

# December 2025

## 16-31

# Current Affairs

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## 1. G.V. Satish Sir (Best Picks)

### 1. President Gives Assent to Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB – G RAM G) Bill, 2025

- The Parliament passed this Bill to reform India's rural employment framework, aligning it with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- The Act replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
- New Statutory Guarantee: The Act enhances the wage employment guarantee to not less than 125 days per financial year for rural households (up from 100 days).
- Pause Period: States are empowered to notify an aggregated pause period of up to 60 days in a financial year to facilitate agricultural labor availability during peak sowing/harvesting seasons.
- Cost-Sharing Pattern:
  - 60:40 between Centre and States for plain areas.
  - 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States.
  - 100% Central funding for Union Territories without legislatures.
- Administrative Cost: The administrative expenditure ceiling has been enhanced from 6% to 9% to improve staffing and technical capacity.
- Works will originate from Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs) approved by the Gram Sabha.
- Unemployment allowance becomes payable if employment is not provided within the stipulated period (after 15 days).

### 2. Parliament Passes Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025

- The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938, Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- FDI Increase: Raises Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance companies from 74% to 100% under the automatic route.
- Condition: At least one key managerial position (Chairman, Managing Director, or CEO) must be held by an Indian citizen.
- Net Owned Fund: Requirement for Foreign Reinsurance Branches reduced from ₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore.
- Share Transfer: Threshold for seeking prior regulatory approval for transfer of share capital raised from 1% to 5%.
- Aims to deepen insurance penetration (currently at 3.758% of GDP) and improve ease of doing business.

### 3. RBI Announces ₹3 Trillion Liquidity Injection Measures

- Total Injection: Approximately ₹3 trillion over coming weeks.
- Open Market Operations (OMOs): Purchase of Government securities worth ₹2 trillion in four equal tranches of ₹50,000 crore each.
- Forex Swap: A three-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$10 billion scheduled for January 13, 2026.
- In the first half of the current calendar year, RBI injected around ₹9.5 trillion into the banking system.
- So far in December 2025, RBI has injected about ₹1.45 trillion of durable liquidity.

## 4. RBI Approves Risk-Based Deposit Insurance Framework

- New Model: The RBI Central Board approved a risk-based deposit insurance framework, shifting away from the flat-rate premium model.
- Premium Ceiling: The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is empowered to raise the premium ceiling up to 15 paise per ₹100 of deposits (subject to RBI approval).
- Current coverage limit is ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank.
- As of March 31, 2025, fully protected accounts constitute 97.8% of total accounts, covering 43.1% of assessable deposits.

## 5. India to Chair the Kimberley Process in 2026

- The Kimberley Process (KP) is a global initiative to prevent the trade of "conflict diamonds" used to finance wars against legitimate governments.
- Chairpersonship: India has been selected to assume the Chair of the Kimberley Process starting 1 January 2026.
- Vice Chair: India took over as Vice Chair from 25 December 2025.
- The KP was established in 2003 under United Nations Security Council resolutions.

## 6. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Sovereign Lending to India in 2025

- Total Commitment: USD 4.258 billion across 16 projects in 2025.
- Key Allocations:
  - Workforce Skilling (32%): USD 846 million for PM-SETU to modernize Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
  - Renewable Energy (26%): USD 650 million for Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (rooftop solar).
  - Urban Development (18%): USD 775 million for water/sanitation in Assam, Kerala, Sikkim, West Bengal.
  - Transport: USD 729 million for Delhi-Meerut RRTS and Chennai/Indore metros.
- USD 460 million was provided for rural power distribution in Maharashtra.

## 7. Unemployment Rate Declines to Record Low (MoSPI Data - Nov 2025)

- Overall Unemployment Rate (UR): Declined to a record low of 4.7% in November 2025 (down from 5.2% in October).
- Rural UR: Fell to 3.9% (new low).
- Urban UR: Declined to 6.5%.
- Female UR: Reduced to 4.8% (from 5.4%).
- Indicates improved employment conditions with the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) rising to 53.2%.
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased to 55.8%, the highest since April 2025.

## 8. Government Notifies Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG) Rules, 2025

- Single License: Introduces a single license framework for all petroleum operations.
- Lease Tenure: Extended up to 30 years.
- Decriminalization: Criminal penalties replaced with financial penalties of ₹25 lakh, plus ₹10 lakh per day for continued non-compliance.
  - Timelines: Petroleum lease applications must be cleared within 180 days.

## 9. RBI Postpones Phase 2 of Continuous Cheque Clearing

- Phase 2 of the Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation under the Cheque Truncation System (CTS) was scheduled for January 3, 2026.
- Phase 2 envisaged cheque clearance within T+3 hours; delay gives banks more time for operational readiness.

Under Phase 1, drawee banks must confirm cheques by 7 PM or they are deemed approved.

## 10. PFRDA Amends NPS Exit and Withdrawal Rules

- Loans Allowed: NPS subscribers can now avail loans/financial assistance against their pension corpus.
- Lien Creation: Lenders can mark a lien on up to 25% of the subscriber's own contribution.
- Withdrawal Limits: Non-government subscribers can withdraw up to 80% lump sum (min 20% annuity).
- Full Withdrawal: Allowed if the corpus is ₹8 lakh or less (previously lower). For corpus up to ₹12 lakh, specific rules apply.
- Normal exit vesting is revised to 15 years or age 60 (whichever is earlier).

## 11. India Reclaims 3rd Position in Global Wind Energy

- Ranking: India reclaimed the 3rd position globally, behind China and the United States.
- Capacity Added: Added a record 5.8 GW of wind capacity by November 2025.
- Forecast: Total additions expected to reach 6.2 GW by year-end 2025.
- India aims for 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

## 12. Launch of Organised Crime Network Database (OCND)

- First National Database: India launched its first national-level Organised Crime Network Database (OCND).
- Collaboration: Developed by NIA in collaboration with state police forces and NATGRID.
- Rakesh Aggarwal has been given additional charge as DG of NIA.

## 13. Introduction of Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025

- Consolidation: Seeks to replace and subsume three laws:
  - SEBI Act, 1992
  - Depositories Act, 1996
  - Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956

## 14. Launch of SWAMIH-2 Fund

- Fund Size: ₹15,000 crore initiative.
- Seed Capital: Government allocated ₹1,500 crore in Budget 2025-26.
- Objective: To complete stalled affordable and mid-income housing projects.
- Expected to provide relief to nearly 1,00,000 middle-class homebuyers.
- SWAMIH-1 has completed 55,000 dwelling units.

## 15. RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25

- Asset Quality: Gross NPA (GNPA) ratio declined to a multi-decadal low of 2.2% at end-March 2025 (Public Sector Banks GNPA at 2.58%).
- Profitability: Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) net profit grew 14.7% to ₹4.01 lakh crore.
- Growth: Balance sheet grew 11.2%; Credit grew 11.5%.
- Domestic deposits rose to ₹231.90 lakh crore in 2025.

## 16. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme Selects 43 Young Authors

- Implemented by the National Book Trust (NBT) under the Ministry of Education.
- Selection: 43 young authors selected (under age 30).
- Scholarship: ₹50,000 per month for 6 months.
- Royalty: Lifetime royalty of 10% on published books.

## 17. Major Telecom Security Reforms for 2026

- Pro Tem Scheme: Extended beyond 1 January 2026 for 2 years.
- Fee Reduction: Application fees for Telecom Security Testing Laboratories (TSTL) reduced by >50%.
- Waivers: 50% fee reduction for Startups/MSMEs; 100% waiver for Govt testing agencies/IITs.

**18. BRICS Presidency Handed Over to India**

- Transition occurred during the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting in Brasília.
- Handover: Brazil formally handed over the presidency to India for the year 2026.
- Summit: India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
- Theme Pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability.

**19. Launch of 'VijAIpatha' Pilot AI Education Initiative**

- Objective: To equip government school students with skills in AI, STEM, robotics, and coding.
- Implementation: Started with 2 fully equipped AI laboratories at Amaravati PU College (Karnataka).

**20. First National-Level Tiger Corridor in Madhya Pradesh**

- Announced by the Madhya Pradesh government in coordination with NHAI.
- Project: India's 1st state-level multi-national park tiger corridor.

**21. PM Unveils ₹10,601-Crore Fertiliser Plant in Assam**

- Located at Namrup in Dibrugarh district, Assam.
- Foundation Stone: Laid by PM Narendra Modi for Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL).
- Capacity: Annual urea production capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes.
- Timeline: Commissioning scheduled for 2030.

**22. Commitment to Development Index (CDI) 2025**

- Released by the Centre for Global Development (CGD).
- Top Rank: Sweden (1st), followed by Germany and Norway.
- India's Rank: 36th overall.
- Key Weaknesses for India: Trade (38th), Development Finance (38th).
- United States ranked 28th; China ranked 34th.

**23. Launch of 'Gaj:' Metal Credit Card by IDFC FIRST Bank**

- A premium offering for high-net-worth individuals (HNIs).
- Product: "Gaj:" Credit Card (Invitation-only metal card).
- Fees: Joining/Annual fee of ₹12,500 + GST.
- Waiver: Annual fee waived on ₹10 lakh annual spending.

**24. Google Pay Launches 'FLEX' Credit Card with Axis Bank**

- Product: "FLEX" Credit Card.
- Partners: Google Pay and Axis Bank on the RuPay network.

