

Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th of January 2025

India Dominates Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025

India has made history by clinching both the men's and women's titles at the inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup 2025**, held from **January 13 to 19** at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi. This landmark event featured 23 countries across six continents, with **20 men's and 19 women's teams** competing in the **fast-paced seven-a-side format**.

Men's Final: India vs. Nepal

In the men's final, India secured a commanding **54-36 victory over Nepal**. **Captain Pratik Waikar** and standout player **Ramji Kashyap** were instrumental in the win, with Waikar's exceptional skills and Kashyap's spectacular skydives keeping Nepal on the defensive. India's dominance was evident from the outset, with a **26-point lead in Turn 1**. Despite Nepal's efforts to stage a comeback in Turn 4, India's defense, led by **Waikar and Sachin Bhargo**, remained impenetrable.

Women's Final: India vs. Nepal

The Indian women's team mirrored their male counterparts' success by defeating **Nepal 78-40 in the final**. **Captain Priyanka Ingle** led with multiple touch points, establishing a strong foundation in **Turn 1**. **A stellar Dream Run by B Chaithra in Turn 4**, lasting over five minutes, sealed the victory. The women's team's journey to the title included impressive wins over South Korea, Iran, and Malaysia in the group stages, followed by commanding victories against Bangladesh in the quarterfinals and South Africa in the semifinals.

Historical Significance

This double triumph underscores India's dominance in the sport, with both teams cementing their legacy as inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup champions**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the teams, highlighting the historic nature of the victories and their potential to inspire future generations. The success of the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 marks a significant milestone in the sport's history, bringing international attention to one of India's oldest traditional games. The event's success is expected to inspire countless young athletes across the nation to pursue Kho Kho, contributing to its growth and popularity in the years to come.



First 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 by PM Modi

The **first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025** was conducted by the **Prime Minister on January 20**, a week earlier than usual, to accommodate the Republic Day celebrations on January 26. This special broadcast marked the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic and included discussions on the Constitution, democracy, cultural traditions, advancements in space technology, and human-animal harmony.

Key Takeaways From Mann Ki Baat

1. Special Date for Mann Ki Baat

- This episode aired a week earlier than usual due to Republic Day falling on the last Sunday of January.
- Highlighted the significance of Republic Day celebrations in India's democratic journey.

2. 75th Republic Day

- Marks 75 years of the Indian Constitution coming into force.
- Tribute paid to the visionaries of the Constituent Assembly who framed the Constitution.
- Prime Minister shared excerpts from the speeches of prominent leaders during the Constituent Assembly debates,

B.R. Ambedkar

- Emphasized unity and cooperation among members of the Constituent Assembly.
- Highlighted the challenge of beginning a unified journey despite a diverse populace.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

- Spoke about India's commitment to peace, truth, and non-violence.
- Emphasized cultural heritage and India's role in promoting global harmony.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

- Advocated for equality of opportunity regardless of caste, creed, or community.
- Highlighted the vision of an inclusive India for all citizens.

3. National Voters' Day – January 25

- Celebrates the establishment of the Election Commission of India in 1950.
- Acknowledges the foundational role of voting in India's democracy.
- Commends the Election Commission for modernizing the electoral process through technology.
- Encourages citizens to actively participate in elections to strengthen democracy.

4. Strength of Indian Democracy

- Highlighted skepticism during India's first elections in 1951-52 about democracy's survival.
- **Celebrates India's growth as the "Mother of Democracy."**
- Praised the success of democratic principles in strengthening governance.

5. Call to Action

- Urged citizens to honor the makers of the Constitution by building a better India.
- Encouraged voters to exercise their right to vote in maximum numbers.

6. Kumbh Mela and Indian Traditions

- **Commencement of Maha Kumbh:** Began in Prayagraj, showcasing a massive gathering of humanity and unity in diversity.
- **Inclusivity:** Represents a confluence of equality and harmony, with people from all parts of India and across the world participating.

Cultural Unity

- Rich and poor come together as equals, sharing meals and participating in rituals.
- Similar festivals like Pushkaram in the south connect cultural beliefs with holy rivers.
- **Youth Participation:** Extensive youth involvement strengthens the connection with Indian civilization.
- **Global Recognition:** Enhanced digital footprint signifies the global popularity of the Kumbh.

7. Ganga Sagar Mela and Cultural Heritage

- **Grand Celebration:** Organized on Makar Sankranti, drawing lakhs of devotees for holy dips.
- **Purpose:** Festivals like Kumbh, Pushkaram, and Ganga Sagar Mela enhance social harmony and unity.
- **Holistic Empowerment:** These traditions emphasize spiritual, social, cultural, and economic values.

8. Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha Anniversary

- **Event Details:** Marked the first anniversary of Ram Lalla's Pran Pratishtha on Paush Shukla Dwadashi.
- **Significance:** Symbolizes the re-establishment of India's cultural consciousness.
- **Message:** Emphasizes preserving heritage while advancing on the path of development.

9. Milestones in Indian Space Achievements

Private Satellite Constellation

- Bengaluru-based start-up Pixxel launched India's first private satellite constellation, Firefly.
- World's top high-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation.
- A major step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and leadership in space technology.

Space Docking

- India became the fourth country to achieve space docking.
- Critical for sending supplies to space stations and enabling crew missions.

Agriculture in Space

- Cowpea seeds germinated in space, paving the way for future cultivation of vegetables in space.

ExTeM Centre at IIT Madras

- Working on space manufacturing technologies like 3D-printed buildings, metal foams, and optical fibers.
- Developing waterless concrete construction for advanced applications in space.
- Contributing to India's Gaganyaan Mission and future space station projects.

10. Bonding Between Humans and Animals

- **Emotional connection:** Animals and humans share a unique bond of love and understanding despite the language barrier.

Example from Assam

- **Location:** Nagaon, birthplace of Srimanta Shankardev Ji, and home to many elephants.
- **Problem:** Elephants strayed into fields, destroying crops and causing distress to farmers in 100 villages.
- **Solution:** Villagers initiated the '**Haathi Bandhu**' program.
- **Effort:** Transformed 800 bighas of barren land into fields of Napier grass, a favorite of elephants.
- **Result:** Elephants stopped straying into fields, reducing human-animal conflict and benefiting both villagers and wildlife.

11. Conservation Efforts

New Tiger Reserves

- **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in Chhattisgarh.
- **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Significance:** Highlights India's commitment to wildlife preservation and ecological balance.

12. Growth of Startup India

- **Start-Up India initiative:** Celebrated its 9th anniversary recently.

