 6-year “Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses” with focus on Tur, Urad and Masoor. NAFED and NCCF to procure these pulses from farmers during the next 4 years.
- **Comprehensive Programme for Vegetables & Fruits:** A comprehensive programme to promote production, efficient supplies, processing, and remunerative prices for farmers to be launched in partnership with states.
- **Makhana Board in Bihar:** A Makhana Board to be established to improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana.
- **National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds:** A National Mission on High Yielding Seeds to be launched aiming at strengthening the research ecosystem, targeted development and propagation of seeds with high yield, and commercial availability of more than 100 seed varieties.
- **Fisheries:** Government to bring a framework for sustainable harnessing of fisheries from Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas, with a special focus on the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity:** A 5-year mission announced to facilitate significant improvements in productivity and sustainability of cotton farming, and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties.

- **Enhanced Credit through KCC:** The loan limit under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme to be enhanced from ₹ 3 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh for loans taken through the KCC.
- **Urea Plant in Assam:** A plant with annual capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tons to be set up at Namrup, Assam.

**MSME's as the 2nd Engine of Development**

- **Revision in classification criteria for MSMEs:** The investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs to be enhanced to 2.5 and 2 times respectively.
- **Credit Cards for Micro Enterprises:** Customized Credit Cards with ₹ 5 lakh limit for micro enterprises registered on Udyam portal, 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.
- **Fund of Funds for Startups:** A new Fund of Funds, with expanded scope and a fresh contribution of ₹ 10,000 crore to be set up.
- **Scheme for First-time Entrepreneurs:** A new scheme for 5 lakh women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes first-time entrepreneurs to provide term-loans upto ₹ 2 crore in the next 5 years announced.
- **Focus Product Scheme for Footwear & Leather Sectors:** To enhance the productivity, quality and competitiveness of India's footwear and leather sector, a focus product scheme announced to facilitate employment for 22 lakh persons, generate turnover of ₹ 4 lakh crore and exports of over ₹ 1.1 lakh crore.
- **Measures for the Toy Sector:** A scheme to create high-quality, unique, innovative, and sustainable toys, making India a global hub for toys announced.
- **Support for Food Processing:** A National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management to be set up in Bihar.
- **Manufacturing Mission – Furthering “Make in India”:** A National Manufacturing Mission covering small, medium and large industries for furthering “Make in India” announced.

**Investment as the 3rd Engine of Development**

**Investing in People**

- **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0:** The cost norms for the nutritional support to be enhanced appropriately.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs to be set up in Government schools in next 5 years.
- **Broadband Connectivity to Government Secondary Schools and PHCs:** Broadband connectivity to be provided to all Government secondary schools and primary health centres in rural areas under the Bharatnet project.
- **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme:** Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme announced to provide digital-form Indian language books for school and higher education.
- **National Centres of Excellence for Skilling:** 5 National Centres of Excellence for skilling to be set up with global expertise and partnerships to equip our youth with the skills required for “Make for India, Make for the World” manufacturing.

- **Expansion of Capacity in IITs:** Additional infrastructure to be created in the 5 IITs started after 2014 to facilitate education for 6,500 more students.
- **Centre of Excellence in AI for Education:** A Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education to be set up with a total outlay of ₹ 500 crore.
- **Expansion of medical education:** 10,000 additional seats to be added in medical colleges and hospitals next year, adding to 75000 seats in the next 5 years.
- **Day Care Cancer Centres in all District Hospitals:** Government to set up Day Care Cancer Centres in all district hospitals in the next 3 years, 200 Centres in 2025-26.
- **Strengthening urban livelihoods:** A scheme for socio-economic upliftment of urban workers to help them improve their incomes and have sustainable livelihoods announced.
- **PM SVANidhi:** Scheme to be revamped with enhanced loans from banks, UPI linked credit cards with ₹ 30,000 limit, and capacity building support.
- **Social Security Scheme for Welfare of Online Platform Workers:** Government to arrange for identity cards, registration on e-Shram portal and healthcare under PM Jan Arogya Yojna, for gig-workers.

**Investing in the Economy**

- **Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure:** Infrastructure-related ministries to come up with a 3-year pipeline of projects in PPP mode, States also encouraged.
- **Support to States for Infrastructure:** An outlay of ₹1.5 lakh crore proposed for the 50-year interest free loans to states for capital expenditure and incentives for reforms.
- **Asset Monetization Plan 2025-30:** Second Plan for 2025-30 to plough back capital of ₹ 10 lakh crore in new projects announced.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Mission to be extended until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay.
- **Urban Challenge Fund:** An Urban Challenge Fund of ₹ 1 lakh crore announced to implement the proposals for ‘Cities as Growth Hubs’, ‘Creative Redevelopment of Cities’ and ‘Water and Sanitation’, allocation of ₹ 10,000 crore proposed for 2025-26.
- **Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat:** Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to be taken up. Nuclear Energy Mission for research & development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) with an outlay of ₹20,000 crore to be set up, 5 indigenously developed SMRs to be operational by 2033.
- **Shipbuilding:** The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy to be revamped. Large ships above a specified size to be included in the infrastructure harmonized master list (HML).
- **Maritime Development Fund:** A Maritime Development Fund with a corpus of ₹ 25,000 crore to be set up, with up to 49 per cent contribution by the Government, and the balance from ports and private sector.



- **UDAN – Regional Connectivity Scheme:** A modified UDAN scheme announced to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. Also to support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts.
- **Greenfield Airport in Bihar:** Greenfield airports announced in Bihar, in addition to the expansion of the capacity of Patna airport and a brownfield airport at Bihta.
- **Western Koshi Canal Project in Mithilanchal:** Financial support for the Western Koshi Canal ERM Project in Bihar.
- **Mining Sector Reforms:** A policy for recovery of critical minerals from tailings to be brought out.
- **SWAMIH Fund 2:** A fund of ₹ 15,000 crore aimed at expeditious completion of another 1 lakh dwelling units, with contribution from the Government, banks and private investors announced.
- **Tourism for employment-led growth:** Top 50 tourist destination sites in the country to be developed in partnership with states through a challenge mode.

**Investing in Innovation**

- **Research, Development and Innovation:** ₹20,000 crore to be allocated to implement private sector driven Research, Development and Innovation initiative announced in the July Budget.
- **Deep Tech Fund of Funds:** Deep Tech Fund of Funds to be explored to catalyze the next generation startups.
- **PM Research Fellowship:** 10,000 fellowships for technological research in IITs and IISc with enhanced financial support.
- **Gene Bank for Crops Germplasm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines to be set up for future food and nutritional security.
- **National Geospatial Mission:** A National Geospatial Mission announced to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data.
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** A Gyan Bharatam Mission for survey, documentation and conservation of our manuscript heritage with academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collectors to be undertaken to cover more than 1 crore manuscripts announced.

**Exports as the 4th Engine of Development**

- **Export Promotion Mission:** An Export Promotion Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce, MSME, and Finance to be set up.
- **BharatTradeNet:** 'BharatTradeNet' (BTN) for international trade to be set-up as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions.
- **National Framework for GCC:** A national framework to be formulated as guidance to states for promoting Global Capability Centres in emerging tier 2 cities.

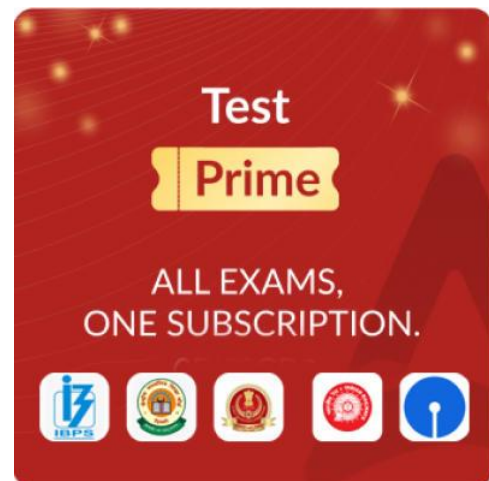
**Reforms as Fuel: Financial sector reforms and Development**

- **FDI in Insurance Sector:** The FDI limit for the insurance sector to be raised from 74 to 100 per cent, for those companies which invest the entire premium in India.
- **Credit Enhancement Facility by NaBFID:** NaBFID to set up a 'Partial Credit Enhancement Facility' for corporate bonds for infrastructure.
- **Grameen Credit Score:** Public Sector Banks to develop 'Grameen Credit Score' framework to serve the credit needs of SHG members and people in rural areas.
- **Pension Sector:** A forum for regulatory coordination and development of pension products to be set up.
- **High Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms:** A High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms to be set up for a review of all non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licenses, and permissions.
- **Investment Friendliness Index of States:** An Investment Friendliness Index of States to be launched in 2025 to further the spirit of competitive cooperative federalism announced.
- **Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0:** The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalize more than 100 provisions in various laws.

