

# ALL IN ONE CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

INCLUDING

GA ESI FINANCE SCHEMES

REPORTS RBI NOTIFICATIONS

FEBRUARY 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>



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# 1. GA IN NEWS

## PIB IN NEWS

### FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">India's First Fully Industry-Made Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be launched by <b>NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)</b> in Q2 2025.</li> <li>NSIL signed a contract with <b>HAL-L&amp;T</b> consortium, with <b>HAL</b> as the lead partner, for the <b>end-to-end</b> production of five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs).</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">India's first Ferret Research Facility</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established at the <b>Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)</b> in Faridabad, Haryana.</li> <li>Aims to enhance research on infectious and non-communicable diseases, aiding vaccine development and pandemic preparedness.</li> </ul>

### GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiative	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">SwaRail SuperApp</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Ministry of Railways.</li> <li>Developed by the <b>Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)</b>.</li> <li>A <b>one-stop</b> solution for comprehensive railway services.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">'Rajmargyatra' App &amp; 'NHAI One' App</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiatives of <b>National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</b>.</li> <li><b>Rajmargyatra App:</b> Provides real-time information on highways, toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, charging stations, weather updates, etc.</li> <li><b>'NHAI One' App:</b> Internal highway project management tool, monitors the progress of highway projects.</li> </ul>

### DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Defence Research &amp; Development Organisation (DRDO)</b> successfully conducted <b>three successive</b> flight trials.</li> <li>a <b>Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS)</b>.</li> <li>Developed indigenously by <b>Research Center Imarat</b> in collaboration with <b>other DRDO laboratories and industry partners</b>.</li> </ul>

2.	<a href="#">Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise-2025 (TROPEX-25)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Navy's largest biennial maritime exercise.</li> <li>Participants: Indian Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.</li> <li>Venue: Indian Ocean.</li> </ul>
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## DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">75th Anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS)</a> (February 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Sample Survey (NSS) was started in 1950 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).</li> <li>Established to collect large-scale sample data on various socio-economic indicators</li> </ul>

## OTHER NEWS

### FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">India's First Hydrogen Transportation Pipes</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by Tata Steel.</li> <li>This milestone supports India's National Hydrogen Mission, which aims to produce at least 5 million metric tonnes of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030.</li> </ul> <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tata Steel became the first Indian steel company to manufacture hot-rolled steel for gaseous hydrogen transportation in 2024.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">India's first astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.</li> <li>Part of Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).</li> <li>One of the four astronaut-designates of Gaganyaan Mission</li> </ul> <p>About Axiom Mission 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourth commercial astronaut mission to the International Space Station.</li> <li>To be launched by Axiom Space in collaboration with NASA.</li> <li>Spacecraft: SpaceX Dragon spacecraft.</li> </ul>
3.	<a href="#">First African Country to Eliminate Onchocerciasis (River Blindness)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Niger has been officially verified by the World Health Organization (WHO) to eliminate the transmission of this disease.</li> <li>The disease is caused by the <b>Onchocerca volvulus</b> worm, transmitted through the bites of infected black flies.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO aims to <b>eliminate the transmission of onchocerciasis by 2030</b> as part of its broader neglected tropical diseases (NTD) roadmap.</li> </ul>
4.	<a href="#">India's First Drone City</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Garuda Aerospace</b>, a Chennai-based drone manufacturer, has committed to an investment of <b>₹100 crore</b> for the development of India's first 'Drone City' in <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>.</li> </ul>
5.	<a href="#">First Digital Wallet of X</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> X Money.</li> <li><b>A real-time payment system.</b></li> <li>To be launched by X (formerly Twitter) in partnership with Visa.</li> <li>Visa is the first partner for X's "X Money Account" service.</li> </ul>
6.	<a href="#">First Black woman to win Album of the Year in the 21st century at Grammy Awards</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Beyoncé for Cowboy Carter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Winners at 2025 Grammy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album:</b> Chandrika Tandon for Triveni. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chandrika Tandon is an Indian American Businesswoman.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7.	<a href="#">India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up at <b>Maharashtra</b>.</li> </ul>
8.	<a href="#">India's first MSCI India Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company</b>.</li> <li>Tracks <b>MSCI India Index</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About ETF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>marketable security</b> that tracks an index, commodity, bonds, or a <b>basket of assets</b> and is traded on stock exchanges like a regular stock.</li> </ul>
9.	<a href="#">First country to outlaw AI tools used to generate Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> United Kingdom (UK).</li> <li><b>Three-year prison term</b> for possessing AI manuals that guide users on generating CSAM.</li> </ul>
10.	<a href="#">India's first White Tiger Breeding Centre</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up at <b>Govindgarh, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh</b>.</li> </ul>