Expansion to smaller cities

- More than half of India's startups are emerging from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Examples:** Ambala, Hisar, Kangra, Chengalpattu, Bilaspur, Gwalior, Washim.
- **Women-led startups:** Over half of the startups in smaller cities are led by women.
- **Rise in Nagaland:** Startup registration increased by over 200% last year.

Sectors of growth

- Waste management.
- Non-renewable energy.
- Biotechnology.
- Logistics.

13. Economic Empowerment Through GI Tag

Virgin Coconut Oil (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

- Received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Women's self-help groups are being organized for production, branding, and marketing.
- Aims to economically empower tribal communities.
- Expected to gain global recognition due to quality and local expertise.

14. Honoring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Escape Story

- Escaped British surveillance during World War II and reached Europe via Afghanistan.
- Symbolizes immense bravery and strategic genius.

Achievements and Contributions

- Visionary leader and efficient administrator; became CEO of Kolkata Corporation at 27.
- Initiatives included schools for children, milk distribution for the poor, and sanitation efforts.
- Established Azad Hind Radio, broadcasting in multiple languages to inspire freedom fighters.

Parakram Diwas

- **Celebrated on January 23**, marking his birth anniversary.
- Encouragement for youth to learn from Netaji's life and principles.

Smriti Irani, Shekhar Kapur Join PM Museum Council

The **Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML)** has undergone a significant reconstitution of its society and executive council, introducing several prominent figures to its leadership. Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Nripendra Mishra, has been reappointed as the chairperson for **another five-year term**.

Expansion of the Executive Council

The executive council, previously comprising 29 members, has been expanded to include 34 members. This expansion aims to bring diverse expertise and perspectives to the institution.

Notable New Members

- **Smriti Irani:** Former Union Minister, bringing political and administrative experience.
- **Shekhar Kapur:** Renowned filmmaker, adding cultural and artistic insights.
- **Rajiv Kumar:** Former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman, contributing economic and policy expertise.
- **Syed Ata Hasnain:** Retired Army General, offering strategic and defense perspectives.
- **Vasudev Kamath:** Associated with Sanskar Bharati, enhancing cultural representation.

Continuity and Change

While Nripendra Mishra continues as chairperson, some previous members have not been reappointed, including former **Union Minister Anurag Thakur and journalist Rajat Sharma**. This reshuffle reflects a strategic move to infuse fresh perspectives into the institution's governance.

Historical Context

The PMML, formerly known as the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), was renamed in 2023 to encompass the legacies of all Indian Prime Ministers. This reconstitution aligns with the government's vision to make the institution a comprehensive repository of India's political leadership history.

Uttarakhand Clears Uniform Civil Code Rules

Uttarakhand is set to become the **first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, as the **state government has approved the UCC rules manual**. The state's Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, cleared the manual and decided on key provisions related to registration services, the facilitation of live-in relationships, and the introduction of Tatkal services. The government is also implementing advanced digital platforms to ensure efficient and widespread access to these services. Training of officials is underway, with a statewide mock drill planned to prepare the stakeholders for smooth implementation.

Key Provisions of UCC's Rules

- **Scope of UCC:** It aims to unify laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and maintenance across all faiths and communities in the state.
- **Online Portal and App:** A dedicated portal and mobile application have been developed to facilitate online registrations and services, ensuring greater public access and ease of use.

Key Services for Registration

- **Marriage Registration:** Registration of marriages and acknowledgment of registered marriages.
- **Divorce Registration:** Processes for the registration of divorces and nullifying marriages.
- **Live-in Relationships:** Registration of live-in relationships and their termination.
- **Inheritance:** Registration of intestate succession (legal heirs) and testamentary succession (wills).
- **Appeals:** Procedure for appealing decisions regarding applications.
- **Grievances:** A mechanism to file and track complaints.
- **Access to Information:** Access to data and information related to registered services.

Equality Provisions

- **Women's Rights:** Equal inheritance rights, rights to adoption, divorce, and polygamy bans.
- **Registration Requirements:** Compulsory registration/self-declaration for live-in relationships and marriages.
- **Legal Age for Marriage:** A standard marriageable age of **18 for women and 21 for men**.

Digital and Physical Access

- **CSC (Common Service Centres):** To assist in registration for those who are not digitally literate, especially in remote areas.
- **Helpline and Support:** A dedicated helpline and district-level officers for legal queries and portal-related issues.

Training and Implementation

- **Officials' Training:** Extensive training is being conducted for officials to familiarize them with the portal and procedures.

- **Mock Drill:** A state-wide mock drill for system readiness is scheduled for January 21, 2025.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The government will announce the date for UCC's implementation soon after the training is completed.
- **Training and Development:** Uttarakhand is conducting extensive training programs for officials, with 10,000 village development officers (VDOs) expected to be trained by January 24, 2025.

Key Objectives

- **Inclusivity:** The primary goal is to ensure all citizens have equal access to legal services, regardless of their location or socio-economic background.
- **Ease of Access:** By leveraging digital platforms and ensuring offline services in remote areas, Uttarakhand aims to provide easy access to legal processes such as marriage and succession registration.
- **Fostering Transparency:** The digital integration of services will create transparency and help minimize bureaucracy, making the legal processes more streamlined and accessible.

India Open 2025: Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young Dominate Singles Titles

The **India Open 2025 badminton tournament** concluded in New Delhi with stunning performances from some of the world's top players. The tournament saw **Paris 2024 Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen of Denmark** and **An Se-young of South Korea** claim emphatic victories in the men's and women's singles categories, respectively, while other categories witnessed thrilling matches and significant achievements. Below is the detailed breakdown of the event.

India Open 2025 Winners List: Final Results and Scores

Category	Winners	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen (DEN)	Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKG)
Women's Singles	An Se-young (KOR)	Pornpawee Chochuwong (THA)
Men's Doubles	Goh Sze Fei / Nur Izzuddin (MAS)	Kim Won-ho / Seo Seung-jae (KOR)
Women's Doubles	Arisa Igarashi / Ayaka Sakuramoto (JPN)	Kim Hye-jeong / Kong Hee-yong (KOR)
Mixed Doubles	Jiang Zhenbang / Wei Yaxin (CHN)	Thom Gicquel / Delphine Delrue (FRA)

Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings

The **Edelman Trust Barometer 2025**, an annual survey by the global communications firm Edelman, revealed key insights into public trust levels in government, businesses, media, and NGOs. This year, India has slipped one rank to the **third spot** globally in terms of overall trust, despite its score remaining unchanged. The study, released ahead of the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting**, highlighted significant disparities in trust levels across income groups and nations.

Key Highlights of the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025

India's Position in Trust Rankings

India ranked third globally in terms of **trust in institutions** (government, businesses, media, and NGOs). The **top three positions** were as follows:

1. **China**
2. **Indonesia**
3. **India**
 - India lost its second position to **Indonesia**, which achieved an **increased score** despite India's score remaining stable.
 - India ranks **13th** in trust for **companies headquartered in Indian origin**, with **Canada, Japan, and Germany** topping this specific category.

