

# CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

**INCLUDING** 

# GA ESI FINANCE SCHEMES REPORTS RBI NOTIFICATIONS

APRIL 2025 - 1st to 7th









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# 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	<ul> <li>Awarded to Shri Narendra Modi, The Prime Minister of India.</li> <li>Honored for his enduring contribution to strengthening the friendship between India and Sri Lanka.</li> <li>The highest honour given to foreign leaders by Sri Lanka.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Highlights of Indian PM's visit to Sri Lanka</li> <li>Seven MoUs signed in the following areas</li> <li>Defence Cooperation:         <ul> <li>The first formal agreement of its kind since India's intervention in Sri Lanka's civil war in the late 1980s.</li> <li>The MoU will remain valid for five years.</li> <li>Implementation of HVDC Interconnection for Import/Export of Power.</li> <li>Cooperation in the Field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.</li> <li>Multi-sectoral Grant Assistance for Eastern Province</li> <li>Cooperation in the Field of Health &amp; Medicine.</li> <li>Pharmacopoeial Cooperation</li> <li>Both countries signed MoU with the UAE for Cooperation in Development of Trincomalee as an Energy Hub.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge	<ul> <li>Inaugurated at Pamban Strait, Tamil Nadu, connecting the Indian mainland to Rameswaram Island.</li> <li>Replaces the 110-year-old Pamban Bridge.</li> </ul>
3.	First event to bring together the entire startup ecosystem of India	<ul> <li>Name: Startup Mahakumbh 2025 (second edition)</li> <li>Venue: New Delhi.</li> <li>Theme: 'Startup India @ 2047: Unfolding the Bharat Story.'</li> <li>Spearheaded by India's foremost Startup Ecosystem Leaders.</li> </ul>

		Led by FICCI, ASSOCHAM, IVCA and Bootstrap Advisory & Foundation.
		Supported by SIDBI, GEM, ECGC, Meity and DPIIT Startup India.
		Key Highlight
		'Startup Maharathi' conferred to key contributors in India's startup revolution.
		Key Information Shared
		<ul> <li>India, currently the world's fifth-largest GDP, is set to become the fourth-largest by the end of 2025 and the third-largest by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany.</li> </ul>
		A dedicated <b>Startup India Desk</b> will be set up as a helpline for startups, accessible via a toll-free number in regional languages.
		• Second Fund of Funds: ₹10,000 crore approved for startups, with a focus on seed funding for deep-tech innovation such as AI, quantum computing, and biotech.
	First-ever visit by an Indian	<ul> <li>Her visit marks the 50th anniversary of India-Portugal diplomatic relations.</li> </ul>
4.	President to Portugal in 27 years	She received the 'City Key of Honour' of Lisbon from the Mayor of Lisbon.
		Additional Information  K. R. Narayanan was the first Indian President to visit Portugal.

# **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

S.No	Initiative	Key Facts
1.	SUGAM Labs	<ul> <li>Discussed in Parliament.</li> <li>Introduced in 2023 by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).</li> <li>Aim: To integrate drug testing labs</li> </ul>
	'Antar Drishti' sensory dark	<ul> <li>inaugurated at the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) in Dehradun.</li> <li>Developed in collaboration with the National Association for the Blind (NAB), New Delhi</li> </ul>
2.	room	Objective: to raise awareness about the experiences of persons with visual impairments by allowing individuals to experience complete darkness and simulate everyday challenges faced by the visually impaired.
		<ul> <li>In addition to the inauguration, the NIEPVD Dehradun signed an MoU with Amar Seva Sangam.</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>
3.	Web-based Reservoir Storage Monitoring System (RSMS) Portal	<ul> <li>Initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	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
4.		Initiative of Department of Legal Affairs.
		<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>

