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Dear Aspirant,

To succeed in any competitive examination, you need strong internal motivation. No one can force you to prepare & work hard. Your passion for excellence, ability to learn and expert's guidance can certainly determine your success in a top level competitive examination.



Usually students do not know how to start and what to study. To crack any exam, a smart aspirant must know that the previous year exam papers can give the glimpse of the pattern of exam. Besides this targeted preparation under expert guidance coupled with unmatched study material makes the task much easier.

We help you to gain knowledge, simultaneously it also inculcates positive attitude, self-belief and high level of confidence, which is essentially required to qualify in any competitive examinations. We provide a student centric learning environment to simulate intellectual development; encourage analytical thinking that develops competitive ability.

Our goal is to enhance student's achievements by improving their knowledge base & exam taking skills. At the same time you must inculcate positive thought within and always bear in mind that only your own resolution to achieve success is more important than any other one thing.

Students are today enlightened and focused. They know what they are up to. They need just a ray of guidance. I feel I have accomplished the reason of my existence on this earth. Proud to be that faint ray of guidance, proud to be a reason of smile on certain lips, proud to be your teacher, friend and guide.

Jayakrishnan Ramachandran

Mar-2025



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Important Personalities

- Who was appointed as the next U.S. Defence Secretary after a 50-50 Senate vote, with Vice President JD Vance breaking the tie? **Pete Hegseth**
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Zoho Corp following Sridhar Vembu's resignation? **Shailesh Kumar Davey**
- Who has been reappointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd for a further three years? **Hisashi Takeuchi**
- Who has been selected as the pilot for Axiom Mission 4, the private mission to the International Space Station? **Shubhanshu Shukla**
- Who was sworn in as Belgium's new Prime Minister? **Bart De Wever**
- Who has been appointed as the Director in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)? **Sagar Singh Kalsi**
- Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Roscosmos by Russian President Vladimir Putin? **Dmitry Bakanov.**
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Nokia, effective April 1, 2025? **Justin Hotard**
- Who has been appointed as Romania's interim President after Klaus Iohannis' resignation? **Ilie Bolojan.**
- Who has been appointed as the new captain of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for IPL 2025? **Rajat Patidar**
- Who was elected as the new president of Greece on February 12, 2025? **Constantine Tassoulas**
- Who has been appointed as the Administrator of New India Cooperative Bank by RBI? **Mr. Shreekant, former Chief General Manager of SBI.**
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Standard Chartered India, effective April 1, 2025? **PD Singh.**
- Who has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India? **Gyanesh Kumar**
- Who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner of India? **Dr. Vivek Joshi**
- Who has become the 4th woman Chief Minister of Delhi, ending AAP's 10-year rule? **Rekha Gupta**
- Which country has been elected as the Vice President of the International Association of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) in 2025? **India**
- Who has been appointed as the 9th Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)? **Kash Patel**
- For how many years will Kash Patel serve as the FBI Director? **10 years**

01 FEB



INDIAN COAST GUARD DAY

EDITION: 48th

Importance
To mark the inception of interim Indian Coast guard on 1 February 1977 to prevent sea-borne smuggling of goods.

This day is an opportune moment to reaffirm their resolute commitment and selfless service for safeguarding maritime interests of our nation.
The ICG in its present shape was formally inaugurated on 18th August 1978.

Fact
India's 7516.60 kilometer coastline encompasses various states and some of the busiest trade routes kilometer coastline.

Note

- There are 9 Indian states and 4 Union Territories situated on the coast.
- These include Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Sony Group Corp., effective April 1? **Hiroki Totoki**
- Who has been appointed as Syria's interim president following Bashar al-Assad's ouster? **Ahmed al-Sharaa**
- Who has been appointed as the new co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India, replacing Mike Walz? **Rich McCormick**

- Who has been appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) in February 2025? **Professor Sabyasachi Kar**
- What is the new tenure period for B.V.R. Subrahmanyam as NITI Aayog CEO? **Until February 24, 2026**
- Who is the current Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) of India? **V. Anantha Nageswaran**
- Who has been appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to PM Narendra Modi? **Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.**
- Who is the first Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister? **PK Mishra.**
- Who won the German national election in 2025? **Friedrich Merz's conservative Union bloc.**
- Who has been appointed as the Deputy Director of the FBI by US President Donald Trump? **Dan Bongino.**
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Unilever after Hein Schumacher's resignation? **Fernando Fernandez**
- Who was the renowned cardiologist, known for India's first heart-lung transplant and pioneering cardiac surgery, who recently passed away at the age of 82? **Dr. KM Cherian**
- Name the former German President and IMF Chief, who passed away recently? **Horst Koehler**
- Which Gujarat BJP MLA from Kadi passed away after a prolonged illness in 2025? **Karshan Solanki**
- Which Taiwanese actress, best known for her role in Meteor Garden, passed away at the age of 48? **Barbie Hsu**
- Name the Namibia's first President and founding father, who passed away recently? **Sam Nujoma.**
- Who was the former Mumbai captain and selector who passed away at the age of 76? **Milind Rege**



02 FEB

EDITION: 28th
 INCEPTION: 1997
 2025 THEME: Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Importance

To mark the date of the adoption of Ramsar Convention on wetland on February 02, 1971, in the city of Ramsar, Iran.

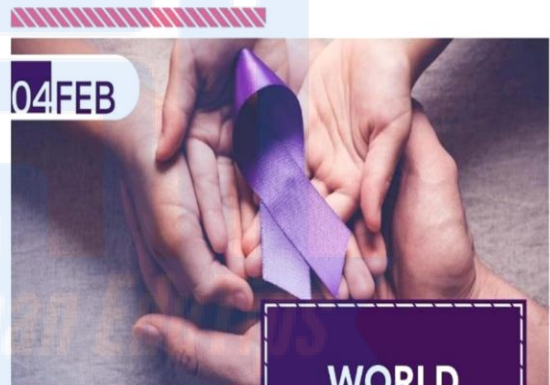
It aims at drawing attention to the relevance of promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in such an important ecosystem.

Fact

India currently has 85 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1,056,871 hectares.

Note

Largest wetland of India is Sunderban as it covers an area of 4230 sq. km.



04 FEB

2025 THEME: United by Unique
 The theme seeks to counter the negative attitude and fatalistic belief that nothing can be done about cancer, and instead promotes how our personal actions can be powerful and impactful.

WORLD CANCER DAY

Importance

To mark the establishment of World Cancer Day on 4 February 2000 at the World Cancer Summit in Paris.

Motto

To raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.


Organisation Involved

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

National & International News

- What was the theme of the 2025 Republic Day Parade, and how many tableaux were displayed? **"Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas," and 31 tableaux were displayed.**
- In which Indian city was the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2025 held? **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- What is the value of the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) approved by the Cabinet to promote exploration of critical minerals in India and offshore locations? **Rs 16,300 crore.**
- What was the theme of Uttar Pradesh's winning tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **'Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'**
- What was the theme of Tripura's tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **'Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja'**
- What was the theme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' winning tableau? **'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh'**
- Which northeastern state's tableau was selected for the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Tripura**
- What initiative did Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launch to address labour market imbalances? **OSI**
- Which state will have a dedicated Makhana Board as announced in Budget 2025-26? **Bihar.**
- Which institute will be established in Bihar as per Budget 2025-26? **National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management.**
- Which new mission has been launched to boost manufacturing in India under Budget 2025-26? **National Manufacturing Mission.**
- What is the duration of the newly announced Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses? **Six years.**
- Which three pulses are the focus of the Atmanirbharta in Pulses mission? **Tur, Urad, and Masoor.**
- Which central agencies will procure pulses under the new mission? **NAFED and NCCF.**
- How many National Centres of Excellence for Skilling will be established in Budget 2025? **Five**
- What is the enhanced budget outlay for the Jal Jeevan Mission? **100% coverage**
- How much funding is provided under SWAMIH 2.0 for affordable housing? **₹15,000 crore**
- What new support is provided for gig workers in the Budget 2025? **Identity cards**
- Which government body invited proposals for Bharat Small Reactors? **NPCIL**
- Which mission is set up for the conservation of manuscript heritage? **Gyaan Bharat Mission**
- What is the total allocation for healthcare in Union Budget 2025? **₹98,311 crore**
- How much has been allocated to the defence sector in Union Budget 2025? **₹4,91,732 crore**
- How many new Ramsar sites have been added in India, taking the total to 89? **Four**

06 FEB



International Day of
ZERO TOLERANCE
for
**FEMALE
GENITAL**

**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF ZERO
TOLERANCE TO
FEMALE GENITAL
MUTILATION**

EDITION: 22nd
INCEPTION: 2003
2025 THEME:
Her Voice. Her Future. Investing in
Survivor-Led Movements to End
Female Genital Mutilation.

What is Female genital mutilation (FGM)?
It comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.

Importance
On February 6, 2003, Stella Obasanjo, the First Lady of Nigeria and spokesperson for the Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation, made the official declaration on "Zero Tolerance to FGM" in Africa.

Motto
To amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of female genital mutilation.


Organisation Involved
UNGA

Note
In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.

- Which four wetlands have been recently designated as Ramsar sites in India? **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (TN), Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (TN), Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim), Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)**
- Which state in India has the highest number of Ramsar sites? **Tamil Nadu (20 sites)**
- When was the Ayush Visa introduced? **July 27, 2023**
- Where was the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024 held? **Mumbai**

- What is the name of the portal launched for Medical Value Travel (MVT)? **Advantage Healthcare India**
- What is the theme of the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024? **Global Synergy in Ayush**
- What is the total outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the Skill India Programme till 2026? **₹8,800 crore**
- Which bill has been approved by the Union Cabinet to simplify tax laws by reducing sections and making compliance easier? **The new Income-Tax Bill.**
- What is the new name of Ajmer's King Edward Memorial after its renaming in 2025? **Maharishi Dayanand Vishrant Grih.**
- Which state's cabinet approved amendments to its Disaster Management Authority Rules in 2025? **Maharashtra.**
- Which Indian state is set to launch the Clean Mobility Policy 2025-2030, targeting ₹50,000 crore investments and 1 lakh jobs? **Karnataka**
- Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners under the 2023 Act? **The President of India**

10 FEB



NATIONAL DE-WORMING DAY

INCEPTION: 2015
2025 THEME:
 To improve the health and well-being of children in India

National Deworming Day is a groundbreaking initiative focused on reducing the threat of parasitic worm infections, a widespread health issue affecting over 241 million children in India alone.

Motto
 The objective of National Deworming Day is to deworm all preschool and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

Ministry Involved
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Note
 • India has the highest burden of soil-transmitted helminths--parasitic worms--in the world.
 • According to the 2012 report 'Children in India', published by MOSPI 48% of children under the age of five years are stunted and 19.8% are wasted.

- Where is the IAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 being held? **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.**
- Who is inaugurating the IAS-DARPG India Conference 2025? **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.**
- What is the theme of the IAS-DARPG India Conference 2025? **Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Reaching the Last Mile."**
- Where is Asia's biggest Aero India show being held? **Yelahanka Air Force Base, Bengaluru.**
- What is the theme of the Aero India Show 2025? **Runway to a Billion Opportunities."**
- Where was the first 'Sachal Aaykar Seva Kendra' inaugurated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman? **Mumbai, at Navy Nagar, Colaba.**
- Which pilot program was launched by the Centre to modernize land records? **National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey-Naksha**
- Which state government is implementing "Mission Shikshit Arunachal by 2029" to transform its education system? **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Which ministry launched the Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) for standardized digital governance? **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**
- Which country became the second in the world after China to introduce Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots? **India**
- Where has India's first wildlife biobank been established? **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling**
- Which Indian state is introducing FASTag-based entry tax collection at all its toll barriers? – **Himachal Pradesh**
- When did India and Oman formally launch CEPA negotiations? **November 2023**
- Which three countries have officially withdrawn from ECOWAS ? **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger**
- Which West African political and trade bloc did Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger leave? **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**
- Which is the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis as recognized by WHO? **Niger**
- Which South Korean biopharmaceutical company received US FDA approval for its biosimilar Avtozma? **Celltrion**
- Which two countries have more Ramsar sites than India? **United Kingdom (176) and Mexico (144)**
- Which mountain in New Zealand was granted legal personhood, now officially recognized by its Māori name? **Taranaki Maunga**

- What is the height of Mount Taranaki, now legally recognized as Taranaki Maunga? **2,518 meters (8,261 feet)**
- Which other two natural features in New Zealand have been granted legal personhood before Taranaki Maunga? **Te Urewera National Park (2014) and Whanganui River (2017)**
- Which country withdrew from UNHRC before Israel? **The United States**
- Which Israeli leaders have ICC arrest warrants against them? **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.**
- Where is the BIMSTEC Digital Conclave 2025 being held? **Colombo, Sri Lanka.**
- What is the theme of the BIMSTEC Digital Conclave 2025? **"Building Digital Public Infrastructure for Shared Prosperity."**
- What is the primary objective of Bangladesh's 'Operation Devil Hunt'? **To maintain law and order across the country**
- In which French city did PM Modi and President Macron inaugurate India's new consulate in 2025? **Marseille.**
- What is the depth at which China's deep-sea research facility will be anchored in the South China Sea? **2,000 meters.**
- By which year is China's deep-sea research facility in the South China Sea expected to be operational? **2030.**
- Who has been confirmed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) of the United States under the Trump administration? **Tulsi Gabbard.**
- Why did Adani Green exit the Sri Lanka wind power project? **Because of financial viability issues and renegotiation requests by the Sri Lankan government**
- Where was the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, attended by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar, held in February 2025? **Muscat, Oman.**
- Where will the BRICS Summit 2025 be held? **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
- Which cultural event was organized by the Indian Embassy in Bangkok under SAMVAD-IV? **Khon dance and Sitar recital.**
- Which three countries discussed security scenarios in the Indo-Pacific and North Korea at the Munich Security Conference 2025? **The United States, Japan, and South Korea.**
- Which country received India's first-ever sea shipment of pomegranates? **Australia**
- Where was the statue of Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar unveiled to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India-Philippines diplomatic relations? **Gullas College of Medicine in Cebu, Philippines.**
- Which six additional countries' visa holders are now eligible for the UAE's expanded visa-on-arrival scheme for Indian nationals, effective from February 13, 2025? **Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and South Korea.**

11 FEB



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

THEME:
Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth.

