EduTap

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BOOSTER

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APRIL 2025 – 1st to 7th

Contents

1. GA IN NEWS

PIB IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	First Indian Leader to Receive Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana Award ▶	• Awarded to **Shri Narendra Modi, The Prime Minister of India**. • Honored for his enduring contribution to **strengthening the friendship between India and Sri Lanka.** • The **highest honour given to foreign leaders by Sri Lanka**. • The **other three recipients of award** are **Maumoon Abdul Gayoom** (former President of Maldives), **Mahmoud Abbas** (President of Palestine), and **Yasser Arafat** (former President of Palestine). **Highlights of Indian PM's visit to Sri Lanka** • **Seven MoUs signed in the following areas** o **Defence Cooperation:** ✓ The **first formal agreement of its kind** since **India's intervention in Sri Lanka's civil war in the late 1980s.** ✓ The MoU will remain **valid for five years.** o Implementation of HVDC Interconnection for Import/Export of Power. o Cooperation in the Field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation. o Multi-sectoral Grant Assistance for Eastern Province o Cooperation in the Field of Health & Medicine. o Pharmacopoeial Cooperation o **Both countries signed MoU with the UAE for Cooperation in Development of Trincomalee as an Energy Hub.**
2.	India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge ▶	• Inaugurated at **Pamban Strait, Tamil Nadu**, connecting the **Indian mainland to Rameswaram Island.** • **Replace**s the 110-year-**old Pamban Bridge.**
3.	First event to bring together the entire startup ecosystem of India ▶	• Name: **Startup Mahakumbh 2025 (second edition)** • Venue: **New Delhi.** • Theme: '**Startup India @ 2047: Unfolding the Bharat Story.'** • Spearheaded by India's foremost **Startup Ecosystem Leaders.**

		o **Objective of the MoU:** To implement the 'Enable Inclusion' App —a digital platform developed by Amar Seva Sangam early identification, intervention, and tracking of children with developmental disabilities.
3.	[Web-based Reservoir Storage Monitoring System (RSMS) Portal](#)	• Initiative of **Ministry of Jal Shakti.** • The portal will automatically generate data analysis, maps, tables, and graphs for the **weekly bulletin** on the **storage capacity of 161 important reservoirs in India.**
4.	[Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS)](#)	• The **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Legal Affairs**, organized a **training session** on the **LIMBS.** **About LIMBS** • Initiative of **Department of Legal Affairs.** • A knowledge management tool designed to **identify high-priority court cases and facilitate efficient case monitoring across various legal platforms** including Central Administrative Tribunals, High Courts, and the Supreme Court.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	[Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025](#)	• Organizer: **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** • Venue: **New Delhi.** • Serves as a **platform for young individuals to connect with politics, governance, and nation-building.** • A **reimagining of the traditional Youth Parliament.**

2.	[Highlights of Prime Minister of India's visit to Thailand](#)	**Key Outcomes**
		
		• Establishment of **India-Thailand Strategic Partnership.**
		
		• **Five MoUs were signed on the following areas**
		  o **Cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies**
		  o National Maritime Heritage Complex Development at Lothal, Gujarat
		  o North Eastern Region Development
		  o Handicrafts and Handlooms of the North East Region
		  o Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
		
		Key Highlight
		
		• **Thailand released a special stamp**, featuring **Ramayan mural paintings** from the 18th century, specifically from the **reign of King Rama I**

3.	Highlights of President of Chile's visit to India	• Commemorates the **completion of 76 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.** **Key Outcomes** • Letter of Intent on Antarctica Cooperation • India – Chile Cultural Exchange Program • MoU focusing on cooperation in disaster management. • MoU on Mineral Cooperation with Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL).

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	India Post and Nippon India Mutual Fund	• **Objective:** to provide door-to-door KYC verification services, enhancing the mutual fund industry's customer onboarding process.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	India's Defence Exports Surge	• India's defence exports **reached a record high** of **Rs 23,622 crore** (approximately **US$ 2.76 billion**) in **FY 2024-25**, reflecting a growth of **12.04% over FY 2023-24**. • **Target for 2029**: India aims to increase defence exports to Rs **50,000 crore by 2029.**
2.	Navika Sagar Parikrama II (NSP II)	• **Fourth leg** of the expedition completed at **Cape Town, South Africa.** **About Navika Sagar Parikrama II** • **The second women circumnavigation expedition of Indian Navy.** • Flagged of in 2024 from **Goa in INSV Tarini** • **Aim:** To cover more than 23,400 nautical miles (43,300 km) in eight months, with a return to Goa in May 2025. • **Previous stopovers:** Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), and Port Stanley (Falklands, UK).
3.	Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) 	• Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, **INS Sunayna** flagged off from **Karwar, Karnataka** as a part **of IOS SAGAR initiative.** • The flag-off coincides with the **10th anniversary of the SAGAR initiative** and the **National Maritime Day.** • IOS SAGAR is a part of India's broader **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) initiative.**

		• INS Sunayna, during its deployment, will visit **Dar-es-Salaam, Nacala, Port Louis and Port Victoria.** • **Participating Countries**: naval personnel from nine friendly nations: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. Note: IOS SAGAR also discussed in CurrentTap March 2025.
4.	Project Seabird	• Rs 2,000 crore modern operational, repair & logistic facilities has been inaugurated. • **Largest naval infrastructure project for India.** • Involves creation of a **naval base at Karwar, Karnataka.**
5.	Samudra Pradakshina ▶	• A **tri-services all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition** from **Mumbai to Seychelles.** • This voyage aims to highlight the spirit of Nari Shakti and promote gender parity in maritime endeavors.