**PART B**

**Direct Tax**

- No personal income tax payable upto income of Rs 12 lakh (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime.
- This limit will be Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried tax payers, due to standard deduction of Rs 75,000.
- The new structure will substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment.
- The new Income-Tax Bill to be clear and direct in text so as to make it simple to understand for taxpayers and tax administration, leading to tax certainty and reduced litigation.
- Revenue of about ₹ 1 lakh crore in direct taxes will be forgone.



**Revised tax rate structure**

In the new tax regime, the revised tax rate structure will stand as follows:

Income Range	Tax Rate
0 – 4 lakh rupees	Nil
4 – 8 lakh rupees	5%
8 – 12 lakh rupees	10%
12 – 16 lakh rupees	15%
16 – 20 lakh rupees	20%
20 – 24 lakh rupees	25%
Above 24 lakh rupees	30%

**TDS/TCS rationalization for easing difficulties**

- Rationalization of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) by reducing number of rates and thresholds above which TDS is deducted.
- The limit for tax deduction on interest for senior citizens doubled from the present Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.
- The annual limit of Rs 2.40 lakh for TDS on rent increased to Rs 6 lakh.
- The threshold to collect tax at source (TCS) on remittances under RBI’s Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) increased from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
- The provisions of the higher TDS deduction will apply only in non-PAN cases.
- Decriminalization for the cases of delay of payment of TCS up to the due date of filing statement.

**Reducing Compliance Burden**

- Reduction of compliance burden for small charitable trusts/institutions by increasing their period of registration from 5 years to 10 years.
- The benefit of claiming the annual value of self-occupied properties as nil will be extended for two such self-occupied properties without any condition.

**Ease of Doing Business**

- Introduction of a scheme for determining arm’s length price of international transaction for a block period of three years.
- Expansion of the scope of safe harbour rules to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.
- Exemption of withdrawals made from National Savings Scheme (NSS) by individuals on or after the 29th of August, 2024.
- Similar treatment to NPS Vatsalya accounts as is available to normal NPS accounts, subject to overall limits.

**Employment and Investment**

**Tax certainty for electronics manufacturing Schemes**

- Presumptive taxation regime for non-residents who provide services to a resident company that is establishing or operating an electronics manufacturing facility.
- Introduction of a safe harbour for tax certainty for non-residents who store components for supply to specified electronics manufacturing units.

**Tonnage Tax Scheme for Inland Vessels**

The benefits of existing tonnage tax scheme to be extended to inland vessels registered under the Indian Vessels Act, 2021 to promote inland water transport in the country.

Extension for incorporation of Start-Ups

Extension of the period of incorporation by 5 years to allow the benefit available to start-ups incorporated before 1.4.2030.

**Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)**

Certainty of taxation on the gains from securities to Category I and Category II AIFs which are undertaking investments in infrastructure and other such sectors.

Extension of investment date for Sovereign and Pension Funds

Extension of the date of making investments in Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds by five more years, to 31st March, 2030, to promote funding from them to the infrastructure sector.

**Indirect Tax**

**Rationalisation of Customs Tariff Structure for Industrial Goods**

Union Budget 2025-26 proposes to:

- Remove seven tariff rates. This is over and above the seven tariff rates removed in 2023-24 budget. After this, there will be only eight remaining tariff rates including ‘zero’ rate.
- Apply appropriate cess to broadly maintain effective duty incidence except on a few items, where such incidence will reduce marginally.
- Levy not more than one cess or surcharge. Therefore Social Welfare Surcharge on 82 tariff lines that are subject to a cess, exempted.

**Revenue of about ₹ 2600 crore in indirect taxes will be forgone.**

**Relief on import of Drugs/Medicines**

- 36 lifesaving drugs and medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD).
- 6 lifesaving medicines to attract concessional customs duty of 5%.
- Specified drugs and medicines under Patient Assistance Programmes run by pharmaceutical companies fully exempted from BCD; 37 more medicines added along with 13 new patient assistance programmes.

**Support to Domestic Manufacturing and Value addition**

- **Critical Minerals:** Cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery, Lead, Zinc and 12 more critical minerals fully exempted from BCD.
- **Textiles:** Two more types of shuttle-less looms fully exempted textile machinery; BCD rate on knitted fabrics revised from “10% or 20%” to “20% or ` 115 per kg, whichever is higher.
- **Electronic Goods:**
  1. BCD on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) increased from 10% to 20% .
  2. BCD reduced to 5% on Open Cell and other components.
  3. BCD on parts of Open Cells exempted.



- **Lithium Ion Battery:** 35 additional capital goods for EV battery manufacturing, and 28 additional capital goods for mobile phone battery manufacturing exempted.
- **Shipping Sector:** Exemption of BCD on raw materials, components, consumables or parts for the manufacture of ships extended for another ten years. The same dispensation to continue for ship breaking.
- **Telecommunication:** BCD reduced from 20% to 10% on Carrier Grade ethernet switches.

**Export Promotion**

- **Handicraft Goods:** Time period for export extended from six months to one year, further extendable by another three months, if required. Nine items added to list of duty-free inputs.
- **Leather sector:** BCD on Wet Blue leather fully exempted. Crust leather exempted from 20% export duty.
- **Marine products:**
  1. BCD reduced from 30% to 5% on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) for manufacture and export of its analogue products.
  2. BCD reduced from 15% to 5% on fish hydrolysate for manufacture of fish and shrimp feeds.
- **Domestic MROs for Railway Goods:**
  1. Railways MROs to benefit similar to the aircraft and ships MROs in terms of import of repair items.
  2. Time limit extended for export of such items from 6 months to one year and made further extendable by one year.

**Trade facilitation**

- **Time limit for Provisional Assessment:** For finalising the provisional assessment, time-limit of two years fixed, extendable by a year.
- **Voluntary Compliance:** A new provision introduced to enable importers or exporters, after clearance of goods, to voluntarily declare material facts and pay duty with interest but without penalty.
- **Extended Time for End Use:**
  1. Time limit for the end-use of imported inputs in the relevant rules extended from six months to one year.
  2. Such importers to file only quarterly statements instead of a monthly statement.

**Rupee Comes From (Budget 2025-26)**

The government's total revenue comes from various sources, categorized as follows:

- **Corporation Tax** – 17%
- **Income Tax (includes Securities Transaction Tax)** – 22%
- **Customs Duty** – 4%
- **Union Excise Duties** – 5%
- **Goods & Services Tax (GST) & Other Taxes** – 18%
- **Non-Tax Receipts** – 9%
- **Non-Debt Capital Receipts** – 1%
- **Borrowings & Other Liabilities** – 24%

**Rupee Goes To (Budget 2025-26)**

The government's expenditure is divided into multiple categories:

- **Central Sector Schemes (excluding Defence & Major Subsidies)** – 16%
- **Interest Payments** – 20%
- **Defence** – 8%
- **Major Subsidies (Food, Fertilizer, Petroleum, etc.)** – 6%
- **Finance Commission & Other Transfers** – 8%
- **State Share of Taxes & Duties** – 22%
- **Pensions** – 4%
- **Other Expenditure** – 8%
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes** – 8%

**Total Revenue and Expenditure**

**Revenue Estimates**

- Total Revenue Receipts: **₹34,20,409 crore**
- Tax Revenue (Net to Centre): **₹28,37,409 crore**
- Non-Tax Revenue: **₹583,000 crore**
- Capital Receipts (including borrowings): **₹16,44,936 crore**

**Expenditure Estimates**

- Total Expenditure: **₹50,65,345 crore**
- Revenue Expenditure: **₹39,44,255 crore**
- Capital Expenditure: **₹11,21,090 crore**
- Effective Capital Expenditure: **₹15,48,282 crore**

**Deficit Indicators**

**Key Deficit Figures**

- **Fiscal Deficit:** ₹1,56,89,36 crore (4.4% of GDP)
- **Revenue Deficit:** ₹5,23,846 crore (1.5% of GDP)
- **Effective Revenue Deficit:** ₹96,654 crore (0.3% of GDP)
- **Primary Deficit:** ₹2,92,598 crore (0.8% of GDP)

**Deficit Financing**

- Market Borrowings: **₹11,53,834 crore**
- Securities against Small Savings: **₹343,382 crore**
- External Debt: **₹23,490 crore**

**Sector-Wise Allocation**

**Major Expenditures**

- **Interest Payments:** ₹12,76,338 crore
- **Defence:** ₹4,91,732 crore
- **Pension:** ₹2,76,618 crore

**Subsidies:**

- Food: **₹203,420 crore**
- Fertilizer: **₹167,887 crore**
- Petroleum: **₹12,100 crore**

**Key Infrastructure and Development Allocations**

- **Rural Development:** ₹2,66,817 crore
- **Education:** ₹1,28,650 crore
- **Healthcare:** ₹98,311 crore
- **Urban Development:** ₹96,777 crore
- **Transport Infrastructure:** ₹5,48,649 crore

Transfer to States & UTs

**Total Transfer to States & UTs:** ₹25,01,284 crore

- State Devolution: ₹14,22,444 crore
- Finance Commission Grants: ₹1,32,767 crore
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes: ₹541,850 crore
- Other Grants & Loans: ₹3,74,725 crore