Importance
On 22 December 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology & marks 11 Feb as the same.

Motto
To ensure full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

Note

- According to UNESCO data (2014 - 2016), only around 30 per cent of all female students select STEM-related fields in higher education.
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration institutions and civil society partners.
- This Day is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

- Which country introduced an online visa application system for students, including Indians? **Germany**
- Through which portal can Indian students now apply for German visas online? **Consular Services Portal**
- Why has Brazil joined OPEC+ as an observer? **To participate in strategic discussions without committing to production cuts or price controls**
- Who will be the Guest of Honour at Mauritius' 57th National Day celebrations? **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- Which two countries have agreed to resume free trade negotiations in 2025? **India and the United Kingdom (UK).**

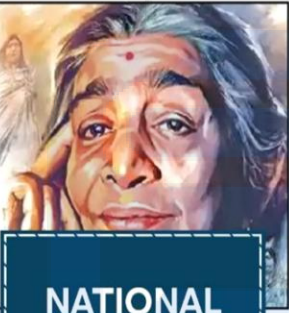
Important Projects & Schemes

- Under the UPS, what is the government's contribution to the pension corpus? **18.5%.**
- What is the minimum assured monthly pension under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)? **₹10,000.**
- What is the name of the scheme approved by the government to boost MSME manufacturing? **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS)**
- What is the maximum loan amount eligible for guarantee under the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs? **Rs 100 crore**
- What percentage of loan guarantee does the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme provide for MSMEs? **60%**
- Over how many years will the Budget 2025 loan scheme for women and SC/ST entrepreneurs be implemented? **Over 5 years.**
- How many districts will be covered under the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana? **100 districts.**
- What is the total capital to be infused into new projects through asset monetisation? **₹10 lakh crore**
- What is the maximum loan amount under the PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors? **₹80,000**
- What insurance scheme will cover 10 million gig economy workers? **PM Jan Arogya Yojana**
- How many new destinations will the modified UDAN scheme connect in the next 10 years? **120**
- What is the proposed increase in passengers served by the UDAN scheme over the next 10 years? **4 crore**
- Which state will benefit from the development of greenfield airports under the UDAN scheme? **Bihar**
- How many small cities are targeted for connection through airports under the UDAN scheme? **88**
- What is the proposed budget for the UDAN scheme in 2025-26? **₹530 crore**
- Which state launched the 'Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha' (BGBO) scheme for rural development? **Odisha**
- Who inaugurated the 'Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha' (BGBO) scheme? **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi**
- Which three schemes have been integrated under the revamped Skill India Programme? **PMKVY 4.0, PM-NAPS, and JSS**
- How much budget has been allocated for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)? **₹6,000 crore**
- Where was the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Scheme recently launched? **Puducherry**
- Who inaugurated the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Scheme in Puducherry? **Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan**
- What is the age eligibility for the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Scheme? **70 years and above**
- What is the maximum health insurance coverage provided under the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Scheme? **₹5 lakh per year**
- Which state government launched the 'Lakshapati Didi Sahayika Yojana' to provide financial support for Community Support Staff (CSS)? **Odisha**
- India and Nepal have agreed to resume talks on which three hydroelectric projects? **Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project, and Sunkoshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.**
- Matsya-6000 is being developed as part of which project? **Samudrayan Project**
- What is the maximum loan amount under the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs? **Up to Rs. 100 crore.**
- What is the maximum funding cap per project under the Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) launched by IN-SPACE? **₹25 crore**
- Which two institutions finalized the plan to train 1,500 Sri Lankan civil service officers under an MoU? **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Sri Lanka's Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)**
- Which state government increased the financial aid under the NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana (NSMNY) from ₹6,000 to ₹9,000 annually? **Maharashtra**

Banking & Economy

- What amount of liquidity is the RBI injecting into the banking system through its latest measures? **₹1.1 lakh crore.**
- Why was Paytm's PA licence application rejected by RBI in November 2022? **Due to non-compliance with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regulations.**
- What is the name of the web-based portal developed by Sebi for reporting technical glitches by stock exchanges and MIIs? **iSPOT (Integrated Sebi Portal for Technical Glitches).**
- What is the target inflation rate for India by FY 2026 according to the Economic Survey 2025? **Around 4%.**
- What is the total export value for India in FY 2025 as per the Economic Survey 2025? **USD 602.6 billion.**
- At what income level does the 30% tax rate apply under the new tax regime in Budget 2025? **above ₹24 lakh.**
- How much direct tax revenue is expected to be forgone due to the new tax structure in Budget 2025? **Approximately ₹1 lakh crore**
- What is the increased TDS deduction limit on senior citizens' interest income in Budget 2025? **The limit has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh.**
- What is the revised annual TDS limit on rental income as per Budget 2025? **Raised from ₹2.40 lakh to ₹6 lakh annually.**
- What is the new threshold for TCS on remittances under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) in Budget 2025? **Increased from ₹7 lakh to ₹10 lakh.**
- What is the maximum loan amount offered under the new Budget 2025 scheme for women and SC/ST entrepreneurs? **Up to ₹2 crore.**
- What is the increased loan limit under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme for KCC? **₹5 lakh.**
- What is the outlay for the Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education? **₹500 crore**
- How much will be provided for interest-free loans to states for infrastructure development? **₹1.5 lakh crore**
- What is the amount allocated for the Urban Challenge Fund in Budget 2025? **₹1 lakh crore**
- India recently contributed how much to the United Nations' Regular Budget for 2025? **\$37.64 million**
- How much will South Korea invest in materials and parts technologies this year to enhance global competitiveness? **1.18 trillion won (\$809.3 million)**
- Why has SEBI tightened algo trading rules? **To enhance investor protection and market integrity, especially for retail investors.**

13 FEB



SAROJINI NAIDU

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Importance

To mark the birth anniversary of India's first women governor Sarojini Naidu. This day has been selected to observe as a National Woman Day in recognition of the works done by her for upliftment and development of women in India. Her name and birth date was proposed to celebrate as the National Women's Day in India by members of Bhartiya Mahila Sangh and Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Sammelan.


Sarojini Naidu
(13 Feb 1879 to 2 Mar 1949)
The Nightingale of India

- She was a child prodigy, a poet and an activist during the independence of India
- From 1947 to 1949, she served as the first woman to become the governor of an Indian state of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh
- In 1925, she served as second woman to become President of the Indian National Congress and the first Indian woman to do so
- Naidu joined the Indian national movement after the partition of Bengal in 1905
- In 1928, the British Government awarded her with the medal Naidu Kaiser-i-Hind for her work during the plague epidemic in India.

- What penalty did Sebi impose on Motilal Oswal Financial Services for violating broker rules? **Rs 7 lakh**
- What was India's real GDP growth in FY 2024-25 according to the Economic Survey 2025? **6.4%**
- What was the retail inflation rate for India in FY 2024-25 according to the Economic Survey 2025? **4.9% (April-December 2024).**

- How will SEBI ensure transparency in algo trading? **By mandating unique order tracking IDs for all algo trades.**
- What is the total cost of the 1-MW Green Hydrogen Plant in Himachal Pradesh? **₹9.04 crore**
- By how many basis points did the RBI cut the repo rate in its latest monetary policy decision? **25 basis points (bps).**
- What security measure has the RBI introduced for cross-border digital transactions? **Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).**
- What type of transactions will the new AFA requirement apply to? **Cross-border Card Not Present (CNP) transactions.**
- What is the purpose of RBI launching the 'bank.in' and 'fin.in' domains? **To enhance cybersecurity and reduce digital banking frauds.**
- Which domain will be exclusively available for Indian banks? **'bank.in'**
- Which institution will act as the exclusive registrar for the 'bank.in' domain? **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).**
- Which bank recently had its RBI-imposed business restrictions lifted after implementing corrective measures? **Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- Which denomination banknotes will the RBI issue with Governor Sanjay Malhotra's signature while keeping old notes valid? **₹50 banknotes.**
- For how many months has RBI superseded the Board of Directors of New India Cooperative Bank? **12 months.**
- Which banks and NBFC have been penalized by RBI for regulatory non-compliance, and what are the penalty amounts? **Nainital Bank (₹61.40 lakh), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (₹6.70 lakh), Shriram Finance (₹5.80 lakh)**
- Which Indian bank received RBI approval to open its first international branch at GIFT City? **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).**
- What is the increased amount allocated for capital expenditure in the Union Budget 2025-26? **Rs. 16 lakh crore.**
- What is the projected GDP growth for India in Q3 FY2025 as per ICRA? **6.4%**
- How much did India-UAE bilateral trade increase to in FY 2023-24 under CEPA? **\$83.7 billion**
- Which mobile application has been launched by the RBI to provide access to economic and financial data? **'RBIDATA' app**
- Which new facility has Irdai introduced for insurance premium payments via UPI? **Bima Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (Bima-ASBA).**
- What is SBI's projected GDP growth rate for India in Q3 of FY 2024-25? **6.2-6.3%**
- India recently released the third tranche of Nu 2.5 billion (Rs 250 crore) to which country under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP)? **Bhutan**
- What was the amount of the penalty imposed by the

13 FEB



WORLD RADIO DAY

INCEPTION: 2012
2025 THEME: Radio and Climate Change

Importance
 To mark the inception of United Nations Radio in 1946.

Motto
 To elaborate the role of radio as a way of educating people, providing information, and promoting freedom of expression across cultures.

Organisation Involved
 UNESCO

Background
 • In 2011, the Spanish Radio Academy proposed to UNESCO that there be a "World Radio Day".
 • Radio is more than a century old now and has become entrenched in many cultures as a traditional means of social interaction and of education.
 • It has also long played an important role in disaster relief and emergency response.

RBI on Citibank N.A.? **₹39 lakh**

- Which Taiwan-based company is investing \$500 million in India under the Make in India initiative? **Delta Electronics.**
- Which regulatory body imposed a ₹10 lakh penalty on Axis Securities? **SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India).**
- What was the penalty amount imposed on Axis Securities by SEBI? **₹10 lakh.**

- What is the maximum withdrawal limit per depositor allowed by RBI for New India Co-operative Bank? **₹25,000**
- Which FMCG company recently rebranded itself as AWL Agri Business Limited? **Adani Wilmar**
- With which Gulf country is India negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to strengthen trade ties? **Oman**
- Which company has signed an \$80 million multi-year deal with a US-based manufacturer to accelerate digital transformation and innovation? **L&T Technology Services**
- Which shipbuilding company signed an MoU with Apollo Micro Systems Ltd to diversify into underwater weapons and communication systems? **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd**



20 FEB

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

1ST OBSERVANCE: 2009

Motto
To contribute to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and justice for all.

Need
To promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. It upholds the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. It advances social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

Note
The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice.

- Which pilgrimage's resumption has been agreed upon by India and China during recent bilateral talks? **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**
- How much is the total worth of the defence contracts signed by the Ministry of Defence for the Pinaka rocket system ammunition? **₹10,147 crore.**
- Which e-commerce company has renewed its partnership with DGFT to boost MSME exports? **Amazon**
- Which company has partnered with the Government of India for the 38th National Games 2025 to promote sustainability through the use of recycled materials? **Attero**
- With which company did GRSE sign an MoU to collaborate on underwater weapons technology? **Apollo Micro Systems Ltd (AMS)**
- What is the name of the new regional bloc formed by Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger? **Alliance of Sahel States (AES)**
- Which two companies have partnered to develop India's largest green ammonia plant in Odisha? **Avaada Group and Casale**
- What did Iran and Iraq agree to expand in order to ensure regional security and stability? **Bilateral cooperation**
- Which Hyderabad-based university has partnered with Arizona State University (ASU) for global education? **Anurag University**
- Which US university has collaborated with Anurag University to enhance global education accessibility? **Arizona State University (ASU)**
- Which two organizations signed an MoU to strengthen India's carbon markets? **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Carbon Market Association of India (CMAI)**
- Which international organization is working with Laos to improve rural livelihoods? **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).**
- What is the main goal of Laos and IFAD's collaboration? **To enhance rural livelihoods, modernize agriculture, and improve food security.**
- Which Indian organization signed an MoU with Expo City Dubai for the 2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit? **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**
- How many districts in India will receive specialized training sessions under the Amazon-DGFT collaboration? **47 districts**

- Which B2B SaaS company recently acquired financial crime management firm Clari5 to enhance its fraud and risk management capabilities? **Perfios**
- Which organizations signed an MoU at the World Book Fair 2025 to convert NBT books into Indian Sign Language (ISL) for Deaf children? **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and National Book Trust (NBT).**
- With which company has the Ministry of Defence signed a contract for 28 EON-51 systems? **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).**
- What is the value of the contract signed between the Defence Ministry and BEL for EON-51 systems? **Over ₹642 crore.**
- Which countries signed an MoU for the HydroNepal Project? **Nepal and France.**
- Which Nepali organisation signed the MoU for the HydroNepal Project? **Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).**
- Which organizations collaborated to unveil India's Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System at Aero India 2025? **Adani Defence & Aerospace and DRDO**
- What is the primary focus of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between BP and Engineers India Limited (EIL)? **Technical support for oil, gas, and refining activities**
- What is the primary objective of the collaboration between BCCI and ICC? **To promote organ donation awareness**
- Under which agreement was the India-EFTA Desk launched to enhance trade and investment? **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).**
- Which state government signed an MoU with Cure International India Trust for the Clubfoot Management Programme in 2025? **Odisha.**
- Which country recently signed 10 MoUs with India in the fields of technology, nuclear energy, and innovation? **France**
- What is the name of the AI-related declaration signed between India and France? **India-France Declaration on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- Which Maharatna company signed an MoU with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)? **ONGC**
- What is the primary focus of the partnership between Tata Elxsi and Garuda Aerospace? **Designing and engineering indigenous UAV technologies**
- What is the primary goal of the MoU between Karnataka and the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce? **To foster international business collaboration and attract Swiss investments**
- Which brand replaced Thums Up as the co-presenter for IPL 2025? **Campa Cola**
- Which regulations are India and the US planning to review to facilitate smoother defence trade? **International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)**
- What is the primary focus of the MoU signed between HAL and IIIT Dharwad? **Advanced Technologies and Skill Development**
- What is the primary objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Saab and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)? **To**

21 FEB



EDITION: 26th

INCEPTION:
2000 (first announced by UNESCO on November 17, 1999)

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Importance
To mark the killing of four students on February 21, 1952, because they campaigned to officially use their mother language, Bengali, in Bangladesh.