Trust Gap Between Income Groups in India

The survey emphasized a stark gap between the **high-income and low-income populations**:

- Among the **high-income group**, India ranks **4th globally** after **Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and China**.
- However, the **low-income group** trusts Indian institutions less, placing India in the **3rd position globally**, following **China and Indonesia**.

Income Group	Rank	Trust Level
High-Income Population	4th	80%
Low-Income Population	3rd	65%

This **15% trust gap** highlights economic inequality and its impact on perceptions of institutional credibility.

Global Trends Highlighted in the Survey

Disparities Between Developed and Developing Nations

The survey revealed a stark contrast between trust levels in **developed and developing nations**:

Developing Nations:

- **China:** 77%
- **Indonesia:** 76%
- **India:** 75%
- **UAE:** 72%

BANK MAHAPACK PLUS
For IBPS, SBI, SIDBI, RBI
Grade B, +5 More
Selection Ka Saathi

Developed Nations:

- **Japan:** 37% (lowest globally)
- **Germany:** 41%
- **UK:** 43%
- **US:** 47%
- **France:** 48%

This data highlights a trend of **higher institutional trust in developing countries** as compared to wealthier nations.

RBI Tightens Guidelines for ARCs in Borrower Settlements

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter guidelines for **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to enhance transparency and accountability in borrower settlements. These revisions aim to standardize procedures and align them with practices of banks and **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**.

Key Revisions in Settlement Procedures

Board-Approved Policies: ARCs are now mandated to establish board-approved policies governing borrower settlements. These policies must detail eligibility criteria for one-time settlements, permissible sacrifices based on exposure categories, and methodologies for determining the realizable value of securities.

Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) Involvement: For borrowers with outstanding dues exceeding ₹1 crore, settlements require evaluation by an IAC comprising professionals with technical, financial, or legal expertise. The IAC will assess the borrower’s financial position, projected earnings, and recovery prospects before making recommendations.

Board Deliberations: The Board of Directors, including at least two independent directors, must deliberate on the IAC’s recommendations and evaluate alternative recovery options. The Board’s decision, along with detailed rationale, must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Settlements Below ₹1 Crore: For dues of ₹1 crore or below, ARCs can process settlements based on criteria defined in the board-approved policy. However, officials involved in acquiring the financial asset cannot participate in the approval of the settlement to prevent conflicts of interest. Additionally, the Board must review quarterly reports detailing trends and recovery timelines for these accounts.

Enhanced Reporting and Compliance

Quarterly Reporting: ARCs are required to submit quarterly reports on the resolution of accounts, covering aspects such as trends in the number of accounts and amounts subjected to compromise settlements, categorization of fraud and wilful default cases, and recovery timelines.

Settlements Involving Wilful Defaulters or Frauds: Settlements involving borrowers classified as wilful defaulters or frauds will follow the same stringent procedures applicable to high-value accounts, irrespective of the settlement amount. This ensures no leniency in dealing with such borrowers while not prejudicing ongoing criminal proceedings.

Implementation and Compliance

These revised guidelines are effective immediately. ARCs must ensure compliance with the new procedures to maintain the integrity of the settlement process and protect consumer interests.

Tata Tops India, Apple Leads Globally in 2025 Brand Rankings

In the latest Brand Finance Global **500 report for 2025**, Tata Group has solidified its status as India’s most valuable brand, achieving a **brand value of \$31.6 billion—a 10% increase** from the previous year. This marks the first time an Indian brand has surpassed the **\$30 billion threshold**. Globally, Apple continues to dominate with a brand value of **\$574.5 billion, maintaining** its lead over competitors.

Tata Group’s Consistent Growth

Ranked 60th among the world’s top 100 brands, Tata Group has maintained its **AAA- brand strength rating**. This consistent performance underscores the conglomerate’s diversified business model and its ability to adapt to evolving market dynamics.

Surge of Indian Brands on the Global Stage

The report highlights significant advancements by other Indian brands:

Infosys: Achieved a 15% increase in brand value, reaching \$16.3 billion, and climbed to the 132nd position globally. Notably, Infosys has recorded the fastest compound annual growth rate (18%) among IT services brands over the past five years.

LIC: Emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand with a 36% surge in brand value, totaling \$13.3 billion. The company boasts a Brand Strength Index score of 88 out of 100, the highest among Indian brands in the global ranking.

Reliance Group: Experienced a 17% growth in brand value, reaching \$9.8 billion, reflecting its expanding influence across various sectors.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T): Made a notable entry with a brand value of \$7.4 billion, highlighting its significant presence in the diversified sector.

Global Brand Valuations

On the international front, technology giants continue to lead:

1. **Apple:** Retains the top spot with a brand value of \$574.5 billion, an 11% increase from the previous year.
2. **Microsoft:** Holds the second position with a brand value of \$461.1 billion, marking a 35% growth.
3. **Google:** Ranks third with a brand value of \$413 billion, up by 24%.

These valuations underscore the enduring strength and global influence of technology brands.

Indian Banking Sector’s Rising Influence

The report also highlights the ascent of Indian banking brands in the global arena:

HDFC Group: Entered the global ranking with a brand value of \$14.2 billion.

SBI Group: Secured a position with a brand value of \$9.6 billion.
ICICI Group: Marked its presence with a brand value of \$6.4 billion.

Top 10 Indian brands

Rank	Brand	2025 Ranking	2024 Ranking	Brand Value
1	Tata Group	60	64	\$31.6 billion
2	Infosys	132	145	\$16.3 billion
3	HDFC Group	164	228	\$14.2 billion
4	Reliance Group	237	261	\$9.8 billion
5	LIC	117	222	\$13.3 billion
6	L&T Group	316	456	\$7.4 billion
7	SBI Group	241	330	\$9.6 billion
8	ICICI Group	–	–	\$6.4 billion
9	Mahindra Group	–	–	–
10	Bharti Airtel	–	–	–

Globally, Apple is the most valued brand at \$574.5 billion, ahead of Microsoft at \$461 billion, said the Brand Finance report.