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	<a href="#">Global Justice, Love &amp; Peace Summit 2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be held in <b>Dubai, UAE</b>.</li> <li><b>Organizer:</b> I am Peacekeeper Movement</li> <li><b>Theme:</b> 'One Planet, One Voice: Global Justice, Love &amp; Peace'.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To be the world's largest Private Summit on Justice, Love &amp; Peace with 2800 Delegates (Peacekeepers).</li> </ul>



## MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Avaada Group and Casale</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To develop India's largest green ammonia plant in Gopalpur, Odisha.</li> </ul>

## BANKING AND FINANCE

S.No	Program/Initiative	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Knowledgeable AI (KAI)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI-powered Virtual Home Loan Advisor.</li> <li>Launched by L&amp;T Finance Ltd.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Jumpp</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI-powered financial app.</li> <li>Developed by Finvasia, in partnership with YES Bank.</li> <li>Integrates banking, savings, payments, investing, and borrowing into a single platform.</li> </ul>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">India's upcoming space &amp; deep-sea missions</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chandrayaan-4 Lunar Sample Return Mission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's first attempt to bring back lunar samples from the Moon to Earth.</li> <li>Target Launch Year: 2027.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Gaganyaan (2026):</b> India's first crewed spaceflight mission to send astronauts to low-Earth orbit.</li> <li><b>Samudrayaan (2026):</b> India's first deep-sea exploration mission, sending three scientists in a submersible 6,000m underwater to study minerals and marine biodiversity.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Qwen 2.5</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new AI Model released by Alibaba, a Chinese tech company.</li> </ul>
3.	<a href="#">Michibiki 6 navigation satellite</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by Japan on its new flagship H3 rocket.</li> <li>Michibiki 6 is the fifth satellite in Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS).</li> </ul>
4.	<a href="#">OmniHuman-1</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI-Driven Video Generation Model.</li> <li>Developed by: ByteDance (Parent Company of TikTok).</li> <li>Generates lifelike human motion and speech from just an image and an audio sample.</li> </ul>



## DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Exercise Ekuverin 2024-25 (13th Edition)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise.</li> <li>Venue: Maldives.</li> <li>Conducted alternately in India &amp; Maldives.</li> <li>Previous edition held in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Vijay Durg</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Name of Eastern Army HQ.</li> <li>Named after a historic Maratha naval fort along the Sindhudurg coast, Maharashtra, which was a naval base for Chhatrapati Shivaji.</li> <li>Previous Name: Fort William, named after King William III of England.</li> </ul>

## ENVIRONMENT

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GMR Airports Ltd has become a member of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), a corporate sustainability initiative.</li> </ul> <p>About UNGC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded in 2000.</li> <li>The world's largest corporate sustainability initiative.</li> <li>Encourages businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies.</li> </ul>

## SPORTS

S.No	Sport Event and Venue	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025</a> Venue: Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India successfully defended their title by defeating South Africa.</li> <li>India's second consecutive victory in the tournament, having won the inaugural edition in 2023.</li> <li>Player of the Series: Gongadi Trisha.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">23rd National Para Athletics Championship</a> Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The official logo and mascot unveiled recently.</li> <li>Mascot: GAJAVEERAN.</li> </ul>
3.	<a href="#">ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be held at Pakistan &amp; UAE.</li> <li>Official Song: Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke</li> </ul>