**25. Launch of 'Indian AI Research Organisation' (IAIRO)**

- Initiative by the Gujarat government.
- Approval: In-principle approval granted by Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel.
- Location: GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- Model: Public-Private Partnership (PPP) involving State, Centre, and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.
  - Outlay: ₹300 crore for the first 5 years.

**26. BIS Notifies New Standard for Bomb Disposal Systems**

- Released on National Consumer Day 2025 (24 December).
- Standard: IS 19445:2025 – Bomb Disposal Systems — Performance Evaluation and Requirements.
- Categories: Covers Bomb blankets, Bomb baskets, and Bomb inhibitors.

**27. PMGSY Completes 25 Years**

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) launched on December 25, 2000.
- Milestone: Completed 25 years on December 25, 2025.
- Achievement: Sanctioned 8,25,114 km; Completed 7,87,520 km (approx 96%)

Monitoring: e-MARG platform used for maintenance monitoring.

## 28. India's First Indigenous 64-bit Microprocessor 'Dhruv 64'

- Name: Dhruv 64.
- Developer: C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
- Specs: 64-bit, dual-core microprocessor.
- C-DAC Director General: Magesh Ethirajan.

## 29. First Woman Officer Cadet from IMA: Sai Jadhav

- Name: Sai Jadhav (from Kolhapur, Maharashtra).
- Achievement: Became the first woman officer cadet to complete pre-commissioning training and pass out from IMA.
- Commission: Commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Territorial Army (TA).

## 30. 16th Finance Commission Grants for Rural Local Bodies

- Amount: Over ₹723 Crores released.
- Beneficiaries: Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

## 31. Launch of 'Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme' (DRAP)

- Goal: Achieve 'Lakshya Zero Dumpsites' by September 2026.
- Assistance: Central financial assistance of ₹550 per tonne for waste remediation.

## 32. Appointment of Anu Garg as Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary

## 33. India's First PPP Model Medical Colleges

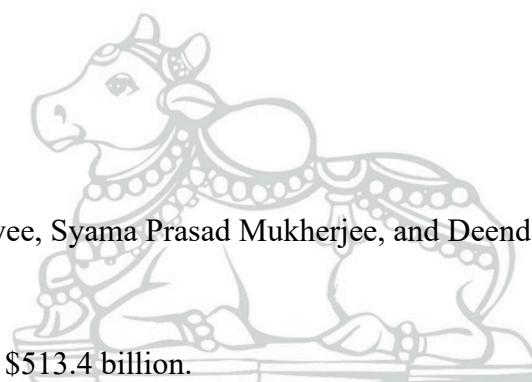
- Location: Foundation stones laid in Dhar and Betul districts, Madhya Pradesh.
- Model: Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
- Inaugurated by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and MP CM Mohan Yadav.

## 34. RBI Bulletin Dec 2025: New Manufacturing Indicator

- New Tool: Introduced a quarterly composite leading indicator for Gross Value Added (GVA) in Manufacturing.
- Performance: Shows a one-quarter lead over manufacturing GVA cycles.
- Manufacturing contributes nearly 17% to India's GVA.

## 35. Inauguration of Rashtra Prerana Sthal

- Inaugurated on Good Governance Day (Dec 25).
- Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Inaugurated By: PM Narendra Modi.
- Cost: Developed at ₹230 crore.
- Features 65-foot bronze statues of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mukherjee, and Deendayal Upadhyay.



## 36. World's Richest Families List 2025 (Bloomberg)

- Rank 1: Walton Family (USA, Walmart) - Net worth \$513.4 billion.
- Rank 2: Al Nahyan Family (UAE).
  - Rank 8: Ambani Family (India) - Net worth \$105.6 billion.

## 37. India's First Wildlife-Safe Road

- Location: National Highway 45 (Seoni-Nagpur stretch), Madhya Pradesh.
- Feature: Table-top red marking (raised sections) to slow traffic.
- Cost: ₹122 crore.

## 38. Appointment of Brajesh Kumar Singh as MD & CEO of Canara Bank

## 39. Appointment of Bibhu Prasad Kanungo as Chairman IIFL Finance

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## 40. India-Jordan MoUs

- Agreements: 5 MoUs signed.
- Areas: Cooperation in Digital Payments (UPI), Renewable Energy, Cultural Exchange, and Twinning of Petra and Ellora.
- Jordan Capital: Amman; Currency: Jordanian Dinar.

## 41. RBI Guidelines on Transaction Accounts

- Effective Date: April 1, 2026.
- Rule: Banks with less than 10% exposure to a borrower cannot open current accounts if the borrower's total exposure is ₹10 crore or more.
- Relaxation: Restrictions on Cash Credit (CC) accounts removed.
- Funds must move from collection accounts to transaction accounts within 2 working days.

## 42. SBI Report on 'Viksit Bharat G-RAM G' Act

- Analysis: Highlights the shift from MGNREGA to G-RAM G.
- Impact: Increasing guaranteed days to 125 is expected to boost rural consumption and creating durable assets.
- Administrative ceiling raised to 9%.

## 43. Gujarat Declared 'Tiger State'

- Status: Gujarat declared a 'Tiger State' after 33 years.
- Evidence: Tiger presence confirmed in Ratanmahal Sanctuary.
- Gujarat becomes the only state to host Asiatic lions, tigers, and leopards.

## 44. Global AI Vibrancy Index 2025

- India's Rank: 3rd (Score: 21.59).
- Top Ranks: USA (1st, 78.60), China (2nd, 36.95).
- Growth: India jumped from 7th place in 2023.

## 45. RBI Microsite on Indian Banknotes

- Launched to improve public awareness about currency.
- Website: '<https://indiancurrency.rbi.org.in>'.
- Replaces: The earlier microsite 'paisabolthai.rbi.org.in'.

## 46. National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme Update

- Mandate: To fulfill the mandated 4% procurement from SC/ST MSEs by Central Ministries/CPSEs.
- Subsidy: Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) provides 25% subsidy (cap ₹25 lakh) on plant/machinery.
- National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave was held in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

## 2. Amounts & Agreements

### 1. MUFG Bank (Japan) to Acquire 20% Stake in Shriram Finance Limited via Preferential Allotment

### 2. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Commits USD 4.258 Billion Sovereign Lending to India for 2025

- Total Commitment: ADB committed USD 4.258 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2025
- Sector-wise Allocations:
  - Workforce Skilling (32%): USD 846 million allocated for the Prime Minister's Scheme for Employment through Education and Training Units (PM-SETU) to modernize Industrial Training Institutes.
  - Renewable Energy (26%): USD 650 million to support the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for rooftop solar deployment.
  - Urban Development (18%): USD 775 million for water supply and sanitation projects in Assam, Kerala, Sikkim, and West Bengal.
  - Transport Sector: USD 729 million committed for the Delhi–Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System and metro projects in Chennai and Indore.,
  - Health & Power: USD 398.8 million for healthcare in Assam and USD 460 million for rural power distribution in Maharashtra.,
- ADB Country Director: Mio Oka.
- ADB Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines.
- Additionally, over USD 200 million was committed for eco-tourism and livelihood-linked conservation projects in Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.

### 3. Cabinet Approves ₹11,718.24 Crore for Census of India 2027

- Approved Amount: The Union Cabinet sanctioned exactly ₹11,718.24 crore for conducting the Census of India 2027.,
- Phases of Execution:
  - Phase 1: Houselisting & Housing Census – scheduled from April to September 2026.
  - Phase 2: Population Enumeration – scheduled for February 2027.
- Special Schedule: For Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, population enumeration will be held earlier in September 2026.

### 4. IRFC Signs ₹9,821 Crore Loan Agreement with DFCCIL to Refinance World Bank Debt

- The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) is the financing arm of the Indian Railways.
- The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) manages the high-capacity railway corridors for freight movement.



### 3. Appointments & Resignations

1. Appointment of Raj Kumar Goyal as Chief Information Commissioner and Eight New Information Commissioners
2. Appointment of Ravi Ranjan as Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)
3. Re-appointment of Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)
4. Appointment of Brajesh Kumar Singh as MD & CEO of Canara Bank
  - The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) is responsible for selecting top executives of public sector banks and insurance companies.
  - The Chairman of FSIB (Financial Services Institutions Bureau) is Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
5. Appointment of Anu Garg as Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary
6. Appointment of B. Sairam as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL)
7. Appointment of Saleem Ahmad as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
8. Appointment of Suresh Goyal as Director General of NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research)
9. Appointment of Bibhu Prasad Kanungo as Chairperson of IIFL Finance
10. Election of P.V. Sindhu as Chair of BWF (Badminton World Federation) Athletes' Commission



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## 4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

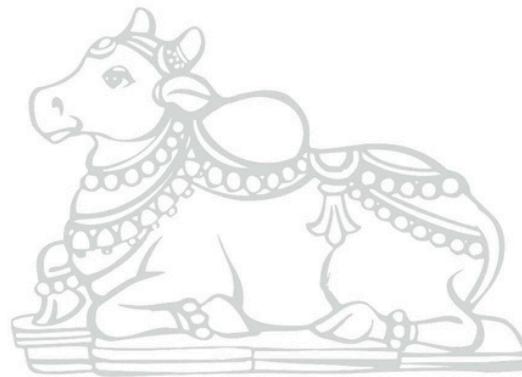
### 1. Italy Becomes First Country to Have Entire National Cuisine Inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

### 2. Deepavali Inscribed as India's 16th Element on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

- The inscription was granted during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- The session was chaired by Shri Vishal V. Sharma, India's Ambassador to UNESCO.