Motto
To promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity all across the world.

Organisation Involved
UNESCO


Note

- In Bangladesh, 21st February marks the anniversary of the day when Bengalis fought for the recognition of Bangla language.
- SANSKRIT is one of the official languages of India, and is popularly known as a classical language of the country.
- Chinese is the single most spoken language in the world today with around 1.2 billion people who consider it their first language.

manufacture the Electronic Warfare Land Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310) in India.

- The MoU between ANRF and the US National Science Foundation focuses on joint research in which emerging technologies? **Semiconductors, connected vehicles, machine learning, next-gen telecommunications, intelligent transportation systems, and future biomanufacturing.**
- Which two countries recently discussed cooperation in critical minerals, exploration, and mining, focusing on securing essential resources? **India and Sri Lanka.**

24FEB



CENTRAL EXCISE DAY

Importance
To mark the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act on 24th of February in the year 1944.

Motto
To encourage the equality among the officers of the Central Board of Excise and Customs Department as well as assist them to ensure better tax observance.

Why Celebrated?
The celebration of the day means to collect tax over the goods and by the people earning over the limit which has been decided according to the terms of Central Excise Act in the year 1944.
The tax payable rate has been set under Schedule I and II according to the Central Excise Tariff Act in the year 1985.

Note
• Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Union Ministry of Finance.
• The CBEC deals with policy formulation concerning levy and collection of Customs and central excise duties and service tax.

- What are the key areas of cooperation under the India-US TRUST initiative and IMEC framework? **Critical minerals, advanced materials, pharmaceuticals, economic corridors, and connectivity infrastructure.**
- Which two organizations signed an MoU with the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA)? **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India**

- Which Indian minister announced the MoUs at the India-Qatar Business Forum? **Piyush Goyal**
- Which institute collaborated with ISRO to develop the 10-tonne propellant mixer? **Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru**
- Which ministry signed an MoU with APNA to boost job opportunities? **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)**
- Which job recruitment platform partnered with the Labour Ministry to provide job opportunities? **APNA**
- Which two states are likely to sign an MoU to boost the bamboo industry and entrepreneurial activities? **Maharashtra and Tripura.**
- Which organizations signed an MoU to boost the tribal economy during Aadi Mahotsav 2025? **TRIFED and Tea Trunk.**
- Which country recently signed an MoU with India to strengthen cooperation in lithium exploration and mining? **Argentina**
- In collaboration with which university has the Haryana government established the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Crop Post-Harvest Management and Cold Chain? **University of Birmingham**
- India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) recently signed an MoU with which Nepalese institution to strengthen scientific cooperation? **Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)**
- Which company signed a ₹1,220 crore contract with the Defence Ministry for advanced radios? **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
- How many Software Defined Radios will be procured for the Indian Coast Guard under the ₹1,220 crore deal? **149**
- Which defense force will receive 149 Software Defined Radios under the recent contract with BEL? **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**
- Which country is India collaborating with for the advancement of 5G and telecom networks? **UK**
- Which Indian organization is responsible for training Sri Lankan civil service officers under the MoU? **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)**

- How much is the Defence Ministry's contract worth for procuring 1,868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT)? **₹697.35 crore**
- Under which category has the Defence Ministry signed the deal for RTFLT procurement? **'Buy Indian' category**
- What is the primary objective of India and Saudi Arabia strengthening their media ties ahead of WAVES 2025? **To enhance cultural exchange and media cooperation**
- Which two countries have recently agreed to enhance military cooperation to counter China's assertiveness? **Japan and the Philippines.**
- Which two countries recently signed multiple memoranda of cooperation, including visa exemptions and political consultation agreements? **Libya and Somalia.**

27 FEB



INCEPTION: 2010

WORLD NGO DAY

Motto

To celebrate, commemorate and collaborate with the various NGOs around the world.

Founded by

Marcis Liors Skadmanis

Year 2010

1st time marked by the UN, EU leaders and international organizations
The term "non-governmental organization" was created in Article 71 of the Charter of the newly formed United Nations in 1945.
An NGO can be any kind of organization provided that it is independent from government influence and is not-for-profit.

Facts

World NGO Day was officially recognised and declared by the 12 member countries (Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden).

28 FEB



EDITION: 38th

2025 THEME: Science for a Sustainable Future

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

Recognizing the significance of the discovery in the field of Physics and the contribution of C.V. Raman.

Importance

To mark the discovery of the Raman scattering by the Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman on February 28 in 1928.
The Raman Effect names inelastic scattering of a photon. For the first proof of that effect C.V.Raman got the Nobel Prize in 1930.

Awards won by C.V. Raman

- Fellow of the Royal Society (1924)
- Knight Bachelor (1929)
- Nobel Prize in Physics (1930)
- Bharat Ratna (1954)
- Lenin Peace Prize (1957)
- Fellow of the Royal Society (1924)



Note

The day is also observed to recall and celebrate the contribution of all the great scientists of India who made fundamental discoveries and advanced human knowledge.

Awards & Recognitions

- Which campaign by Doordarshan won the ECI Media Award in the Electronic Media category during the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections? **"Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv"**
- Who received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) in 2025 from India? **Christine Carla Kangaloo**
- Christine Carla Kangaloo is the President of which country, who recently received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)? **Trinidad and Tobago**
- Who presented the 2025 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to Christine Carla Kangaloo? **Dr. Pradeep Rajpurohit (India's High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago)**
- Which state's tableau won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Uttar Pradesh**
- Which state's tableau secured the second prize at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Tripura**
- Which ministry won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- Which contingent won the best Marching Contingent award among Services at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Contingent**
- Which department and dance group received a Special Prize for 75 years of the Constitution of India? **Central Public Works Department and 'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group**
- Which state won the best tableau award in the Popular Choice Category at the Republic Day Parade 2025? **Gujarat**
- Which university has introduced a gold medal in the name of Tripura CM Manik Saha? **King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow**
- For which subject will the 'Chief Minister Tripura (Manik Saha) Gold Medal' be awarded by King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow? **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**
- Who was recently inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame? **Christina Matthews**
- Who was honored with the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by the BCCI in 2025? **Sachin Tendulkar**
- Which award did Jasprit Bumrah win at the Naman Awards 2025? **Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men)**
- Who won the 2025 Allan Border Medal and Belinda Clarke Award at the Australian Cricket Awards? **Travis Head and Annabel Sutherland**
- Who was recently inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame as the 66th member? **Michael Bevan**
- Who won the Grammy Award for the album 'Triveni' in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category? **Chandrika Tandon**
- Which Indian-American vocalist won a Grammy for her album 'Triveni'? **Chandrika Tandon**
- Which artist won her first Grammy for the album 'Short and Sweet'? **Sabrina Carpenter**
- Which band won Best Rock Performance for their AI-assisted track 'Now and Then'? **The Beatles**
- Who made history as the third woman to win Best Rap Album at the 2025 Grammy Awards? **Doechii**
- How much prize money did the winners (Andhra Pradesh) receive in the Nagesh Trophy 2024-25? **₹1,25,000 + Trophy**
- Who was awarded the 2024 Hurun Industry Achievement Award for Financial Solutions Innovation? **Dr. Raj P Narayanam**
- Which Indian biologist has been named in Time Magazine's 'Women of the Year 2025' list? **Purnima Devi Barman**
- Purnima Devi Barman, featured in Time's 'Women of the Year 2025' list, is associated with the conservation of which bird species? **Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila)**
- Which global award was conferred upon India for road safety improvements? **Prince Michael Decade of Action Road Safety Award.**
- Who has been awarded with the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) for his contributions to UK-India business relations? **Sunil Bharti Mittal**

Sports


- Who won the men's singles title at the 2025 Australian Open? **Jannik Sinner (Italy).**
- Which player did Jannik Sinner defeat to win the 2025 Australian Open men's singles final? **Alexander Zverev.**
- Who became the youngest man to win multiple Australian Open titles since Jim Courier in 1992-93? **Jannik Sinner.**
- Who won the women's doubles title at the 2025 Australian Open? **Taylor Townsend (USA) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic).**
- Who won the gold medal in the women's 60m indoor hurdles at the Meeting de Nantes Métropole 2025, and what was her record-breaking time? **Jyothi Yarraji, 8.04 seconds.**
- Who was named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Smriti Mandhana.**
- Who won the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024 award? **Jasprit Bumrah.**
- Who won the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Azmatullah Omarzai.**
- Which Indian cricketer won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Arshdeep Singh.**
- Who was awarded ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Amelia Kerr.**
- Who won the ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024 award? **Kamindu Mendis.**
- Who was named ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Annerie Dercksen.**
- Which cricketer won the ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2024 award? **Gerhard Erasmus.**
- Who was named ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Esha Oza.**
- Who won the ICC Umpire of the Year 2024 award? **Richard Illingworth.**
- Who recently resigned as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ICC? **Geoff Allardice**
- Geoff Allardice, who recently resigned from his role from ICC, in which year was appointed as the permanent CEO of ICC? **2021**
- Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Jasprit Bumrah**
- Jasprit Bumrah became the fifth Indian to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy. Who was the first Indian to receive this award? **Rahul Dravid (2004)**
- Who won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024? **Amelia Kerr**
- Which country does Amelia Kerr, ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024, represent? **New Zealand**
- Which team won the inaugural Women's Hockey India League (HIL) title? **Odisha Warriors.**
- Who was named Player of the Tournament in the Women's HIL 2023? **Jyoti (JSW Soorma Hockey Club).**
- Who became the second-quickest Australian cricketer to reach 10,000 Test runs? **Steven Smith.**
- Which Afghanistan pacer announced his retirement from international cricket in 2024? **Shapoor Zadran**
- Which state won the highest number of medals in weightlifting on Day 1 of the 38th National Games? **Maharashtra (6 Medals)**
- Who won the men's trap gold medal at the 3rd Digvijay Singh Memorial Shooting Championship? **Lakshay Sheoran (Haryana)**
- Which team won the inaugural World Pickleball League (WPL)? **Bengaluru Jawans**
- Who was named the Player of the League in the inaugural WPL? **Katerina Stewart**
- Who won the Tata Steel Masters 2025 chess tournament? **R Praggnanandhaa**
- Which player did R Praggnanandhaa defeat in the tiebreaker to win Tata Steel Masters 2025? **Dommaraju Gukesh**
- Which Indian player became the highest-ranked in FIDE after defeating Gukesh in Tata Steel Masters 2025? **Arjun Erigaisi**
- Who broke the national record in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions at the 38th National Games? **Ashi Chouksey**
- What was Ashi Chouksey's score when she set the new national record in the 50m rifle 3 positions event? **598 points**
- Where was the 38th National Games held where Ashi Chouksey set the national record? **Dehradun**

- Who won the silver medal and set a new national record in the Men's 60m Hurdles at the European Outdoor Championships? **Tejas Shirse.**
- Who won the 2025 Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament? **Rory McIlroy**
- Where are the 38th National Games being held? **Uttarakhand**
- Who won the gold medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 38th National Games? **Sift Kaur Samra**
- Who won the gold medal in the women's 87+ kg weightlifting category at the 38th National Games? **Mehak Sharma**
- Who won the gold medal in the men's weightlifting (367 kg total) at the 38th National Games? **Lovepreet Singh**
- Who won the gold medal in the men's 10m pistol event at the 38th National Games? **Jonathan Anthony**
- Which athlete won the gold medal in the yoga competition at the 38th National Games? **Ritu Mandal**
- Who won the gold medal in the men's squash final at the 38th National Games? **Velavan Senthilkumar**
- Who became the first player in the world to win 30 consecutive T20I matches? **Shivam Dube**
- Which team won the Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2024 by defeating South Africa in the final? **India**
- By how many wickets did India defeat South Africa in the Women's U-19 T20 World Cup final? **9 wickets**
- Who was the top scorer for India in the Women's U-19 T20 World Cup final against South Africa? **Gongadi Trisha (44* off 33 balls)**
- Which Sri Lankan cricketer announced his retirement after playing his 100th Test match against Australia? **Dimuth Karunaratne**
- Who won the Gold medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the 38th National Games? **Suruchi from Haryana**
- Which state won the Gold medal in the men's double sculls and coxless four sculls events at the 38th National Games? **Services**
- Who won the Gold medal in the women's K-1 slalom event at the 38th National Games? **Nagidi Gayatri from Andhra Pradesh**
- Which Australian cricketer recently retired from ODI cricket? **Marcus Stoinis**
- Who became the fifth Indian bowler to take 600 international wickets? **Ravindra Jadeja.**
- Who are the other Indian bowlers with 600+ international wickets? **Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin, Harbhajan Singh, and Kapil Dev.**
- Which Indian bowler has taken the most international wickets? **Anil Kumble (953 wickets).**
- Who won the 7th Nagesh Trophy Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind (2024-25)? **Andhra Pradesh**
- Who won the gold medal in the women's 75kg boxing category at the 38th National Games? **Lovlina Borgohain**
- Which boxer secured a silver medal in the men's 63.5kg category at the 38th National Games? **Shiva Thapa**
- Where is the 38th edition of the National Games being held? **Uttarakhand**
- How many times has the Pakistan Football Federation been suspended since 2017? **Three times.**
- When was the FIFA-appointed Normalisation Committee set up for Pakistan football? **June 2019.**
- Which Sri Lankan cricketer retired from international cricket after his 100th Test? **Dimuth Karunaratne.**
- Who was crowned ICC Men's Player of the Month for January 2025? **Jomel Warrican**
- Pankaj Advani secured his 36th national title by winning which championship? **Indian Snooker Championship**
- Carlos Alcaraz won his first indoor hardcourt title at which tournament? **Rotterdam Open**
- Jil Teichmann won the 2025 Mumbai Open by defeating which player in the final? **Mananchaya Sawangkaew**
- Who is the first female cricketer to be banned for corruption by the ICC? **Shohely Akhter**
- How many gold medals did India win at the 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup? **Six gold medals.**

