

Daily



Current Affairs

FEBRUARY 01 & 02

For Bank Exams, UPSC, TNPSC, SSC



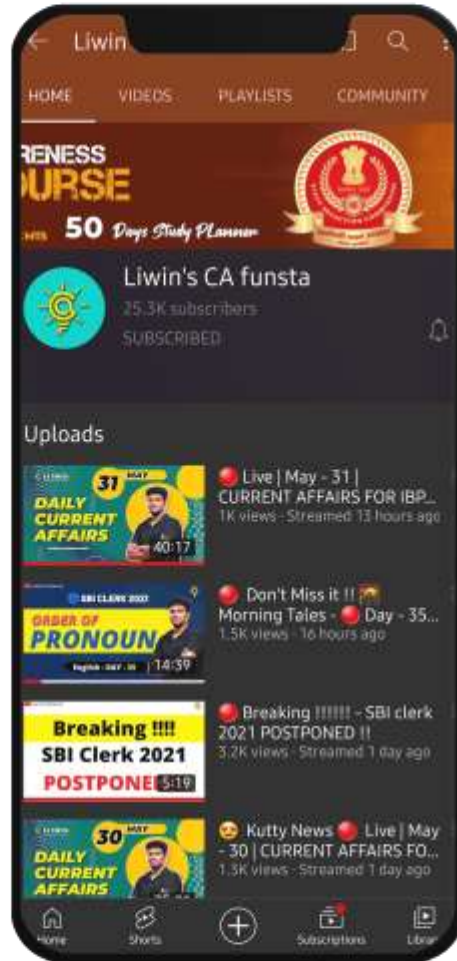
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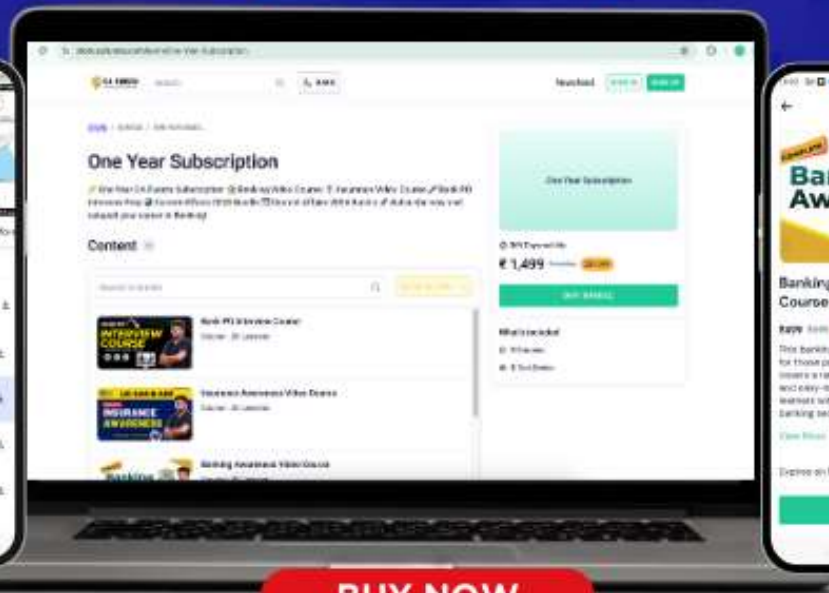
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Important Days



➤ **Where was the central celebration of World Wetlands Day 2025 held in India?**

- A) Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Vellalore Tank, Tamil Nadu
- D) Samanatham Tank, Madurai
- E) Devi Patan, Uttar Pradesh

Answer

B) Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Uttar Pradesh

**World
Wetlands Day**

2 February 2025



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Wetlands Day 2025 Celebration
- **Date:** February 2, 2025
- **Location:** Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh



Important Days



Theme:

- **“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”**
 - Focus on the critical role of wetlands in biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and supporting livelihoods.
 - Emphasis on collaboration to preserve these ecosystems for long-term ecological balance.



Important Days



Objectives:

- Promote global awareness about the value of wetlands.
- Encourage sustainable wetland management through integrated planning.
- Highlight the significance of Ramsar Sites and eco-tourism development.
- Foster employment opportunities in eco-sensitive zones.