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	Mention Spéciale – Prix du Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel 2025 (Special Mention – Intangible Cultural Heritage Award 2025) ▶	• Awarded to the film **Stream-Story,** produced by the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).** • Awarded at **Cinéma du Réel**, one of the world's prestigious documentary film festivals held in **Paris.** • **Stream-Story** focuses on **kuhl**, ancient water channels in Himachal Pradesh, and explores the connection between people, nature, and tradition through cinematic art.

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Jaduguda North - Baglasai-Mechua Deposit	• Discussed in **Parliament.** • A **new U-oxide resource** has been established at this location in **Jharkhand.**

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	World Autism Awareness Day (April 2)	• **Theme:** "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

2.	**62nd National Maritime Day (April 5)**	• **Theme:** "Prosperous Seas - Developed India and Youth for Blue Economy and Green Growth". • Commemorates **the first Indian-owned steamship, 'S.S. Loyalty',** which **sailed from Mumbai to London on April 5, 1919.**
3.	**World Health Day 2025 (April 7)** ▶	• **Theme:** "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures". • 2025 celebrations launched **a year-long campaign focused on maternal and newborn health.**

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	**New Milestone in Locomotive Production** ▶	• India produced **1,681 locomotives** in **FY 2024-25,** marking a **19% increase** over the **1,472 locomotives** produced in the **previous year (FY 2023-24).** • **Surpasses the combined locomotive output** of regions like the **United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia.**
2.	**India's Coal Sector Milestone**	• **India's coal sector crossed the One Billion Tonne (BT) milestone in cumulative production** for the **financial year 2024-25,** achieving **1047.57 MT (Provisional).** • This marks a **4.99% increase** from the **997.83 MT** recorded in **FY 2023-24.** **Additional Information** • **India** holds **fifth-largest coal reserves.** • **India** is the **second-largest coal consumer in the world.**

OTHER NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	**RBI's first woman deputy governor in 14 years** ▶	• Name: **Poonam Gupta.** • Predecessor: **Michael Patra.** • The **fourth woman to hold the position of DG at RBI,** following **KJ Udeshi (2003-2005), Shyamala Gopinath (2004-2009),** and **Usha Thorat (2005-2010).** **Career Milestones**

		• The **first woman to head the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2021.** • Serves as a **member** of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.**
2.	[First woman from Africa to serve as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth](#) ▶	• **Shirley Botchwey** is set to assume office as the **7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.** • **Previously** served as **Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.**
		About Commonwealth • A **political association of 56 member states,** most of which were former territories of the British Empire. • Founded in **1931** with the aim **of promoting peace, democracy, and development.** • **Secretariat:** London, United Kingdom.
3.	[First Indian to win the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award](#) ▶	• Awardee: **Sudarsan Pattnaik,** a renowned sand artist from Odisha. • Awarded for his **exceptional contributions to sand art.** • Award was presented at the **Sandworld 2025 International Sand Art Festival** in **Dorset, England.** • **Significance:** This year's award marks the **100th birth anniversary** of **legendary British sculptor Fred Darrington.**
4.	[First Indian to win a gold medal at the World Boxing Cup](#) ▶	• Name of the Athlete: **Hitesh Gulia.** • Awarded a **walkover** in the **men's 70kg final** as his opponent, **Odel Kamara from England, was injured**. • **India bagged six medals in total,** including one gold, one silver, and four. • **Venue of the event:** Foz Do Iguacu, Brazil.
5.	[The first human spaceflight to orbit the Earth from pole to pole](#)	• Name: **Fram2 mission.** • Launched by: **SpaceX** • Launched aboard a **Falcon 9 rocket** from **NASA's Kennedy Space Center**, carrying an all-civilian crew in the **SpaceX Dragon capsule.** • **Aim:** To observe and photograph Earth's polar regions and perform several scientific experiments related to human health and performance in space. • Crew Lead: **Chun Wang,** a Maltese cryptocurrency entrepreneur. • Other Members: **Jannicke Mikkelsen**, a Norwegian film director, **Rabea Rogge,** a robotics researcher, and **Eric Philips**, a polar adventurer from Australia.

6.	**First nuclear-powered submarine to be equipped with Zircon missiles as a standard feature.**	• Vessel Name: **Perm,** named after a city in the Urals. • Launched by **Russia** from Arctic port of **Murmansk**, Russia. • Zircon missiles are designed for high-speed, long-range attacks.
7.	**First agricultural product from the delta region to receive Geographical Indication (GI) tag**	• Product Name: **Kumbakonam betel leaf.** • Cultivated at **Thanjavur district.** • **Thovalai Flower Garland from Kanyakumari** also conferred with the GI Tag. • **Tamil Nadu** becomes **India's second-highest GI-awarded State.** **About GI Tag** • A **GI tag** is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin.** • The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade **(DPIIT)** has set a **target to achieve 10,000 GI tags by 2030.**
8.	**First Indian astronaut to go to the International Space Station (ISS)**	• Astronaut Name: **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.** • He will be the **pilot for Axiom-4 (Ax-4).** • **Second Indian to travel to space** after **Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma** • He is also **one of the four astronaut designates** of Gaganyaan Mission. **About Axiom-4** • **Fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS.** • The mission is a result of collaboration between **ISRO** and **NASA.** • **Other Crew Members:** Peggy Whitson (ex-NASA astronaut), Slawosz Uznański-Wiśniewski from Poland, and Tibor Kapu from Hungary. • Ax-4 will **involve scientific research, outreach programs,** and **commercial activities aboard the ISS for 14 days.**
9.	**First-ever IPL captain to take a five-wicket haul**	• Player Name: **Hardik Pandya, Captain, Mumbai Indians.** • Milestone achieved against **Lucknow Super Giants at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow.** • Pandya's fifth wicket marked his **30th IPL wicket as a captain**, tying him with **Anil Kumble for the second-most wickets by an IPL captain** **Additional Information** • **Shane Warne** holds the **record with 57 wickets** as an **IPL captain.**
10.	**India's first 3-coach train line**	• To be launched by the **Delhi Metro** by **2028** at the **Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block route, part of the Phase-IV expansion.**