4.	<a href="#">3x15 Scoring System</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be implemented by <b>Badminton World Federation (BWF)</b>.</li> <li>Objective: <b>Shorten match durations</b> compared to the current <b>3x21</b> format.</li> </ul>
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## AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">BCCI Awards 2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Best International Cricketer (Men) for 2023-24 (Polly Umrigar Award):</b> Jasprit Bumrah; receiving the award for <b>third time</b>.</li> <li><b>Best International Cricketer (Women):</b> Smriti Mandhana; receiving the award for <b>third time</b>.</li> <li><b>Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award:</b> Sachin Tendulkar.</li> <li><b>Best International Debut:</b> Sarfaraz Khan (Men) and Asha Sobhana (Women).</li> <li><b>BCCI Special Award:</b> Ravichandran Ashwin.</li> </ul>

## APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Hisashi Takeuchi</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-appointed as the <b>Managing Director (MD)</b> and <b>Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b> of <b>Maruti Suzuki India Ltd</b> for an additional <b>three years</b>.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Bart De Wever</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Prime Minister of Belgium</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Alexander De Croo.</li> </ul>

## PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Dinesh Karthik</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surpassed <b>MS Dhoni</b> to become the <b>Indian wicket-keeper with the most runs in T20 cricket</b>.</li> <li>Milestone achieved during a match between <b>Paarl Royals</b> and <b>Durban Super Giants</b> in the <b>SA20</b> league.</li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Steven Smith</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fourth Australian</b> to reach the milestone of <b>10,000 Test runs</b>.</li> <li>Milestone achieved against <b>Sri Lanka</b>.</li> </ul>
3.	<a href="#">Sunita Williams</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set the record for the <b>longest total spacewalking time by a woman astronaut</b>, logging <b>62 hours and 6 minutes</b> in spacewalks.</li> <li>Surpassed former astronaut <b>Peggy Whitson's</b> record of <b>60 hours and 21 minutes</b>.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She is now <b>4th</b> on NASA's all-time list for total spacewalking time.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>2012</b>, she became the <b>first person to complete a triathlon in space</b>, using a <b>weight-lifting machine, treadmill, and a harness</b> to prevent floating.</li> </ul>

## MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	<a href="#">Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger</b> officially <b>withdrew</b> from the ECOWAS and have instead formed their own bloc, the <b>Alliance of Sahel States (AES)</b>.</li> </ul> <p>About ECOWAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regional political and economic union established in <b>1975</b>, through the Treaty of Lagos.</li> <li><b>Present Members: 12; Chair: Nigeria.</b></li> </ul>
2.	<a href="#">Creation of South Coast Railway Zone</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved by the <b>Union Cabinet</b>.</li> <li><b>South Coast Railway</b> will consist of part of the Visakhapatnam division (Previously Waltair division).</li> </ul>
3.	<a href="#">U.S. Withdrawal from UN Bodies</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President of the United States signed an <b>executive order</b> withdrawing the U.S. from the UN Human Rights Council.</li> </ul>

## 2. GA + ESI

## PIB IN NEWS

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

#### 2.1 [Ramsar Wetlands](#)

##### Why in News

- India added four new wetlands to its Ramsar Sites, bringing the total to **89**, with **Sikkim** and **Jharkhand** securing their first Ramsar sites.
- The newly designated sites are **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary** and **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu, **Khecheopalri Wetland** in Sikkim, and **Udhwa Lake** in Jharkhand.

- India now **leads Asia with the most Ramsar sites** and is ranked the **third-highest globally** after the UK (176) and Mexico (144).
- **Tamil Nadu** now leads the country with 20 Ramsar Sites, followed by **Uttar Pradesh** (10 sites).
- A Ramsar site is a wetland recognized under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty established in **1971** in **Ramsar, Iran**, to promote wetland conservation and sustainable use.
- **World Wetlands Day** is observed annually on **2nd February**, commemorating the signing of the Ramsar Convention in **1971**; India has been a member since **1982**.
  - In **2025**, the theme for **World Wetlands Day** was 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future'.