Important Days



Key Highlights

1. Inauguration and Leadership:

- Inaugurated by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and MoS for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh.
- Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav highlighted India's achievements, including the designation of 89 Ramsar Sites.



Important Days



Key Highlights

2. Announced Initiatives:

- **Nature-Culture Tourism Corridor:** To connect Ayodhya and Devi Patan, enhancing tourism in the region.
- **Linkage with Sarayu Canal:** To sustain water flow in Parvati Arga wetland.
- **Tikri Jungle Development:** Proposed as an open safari zone to boost eco-tourism.



Important Days



Key Highlights

3. Publications Launched:

- **Integrated Management Plan of Parvati Arga Ramsar Site:** Strategy for biodiversity conservation, community engagement, and sustainable use.
- **Factbook of India's 85 Ramsar Sites:** Provides comprehensive data on Ramsar Sites' significance and threats.
- **Development of Van Taungya Villages:** Focus on sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities.



Important Days



Key Highlights

4. Collaborations and MoUs:

- **Amazon Saheli Program:** Partnership with ARGA to empower women entrepreneurs in Gonda.
- **Support Provided:** Training in digital marketing, product optimization, and access to market insights.

5. Activities and Competitions:

- Painting, Quiz, and Nukkad Natak competitions on the theme.
- Winning teams were felicitated, and the AP Inter College, Mankapur team performed a skit.



Important Days



Key Highlights

6. Regional Workshop:

- Fourth Sahbhagita Workshop for Northern States conducted with participation from 9 states/UTs, focusing on collaborative wetland management.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ramsar Sites:**
 - Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.
 - India's Count: 89 sites covering 1.358 million hectares.
 - Significant Sites Added in 2025: Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand), Khecheopalri Lake (Sikkim), and two sites in Tamil Nadu (Theerthangal and Sakkarakottai).



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Amrit Dharohar Initiative:**
 - Launched in 2023 under the Union Budget.
 - Focuses on conservation, eco-tourism, carbon capture, and sustainable livelihoods in Ramsar Sites.
 - Aims to integrate species conservation, tourism, and employment generation.
- **Mission LiFE:**
 - A lifestyle initiative promoting environmental sustainability and individual responsibility.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	World Wetlands Day 2025
Date	February 2, 2025
Theme	“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”
Venue	Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh
Chief Guest	CM Yogi Adityanath, MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh
India’s Ramsar Tally	89 Sites (1.358 million ha area)
New Ramsar Sites (2025)	Udhwa Lake, Khecheopalri Lake, Theerthangal, Sakkarakottai
Key Initiatives	Nature-Culture Tourism Corridor, Tikri Jungle Safari Zone
Publications Launched	Integrated Management Plan, Factbook of Ramsar Sites
Collaborations	Amazon Saheli Program to empower women entrepreneurs



➤ **Who was named the Player of the Tournament in the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025?**

- A) Mieke van Voorst
- B) Kayla Reyneke
- C) Gongadi Trisha
- D) Sanika Chalke
- E) Shafali Verma

Answer

C) Gongadi Trisha



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India wins the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025
- **Date:** February 2, 2025
- **Location:** Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Significance of India's Victory:

- **Second Consecutive ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Title** India successfully defended their 2023 title, reaffirming their dominance in youth cricket.
- **Comprehensive 9-Wicket Win** A dominant all-round display led to an easy victory over South Africa.
- **Emerging Talent Gongadi Trisha** was the standout performer, excelling with both bat and ball.



Match Summary: India's Commanding Performance

- **South Africa's Struggles with the Bat:**
 - **South Africa** won the toss and opted to bat first but struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack.
 - **Early Collapse:** South Africa was 45/5 in 13 overs as Indian bowlers struck at regular intervals.
 - **Top Performer:** Mieke van Voorst scored a fighting 23 runs, but partnerships were lacking.
 - **Total Score:** 82 all out in 20 overs, bowled out on the final ball of the innings.



Match Summary: India's Commanding Performance

- **Gongadi Trisha's Match-Winning Performance:**
 - **Bowling:** 3 wickets for 15 runs, dismantling South Africa's top order.
 - **Batting:** 44 not out*, ensuring an easy chase for India.
 - **Overall Tournament Performance:** 309 runs in 7 innings, making her the highest run-scorer, along with 9 wickets.