11.	**First Bank in India to launch 'In-App Mobile OTP' feature to protect users from frauds**	• Bank Name: **Axis Bank**. • It **generates time-based one-time passwords (TOTP) directly within the app,** improving security by reducing fraud risks like SIM swap and phishing attacks.
12.	**First Indian cricketer to breach the 13,000-run mark in T20**	• **Virat Kohli (RCB)** achieved the milestone against **Mumbai Indians.** • He is the **fifth player overall to reach this milestone**, following Chris Gayle, Alex Hales, Shoaib Malik, and Kieron Pollard.

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	**Karnataka Government and Government of Chile**	• **Objective:** To establish a framework for cooperation in emerging technologies, startups, research and development, knowledge exchange, and skill development between Karnataka and Chile. **Additional Information** • **Chile** becomes the **first Latin American country to partner with Karnataka under the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA).** • **GIA–** a flagship initiative through which the Government of Karnataka partners with over 30 countries to promote cross-border innovation, research, and entrepreneurship

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	**ZooWIN portal**	• Developed by the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** with support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).** • **Objective:** To track and manage the availability of anti-rabies vaccines (ARV) and anti-snake venom (ASV) across India in real time. • The platform will be piloted in **Delhi**, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Assam**, **Puducherry**, and **Andhra Pradesh.** • Aligned with the **National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE)**, which aims **to reduce snakebite-related disabilities and deaths by 2030.**

SPORTS

S.No	Sport Event and Venue	Key Facts
1.	**Asian Wrestling Championships 2025**	• **India** secured **10 medals**, including one gold, three silver, and seven bronze.

	Venue: Amman, Jordan	• Manisha Bhanwala won the **only gold for India** in the **women's 62kg weight division.** • **Iran topped the medal table** with a total of 17 medals including 9 golds.
2.	**Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition** **Venue:** Belgium	• **Niharika Singhania** won the **gold medal at the event.**
3.	**Miami Open 2025 (Tennis)**	**Men's Singles** • **Winner:** Jakub Mensik (Czech Republic**, his first ATP title).** • **Runner-up:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia). **Women's Singles:** • **Winner:** Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus, **her first Miami Open title**). • **Runner-up:** Jessica Pegula (USA).

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	**Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences**	• Awarded to **Five scientists** who **played key roles in the development of Ozempic and Wegovy,** medications used for managing diabetes and obesity. • **Recipients**: Daniel Drucker, Joel Habener, Jens Juul Holst, Svetlana Mojsov, and Lotte Bjerre Knudsen. • Recognized for their **groundbreaking contributions in the study of glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1)** and its role in weight loss and diabetes management.
		About the Award • Awarded by the **Breakthrough Prize Foundation.** • The prize is valued at **$3 million.**

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	**Natarajan Chandrasekaran**	• Appointed to the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Managing Director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth**. • He is the **Chairman of Tata Sons**
		About the Council

1.		• A **group of global leaders** providing advice on promoting **economic growth** through **entrepreneurship** and **innovation**. • **Aim:** To provide insights into how **macroeconomic and financial policies** can promote **innovation, entrepreneurship, and productivity**, which are essential for strong economic growth.
2.	Sivasubramanian Ramann	• Appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for a **tenure of five years.** • He will **replace Deepak Mohanty, whose term ends in May 2025.** • **Present Role:** Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Chief Technology Officer at the CAG of India.
		Additional Information • Established in **2003.** • **Primary Role:** to regulate and supervise the **National Pension System (NPS)** and ensure the development of the pension sector in India. • Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

OBITUARIES

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Manoj Kumar	• **Veteran Bollywood Actor and Director.** • A recipient of the **Padma Shri** and **Dadasaheb Phalke Award.** • Renowned for his **patriotic-themed films, was honored with the title "Bharat Kumar."**

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Kuirektykol site, Karaganda region, Kazakhstan	• **Kazakhstan** has discovered the **largest rare earth metals deposit** at the Kuirektykol site. • The deposit is estimated to contain nearly **1 million tons** of rare earth metals

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts

1.	[75th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-India Diplomatic Relations](#)	• Hosted by the Chinese Embassy in India.
2.	[$5 million "gold card" program](#)	• Announced by the **President of the United States.'** • Aims to **attract wealthy investors to the U.S. and generate revenue.** • It will **replace the EB-5 investor visa scheme.**
3.	[United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)](#)	• **India** was elected to the **United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on ISAR** for the **2025-2027 term.** • ISAR operates under the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** • ISAR focuses on enhancing global accounting standards and corporate disclosure practices.