National Affairs

- The **Musi River Historic Buildings** in **Hyderabad** have been added to the prestigious **2025 World Monuments Watch** list by the **World Monuments Fund (WMF)**. This inclusion underscores the urgent need to preserve these structures amid **environmental challenges**, such as the **degradation of the Musi River** and **urban development**. The recognition aligns with the **Telangana government's efforts** to rejuvenate the river and its heritage, promoting both **heritage conservation** and **environmental sustainability**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Department of Science and Technology, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, has inaugurated the first **astronomical observatory** in **Eastern India** atop **Panchet Hill** in the **Garpanchkot area** of **Purulia district, West Bengal**. This marks an important milestone in the advancement of **astronomical research** in India. It is the **sixth astronomical observatory** in the country, following observatories in locations such as **Ladakh, Nainital (Uttarakhand), Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Girbani Hills (Pune), and Kavalur (Tamil Nadu)**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The sacred city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is resonating with devotion and festivity as it marks the **first anniversary of the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla** at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir. The milestone event, celebrated on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**, reflects the city's spiritual legacy and the culmination of centuries of devotion and struggle. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Centre** has made a significant decision to increase the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for **raw jute** by Rs 315, setting it at **Rs 5,650 per quintal** for the **2025-26 marketing season**. This move, approved by the **Union Cabinet**, aims to provide farmers with a return of **66.8 per cent** over the all-India weighted average cost of production, thus encouraging farmers to invest in jute cultivation. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The recent decision by the **Neutral Expert**, appointed by the **World Bank** under the terms of the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**, marks a significant diplomatic win for India. The Expert deemed himself "competent" to adjudicate the technical differences raised between India and Pakistan regarding the design of two hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. This outcome vindicates India's long-standing position and opens a new chapter in the resolution of disputes under the IWT framework. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's first-of-its-kind CSIR Mega Innovation Complex in Mumbai**, marking a significant milestone in the nation's innovation landscape. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to bolster start-ups, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and industry stakeholders by providing high-end scientific infrastructure and expertise. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **"Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman"** campaign, launched on **January 24, 2024**, by the **Hon'ble Vice President of India** at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, commemorates the **75th anniversary** of India's Constitution and its establishment as a Republic. This year-long initiative aims to deepen citizens' understanding of the Constitution and promote legal empowerment across the nation. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

States in the News

- In the **118th "Mann Ki Baat"** episode on **January 19, 2025**, **PM Narendra Modi** highlighted the **empowerment of women** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** through **SHGs** producing **Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)**. The recent **GI tag** for **VCO from Nicobar district** marks a significant step in promoting **local products globally** and boosting the economic empowerment of **tribal communities** via specialized training in **marketing and branding**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The **Tribal Students' Federation (TSF)** in **Tripura** has renewed its protest, demanding the adoption of the **Roman script** for the **Kokborok language**. This long-standing demand seeks to have exam papers prepared in both **Bengali** and **Roman scripts** to address challenges faced by students. **Kokborok**, a **Sino-Tibetan** language spoken by **24%** of Tripura's population, has been **officially recognized** since **1979**. Despite its recognition, students face difficulties as exams are currently conducted only in the **Bengali script**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **three-day Flamingo Festival 2025** in **Andhra Pradesh** concluded on **January 20, 2025**, with calls to protect the rich **biodiversity** of the region, specifically in **Pulicat Lake** and **Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary**. The event, which attracted numerous visitors, particularly **bird watchers** and **photographers**, was hailed as a major success. The closing ceremony saw the participation of **Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy** and **Anagani Satya Prasad**, who expressed their gratitude to **Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** for the revival of the festival, which had been dormant for some time. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Every year on January 21, the northeastern states of **Manipur**, **Meghalaya**, and **Tripura** celebrate their **Statehood Day**, marking the historic moment they attained full statehood under the **North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971**. This day holds significant importance for the region, not only as a commemoration of their **statehood** but also as a celebration of their rich cultural heritage, vibrant history, and significant contributions to India's identity. The northeastern states, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," are renowned for their unique culture, history, and natural beauty, and this day serves as a reflection of their growth into integral and empowered states within the **Union of India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai** has launched a scheme to provide **Rs 10,000 annually** to landless labourers in the state, continuing his commitment to support vulnerable sections. This initiative is part of a larger series of welfare measures promised during the pre-poll campaign. The scheme aims to benefit approximately **7.5 lakh landless agricultural labourers** in Chhattisgarh, reflecting the government's focus on improving their financial stability. The CM's announcement builds on past promises made during elections and further strengthens the state's social welfare framework. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Pangsau Pass International Festival (PPIF) 2025**, held in **Nampong, Arunachal Pradesh**, is a vibrant celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage and its historical significance during **World War II**. This year's festival is particularly special as it coincides with the **80th anniversary of the war's conclusion**. Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** emphasized plans to bolster tourism by restoring World War II remnants in the region, underscoring the festival's role in promoting economic growth, cultural exchange, and historical remembrance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mizoram** has become the **first state in Northeast India** to distribute **property cards** under the Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (**SVAMITVA**) scheme. On January 18, 2025, **Governor Gen (Dr) VK Singh** virtually participated in the distribution event from **Raj Bhavan, Aizawl**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended, distributing over **65 lakh property cards** to beneficiaries across **10 states and two Union Territories**. Among these, **1,754 property cardholders** from **18 villages in Mizoram** received their cards. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kottayam, Kerala, India** unveiled the **Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (ISNR) initiative**, aiming to establish new global benchmarks in sustainable rubber production. The launch event was graced by **George Kurian, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Minority Affairs**, and presided over by **Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan, Member of the Legislative Assembly**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh**, India's most populous state, commemorates its **Foundation Day** every year on **January 24**. This occasion reflects the state's rich cultural heritage, remarkable contributions to India's development, and its historical journey. In 2025, Uttar Pradesh celebrates its **76th Foundation Day**, with grand events scheduled from **January 24 to January 26** at **Awadh Shilp Gram in Lucknow**. Let us delve into the historical significance, achievements, and contributions of Uttar Pradesh on this momentous occasion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Himachal Pradesh (H.P.)** celebrates its **Statehood Day** on **25th January** every year, marking the day when it officially became the **18th state of the Indian Union in 1971**. On this occasion, the **Prime Minister of India extended greetings** to the people of H.P., acknowledging its unique cultural and historical heritage. ([Click here to read article](#))