Key Government Schemes and Allocations

**Agriculture & Rural Development**

- PM-KISAN: ₹63,500 crore
- Mahatma Gandhi NREGA: ₹86,000 crore
- PM Awas Yojana (Grameen & Urban): ₹74,626 crore

**Education & Employment**

- PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI): ₹7,500 crore
- Samagra Shiksha: ₹41,250 crore
- Skill Development & Apprenticeships: ₹13,560 crore

**Health & Social Welfare**

- Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY: ₹9,406 crore
- POSHAN 2.0 (Nutrition Mission): ₹21,960 crore
- Social Assistance Programs: ₹9,652 crore

**Infrastructure & Industrial Development**

- Jal Jeevan Mission: ₹67,000 crore
- PM Gram Sadak Yojana: ₹19,000 crore
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes: ₹2,445 crore

Budget Allocations for All Ministries (2025-26):

**Top Ministries by Budget Allocation**

1. Ministry of Finance – ₹19,39,001.26 crore
2. Ministry of Defence – ₹6,81,210.27 crore
3. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution – ₹2,15,767.09 crore
4. Ministry of Railways – ₹2,55,445.18 crore
5. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways – ₹2,87,333.16 crore

Key Ministry Allocations

**Infrastructure & Development**

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs – ₹96,777.00 crore
- Ministry of Power – ₹21,847.00 crore
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways – ₹3,470.58 crore

**Social Sectors**

- Ministry of Education – ₹1,28,650.05 crore
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare – ₹99,858.56 crore
- Ministry of Women & Child Development – ₹26,889.69 crore
- Ministry of Rural Development – ₹1,90,405.53 crore

**Scientific Research & Technology**

- Department of Space – ₹13,416.20 crore
- Ministry of Science & Technology – ₹38,613.32 crore
- Ministry of Electronics & IT – ₹26,026.25 crore

**Agriculture & Industry**

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – ₹1,37,756.55 crore
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry – ₹18,446.05 crore
- Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers – ₹1,61,965.21 crore

**Law & Governance**

- Ministry of Home Affairs – ₹2,33,210.68 crore
- Ministry of Law & Justice – ₹5,850.37 crore
- Ministry of External Affairs – ₹20,516.61 crore

**ICC Awards 2024**

The ICC Awards 2024 celebrate the best performers across all formats of cricket, recognizing exceptional achievements in Men's and Women's cricket. Spanning over five days of announcements, the awards cover individual accolades, including the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy and Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, as well as the Team of the Year selections for T20Is, ODIs, and Test cricket. Here's an in-depth look at the winners and the announcement schedule.

**Key Winners**

**Emerging Cricketers Winners**

Category	Winners Name	Recognition
ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year	Annerie Dercksen (South Africa)	Recognized for her exceptional rise in Women's cricket with consistent performances.
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year	Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka)	A young all-rounder showcasing impressive talent on the global stage.

**Associate Cricketers Winners**

Category	Winners Name(Country)	Recognition
ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Esha Oza (UAE)	Outstanding contributions in Women's Associate cricket.
ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)	Continued brilliance as a key player for Namibia.

**Umpires of the Year**

Category	Winners Name(Country)	Recognition
Umpire of the Year	Richard Illingworth	Acknowledged for his excellence and consistency in officiating.

**T20s Cricketer of the Year Award**

Category	Winners Name(Country)	Recognition
ICC Women's T20 Cricketer of the Year	Melie Kerr (New Zealand)	A consistent performer with both bat and ball.
ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year	Arshdeep Singh (India)	Known for his lethal pace and accuracy, especially in the death overs.

**T20s Team of the Year**

Category	Players Featured
ICC Women's T20 Team of the Year	<b>Captain:</b> Laura Wolvaardt Other Players: Smriti Mandhana, Chamari Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Melie Kerr, Richa Ghosh (wk), Marizanne Kapp, Orla Prendergast, Deepti Sharma, Sadia Iqbal.
ICC Men's T20 Team of the Year	<b>Captain:</b> Rohit Sharma Travis Head, Phil Salt, Babar Azam, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Rashid Khan, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh.

**Test Team of the Year**

Category	Players Featured
ICC Men's Test Team of the Year	<b>Captain:</b> Pat Cummins Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ben Duckett, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Kamindu Mendis, Jamie Smith (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Matt Henry, Jasprit Bumrah.

**ODIs Team of the Year**

Category	Players Featured
ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year	<b>Captain:</b> Laura Wolvaardt Smriti Mandhana, Chamarti Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Marizanne Kapp, Ashleigh Gardner, Annabel Sutherland, Amy Jones (WK), Deepti Sharma, Sophie Ecclestone, Kate Cross.
ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year	<b>Captain:</b> Charith Asalanka Saim Ayub, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (WK), Sherfane Rutherford, Azmatullah Omarzai, Wanindu Hasaranga, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, AM Ghazanfar.

**ODIs Cricketer of the Year Award**

Category	Winners Name(Country)	Recognition
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)	Mandhana's contributions in ODIs were pivotal in India's success across various series

Category	Winners Name(Country)	Recognition
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Azamtullah Omarzai (Afghanistan)	His performances in ODIs helped elevate Afghanistan's cricketing stature.

**Test Cricketer of the Year Award**

Category	Winners Name (Country)	Recognition
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Jasprit Bumrah (India)	Jasprit Bumrah delivered an exceptional performance in 2024, cementing his place as the most formidable bowler in Test cricket.

**Cricketer of the Year Award**

Category	Winners Name (Country)	Recognition
ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year Award	Melie Kerr (New Zealand)	She helped New Zealand win their first T20 World Cup, was a highlight of her remarkable year.
ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year Award	Jasprit Bumrah (India)	Outstanding performances across all formats of the game, cementing his status as one of the finest fast bowlers in contemporary cricket

**Waqf Amendment Bill Cleared by Joint Parliamentary Committee: Key Changes and Implications**

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) approved the Waqf Amendment Bill, a significant legislative reform aimed at restructuring the management of Muslim charitable properties in India. The bill proposes 44 amendments to the existing framework, with the JPC approving 14 key alterations. This article delves into the specifics of the bill, its proposed changes, and the political dynamics that shaped its approval.

**What is Waqf Amendment Bill?**

The Waqf Amendment Bill seeks to overhaul the administration of Waqf properties across the country by introducing 44 changes to the current system. These changes were drafted and tabled in the Lok Sabha in August 2024. The bill aims to bring about greater inclusivity and transparency in the functioning of Waqf boards and the

Central Waqf Council.

- **Key Objective:** Improve the governance of Waqf properties to benefit marginalized communities, including the Pasmanda Muslims.
- **Amendments Proposed:** A total of 66 amendments were suggested—23 by MPs from the ruling BJP and 44 by opposition members.



**Political Dynamics of the Committee**

The Joint Parliamentary Committee tasked with examining the bill comprises 31 members from both houses of Parliament:

- **Ruling Party Representation:** 16 MPs from the BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies.
- **Opposition Representation:** 13 MPs, including one from the YSR Congress Party and one nominated member.

**Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024-Voting on Amendments**

**During the committee’s deliberations:**

- The **14 amendments** approved were proposed by the ruling BJP and NDA members.
- The **44 amendments** proposed by the opposition were rejected, with voting largely along party lines (16 in favor of the BJP’s stance vs. 10 opposing).

**Details of the Approved Amendments**

- **Inclusion of Non-Muslim Members:** The composition of state Waqf boards will now allow for non-Muslim CEOs and at least two non-Muslim members.
- **Changes in the Central Waqf Council:** The council will now include a union minister, three Members of Parliament, two ex-judges, four individuals of ‘national repute,’ and senior government officials. None of these members are required to belong to the Islamic faith.
- **Property Ownership Disputes:** Section 3C(2) of the bill empowers the state government, through the jurisdictional Collector, to determine whether a property claimed as Waqf is actually government land. This change shifts the authority from Waqf Tribunals to Collectors.

**Rejected Opposition Amendments**

The opposition’s proposed changes, aimed at strengthening the autonomy of Waqf boards and safeguarding against government overreach, were voted down. Key suggestions included:

- Increasing representation from minority communities.
- Retaining the Waqf Tribunal’s authority in property disputes.
- Ensuring transparency in the appointment of board members.

Opposition members alleged bias in the voting process, highlighting the dominance of the ruling party in the JPC.

**Timeline and Next Steps**

- **Initial Deadline:** The committee was originally required to submit its report by November 29, 2024.
- **Extension:** The deadline was extended to February 13, 2025, coinciding with the final day of the Budget Session.
- **Final Voting:** The approved amendments will be confirmed through voting on January 29, 2025.
- **Report Submission:** The final report is expected by January 31, 2025.

**Impact of the Proposed Changes**

**On Waqf Property Management**

The bill introduces significant changes to the way Waqf properties are governed:

- Greater government oversight through the inclusion of non-Muslim members.
- A shift in dispute resolution authority from Waqf Tribunals to state-appointed Collectors.