# **SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	<u>Viksit Bharat Youth</u> <u>Parliament 2025</u>	<ul> <li>Organizer: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</li> <li>Venue: New Delhi.</li> <li>Serves as a platform for young individuals to connect with politics, governance, and nation-building.</li> <li>A reimagining of the traditional Youth Parliament.</li> </ul>
2.	Highlights of Prime Minister of India's visit to Thailand	<ul> <li>Establishment of India-Thailand Strategic Partnership.</li> <li>Five MoUs were signed on the following areas         <ul> <li>Cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies</li> <li>National Maritime Heritage Complex Development at Lothal, Gujarat</li> <li>North Eastern Region Development</li> <li>Handicrafts and Handlooms of the North East Region</li> <li>Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key Highlight</li> <li>Thailand released a special stamp, featuring Ramayan mural paintings from the 18th century, specifically from the reign of King Rama I</li> </ul>







		Commemorates the completion of 76 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
		Key Outcomes
3.	Highlights of President of Chile's visit to India	Letter of Intent on Antarctica Cooperation
	Crille's visit to india	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	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Target for 2029: India aims to increase defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029.</li> </ul>
		Fourth leg of the expedition completed at Cape Town, South Africa.
2.	Navika Sagar Parikrama II (NSP II)	<ul> <li>About Navika Sagar Parikrama II</li> <li>The second women circumnavigation expedition of Indian Navy.</li> <li>Flagged of in 2024 from Goa in INSV Tarini</li> <li>Aim: To cover more than 23,400 nautical miles (43,300 km) in eight months, with a return to Goa in May 2025.</li> <li>Previous stopovers: Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), and Port Stanley (Falklands, UK).</li> </ul>
3.	Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region)	<ul> <li>Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sunayna flagged off from Karwar, Karnataka as a part of IOS SAGAR initiative.</li> <li>The flag-off coincides with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SAGAR initiative and the National Maritime Day.</li> <li>IOS SAGAR is a part of India's broader MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) initiative.</li> </ul>





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

# **AWARDS**

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

# **PLACES IN NEWS**

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

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

# **MISCELLANEOUS**

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	New Milestone in Locomotive Production	<ul> <li>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).</li> </ul>
		Surpasses the combined locomotive output of regions like the United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia.
2.	India's Coal Sector Milestone	<ul> <li>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).</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>This marks a 4.99% increase from the 997.83 MT recorded in FY 2023-24.</li> </ul>
		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	<ul> <li>Name: Poonam Gupta.</li> <li>Predecessor: Michael Patra.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Career Milestones</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>The first woman to head the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2021.</li> </ul>
		Serves as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
		Shirley Botchwey is set to assume office as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.
	First woman from Africa to	Previously served as Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.
2.	serve as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth	About Commonwealth
	<u>or the commonwealth</u>	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.
		Awardee: Sudarsan Pattnaik, a renowned sand artist from Odisha.
	First Indian to win the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award	Awarded for his exceptional contributions to sand art.
3.		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.
	First Indian to win a gold medal at the World Boxing Cup	Name of the Athlete: Hitesh Gulia.
4.		<ul> <li>Awarded a walkover in the men's 70kg final as his opponent, Odel Kamara from England, was injured.</li> </ul>
74.		India bagged six medals in total, including one gold, one silver, and four.
		Venue of the event: Foz Do Iguacu, Brazil.
		Name: Fram2 mission.
		Launched by: SpaceX
	The first human spaceflight to orbit the Earth from pole to pole	Launched aboard a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space     Center, carrying an all-civilian crew in the SpaceX Dragon capsule.
5.		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.