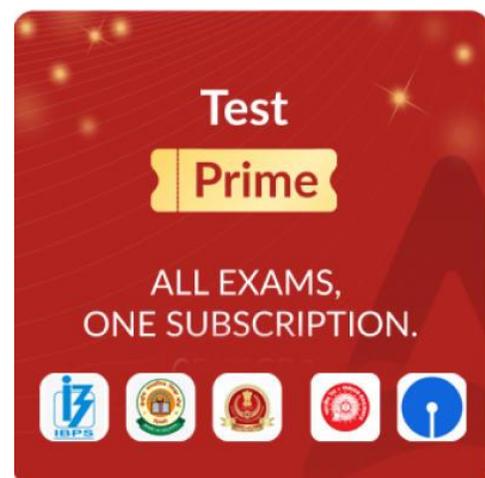
International Affairs

- In **January 2025**, **TikTok** faced a **brief shutdown** in the **U.S.** due to a **law mandating ByteDance** to sell the app over **national security concerns**. The law, passed with **bipartisan support**, aimed to ensure TikTok's operations were controlled by a **U.S.-based entity**. The app was swiftly restored after **President-elect Donald Trump** intervened with an **executive order**, delaying the ban. TikTok now faces ongoing challenges in securing its **long-term presence** in the U.S. market. ([Click here to read article](#))
- China has completed the construction of the **Tianshan Shengli Tunnel**, the **world's longest expressway tunnel**, marking a significant advancement in infrastructure development and enhancing connectivity within the **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on **January 20, 2025**, marking his return to the White House after four tumultuous years. The inauguration, held indoors at the **Capitol Rotunda** due to extreme cold, symbolizes one of the most extraordinary political comebacks in American history. Trump is only the second president after **Grover Cleveland** in 1893 to regain the presidency after losing it. At **78 years old**, Trump also replaces Joe Biden as the oldest president to take the oath of office. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Donald Trump** signed an executive order initiating the **United States'** withdrawal from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and suspending all **foreign aid for 90 days**. This decision has sparked significant global concern and debate. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Donald Trump** initiated the **United States'** **second withdrawal** from the **Paris Climate Agreement**, a move that has significant implications for both domestic and international climate policies. Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement is a global accord aimed at limiting global warming to well **below 2°C above** pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the **increase to 1.5°C**. The agreement encourages countries to set and achieve their own emission reduction targets, known as **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nigeria was officially admitted** as a partner country of the **BRICS bloc**, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This strategic move aims to bolster Nigeria's economic and diplomatic ties with leading emerging economies. The announcement was made by **Brazil's Foreign Ministry**, highlighting **Nigeria's significant role** in strengthening South-South cooperation and advocating for global governance reforms. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Usha Vance** made history by becoming the first **Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady** of the United States. Her husband, **J.D. Vance**, was sworn in as the **50th Vice President** of the United States, marking a significant milestone in American politics. Usha's journey, deeply rooted in her Indian heritage and her remarkable accomplishments, has garnered widespread attention and admiration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Stargate AI Project**, announced by **US President Donald Trump** at the White House, marks a monumental step in the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI). Touted as the **largest AI infrastructure initiative in history**, this ambitious project has garnered support from some of the world's biggest tech and business names. With an investment of **\$500 billion** over the next four years, the Stargate AI Project aims to develop world-class AI infrastructure, create jobs, and boost the US economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Trump administration has officially changed the name of the **Gulf of Mexico** to the **Gulf of America** as part of a series of executive actions aimed at fulfilling campaign promises. This decision was announced by the **Interior Department** on a Friday, hours after **President Donald Trump** took office, marking the beginning of a new chapter for U.S. territorial names and symbols. Another prominent change was the renaming of **Denali**, Alaska's towering peak, back to its former name, **Mount McKinley**. These actions reflect the administration's focus on **reaffirming the nation's historical heritage** and honoring the legacy of significant figures and places. ([Click here to read article](#))
- U.S. President Donald Trump took significant steps towards reshaping the nation's cryptocurrency regulations, fulfilling his promise to overhaul U.S. crypto policy quickly. The executive order laid out the creation of a **cryptocurrency working group** with a primary focus on proposing **new digital asset regulations** and exploring the possibility of creating a **national cryptocurrency stockpile**. This action marks a bold move to make the U.S. a leader in the cryptocurrency space, contrasting sharply with the regulatory stance taken by former President Joe Biden's administration, which had pursued a more restrictive approach. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a major move toward **carbon neutrality by 2070**, the **Uttarakhand government** has partnered with **Iceland** to tap into the state's **geothermal potential**. Through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Verkis Consulting Engineers**, this collaboration aims to harness **geothermal energy** for **electricity generation**, marking a significant step in the development of **renewable energy** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** and **Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian** signed a 20-year **"Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty"** in **Moscow**, aiming to bolster bilateral relations across various sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))