- Who won the gold medal in the Women's Compound Open category at the Para-Archery Asia Cup 2025? **India's Sarita.**
- Who won the gold medal in rhythmic gymnastics at the 38th National Games 2024? **Muskan Rana from Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Which Indian athlete broke the 17-year-old national record in the indoor men's 3000m event? **Gulveer Singh**
- Which country is hosting the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy? **Pakistan**
- What is the total prize pool for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy? **\$4.5 million USD**
- By what percentage has the prize pool increased from the 2017 edition of the ICC Champions Trophy? **53%**
- How much prize money will the winners of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy receive? **\$2.24 million USD**
- Who became the first person to run a half-marathon in under 57 minutes, setting a new record of 56 minutes and 42 seconds? **Jacob Kiplimo.**
- Who won the gold medal in the men's F57 Shot Put event at the National Para Athletics Championships 2025? **Soman Rana**
- Who became the fastest Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in ODIs? **Mohammed Shami**
- Who won his 14th Asian Snooker Championship gold in Doha? **Pankaj Advani**
- How many Asian Snooker Championship titles has Pankaj Advani won? **Five**
- Who won the Memory League World Championship 2025 by memorizing 80 numbers in 13.50 seconds and 30 images in 8.40 seconds? **Vishvaa Rajakumar**
- Who won the Rio Open 2024 men's singles title? – **Sebastian Baez**
- Which player did Sebastian Baez defeat to win the Rio Open 2024? **Alexandre Muller**
- How many ATP titles has Sebastian Baez won after his victory at the Rio Open 2024? **Seven**
- Who became the fastest player to reach 14,000 ODI runs? **Virat Kohli**
- During which tournament did Virat Kohli achieve the 14,000 ODI runs milestone? **Champions Trophy 2025**
- How many innings did Virat Kohli take to reach 14,000 ODI runs? **287 innings**
- Who held the record for the fastest to 14,000 ODI runs before Virat Kohli? **Sachin Tendulkar (350 innings)**
- Which Indian squash player won the PSA Challenger title at the Octane Sydney Classic? **Saurav Ghosal.**
- Which team won the Indian Super League (ISL) League Winners' title in 2025? **Mohun Bagan Super Giant.**

LAST DAY FEB

RARE DISEASE DAY



EDITION: 18th
INCEPTION: 2008
2025 THEME: More than you can imagine

Motto
 To raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives.

Fact
 Rare diseases currently affect 3.5% - 5.9% of the worldwide population.

Note

- Rare Disease Day was first launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008.
- The campaign started as a European event and has progressively become a world phenomenon, with the USA joining in 2009 and participation in over 100 countries all over the world in past year.

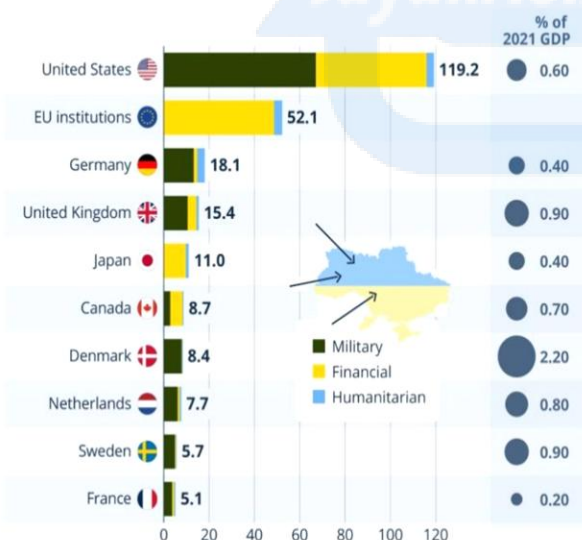
Science & Technology

- Which nanomaterial developed by IIT Guwahati researchers can detect mercury in live cells and the environment? **Stable metal halide perovskite nanocrystals.**
- Where will Asia's first international Hyperloop competition, organized by IIT Madras, be held in 2025? **IIT Madras's Discovery Campus in Thaiyur, near Chennai.**
- Which rocket was used to launch the NVS-02 satellite on May 29, 2024? **GSLV-F15**
- The launch of NVS-02 marked which milestone for ISRO in terms of GSLV missions? **100th GSLV launch**
- Recently, ISRO successfully launched the NVS-02 satellite aboard the GSLV-F15 rocket from Sriharikota, In context to same, Which satellite is NVS-02 replacing in the NavIC system? **IRNSS-1E**
- Which company will supply ammunition for the Pinaka multi-launcher rocket system as approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security? **Munitions India Limited (Pune) and Economic Explosives Limited (Nagpur).**
- Which industries will be promoted under the National Manufacturing Mission? **Solar PV cells, EV batteries, motors, electrolyzers, wind turbines, and high-voltage transmission equipment.**
- What is the target nuclear power capacity for India by 2047? **100 GW**
- How many fellowships were announced for tech research at IIT and IISc? **10,000**
- What is the allocated budget for the National Nuclear Energy Mission in 2025? **Rs 20,000 crore**
- Which two acts will be amended to attract private sector investment in nuclear energy? **Atomic Energy Act, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act**
- What is the target for India's nuclear power capacity by 2031-32? **22,480 MW**
- What clean energy process generates power through the splitting of uranium atoms? **Fission**
- What is the new basic customs duty on interactive flat panel displays in Budget 2025? **20%**
- Which satellite was successfully launched by Japan aboard its H3 rocket to enhance its regional navigation system? **Michibiki 6.**
- What three new domestically developed satellites did Iran unveil on National Space Technology Day? **Navak-1, Pars-2, and an upgraded Pars-1**
- What is the purpose of the Iran's New Homegrown Navak-1 satellite? **To test the function of an improved version of the Simorgh launch vehicle.**
- What is the weight of the Iran's New Homegrown Navak-1 satellite? **Approximately 34 kg.**
- Which Iran's New Homegrown satellite is capable of carrying out missions related to environmental monitoring and natural disaster response? **Pars-2**
- Where will Russia deploy its Oreshnik hypersonic missile systems? **Belarus**
- Name India's first sovereign B2C generative AI chatbot developed by Yotta Data Services? **myShakti**
- Which AI model powers 'myShakti'? **DeepSeek's open-source AI model.**
- Where is North India's first 1-MW Green Hydrogen Plant being established? **Dabhota, Nalagarh Tehsil, Solan district, Himachal Pradesh**
- Who inaugurated the 1-MW Green Hydrogen Plant in Himachal Pradesh? **Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**
- Which two organizations are jointly developing the Green Hydrogen Plant in Himachal Pradesh? **Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) and Oil India Limited**
- Which organization is leading the launch of India's first industry-made PSLV? **New Space India Limited (NSIL).**
- Which companies are manufacturing the PSLV under NSIL's contract? **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).**
- Under which production model is NSIL manufacturing PSLVs? **GOCO (Government-Owned, Company-Operated) model.**
- Which country delivered the first batch of Mirage 2000-5 jets to Ukraine? **France**
- Which U.S.-made fighter jets did Ukraine receive from the Netherlands? **F-16 fighters**

- Which emerging technologies are covered under PMKVY 4.0 for skill development? **AI, 5G, cybersecurity, green hydrogen, and drone technology**
- Who inaugurated India's first indigenous Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Plant, "Srjanam"? **Dr. Jitendra Singh**
- What is the name of India's Fourth-Generation Deep-Ocean Submersible? **Matsya-6000**
- Which major testing phase did Matsya-6000 recently complete? **Wet testing at the harbour**
- Up to what depth is Matsya-6000 expected to conduct shallow-water demonstrations by the end of 2025? **500 meters**
- Which ministry is responsible for the development of Matsya-6000? **Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- Which organization is designing and developing Matsya-6000? **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**
- Under which mission is Matsya-6000 being developed? **Deep Ocean Mission**
- What is the world's largest propellant mixer developed by India for solid rocket motors? **10-tonne propellant mixer**
- Which organization designed the 10-tonne propellant mixer? **ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre**
- Which Indian company unveiled the MARG 155mm/45 Cal mounted gun system at IDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi? **Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited**
- Which technology is used in the Naksha program for land record management? **Geospatial technology**
- Which Indian defense shipbuilding company showcased indigenous Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) at NAVDEX 2025? **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)**
- What is the range of Iran's new BM-450 ballistic missile? **200 km.**
- Which short-range tactical ballistic missile was unveiled by Iran? **Fat'h-360.**
- Name the new strategic drones introduced by Iran. **Mohajer-10 and Mohajer-6.**
- What is the purpose of the world's largest vertical mixer developed by ISRO? **To aid in the mixing of raw materials for rocket propellants**

The Countries Sending the Most Aid to Ukraine

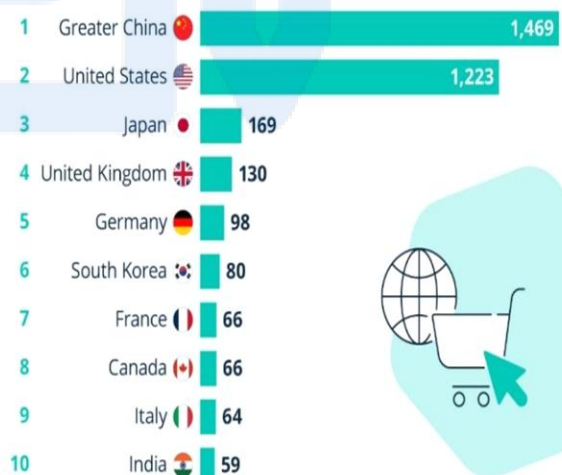
Countries allocating the most aid to Ukraine from Jan. 24, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2024 (in billion U.S. dollars)



Converted from euros on Feb. 14, 2025
Source: IFW Kiel, Ukraine Support Tracker

China Leads the Global E-Commerce Market

Estimated revenues in the e-commerce segment by country in 2024 (in billion U.S. dollars)