SPORTS



Final Scorecard:

Team	Score	Top Performer (Batting)	Top Performer (Bowling)
South Africa	82/10 (20 overs)	Mieke van Voorst – 23	Gongadi Trisha – 3/15
India	84/1 (11.2 overs)	Gongadi Trisha – 44*	Kayla Reyneke – 1/14
Result	India won by 9 wickets		



Player of the Tournament: Gongadi Trisha

- **Runs Scored:** 309 in 7 innings (133 runs ahead of the next best batter).
- **Wickets Taken:** 9 wickets, including a match-winning 3/15 in the final.
- **Consistency:** Delivered in crucial moments, guiding India to victory.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 Final
Date	February 2, 2025
Location	Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Winner	India
Runner-Up	South Africa
India's Victory Margin	9 Wickets
Top Performer	Gongadi Trisha (44* & 3/15)
Player of the Tournament	Gongadi Trisha (309 runs & 9 wickets)
South Africa's Total	82/10 in 20 overs
India's Total	84/1 in 11.2 overs
India's Consecutive Titles	2023 & 2025



➤ **What was the gross GST collection in January 2025?**

- A) ₹1.72 lakh crore
- B) ₹1.77 lakh crore
- C) ₹1.95 lakh crore
- D) ₹2.10 lakh crore
- E) ₹1.84 lakh crore

Answer

C) ₹1.95 lakh crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** GST Revenue Collection in January 2025
- **Location:** Nationwide (India)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Ensure efficient tax compliance and processing of refunds.
 - Enhance ease of doing business with improved refund mechanisms.
 - Increase contributions from domestic and imported goods.
- **Objectives:**
 - Achieve steady revenue growth to exceed budget estimates for FY25.
 - Strengthen fiscal capacity for government spending.
 - Address regional disparities in state-wise GST revenue growth.



Key Highlights of January 2025 GST Collection

1. Gross Collection:

- **Total gross GST collection:** ₹1.95 lakh crore, marking a 12.3% YoY increase.
- **Domestic GST collection:** ₹1.47 lakh crore (10% YoY growth).
- **GST from imported goods:** ₹48,382 crore (19.8% YoY growth).

2. Refunds Issued:

- **Total refunds:** ₹23,853 crore, a 23.9% YoY increase.
- Growth in refunds highlights improved efficiency in processing claims.



Key Highlights of January 2025 GST Collection

3. Net Collection:

- After refunds, net GST revenue stood at ₹1.72 lakh crore, reflecting a 10.9% YoY increase.

4. State-wise Performance:

- **Top-performing states:**
 - Tamil Nadu (20% growth), Maharashtra (14%), Gujarat (11%), Uttar Pradesh (11%), Telangana (10%).
- **States with slow growth:**
 - West Bengal (7%), Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, and MP (5–9%).
- **Declines in revenue collection:**
 - Himachal Pradesh (-7%), Mizoram (-10%), Manipur (-1%), and Lakshadweep (-4%).



Key Highlights of January 2025 GST Collection

5. Fiscal Year Trend:

- **April–January FY25 net GST revenue:**
₹16.16 trillion, a 9.4% increase YoY.
- Consistent growth is expected to exceed revised budget estimates for FY25.

6. Historical Context:

- Second-highest monthly GST collection in FY25 (after April 2024: ₹2.10 lakh crore).
- Reflects economic recovery and increased compliance despite higher refunds.



Important Terms Explained:

- **GST (Goods and Services Tax):**
 - A comprehensive indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services across India.
 - Comprises Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST), Integrated GST (IGST), and GST Cess.
- **Refunds in GST:**
 - Amounts returned to taxpayers for overpaid taxes, export refunds, or ITC (Input Tax Credit) adjustments.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Net GST Collection:**
 - Gross GST revenue after deducting refunds.
Indicator of effective government revenue.
- **YoY (Year-on-Year):**
 - A metric comparing data from the same period in previous years to assess growth trends.