- In a significant move to align **India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem** with global ethical standards, **UNESCO's South Asia Regional Office**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **Ikigai Law**, organized a two-day stakeholder consultation on the **AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM)**. Held on January 16 and 17, 2025, at IIT Bangalore and the NASSCOM AI office, respectively, the event aimed to craft an India-specific AI policy report that identifies strengths and growth opportunities within **India's AI landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- Pankaj Mishra's latest book, ***The World After Gaza***, offers a profound examination of the ongoing war in the **Palestinian Gaza Strip**, which he views as a devastating blow to **human rights and morality**. Published by **Juggernaut Books**, the book delves into the **atrocities and systematic injustices** of the conflict, serving as a stark commentary on global moral decline. In an exclusive interview, Mishra discusses the book's origins, its contextual relevance, and its warnings about the **dangerous trajectory of global politics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Amitabh Kant**, India's G20 Sherpa, has unveiled the behind-the-scenes journey of India's G20 Presidency in his book "**How India Scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency**" (Rupa Publications). ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **HSBC India** has received **RBI approval** to open **20 new branches** across key cities, marking the largest foreign bank expansion in over a decade. The branches will target cities like **Amritsar, Bhopal, Lucknow, Surat, and Vishakhapatnam**, focusing on **growing wealth pools** and catering to **affluent, high net worth, and ultra-high net worth clients** with **domestic and international banking** needs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** projects India's **GDP growth at 7% for FY 2025-26**, driven by rising **private investments** and **employment generation**. A CII survey reveals that **75%** of respondents view the economic climate as favorable for investments, with **70%** of firms planning to invest in FY'26. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In the third quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** achieved a historic milestone by **disbursing ₹3.39 lakh crore in loans**, marking the highest quarterly disbursement since the scheme's inception in 2015. This significant uptick underscores the government's ongoing commitment to bolstering micro and small enterprises across India. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated banks and regulated entities (REs) to use the **'1600xx' numbering series exclusively** for transactional calls and the **'140xx'** series for promotional communications to enhance the security of digital transactions and combat financial fraud. Banks are required to monitor and clean customer databases by utilizing the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) available on the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to identify and remove invalid or revoked numbers. Additionally, financial institutions must develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for updating registered mobile numbers after verification and strengthen monitoring of accounts linked to revoked numbers to prevent misuse. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The government has launched **Entity Locker**, a secure, cloud-based digital platform developed by the **National eGovernance Division (NeGD)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. Building on the success of **DigiLocker**, Entity Locker is designed to streamline the management, verification, and secure sharing of documents for a wide range of entities, including corporations, MSMEs, trusts, startups, and societies. By leveraging advanced technology, the platform aims to enhance operational efficiency and establish a more secure and efficient digital governance system. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The global ratings agency **Moody's** has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to **7%, down from the 8.2% growth recorded in the previous fiscal year**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Policybazaar.ae**, a leading online insurance marketplace in the **UAE**, has launched **'PB Advantage'**, a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance the health insurance experience for customers. This program introduces innovative features that streamline policy purchases and claims processing, setting new standards in the industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a decisive move to address liquidity constraints in the **Indian banking system**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted a series of **Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions**, infusing a substantial **₹76,000 crore** into the financial ecosystem. This initiative aims to alleviate the liquidity deficit and stabilize short-term interest rates, particularly the call money rates, which had been trading above the **RBI's repo rate of 6.5%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance** have formed a partnership to create one of **India's largest digital platforms** for financial services, leveraging Airtel's customer base and distribution network with Bajaj Finance's diverse product offerings. The collaboration aims to enhance financial inclusion through a seamless user experience on the **Airtel Thanks App**, offering products like gold loans and business loans. This strategic move builds on **India's growing digital infrastructure**, with a focus on underserved regions and accessible financial solutions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Tata AIG General Insurance Company** has launched **CyberEdge**, a comprehensive cyber insurance solution designed to protect Indian businesses from **escalating cyber risks**. This initiative aligns with the company's strategic goal to **capture 25% of the cyber insurance market** within the **next five years**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has unveiled '**Shubh Muhurat**,' a life insurance solution designed to assist families in financially preparing for their children's weddings. This initiative aims to address the escalating costs associated with weddings in India, a sector valued at **over ₹10.7 lakh crore in 2024**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Skydo Technologies**, a Bengaluru-based fintech firm, has received **in-principle authorization** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a **Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) entity**. This approval underscores Skydo's commitment to providing compliant, seamless, and cost-effective cross-border payment solutions for Indian exporters. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has partnered with **RuPay to launch the FIRST EA₹N RuPay Credit Card**, a secured credit card that combines the benefits of a fixed deposit with the convenience of UPI transactions. This innovative card aims to provide users with enhanced financial flexibility and rewards. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Deloitte India has revised its **GDP growth** projection for the **fiscal year 2024-25** to a **range of 6.5% to 6.8%**, citing global trade uncertainties and domestic challenges. The firm emphasizes the need for cautious optimism as the economy navigates these complexities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Reliance Industries, led by Chairman **Mukesh Ambani**, is set to build the **world's largest data centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**. This ambitious project is poised to be a game-changer in India's **digital infrastructure**, especially in terms of its rapidly expanding **artificial intelligence (AI)** capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary of the Ministry of Coal**, virtually inaugurated digital classrooms in government schools across Jharkhand. These classrooms are part of '**Digi Vidya**,' a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative** by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** subsidiaries. The event was attended by **Shri PM Prasad, Chairman of CIL, Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Coal**, and other senior officials. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of **Shri Sanjiv Ranjan** as the next **Secretary General** of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**. A seasoned diplomat from the 1993 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, **Shri Ranjan** is set to assume his new role shortly. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Alok Kumar Agarwal** has been appointed as the Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** of **Zurich Kotak General Insurance**, effective January 1, 2025. He **succeeds Suresh Agarwal** in this role. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Angel One, one of India's leading financial services platforms, has announced the appointment of **Ambarish Kenghe** as its **Group Chief Executive Officer**, effective **March 2025**. With a wealth of experience in **fintech, technology, and e-commerce**, Kenghe is set to guide Angel One through a period of growing competition and rapid transformation in the financial services industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (**ICSI**) has elected **Dhananjay Shukla** as its **President** and **Pawan G Chandak** as **Vice President** for the year 2025. This announcement was made on January 19, 2025. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal**, a 1994-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the **Tamil Nadu cadre**, has been **appointed as the Additional Director General (ADG)** of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**. This appointment was confirmed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on January 19, 2025. Aggarwal will serve in this capacity for four years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Justice **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** was officially sworn in as the **Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court** in a formal ceremony. The oath was administered by **Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena** at the **Raj Niwas** in the presence of several dignitaries, including **Delhi Chief Minister Atishi** and other judges of the Delhi High Court. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- On January 18, 2025, **Gyanendra Pratap Singh**, a 1991-batch **IPS officer** (Assam-Meghalaya cadre), was appointed as the **Director General (DG) of CRPF**, succeeding his role as Assam's **DGP**. With a tenure until **November 30, 2027**, Singh brings extensive experience from his service in the **Special Protection Group (SPG)**, ensuring the Prime Minister's security, and as **Inspector General at NIA**, where his tenure was extended for his expertise in national security. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The central government has issued a notification confirming the appointments of Justice **Alok Aradhe** as the **Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court** and Justice **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** as the **Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court**. These transfers aim to strengthen judicial leadership in two of India's busiest high courts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Reliance Power Limited** has appointed **Neeraj Parakh** as its **Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective January 20, 2025, for a **tenure of three years**, subject to shareholder approval. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Akhil Gupta, Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, was appointed as the new Chairman of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **FICCI Frames**, India's premier global media and entertainment convention, is gearing up to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. This significant milestone in the history of the event marks a special moment for the media and entertainment industry, and in recognition of this achievement, renowned Bollywood actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador for this year's edition of FICCI Frames**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer, INS Mumbai**, is actively participating in the **fourth edition** of the multinational **exercise La Perouse**, which commenced on January 16, 2025. This exercise involves nine nations and is being conducted in the strategic waterways of the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok straits, vital corridors for global maritime trade. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has successfully tested its first indigenous **micro-missile system, 'Bhargavastra'**, designed to counter swarm drone threats. This development marks a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's defense capabilities against emerging aerial threats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based facility under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has made significant strides in developing next-generation hypersonic technology. This advanced technology revolves around the **Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet)**, a revolutionary propulsion system designed for hypersonic missiles. Recently, DRDL achieved a historic milestone by successfully conducting a **ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor** for 120 seconds, marking a first for India. This accomplishment brings India closer to operationalizing hypersonic missiles capable of unprecedented speed and agility. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** flagged off '**SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)**' from the **South Block, New Delhi**. This indigenously developed system marks a major milestone in India's defense technology, strengthening the surveillance capabilities of the **Indian Army**. SANJAY is designed to enhance battlefield transparency, improve situational awareness, and optimize intelligence collection, thus transforming the battlefield in the era of modern warfare. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ahead of **Republic Day**, the **Border Security Force (BSF)** has heightened its vigilance along the India-Pakistan border at **Jaisalmer** to prevent any potential infiltration attempts. The BSF has initiated a special operation named '**Operation Sard Hawa**', starting on **January 22**, aimed at foiling infiltration efforts by taking advantage of the reduced visibility caused by the dense **winter fog**. The operation will continue until **January 29**, with a focus on strengthening security along the border during this critical period. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Professor Urbasi Sinha**, a distinguished faculty member in the **Light and Matter Physics** theme at the **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, has been awarded the prestigious **Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025** by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Cambridge, UK**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (**INCOIS**) in **Hyderabad** has been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2025** in the Institutional Category, recognizing its exceptional contributions to disaster management. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting** commenced in **Davos, Switzerland**, with the presentation of the **prestigious Crystal Awards** to three distinguished individuals: **David Beckham, Diane von Furstenberg, and Riken Yamamoto**. These awards recognize their significant contributions to social, environmental, and creative progress worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- An international conference titled '**Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections**' was held in Bengaluru from January 20 to 24, 2025, to commemorate the **125th anniversary** of the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)**. Organized by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, the event gathered over **200 solar physicists** from India and abroad to discuss advancements in solar magnetism, solar-stellar connections, and space weather. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- In the 2025 **Brand Finance IT Services rankings**, Indian technology leaders have solidified their global positions, underscoring India's pivotal role in the **IT sector**. **Accenture** maintains its position as the world's most valuable IT services brand for the seventh consecutive year, with a brand value of \$41.5 billion, marking a 2% increase from the previous year. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** retains its position as the world's second most valuable IT services brand for the fourth consecutive year, with a brand value of \$21.3 billion, an 11% increase. **Infosys** has achieved a 15% increase in brand value, reaching \$16.3 billion, and is recognized among the world's top three most valuable IT services brands for the fourth consecutive year. **HCLTech** has emerged as the world's fastest-growing IT services brand in 2025, with a 17% increase in brand value to \$8.9 billion. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India has been consistently ranked as the **fourth most powerful military in the world**, according to the **Global Firepower Index 2025**. This ranking underscores India's significant military capabilities, placing it just behind the United States, Russia, and China. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- NITI Aayog introduced the inaugural "**Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025**" in New Delhi. This comprehensive report evaluates the fiscal health of **18 major Indian states**, aiming to guide policy reforms for sustainable and resilient economic growth. **Top-Ranked States:** Odisha leads with a cumulative score of 67.8, followed by Chhattisgarh (55.2) and Goa (53.6). These states excel in revenue mobilization, expenditure management, and debt sustainability. **Areas of Improvement:** Jharkhand has shown progress in fiscal prudence and debt sustainability. In contrast, Karnataka faces challenges due to weaker performance in expenditure quality and debt management. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