As of October 2024
Source: Statista Market Insights



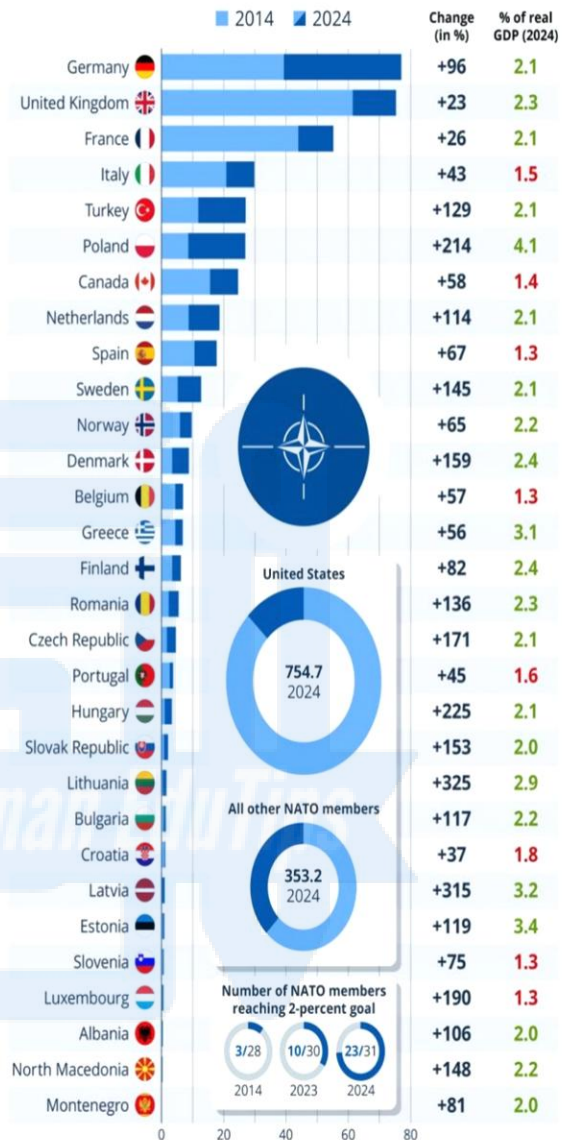
Miscellaneous

- Who is stepping down as the CEO of Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL)? **Nakul Jain.**
- Which company has become the first Indian firm to develop hydrogen transportation pipes for India's clean energy transition? **Tata Steel**
- What is the name of the revised Quality Control Order notified by the government to promote high-quality solar photovoltaic products? **Solar Systems, Devices, and Components Goods Order, 2025.**
- Which sectors are contributing to India's economic growth as per the Economic Survey 2025? **Agriculture, industrial, and services sectors.**
- From which countries does India primarily import pulses? **Myanmar, Australia, Russia, Canada, and African countries.**
- How many life-saving drugs will be exempt from basic customs duty in Budget 2025? **36**
- Which types of medicines are included in the 36 life-saving drugs exempt from customs duty? **Cancer and rare diseases medicines**
- What customs duty exemption was given to Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab? **Reduced to nil from 10%**
- How many life-saving drugs will attract a concessional customs duty of 5% in Budget 2025? **Six**
- For how many years has the customs duty exemption on inputs for ship manufacturing been extended? **10 years**
- On how many critical minerals will import duties be removed according to Budget 2025? **12**
- How many tariff lines will be exempt from the social welfare surcharge in Budget 2025? **82**
- What is the rank of India in terms of the highest number of Ramsar sites globally? **Third**
- What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and the Maldives? **Ekuverin**
- Which edition of the India-Maldives joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' commenced in February 2025? **13th edition**
- Who has resigned as Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of BharatPe to pursue an entrepreneurial venture in the consumer brands space? **Parth Joshi**
- How many sub-categories does the Ayush Visa have? **Four**
- Why did the US stop funding UNRWA? **The US alleged that some UNRWA employees participated in Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.**
- Who was named the 50th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims? **Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V.**
- Who was the father of Prince Rahim Aga Khan V? **Prince Karim Aga Khan IV.**
- Do the U.S. and Israel recognize the ICC's jurisdiction? **No**
- Who laid the first foundation stone for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in 1989? **Kameshwar Choupal.**
- Which movement was Kameshwar Choupal a key leader of? **The Ram Janmabhoomi movement.**
- Which political party did Kameshwar Choupal belong to? **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).**
- Which country holds the top position in the Henley Passport Index 2025, and what is India's rank? **Singapore**
- Which biennial naval exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region in 2025 to enhance joint operational readiness? **TROPEX-25 (Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise)**
- Where is the joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' between India and Egypt being conducted? **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.**
- Which edition of the 'Cyclone' military exercise is being conducted in 2025? **Third edition.**

- Which Indian Army unit is participating in the 'Cyclone 2025' exercise? **The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces).**
- Who resigned as Manipur's Chief Minister after 21 months of crisis? **N. Biren Singh.**
- What is India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024? **96th**
- Which country's president, Klaus Iohannis, resigned amid political turmoil in 2025? **Romania.**
- Who tops Bloomberg's list of the Richest Families in Asia 2025? **Mukesh Ambani**
- Which state improved its rank from 15th to 5th in the latest Panchayat Devolution Index? **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Which institution prepared the Panchayat Devolution Index Report? **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).**
- What is India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024 released by Transparency International? **96th**
- Where will the 6th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian between India and Japan be held? **Mount Fuji, Japan.**
- What is the weight of India's 10-tonne propellant mixer? **150 tonnes**
- Where was the Naksha pilot program launched? **Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**
- What is the target irrigation coverage set by the Tripura government to boost agriculture? **80% of cultivable land**
- During which military exercise did Iran showcase its new weaponry? **"Great Prophet 19" exercise.**
- Who resigned as the CEO of Upflex India recently? **Pratyush Pandey**
- When is Mauritius' National Day celebrated? **March 12th**

NATO 2-Percent Goal Sees Major Gains

Estimated military spending of NATO countries in 2014 and 2024 (in billion constant 2015 U.S. dollars) and share of GDP



NATO member Iceland has no armed forces. Sweden, Finland, North Macedonia, Montenegro became members after 2014. Estimates as of mid-year
Source: NATO

Important Days of the Month

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
01-Mar	Zero Discrimination Day	We stand together
03- Mar	World Wildlife Day	Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet
04- Mar	National Safety Day	Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat
08- Mar	International Women's Day	For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment
10- Mar	CISF Raising Day	To mark the establishment of CISF on 10 March 1969
14- Mar	International Day of Action for Rivers	Our Rivers, our Future
15- Mar	World Consumer Rights Day	A just transition to sustainable lifestyles
18- Mar	Ordnance Factory Day	To mark the establishment of India's oldest Ordnance Factory at Cossipore of Kolkata on 18th March 1802.
20- Mar	International Day of Happiness	Mindful • Grateful • Kind
21- Mar	International Day of Forests	Forests and Food
22- Mar	World Water Day	Glacier Preservation
23- Mar	World Meteorological Day	Closing the Early Warning Gap Together.
24- Mar	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver
27- Mar	World Theatre Day	To generate awareness about the importance of theatre arts

Let's Recap

- Who has won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award? **Savita Punia**
- In which water area has the Indian Navy recently deployed indigenous guided missiles? **Gulf of Aden**
- With which company did the Ministry of Rural Development has signed an agreement to increase the reach of products of 'Self Help Groups'? **Jio Mart**
- VGGS 2024 Pre-Summit Seminar on chemicals has been held in which state? **Gujarat**
- Which zone of the Indian Railways has launched safety 'panic button' feature for the security of women passengers? **Central Railway**
- Which space agency has recently tested innovative 3D-printed rotating detonation rocket engine? **NASA**
- Which company will implement integrated tunnel communication system along the new Bhairabi-Sairang single line section? **RailTel**
- Who has become the first Indian to join ITTF foundation's governing board? **Vita Dani**
- UP CM Yogi Adityanath has unveiled Chaudhary Charan Singh's statue in which city? **Moradabad**
- United Nations has recently declared the year 2024 as International year of which? **Camelids**
- Who won the women's singles title at the National Badminton Championships 2023? **Anmol Kharb**
- How many dollars has the World Bank recently provided assistance to Ukraine? **1.34 billion**
- A special postal cover will be released on late Justice Madhava Reddy, who was the former Governor of which state? **Maharashtra**
- Recently the Manipur health minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has launched the "SAANS" Campaign. Which disease does it want to eradicate? **Pneumonia**
- The recently launched book "Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future" is authored by whom? **Raghuram Rajan**
- Where did the 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) take place? **Bangkok, Thailand**
- On which day the state of Madhya Pradesh has recently celebrate "Tabla Divas" as per the announcement made by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav? **December 25**
- Which state has decided to use drone technology for land mapping? **Haryana**
- Which company has donated 4.30 crore to CM relief fund for flood relief in Tamil Nadu? **NLC India Limited**
- Bharat Electronics Limited has recently signed a contract worth Rs 678 crore with which state government? **Uttar Pradesh**
- What has the Indian Railway Conference Association changed the name of the railway station "Ayodhya Junction"? **Ayodhya Dham Railway Station**
- Who has been named as International Event Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon? **Katie Moon**
- Life Insurance Corporation of India has appointed whom as the new Chief Risk Officer? **S Sunder Krishnan**
- United States has launched Operation Prosperity Guardian to secure - **Red Sea**
- On which day, Indian National Congress has celebrated its 139th Foundation Day? **28th December**
- Which space agency has launched OSIRIS-APEX mission to study 'God of Chaos' asteroid? **NASA**
- Paramilitary Forces has launched which app for secure official Commute? **Sandes App**
- Who has been appointed to Central Board of Film Certification Panel? **Akkala Sudhakar**
- Who has clinched the Miss Maharashtra 2023 title? **Ketki Raut**
- The sixth Central Advisory Board meeting on Disability (DAIC) was held under whose leadership? **Dr Virendra Kumar**
- Which space agency will launch military's X-37B robot spaceplane? **SpaceX**
- What is the primary purpose of China's Mengxiang deep-sea mining ship? **Deep-sea mining and resource exploration**
- What is the name of 7th 250 Men Ferry craft delivered recently to Indian Navy? **Manjula**
- Who has assumed charge as Director General of fire service & civil defence? **Vivek Srivastava**
- IPS Utkal Ranjan Sahoo has recently taken additional charge as Director General of Police of which state? **Rajasthan**

- Indian Space Research Organisation has recently launched maiden X-ray Polarimeter Satellite to probe - **Black Holes**
- India has conducted "Desert Cyclone 2024" military exercise with UAE in which state? **Rajasthan**
- Who has been appointed as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission by the Centre? **Dr Arvind Panagariya**
- Who has been taken charge as 34th General Officer Commanding of Chetak Corps? **Nagendra Singh**
- Which state government has recently ban agri land purchase by 'outsiders'? **Uttarakhand**
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated Startup Expo in which city? **Kathua**
- Which company has become first EV Company in India to get Production Linked Incentive approval? **Ola Electric**
- Who has taken charge of Western Naval Command? **Sanjay Jasjit Singh**
- What was the year-on-year growth in UPI transaction value in December 2023? **42%**
- What role does Canara Bank's Cybersecurity Wing aim to play in combating online threats? **Enhancing customer trust**
- Actress Rupika Grover, who has crowned Mrs India 2023, hails from which state/UT? **Jammu & Kashmir**
- Which state government has collaborated with Adani Group for Data Centre and Aerospace Park? **Telangana**
- Name the Prime Minister of Czech Republic who will be chief guest at Vibrant Gujarat summit? **Petr Fiala**
- Which company has signed an agreement with RVNL to finance multi-modal? **REC limited**
- Which wildlife sanctuary was recently included in the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme? **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Which city has topped in "Top Cities for Women in India 2023" index? **Chennai**
- Dongaria Kondh shawl of which state has recently got Geographical Indication tag? **Odisha**
- Wancho Wooden Craft of which state has recently awarded Geographical Indication tag? **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Which country has named Pubity Athlete of the Year 2023? **Virat Kohli**
- Which country has registered second highest cancer deaths in Asia, 9.3 lakh? **India**
- Defence Ministry has inked contracts with which company worth 802 crores for procurement of 697 Bogie Open Military Wagons? **Jupiter Wagons**
- Which country has become first European Union country to issue Digital Schengen Visas? **France**
- What is the projected growth rate of the Indian economy for the Financial Year 2023-24, as per the advance estimate of the National Statistical Office (NSO)? **7.3%**
- RECPDCL has signed a MoU with which state for a smart metering project valued at Rs 2,094.28 crores? **Gujarat**
- Who has received "Order Of The British Empire" for space science leadership? **Adrian Cruise**
- Who has claimed the fastest solo ski across Antarctica recently? **Harpreet Chandi**
- Indra Mani Pandey has succeeded whom as the Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation? **Tenzin Lekphell**
- Who has set a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert? **Suchetha Satish**
- The 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit will take place in which country from January 15-20, 2024? **Uganda**
- Where is the Regional Conference on the theme "e-Governance" being inaugurated? **Guwahati**
- How many players including Mohammed Shami were awarded the Arjuna Award? **26**
- In which city is a two-day regional conference on e-governance being organized? **Guwahati**
- When has the "Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas" celebrated recently? **09 January**
- Which country will chair the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in July this year? **India**
- Who has recently assumed role of Secretary of Railway Board? **Aruna Nayar**
- Who was the chief guest of 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, inaugurated recently? **Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
- Emmanuel Macron has recently been named as the new Prime Minister of which country? **France**
- Footballer Franz Beckenbauer has passed away, he was a legendary footballer of which country? **Germany**
- AI Odyssey is an initiative of which company, launched recently to skill 100,000 developers in India? **Microsoft**
- India has surpassed which in MSCI EM Index to get second spot? **Taiwan**

- Who received the cleanest city award in the category of population more than one lakh in the Swachhta Survekshan-2023? **Indore and Surat**
- Who has won the gold medal in 57 kg category in the Zagreb Open 2024 wrestling tournament? **Aman Sehrawat**
- Who has been appointed by the Central Government as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defense Ministry? **Sameer Kumar Sinha**
- Indian Army has declared 2024 as - **Year of Technology Absorption**
- Who has become the first Indian woman to receive the prestigious Arjuna Award in Equestrian? **Divyakriti Singh**
- Who has been appointed as managing director of Bangalore Metro? **Maheshwar Rao**
- IIT Madras has partnered with Hyundai Motor India Ltd to create a 'Hydrogen Innovation Valley' in which state? **Tamil Nadu**
- What is the theme of National Youth Day 2024? **Arise, Awake, and Realise the Power You Hold**
- Which Tiger Reserve has got the title of India's first 'Dark Sky Park'? **Pench Tiger Reserve**
- Which two cities have received the 'Cleanest Ganga City' award in the 'Clean Survey-2023'? **Varanasi and Prayagraj**
- Who has been awarded with the Best FIFA Men's Player Award? **Lionel Messi**
- Which ship of the Indian Navy has recently decommissioned in January 2024? **INS Cheetah**
- Which drama has been bestowed with the title of 'Best Drama Series' at the 75th Emmy Awards? **Succession**
- Who has become the fastest bowler to take 7 wickets in an ODI International match? **Wanindu Hasaranga**
- Oxford Scientists has launched first human vaccine trials for which virus? **Nipah virus**
- Who has become India's number one chess player, leaving behind Vishwanathan Anand? **R Praggnanandhaa**
- Who has been awarded by the 'Player of the Month' award for the month of December 2023? **Pat Cummins**
- Which country will host the 'Global Peace Summit' on Ukraine? **Switzerland**
- Who will be awarded the highest honor of Assam state 'Assam Vaibhav'? **Ranjan Gogoi**
- Ajit Singh Gill was the Olympian of which country, who has passed away recently? **Singapore**
- Where has the Asia's largest aviation expo "Wings India 2024" organised? **Hyderabad**
- India's first solar powered boat will be operated in which river? **Ghaghra River(Sarayu)**
- Who has been appointed as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of Eastern Naval Command? **Shantanu Jha**
- Name the first impartial woman umpire appointed by the ICC for a bilateral series? **Sue Redfern**
- Where has the 12th edition of the MILAN 2024 naval exercise scheduled to be held? **Visakhapatnam**
- In which state was the 125 feet high bronze statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar inaugurated? **Andhra Pradesh**
- Which operation has been launched by Indian Army to eradicate terrorists in Rajouri and Poonch areas? **Operation Sarvashakti**
- Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for RuPay Prime Volleyball League (PVL) Season 3? **Hrithik Roshan**
- British Petroleum will set up technical centre in which city? **Pune**
- India has secured which spot in Global Firepower Rankings 2024? **Fourth**
- Who is the chief architect of the construction of Ayodhya Ram temple, inaugurated recently? **Chandrakant Sompura**
- Pendyala Lakshmi Priya, who has been awarded with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024, is related to which dance form? **Kuchipudi**
- On which date did Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya has celebrated their statehood day under the North Eastern Region Act 1971? **January 21**
- India will send an industry delegation for copper mining in which country? **Zambia**
- Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme has been launched by which ministry? **Ministry of Environment**
- What is Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana related to? **From Rooftop Solar Panels**
- From ISRO, who has been honored with "Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman" by the Uttar Pradesh government? **Ritu Karidhal Srivastava**
- When is 'Parakram Diwas' celebrated every year in India? **23 January**
- In January 2024, which country has become fifth country to land on "The Moon" successfully? **Japan**
- Who has recently launched a book titled "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan" in Guwahati, Assam? **Amit Shah**