### 3. President of India Releases the Constitution of India in Santhali Language (Ol Chiki Script)

- The Santhali language is one of the most ancient living languages of India, spoken by a significant tribal population in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.
- It was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.
- The current year marks the centenary year of the Ol Chiki script, which was created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.
- The Constitution of India is now available in 22 languages, including Santhali.



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## 5. Awards & Prizes

### 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred with Highest Civilian Honours from Ethiopia and Oman

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a three-nation tour that included visits to Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman.
- The visit to Ethiopia was his first visit to the nation and the first by an Indian Prime Minister since Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in May 2011.
- Ethiopia: On 16 December 2025, PM Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest national honour, "The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia," by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali
- Oman: On 18 December 2025, PM Modi was conferred with the "Order of Oman," the Sultanate's uniquely distinct civilian honour, by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.,
- PM Modi became the first global Head of State to receive the prestigious Ethiopian award.,

### 2. President of India Confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025; Vaibhav Suryavanshi Creates History

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is India's highest civilian honour for achievers aged between 5 and 18 years.
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a 14-year-old cricketer from Samastipur, Bihar, became the first Indian cricketer to receive this national children's award.,
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi was recognized for scoring 190 runs off 84 balls in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, becoming the youngest centurion in List A cricket and surpassing AB de Villiers' record for the fastest 150 in the format.,
- The awards celebrate achievements in six categories: Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art and Culture, and Science and Technology.
- Other notable awardees included:
  - Ayaan Sajad (12, Kashmir): Sufi singer.
  - Vyas Om Jignesh (17): Memorised over 5,000 slokas despite cerebral palsy.
  - Sindhoora Raja (15): Created self-stabilising devices for Parkinson's patients.
  - Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika (7, Gujarat): Under-7 World Chess Champion.
  - Shvan Singh (10, Punjab): Honoured for supplying frontline soldiers during Operation Sindoora.

### 3. TIME Magazine Names "The Architects of Artificial Intelligence" as Person of the Year 2025 and Neal Mohan as CEO of the Year

- "The Architects of Artificial Intelligence" were named Person of the Year 2025.
- This group includes Sam Altman (CEO, OpenAI), Jensen Huang (CEO, Nvidia), Elon Musk (Tesla and xAI), Mark Zuckerberg (CEO, Meta), Lisa Su (CEO, AMD), Demis Hassabis (CEO, Google DeepMind), Dario Amodei (CEO, Anthropic), and Fei-Fei Li (Stanford Professor),.
- Neal Mohan, the Chief Executive Officer of YouTube, was named CEO of the Year 2025.

**4. Anant Ambani Becomes First Asian to Receive Global Humanitarian Award from Global Humane Society**

- Vantara is a wildlife conservation initiative led by Anant Ambani.
- Anant Ambani has been conferred the Global Humanitarian Award by the Global Humane Society (American Humane Society).
- He is the youngest recipient and the first Asian awardee in the history of this honour.

**5. Hockey Star Hardik Singh Nominated for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025**

- The Khel Ratna is India's highest sporting honour, instituted in 1991–92, and carries a prize money of ₹25 lakh,.
- Indian men's hockey team vice-captain Hardik Singh has been nominated for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025.
- Hardik Singh was recognized for his pivotal role in India's international success, including the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Other shortlisted names for recognition included Manu Bhaker and chess prodigy Gukesh D.
- Previous hockey players to receive Khel Ratna include Dhanraj Pillay, Sardar Singh, Rani Rampal, PR Sreejesh, Manpreet Singh, and Harmanpreet Singh.

**6. SAIL Wins Eight National Awards at the 47th All India Public Relations Conference**

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was recognised with eight national awards for communication excellence.
- The awards included Best Advertising Campaign using AI, Best Use of AI in PR Campaign (for AI SAILTrack), and Most Impressive Event Management (for the India Steel - 2025 exhibition).

**7. Indian Mathematician Claudio Muñoz Awarded 2025 Ramanujan Prize**

- Dr. Claudio Muñoz of the University of Chile was awarded the 2025 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries.
- The prize carries a cash award of USD 10,000.

**8. French Government Honours Publisher Ravi Deecee with 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres'**

## 6. Banking & Finance

### 1. Parliament Passes Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025: 100% FDI in Insurance

- The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999
- FDI Limit: The Bill raises the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in Indian insurance companies from 74% to 100% under the automatic route.,
- Penalties: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is empowered with disgorgement powers and can impose higher penalties on insurers and intermediaries, with the maximum limit raised from ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore.
- Tenure: The Bill sets a fixed tenure of five years or up to 65 years of age (whichever is earlier) for the Chairperson and whole-time members of IRDAI.
- Current Status: Insurance penetration currently stands at 3.758% of GDP, and cumulative FDI inflows are about ₹82,000 crore.

### 2. RBI Approves Risk-Based Deposit Insurance Framework

- Currently, banks pay a flat premium of 12 paise per ₹100 of assessable deposits to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC),.
- Premium Ceiling: Under the amendment to Section 15(1) of the DICGC Act (August 2021), the Corporation can raise the premium limit up to 15 paise per ₹100 of deposits with prior RBI approval.,
- Coverage: Deposit insurance coverage is currently limited to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank.

### 3. Banking Sector Stability: Trends and Progress Report 2024–25

- Asset Quality: The Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined to a multi-decadal low of 2.2% at end-March 2025 and further to 2.1% at end-September 2025.,
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs): PSBs reduced their GNPA to 2.58% in 2025 from over 9% in 2021.
- Balance Sheet Growth: The consolidated balance sheet of SCBs grew by 11.2% in FY25 to ₹312.2 lakh crore.,
- Credit & Deposits: Bank credit increased by 11.5%, while deposits grew by 11.1% in FY25.,
- Profitability: SCBs reported highest-ever profits of ₹4.01 lakh crore in FY 2024–25, marking the 7th consecutive year of profit growth.,
- Capital Adequacy: The Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) stood at 17.4% at end-March 2025.
- Frauds: Total reported bank frauds declined to 23,879 in FY25, though the amount involved increased to ₹34,771 crore.
- Domestic Deposits: Tripled from ₹88.35 lakh crore in 2015 to ₹231.90 lakh crore in 2025.

## 4. RBI Liquidity Injection: ₹3 Trillion via OMOs and Forex Swaps

- Total Injection: The RBI plans to inject nearly ₹3 trillion into the banking system.
- Open Market Operations (OMOs): The RBI will purchase Government of India securities worth ₹2 trillion via OMOs in four equal tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on December 29, 2025, January 5, January 12, and January 22, 2026
- Forex Swap: A three-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$10 billion will be conducted on January 13, 2026

## 5. RBI Allows HDFC Bank Group to Acquire 9.5% Stake in IndusInd Bank

## 6. PFRDA Amends National Pension System (NPS) Exit Rules

- Loans Against Corpus: Subscribers are now permitted to avail of loans/financial assistance from regulated financial institutions against their pension corpus.
- Lien Creation: Lenders can mark a lien or charge on the individual pension account, restricted to 25% of the subscriber's own contribution.
- Lump Sum Withdrawal: The lump sum withdrawal limit for non-government subscribers has been enhanced to 80% (with a minimum 20% annuity).
- Vesting: Normal exit vesting has been revised to 15 years or age 60, whichever is earlier.
- Systematic Withdrawal: Systematic lump sum withdrawal is allowed for 6 years.

## 7. GDP Growth Forecasts: ADB and Crisil Revisions

- Asian Development Bank (ADB): Revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025–26 (FY26) to 7.2%, up from the earlier estimate of 6.5%. It retained the FY27 projection at 6.5%.
- Crisil: Revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025–26 to 7.0%, up from 6.5%.
- Inflation: ADB lowered India's inflation forecast for FY26 to 2.6% from 3.1%.
- Q2 Performance: The Indian economy grew by 8.2% in Q2 FY26.

## 8. RBI Issues Final Guidelines for Transaction Accounts

- Effective Date: The guidelines come into effect from April 1, 2026.
- Relaxation: Restrictions on opening Cash Credit (CC) accounts have been removed.
- Exposure Norms: For borrowers with aggregate exposure of ₹10 crore and above, any lending bank with at least 10% exposure can open transaction accounts
- Remittance Rule: Funds must be moved from collection accounts to designated current accounts within two working days.
- Below ₹10 Crore: For exposure below ₹10 crore, banks can open current/OD accounts without restriction.

## 9. New Unified Logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- The Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance) unveiled a new logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to create a unified brand identity under the "One State One RRB" principle.
- Consolidation: 26 RRBs across 11 States/UTs have been consolidated, effective May 1, 2025.
- Current Count: The total number of RRBs currently serving the nation is 28.
- IPO Plans: The government plans to list at least five RRBs in the next two financial years.
- Logo Design: Dark blue signifies finance and trust, while green signifies life and growth (agriculture).
- Shareholding: Centre (50%), Sponsor Banks (35%), State Governments (15%)

## 10. Establishment of Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a proposal by State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) to set up a new entity to combat digital fraud.
- Entity Name: Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC).
- Structure: It will be incorporated as a Section 8 (non-profit) company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- Exemption: The Ministry of Finance granted a temporary exemption from the 30% shareholding cap (under Section 19(2) of the Banking Regulation Act) until 16 October 2026.