<ol> <li>6.</li> <li>7.</li> </ol>	First nuclear-powered submarine to be equipped with Zircon missiles as a standard feature.  First agricultural product from the delta region to receive Geographical Indication (GI) tag	<ul> <li>Vessel Name: Perm, named after a city in the Urals.</li> <li>Launched by Russia from Arctic port of Murmansk, Russia.</li> <li>Zircon missiles are designed for high-speed, long-range attacks.</li> <li>Product Name: Kumbakonam betel leaf.</li> <li>Cultivated at Thanjavur district.</li> <li>Thovalai Flower Garland from Kanyakumari also conferred with the GI Tag.</li> <li>Tamil Nadu becomes India's second-highest GI-awarded State.</li> </ul> About GI Tag
		<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has set a target to achieve 10,000 GI tags by 2030.</li> </ul>
8.	First Indian astronaut to go to the International Space Station (ISS)	<ul> <li>Astronaut Name: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.</li> <li>He will be the pilot for Axiom-4 (Ax-4).</li> <li>Second Indian to travel to space after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma</li> <li>He is also one of the four astronaut designates of Gaganyaan Mission.</li> <li>About Axiom-4</li> <li>Fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS.</li> <li>The mission is a result of collaboration between ISRO and NASA.</li> <li>Other Crew Members: Peggy Whitson (ex-NASA astronaut), Slawosz Uznański-Wiśniewski from Poland, and Tibor Kapu from Hungary.</li> <li>Ax-4 will involve scientific research, outreach programs, and commercial activities aboard the ISS for 14 days.</li> </ul>
9.	First-ever IPL captain to take a five-wicket haul	<ul> <li>Player Name: Hardik Pandya, Captain, Mumbai Indians.</li> <li>Milestone achieved against Lucknow Super Giants at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Additional Information</li> <li>Shane Warne holds the record with 57 wickets as an IPL captain.</li> </ul>
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	<ul> <li>Bank Name: Axis Bank.</li> <li>It generates time-based one-time passwords (TOTP) directly within the app, improving security by reducing fraud risks like SIM swap and phishing attacks.</li> </ul>
12.	First Indian cricketer to breach the 13,000-run mark in T20	<ul> <li>Virat Kohli (RCB) achieved the milestone against Mumbai Indians.</li> <li>He is the fifth player overall to reach this milestone, following Chris Gayle, Alex Hales, Shoaib Malik, and Kieron Pollard.</li> </ul>

# **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 <b>Delhi</b> , <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> , <b>Assam</b> , <b>Puducherry</b> , and <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> .
		<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>

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

# **AWARDS**

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

# **APPOINTMENT**

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

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

# **PERSONS IN NEWS**

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

# **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
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1.	75th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-India Diplomatic Relations	Hosted by the Chinese Embassy in India.
2.	\$5 million "gold card" program	<ul> <li>Announced by the President of the United States.'</li> <li>Aims to attract wealthy investors to the U.S. and generate revenue.</li> <li>It will replace the EB-5 investor visa scheme.</li> </ul>
	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.
3.		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

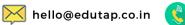
- The 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada is being observed from 8th to 22nd April 2025. The core themes for this year include:
  - Focus on the First 1000 Days of a Child's Life
  - o Promotion of **Beneficiary Module** in the Poshan Tracker App
  - Addressing malnutrition via the CMAM (Community-Based Management 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)

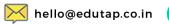
#### Why in News

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

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

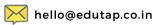
#### 2.6 Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

#### 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





• 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:

- Launched in 2007 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- 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**.
- 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.
  - CARA categorizes children into 5 groups: Orphan, Abandoned, Surrendered,
     Children with No Visitation, and Children with Unfit Guardians.

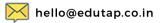
#### • CARINGS Portal:

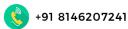
- The Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS), launched in 2011, is a digital platform for monitoring the entire adoption process, including post-adoption follow-ups.
- It supports both in-country and inter-country adoptions.

#### 2.9 Hamari Parampara Hamari Virasat

- 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

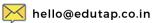
#### Why in News

- 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:
  - Establishment of BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence in India focusing on Disaster Management, Maritime Transport, Traditional Medicine, and Agriculture Research & Training.
  - Launch of the BODHI (BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure) Initiative to train 300 youth annually from BIMSTEC nations.
  - 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:
  - 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:

- Founded in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration, BIMSTEC includes Bangladesh,
   India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Nepal.
- Its Secretariat is based in Dhaka, Bangladesh (since 2014).
- The BIMSTEC Charter was adopted during the 5th Summit in Colombo (2022).
- 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:
  - 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.
  - 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

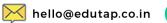
#### 2.13 Infrastructure Related Initiatives

#### 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:

- 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.
- 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:
  - Vande Bharat Trains (launched in 2019): India's first indigenously designed semihigh-speed trains.
  - o Atal Tunnel (HP): World's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft (9.02 km).