2. GA + ESI

PIB IN NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS - HEALTH

2.1   7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada ▶

Why in News

- The 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada is being observed from **8th to 22nd April 2025.** The core themes for this year include:
  - o Focus on the **First 1000 Days of a Child's Life**
  - o Promotion of **Beneficiary Module** in the Poshan Tracker App
  - o Addressing malnutrition via the **CMAM (Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition) Module**
  - o Promoting a **Healthy Lifestyle** to counter childhood obesity
- **Technological Integration**: The **Poshan Tracker App**, launched in **2021**, enables **real-time monitoring** of nutrition services at Anganwadi centers.
- The initiative is part of the larger **Poshan Abhiyaan**, launched in **2018** by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** to improve nutritional outcomes for **women and children** through a **holistic approach.**

2.2   National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP)

Why in News

- The NTMHP has established **53 Tele MANAS Cells** across **36 States and UTs**, providing services in **20 languages**, and has handled **over 2 million calls** through its **24×7 toll-free helpline number 14416.**

- **About NTMHP**: Launched in **2022** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, the NTMHP aims to ensure **universal access** to mental health services, especially for **vulnerable populations**. It acts as the **digital extension** of the **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)**.

- **Tele MANAS**: Tele MANAS was launched in **2022** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** with **technical support from NIMHANS and IIIT Bengaluru**. Its core aim is to provide **24×7 tele mental health counseling**, with the **target of establishing at least one center in every State and UT** across India.

2.3 Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

Why in News

- It marked its **5th year of implementation in April 2025**.

- Launched in **2020** by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, NMBA aims to raise **awareness about substance abuse**, encourage **prevention**, and provide **treatment and counseling**, particularly focusing on **youth and women**.

- A **toll-free helpline (14446)** offers counseling and referrals for de-addiction.

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.4 National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)

Why in News

- The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** was launched in **2019** under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and celebrated its **7th Foundation Day** recently.

  o Its primary goal is to deliver **high-quality, holistic education** to tribal students by administering **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**.

- **EMRS**: Initiated in **1997–98**, **EMRS** aims to provide **quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) children in remote areas**, equipping them to pursue higher and professional education and secure employment in various sectors.

  o Each EMRS accommodates **480 students**, from **Class VI to XII**.

  o Schools are established in **blocks with over 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal residents**.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.5 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting

Why in News

- **11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting (2025)**: Held in **Brasilia, Brazil**, India emphasized **collective leadership** to drive the **2030 Climate Agenda**.

  o Discussions included the **Baku to Belem Roadmap,** which seeks to secure **USD 1.3 trillion** in climate finance to support **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

- Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG):
  - In **2021**, **India-led OSOWOG (2018)** merged with the **UK-led Green Grids Initiative** and was jointly launched as **GGI-OSOWOG** at **COP26 in Glasgow**, promoting global solar grid connectivity and sustainability.

- BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Platform:
  - Established in **2015**, its mission is to **exchange best practices and green technologies** for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
  - Key Initiatives under BEST:
    - ✓ **BRICS Clean Rivers Programme** (2016).
    - ✓ **BRICS Partnership for Urban Environment Sustainability** (2017).

- BRICS: Originally coined as **BRIC** by economist **Jim O'Neill** in **2001**, the group included **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
  - The **first formal BRIC summit** was held in **2009** in **Yekaterinburg, Russia. South Africa joined in 2010**, making it **BRICS**.
  - The group functions across **three core pillars**: Political and Security Cooperation, Financial and Economic Cooperation, and Cultural and People-to-People Cooperation.
  - In **2024**, **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran**, and the **United Arab Emirates** became full-time members.
  - Subsequently, **Indonesia** joined in **2025**, making BRICS a **10-member intergovernmental organization** as of April 2025.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

2.6 Government e-Marketplace (GeM) ▶

Why in News

- In **FY 2024–25**, it facilitated the **hiring of over 1 million manpower resources** by various government organizations, showcasing its growing role in public service delivery.

- GeM: Launched in **2016** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), GeM is India's **online public procurement portal**, developed as part of the **Digital India initiative**.
  - GeM is operated by **GeM SPV**, a **Section 8 company** under the Companies Act, 2013, and is managed by a consortium comprising **Intellect Design Arena, Infibeam, and Tata Communications**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.7 Sevottam Framework

Why in News

- The **Sevottam Framework** aims to enhance **public service delivery** by focusing on three pillars: the **Citizen's Charter**, **grievance redressal mechanisms**, and **capacity building**.

- CPGRAMS:

  o **Launched in 2007** by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.

  o Provides a centralized platform for **citizen grievance redressal**, excluding issues like **court matters, family disputes, RTI**, and **national security**.

  o Grievances must be resolved within **21 days**, and appeals (if any) are to be filed within **30 days**, with resolution expected in another **30 days**.

  o The **Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG)** acts as an appellate authority for unresolved complaints.

2.8 Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) ▶

Why in News

- India recorded **4,515 child adoptions in FY 2024–25**, the **highest in 12 years**.

- **CARA Overview**: Established in **1990** under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, CARA's mission is to ensure the **welfare and adoption** of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children.

  o CARA categorizes children into 5 groups: **Orphan, Abandoned, Surrendered, Children with No Visitation**, and **Children with Unfit Guardians**.

- CARINGS Portal:

  o The **Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS)**, launched in **2011**, is a digital platform for monitoring the **entire adoption process**, including **post-adoption follow-ups**.

  o It supports both **in-country and inter-country adoptions**.

2.9 Hamari Parampara Hamari Virasat

Why in News

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organizing a national-level program under the initiative "Hamari Parampara Hamari Virasat" to honor **Bhagwan Birsa Munda's legacy**.