**On Minority Representation**

While the amendments aim to enhance inclusivity, critics argue that the inclusion of non-Muslim members could dilute the community-specific focus of Waqf boards.

**On Marginalized Communities**

The government asserts that the bill will benefit poor and Pasmada Muslims by improving the efficiency and transparency of Waqf property administration.

**World University Rankings by Subject 2025**

The Times Higher Education (THE) **World University Rankings by Subject 2025** have been released, highlighting the leading institutions across various disciplines. Notably, the United States continues to dominate, securing top positions in nine out of eleven subjects. This trend underscores the nation’s sustained excellence in higher education.

**Engineering Excellence: Harvard Leads**

In the Engineering category, Harvard University maintains its position at the top, a feat it achieved in 2024. The top ten universities in this field are predominantly from the U.S., reflecting the country’s leadership in engineering education.

The rankings are as follows:

1. **Harvard University**
2. **Stanford University**
3. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**
4. **University of California, Berkeley**
5. **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**
6. **Princeton University**
7. **Georgia Institute of Technology**
8. **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
9. **Yale University**
10. **Carnegie Mellon University**

These institutions are recognized for their research excellence, innovation, and comprehensive engineering programs. The consistent performance of U.S. universities in this category highlights their significant contribution to global engineering education.

**Subject-Specific Highlights**

**Arts and Humanities:** MIT has ascended to the top position, overtaking Stanford University. This shift marks a significant change in the traditional hierarchy of leading institutions in this field.

**Business and Economics:** The University of Pennsylvania leads this category, reflecting its strong programs and research output in business and economics.

**Computer Science:** The University of Oxford has secured the top spot, indicating its growing influence and excellence in computer science education.

**Education Studies:** Stanford University leads this category, underscoring its commitment to educational research and innovation.

**Law:** Stanford University also tops the law rankings, reflecting its prestigious law program and research contributions.

**Life Sciences:** Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its extensive research and contributions to life sciences.

**Medical and Health:** Harvard University also tops this category, reflecting its excellence in medical research and education.

**Physical Sciences:** The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) leads this category, underscoring its strength in physical sciences research.

**Psychology:** Stanford University leads this category, reflecting its influential psychology programs and research.

**Social Sciences:** Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its comprehensive social sciences programs and research output.

### Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux of Republic Day Parade 2025 Announced

The Republic Day Parade at **Kartavya Path, Delhi**, is a grand celebration that showcases India's military strength, cultural diversity, and historical legacy. The **2025 Republic Day Parade** witnessed a magnificent display of discipline, tradition, and artistry, with Marching Contingents and Tableaux competing for top honors. The results were announced by the three expert panels of judges, and an online public poll conducted on the **MyGov portal** also determined the 'Popular Choice' winners.

#### Best Marching Contingents: A Display of Discipline and Excellence

The Marching Contingents, comprising **defense personnel, paramilitary forces, and police**, demonstrated impeccable coordination, precision, and patriotism. The winners in this category were as follows:

##### Judges' Choice:

- **Best Marching Contingent among Services:** Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces:** Delhi Police Marching Contingent

##### Popular Choice (MyGov Poll):

- **Best Marching Contingent among Services:** Signals Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces:** CRPF Marching Contingent

The **Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent** impressed the jury with their disciplined and synchronized marching, while the **Delhi Police Contingent** showcased an exceptional parade drill. The public, however, voted for the **Signals Contingent** and **CRPF Marching Contingent** as their favorites in the online poll.

#### Top Tableaux Showcasing India's Cultural and Historical Legacy

One of the most anticipated segments of the **Republic Day Parade** is the **Tableaux Presentation**, where states, union territories, and central ministries present visually stunning floats depicting their unique heritage, achievements, and traditions.

##### Judges' Choice for Best Tableaux (States/UTs):

- **Uttar Pradesh:** Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas

The tableau highlighted the **grandeur of Mahakumbh 2025**, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. It emphasized the spiritual, historical, and economic significance of the Kumbh Mela in shaping India's heritage.

- **Tripura:** Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja

This tableau depicted the **Kharchi Puja**, a traditional festival of Tripura that honors 14 deities. It showcased the unique **blending of tribal and Hindu traditions** that define the state's religious identity.

- **Andhra Pradesh:** Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys

The tableau presented the intricate craftsmanship of **Etikoppaka wooden toys**, a GI-tagged art form known for its **eco-friendly lacquered designs** and deep cultural significance.

##### Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments (Judges' Choice):

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs:** Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

This tableau paid tribute to **India's tribal communities**, showcasing their contributions to the nation's development and the government's initiatives for their welfare.



**Special Prizes:**

- **Central Public Works Department:** 75 Years of the Constitution of India

This tableau celebrated India's constitutional journey, highlighting the **vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and the milestones achieved under the Constitution.

- **'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group**

This performance was recognized for its **energetic and patriotic depiction** of India's cultural vibrancy through dance.

**Popular Choice Award (MyGov Poll) for Tableaux**

In addition to the judges' evaluation, the government conducted an **online poll on the MyGov portal** from **January 26 to 28, 2025**, where citizens voted for their favorite tableaux. The results were as follows:

- **Gujarat:** Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas  
Gujarat's tableau portrayed India's **rich heritage and rapid development**, reflecting the country's journey toward becoming a global powerhouse.

- **Uttar Pradesh:** Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas

The state's tableau found immense appreciation among the public as well, securing the second position in the poll.

- **Uttarakhand:** Uttarakhand: Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports

This tableau highlighted the **spiritual, cultural, and adventure tourism** aspects of Uttarakhand, emphasizing its significance as a religious and adventure destination.

**Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments (Popular Choice):**

- **Ministry of Women & Child Development:** Multifaceted Journey of Women and Children

This tableau celebrated the **transformational journey of women and children** in India under the Ministry's various **welfare schemes**, showcasing achievements in health, education, and empowerment.

**BCCI Awards 2024: Honoring Cricket Legends and Rising Stars**

**BCCI Awards 2025 winners list**

- **Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award - Men:** Sachin Tendulkar
- **Polly Umrigar Award - Best International Cricketer - Men:** Jasprit Bumrah
- **Best International Cricketer - Women:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Best International Debut - Men:** Sarfaraz Khan
- **Best International Debut - Women:** Asha Sobhana
- **BCCI Special Award:** Ravichandran Ashwin
- **Highest Run-Getter in ODIs - Women:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Highest Wicket-Taker in ODIs - Women:** Deepti Sharma
- **Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket:** Akshay Totre
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run-Getter in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy:** Kavya Teotia
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy:** Vishnu Bhardwaj

- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer Senior Domestic:** Priya Mishra
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer Junior Domestic:** Ishwari Awasare
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Hemchudeshan Jeganathan
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Lakshya Raichandani
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Plate Group):** Neizekho Rupreo
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Plate Group):** Hem Chetri
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Elite Group):** P Vidyuth
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Elite Group):** Aneesh KV
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Wicket-Taker in Ranji Trophy (Plate Group):** Mohit Jangra
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Wicket-Taker in Ranji Trophy (Elite Group):** Tanay Thyagarajan
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Run Getter in Ranji Trophy (Plate Group):** Agni Chopra
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Run Getter in Ranji Trophy (Elite Group):** Ricky Bhui from Andhra Pradesh was the winner.
- **Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder in Domestic Limited-Overs Competitions:** Shashank Singh from Chhattisgarh received this medal.
- **Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder in Ranji Trophy:** Tanush Kotian
- **Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments:** Mumbai