Quick Bytes

- RBI Fines Shriram Finance, Ujjivan SFB, and Nainital Bank for Violations
- Gyanesh Kumar Appointed as India's New Chief Election Commissioner
- Standard Chartered Appoints P.D. Singh as India CEO
- Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran Honored with UK Knighthood
- India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' 2025
- Saudi Arabia to Host Inaugural Olympic Esports Games 2027
- Veteran Telugu Actor Krishnaveni Passes Away at 102
- India Launches NAKSHA Pilot Project for Urban Land Survey
- Philippines Set to Acquire \$200 Million Akash Missile System from India
- Bank of Maharashtra Receives RBI Approval to Establish Branch in GIFT City
- C Krishnaveni, Pioneer of Telugu Cinema, Dies at 102
- Noted Bengali Vocalist Pratul Mukhopadhyay Passes Away
- Standard Chartered Appoints P D Singh as CEO for India
- India & Qatar Sign MoUs on Strategic Partnership and Tax Cooperation
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Launch NAKSHA for Urban Land Survey
- Thiruvalluvar Statue Inaugurated in the Philippines
- India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian 2025' to be Held at Mount Fuji
- Ajmer Hosts First-Ever All India Transgender Conference
- Union Minister Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel Releases Report on "Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States"
- Milind Rege: Mumbai Cricket's Encyclopedia Passes Away at 76
- India Becomes IALA Vice President, Boosts Maritime Leadership
- Rekha Gupta Sworn in as Delhi's New Chief Minister
- India, Malaysia Deepen Military and Su-30 Cooperation
- India and Argentina Ink MoU for Lithium Exploration
- SBI Cards Appoints Salila Pande as New MD & CEO
- 360 ONE Asset to Acquire 15% Stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- Manu Bhaker Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2024
- Nutella Inventor Francesco Rivella Passes Away at 97
- Indian Vishvaa Rajakumar Prodigy Wins Global Memory Championship
- Purnima Devi Barman Named in TIME's Women of the Year List
- India's First Wildlife Biobank Opens at Darjeeling Zoo
- Kash Patel Sworn in as the Ninth Director of the FBI, Takes Oath on Bhagavad Gita
- India Assumes Chairmanship of Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation
- India & Saudi Arabia Strengthen Media Ties Ahead of WAVES 2025
- India & Sri Lanka to Train 1,500 Civil Officers Under MoU
- Barytes, Felspar, Mica & Quartz Reclassified as Major Minerals
- Shami becomes fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 ODI wickets
- Vietnam parliament approves \$8 billion rail link to China
- Rohit Sharma Reaches 11,000 ODI Runs
- Nita Ambani Honoured with Massachusetts Governor's Citation.
- FGM-148 Javelin is a man-portable, shoulder-fired anti-tank guided missile developed by Raytheon & Lockheed Martin.
- Bengal Leads India in Bird Count for Third Consecutive Year
- Brazil Joins OPEC+ as Observer for Global Energy Influence
- V Anantha Nageswaran's Term as Chief Economic Advisor Extended to March 2027
- Vivek Joshi Assumes Charge as Election Commissioner
- Centre Allocates Rs 3,027 Cr for Disaster Mitigation
- Indian Railways Launches 'SwaRail' SuperApp for Seamless Travel
- Sunita Williams Sets New Spacewalk Record
- Guneri village in Kutch is now Gujarat's first 'Biodiversity Heritage Site' to conserve its unique inland mangrove ecosystem.

- Switzerland to End Aid Programs for Bangladesh, Albania, Zambia
- Navin Chawla: Former Chief Election Commissioner Passes Away at 79
- New Zealand as the country's Parliament passed a law that grants Mount Taranaki, also known as Taranaki Maunga, legal personhood.
- U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing steep tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China.
- FDI Limit for Insurance Raised from 74% to 100%
- PM-JANMAN Package for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
- H Shankar to be Next MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
- Former CEC Navin Chawla Passes Away
- Saffron Reedtail Damselfly Discovered in Karnataka
- Michael Bevan Inducted into Cricket Australia's Hall of Fame
- Samudrayaan Mission Gets Rs 600 Crore Allocation in Union Budget
- Gujarat BJP MLA Karsanbhai Solanki Passes Away at 68
- UK Becomes First Country to Criminalize AI-Generated Child Abuse Content
- Finvasia and Yes Bank Unveil 'Jumpp'
- R Praggnanandhaa Wins Tata Steel Masters Chess Title
- Japan's H-3 Rocket Successfully Launches Michibiki No. 6 Satellite
- Horst Koehler, Ex-German President and IMF Chief, Passes Away at 81
- Bengaluru Jawans Win Inaugural World Pickleball League
- Aga Khan IV, spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims, passed away in Portugal at 88; successor to be announced in Lisbon.
- Uttar Pradesh Wins Men's Kabaddi Gold at 38th Nat'l Games
- India Contributes \$37.64 Million to UN Budget for 2025
- Tshego Gaelae Becomes First Black Woman to Win Mrs World
- Veteran British Actor Brian Murphy Passes Away at 92
- Trump to Withdraw US from UN Rights Council, Extend UNRWA Ban
- Prince Rahim Named 50th Imam of Ismailis After Aga Khan IV's Passing
- Monika Rani (IDAS) Appointed Director in Dept of Justice
- IOB Joins Global Partnership for Carbon Accounting
- Gopal Vittal Appointed Acting Chair of GSMA Board
- End of an Era: Wriddhiman Saha Retires from Cricket
- Govt Introduces Ayush Visa for Foreigners with Up to 5-Year Extension
- India rises to become the World's 2nd largest mobile manufacturer
- Chaman Arora awarded Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri
- Former World No.1 Simona Halep Retires from Tennis
- India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise 'Ekuverin' Begins
- India's First AI University to Open in Maharashtra
- Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso Break Ties with ECOWAS
- Bart De Wever Sworn in as Belgium's New Prime Minister
- Army Partners with IIT Guwahati for Bamboo Bunkers
- Kerala Secures ₹2,424 Cr World Bank Loan for Healthcare
- Australia Passes Strict Hate Crime Laws
- IPS Sagar Singh Kalsi Appointed Director in MoPNG
- Panama Withdraws from China's Belt and Road Initiative
- Pakistan Joins China's Chang'e-8 Lunar Mission
- Odisha Govt Launches 'Bikashita Gaon' Scheme for Village Development
- Australia's All-Rounder Marcus Stoinis Bids Farewell to ODIs
- Trump Signs Executive Order Banning Trans Women from Women's Sports
- After US Exit, Argentina Cuts Ties with WHO
- Manipur CM Biren Singh Resigns Before No-Confidence Motion
- Singapore Is World's Most Powerful Passport Of 2025.
- Namibia's Founding Father Sam Nujoma Passes Away at 95
- Coal India Limited (CIL) received the Golden Peacock CSR Award 2024 at the 19th International CSR Conference in Mumbai.
- India and Nicaragua Forge Partnership for Quick Impact Projects
- RBI Approves Voluntary Amalgamations of Urban Co-operative Banks

- RBI Introduces Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for International Transactions
- IDFC FIRST Bank Expands AI Amitabh Bachchan Avatar
- India Ranks 3rd in Global LEED Green Buildings 2024
- Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone 2025' Between India and Egypt Begins in Rajasthan
- IPS Officer DK Kedia Honored with 'CA in Public Service' Award
- Varsha Bharath's Bad Girl Wins NETPAC Award at IFFR
- Varun Chakravarthy Becomes India's 2nd Oldest ODI Debutant
- Sam Nujoma, Namibia's First President, Passes Away at 95
- HAL has renamed the Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT-36) as 'Yashas' after major modifications to enhance spin resistance and stability.
- NSG IG Deepak Kedia Wins 'CA in Public Service' Award
- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated "Srjanam," India's first automated bio-medical waste treatment plant at AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the extension of translation services to 6 new languages: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Urdu, and Sanskrit.
- Bangladesh Launches 'Operation Devil Hunt'
- Indian Army and IAF Execute 'Winged Raider' in Eastern Theater
- Nokia Names Intel's AI Chief Hotard as New CEO
- Jil Teichmann Clinches Mumbai Open 2025 Title
- Carlos Alcaraz Claims First Indoor Hardcourt Title at Rotterdam Open
- "Rakesh Roshan to Receive IIFA Outstanding Achievement Award"
- "Tom Cruise Receives Prestigious Aeronautics Medal" of France
- Acharya Satyendra Das, the chief priest of Ayodhya's Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple, passed away
- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024: India Ranked 96th:
- ISRO successfully conducted a vacuum ignition test of the CE20 cryogenic engine for LVM-3 at Mahendragiri.
- FAO launches a \$95M, seven-year climate-resilient agriculture project, "Ugbaad," to strengthen Somalia's agrifood systems.
- The 14th AFAF, themed "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific," is being held from Feb 12-14, 2025.
- Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet defeated Sweden's Elias Ymer 7-6(1), 6-4 in the final to claim the Chennai Open ATP Challenger title.
- NASA awarded SpaceX the launch service for the Pandora mission under the VADR contract.
- Reliance Launches 'Spinner' Sports Drink with Muralitharan
- India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'CYCLONE-III' Begins in Rajasthan
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Federal Bank Ltd and Karur Vysya Bank Ltd for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines. Federal Bank has been fined ₹27.30 lakh, while Karur Vysya Bank faces a penalty of ₹8.30 lakh.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially announced that Meghalaya will host the 39th edition of the National Games in February/March 2027.
- Pankaj Advani Triumphs in Indian Snooker Championship
- Gyalo Thondup, Elder Brother of the Dalai Lama, Passes Away at 97
- Adani Green Exits \$442M Sri Lanka Wind Power Project
- China to Build Deepwater 'Space Station' in South China Sea
- Tata Elxsi, Garuda Aerospace Partner for Indigenous UAVs
- Campa Cola replaces Thums Up as IPL 2025 co-presenter
- Ilie Bolojan Sworn in as Romania's Interim President
- Greece's parliament elected former speaker Constantine Tassoulas as president, succeeding Katerina Sakellaropoulou.
- Pankaj Tripathi Joins Audio Story Platform Velvet as Co-founder
- Dhawan named event ambassador for ICC Champions Trophy
- India and France signed a declaration of intent on Advanced Modular Reactors and Small Modular Reactors during PM Modi's visit.
- Jotham Napat Becomes Vanuatu's New PM
- Saab & HAL Join Forces for Advanced Laser Warning System in India
- Govt Approves Biolumpivaxin for Lumpy Skin Disease in Cattle
- ISRO & IIT Madras Developed Indigenous Space Chip IRIS
- BEL & Safran Partner to Manufacture HAMMER Weapon in India

- Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Scheme Launched in Puducherry
- Cristiano Ronaldo Tops 2025's Highest-Paid Athletes List
- Lukashenko Wins Seventh Term in Controversial Belarus Election
- India Joins Eurodrone Programme as Observer
- Government Approves ₹500 Crore Capital Infusion into IFCI for FY 2024-25
- IDBI Bank Reappoints Rakesh Sharma as MD & CEO for 3 Years
- City Union Bank's Consecutive Triumph at IBA Banking Technology Awards
- Hariman Sharma: The Apple Man of India Honored with Padma Shri
- Doordarshan Honored for Electoral Campaigns
- Melie Kerr Clinches ICC Women's Player of the Year Award
- US Suspends USAID Funding to Bangladesh Amid Global Foreign Aid Review
- Banke Bihari Temple Secures FCRA License to Accept Foreign Donations
- P. Suriaraj Appointed Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank
- RBI Fines Canara, BOI, and J&K Bank for Non-Compliance
- Jitender Pal Singh Appointed as India's New Ambassador to Israel
- Indian Grandmaster Iniyen Wins Malaysian Title
- Omarzai Crowned ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year
- Smriti Mandhana Named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024
- Bumrah Crowned ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year
- M Mohan Appointed as Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
- Iniyen Panneerselvam Wins Johor Chess Title
- Odisha Warriors Win Inaugural Women's HIL Title
- SSB Chief Amrit Mohan Prasad Assigned BCAS DG Role
- Renowned Cardiac Surgeon K.M. Cherian Passes Away
- Rajesh Nirwan Appointed Director General of BCAS
- The government has approved the National Critical Mineral Mission with an outlay of over ₹34,000 crore to strengthen the value chain of critical minerals.
- Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been honoured with the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- American Long Jump Legend Greg Bell Passes Away at 94
- Geoff Allardice to Step Down as ICC CEO
- Serbian PM Milos Vucevic submitted his irrevocable resignation after discussions with President Aleksandar Vucic, citing leadership accountability.
- India and Oman signed a protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, aligning it with international cross-border taxation standards and simplifying tax procedures.
- India Allocates \$2 Billion to Boost Critical Minerals Sector
- China Develops Seabed 'Radar' to Detect High-Altitude Aircraft
- Vedanta Resources Names Deshnee Naidoo as First CEO
- Maruti Suzuki Re-Appoints Hisashi Takeuchi as MD and CEO
- Dinesh Karthik Becomes India's Top Wicket-Keeper Run-Scorer in T20s
- Renowned Sculptor Latika Katt Passes Away at 76
- ISRO Launches NVS-02, Marks 100th Mission from Sriharikota
- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Honored with Maharaja Hari Singh Award
- Australia Clinches ICC Women's Championship Trophy
- IRDAI Limits Senior Citizens' Health Premium Hike to 10% Annually
- BIMTECH Launches BIMCOIN: India's First Campus Blockchain Currency
- Shubhanshu Shukla: India's First Astronaut to Pilot Axiom-4 to ISS
- Wing Commander Akshay Saxena received the Vayu Sena Medal for his role in rescuing hijacked ship Ruen from Somali pirates.
- Documentary Filmmaker Tapan K Bose Passes Away at 78
- Sachin Tendulkar to Receive BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award
- Bumrah and Mandhana Won BCCI Awards
- Hiroki Totoki replaces Kenichiro Yoshida as Sony CEO, focusing on entertainment expansion.