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Gross GST Collection	₹1.95 lakh crore (12.3% YoY growth)
Domestic GST	₹1.47 lakh crore (10% YoY growth)
GST on Imports	₹48,382 crore (19.8% YoY growth)
Refunds Issued	₹23,853 crore (23.9% YoY growth)
Net GST Revenue	₹1.72 lakh crore (10.9% YoY growth)
Top Performing States	Tamil Nadu (20%), Maharashtra (14%)
Underperforming States	West Bengal (7%), Karnataka (5–9%)
Declining States	Himachal Pradesh (-7%), Mizoram (-10%)
FY25 Total Net Collection	₹16.16 trillion (April–January)
Highest GST Collection FY25	₹2.10 lakh crore (April 2024)



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



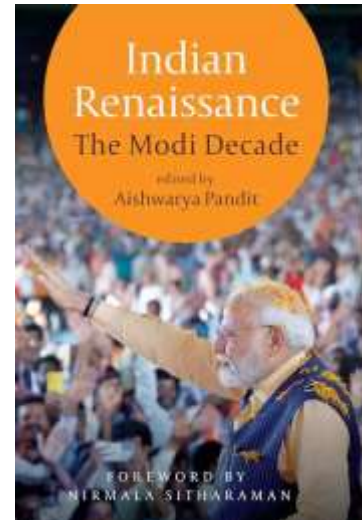
➤ Who is the editor of the book **Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade**?



- A) Rajiv Kumar
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Dr. Aishwarya Pandit
- D) Samir Saran
- E) Robert Clark

Answer

C) Dr. Aishwarya Pandit



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the book Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** NDMC Convention Center, New Delhi



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Significance of the Book Launch:

- **Explores India's transformation under PM Narendra Modi** The book covers political, economic, social, and cultural changes from 2014 to 2024.
- Published by **Westland Non-Fiction** It is an anthology featuring contributions from 27 distinguished authors.
- **Discusses India's global rise** The book examines governance reforms, economic advancements, and diplomatic progress.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Key Highlights of the Book Launch Event:

- **Chief Guest:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah
- **Guest of Honour:** Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Other Dignitaries Present:**
 - Kartikeya Sharma (MP, Contributing Author)
 - Biplab Kumar Deb (MP, Former Tripura CM)
 - Rakesh Sinha (Former MP)
 - Mahesh Jethmalani (Former MP)
 - Industrialist Naveen Jindal



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Discussions at the Event:

- India's growth under Modi's leadership
- Governance reforms and political stability
- Economic and digital transformation
- India's global stature and diplomatic advancements



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Amit Shah's Remarks on PM Modi's Leadership:

- **Political Stability & Governance Modi** is the first leader in 40 years to secure a third consecutive term.
- **Economic Growth India** is now one of the fastest-growing economies globally.
- **Poverty Alleviation** Over 25 crore people lifted out of poverty.
- **Infrastructure & Welfare Basic necessities** have been provided to millions, even in remote areas.
- **Global Image India** has emerged as a strong and self-reliant nation.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



About the Editor – Dr. Aishwarya Pandit:

- **Associate Professor** at Jindal Global Law School
- **Former Visiting Fellow** at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
- **Visiting Faculty** at IIM Indore
- **Author of Claiming Citizenship and Nation: Muslim Politics and State Building in North India, 1947-1986**
- **Columnist** for The Sunday Guardian



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Contributors to the Book:

- **Global Leaders & Experts:** Tony Abbott, Robert Clark, Don Ritter, Grant Newsham
- **Indian Thinkers & Analysts:** Rajiv Kumar, Samir Saran, Avatans Kumar, Bharat Kaushal
- **Security & Diplomacy Experts:** Satoru Nagao, Cleo Paskal, Jonathan Fleming
- **Media & Policy Commentators:** Pankaj Vohra, Priya Sahgal, Ashish Chauhan



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Themes Covered in the Book:

- **India's Political Transformation** Modi's leadership in reshaping governance
- **Economic Reforms** Growth, digital revolution, and financial inclusion
- **India's Global Standing Strengthening** ties with the US, Arab nations, and other global powers
- **Social Welfare & Development Education**, healthcare, and infrastructure improvements
- **New Nationalism** Redefining India's identity in the 21st century