## 11. RBI Guidelines on Interest-Rate Derivatives (IRD)

- Limits: A Price Value of a Basis Point (PVBP) cap of ₹1,000 crore is proposed for non-residents.
- Position Limit: Non-residents are restricted to a net long position in interest-rate futures of ₹5,000 crore.

## 12. RBI Penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Amount: ₹61.95 lakh.
- Date of Order: December 11, 2025.
- Reasons: Non-compliance with norms related to Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, Business Correspondents, and Credit Information Companies.

## 13. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Commences Lending Operations

- Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) is India's first maritime-focused Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

## 14. Reliance General Insurance Penalty by IRDAI

- Penalty: A fine of ₹1 crore was imposed.
- Violations: Irregular payments to insurance intermediaries like Glitterbug Technologies (Coverfox parent), agents, and unlicensed entities.

## 15. Axis Bank Launches Digital Merchant Cash Advance

- Product: "Digital Merchant Cash Advance".
- Features: A fully digital, unsecured working capital loan product for MSMEs.
- Loan Amount: Offers loans ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹20 lakh.

## 16. SBI Signs €150 Million Line of Credit with KfW

- State Bank of India (SBI) partnered with the German development bank KfW to support green financing.
- Agreement: Signed a Line of Credit worth €150 million (approx. ₹1,350 crore).

## 17. DBS Bank Named Global Bank of the Year 2025

- DBS Bank, headquartered in Singapore, received top global honors from a prestigious financial publication.
- Award: Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker (Financial Times Group),.
- Recognized for its leadership in digital banking, AI utilization, and financial performance. This is the third time DBS has won this title (previously 2018, 2021).
- DBS also won the inaugural Investment Bank of the Year award.

## 18. RBI Postpones CTS Phase 2 Implementation

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had planned to implement faster cheque clearance under the Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
- Postponement: The implementation of Phase 2 of Continuous Clearing and Settlement has been deferred until further notice.,
- Original Date: It was scheduled to commence on January 3, 2026.
- Phase 2 aimed to achieve cheque clearance within T+3 hours of realization.

## 19. LIC Partners with Sahaj Insurance Services

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) sought to expand its distribution network in underserved areas.
- Partnership: LIC collaborated with Sahaj Insurance Services Private Limited.
- Network: It will utilize Sahaj's 4.5 lakh assisted digital service points ("Mittra" network).
- Sahaj is a subsidiary of Sahaj Retail, part of the Kanoria Foundation.

## 20. India's UPI Transaction Volume Reaches 59.33 Billion in Q3 2025

## 21. Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$687.26 Billion

## 22. Inflation and Unemployment Data (November 2025)

- Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate fell to a record low of 4.7% in November 2025.,
- Employment: Rural unemployment fell to 3.9%, while urban unemployment was 6.5%.



## 7. Defence Affairs

### 1. Successful Flight Test of K-4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile from INS Arighaat

- India successfully test-fired the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighaat.
- The test was conducted in the Bay of Bengal, off the Visakhapatnam coast.
- The missile has a range of 3,500 kilometres.
- It is designed to carry a nuclear payload weighing up to 2.5 tonnes.
- The K-4 was inducted into the Indian Navy on August 29, 2024, and is derived from the Agni-III ballistic missile.
- INS Arihant remains India's first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).
- The missile was designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

### 2. Commissioning of Indian Navy's Second MH-60R Helicopter Squadron 'INAS 335'

- This event follows the induction of the first MH-60R squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024.
- The commissioning coincides with 2025 marking 75 years since the approval of the Fleet Air Arm.
- The Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R helicopter squadron, INAS 335 – named 'Ospreys', at INS Hansa, Dabolim, Goa, on 17 December 2025.



## 8. International Affairs

### 1. Conclusion of Negotiations for Landmark India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to Boost Bilateral Trade and Mobility

- India and New Zealand have announced the conclusion of negotiations for a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- New Zealand Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon.
- New Zealand Currency: New Zealand Dollar.

### 2. India Selected to Assume Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) from January 2026

## 9. Meetings & Summits

### 1. Second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held from 17 to 19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.,
- The summit was guided by the theme “Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being”,.

### 2. 20th World Wildlife Conference (CITES CoP20)

- The conference took place at the Silkroad Samarkand Expo Center in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.,

### 3. Anti-Terror Conference-2025 and Launch of OCND

- The Anti-Terror Conference-2025, a two-day annual event, was organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi.,
- India launched its first-ever national-level Organised Crime Network Database (OCND) during the conference.,
- The OCND is developed by the NIA in collaboration with state police forces and the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

### 4. 2nd EARTH Summit 2025

- The 2nd edition of the EARTH Summit 2025 was inaugurated by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.,

### 5. 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting and Presidency Handover

- The 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting was held in Brasília, Brazil, in December 2025.,
- The meeting marked the conclusion of Brazil’s 2025 chairmanship under the theme “Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance”,.
- Brazil formally handed over the BRICS presidency to India for the year 2026.,
- India will officially assume the rotating chair on 1 January 2026 and will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.,
- The BRICS grouping currently consists of 11 member countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia.

### 6. 11th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

- The 11th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) was hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 14-15 December 2025.,

## 10. Miscellaneous

### 1. “Vibe Coding” Selected as Collins Dictionary’s Word of the Year 2025

- Definition: It is defined as an emerging style of software development where developers use natural language prompts to guide Large Language Models (LLMs) in generating, refining, and debugging code, rather than writing the code manually.
- The term was coined in February 2025 by AI researcher Andrej Karpathy.

Other entries on the 2025 shortlist included:

- “Glaze”: To flatter excessively.
- “Aura farming”: Crafting a charismatic persona.
- “Clanker”: A derogatory term for AI/robots.
- “Coolcation”: A holiday in a cooler climate.

### 2. Copenhagen Ranked World’s Happiest City in Happy City Index 2025

- The Institute for Quality of Life releases the Happy City Index, ranking cities globally based on factors contributing to the well-being and happiness of their residents.
- Copenhagen (Denmark) has been ranked as the world’s happiest city in 2025.
- The city secured 1,039 points and topped the Gold tier of the index.

### 3. Walton Family Tops Bloomberg World’s Richest Families 2025 List

- The Walton family of the United States of America emerged as the richest family in the world in the “Bloomberg – World’s Richest Families 2025” report.
- Net Worth: The family's fortune stands at \$513.4 billion.
- Source of Wealth: The wealth is derived from Walmart, the world’s largest retailer, which operates over 10,700 stores worldwide.
- 2nd Rank: The Al Nahyan family (UAE’s ruling family) with a net worth of \$335.9 billion.
- 3rd Rank: The Al Saud family (Saudi Arabia’s monarch) with a net worth of \$213.6 billion.

### 4. Obituary: Bangladesh’s First Female Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Passes Away

### 5. Obituary: Renowned Hindi Author Vinod Kumar Shukla Passes Away

- Key Awards Received:
  - 59th Jnanpith Award in 2025.
  - PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature in 2023.
  - Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999 for his novel Naukar Ki Kameez (The Servant’s Shirt).

**6. GI-Tagged Indi Lime from Karnataka Exported to Oman for the First Time**

**7. India and Portugal Sign MoU to Develop National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat**

**8. Nnena Kalu Becomes First Artist with Learning Disability to Win 2025 Turner Prize**

**9. Elon Musk Becomes First Person to Cross \$600 Billion Net Worth**

- The surge was fueled by investor enthusiasm around his core ventures:
  - SpaceX: Speculation of a potential IPO in 2026 at an estimated valuation of \$800 billion.
  - Tesla: Rising stock prices.
  - xAI: Rapid expansion.

## 11. MoUs

### 1. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to Strengthen Defence and Internal Security

- Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) is an institution of national importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is a University Grants Commission (UGC)-designated Nodal Centre for Defence Studies.

### 2. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the Netherlands for Cooperation in Maritime Heritage and the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is being developed at Lothal, Gujarat, under the Sagarmala Programme by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW),.
- India and the Netherlands signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation in maritime heritage.,
- The MoU was exchanged during a bilateral meeting between the Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr. David van Weel.,
- The agreement establishes collaboration between the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) and the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam.,



## 12. National

### 1. Union Cabinet Approves "SHANTI" – Atomic Energy Bill, 2025

- The Bill is formally titled the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025.
- It opens the civil nuclear sector to private participation, allowing private firms to engage in fuel cycle activities, equipment manufacturing, and power generation.
- The government announced a Nuclear Energy Mission with an outlay of ₹20,000 crore to support the research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- The target is to operationalize at least five indigenously developed SMRs by 2033 and achieve 100 GW of atomic energy capacity by 2047.

### 2. Introduction of Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025

- Introduced by the Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, to overhaul the higher education regulatory landscape.
- The Bill proposes to merge the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) into a single regulatory body.

### 3. Government Notifies Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG) Rules, 2025

- These rules are notified under the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 2025, replacing the Petroleum Concession Rules, 1949 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.
- A single licence framework has been introduced for all petroleum operations.
- The lease tenure has been extended up to 30 years.
- Criminal penalties have been removed and replaced with financial penalties of ₹25 lakh, with an additional ₹10 lakh per day for continued non-compliance.
- Petroleum lease applications must be cleared within 180 days.