- **Launch and Purpose**: Launched on **26th January 2025** by the **Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Jharkhand**, and supported by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, this initiative aims to **preserve and celebrate tribal heritage**, including **folk songs, festivals, and traditional worship practices** tied to tribal self-governance systems.

- The program, held in honor of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, aligns with the **Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act)** and focuses on **documenting the cultural identity of 20,300 villages** across Jharkhand.

GLOBALIZATION

2.10 India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)

Why in News

- Celebrating its **3rd anniversary**, the Ind-Aus ECTA has led to a significant rise in **bilateral trade**, reaching **USD 24 billion in 2023–24**. The agreement came into effect in **2022**.

- Building on this, a more expansive **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** is under negotiation, aiming to include **MSMEs, agri-tech, critical minerals, sports**, and **innovation**, with a trade target of **AUD 100 billion by 2030**.

2.11 6th BIMSTEC Summit ▶

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 6th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit in **Thailand**.

- The summit was centered around the theme **"BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open"**.

- **India's 21-Point Action Plan Highlights:**

  o Establishment of **BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence** in India focusing on **Disaster Management, Maritime Transport, Traditional Medicine**, and **Agriculture Research & Training**.

  o Launch of the **BODHI (BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure) Initiative** to train **300 youth** annually from BIMSTEC nations.

  o Announcements for hosting the **BIMSTEC Athletics Meet (2025)**, **Traditional Music Festival (2025)**, and **First BIMSTEC Games (2027)**.

  o The **BIMSTEC Energy Centre** in **Bengaluru** has become operational.

- **Adopted Documents and Agreements:**

  o The summit concluded with the adoption of the **Summit Declaration**, **BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030**, and the **BIMSTEC Maritime Transport Agreement**, targeting the creation of a **PRO (Prosperous, Resilient, and Open) BIMSTEC** by **2030**.

- **BIMSTEC Background:**

  o Founded in **1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**, BIMSTEC includes **Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Nepal**.

  o Its **Secretariat** is based in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** (since 2014).

  o The **BIMSTEC Charter** was adopted during the **5th Summit in Colombo (2022)**.

  o It focuses on **7 key cooperation sectors**: Agriculture and Food Security, Connectivity, Environment and Climate Change, People-to-People Contact, Science & Technology, Security, and Trade & Development.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

2.12 India–US Bilateral Trade

Why in News

- The **US President's executive order** imposes additional duties on imports from all trading partners starting **April 2025**, with a **baseline tariff of 10%** from **April 5** and **country-specific duties** from **April 9**. For **India**, this results in a **27% additional tariff** on top of the baseline rate.

- **Trade Volume and Targets**: In **2023–24**, the **US was India's largest trading partner**. The **Mission 500**, jointly announced by the Indian PM and the US President, targets **USD 500 billion in trade by 2030**.

- **Strategic Initiatives and Export Push**:

  o The **COMPACT** (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) **initiative**, launched in **February 2025**, is central to India-US collaboration in **military partnership, commerce, and technology**.

  o To enhance exports, the **Union Budget 2025** allocated **₹2,250 crore** for an **Export Promotion Mission**.

  o Comparatively, **China** was India's **second-largest trading partner**.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.13 Infrastructure Related Initiatives

Why in News

- The Government of India is leveraging the 'Make in India' initiative to accelerate infrastructure development.

- **PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan**: Launched in **2021**, this GIS-based digital platform integrates **16 Ministries** to streamline infrastructure development across sectors.

  o All projects over **₹500 crore** are reviewed by the **Network Planning Group (NPG)**.

  o The initiative aims to **cut logistics costs** from **13–14% to 8% of GDP**.

- **'Make in India' Initiative**:

  o Launched in **2014** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, it aims to transform India into a **global design and manufacturing hub**, attract **FDI**, and create **jobs**.

  o It focuses on **25 key sectors** (e.g., automobiles, textiles, aviation) and allows **100% FDI** in most sectors through the automatic route.

- **Flagship Infrastructure Projects**:

  o **Vande Bharat Trains** (launched in 2019): India's first **indigenously designed** semi-high-speed trains.

  o **Atal Tunnel** (HP): World's longest **highway tunnel above 10,000 ft** (9.02 km).

- o **Chenab Bridge** (J&K): **World's highest railway bridge.**
- o **Statue of Unity** (Gujarat): **Tallest statue globally** (182 meters).
- o **Zojila Tunnel** (J&K): **Asia's longest tunnel** (13.14 km).
- o **Namo Bharat Train**: Operational on the **Delhi–Meerut RRTS** corridor.
- **National Infrastructure Growth Statistics (2025):**
  - o **National Highway Network**: Reached **1,46,145 km.**
  - o **Aviation Sector**: Now **3rd largest domestic market** globally with **159 operational airports** by March 2025.
  - o **Metro Network**: Expanded to **1,011 km** across **20 cities**, supporting urban mass transit growth.