Sports News

- Viktor Axelsen** and **An Se-young** won the **men's and women's singles titles** at the **India Open Super 750** in New Delhi. Axelsen secured his **third India Open title** by defeating **Lee Cheuk Yiu** 21-16, 21-8, showcasing his dominance and return to peak form. **An Se-young** continued her stellar performance, overcoming **Pornpawee Chochuwong** 21-12, 21-9, solidifying her position as a rising badminton star. In doubles, winners included Malaysia's **Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin**, Japan's **Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto**, and China's **Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India's ambition to host the **2036 Olympics** has taken a significant step forward, as officials from the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and experts from diverse fields gather in

Gujarat for a pivotal four-day event. This meeting, organized in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, focuses on developing strategies and innovative economic models to build sustainable sports infrastructure, essential for positioning India as a strong contender for hosting the prestigious global event. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025** were inaugurated amidst great enthusiasm at the iconic **NDS Stadium in Leh, Ladakh**, marking the commencement of the fifth edition of this national-level winter sports event. The first phase, hosted by the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, will run from **January 23 to January 27, 2025**, while the second phase, focusing on snow games, will be held in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** from **February 22 to February 25, 2025**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In a remarkable achievement, **Arshdeep Singh** has overtaken **Yuzvendra Chahal** to become **India's highest wicket-taker in T20 Internationals**. This milestone was reached during the first T20I against England on January 22, 2025, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has introduced a new **World Cricket Connects advisory board**, which will replace the club's previous **World Cricket Committee**. In a significant development for global cricket, **Jay Shah**, the current **ICC Chair** and former **Secretary of the BCCI**, has been named as one of the **13 founding members** of the newly formed advisory board. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Former Australian cricket captain **Michael Clarke** has been inducted into the prestigious **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**, becoming the 64th cricketer to receive this remarkable honor. The announcement, which has been widely celebrated, was made at the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**, a venue that holds significant sentimental value in Clarke's illustrious career. The induction acknowledges Clarke's exceptional contributions to Australian cricket, both as a player and as a leader. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