**National Affairs**

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** set an ambitious target of achieving **10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** by **2030** during the **GI Samagam** in New Delhi. With **605 GI tags** issued so far, Goyal emphasized a **whole-of-government approach** and the formation of a dedicated committee for implementation. He highlighted initiatives like **One District One Product (ODOP)** and the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund** to strengthen India's **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** ecosystem, focusing on the dual goal of **development and heritage preservation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has been a leader in the global fight against **tuberculosis (TB)**, starting with the **National Tuberculosis Program (NTP)** in 1962 and evolving to the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP)** in 2020, aiming to eliminate TB by **2025**. Despite significant progress, India still accounts for **27% of the global TB burden** with an incidence rate of **210 per 100,000** in 2021, and faces challenges such as **drug-resistant TB**, including **MDR and XDR TB**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Indore** and **Udaipur** have become the first **Indian cities** to join the global list of accredited **Wetland Cities** under the **Ramsar Convention**. This recognition underscores India's commitment to **sustainable urban development** and **ecological conservation**. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** congratulated the cities, emphasizing the importance of balancing **urban growth** with **environmental sustainability**, and recognizing the vital role of **wetlands** in providing **ecological, social, and economic benefits**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**, **Prayagraj Airport** has been transformed into a modern hub for the **Maha Kumbh Mahotsav 2025**. The airport now boasts **expanded terminals**, enhanced **passenger amenities**, and improved **connectivity**, accommodating millions of devotees from **January 13 to February 26, 2025**. The project was closely overseen through regular inspections and efficient planning. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **National Critical Mineral Mission (CMM)** with an outlay of **Rs 16,300 crore** to boost the domestic production of essential minerals for **technology** and **defense manufacturing**. The mission focuses on critical minerals like **lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and rare earth elements**, aiming to reduce import dependence, enhance **resource security**, and streamline regulatory processes. It will cover the entire value chain, from **exploration** to **recovery**, promoting **public and private sector participation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative** has been launched by the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** with a **₹277.35 crore** budget over three years. The initiative aims to onboard **5 lakh micro and small enterprises**, focusing on **women-led businesses**, and enhance their digital presence. In partnership with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, it aims to empower MSMEs, reduce operational barriers, and create growth opportunities in India's digital economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **January 31, 2025**, the **Ministry of Railways** launched the **'SwaRail' SuperApp** to integrate multiple railway services into one platform. Currently in **beta**, the app offers **ticket bookings, platform and parcel bookings, train and PNR inquiries, food ordering, and Rail Madad** for complaints and assistance. This app aims to enhance the **user experience** and reduce the need for multiple apps. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has added **four new sites** to the **Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance**, bringing the total to 89. The new additions include **Udhwa Lake** in **Jharkhand** (the state's first Ramsar site), **Sikkim's inaugural Ramsar site**, a **wetland in Gujarat**, and a site from **Northeast India**. This highlights India's dedication to **wetland conservation** and preserving its **biodiversity** across diverse regions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **High-Level Committee (HLC)**, led by **Amit Shah**, has approved **Rs 3,027.86 crore** for **disaster mitigation projects** across India. The funding will support initiatives in **lightning safety, drought-prone regions, and forest fire management**. Key members, including **Nirmala Sitharaman, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**, aim to enhance **disaster preparedness** and reduce the impact of natural disasters. ([Click here to read article](#))

### States in the News

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** granted the **Banke Bihari Temple** in **Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**, a license under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)**, allowing it to receive **foreign funds**. This approval follows a court intervention and the formation of a management committee, which applied for the license to manage the temple's **international donations** and **foreign currency receipts**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Jammu & Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI)** launched the **'Digital Tree Aadhar'** initiative to protect and monitor **Kashmir's chinar trees**, threatened by **urbanization** and infrastructure projects. Modeled after India's **Aadhaar system**, each tree receives a unique **digital identity** with **geo-tagging, QR codes, and metal cards** for public scanning, aiming to preserve **biodiversity** and raise awareness about these iconic trees. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uttarakhand** became the first state in independent India to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, effective **January 27, 2025**. A key **BJP election promise**, the UCC aims to ensure **uniformity in personal laws**, offering **equal rights and responsibilities** for all citizens, regardless of religion or community. **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** emphasized the law's focus on **fairness, equality, and social harmony**, not targeting any individual or group. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Sambhar Festival** began on **January 24, 2025**, at **Sambhar Lake** in **Rajasthan**. Organized by the **Rajasthan Tourism Department**, the 5-day event celebrates the region's **culture, heritage, and natural beauty**. The festival highlights **Rajasthani cuisine, folk arts, and the rich traditions** of the area, with a special focus on the picturesque Sambhar Lake. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **'Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'** in **Bhubaneswar** on January 28. The event, Odisha's largest business summit, was attended by **Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw**, and global business leaders. The two-day conclave aimed to promote **investment, boost industrial growth**, and position Odisha as an economic hub, with delegates from **16 countries**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **January 26, 2025**, **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** launched four welfare schemes for farmers, landless laborers, and marginalized communities. Key initiatives include **Rythu Bharosa**, offering ₹12,000 per acre to farmers; **Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa**, providing ₹12,000 annually to landless labor families; and **Indiramma Indlu**, a housing scheme offering ₹5 lakh for constructing homes for homeless Dalits, Tribals, and backward classes, with a target of 4,50,000 houses and a ₹22,500 crore budget. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **January 28, 2025**, **Tripura** became the first northeastern state to sign an **MoU** with the **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** of MeitY. The agreement aims to enhance the use of **regional languages** in governance, making **public services** more accessible and inclusive. This partnership reflects Tripura's commitment to bridging the **digital divide** and strengthening **governance** through **language technology**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Saraswati Mahotsav 2025** will be celebrated in **Haryana** from **January 29 to February 4, 2025**, at **Pehowa Saraswati Tirtha Sthal**. Inaugurated by **Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini**, the event will showcase **Haryana's culture, craftsmanship, and traditional heritage**, with programs at both state and national levels. The festival aims to boost **tourism** and provide a platform for local **artisans and craftsmen**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Subhadra Scheme**, launched by the **Odisha Government's Women and Child Development Department**, empowers women through **financial support, digital literacy, and access to social safety nets**. Part of the BJP's poll promises ahead of the 2024 elections, the scheme aims to improve women's socio-economic conditions and encourage **entrepreneurship**. Partnering with **IIM Sambalpur**, the government seeks research-based guidance to enhance the scheme's impact. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **tragic stampede** at the **Maha Kumbh** in **Prayagraj** on **January 29, 2025**, resulted in **30 deaths** and over **60 injuries**. The **Uttar Pradesh government** formed a **three-member judicial commission** to investigate the disaster, headed by **retired High Court judge Harsh Kumar**. The panel, which also includes **D.K. Singh** and **V.K. Gupta**, has a one-month deadline but aims for an expedited inquiry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India** was inaugurated by **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** on **January 30, 2025**, in **Panaji**. Organized by **Vidnyan Parishad Goa**, the festival celebrates **science, innovation, and curiosity**. This year's theme, "**Green Revolution**," honors **Dr. M. Swaminathan** and aims to inspire youth toward a **sustainable future**. The 4-day event promotes **scientific engagement** for India's progress. ([Click here to read article](#))

## International Affairs

- The **United States** has suspended all **USAID funding** to **Bangladesh** following **President Donald Trump's** directive for a 90-day review of **foreign aid programs**. The decision halts **USAID activities** in Bangladesh, impacting various development projects. This suspension is part of a broader review of U.S. **foreign development assistance**, with exceptions for military funding to **allies** like **Israel** and **Egypt**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Alexander Lukashenko** won a **seventh term** as **President of Belarus** on **January 26, 2025**, with **86.8%** of the vote, a result widely criticized as fraudulent. Opposition candidate **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya** received around **3%** and called the election a "**farce**", urging global rejection of the results. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Chinese AI startup **DeepSeek** has surpassed **OpenAI's ChatGPT** as the most-downloaded free app in the U.S. on Apple's App Store. Founded in 2023, DeepSeek is gaining attention with its advanced **AI models**, especially **R1**, a reasoning model that competes with OpenAI's technology. This milestone highlights the growing competition in the **generative AI market**, which is expected to reach **\$1 trillion** in revenue within the next decade. However, the company faces challenges, including **cybersecurity threats** and **regulatory scrutiny**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Pashmina Festival** in Nepal, organized by the **Nepal Pashmina Industries Association** and **Confederation of Nepalese Industries**, showcased Nepal's expertise in producing **authentic Pashmina** from the **Chyangra goat**. The event celebrated traditional **weaving methods** and highlighted the global recognition of **Chyangra Pashmina** as a premium product. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Oman are strengthening their economic ties by expediting discussions for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and amending their **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**. The amendment aligns the tax treaty with **international standards on cross-border taxation**, aiming to simplify procedures and enhance cooperation between the countries' tax authorities, benefiting businesses engaged in **bilateral trade**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto's** visit to **India**, five **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed to strengthen bilateral ties. The agreements cover key areas including **health cooperation, maritime safety and security, traditional medicine quality assurance, digital development, and a cultural exchange program (2025-2028)**, aimed at enhancing collaboration in these sectors and fostering mutual understanding. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** declared **2025** as the “**Year of Community**” with the slogan “**Hand in Hand**” to promote unity and inclusion. The initiative focuses on strengthening **social bonds**, encouraging **volunteering**, and celebrating **cultural diversity** through various programs and events, reflecting the UAE leadership’s commitment to building a cohesive and empowered community. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On January 30, 2025, **Niger** became the first **African** country to eliminate **onchocerciasis** (river blindness) as a public health threat, joining **Colombia**, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala**, and **Mexico** in this achievement. This milestone reflects significant progress in controlling neglected tropical diseases, particularly in **sub-Saharan Africa**, and underscores global efforts to tackle parasitic diseases. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Books and Authors