## 2.2 [International Big Cat Alliance \(IBCA\)](#)

### Why in News

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** has officially become a **treaty-based inter-governmental organization** following the enforcement of its **Framework Agreement**.
- The **IBCA** was formally announced in **2023** during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger**.
- **India** is one of the **27 member countries** that have agreed to join the IBCA.
- The IBCA aims to conserve **seven big cat species**: **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.

## 2.3 [Solar Power Capacity](#)

### Why in News

- India has surpassed **100 GW of solar power capacity** as of **January 31, 2025**, accounting for **47%** of the total installed **renewable energy capacity**.
- This achievement is part of India's target to reach **500 GW** of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by **2030**.
- India aims to reach **100 GW of solar module production capacity** by **2030**.
- **Top-performing states** are **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh**.

## EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

## 2.4 [Employment in India](#)

### Why in News

- India's employment sector saw a **36% increase** between **2016-17** and **2023-24**, with **170 million jobs** added.
- The **National Career Service (NCS)**, launched in **2015** by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, connects job seekers with employers through a **central digital platform** and a network of **Model Career Centers** across India.

## 2.5 Swavalambini

### Why in News

- The **Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme**, launched in February 2025, aims to nurture the entrepreneurial aspirations of women.
- Implemented by: **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

## 2.6 National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

### Why in News

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **three-year extension** for the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**.
- The **NCSK**, constituted in **1994**, works under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to eliminate inequalities and monitor the **Manual Scavengers Rehabilitation Act, 2013**.

## INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

## 2.7 India's Digital Infrastructure

### Why in News

- India's **digital economy** contributed **11.74%** to its GDP in 2022-23 (**₹31.64 lakh crore**) and is projected to reach **20% of GVA** by 2029-30.
- India leads globally in **digital payments**, accounting for **49%** of real-time transactions (ACI Worldwide Report 2024).
- **UPI** is now operational in **7 countries** including **UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France and Mauritius**.

## GLOBALIZATION

## 2.8 BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

### Why in News

- The **first BIMSTEC Youth Summit** was held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, with the theme "**Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange**", aiming to facilitate **youth-led initiatives** and experiences among member countries.
- **Jointly Organized by:** **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and **Ministry of External Affairs** along with the **CII YI** as the knowledge partner.

## EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

### 2.9 [India's Exports Reach Historic Heights](#)

#### Why in News

- India's exports reached a record USD 778.21 billion in 2023-24.
- Top 5 export destinations include the USA, UAE, Netherlands, China, and Singapore, with top 5 regions being North America, European Union, North-East Asia, West Asia – Gulf Cooperation Council and ASEAN.

## INDIAN AGRICULTURE

### 2.10 [Project VISTAAR \(Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources\)](#)

#### Why in News

- Project VISTAAR aims to develop a unified digital ecosystem for agriculture, with MoUs signed with states like Odisha, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh for technical and content review support.

## OTHER NEWS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 2.11 [Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials \(PCAF\)](#)

#### Why in News

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) to measure and disclose greenhouse gas emissions linked to its financed activities.
- PCAF, launched in 2015, aims to standardize the measurement and disclosure of carbon emissions by financial institutions, with Union Bank of India being the first Indian bank to join.

## INDIAN AGRICULTURE

### 2.12 [National Agriculture Market \(e-NAM\)](#)

#### Why in News

- The e-NAM platform is being upgraded to address logistic challenges in inter-state and inter-mandi trade by onboarding logistic service providers.
- e-NAM, launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, connects APMCs and regulated markets across India to improve price discovery and enable online payments for farmers.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

### 2.13 MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative

#### Why in News

- The **MSME TEAM Initiative** has been launched by the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** in partnership with **ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)** to help **micro and small enterprises** embrace **digital commerce** and expand market reach.
- The initiative has a **budget allocation** of **₹277.35 crore** over **3 years**, aiming to onboard **5 lakh MSMEs**, with **50%** being **women-led businesses**.