### 4. Foundation Stone Laid for Assam Valley Fertiliser Plant in Dibrugarh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for this major infrastructure project to boost domestic fertilizer production.
- The plant belongs to the Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Limited (AVFCCL) and is a ₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea project.

### 5. Launch of "Atal Canteen Scheme" in New Delhi

- The scheme was inaugurated on 25 December 2025, marking the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched 45 Atal Canteens across the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The canteens provide nutritious meals at ₹5 per plate, twice daily.
- A total of 100 canteens are being established, with the remaining 55 scheduled to become operational shortly.
- Each meal comprises approximately 600 grams of food, including roti, dal, and seasonal vegetables. The total allocation for the scheme is ₹104.24 crore.

## 6. Launch of National Organised Crime Network Database (OCND)

- Launched during the Anti-Terror Conference–2025 organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- The Organised Crime Network Database (OCND) is India's first national-level database of organized crime networks.
- The database was developed by the NIA in collaboration with state police forces and NATGRID.

## 7. Bihar Government Launches "Saat Nischay-3" (Seven Resolves-3)

- The Government of Bihar unveiled the roadmap for 2025–2030 to accelerate development.
- Double Employment–Double Income: Includes financial assistance of ₹10,000 for women's self-employment, expandable up to ₹2 lakh.

## 8. Launch of "e-Swasthya Samvad" Platform by Rajasthan Government

- "e-Swasthya Samvad" is a digital communication platform connecting stakeholders, including officials, doctors, staff, and the public.

## 9. India's First Wildlife-Safe Road on National Highway-45 in Madhya Pradesh

- The project incorporates table-top red markings on a stretch of National Highway-45 (NH-45) in the forest corridor of Madhya Pradesh.
- The stretch passes through the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve and areas near the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The project cost is ₹122 crore, and it is expected to be fully completed in 2025.

## 10. Gujarat Declared 'Tiger-Present' State by NTCA for 2026 Census

- Gujarat had been removed from the list of tiger states after the 1992 census due to the absence of tigers.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) confirmed the presence of a tiger in the Ratanmahal Sanctuary in February 2025.

## 11. Establishment of India's First Power Museum in Patna, Bihar

- This will be India's first-ever Power Museum and the world's fourth such museum.

## 12. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme Results Announced

- PM-YUVA (Young, Upcoming & Versatile Authors) is implemented by the National Book Trust (NBT) under the Ministry of Education.
- 43 young authors (19 women and 24 men) were selected through an All-India contest.
- Selected authors will receive a scholarship of ₹50,000 per month for six months and a lifetime royalty of 10 per cent on published books.

## 13. Launch of Jal Shakti Hackathon–2025 and Bharat-WIN Portal

- Launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil to foster innovation in the water sector.
- The Jal Shakti Hackathon–2025 and the Bharat-WIN (Water Innovation Network) Portal were launched in New Delhi.
- The initiative aligns with "Water Vision @2047" to strengthen technological solutions for water conservation.
- Hackathon winners will be awarded ₹1 lakh for Proof-of-Concept development.
- The National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee is the designated Project Implementation Agency.

## 13. Persons in News

**1. P.V. Sindhu Elected as Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission for 2026–2029**

**2. Jayshree Ullal Tops Hurun India Rich List 2025 as Wealthiest Indian-Origin Professional Manager**

- Jayshree Ullal, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Arista Networks, has topped the Hurun India Rich List 2025.
- She has been named the wealthiest Indian-origin leader in the world in the professional manager category.
- Her net worth is estimated at ₹50,170 crore (approximately \$5.7 billion).
- With this valuation, she has surged ahead of global big tech chiefs, including:
  - Satya Nadella (CEO of Microsoft), who follows with a net worth of ₹9,770 crore.
  - Sundar Pichai (CEO of Google), who ranks seventh with ₹5,810 crore.

**3. German Scientist Michaela Benthäus Becomes First Wheelchair User to Travel to Space**

**4. Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes First Indian Cricketer to Receive Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**



**NBCC**

## 14. Ranks and Reports

### 1. Reserve Bank of India Releases 30th Financial Stability Report (FSR) – December 2025

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the December 2025 Financial Stability Report (FSR), a biannual publication reflecting the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- Banking Sector Health: The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined to 2.1% in September 2025.
- Capital Adequacy: The Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) for SCBs stood strong as of September 2025:
  - Public Sector Banks (PSBs): 16%.
  - Private Sector Banks (PVBs): 18.1%.
- Global Economy: The global economy remains resilient due to fiscal measures, front-loaded trade, and strong Artificial Intelligence (AI) related investments, though downside risks like high public debt persist.
- Domestic Economy: India's Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth surprised on the upside:
  - 7.8% in Quarter 1 of Financial Year 2025–26.
  - 8.2% in Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2025–26.

### 2. RBI Releases Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the "Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25" under Section 36(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The report covers the performance of the banking sector during 2024–25 and the first half of 2025–26.
- Balance Sheet Growth: The consolidated balance sheet of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) expanded by 11.2% to ₹312.2 lakh crore in FY25, compared to 15.5% in FY24.
- Credit and Deposits: Bank credit increased by 11.5%, while deposits grew by 11.1%.
- Profitability: SCBs achieved profit growth for the 7th consecutive year, rising by 14.7% to ₹4,01,180 crore (highest ever) in FY 2024–25.
- Asset Quality:
  - Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA): Declined to a 20-year low of 2.31% (or 2.2% as per specific sections) by March 2025, down from a peak of 11.46% in 2018.
  - Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA): Declined to 0.52% (or 0.5%).
- Capital Buffers: The Capital to Risk Asset Ratio (CRAR) of SCBs stood at 17.4% at end-March 2025 (improved to 17.36% in other citations).
- Fraud Decline: The total number of reported bank frauds declined to 23,879 in FY25, though the amount involved increased to ₹34,771 crore.
- Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs): The number of UCBs declined by 15 to 1,457 during FY25 due to mergers and license cancellations.
- NBFC Credit: Credit extended by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) expanded by 19.4%, reaching 14.6% of GDP at end-March 2025.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs): Their share in the consolidated balance sheet declined to 54.9% at end-March 2025 from 55.2% a year earlier.

ATM Decline: The total number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) declined to 2,51,057 in FY25, reflecting increased digitalisation.

### 3. World Inequality Lab Releases "World Inequality Report 2026"

- The World Inequality Lab released the "World Inequality Report 2026", which is the 3rd edition in the series following 2018 and 2022.
- The report is prefaced by economists Jayati Ghosh and Joseph Stiglitz and lead-authored by Ricardo Gómez-Carrera.
- India's Inequality: Income inequality in India remains among the highest globally.
  - Top 10%: Capture about 58% of national income.
  - Bottom 50%: Receive only 15% of national income.
- Wealth Inequality: The richest 10% hold around 65% of total wealth, and the top 1% hold about 40%.
- Income Gap: The gap between the top 10% and bottom 50% remained stable between 2014 and 2024.
- Per Capita Income: India's average annual income per capita is around 6,200 euros (approx. Rs 6.5 lakh PPP).
- Average Wealth: Stands at about 28,000 euros (approx. Rs 29.4 lakh PPP).
- Labour Participation: Female labour participation in India remains very low at 15.7%.

### 4. Stanford University's "2025 Global AI Vibrancy Index" Ranks India 3rd

- India's Ranking: India ranked 3rd globally with a score of 21.59.
- Top Performers:
  - 1st: United States (US) (Score: 78.60).
  - 2nd: China (Score: 36.95).
- Followers: South Korea (4th, 17.24) and the United Kingdom (UK) (5th, 16.64).

### 5. DPIIT and NCAER Report on "India's Logistics Cost"

- Logistics Cost: India's aggregate logistics cost is estimated at ₹24.01 lakh crore for 2023–24.
- Percentage of GDP: This cost is equivalent to 7.97% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a reduction from earlier estimates of 13–14%.
- Percentage of Output: It accounts for 9.09% of non-services output.
- Mode Comparison: Rail logistics emerged as cost-efficient with an average cost of ₹1.96 per tonne per km, while Air transportation was the most expensive at ₹72 per tonne per km.

### 6. IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025

- Top Rank: Deepinder Goyal of Eternal (formerly Zomato Limited) topped the list with a valuation of ₹3.2 lakh crore (up 27%).
- 2nd Rank: Radhakishan Damani of Avenue Supermarts (DMart) with a valuation of ₹3 lakh crore (down 13%).
- 3rd Rank: Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) debuted directly in the Top 3 with a valuation of ₹2.2 lakh crore.
- Richest Woman Entrepreneur: Falguni Nayar and Adwaita Nayar of Nykaa are the lead women entrepreneurs.
- Youngest Founders: Kaivalya Vohra (22) and Aadit Palicha (23) of Zepto.
- Top Industry: Financial Services led with 47 companies.

**7. "Bloomberg – World's Richest Families 2025" Report**

- Rank 1: The Walton family (USA) emerged as the richest family with a net worth of \$513.4 billion, derived from Walmart.
- Rank 2: The Al Nahyan family (UAE) with a net worth of \$335.9 billion.
- Rank 3: The Al Saud family (Saudi Arabia) with \$213.6 billion.
- Indian Representation: The Ambani family is the only Indian family in the top 25, ranking 8th globally with an estimated net worth of \$105.6 billion.