2.14 Mega Ports

Why in News

- The Government has unveiled a master plan to develop **6 mega ports by 2047** as part of the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.**
- **Planned Port Clusters:**
  - o **4 clusters with >300 MTPA capacity:**
    - ✓ Cochin–Vizhinjam,
    - ✓ Galathea South Bay,
    - ✓ Chennai–Kamarajar–Cuddalore,
    - ✓ Paradip and other Non-Major Ports
  - o **2 clusters with >500 MTPA capacity:**
    - ✓ Deendayal–Tuna Tekra,
    - ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru–Vadhavan

2.15 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) Acknowledgment ▶

Why in News

- Effective **April 1, 2025,** the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** revised the eligibility criteria for **IEM acknowledgment**, now requiring an **investment in plant and machinery/equipment of over ₹125 crore** and an **annual turnover exceeding ₹500 crore.**
- The IEM remains a mandatory requirement for **large-scale industries** under **compulsory licensing provisions** of the **Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.**

2.16 India's Maritime Strategy

Why in News

- Under the leadership of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)**, India aims to become a **global maritime power** by expanding its **port capacity** from **2,600 MTPA to 10,000 MTPA** by **2047**.
- **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP):**
  - Launched on **May 22, 2023**, as part of the **'Panch Karma Sankalp'**, this program targets a **complete transition to green tugs in Indian Major Ports by 2040**.
  - From **2033 onward**, all new tugs must comply with **ASTDS-GTTP standards**.
  - **Phase 1** begins on **October 1, 2024**, and runs till **December 31, 2027**, involving **4 Major Ports** (JNPA, Deendayal, Paradip, and V.O. Chidambaranar), each procuring at least **two battery-electric green tugs**.
- **Panch Karma Sankalp Initiatives:**
  - 4 other sankalps Include **30% financial support** for promoting **green shipping**, development of **Deendayal and VO Chidambaranar Ports** as **Green Hydrogen Hubs**, launch of a **Single Window Portal** for river and sea cruises, and the transformation of **JNPA and VO Chidambaranar Ports into smart ports** by 2024.

OTHER NEWS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.17 Global Climate Change Council

Why in News

- Ahead of **COP30 (November 2025), Brazil has proposed** the creation of a **Global Climate Change Council** under the **UNFCCC**, aimed at **accelerating COP decisions**, strengthening **global coordination**, and making **climate action more efficient and effective**.

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

2.18 54th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

Key Announcements

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) Caps Unchanged for FY 2025–26:**
  - **Government securities** cap remains at **6%, state government securities** at **2%**, and **corporate bonds** at **15%**.
  - FPI investment limits:
    - ✓ **Government bonds:** ₹2.79 trillion (Apr–Sep), ₹2.89 trillion (Oct–Mar)
    - ✓ **Corporate bonds:** ₹8.22 trillion (Apr–Sep), ₹8.80 trillion (Oct–Mar)
- **UPI Transaction Limit Updates:**
  - **Person-to-Merchant (P2M)** limits to be revised by **NPCI** for greater flexibility.
  - **Person-to-Person (P2P)** transaction limit remains at **₹1 lakh.**

- o Special categories under UPI:
  - ✓ **Capital Markets, Insurance, Collections, Inward Remittances**: up to ₹2 lakh
  - ✓ **IPO and Retail Direct Scheme**: up to ₹5 lakh per transaction
- **Repo Rate and Liquidity Adjustment Changes**:
  - o **Policy repo rate** reduced by **25 basis points to 6%** to encourage lending and investment.
  - o **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** rate cut to **5.75%**; SDF allows banks to park excess funds with RBI without collateral.
  - o **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** and **Bank Rate** revised to **6.25%**, serving as emergency borrowing options for banks.
- **Inflation Target and Economic Growth Alignment**:
  - o These monetary adjustments support the RBI's commitment to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation target of 4%**, within a **flexible band of ±2%**, while simultaneously promoting **economic stability and growth**.

3. GA + FINANCE

PIB IN NEWS

BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.1 National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)

Why in News

- NUCFDC has been highlighted as a **national umbrella organization for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** under the **Ministry of Cooperation**.
  - o It received its **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **February 2024** to function as a **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)**.
  - o It must achieve **₹300 crore paid-up capital** within a year to seek **Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO)** status from RBI.

FUNCTIONS OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

3.2 90th year of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Why in News

- On **April 1, 2025**, the **President of India** attended the closing ceremony of RBI's **90th-year commemoration**, where a **special postage stamp** featuring the **90-year logo** and the message **"Stability. Trust. Growth"** was released.
- **About RBI:**

- o Established in **1935** in **Kolkata**, based on the **Hilton Young Commission's recommendations**, under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

- o It functions under the **Ministry of Finance**, with **Sir Osborne Smith** as the first governor and **Sir C.D. Deshmukh** as the first Indian governor (1943).

- o RBI regulates India's **monetary and financial systems**, manages **currency issuance**, **foreign exchange**, **monetary policy**, and ensures **financial stability**.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.3 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Why in News

- Since its launch in **2016**, the IBC has undergone **6 amendments and 122 regulatory reforms** to enhance its efficiency in resolving insolvency cases.

- **Framework and Features**:

  - o The IBC provides a **consolidated structure for insolvency resolution**, reorganization, and liquidation of **corporates, partnerships, and individuals**.

  - o It promotes a **time-bound process**, mandates **insolvency professionals**, and establishes **insolvency professional agencies**.

- **Core Pillars of IBC**:

  - o **Insolvency Professionals (IPs)**: Manage the resolution, liquidation, and bankruptcy process.

  - o **Information Utilities (IUs)**: Maintain authenticated records of credit and default.

  - o **Adjudicating Authorities (AA)**: **NCLT** for corporate insolvency, **DRT** for individuals.

  - o **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**: The apex regulatory body responsible for overseeing and issuing regulations.

- According to the **RBI's December 2024 Report**, the IBC accounted for **48% of all bank recoveries** in FY 2023–24, outperforming other mechanisms like **SARFAESI (32%)**, **Debt Recovery Tribunals (17%)**, and **Lok Adalats (3%)**.