- **Soumitra Chatterjee**, the legendary **Bengali actor, poet, artist, and theatre personality**, is celebrated for his iconic roles in **Satyajit Ray** films like *Apur Sansar* and *Sonar Kella*. His new biography, **Soumitra Chatterjee and His World** by **Sanghamitra Chakraborty**, explores his multifaceted life through **journals, letters, and conversations**, offering a deep look into his profound impact on **Indian cinema** and **Bengal's cultural landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **launch of *Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade***, edited by **Dr. Aishwarya Pandit**, took place at the **NDMC Convention Center**, New Delhi. Published by **Westland Non-Fiction**, the book examines **India's transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 to 2024**, with contributions from 27 authors. The event was graced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** as the **Chief Guest** and **Manohar Lal Khattar**, **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs**, as the **Guest of Honour**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- **P. Suriaraj** has been appointed **Executive Director** at **Dhanlaxmi Bank**, bringing valuable experience from his tenure at **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd**. His extensive banking career and expertise are expected to strengthen the bank’s **strategic initiatives** and **operational efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalties on **Canara Bank**, **Bank of India**, and **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** for regulatory compliance failures. **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** was fined **₹3.31 crore** for violations related to **financial inclusion** and **KYC norms**. **Bank of India** faced a **₹1 crore** penalty for non-compliance with the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, while **Canara Bank** was fined **₹1.63 crore** for issues with **priority sector lending, interest rates, and financial inclusion**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** became the first Indian bank to implement **Clari5’s National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) Integration Solution**, enhancing **fraud prevention** and **complaint management**. Developed with the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, the system automates real-time processing of cybercrime complaints across **retail banking channels** like **Internet Banking, ATMs, and UPI**. It includes features like **automated lien marking** and **intelligent account freezes** to protect customers. **Rivi Varghese**, CEO of Clari5, praised PNB’s commitment to **innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** issued notices to **Ola** and **Uber** over claims of **differential pricing** based on mobile operating systems, with **iPhone users** allegedly charged higher fares than **Android users**. **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** directed the CCPA to investigate, ensuring **consumer rights** and **fair trade practices**. In response, both companies denied the allegations, stating they do not differentiate pricing based on the **mobile device** used and are willing to cooperate with the CCPA. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **2024**, the **Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** recorded a **32.81% increase** in **bank customer complaints**, totaling **9.34 lakh**. The rise reflects growing concerns over **delays in service, transaction errors, and inadequate redressal**, highlighting the need for better **customer service** and **grievance handling** in the banking sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **City Union Bank (CUB)** won **seven prestigious awards** at the **19th Banking Technology Conference** organized by the **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** in **Mumbai**, marking its second consecutive win. CUB was recognized in categories including **Best AI & ML Bank, Best Fintech & Digital Payment Index Adoption, and Best Financial Inclusion**, highlighting its commitment to **innovation, digital payments, and expanding banking access to underserved populations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In 2024, **UPI** accounted for **83%** of India’s **digital transactions**, up from 34% in 2019, highlighting its rapid adoption. The total transaction volume exceeded **208.5 billion**, while traditional payment methods like **NEFT, RTGS, and IMPS** saw a decline from **66%** in 2019 to **17%** by 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rakesh Sharma** has been **reappointed** as **MD & CEO** of **IDBI Bank** for a **three-year term**, starting March 19, 2025, after approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. He has led IDBI Bank since **October 2018** and previously served as MD & CEO of **Canara Bank** from 2015 to 2018, with a career spanning roles at **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** and **State Bank of India (SBI)**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the formation of the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)** to enhance the operational efficiency of **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** in India. This initiative addresses challenges like **regulatory compliance, financial stability, and technological advancement**. The move comes as the number of UCBs has declined from 1,926 in 2004 to about 1,500 in 2024. NUCFDC aims to provide crucial support, including **IT infrastructure and operational assistance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has approved a **₹500 crore capital infusion** into the **Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)** for **2024-25**. This move, aimed at strengthening IFCI's financial health, comes ahead of its **restructuring and consolidation**. The infusion includes **₹499.99 crore for share capital subscription** and efficient use of savings to avoid extra cash outflow. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **CheQ**, an Indian fintech company, has launched **Wisor**, India's first **AI-driven credit card expert**. Wisor offers **personalized credit assistance** with an intuitive Q&A interface, **comprehensive spend analysis** across cards and merchants, and **optimized rewards management**. This tool helps users maximize credit card rewards and manage spending efficiently with personalized insights. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** is facing a slowdown, with **recovery rates** for banks dropping from 40% in **2022-23** to 28% in **2023-24**. This decline, due to prolonged **resolution timelines** and the erosion of **non-performing assets (NPAs)**, has led banks to explore alternative recovery methods. The number of cases admitted to the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** also decreased, from 501 to 417 cases. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** declined to **\$625.87 billion** as of **January 10, 2025**, from **\$634.59 billion** the previous week. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been intervening in the **forex market** to stabilize the **rupee**, which has depreciated against the **U.S. dollar**, leading to a depletion of reserves amidst global economic challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI) Payments** and **Pine Labs** have strengthened their 12-year partnership, starting on **January 25, 2025**, to boost **digital payments** adoption across India. The collaboration focuses on enhancing **merchant solutions** and creating seamless **payment experiences**, aiming to transform the **digital payment landscape** and benefit both **consumers and businesses**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jio** has launched **JioSoundPay**, a free feature on the **JioBharat** phone to simplify **UPI payments** for small businesses in India. This feature provides **instant, multilingual audio confirmations** for every transaction, helping small merchants like **kirana stores, vegetable vendors, and roadside eateries** handle payments seamlessly, reflecting Jio's commitment to simplifying digital tools for everyday users. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set the interest rate for the **Government of India Floating Rate Bonds 2035 (GOI FRB 2035)** at **6.66% per annum**, effective from **January 25, 2025 to January 24, 2030**. The rate is based on the prevailing **5-year yield on Government of India securities** as of **January 24, 2025**, reflecting current market conditions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is launching the **Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT)** on **February 3, 2025**, to replace the outdated email system. This new, structured portal will allow **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, including stock exchanges and depositories, to report technical issues with detailed **root cause analysis (RCA)**. The initiative aims to improve **transparency, efficiency, and real-time issue resolution**, enhancing the overall **financial market infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **January 26, 2025**, **SEBI** launched "**Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market**", a digital repository preserving the history of India's **securities market**. This initiative highlights key **milestones** in the market's evolution over **150+ years**, offering valuable insights into India's **financial market** development. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **CRED** has launched the **beta version** of the **e₹ wallet**, making it the first **fintech platform** to adopt India's **central bank digital currency (CBDC)**, the **e-rupee**. This initiative, in collaboration with the **RBI** and **YES Bank**, enables users to store and transact using digital currency, marking a significant step in India's **digital payments** transformation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government has launched the **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS-MSME)** with a **₹100 crore** corpus to boost the **MSME manufacturing sector**. The initiative aims to enhance **credit availability** for MSMEs, enabling them to acquire essential equipment and machinery without requiring **collateral**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata Steel** has become the first Indian company to develop **hydrogen-compliant pipes** for transporting hydrogen, marking a significant step in **India's clean energy transition**. The **API X65 pipes**, produced at **Tata Steel's Khopoli plant** and made from steel at its **Kalinganagar facility**, align with **India's National Hydrogen Mission** and global sustainability goals. This innovation highlights **Tata Steel's commitment to clean energy** and infrastructure development. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is enforcing new compliance measures for **UPI transactions** starting **February 1, 2025**. UPI transaction IDs will now be strictly **alphanumeric**, with special characters like @, #, \$, % banned to enhance **security**, ensure **uniformity**, and improve **transaction efficiency** in India's growing digital payments ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has introduced a new directive to protect **senior citizens** from sharp increases in **health insurance premiums**. Insurers are now restricted from raising premiums for individuals aged **60 and above** by more than **10% per year** without prior approval. This initiative aims to ensure **affordable** and **accessible health insurance** for the elderly. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Karnataka Bank** secured top honours in **six categories** at the **20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024** by IBA, highlighting its commitment to **technological innovation**. Key awards included **Best Tech Talent & Organisation (Runner Up)**, **Best IT Risk Management (Runner Up)**, and **Best Technology Bank (Runner Up)**. The bank also earned special mentions for **Best Fintech & Digital Payment Integration** and **AI/ML Adoption**, emphasizing advancements in **digital payments, AI-powered banking, and cybersecurity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- On **January 24, 2025**, the **Government of India** appointed **Jitender Pal Singh** as the next **Ambassador to Israel**. An **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer from the **2002 batch**, Singh currently serves in the **External Affairs Minister's office** and previously led the **Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division** since 2020. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Central Government** appointed **Amrit Mohan Prasad**, **Director General (DG)** of **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**, as the **additional DG** of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** for six months starting **November 1, 2024**. This move reflects the government's trust in Prasad's leadership, emphasizing the importance of **civil aviation security** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Zoho Corporation** announced a leadership change on **January 27**, with **Sridhar Vembu** stepping down as **CEO** to become **Chief Scientist**, focusing on **research and development**. **Shailesh Kumar Davey**, a co-founder of Zoho, has been appointed as the new **group CEO**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Deshnee Naidoo** has been appointed as the **CEO** of **Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL)**, effective **January 20, 2025**, to lead its new growth phase. With over **20 years** of

experience in the **resources industry**, Naidoo previously held senior roles at **Vedanta**, including **CEO of Africa Base Metals** and **Vedanta Zinc International**, and most recently served as **CEO of Vale Base Metals**, focusing on **nickel and copper**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** re-appointed **Hisashi Takeuchi** as **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a **three-year term** from **April 1, 2025**, to **March 31, 2028**. The decision highlights the company's confidence in Takeuchi's leadership to navigate the evolving **automotive landscape** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sony** has appointed **Hiroki Totoki** as its new **CEO**, effective **April 1, 2025**. Totoki, currently **President and COO**, will lead the company's strategy to expand its reach and strengthen its position in the **global entertainment industry**, driving future growth and innovation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajesh Nirwan** has been appointed as the **Director General (DG)** of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**. His appointment, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, will take effect once he assumes charge and remain in place until further orders. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Defence News