**8. India Reclaims 3rd Position in Global Wind Energy Market: BloombergNEF Report**

- Global Ranking: India reclaimed the 3rd position globally, behind China and the United States (US), after a gap of 4 years.
-

## 15. Schemes & Initiatives

### 1. Operational Guidelines for Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)

- These schemes aim to boost India's shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage (GT) by 2047.
- Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS):
  - Corpus: A total corpus of ₹24,736 crore has been allocated.
  - Assistance: Financial assistance ranging from 15 per cent to 25 per cent per vessel will be provided based on the vessel category.
  - Incentives: Includes graded support for specialized vessels, incentives for series orders, and a Shipbreaking Credit Note (granting 40% credit of scrap value for recycling vessels at Indian yards).
- Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS):
  - Outlay: A budgetary outlay of ₹19,989 crore has been approved.
  - Greenfield Clusters: 100 per cent capital support for common infrastructure in greenfield clusters through a 50:50 Centre-State Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
  - Brownfield Expansion: Existing shipyards are eligible for 25 per cent capital assistance for modernizing critical infrastructure like dry docks and automation systems.
- Validity: Both schemes will remain valid until March 31, 2036, with an in-principle extension envisaged up to 2047.

### 2. Launch of Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) and Urban Investment Window (UiWIN)

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, launched two flagship initiatives during the National Urban Conclave 2025 held in New Delhi.
- The conclave was themed “Sustainable Urban Development and Governance”.
- Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP):
  - Goal: To achieve ‘Lakshya Zero Dumpsites’ by September 2026 through a mission-mode approach.
  - Target: Focuses on remediating 214 high-impact landfill sites containing approximately 8.8 crore metric tonnes of legacy waste.
  - Financial Support: The Central Government has allocated financial assistance of ₹550 per tonne for waste remediation.
- Urban Investment Window (UiWIN):
  - Purpose: A one-stop platform to attract private capital and long-term concessional funding from multilateral agencies like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

## 16. Science & Technology

### 1. ISRO's Strategic Roadmap: Launch of BlueBird Block-2 and Future Lunar Sample Return

#### Missions (Chandrayaan-4 & 5)

- Launch of BlueBird Block-2:
  - On December 24, 2025, ISRO successfully launched the “BlueBird Block-2” communication satellite aboard the LVM3-M6 rocket (nicknamed ‘Bahubali’).
  - The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
  - The satellite, developed by US-based AST SpaceMobile, weighed 6,100 kg and was injected into a precise 518.5 km circular orbit approximately 16 minutes after lift-off.
- Chandrayaan-4 Mission:
  - The primary objective is a lunar sample-return mission.
  - Landing Site: Planned for the southern polar region (approximately 84°–86° south latitude), an area rich in geological diversity and potential water ice in Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs).
  - Status: The spacecraft configuration, avionics, mission planning, and flight dynamics have been finalised. The mission is targeted for launch in 2027.
  - ISRO clarified that Chandrayaan-4 is a fully indigenous mission with no international collaboration.
- Chandrayaan-5 Mission:
  - This will be a joint collaborative mission between ISRO and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
  - Structure: ISRO will develop the lander, while JAXA will design and build the rover.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka; Established: 1969.



## 17. Sports

### 1. India Records Historic Performance with 102 Medals at 2025 Asian Youth Para Games in Dubai

- The 2025 Asian Youth Para Games were held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- India finished the campaign with a record haul of 102 medals, comprising 36 gold, 28 silver, and 38 bronze medals.
- Uzbekistan topped the overall medal standings with 197 medals (99 gold), followed by Iran (262 medals - 76 gold) and Japan (77 medals - 40 gold).
- Athletics emerged as the largest contributor to India's medal tally, followed by badminton.
- Notable Indian Individual Performances:
  - Abdul Quadir Indori: Won two gold medals in swimming (50m butterfly and backstroke).
  - Baby Sahana Ravi: Clinched a gold medal in table tennis (SF-9 U-23 category).
  - Vishwa Vijay Tambe: Secured a silver medal in swimming (SM-10 category).

### 2. P.V. Sindhu Elected as Chair of Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission (2026-2029)

### 3. Launch of First-Ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026 in Chhattisgarh

- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo, theme song, and mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games at the Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
- The inaugural edition will be held in Bilaspur from 14 February 2026.
- Mascot: "Morveer" – derived from "Mor" (meaning 'our/own' in Chhattisgarhi) and "Veer" (symbolising courage/valour). It represents tribal pride and bravery.
- Chhattisgarh becomes the first state to host this tribal-focused Khelo India event.
- A key objective is talent identification: Promising athletes will be inducted as Khelo India Athletes, making them eligible for scholarships of ₹5 lakh per year for 8 years.
- Featured Sports (7 disciplines): Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Wrestling, Swimming, and Weightlifting.

### 4. Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina Win World Rapid Chess Championship 2025

- The FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2025 were held in Doha, Qatar, from 25 to 30 December 2025, at the Sports and Events Complex, Qatar University.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) clinched his 6th World Rapid Championship title with a score of 10.5/13.
- Aleksandra Goryachkina won the women's title (her first World Rapid crown) after defeating Zhu Jiner in a blitz playoff.

### 5. Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey Creates History with Record-Breaking 8-Wicket T20I Haul

### 6. Alpine SG Pipers Win Global Chess League (GCL) 2025 Title

### 7. Pakistan Wins 12th ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup 2025

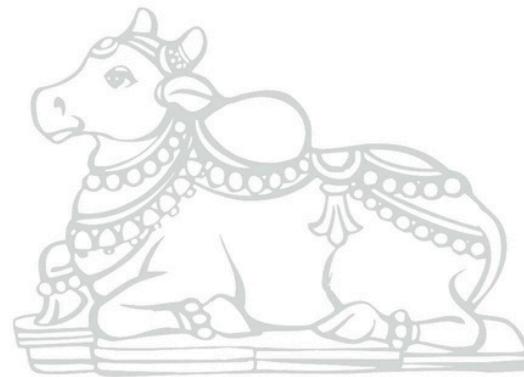
- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Under-19 Asia Cup was first held in 1989 in Bangladesh (won by India).
- The 12th edition (2025) was hosted by the United Arab Emirates.
- Pakistan Under-19 clinched the title by defeating India Under-19 by 191 runs in the final.

**8. Jharkhand Wins Maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT)**

- Jharkhand clinched their maiden SMAT title by defeating Haryana by 69 runs in the final held in Pune on 18 December 2025.

**9. BWF World Tour Finals 2025: An Seyoung and Christo Popov Win Singles Titles**

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals 2025 were held in Hangzhou, China.
- Women's Singles: World No. 1 An Seyoung (South Korea) won the title by defeating Wang Zhiyi (China).
- Men's Singles: Christo Popov (France) won the title by defeating World No. 1 Yu Ki Shi (China).
- Doubles Winners:
  - Men's Doubles: Kim Won-ho & Seo Seung-jae (South Korea).
  - Women's Doubles: Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee (South Korea).
  - Mixed Doubles: Feng Yan Zhe & Huang Dong Ping (China).

**10. Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes First Cricketer to Receive Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**

## 18. Static News

### 1. National Mathematics Day 2025

- The year 2012 was declared as the National Mathematics Year.
- Observed on: December 22,,
- The 2025 observance marked the 138th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

### 2. National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) 2025

- Observed on: December 23,,
- The day marks the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Shri Choudhary Charan Singh.

### 3. Good Governance Day (Sushasan Diwas) 2025

- The day has been observed annually since 2014 to foster awareness among citizens about government accountability and administration,.
- Observed on: December 25,,
- This was the 12th Good Governance Day.
- It marked the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee,.
- 5th Good Governance Week was observed from December 19-25 with the theme “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” (Governance Towards Villages),.

### 4. National Consumer Rights Day 2025

- Observed on: December 24,,
- Theme: “Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice”,.

### 5. Veer Bal Diwas 2025

- Observed on: December 26,,

### 6. International Human Solidarity Day 2025

- Observed on: December 20,,
- Theme (2025): “Solidarity for Sustainable Development: Uniting Communities for a Shared Future”,.

### 7. Book Release: “The One: Cricket, My Life and More”

- Authored by: Shikhar Dhawan (Former Indian Cricketer).

### 8. Book Release: “Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti”

- Authored by: Shri Vasudev Devnani (Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly),.

### 9. Book Release: “107 Days”

- Authored by: Kamala Harris.

### 10. Book Release: “Different, But No Less”

- Authored by: Anupam Kher.
- Full Title: “Different, But No Less: The Unscripted Story Behind the Making of Tanvi the Great”.

### 11. Book Release: “Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood”

- Authored by: Mohar Basu.

### 12. Obituary: Khaleda Zia

- She was Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister,,
- She served as the Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

## 13. Obituary: Vinod Kumar Shukla

- He was the first author from Chhattisgarh to receive the prestigious Jnanpith Award.
- Awards: 59th Jnanpith Award (2025), PEN/Nabokov Award (2023), Sahitya Akademi Award (1999).

## 14. Obituary: Sreenivasan

- Renowned Malayalam Actor, Screenwriter, Director, & Producer passed away.

## 15. Obituary: Bishwa Bandhu Sen

- He was the Speaker of the Tripura Legislative Assembly.

## 16. Obituary: Peter Arnett

- An internationally acclaimed journalist.
- He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter known for covering the Vietnam and Gulf wars.