Union Budget 2025-26 Highlights



Union Budget 2025

Highlights

New Income Tax Slabs in Budget 2025

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced significant changes to the income tax structure in Budget 2025.

Under the new tax regime, taxpayers earning up to ₹12 lakh will not be required to pay any income tax, with salaried individuals benefiting from a standard deduction of ₹75,000, effectively making the tax-free income limit ₹12.75 lakh.

The new Income-Tax Bill will focus on clarity and simplification, ensuring ease of understanding for both taxpayers and the tax administration. Additionally, revenue loss of approximately ₹1 lakh crore in direct taxes is expected due to these changes.

The updated tax slabs are as follows:

- ❖ ₹0-4 lakh: Nil
- ❖ ₹4-8 lakh: 5%
- ❖ ₹8-12 lakh: 10%
- ❖ ₹12-16 lakh: 15%
- ❖ ₹16-20 lakh: 20%
- ❖ ₹20-24 lakh: 25%
- ❖ Above ₹24 lakh: 30%

TDS and TCS Rationalization

To ease compliance burdens, the government has rationalized Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) provisions by reducing the number of rates and thresholds. Key changes include:

- ✓ The TDS deduction limit on interest income for senior citizens has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh.

- ✓ The TDS exemption limit on rent has been raised from ₹2.40 lakh to ₹6 lakh annually.
- ✓ The threshold for Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on remittances under the RBI's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) has been increased from ₹7 lakh to ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ Higher TDS deductions will now apply only in non-PAN cases.
- ✓ Decriminalization provisions have been introduced for cases of delayed TCS payments, provided they are made before the due date of filing statements.

Loan Scheme for Women and SC/ST Entrepreneurs

The Union Budget 2025-26 introduced a new scheme providing term loans of up to ₹2 crore for first-time women entrepreneurs, as well as those from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The initiative aims to benefit 5 lakh new entrepreneurs over the next five years.

Objective of the Scheme

The scheme is designed to bridge the funding gap for marginalized groups, promote financial inclusion, and encourage entrepreneurship among women and SC/ST communities. Experts have highlighted the need for additional mentorship programs and skill development initiatives to maximize the impact of this loan support.

Challenges Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

Despite progress, India continues to face gender disparity in economic participation. Key challenges include:

- Limited access to credit: Women in India receive credit equal to just 27% of the deposits they provide, while men receive credit equal to 52% of their deposits.
- Low formal borrowing: 90% of female entrepreneurs have never borrowed from formal financial institutions.
- Lack of financial reserves: During the 2020 lockdown, 72% of women-led businesses faced financial distress, compared to 53% of male-owned enterprises.
- Restricted professional networks: 49% of women entrepreneurs report a lack of professional support.
- Societal expectations: Women often juggle both business responsibilities and household duties, affecting their business efficiency and growth.

Existing Government Support for Women Entrepreneurs

Several initiatives already support women entrepreneurs, including:

- Mudra Yojana: Offers collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh for micro and small enterprises, with lower interest rates for women.
- Stand-Up India Scheme: Provides loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to at least one SC/ST or woman entrepreneur per bank branch for setting up a greenfield business.
- PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP): Offers financial assistance for new micro and small enterprises to promote self-employment.
- Udyam Shakti Portal: Provides business planning, mentorship, and market research for women entrepreneurs, supporting projects up to ₹25 lakh.
- Economic Empowerment of Women Enterprises & Start-ups: Supports female micro-entrepreneurs through incubation and acceleration programs in Assam, Rajasthan, and Telangana

Key Schemes Announced in Budget 2025-26

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her eighth consecutive Budget, introduced several key

initiatives aimed at agriculture, manufacturing, and employment generation.

PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana

The Prime Minister Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana has been launched to improve agricultural productivity in 100 low-productivity districts. Inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme, this initiative will focus on:

- Crop diversification and sustainable agriculture.
- Post-harvest storage at the Panchayat and Block levels.
- Improved irrigation facilities.
- Better access to long-term and short-term credit.
- The scheme is expected to benefit 1.7 crore farmers.

Makhana Board in Bihar

1. A Makhana Board will be set up in Bihar to support production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana. The board will also provide training and handholding support to farmers and ensure they receive benefits from government schemes.
2. Additionally, a National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management will be established in Bihar, along with infrastructure expansion at IIT Patna.

Focused Scheme for Footwear & Leather Industry

- A focus product scheme has been introduced to enhance the productivity, quality, and global competitiveness of India's footwear and leather sector.
- The scheme is expected to create employment for 22 lakh people.
- It aims to generate a turnover of ₹4 lakh crore.
- Export potential of over ₹1.1 lakh crore.

National Manufacturing Mission

The National Manufacturing Mission has been launched to strengthen the "Make in India" initiative by supporting small, medium, and large industries. The mission will provide:

Policy support and execution roadmaps.

- Governance and monitoring frameworks for ministries and states.
- Promotion of clean-tech manufacturing.
- The initiative will boost domestic value addition and develop a strong ecosystem for solar PV

cells, EV batteries, motors and controllers, electrolyzers, wind turbines, high-voltage transmission equipment, and grid-scale batteries.

Key Announcements for Agriculture Sector

Pulses Atmanirbharta Mission

- The Union Government has announced a six-year "Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses", focusing on tur, urad, and masoor to achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production. This initiative aims to reduce dependence on imports while ensuring fair prices for farmers.
- Central agencies like NAFED and NCCF will procure these pulses from registered farmers for the next four years.
- India's pulses production increased from 16.3 million tonnes (2015-16) to 24.5 million tonnes (2023-24), but imports still doubled to USD 3.74 billion in 2023-24.
- Key import sources: Myanmar, Australia, Russia, Canada, and African countries.
- Enhanced Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Loan Limit
- To support farmers financially, the loan limit under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) has been increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh for loans taken through

Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).

- The KCC scheme currently benefits 7.7 crore farmers, fishermen, and dairy farmers.
- It ensures adequate and timely credit for agricultural activities.
- These measures aim to strengthen India's agriculture sector by boosting domestic pulse production and providing better financial support to farmers.

Key Announcements for Education and Infrastructure

1. **National Centres of Excellence for Skilling:** The Centre will establish five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling to equip youth with global opportunities.
2. **Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence:** ₹500 crore will be allocated to set up a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education.
3. **Expansion of IIT Infrastructure:** Infrastructure expansion will take place in IITs set up post-2015, adding capacity for 6,500 more students

across five IITs. The total student capacity in 23 IITs has doubled in the past decade, from 65,000 to 1.35 lakh.

4. **Skill development initiatives:** 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs will be set up to foster hands-on learning and innovation.
5. **Interest-Free Loans for State Infrastructure Development:** ₹1.5 lakh crore will be provided for 50-year interest-free loans to states for infrastructure development.
6. **Asset Monetisation Plan for New Projects:** An asset monetisation plan for the 2025-30 period will infuse ₹10 lakh crore into new projects.
7. **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Budget outlay for Jal Jeevan Mission will be increased to achieve 100% coverage.

Key Announcements for Urban Development and Housing

Urban Challenge Fund and Housing Initiatives

- ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund to transform cities into "growth hubs."
- ₹15,000 crore SWAMIH 2.0 fund (special window for affordable and mid-income housing) for the construction of 100,000 stuck housing units

Revamp of PM SVANidhi Scheme

- PM SVANidhi scheme to be revamped with enhanced loans, UPI-linked credit cards, and capacity-building support.
- ₹80,000 collateral-free loans available for street vendors, with incentives for regular repayments and digital transactions.

Support for Gig Economy Workers

- Identity card issuance and registration on the e-Shram portal for gig workers.
- Insurance coverage for 10 million gig economy workers under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.

Key Highlights of PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Launched in 2020, it provides micro-credit support to street vendors.
- Over 86 lakh loans amounting to ₹11,680 crore have been disbursed as of July 2024.

Exclusions in Budget Announcements

No mention of the urban livelihoods mission or DAY-NULM 2.0.

Nuclear Energy Mission in Budget 2025: Rs 20,000 Crore Allocated for Research and Development

National Nuclear Energy Mission

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 20,000 crore to promote the research and development of small modular reactors (SMRs) under the National Nuclear Energy Mission.

The mission aims to operationalise five SMRs by 2033 and achieve a nuclear power generation capacity of 100 GW by 2047.

Fellowships and New Missions

The Finance Minister announced 10,000 fellowships for tech research at Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) over the next five years.

The Budget also proposes the setting up of a National Spatial Mission and the Gyaan Bharat Mission for the survey, documentation, and conservation of manuscript heritage.

Amendments to Attract Private Investment

To encourage private sector participation, the government plans to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act. In December 2024, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) invited proposals from private players to set up Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs), signaling a move to decentralise India's nuclear power sector.

Increasing Nuclear Power Capacity

India's nuclear power capacity will rise from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32, with a goal to reach 100 GW by 2047.

This expansion supports India's commitment to reducing emission intensity by 45% by 2030 and increasing non-fossil energy sources in the power sector.

Understanding Nuclear Power

Nuclear power is a zero-emission clean energy source generated through the fission of uranium atoms, which produces heat to generate electricity.

The PHWR (Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor) technology is used to produce nuclear energy with minimal harmful by-products compared to fossil fuels.

Key Announcements on Life-Saving Drugs and Customs Duty Exemptions

Exemption on Life-Saving Drugs

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that 36 life-saving drugs, including those for cancer and rare diseases, will be exempt from basic customs duty.

Additionally, 37 more medicines will be exempt in the upcoming financial year.

Duty Reduction on Critical Medicines

Customs duties on Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab were reduced to nil from 10% earlier to ease the burden on patients.

Concessional Duty on Six Life-Saving Drugs

Six additional life-saving drugs will attract a concessional customs duty of 5%.

Customs Duty Exemption on Ship Manufacturing

The exemption on customs duty for inputs and components used in ship manufacturing will be extended for another 10 years, promoting domestic shipbuilding.

Customs Duty on Interactive Flat Panel Displays

Basic customs duty on interactive flat panel displays has been doubled to 20%.

Promotion of Handicraft and Leather Exports

A scheme to promote handicraft exports was announced, alongside full customs duty exemption on wet blue leather to boost leather exports.

Removal of Import Duties on Critical Minerals

Import duties on 12 critical minerals, including lithium-ion batteries scrap, cobalt products, LED, and zinc, will be removed.

Proposed Exemption of Social Welfare Surcharge

Sitharaman proposed to exempt the social welfare surcharge on 82 tariff lines, which are currently subject to a cess.

Promotion of EV and Mobile Phone Battery Manufacturing

The Finance Minister proposed to add 35 additional capital goods for electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing and 28 for mobile phone battery

manufacturing to promote lithium-ion battery production.

Modified UDAN Scheme: 120 New Destinations to be Connected in Next 10 Years

Expansion of UDAN Scheme

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the modified UDAN scheme will connect 120 new destinations and serve an additional 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years.

Development of Greenfield Airports in Bihar

The government will assist in the development of greenfield airports in Bihar to address infrastructure needs, enhancing both state and national connectivity. Bodhgaya will be developed as a major spiritual tourist hub.

Previous Success of UDAN

Launched in 2016, the UDAN scheme has successfully connected 88 small cities through airports, with over 1.4 crore passengers served. So far, 619 routes, including 2 water aerodromes and 13 heliports, have been operationalized.

Budget Allocation for UDAN

A budget of ₹530 crore has been proposed for UDAN in 2025-26, a rise from the ₹502 crore allocated earlier, and compared to the revised estimate of ₹800 crore for 2024-25.

Capital Expenditure for Airport Development

A capital expenditure plan exceeding ₹91,000 crore is underway for airport development from FY20 to FY25, with 91% of the plan achieved by November 2024.

Focus on Bihar's Infrastructure

The expansion will include upgrading Patna airport and developing a brownfield airport at Bihta, in addition to greenfield airport projects in the state.