## 3. GA + FINANCE

### PIB IN NEWS

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

### 3.1 Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

#### Why in News

- IEPFA signed an **MoU** with **Strategic Educational Professionals Pvt. Ltd.** (a subsidiary of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) to develop a digital program aimed at promoting **financial literacy** among **school children**.
- IEPFA, established in **2016** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, manages the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IPEF)** to safeguard investor interests.
- The **IPEF** handles **unclaimed dividends** (for **7 years** or more), **matured deposits**, and other related amounts, focusing on **investor protection**, **education**, and **distributions** of disgorged funds.

## BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

### 3.2 India Post Payments Bank

#### Why in News

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has implemented measures to link **Post Office Savings Accounts (POSA)** with its accounts for improved banking services.
- IPPB, launched in **2018**, is **100% government-owned** and operates under the **Ministry of Communications**, providing accessible and affordable banking through post offices.
- As per **RBI guidelines**, account holders can only hold a maximum of **Rs. 2 lakh** and transfer funds exceeding **₹2 lakh** from their regular savings accounts to linked **POSA**.



## OTHER NEWS

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

#### 3.3 [iSPOT \(Integrated Sebi Portal for Technical Glitches\) Portal](#)

##### Why in News

- SEBI launched iSPOT, a web-based portal for reporting and tracking technical glitches across Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), replacing the previous email reporting system.

### FUNCTIONS OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

#### 3.4 [Economic Capital Framework of RBI](#)

##### Why in News

- The RBI is reviewing its Economic Capital Framework (ECF), focusing on the contingency risk buffer (CRB), as per the Bimal Jalan Committee's recommendations.
- Bimal Jalan Committee, constituted in 2018, aimed to ensure appropriate risk provisions and sustainable profit distribution for RBI.
  - The committee recommended maintaining a CRB of 5.5-6.5% of RBI's balance sheet; 6.5% was maintained as of March 31, 2024.
  - ECF review is recommended every five years by the committee.
  - RBI transferred Rs 2.1 trillion in surplus (highest-ever) to the government for the financial year 2023-24, even after maintaining the CRB to 6.5%.

#### 3.5 [Exclusive Internet Domains for Banks and Non-Banks](#)

##### Why in News

- RBI is introducing exclusive internet domains: 'bank.in' for banks and 'fin.in' for non-bank financial entities to enhance cyber security.
- The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) will act as the registrar for these domains.

## 4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS

### Export-Import Bank of India's GOI-supported Line of Credit of USD 300 mn to Vietnam

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) signed a Line of Credit (LoC) agreement with the Government of Vietnam in 2024, effective from January 20, 2025.

- The LoC, valued at **USD 300 million**, supports the procurement of **High-Speed Guard Boats** and **Offshore Patrol Vessels** in Vietnam, promoting exports of eligible goods and services under India's **Foreign Trade Policy**.

### Supersession of Board of Directors of New India Cooperative Bank Ltd

- RBI has superseded the **Board of Directors** of **New India Cooperative Bank Ltd.**, Mumbai, for **12 months** due to poor governance standards.
- **Shri Shreekant**, former **SBI Chief General Manager**, has been appointed as the **Administrator**, assisted by a **Committee of Advisors** including **Ravindra Sapra** and **Abhijeet Deshmukh**.
  - The action was taken under **Section 36AAA** and **Section 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

## 5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) Scheme

- **PMECRG Scheme** is a flagship initiative under the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, aimed at nurturing young researchers in India. It provides **financial support to early-career researchers** to pursue innovative projects and advance research excellence.
- **Objective:**
  - To support **early-career researchers** in undertaking cutting-edge research across disciplines.
  - To promote innovation and develop a robust **research ecosystem** in India.
  - To empower young scientists and researchers to address national and global challenges.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Open to **Indian citizens** within the specified age bracket (typically under 35-40 years).
  - Candidates must hold a **Ph.D. degree** or equivalent in their respective fields.
  - Applicants should have demonstrated research capabilities through publications or prior projects.

#### Key Features:

- **Grant Amount:** supports researchers to initiate their research with a **support of up to Rs. 60 lakh** along with overhead charges for a **period of three years**.
- **Research Domains:** Covers a wide range of disciplines, including **science, technology, engineering, medicine, social sciences, and humanities**.
- **Focus Areas:**

- Innovative and high-impact research aligned with national priorities.
- Interdisciplinary projects addressing societal or technological challenges.