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of the book Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	NDMC Convention Center, New Delhi
Book Title	Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade
Editor	Dr. Aishwarya Pandit
Publisher	Westland Non-Fiction
Chief Guest	Amit Shah
Guest of Honour	Manohar Lal Khattar
Key Contributors	27 authors including Tony Abbott, Samir Saran, Rajiv Kumar, Robert Clark
Key Themes	Political stability, economic growth, global diplomacy, social transformation
Major Takeaways	India's rise under Modi, governance reforms, economic advancements



AWARDS



➤ **Who received the Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCCI Annual Awards 2025?**

- A) Rahul Dravid
- B) Kapil Dev
- C) Sachin Tendulkar
- D) Sunil Gavaskar
- E) Sourav Ganguly

Answer

C) Sachin Tendulkar



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** BCCI Annual Awards 2025
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the BCCI Annual Awards 2025:

- **Recognizing Cricket Excellence** The awards honor outstanding performances in domestic and international cricket.
- **Lifetime Achievement Recognition** Sachin Tendulkar was honored for his unparalleled contributions to Indian cricket.
- **Emerging Talent Recognition** Young stars like Sarfaraz Khan and Asha Sobhana were celebrated for their debut performances.



AWARDS



Key Award Winners:

- **Major Awards:**
 - **Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award:**
Sachin Tendulkar
 - **Polly Umrigar Award – Best International Cricketer (Men):** Jasprit Bumrah
 - **Best International Cricketer (Women):** Smriti Mandhana
 - **Best International Debut (Men):** Sarfaraz Khan
 - **Best International Debut (Women):** Asha Sobhana
 - **BCCI Special Award:** Ravichandran Ashwin



AWARDS



Key Award Winners:

- **Top Performers in ODIs (Women):**
 - **Highest Run-Getter:** Smriti Mandhana
 - **Highest Wicket-Taker:** Deepti Sharma
- **Domestic Cricket Awards:**
 - **Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket:** Akshay Totre
 - **Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments:** Mumbai
 - **Lala Amarnath Award – Best All-Rounder in Domestic Limited-Overs Cricket:** Shashank Singh (Chhattisgarh)
 - **Lala Amarnath Award – Best All-Rounder in Ranji Trophy:** Tanush Kotian



AWARDS



Key Award Winners:

- **Top Ranji Trophy Performers:**
 - **Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Run-Getter (Elite Group):** Ricky Bhui (Andhra Pradesh)
 - **Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Run-Getter (Plate Group):** Agni Chopra
 - **Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Wicket-Taker (Elite Group):** Tanay Thyagarajan
 - **Madhavrao Scindia Award – Highest Wicket-Taker (Plate Group):** Mohit Jangra



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	BCCI Annual Awards 2025
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	India
Lifetime Achievement Award	Sachin Tendulkar
Best International Cricketer (Men)	Jasprit Bumrah
Best International Cricketer (Women)	Smriti Mandhana
Best International Debut (Men)	Sarfraz Khan
Best International Debut (Women)	Asha Sobhana
BCCI Special Award	Ravichandran Ashwin
Top ODI Run-Getter (Women)	Smriti Mandhana
Top ODI Wicket-Taker (Women)	Deepti Sharma
Best Domestic Team	Mumbai
Best All-Rounder (Domestic Limited Overs)	Shashank Singh (Chhattisgarh)
Best All-Rounder (Ranji Trophy)	Tanush Kotian
Top Ranji Trophy Run-Getter (Elite Group)	Ricky Bhui (Andhra Pradesh)
Top Ranji Trophy Wicket-Taker (Elite Group)	Tanay Thyagarajan



- **Who previously held the record for the longest spacewalking time by a woman before Sunita Williams?**



- A) Christina Koch
- B) Kathryn Sullivan
- C) Peggy Whitson
- D) Sally Ride
- E) Jessica Meir

Answer

C) Peggy Whitson



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Sunita Williams sets a new spacewalking record for women
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** International Space Station (ISS)



Significance of the Record-Breaking Spacewalk:

- **Longest spacewalking time by a woman** Sunita Williams logged 62 hours and 6 minutes across nine spacewalks, surpassing Peggy Whitson's previous record of 60 hours and 21 minutes.
- **Fourth on NASA's all-time spacewalking list** Williams now ranks fourth among all NASA astronauts for total spacewalking hours.
- **Record-breaking spacewalk duration** The historic spacewalk lasted 5 hours and 26 minutes, starting at 7:43 AM ET and ending at 1:09 PM ET.