## 17. National Waterway-37 (NW-37)

- The River Gandak has been declared as National Waterway (NW) - 37.
- Declared under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

## 18. Rashtra Prerana Sthal

- Inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on December 25, 2025.
- Features 65-foot bronze statues of Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Deendayal Upadhyay, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

## 19. India's First Twin Wolf Corridor

- Located in West Burdwan, near the industrial town of Durgapur.
- Links Madhaiganj-Kantaberia forests to Garh Jungle.
- This is India's first mapped twin wolf corridor.

## 20. India's First PPP Model Medical Colleges

- Launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Foundation stones laid for colleges in Dhar and Betul districts.
- Part of 4 PPP-based medical colleges (including Katni and Panna).

## 21. Gujarat Reinstated as 'Tiger-Bearing State'

- Officially reinstated as a 'tiger-bearing state' for the 2026 census.
- This comes after a 33-year gap.
- Tiger presence confirmed in Ratanmahal Sanctuary by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

## 22. First Woman Chief Secretary of Odisha

- Anu Garg (1991-batch IAS officer) appointed as Chief Secretary.
- She became the first woman to hold this post in Odisha.

## 23. First Woman Officer Cadet from IMA

- Sai Jadhav (from Kolhapur, Maharashtra) became the first woman officer cadet to graduate from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.

## 24. Hornbill Festival 2025

- Popularly known as the "Festival of Festivals".
- Venue: Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, near Kohima, Nagaland.
- Theme: "Cultural Connect".

## 25. PESA Mahotsav

- Title: "PESA Mahotsav: Utsav Lok Sanskriti Ka".
- Held at: Port Stadium, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

26. Hansi: New District in Haryana

27. Durand Line

- It is the 2,640-km international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

28. Africa's Largest Hydroelectric Dam

- The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is Africa's largest hydroelectric dam.
- Location: Ethiopia.
- Built by: Webuild.

29. Ponduru Khadi

- Ponduru Khadi is a GI tagged fabric from Andhra Pradesh.

30. Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

- Located in Uttar Pradesh.
- Declared as an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

31. Charaichung Festival

- Held at: Majuli island, Assam.
- Associated with: Charaichung Royal Bird Sanctuary, noted as Asia's first protected bird sanctuary.

32. Nongkrem Dance Festival

- Celebrated by the Khasi tribe.
- State: Meghalaya.

33. Ningol Chakouba Festival

- Celebrated in Manipur.

34. Kankaria Carnival 2025

- Inaugurated by Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel in Ahmedabad.
- Features a drone show with themes like Atmanirbhar Bharat and pays tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

35. Batadrava Than

- Location: Nagaon district, Assam.
- Significance: Sacred birthplace of Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sankardeva.

36. Bannerghatta Biological Park

- Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

37. Headquarters: Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Director General: S Paramesh.
- Founded in: 1977.

38. Headquarters: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman: Samir V. Kamat.
- Established in: 1958.

39. Headquarters: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey.
- Established in: 1992.

40. Headquarters: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman: Santosh Kumar Yadav.
- Founded in: 1988.

## 19. Question and Answers

1. What total amount of sovereign lending did the Asian Development Bank (ADB) commit to India for 16 projects in 2025? Ans: USD 4.258 billion.
2. What is the value of the reconstruction assistance package announced by India for Sri Lanka following Cyclone Ditwah? Ans: USD 450 million.
3. Who has been appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL) effective December 15, 2025? Ans: B. Sairam.
4. Who has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) effective December 23, 2025? Ans: Saleem Ahmad.
5. Who has been appointed as the first woman Chief Secretary of Odisha, effective January 1, 2026? Ans: Anu Garg.
6. Which former Deputy Governor of RBI was appointed as the Chairman of IIFL Finance effective June 2025? Ans: Bibhu Prasad Kanungo.
7. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Airtel India effective January 1, 2026? Ans: Shashwat Sharma.
8. Which Indian festival was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2025? Ans: Deepavali (Diwali).
9. Which harvest festival of the Khasi tribe in Meghalaya is celebrated annually during autumn at Smit? Ans: Nongkrem Dance Festival.
10. Who became the first artist with a learning disability to win the prestigious 2025 Turner Prize? Ans: Nnena Kalu.
11. Which Indian official was conferred the UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025 in the 'Inspiration and Action' category? Ans: Supriya Sahu.
12. Who has been named PETA India's 'Person of the Year 2025' for animal advocacy? Ans: Raveena Tandon.
13. Which Chilean mathematician was awarded the 2025 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries? Ans: Dr. Claudio Muñoz.
14. Which Indian team won the "Most Inspirational Award" at the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025? Ans: Photonics Odyssey (from Chennai).
15. Which Indian hockey player has been nominated for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025? Ans: Hardik Singh.
16. What is the new FDI limit in Indian insurance companies as per the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025? Ans: 100%.
17. What was the Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks as of September 2025? Ans: 2.1%.
18. Which bank was named the Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker? Ans: DBS Bank Limited.
19. What was the unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in November 2025? Ans: 4.7%.
20. How much liquidity did the RBI announce it would inject through Open Market Operations (OMOs) and forex swaps in December 2025/January 2026? Ans: Nearly ₹3 trillion.
21. What percentage of the subscriber's own contribution can now be marked as a lien for loans under the amended NPS regulations? Ans: Up to 25%.

22. Which bank secured a €150 million credit line from KfW for green energy financing? Ans: State Bank of India (SBI),.

23. What is the maximum lump sum withdrawal limit allowed for non-government NPS subscribers with a corpus exceeding ₹12 lakh under new rules? Ans: 80%.

24. Which entity did the RBI allow to acquire up to 9.5% aggregate holding in IndusInd Bank? Ans: HDFC Bank.

25. What was the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate for November 2025? Ans: 0.71%.

26. Which entity became India's first maritime-focused NBFC to commence lending operations? Ans: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL).

27. Which bank launched the "Digital Merchant Cash Advance," a fully digital unsecured loan for MSMEs? Ans: Axis Bank.

28. What growth rate did the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) register in November 2025? Ans: 1.8%.

29. Which organization has released the "Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25"? Ans: Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

30. According to the RBI report, what was the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks at end-March 2025? Ans: 17.4%.

31. What is the projected GDP growth for India for FY 25-26 according to updated forecasts mentioned in the sources? Ans: 7.5%.

32. Which regulatory body approved the overhaul of the framework governing stock brokers in December 2025? Ans: SEBI.

33. What is the name of the new insurance bill passed by Parliament amending the Insurance Act of 1938? Ans: Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025.

34. Which bank launched a zero-fee USD and EUR global savings account for NRIs? Ans: IDFC FIRST Bank.

35. What was the total profit recorded by Scheduled Commercial Banks in FY 2024-25? Ans: ₹4.01 lakh crore.

36. How much did the RBI fine Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance in December 2025? Ans: Rs 61.95 lakh.

37. What percentage of India's export lines will attract zero duty under the India-New Zealand FTA? Ans: 100%.

38. Which bank launched the Jio-bp Mobility+ Credit Card on the RuPay network? Ans: IndusInd Bank.

39. To what percentage has the FDI limit in insurance companies been raised under the automatic route? Ans: 100%.

40. Which bank is acquiring a 20% stake in HDB Financial Services? Ans: MUFG Bank Ltd.

41. What amount did the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) extend to DFCCIL to refinance World Bank debt? Ans: ₹9,821 crore.

42. What is the new limit for insurance premium ceiling per ₹100 of deposits that DICGC can raise with RBI approval? Ans: 15 paise.

43. By how much did the Gross NPAs in education loans of Public Sector Banks decline from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25? Ans: From 7% to 2%.

44. What is the value of the investment commitment made by New Zealand over 15 years under the FTA? Ans: USD 20 billion.

45. Which entity received SEBI approval to launch a Mutual Fund transaction platform? Ans: National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

46. When is National Energy Conservation Day observed? Ans: December 14.

47. What is the capital of New Zealand? Ans: Wellington.

48. Where is the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) located? Ans: Mandaluyong, Philippines.

49. Who is the current Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI)? Ans: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty.

50. On which date is Good Governance Day observed annually in India? Ans: December 25.

51. What is the currency of Oman? Ans: Omani Rial.

52. Where is the headquarters of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)? Ans: Hyderabad.

53. Who is the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)? Ans: Sanjay Malhotra.

54. When is National Mathematics Day observed? Ans: December 22.

55. Where is the headquarters of Coal India Limited (CIL) located? Ans: Kolkata, West Bengal.

56. What does the acronym 'SHANTI' stand for in the Atomic Energy Bill, 2025? Ans: Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India.

57. Which organization administers the Turner Prize? Ans: Tate Britain.

58. When is International Human Solidarity Day observed? Ans: December 20.

59. What is the capital of Chile? Ans: Santiago.

60. Who founded the Blue Origin space company? Ans: Jeff Bezos.

61. When is National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) celebrated? Ans: December 23.

62. What is the headquarters location of the World Health Organization (WHO)? Ans: Geneva, Switzerland (implied from context of global summits).

63. When is National Consumer Rights Day observed in India? Ans: December 24.

64. Where is the headquarters of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)? Ans: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

65. What is the currency of Brazil? Ans: Brazilian Real.

66. Who is the current Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)? Ans: Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar.