- **Implementation:** Administered by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** under the guidance of the Government of India.

### Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector- Phase II

- **Launch:** 2022
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)
- **Objective:** Provide assistance for developing Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure.
- **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 1207 crores
  - **Government Support:** Rs. 975 crore
  - **Industry Contribution:** Rs. 232 crore
- This pan-India, demand-driven scheme enables industry collaboration with educational and R&D institutes to skill the workforce and develop niche technologies, fostering a sustainable ecosystem for India's technical needs.

### Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

- Union Cabinet has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- This new scheme will **take effect from April 1, 2025**. NPS subscribers now have the option to switch to UPS, which provides this assured pension starting from the next financial year.
- Salient features of the UPS are:
  - **Assured pension:** 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a **minimum qualifying service of 25 years**.
    - for those who joined the service after January 1, 2004, under the NPS.
    - To be proportionate for lesser service period upto a minimum of 10 years of service.
  - **Assured family pension:** @60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/his demise.
  - **Assured minimum pension:** @10,000 per month on superannuation (minimum 10-year service).
  - **Inflation indexation:** on assured pension, on assured family pension and assured minimum pension
  - **Dearness Relief** based on **All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW)** as in case of service employees.
  - **Lump sum payment** at superannuation in **addition to gratuity:** 1/10<sup>th</sup> of monthly emoluments (pay + DA) as on the date of superannuation **for every completed six months of service**.

- This payment will not reduce the quantum of assured pension

## 6. REPORTS

### 1. Corruption Perceptions Index 2024

- **Released by:** Transparency International
- **Coverage:** 180 countries
- **Parameter:** Scale of 0 to 100, where “0” is highly corrupt and “100” is very clean.

#### Key Findings:

- **Global Ranking:**
  - **Denmark (score: 90) topped** the list as the least-corrupt nation, followed by Finland (2<sup>nd</sup>), Singapore(3<sup>rd</sup>), New Zealand (4<sup>th</sup>) and Luxembourg (5<sup>th</sup>).
  - **Most Corrupt:** South Sudan (180<sup>th</sup>), Somalia (179<sup>th</sup>), and Venezuela (178<sup>th</sup>).
- **India's Rank:**
  - India **ranked 96th** with a score of 38, a decline from the previous year's score of 39.
  - India's rank in 2023 was 93.
- **Neighboring Countries of India:**
  - China: 76<sup>th</sup>
  - Pakistan: 135th
  - Sri Lanka: 121st
  - Bangladesh: 149th
- **Global Trends:**
  - While 32 countries showed progress in reducing corruption, most nations have either stagnated or worsened.
  - The global average remains at 43, with over two-thirds of countries scoring below 50.

### 2. Most powerful countries in the world in 2025

- **Released by:** Forbes (Compiled by US News in association with BAV Group and the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania)

- **Methodology:** The rankings are based on an 'equally weighted average of scores' from 5 attributes: leadership, economic influence, political influence, strong international alliances, and a strong military.

#### Important Ranking – most powerful:

1. **United States**
2. **China**
3. **Russia**
4. **United Kingdom**
5. **Germany**
12. **India** - India ranks at 5 in world GDP rankings after the US, China, Germany and Japan.

### 3. Asia's 20 Richest Families of 2025

- **Released by:** Bloomberg

#### Important Ranking – Richest:

1. **Ambani Family (India)**
  2. **Chearavanont Family (Thailand)**
  3. **Hartono Family (Indonesia)**
  4. **Mistry Family (India)**
  5. **Kwok Family (Hong Kong)**
- Other notable Indian families in the top 20 include the **Jindal Family (Rank 7)**, the **Birla Family (Rank 9)**, the **Bajaj Family (Rank 13)**, and the **Hinduja Family (Rank 18)**.

### 4. 50 Over 50 Global: 2025

- **Released by:** Forbes
- **Publication:** First Time

#### Key Findings:

4. The list includes the names of **3 Indian women:** Urmila Asher, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and Sheela Patel.

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