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Schemes and Committees News

- **PM Narendra Modi**, in a virtual event, emphasized the significance of the **SVAMITVA scheme**, which has distributed over **6.5 million property cards** to ensure **legal ownership** for rural families. Using **drone technology** for property surveys, the scheme aims to **empower villagers**, boost **economic activities**, and unlock **substantial capital**, addressing critical **property documentation issues**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On January 20, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formed a new Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks (SFBs). Chaired by **former RBI Deputy Governor M. K. Jain**, the committee comprises five members: Revathy Iyer (Director, Central Board, RBI), Parvathy V. Sundaram (Former Executive Director, RBI), Hemant G. Contractor (Former Managing Director of SBI and former Chairman of PFRDA), and N. S. Kannan (Former Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance). With a tenure of three years, the SEAC will receive secretarial support from the RBI's Department of Regulation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is commemorating the **10th anniversary** of the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme**, a pivotal initiative launched on **January 22, 2015**, by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Panipat, Haryana**. This nationwide campaign aims to address gender imbalance and promote the welfare of the girl child across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Launched on January 22, 2015**, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** has completed a decade of fostering financial security for India's girl children. Over these ten years, the scheme has seen significant participation, with **over 4.2 crore accounts opened** by November 2024. SSY allows guardians to invest a **minimum of ₹250 and up to ₹1.5 lakh annually** in the name of a girl child, offering attractive interest rates and tax benefits. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Sarla Aviation**, a Bengaluru-based aerospace startup, has unveiled '**Shunya**,' India's **first electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi prototype**. This marks a significant advancement in urban air mobility, aiming to alleviate traffic congestion and pollution in Indian cities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's space agency, **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)**, is preparing to make history with the launch of its 100th satellite. This milestone mission is set to take place on **January 29** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**, with the **GSLV-F15 NVS-02 mission**. This achievement marks a significant step for India in space exploration and satellite technology, reinforcing the country's growing space capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **Parakram Diwas, or the "Day of Valor,"** is celebrated **every year on January 23** to honor the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's greatest freedom fighters. This day is a tribute to his courage, determination and significant contributions to India's independence struggle. Let's understand the history, significance and legacy of this important day. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Girl Child Day 2025** is observed annually in India on **January 24** to highlight the issues faced by girls in our nation and to advocate for their rights and welfare. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Every year, the world comes together to celebrate the **International Day of Education** on **January 24**, recognizing the vital role of education in fostering peace and sustainable development. This year, the seventh International Day of Education is celebrated with the theme: '**AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.**' ([Click here to read article](#))
- India marks its 15th **National Voters' Day (NVD)** today, January 25, 2025, celebrating the power and importance of every vote in strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation. This annual observance commemorates the establishment of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and highlights the critical role of voters in sustaining democracy. This year's theme, "**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure,**" continues the emphasis on participatory democracy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- National Tourism Day is celebrated annually on **January 25** to promote **responsible, sustainable, and accessible tourism** across India. It is an occasion to showcase the country's **diverse tourist destinations, rich cultural heritage, and natural landscapes** to the world, emphasizing the immense potential of India's tourism industry. The theme for this year's National Tourism Day is "**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**". ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Denis Law**, the legendary Scottish footballer, passed away on **January 17, 2025**, at the age of **84**. Known as "**The King**" and "**The Lawman**", Law made a lasting impact with his goal-scoring prowess and charismatic presence, notably with **Manchester United** and the **Scotland national team**. His illustrious career is remembered for its significant contributions to both clubs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Wing Commander (Retd) **Dr. K. Ramchand**, a distinguished **aerospace engineer and former director** of the **Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS)** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), **passed away on January 17, 2025**, at the **age of 82**. His pioneering contributions to India's aerospace sector have left an indelible mark. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- India has ascended to the position of the **world's seventh-largest coffee producer**, with exports reaching **\$1.29 billion** in the fiscal year **2023-24**, nearly **doubling from \$719.42 million in 2020-21**. The introduction of coffee to India traces back to the 1600s when Sufi saint Baba Budan brought seven Mocha seeds to the hills of Karnataka. This act initiated the cultivation of coffee in the region, leading to its evolution into a significant industry. The world's largest coffee producers are led by **Brazil**, contributing approximately 37% of the global coffee supply, making it the largest producer globally. **Vietnam** ranks second, primarily known for its Robusta coffee, while **Colombia** holds the third spot as a major producer of Arabica coffee. Indonesia follows as a key producer, recognized for its Robusta and specialty coffees, and Honduras ranks as a leading coffee producer in Central America. Mexico secures the sixth position as a major exporter of Arabica coffee, while India ranks seventh, producing both Arabica and Robusta varieties. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The ongoing **Maha Kumbh Mela** has witnessed a remarkable collaboration between the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **Adani Group**, which has significantly enhanced the food distribution services at the event. This partnership ensures that nearly **one lakh people** are provided with nutritious meals daily during the 45-day spiritual gathering. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Yala Glacier**, situated in **Nepal's Langtang National Park**, has been a focal point for glaciological studies due to its significant retreat over recent decades. Recent analyses predict that this glacier may **vanish by the 2040s**, underscoring the profound impacts of **climate change on the Himalayan cryosphere**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A significant historical artifact, a **Umamaheshwara metal sculpture**, has been unearthed in **Taggunje, Ajri village, Kundapura taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka**. This intricate sculpture, believed to have been created in the **17th century** using a **12th-century style**, showcases a rare blend of **Shaiva-Shaktha and Naga cult traditions**, according to **T. Murugeshi**, a retired Associate Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In December 2024, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) resumed excavations at the historic **Buddhist complex in Ratnagiri, Odisha**, after a 60-year hiatus. Spearheaded by ASI's superintending archaeologist D B Garnayak, the project seeks to further uncover Ratnagiri's rich history and explore material evidence of Odisha's connection to Southeast Asia's cultural and maritime heritage. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The national capital is set to host the much-awaited **New Delhi World Book Fair 2025**, a grand celebration for readers, authors, and publishers alike. This event, scheduled to run from **February 1 to February 9, 2025**, will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan**. With over five decades of legacy, the book fair promises to be a vibrant confluence of literature, culture, and knowledge. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Entity	President/Chairman	Headquarters	Established Year	CM/Governor
Election Commission of India	Rajiv Kumar (Chief Election Commissioner)	New Delhi	1950	N/A
ISRO	Dr. V. Narayanan (Chairman)	Bengaluru	1969	N/A
BCCI	Roger Binny (President)	Mumbai	1928	N/A
Border Security Force (BSF)	Daljit Singh Chaudhary (Director General)	New Delhi	1965	N/A
Indian Army	General Manoj Pande (Chief of Army Staff)	New Delhi	1895	N/A
Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Parag Raja (MD & CEO)	Gurgaon	2006	N/A
Reliance Power Limited	Neeraj Parakh Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Mumbai	2007	N/A
Zurich Kotak General Insurance	Srinivas Injeti (Chairman and Independent Director)	Mumbai	2008	N/A
Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	Chairmanship rotates among member countries	Mauritius	1997	N/A

Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th of January 2025

Entity	President/Chairman	Headquarters	Established Year	CM/Governor
CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force)	Vitul Kumar (DG)	New Delhi	1939	N/A
IDFC FIRST Bank	V. Vaidyanathan (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	2015	N/A
Tata AIA Life Insurance	Saurabh Agrawal (Chairman)	Mumbai	2001	N/A
Bharti Airtel	Sunil Bharti Mittal (Chairman)	New Delhi	1995	N/A
Bajaj Finance	Sanjiv Bajaj (MD & CEO)	Pune	1987	N/A
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Sanjay Malhotra (Governor)	Mumbai	1935	N/A
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	Sanjiv Puri (President)	New Delhi	1895	N/A
HSBC India	Hitendra Dave (Country Head)	Mumbai	1853	N/A
UNESCO	Audrey Azoulay (Director-General)	Paris, France	1945	N/A
Himachal Pradesh	N/A	Shimla	1971	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (CM)
Uttar Pradesh	N/A	Lucknow	1950	Yogi Adityanath (CM)
Mizoram	N/A	Aizawl	1987	Zoramthanga (CM)
Chhattisgarh	N/A	Raipur	2000	Bhupesh Baghel (CM)
Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura	N/A	Imphal, Shillong, Agartala	1972 (Manipur), 1972 (Meghalaya), 1972 (Tripura)	N. Biren Singh (Manipur CM), Conrad Sangma (Meghalaya CM), Manik Saha (Tripura CM)
World Bank	Ajay Banga (President)	Washington D.C., USA	1944	N/A

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ALL EXAMS, ONE SUBSCRIPTION.