67. When was the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) launched? Ans: December 25, 2000.

68. What is the currency of the Netherlands? Ans: Euro.

69. Where is the headquarters of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)? Ans: New Delhi.

70. Who is the current Chief of the Indian Navy? Ans: Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

71. Where is the headquarters of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)? Ans: New Delhi.

72. When is the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness observed? Ans: December 27.

73. Which schedule of the Constitution contains the 29 subjects for Rural Local Bodies? Ans: Eleventh Schedule.

74. Who is the current Chief of the Indian Army? Ans: General Upendra Dwivedi.

75. What does 'PESA' stand for in the context of the 1996 Act? Ans: Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act.

76. Who is the President of France? Ans: Emmanuel Macron.

77. Where is the headquarters of the Badminton World Federation (BWF)? Ans: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

78. What is the currency of Russia? Ans: Russian Ruble.

79. Where is the headquarters of the International Interpol located? Ans: Lyon, France.

80. When was the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 assented to? Ans: December 24.

81. Who is the current President of the World Bank? Ans: Ajay Banga (Static knowledge relevant to World Bank news).

82. What is the capital of Bhutan? Ans: Thimphu.

83. Where is the headquarters of the International Cricket Council (ICC)? Ans: Dubai, UAE.

84. Which is the oldest fold mountain range in India mentioned in the context of mining bans? Ans: Aravalli Hills.

85. What is the full form of FSSAI? Ans: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

86. What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and the UAE held in Abu Dhabi in December 2025? Ans: Desert Cyclone-II.

87. Which Indian Navy submarine was decommissioned in December 2025 after 40 years of service? Ans: INS Sindhughosh.

88. What is the name of India's first indigenously designed Diving Support Craft commissioned in Kochi? Ans: DSC A20.

89. What is the total value of contracts signed by the Ministry of Defence for Close Quarter Battle Carbines and Heavy Weight Torpedoes? Ans: ₹4,666 crore.

90. Which exercise did the Indian Army conducted to validate water obstacle crossing capabilities in plains sector riverine terrain? Ans: Exercise Jaal Shakti.

91. Which country has India agreed to chair the Kimberley Process from January 1, 2026? Ans: India.

92. Which country's first female Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia, passed away in December 2025? Ans: Bangladesh.

93. Who has been elected as the 38th President of Chile? Ans: José Antonio Kast.

94. Which country introduced a new series of banknotes removing portraits of ousted leaders Bashar al-Assad? Ans: Syria.

95. Which city hosted the Second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine? Ans: New Delhi.

96. Where was the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting held where Brazil handed over the presidency to India? Ans: Brasília.

97. Which institute hosted the National Urban Conclave 2025 where DRAP and UiWIN were launched? Ans: New Delhi.

98. Where was the ASEAN-India Tourism Professionals Exchange Programme 2025 held? Ans: Guwahati, Assam.

99. Which city hosted the 11th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)? Ans: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

100. Where was the "Chintan Shivir" of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs held in December 2025? Ans: Hampi, Karnataka.

101. Which word has been selected as Collins Dictionary's "Word of the Year 2025"? Ans: Vibe coding.

102. Who became the first person in history to cross a net worth of \$600 billion? Ans: Elon Musk.

103. Which Indian city was declared the "Ginger Capital of India" by NITI Aayog? Ans: Mizoram.

104. Which new district was announced by the Haryana government? Ans: Hansi.

105. What is the name of the new common logo unveiled for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)? Ans: One RRB One Logo.

106. Which veteran Malayalam filmmaker passed away in December 2025? Ans: Sreenivasan.

107. Which sculpture artist who designed the Statue of Unity passed away at the age of 100? Ans: Ram Vanji Sutar.

108. Which railway station received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 from the President? Ans: Miyana Railway Station.

109. Which butterfly species is featured in the logo for COP17 unveiled by Armenia? Ans: Yerevan Blue Butterfly (Polyommatus eriwanensis).

110. Who is the author of the book "Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood"? Ans: Mohar Basu.

111. Which organization signed an MoU with the United Nations Sustainable Development Council (UNSDC) to advance SDGs? Ans: United Economic Forum (UEF).

112. With which country did India sign a visa waiver agreement for holders of diplomatic, special, and official passports? Ans: Saudi Arabia.

113. Which two entities signed an MoU to strengthen quality assurance in National Highway projects? Ans: National Test House (NTH) and NHAI.

114. Which institute signed an MoU with the Indian Army to develop AI-based solutions? Ans: Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT).

115. Which bill replaces the MGNREGA to guarantee 125 days of wage employment per rural household? Ans: Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025.

116. Which state launched the "Saat Nischay-3" scheme for the period 2025–2030? Ans: Bihar.

117. In which state did PM Modi lay the foundation stone for a ₹10,601 crore ammonia-urea plant? Ans: Assam (Dibrugarh).

118. Which state has been declared a "Tiger State" after 33 years following confirmation of tiger presence? Ans: Gujarat.

119. Which state government announced the "Atal Canteen Scheme" to provide meals at ₹5? Ans: Delhi.

120. Where did the Prime Minister inaugurate the "Rashtra Prerana Sthal" featuring statues of Vajpayee and others? Ans: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

121. Which state launched the "Mukhya Mantri Nishchay Swayam Sahayta Bhatta Yojana" for unemployed youth? Ans: Bihar.

122. Which state government is developing India's first state-level multi-national park tiger corridor? Ans: Madhya Pradesh.

123. Which city is set to host the World Police and Fire Games in 2029? Ans: Gandhinagar, Gujarat (at RRU).

124. What is the name of the new rules notified by the Centre to modernize the upstream petroleum sector? Ans: Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG) Rules, 2025.

125. Which state inaugurated the "Smart Blue Harbours" initiative in partnership with FAO? Ans: Gujarat.

126. In which state is the first-ever Yoga-Ayurveda-based Cluster Centre under "Gyan Bharatam Mission" located? Ans: Uttarakhand (Haridwar).

127. Which state received the first prize for Energy Efficiency (Group 1) at the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025? Ans: Karnataka.

128. Which state launched the "Gobardhan scheme" to convert organic waste into biogas? Ans: Gujarat.

129. Which state's "Parab 2025" festival was launched with ₹545 crore in projects? Ans: Odisha.

130. Which state launched "Kankaria Carnival 2025" featuring a drone show? Ans: Gujarat.

131. What is the name of the bill introduced to consolidate three existing securities laws into a single framework? Ans: Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025.

132. Which state has approved the "CoalSETU" policy for coal linkage auction? Ans: The Union Cabinet (Central Government).

133. Which state hosted the "National Urban Conclave 2025"? Ans: Delhi.

134. Which state launched the "Jiyo Parsi Scheme" to arrest the decline in the Parsi population? Ans: Central Government (Ministry of Minority Affairs).

135. Who was conferred with the "Order of Oman" by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik? Ans: Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

136. Who became the first woman officer cadet to graduate from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun? Ans: Sai Jadhav.

137. Who was named CEO of the Year 2025 by TIME Magazine? Ans: Neal Mohan (YouTube CEO).

138. Who received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025 for his cricketing achievements? Ans: Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

139. Which city was ranked the world's happiest city in the Happy City Index 2025? Ans: Copenhagen.

140. What is India's rank in the "2025 Global AI Vibrancy Rankings" released by Stanford University? Ans: 3rd.

141. Which family topped the "Bloomberg-World's Richest Families 2025" list? Ans: The Walton family.

142. According to IRDAI, how many lives were covered under health insurance in FY25? Ans: 580 million.

143. What is the projected GDP growth for India for FY26 according to the ADB? Ans: 7.2%.

144. Which company topped the Energy Intelligence Global Top 100 Green Utilities list? Ans: Adani Green Energy.

145. Who were named "Person of the Year 2025" by TIME Magazine? Ans: The Architects of Artificial Intelligence.

146. According to the MoSPI, what was the rural unemployment rate in November 2025? Ans: 3.9%.

147. What is the name of the new scheme launched by the Ministry of Education to mentor young authors? Ans: PM-YUVA 3.0.

148. Which scheme aims to develop world-class smart harbours to modernize fishing infrastructure? Ans: Smart Blue Harbours (under PMMSY).

149. What is the name of the campaign launched by the government to settle unclaimed financial assets? Ans: Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar.

150. Which scheme was launched by the National Commission for Women for young research fellows? Ans: SHAKTI Scholars.

151. What is the name of the scheme launched to provide financial assistance for shipbuilding? Ans: Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS).

152. Which entity developed India's first indigenous MRI scanner? Ans: VoxelGrids.

153. Which organization plans to build a nuclear power plant on the moon by 2036? Ans: Roscosmos (Russia).

154. Which team won the Global Chess League 2025 Season 3 title? Ans: Alpine SG Pipers.

155. Who became the first Indian woman to score 4,000 runs in T20 Internationals? Ans: Smriti Mandhana.

156. Who won the BWF World Tour Finals 2025 women's singles title? Ans: An Seyoung.

157. Which country won the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2025 title? Ans: Pakistan.

158. Who has been elected as the Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2029 term? Ans: P. V. Sindhu.

159. Which football club won the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025? Ans: East Bengal Football Club.

160. Who won the ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2025? Ans: Simon Harmer.

161. Which Bhutanese bowler took 8 wickets for 7 runs in a T20I match? Ans: Sonam Yeshey.

162. Which country topped the medal tally at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025? Ans: China.

163. Who won the inaugural India Golf Premier League (IGPL) invitational title in Colombo? Ans: Jeev Milkha Singh.