- Chenab Bridge (J&K): World's highest railway bridge.
- 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):
  - National Highway Network: Reached 1,46,145 km.
  - Aviation Sector: Now 3rd largest domestic market globally with 159 operational airports by March 2025.
  - Metro Network: Expanded to 1,011 km across 20 cities, supporting urban mass transit growth.

#### 2.14 Mega Ports

#### Why in News

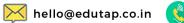
- The Government has unveiled a master plan to develop **6 mega ports by 2047** as part of the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- Planned Port Clusters:
  - o 4 clusters with >300 MTPA capacity:
    - ✓ Cochin-Vizhinjam,
    - ✓ Galathea South Bay,
    - ✓ Chennai–Kamarajar–Cuddalore,
    - ✓ Paradip 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





- 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.

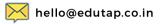
#### MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

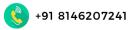
#### 2.18 54th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

#### **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%.
  - o 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:
  - o Person-to-Merchant (P2M) limits to be revised by NPCI for greater flexibility.
  - Person-to-Person (P2P) transaction limit remains at ₹1 lakh.







- 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:
  - Policy repo rate reduced by 25 basis points to 6% to encourage lending and investment.
  - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate cut to 5.75%; SDF allows banks to park excess funds with RBI without collateral.
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate revised to 6.25%, serving as emergency borrowing options for banks.
- Inflation Target and Economic Growth Alignment:
  - 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.
  - 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).
  - 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)

- 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:

- 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).
- 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:
  - 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:
  - 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.
  - 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**

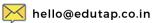
#### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

#### 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:
  - 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)

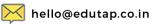
#### Why in News

- 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:
  - Reduction of PSL target for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) from 75% to 60% of ANBC/CEOBSE
  - 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.
  - 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

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







- 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):
  - 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):
  - 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

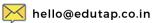
- NaBFID is set to raise ₹8,000 crore via its first-ever five-year bond issuance, aimed at diversifying funding sources. The bonds have been rated AAA by both ICRA and CRISIL, indicating strong creditworthiness.
- About NaBFID:
  - Launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Finance, with its headquarters 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

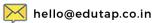
#### Namami Gange Mission II

- 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:
  - o 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:





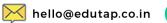


- National Level: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
- State Level: State Program Management Groups (SPMGs)
- It covers 8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers under the project
- The Ganga-basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana,
   Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi
- Current focus is on **five major states** on the main stem of river Ganga namely:
  - Uttarakhand
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - o Jharkhand
  - o Bihar
  - 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:
  - Entry-Level Activities (for immediate visible impact)
  - Medium-Term Activities (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame)
  - 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 –
- To create a fast-track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects.
- To encourage Indian PSUs and private sector companies to acquire critical mineral assets abroad and enhance trade with resource-rich countries.
- 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:
  - Sub-assemblies: Display modules, camera modules.
  - Bare Components: Non-SMD passive components, Electro-mechanical parts,
     Multi-layer PCBs, Li-ion cells (excluding storage & mobility), Enclosures.
  - Selected Bare Components: HDI / MSAP / Flexible PCBs, SMD passive components.
  - Supply Chain & Capital Equipment: Components and machinery used in electronics manufacturing.

#### Eligibility:

- Both greenfield (new) and brownfield (existing) investments.
- Separate applications for each product category.

#### Duration:

- Incentives applicable for 6 years with a possible 1-year gestation period (optional basis).
- Applications open from May 1, 2025, initially for 2 years (for capital goods and supply chain segments).

#### Performance Criteria:

- Linked to incremental investment, turnover, and employment creation.
- Base year for calculation: FY 2024-25.
- Governance Mechanism:







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

#### Stand Up India Scheme

- Eligibility:
  - 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).
  - Purpose of Loan: To set up a new enterprise in manufacturing, services, agriallied activities, or trading by SC/ST/women entrepreneurs.
- Size of Loan:
  - Covers 85% of the project cost (term loan + working capital).
  - 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:
  - Up to Rs. 10 lakh: Overdraft with a Rupay debit card.
  - o Above Rs. 10 lakh: Cash Credit limit.
- Margin Money
  - 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

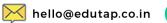
Released by: Skytrax

#### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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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