OTHER NEWS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.4 Document Number Verification System (Sebi-DNVS)

Why in News

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched the **Sebi-DNVS** to enhance transparency and allow verification of notices, summons, and other documents issued by SEBI.

BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.5 Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework

Why in News

- Starting **April 2025**, around **500 weak UCBs** will shift from the **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)** to the **PCA Framework**, which is designed to enable **early RBI intervention** and enforce **timely corrective actions** to ensure the financial health of these banks.

- **Monitoring Parameters and Restrictions**:
  - o PCA monitors **capital, asset quality**, and **profitability** (unlike commercial banks, which are assessed on leverage).
  - o If a UCB's **net NPA exceeds 6%**, it must **raise additional capital** and is **prohibited from paying dividends**.

- Previously, **SAF (2012)** emphasized self-correction by bank management, whereas PCA involves more direct and stringent RBI oversight.

3.6 Priority Sector Lending (PSL)

Why in News

- **RBI** has **issued revised guidelines** for PSL under the **Reserve Bank of India (Priority Sector Lending – Targets and Classification) Directions, 2025**, effective from **April 01, 2025**.

- Major changes include:
  - o **Reduction of PSL target for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** from **75% to 60%** of ANBC/CEOBSE
  - o **PSL sub-target for micro enterprises** remains at **7.5%** (effective since May 10, 2018)

- **Additional Modifications and Scope**:
  - o The **loan cap for individual women beneficiaries by UCBs has been removed.**
  - o These guidelines apply to **Commercial Banks (including RRBs, SFBs, LABs)** and **Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks**, excluding Salary Earners' Banks.

3.7 One State, One RRB

Why in News

- The government has announced to implement the "**One State, One RRB**" policy for the consolidation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) across India.

- **Scope of Consolidation**:
  - o RRBs in **11 states** (including Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, etc.) will be **merged into single entities per state.**
  - o Each merged RRB will be **sponsored by a major public sector bank** to ensure financial stability.

- o With this **fourth round of consolidation**, the number of RRBs will reduce from **43 to 28**.
  - o All consolidated entities will have an **authorised capital of ₹2,000 crore.**
- **Ownership Structure (Post-Amendment):**
  - o As per the **amended RRB Act, 2015**, the ownership is divided as:
    - ✓ **Centre: 50%**
    - ✓ **Sponsor Bank: 35%**
    - ✓ **State Government: 15%**
- **Current Sponsorship Landscape (As of March 2024):**
  - o **SBI** sponsors the highest number (**14**), followed by **Punjab National Bank (9)** and **Canara Bank (4)**.
  - o Other sponsors include **Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Bank (3 each), Central Bank of India (2)**, and several others with one RRB each.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.8 National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

Why in News

- NaBFID is set to raise **₹8,000 crore** via its **first-ever five-year bond issuance**, aimed at **diversifying funding sources**. The bonds have been rated **AAA** by both **ICRA** and **CRISIL**, indicating strong creditworthiness.
- **About NaBFID:**
  - o Launched in **2021** under the **Ministry of Finance**, with its headquarters in **Mumbai**, it serves to finance **long-term infrastructure projects**, especially in critical sectors.
  - o It is the **5th All India Financial Institution (AIFI)** regulated by the **RBI**, alongside:
    - ✓ Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)
    - ✓ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard)
    - ✓ National Housing Bank (NHB)
    - ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS

RBI Commemorates Completion of its 90th year

- **RBI celebrated its 90th anniversary on 1st April 2025.**
- RBI was **established in 1935** under the **RBI Act, 1934,** following recommendations of the **Hilton Young Commission.**
- **RBI's Central Office** was initially in **Kolkata** and was shifted permanently to Mumbai in **1937.**

RBI launches Verified WhatsApp Channel for Public Awareness

- RBI has expanded its 'RBI Kehta Hai' public awareness initiative by launching a verified WhatsApp account to share financial information.
- The aim is to enhance accessibility of key messages across all regions through digital outreach.

5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Namami Gange Mission II

- **Launch:** 2023
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Aim:** To make villages on the bank of river Ganga **Open Defecation Free** and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management
- **Objectives:**
    - To clean and protect the Ganga River in a comprehensive manner
    - Watershed management of Ganga River basin and reducing runoff and pollution
    - To develop the villages located along the main stem of river Ganga which have historic, cultural, and religious and/or tourist importance
    - River Front Management
    - Conservation of Aquatic life
    - Creating co-ordination between different ministries involved
- **Tenure:** Up to **2026**
- **Financial Outlay:** Rs. **22,500 crore**
    - Including projects for existing liabilities — Rs. **11,225 crore**
    - New projects/interventions — Rs. **11,275 crore**

Key Features:

- **Funded By:** World Bank
- **Pillars:**
    - Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
    - River-Front Development
    - River-Surface Cleaning
    - Bio-Diversity
    - Afforestation
    - Public Awareness
    - Industrial Effluent Monitoring
    - Ganga Gram
- **Implemented By:**

- o **National Level:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
- o **State Level:** State Program Management Groups (SPMGs)
- It covers **8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers** under the project
- The Ganga-basin covers **11 states** viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi
- Current focus is on **five major states** on the main stem of river Ganga namely:
  - o Uttarakhand
  - o Uttar Pradesh
  - o Jharkhand
  - o Bihar
  - o West Bengal
- Establishment of **Clean Ganga Fund** (charity fund) as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act
- **Donors are eligible for 100% IT exemption** and contributions also fall within the **purview of CSR activity**
- Its implementation has been divided into:
  - o **Entry-Level Activities** (for immediate visible impact)
  - o **Medium-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame)
  - o **Long-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 10 years)