- On **January 21, 2025**, India became an **Observer State** in the **Eurodrone programme**, led by **Airbus Defence and Space** under the **Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR)**. The programme, involving **Germany, France, Italy, and Spain**, focuses on developing a **Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS)** for **ISTAR**, maritime surveillance, and more. The **Eurodrone** is expected to enter service by **2030**, enhancing India's **defence collaboration** with European nations. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**Awards and Recognitions**

- **Doordarshan**, India's national broadcaster, was awarded in the **Electronic Media** category for its **Voter Awareness and Education campaign** during the **Lok Sabha Elections 2024**. The recognition, for the series "**Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv**", was presented to **Doordarshan Director-General Kanchan Prasad** by **President Droupadi Murmu** on **Republic Day 2025**. The award highlights Doordarshan's role in fostering an informed citizenry, supported by the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shri Hariman Sharma**, a farmer from **Himachal Pradesh**, has been awarded the **Padma Shri** for developing the **HRMN-99 apple variety**, which revolutionized apple cultivation. This **self-pollinating, low-chilling** variety thrives in **tropical and subtropical regions**, expanding apple farming beyond traditional temperate zones and benefiting both **farmers and consumers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian short film **Anuja** has been nominated for **Best Live Action Short Film** at the **97th Academy Awards**, a milestone for Indian cinema. Produced by **Priyanka Chopra** and **Guneet Monga**, the film tells the emotional story of a nine-year-old girl, **Anuja**, working in a Delhi garment factory, highlighting the struggles and decisions that test her bond with her sister, **Palak**. The film reflects universal challenges faced by girls worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** was awarded the **Maharaja Hari Singh Award** at a ceremony in **Jammu**, recognizing his contributions to **reforms and planning** in Jammu and Kashmir. The event, organized by **Gulistan News Network**, also honored posthumous recipients **Pandit Prem Nath Dogra**, **Pandit Girdhari Lal Dogra**, and **Shri Devender Singh Rana** for their dedication to public welfare and leadership. LG Sinha paid tributes to **Maharaja Hari Singh** for his role in Jammu and Kashmir's integration with India. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Summits and Conferences News**

- The **first Raisina Middle East Conference** was held in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**, on **January 28-29, 2025**, with **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, India's **External Affairs Minister**, as the Chief Guest. Organized by the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** in collaboration with the **UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Indian Ministry of External Affairs**, the conference focused on **regional geopolitics, trade, and strategic partnerships**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India will host the **BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting** from **March 3-7, 2025**. The event, themed "**Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth**," will bring together around **45 youth representatives** from **BRICS nations** to strengthen **entrepreneurship and innovation** cooperation. Key discussions will focus on building a framework for young entrepreneurs and increasing their participation in global markets. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Sports News**

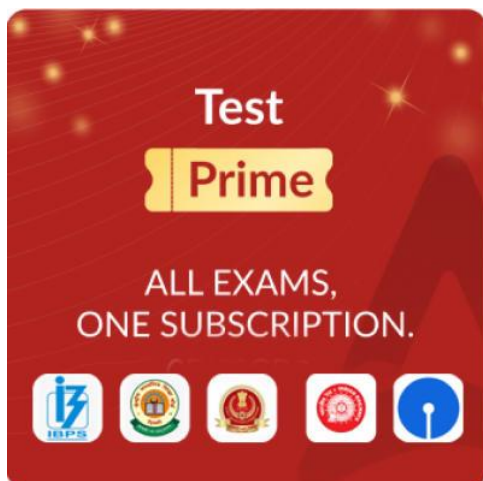
- **Jannik Sinner** defended his **Australian Open** title with a dominant 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 victory over **Alexander Zverev**, becoming the youngest player since **Jim Courier** to win back-to-back titles at Melbourne Park. This historic win marks the first **Men's Final** between the **World No. 1** and **No. 2** since **2019**, and Sinner's straight-set victory highlights his growing dominance in **men's tennis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Grandmaster Iniyar Panneerselvam** won the **9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament** in **Malaysia**, finishing 1.5 points ahead of his closest rival. The **22-year-old** from **Erode, Tamil Nadu** also triumphed at the **Chennai Open** earlier in January, strengthening his reputation as a rising star in **chess**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Australia won the **ICC Women's Championship** for the third consecutive time, securing 39 points from 24 matches. The championship, introduced in 2014, acts as a pathway to the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025**. **Alyssa Healy** received the trophy in Melbourne, with **India, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand** also qualifying for the 2025 World Cup. The remaining teams will compete in a **Qualifier tournament**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025** first phase concluded with **Ladakh** topping the medal tally with seven medals, including four golds. The **Indian Army** defended its ice hockey title, defeating ITBP 2-1. **Tamil Nadu** excelled in skating, while **Maharashtra** won the most medals (10) but only secured two golds. **Ladakh's women's ice hockey** team triumphed over ITBP 4-0. The second phase will be held in **Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir** from February 22-25. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **38th National Games** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**, celebrating the state's 25th anniversary. The event highlighted India's growing **sports culture** and provided a platform for youth to showcase talent. The Games, held under the theme of '**Green Games**', emphasized the importance of **sports, fitness, and environmental sustainability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Odisha Warriors**, led by **Janneke Schopman**, won the inaugural **Women's Hockey India League (HIL)** title, defeating **Soorma Hockey Club** 2-1 in a thrilling final. The match, held at **Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium** in Ranchi, marked a redemption for Schopman. The Warriors' **resilience and tactical brilliance**, especially from **Ruturaj Dadaso Pisal**, secured their historic win. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **2025 Senior National Table Tennis Championships** concluded on **January 26** in **Surat**, with **Manush Shah** and **Diya Chitale** winning the **men's and women's singles** titles. Both champions represented the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, delivering exceptional performances in their respective finals. ([Click here to read article](#))



- On **January 29**, **Steve Smith** became the **15th player** and **fourth Australian** to score **10,000 runs** in **Test cricket** during the first Test against **Sri Lanka** in **Galle**. This milestone cements his legacy as one of the **all-time greats**, showcasing his resilience, determination, and unique batting style. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dinesh Karthik** has surpassed **MS Dhoni** to become the **highest run-scoring Indian wicket-keeper** in **T20 cricket**. With a **21-run** knock in a recent match, Karthik's total T20 runs now stand at **7,451** in **361 innings** (409 matches), solidifying his place as one of the most **consistent** and **impactful wicket-keeper batters** in the shortest format. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Geoff Allardice**, **CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC)**, resigned just **21 days** before the **ICC Champions Trophy 2025** in **Pakistan**. His decision reportedly stemmed from his inability to assess the **Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)**'s preparedness for the tournament, playing a key role in his resignation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **23rd National Para Athletics Championship 2025** unveiled its **official logo** and **mascot** on **January 16, 2025**. The **mascot** symbolizes the **determination** and **resilience** of para athletes, while the **logo** reflects the dynamic and inclusive nature of the event. Set in **Tamil Nadu**, the championship emphasizes **empowerment**, **equality**, and **inclusivity** in para sports. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- On **National Girl Child Day 2025**, **Haryana Cabinet Minister Shruti Choudhry** launched the 'Samman Sanjeevani' app to improve the 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'. The app aims to provide essential services, including **sanitary napkins**, to **BPL women and girls** aged 10-45. The event also marked the 10th anniversary of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, focusing on **women's empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))