Purpose of the Spacewalk:

- **Removal of degraded hardware:** Williams and Butch Wilmore removed faulty radio communication equipment from the ISS.
- **Microorganism sample collection:** They collected samples from the ISS exterior to check for potential microbial growth in space.



Extended Stay on the ISS:

- **Initial mission duration:** Williams and Wilmore launched on Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in June 2024 for an eight-day mission.
- **Technical issues with Starliner:** Helium leaks and thruster malfunctions rendered the Starliner unsafe for return.
- **Planned return mission:** NASA plans to bring them back in late March 2025 aboard a SpaceX spacecraft.



Williams's Achievements:

- **Total spacewalks:** This was her ninth spacewalk and Wilmore's fifth.
- **First astronaut to complete a triathlon in space:** In 2012, Williams completed a triathlon using ISS exercise equipment.



NASA's Announcement:

- NASA officially confirmed **Sunita Williams's milestone via a post on X (formerly Twitter).**
- The agency continues to **monitor Williams and Wilmore's health and mission progress.**



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Sunita Williams sets new spacewalking record for women
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	International Space Station (ISS)
Astronaut	Sunita Williams
New Record Set	62 hours and 6 minutes of spacewalking (surpassing Peggy Whitson)
Rank in NASA's All-Time List	4th
Latest Spacewalk Duration	5 hours 26 minutes
Spacewalk Purpose	Removing degraded hardware, collecting microorganism samples
Current Mission Status	Stranded on ISS since June 2024 due to Starliner issues
Planned Return	Late March 2025 via SpaceX spacecraft
Previous Achievement	First astronaut to complete a triathlon in space (2012)



➤ **Where was the first Raisina Middle East Conference held in 2025?**

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- C) Abu Dhabi, UAE
- D) Doha, Qatar
- E) Istanbul, Turkey

Answer

C) Abu Dhabi, UAE



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 1st Raisina Middle East Conference
- **Date:** 28-29 January 2025
- **Location:** Abu Dhabi, UAE



Significance of the Raisina Middle East Conference:

- **Strengthening India-UAE Relations:** The event focused on strategic partnerships and economic cooperation between India and the UAE.
- **Regional and Global Discussions:** Covered geopolitical and geoeconomic issues in the Middle East.
- **Enhancing Trade & Investment:** Aimed at boosting trade, economic ties, and regional integration.



Key Highlights of the Conference:

- **Chief Guest:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar
- **Organized by:**
 - Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE
 - Indian Ministry of External Affairs



Discussions at the Event:

- India's economic growth and global role
- Geopolitical stability in the Middle East
- Investment, trade, and infrastructure partnerships
- India's diplomatic and strategic engagements in the region



India-Middle East Trade and Strategic Ties:

- **India-Gulf Trade:** \$160-\$180 billion
- **India-Mediterranean Trade:** \$80 billion
- **Key Indian Projects in the Middle East:**
 - Airports, ports, railways
 - Phosphates, green hydrogen, steel, and submarine cables
- **People-to-People Connections:**
 - 9 million Indians in the Gulf region
 - 0.5 million Indians in the Mediterranean region



India-UAE Relations and Future Vision:

- **India-UAE Strategic Ties:** Based on trust, credibility, and mutual economic growth.
- **Key Meeting:** Jaishankar met Anwar Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President to discuss strengthening the India-UAE partnership.
- **India's Global Vision:**
 - Deepening Middle East engagements
 - Plurilateral cooperation on connectivity and maritime security
 - Positioning the Gulf as a gateway to Africa, Europe, and Central Asia



Why Abu Dhabi Was Chosen?

- **UAE** is a key Middle East partner for India and the 3rd largest trading partner (2023-24) after China & the U.S.
- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** signed in May 2022 to boost trade and investment.
- **Strategic sectors of cooperation** include energy, security, technology, and digital economy.