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

- **Launch –** approved by Union Cabinet in January 2025
- **Ministry –** Ministry of Mines
- **Implementing Agency –** The Mission will involve a collaboration between the Ministry of Finance, relevant ministries, PSUs, private companies, and research institutions.
- **Aim –**
  - o To create a **fast-track regulatory approval process** for critical mineral mining projects.
  - o To **encourage Indian PSUs and private sector companies to acquire critical mineral assets abroad** and enhance trade with resource-rich countries.
  - o It also proposes **development of stockpile of critical minerals within the country.**
- **Financial Outlay – Rs.16,300 crore**, expected investment of Rs.18,000 crore by PSUs, etc.
- It aims to explore, mine, process, and recover critical minerals crucial for high-tech industries, clean energy, and defense.
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has been tasked with conducting **1,200 exploration projects** from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- **Components:**
  1. Increasing Domestic Critical Minerals Production
  2. Acquisition of Critical Mineral Assets Abroad
  3. Recycling of Critical Minerals

4. Trade and Markets for Critical Minerals
5. Scientific Research & Technological Advancement
6. Human Resource Development

- Developing Effective Funding, Financing and Fiscal Incentives

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (2025)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- **Total Outlay:** ₹22,919 crore (including administrative expenses)
- **Launch Year:** 2025
- **Objective:**
  - o Boost domestic manufacturing of electronic components and sub-assemblies.
  - o Increase domestic value addition and reduce import dependency.
  - o Integrate India's electronics industry with global value chains (GVCs).
  - o Create employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

Key Features:

- **Types of Incentives:**
  - o **Turnover-linked incentive:** a % of incremental sales over base year.
  - o **Capex incentive:** a % of eligible capital expenditure.
  - o **Hybrid incentive:** Combination of turnover and capex incentive.
- **Target Segments:**
  - o **Sub-assemblies:** Display modules, camera modules.
  - o **Bare Components:** Non-SMD passive components, Electro-mechanical parts, Multi-layer PCBs, Li-ion cells (excluding storage & mobility), Enclosures.
  - o **Selected Bare Components:** HDI / MSAP / Flexible PCBs, SMD passive components.
  - o **Supply Chain & Capital Equipment:** Components and machinery used in electronics manufacturing.
- **Eligibility:**
  - o Both greenfield (new) and brownfield (existing) investments.
  - o Separate applications for each product category.
- **Duration:**
  - o Incentives applicable for **6 years** with a possible **1-year gestation period** (optional basis).
  - o Applications open from **May 1, 2025**, initially for 2 years (for capital goods and supply chain segments).
- **Performance Criteria:**
  - o Linked to incremental investment, turnover, and employment creation.
  - o Base year for calculation: **FY 2024–25.**
- **Governance Mechanism:**

- o Nodal agency to implement scheme.
- o Project Management Agency (PMA) for application processing.
- o Inter-Ministerial Governing Council (GC) for evaluation and approval.

Stand Up India Scheme

- **Eligibility:**
  - o SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs above 18 years of age.
  - o Borrower should not be a defaulter with any bank/financial institution.
- **Nature of Loan:** Composite loan between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore through Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
  - o **Purpose of Loan:** To set up a new enterprise in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities, or trading by SC/ST/women entrepreneurs.
- **Size of Loan:**
  - o Covers **85% of the project cost** (term loan + working capital).
  - o If borrower's contribution + scheme support ≥ 15% of project cost, this rule doesn't apply.
- **Interest Rate:** Lowest applicable bank rate for the category (not exceeding **base rate + 3% + tenor premium**).
- **Security:** Primary security required, plus collateral or **Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme** for Stand-Up India Loans (CGFSIL) as per bank's decision.
- **Repayment:** Loan **repayable within 7 years** with up to **18 months moratorium** period.
- **Working Capital:**
  - o Up to Rs. 10 lakh: Overdraft with a Rupay debit card.
  - o Above Rs. 10 lakh: Cash Credit limit.
- **Margin Money**
  - o Up to **15% margin money**, with support from central/state schemes.
- Minimum 10% of project cost must be the borrower's own contribution.

6. REPORTS

World's Best Airport 2025

- Released by: Skytrax

Important Rankings:

Top Airports for 2025:

1. Singapore Changi Airport
2. Hamad International Airport - Qatar
3. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) - Japan

4. Incheon International Airport – South Korea

5. Narita International Airport – Japan

32. Indira Gandhi International Airport – Delhi, India

48. Kempegowda International Airport – Bangalore, India

56. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport – Hyderabad, India

73. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport – Mumbai, India

Highest ranked Airports by passenger numbers in 2025:

1. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)

2. Singapore Changi Airport

3. Hamad International Airport

4. Rome Fiumicino Airport - Italy

5. Narita International Airport

Key Findings:

- Among the biggest gainers is Hong Kong International Airport, jumping to 6th position from 33rd two years ago.

- Changi has been named the world's best airport by Skytrax for the 13th time.

Top 25 Companies in India 2025

- Released by: LinkedIn

Important Rankings:

1. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS): IT Services

2. Accenture: Consulting & IT Services

3. Infosys: IT Services

4. Fidelity Investments: Financial Services

5. Cognizant: IT Services

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