### Science and Technology News

- On **January 25, 2025**, **M. Mohan** was appointed **Director** of the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** in **Thiruvananthapuram**, Kerala, succeeding **Dr. V. Narayanan**, who became **ISRO Chairman** on **January 14, 2025**. Mohan's extensive experience in **liquid propulsion systems** has been key in advancing **India's space capabilities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare neurological disorder where the **immune system** attacks the **peripheral nervous system**, has seen a rise in cases in **Pune, Maharashtra**. Symptoms include **muscle weakness**, **numbness**, and **paralysis** in severe cases. Authorities are investigating the causes and implementing measures, while GBS typically affects **adults** and **males**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **DeepSeek** is a leading **AI company** specializing in **machine learning (ML)**, **natural language processing (NLP)**, and **data analytics** to develop intelligent solutions for various industries. By combining advanced AI technologies with real-world problem-solving, DeepSeek aims to create **scalable**, **efficient**, and **ethical AI solutions** to benefit businesses, governments, and individuals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to launch its first **human-operated underwater submersible** as part of the **Deep Ocean Mission**. Initially designed for depths of **500 meters**, it aims to reach **6,000 meters** by next year, marking a significant step in **deep-sea exploration**, **resource identification**, and advancing **marine and space technologies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **January 29, 2025**, **ISRO** achieved a historic milestone with its **100th launch** from **Sriharikota**. The **GSLV-F15 rocket** successfully placed the **NVS-02** navigation satellite into **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**, boosting India's **NavIC system** and enhancing its **self-reliance** in satellite navigation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Recent findings show the **Magnetic North Pole** is shifting rapidly toward **Siberia** and **Russia**, impacting navigation, animal migration, and communication systems. Earth's **geomagnetic field** is dynamic, caused by molten metals in the outer core. The **Magnetic North Pole** was first located in 1831 by James Clark Ross and has been moving ever since. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Elon Musk's X** (formerly Twitter) is set to launch **X Money**, a **digital wallet** powered by **Visa**, as part of its strategy to evolve into a "**super app**". This move aims to integrate **payment services** with its existing features, competing with apps like **WeChat**, offering everything from **messaging** to **financial transactions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **January 29, 2025**, **Alibaba** launched a new **AI model**, claiming it outperforms **DeepSeek**, **ChatGPT**, and **Llama** in **natural language processing**. The model boasts improved **natural language understanding**, **context-aware responses**, and better performance in handling **complex queries**. With increased **efficiency**, **scalability**, and **real-time response capabilities**, Alibaba aims to position itself as a strong competitor in the **AI landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **BIMTECH** has launched **BIMCOIN**, a **blockchain-powered digital currency** for secure and efficient transactions on its campus. This makes BIMTECH the first business school in India to adopt such technology, following **IIT Madras**. The initiative marks a forward-thinking approach to integrating **blockchain technology** into the academic setting. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** will become the first **Indian astronaut** to pilot a space mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** as part of **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**, a private spaceflight scheduled for spring 2025. The mission, in collaboration with **NASA**, will see astronauts conduct research, educational outreach, and commercial activities aboard the **SpaceX Dragon capsule**. This milestone continues India's **space exploration journey**, following Rakesh Sharma's historic flight. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sunita Williams**, an Indian-origin astronaut, has set a new record for the **longest spacewalking time by a woman**, surpassing **Peggy Whitson's** previous record. Williams now has **62 hours and 6 minutes** of spacewalking time across **nine spacewalks**. This milestone was achieved during a **maintenance spacewalk** on the **International Space Station (ISS)** alongside astronaut **Butch Wilmore**, as they remain stranded on the ISS since June 2024 due to technical issues with **Boeing's Starliner spacecraft**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Customs Day** on **January 26** honors the vital role of **customs officials** in facilitating trade, ensuring **security**, and preventing **illegal trade**. Celebrated by the **World Customs Organisation (WCO)**, the 2025 theme is "**Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity**." The day traces its origins to the **Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)**, founded in 1952, to enhance global **customs efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Geographic Day** on **January 27** honors the founding of the **National Geographic Society**, known for its contributions to **science**, **exploration**, and **environmental conservation**. The day celebrates the society's impact on understanding **Earth**, **nature**, and **humanity**, while inspiring global **education**, **exploration**, and **environmental awareness**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Leprosy Day 2025** will be observed on **January 26**, with the theme "**Unite. Act. Eliminate.**". The day focuses on raising awareness about **leprosy (Hansen's disease)**, reducing **stigma**, promoting **early diagnosis** and **treatment**, and encouraging **compassion** and **inclusion**. It calls for global collaboration to combat and aim for the **eradication** of leprosy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian Newspaper Day, observed on January 29, commemorates the introduction of the first newspaper in pre-Independence India. The day highlights the **role of newspapers** in shaping India's **socio-political landscape** and encourages the habit of **daily reading** to stay informed on **current affairs**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Day** is observed annually on **January 30th**, marking milestones like the **WHO NTDs roadmap** and the **2012 London Declaration**. The theme for this year, "**Unite, Act, and Eliminate NTDs**", calls for collective action and progress toward eliminating NTDs, with a focus on **sustainable financing** and **global collaboration**, inspired by **President Embaló of Guinea-Bissau**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- The **International Day of Clean Energy** on **26 January** highlights the need for a **just and inclusive transition to clean energy**. It aims to raise awareness about **socio-economic inequalities** and the need to **protect the planet** through **clean energy** solutions, addressing the dual challenge of ensuring **no one is left behind** while mitigating **climate change**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7** established **27 January** as the **International Day of Commemoration** for Holocaust victims. In **2025**, marking 80 years since the end of **World War II** and the **Holocaust**, the theme for the year is "**Holocaust remembrance and education for dignity and human rights**." This highlights the importance of remembering the **Holocaust** to promote **dignity**, **human rights**, and **collective responsibility**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Obituaries News

- **Narendra Chapalgaonkar**, a retired **Bombay High Court** judge, renowned **author**, and respected figure in **Marathwada**, passed away at 87 after a brave battle with **cancer**. Known for his significant contributions to **literature**, **law**, and **social thought**, Chapalgaonkar leaves a lasting legacy in these fields. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Latika Katt**, a celebrated **Indian sculptor**, passed away at **76**. Known for her **larger-than-life sculptures** and **busts** of public figures, she worked with mediums like **terracotta**, **papier-mâché**, **stone**, and **bronze**. Over her **five-decade career**, Katt earned numerous **national and international awards** for her contributions to art. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Greg Bell**, the oldest living **Olympic gold medallist** in athletics, passed away on **January 25, 2025**, at 94. Known for his **long jump** achievements, Bell also made significant contributions to **dentistry**. His legacy of **resilience, athletic success**, and professional accomplishments continues to inspire future generations. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- A groundbreaking study, “**Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu**” by **K. Rajan** and **R. Sivanantham**, challenges the timeline of the **Iron Age in India**, suggesting it began as early as **3345 BCE** in **Tamil Nadu**, much earlier than previously thought. The study

used advanced techniques like **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)** and **Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)**, providing evidence that **iron technology** was in use in the region, making it the **oldest recorded** in the world. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Nagoba Jatara** festival in **Keslapur**, Telangana, drew nearly **one lakh devotees** from across **India** to celebrate the **Nagoba temple**. This seven-day event is a key religious and cultural gathering for the **Mesram clan** and other **aboriginal tribes**. Devotees from **Telangana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha** participated in the vibrant celebrations. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Static Takeaways**

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
1	RBI (Reserve Bank of India)	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head Office - Mumbai
2	SBI (State Bank of India)	Chairman - Chall Sreenivasulu Setty Head Office - Mumbai
3	SEBI (Security and exchange Board of India)	MD - Head Office - Mumbai
4	PNB (Punjab National Bank)	Chairman - K G Ananthkrishan Head Office - New Delhi
5	Karnataka Bank	Chairman - Pradeep Kumar Panja Head Office - Mangaluru
6	Canara Bank	Chairman - Vijay Srirangan Head Office - Bengaluru
7	Dhanlaxmi Bank	Chairman - K. N. Madhusoodanan Head Office - Kerala
8	Bank of India	Chairman - M. R. Kumar Head Office - Mumbai
9	IDBI Bank	MD & CEO - Rakesh Sharma Head Office - Mumbai
10	JIO	Chairman - Akash Ambani Head Office - Mumbai
11	Suzuki India	Chairman - Ravindra Bhargava Head Office - New Delhi
12	TATA Steel	Chairman - Natarajan Chandrasekaran Head Office - Mumbai
13	Sony India	Chairman - Sunil Nayyar Head Office - New Delhi
14	ZOHO	Chairman - Sridhar Vembu Head Office - Chennai
15	CRED	Chairman - Kunal Shah Head Office - Bengaluru
16	United States of America	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
17	Niger	President - Abdourahamane Tchiani Capital - Niamey
18	Indonesia	President - Prabowo Subianto Capital - Jakarta



Sr. No	Name	Static Details
19	Nepal	PM - K. P. Sharma Oli Capital - Kathmandu
20	Belarus	President - Aleksandr Lukashenko Capital - Minsk
21	OMAN	Head of State - Haitha Bin Tariq Capital - Muscat
22	UAE	President - Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital - Abi Dhabi
23	ICC (International Cricket Council)	Chairman - Jay Shah
24	BCCI	President - Roger Binny
25	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Bagade CM - Bhajan Lal Sharma Capital - Jaipur
26	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayab Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh
27	Jammu and Kashmir	L. Governor - Manoj Sinha CM - Omar Abdullah Capital - Sri Nagar
28	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow
29	Telangana	Governor - Jushnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
30	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Singh Dhami Capital -
31	Goa	Governor - P. S. Sreedharan Pillai CM - Pramod Sawant Capital - Panajim
32	Minister of Home Affairs	Shri Amit Shah
33	Minister of Finance	Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman
34	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Shri Piyush Goyal
35	Minister of Civil Aviation	Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
36	Chief Economic Advisor	V. Anantha Nageswaran
37	Minister of MSME	Shri Giriraj Singh (Independent Charge)