Union Budget 2025: Sector-wise Allocations Focus on Healthcare, Defence, and Infrastructure Growth

The Union Budget 2025, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2025, outlines significant allocations across various sectors to stimulate economic growth and enhance infrastructure. Below is a summary of the key sector-wise allocations:

Key Initiatives:

- Expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) with an allocation of ₹4,200 crore to enhance health coverage for vulnerable populations.
- Establishment of 200 daycare cancer centers in district hospitals over the next three years to improve treatment accessibility.
- Introduction of 10,000 new medical seats next year, with a total of 75,000 planned over five years to address the shortage of healthcare professionals.

1. Healthcare: Total Allocation: ₹98,311 crore, an increase from ₹89,287 crore in the previous fiscal year.
2. Defence: Total Allocation: ₹4,91,732 crore.
3. Rural Development: Total Allocation: ₹2,66,817 crore.
4. Home Affairs: Total Allocation: ₹2,33,211 crore.
5. Agriculture and Allied Activities: Total Allocation: ₹1,48,000 crore.
6. Education: Total Allocation: ₹1,10,000 crore.
7. Infrastructure Development: Total Allocation: ₹1,00,000 crore.
8. Energy Sector: Total Allocation: ₹80,000 crore.
9. Social Welfare: Total Allocation: ₹70,000 crore.
10. Transport and Connectivity: Total Allocation: ₹60,000 crore.
11. Science and Technology: Total Allocation: ₹50,000 crore.
12. Environment and Climate Change: Total Allocation: ₹40,000 crore.
13. Tourism and Culture: Total Allocation: ₹30,000 crore.
14. Financial Services: Total Allocation: ₹20,000 crore.
15. Housing and Urban Affairs: Total Allocation: ₹10,000 crore.

Union Budget 2025-26 Analysis

Category	Key Highlights
◆ Financial Overview	
Total Expenditure	₹50.65 lakh crore (+7.4% from 2024-25)
Revenue Receipts	₹34.96 lakh crore (+11.1%)
Fiscal Deficit	4.4% of GDP (down from 4.8% in 2024-25)
Revenue Deficit	1.5% of GDP (down from 1.9%)
Nominal GDP Growth	10.1%
Outstanding Debt	56.1% of GDP, targeted to reduce to 50% by 2031
◆ Tax & Financial Policies	
Income Tax Reforms	100% rebate for incomes up to ₹12 lakh (earlier ₹7 lakh)
New Tax Slabs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5% for ₹4-8 lakh - 10% for ₹8-12 lakh - 15% for ₹12-16 lakh - 20% for ₹16-20 lakh - 25% for ₹20-24 lakh - 30% for ₹24+ lakh
TDS & TCS Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher limits for rent & remittances - No TCS on education loans for foreign studies
Customs & Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced customs duty on some imports - Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) introduced
Startup Benefits	Tax exemption extended for startups till April 1, 2030
◆ Sectoral Allocations & Policies	
🏠 Finance & Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FDI in insurance increased to 100% for companies investing in India - Regulatory Reforms Committee to simplify business laws - Investment Friendliness Index for states to be launched
🌾 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ₹67,000 crore for Jal Jeevan Mission (195% increase) - 6-year mission for self-reliance in pulses - Kisan Credit Card Loan limit raised to ₹5 lakh
🏗️ Infrastructure & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ₹1 lakh crore Urban Development Fund for city projects - Maritime Development Fund of ₹25,000 crore - Modified UDAN scheme to connect 120 new airports - Private sector partnerships in nuclear energy with a ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission
🎓 Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10,000 more medical seats this year, 75,000 over five years - ₹128,650 crore for education sector (+12.8%) - 10,000 PM Research Fellowships for IIT/IISc research - UPI-linked credit cards for street vendors under PM SVANidhi
💡 Science & Digital Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadband connectivity for all rural schools & health centers - National Geospatial Mission for land records modernization - Expansion of digital public infrastructure

Category	Key Highlights
◆ Government Borrowing & Debt Strategy	
Debt-to-GDP Target	Reduce to 50% by 2031 (currently 56.1%)
Primary Deficit	0.8% of GDP (down from 1.3%)
Disinvestment Target	₹47,000 crore (lower than ₹50,000 crore last year)
◆ Social Welfare & Rural Development	
MGNREGS (Employment Scheme)	₹86,000 crore (unchanged from 2024-25)
PM-KISAN (Farmers' Support)	₹63,500 crore (unchanged)
PM Awas Yojana (Housing Scheme)	₹78,126 crore (+64%)
New Employment Generation Scheme	₹20,000 crore (+194%)
Women & Child Welfare	₹565,161 crore (+18.5%)
SC/ST Welfare	- SC Welfare: ₹168,478 crore (+21.8%) - ST Welfare: ₹129,250 crore (+19.8%)
◆ Ministry-wise Budget Allocations	
Defence	₹681,210 crore (+6.3%)
Road Transport & Highways	₹287,333 crore (+2.4%)
Railways	₹255,445 crore (unchanged)
Home Affairs	₹233,211 crore (+5.8%)
Consumer Affairs & Food	₹215,767 crore (+1.4%)
Rural Development	₹190,406 crore (+8.3%)
Education	₹128,650 crore (+12.8%)
Health & Family Welfare	₹99,859 crore (+11%)
Jal Shakti (Water Resources)	₹99,503 crore (+93%)
Housing & Urban Affairs	₹96,777 crore (+52%)

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Balanced Budget:** Focus on **economic stability, infrastructure, and financial inclusion** while reducing the fiscal deficit.
- ✓ **Higher Tax Revenue:** Projected **11.1% increase** in revenue receipts through direct tax growth.
- ✓ **Boost for Infrastructure & Energy:** Significant spending on **urban development, transport, and clean energy**.
- ✓ **Support for Startups & MSMEs:** Extended tax benefits, higher credit access, and ease of doing business.
- ✓ **Education & Employment Focus:** More **medical seats, digital education, and employment support schemes**.

Economic Survey 2024-25

The Economic Survey 2024-25, presented by the Ministry of Finance, highlights India's economic performance, fiscal policies, sectoral growth, and future outlook.

★ Key Economic Indicators

Real GDP Growth: 6.4% in FY25, projected between 6.3-6.8% in FY26.

Retail Inflation: Declined from 5.4% (FY24) to 4.9% (FY25); RBI aims for 4% in FY26.

Banking & Financial Health:

Credit Growth: Steady and aligning with deposit growth.

GNPA (Bad Loans) at a 12-year low of 2.6%.

₹3.6 lakh crore resolved under Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Stock Market Strength:

BSE Market Cap to GDP ratio at 136% (higher than China 65%, Brazil 37%).

₹11.1 lakh crore raised via equity & debt markets (5% YoY increase).

Forex Reserves: \$640.3 billion, sufficient for 10.9 months of imports.

Export Performance: Overall 6% growth, services 11.6% YoY increase.

Infrastructure & Investment

Capital Expenditure Growth: 38.8% increase (FY20-FY24).

Private Sector Participation: Encouraged for long-term infra development.

Railways & Roads:

2,031 km rail network expansion in 2024.

5,853 km National Highways constructed in FY25.

Renewable Energy:

47% share in installed capacity (solar, wind growing rapidly).

Carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO₂ created (2005-2023).

🎓 Education & Employment

Government Health Expenditure: Increased from 29% to 48%, reducing citizens' healthcare burden.

PM-Internship Scheme: Aims to boost employment opportunities.

Unemployment Rate: Dropped to 3.2% (2023-24) from 6% (2017-18).

🌾 Agriculture & Food Management

Agriculture Contribution: 16% of GDP.

Kharif Foodgrain Production: 1,647.05 LMT (+89.37 LMT YoY).

Highest CAGR Growth: Fisheries (8.7%), followed by Livestock (5.8%).

💡 Technology & Industry

99% smartphones now made in India, reducing imports drastically.

WIPO Ranking: India ranks 6th in global patent filings.

₹50,000 crore Self-Reliant India Fund for MSMEs.

🌐 Geopolitical & Future Outlook

Geo-Economic Fragmentation replacing globalization, requiring economic adaptation.

Systematic Deregulation & Ease of Doing Business 2.0 to empower India's SME sector.

India's Vision 2047 includes Gaganyaan (human spaceflight) & Chandrayaan-4 (lunar sample return mission).

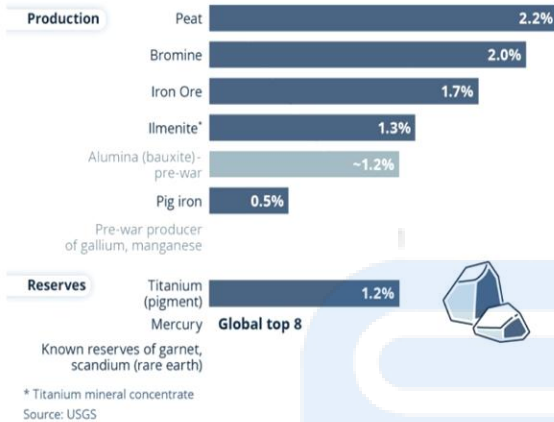
Conclusion

The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlights steady economic growth, strong banking performance, infrastructure expansion, and increasing self-reliance. It sets a roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047, with emphasis on digital transformation, sustainable development, and structural reforms.

Infographics

Ukraine's Mineral Wealth

Ukraine's share in selected global mineral/commodity production or reserves in 2024



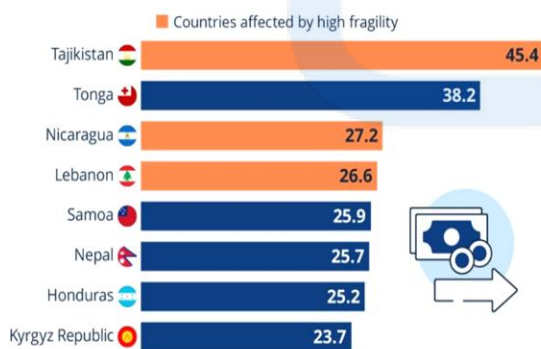
How Important Is Defense to Your Country?

Share of respondents from selected countries who said the issue of defense* was important for their country in 2024



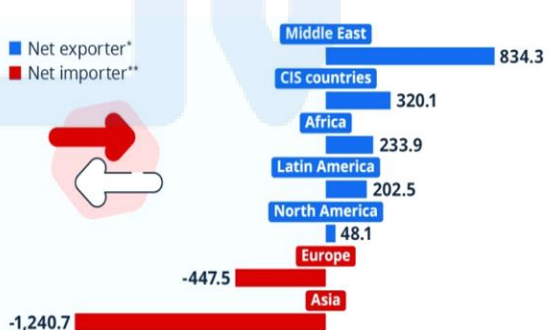
The Countries Which Depend on Remittances the Most

Top remittance inflows as a share of GDP in 2024* (in percent)



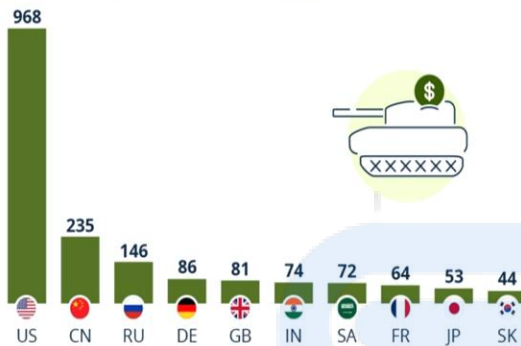
Asia is the World's No. 1 Oil Importer

Crude oil trade balance by region in 2023 (in million tonnes)



Germany Rises to Global Top 5 of Military Spenders

Biggest national military budgets in the world in 2024 (in billion U.S. dollars)



Source: IISS The Military Balance

The Chinese-Indian Trade Relationship

Trade in selected goods between China and India in 2022



▲ ▼ % change since 2018

Chinese exports to India

Electronics and machinery	\$53.3B	▲ +45%
Chemical products	\$19.1B	▲ +50%
Metals	\$9.1B	▲ +55%
Plastics and rubber	\$6.2B	▲ +94%
Textiles	\$5.6B	▲ +40%

Indian exports to China

Minerals and oil	\$4.1B	▼ -15%
Chemical products	\$2.4B	▼ -34%
Metals	\$1.7B	▲ +38%
Textiles	\$0.4B	▼ -77%
Electronics and machinery	\$0.1B	▼ -93%

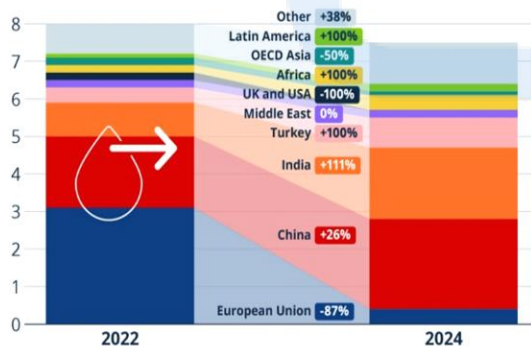
Total exports

China to India	\$110.0B	▲ +46%
India to China	\$15.3B	▼ -8%

Source: UN Comtrade/BACI International via OEC/MIT

Russia Diverts Oil Exports to India and China

Average volume of Russian oil exports by country and region (in million barrels/day)



Sources: IEA, Statista calculation

Where USAID Is Going

U.S. international aid disbursed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in FY 2023

Ukraine	\$16,021M
Ethiopia	\$1,676M
Jordan	\$1,195M
Afghanistan	\$1,089M
Somalia	\$1,047M
DRC	\$936M
Syria	\$895M
Nigeria	\$824M
Yemen	\$812M
South Sudan	\$740M

Latest available

Source: Foreignassistance.gov





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