Dr. S. Jaishankar's UAE Visit (27-29 January 2025):

- Met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed
- Held discussions with Deputy PM & FM Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed
- Met Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed
- Attended **India's 76th Republic Day** celebrations in Abu Dhabi (27 January 2025)
 - **Chief Guest:** Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed (UAE Deputy PM & FM)



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	1st Raisina Middle East Conference
Organizers	Observer Research Foundation (ORF), UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indian Ministry of External Affairs
Purpose	Strengthening India-UAE relations, geopolitical discussions, trade & investment partnerships
India-Gulf Trade	\$160-\$180 billion
India-Mediterranean Trade	\$80 billion
Key Indian Projects	Airports, ports, railways, green hydrogen, steel, submarine cables
People-to-People Ties	9 million Indians in the Gulf, 0.5 million in the Mediterranean
India-UAE Relations	Based on trust, credibility, and strategic cooperation
Future Vision	Deepening engagement with the Middle East, enhancing connectivity & maritime security
Why Abu Dhabi?	India's 3rd largest trading partner, CEPA agreement, strategic economic cooperation
Jaishankar's UAE Visit	Met UAE leadership, attended India's 76th Republic Day celebrations



➤ Which country became the first African nation to eliminate onchocerciasis as a public health threat?

- A) Nigeria
- B) Ghana
- C) Niger
- D) Ethiopia
- E) Kenya

Answer
C) Niger



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Niger becomes the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis
- **Date:** January 30, 2025
- **Location:** Niger



Significance of Niger's Achievement:

- **First in Africa to Eliminate Onchocerciasis:** Niger joins Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico as the only countries globally to eliminate the disease.
- **Major Public Health Victory:** This marks a breakthrough for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Africa.
- **Global Recognition by WHO:** The World Health Organization (WHO) verified Niger's success in eliminating river blindness.



About Onchocerciasis (River Blindness):

- **Caused by:** Parasitic worm *Onchocerca volvulus*, transmitted by infected blackflies.
- **Symptoms:** Severe itching, skin rashes, and blindness in extreme cases.
- **Impact:** Second leading infectious cause of blindness globally, primarily affecting rural communities near fast-flowing rivers.



How Niger Achieved This Historic Milestone:

- **1976:** Joined WHO's Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP), focusing on aerial insecticide spraying to reduce blackfly populations.
- **1995:** Participated in African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), shifting to community-driven Ivermectin treatment.
- **2014:** Disease prevalence dropped from 60% to 0.02%, paving the way for elimination.
- **2025:** WHO officially declared Niger free of onchocerciasis.



Key Strategies Used for Elimination:

- **Mass Drug Administration (MDA):** Distribution of Ivermectin, a drug donated by Merck & Co.
- **Vector Control Measures:** Aerial spraying of insecticides to control blackflies.
- **Community Participation:** Local-led treatment programs ensuring sustainable health interventions.



Impact on Public Health in Africa:

- **Model for Other African Nations:** Niger's success serves as a blueprint for other African countries still battling onchocerciasis.
- **Stronger Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Control:** Highlights the importance of sustained public health interventions.
- **Encouragement for International Collaboration:** Demonstrates how global health partnerships can achieve disease elimination goals.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Niger eliminates onchocerciasis as a public health threat
Date	January 30, 2025
Location	Niger
Recognized By	World Health Organization (WHO)
Disease	Onchocerciasis (River Blindness)
Cause	Parasitic worm (<i>Onchocerca volvulus</i>) transmitted by blackflies
Key Symptoms	Skin rashes, severe itching, blindness
Control Measures	Aerial insecticide spraying, Ivermectin distribution
Ivermectin Donor	Merck & Co.
Prevalence Reduction	Dropped from 60% to 0.02% by 2014
Global Recognition	Niger joins Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico in eliminating onchocerciasis



➤ **What is the theme of the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting in 2025?**

- A) Innovation for a Digital Future
- B) Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth
- C) Strengthening Global Trade Relations
- D) Economic Collaboration for Future Growth
- E) Emerging Technologies in Business



Answer

B) Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth



Event and Location:

- **Event:** BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting
- **Date:** March 3 to 7, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meet:

- **Strengthening Global Entrepreneurial Collaboration:** The event aims to connect young entrepreneurs from BRICS nations to promote innovation and business growth.
- **Fostering Sustainable Development:** The discussions will focus on sustainability-driven entrepreneurship within the BRICS framework.
- **India's Leadership in Youth Development:** As the host nation, India is taking a lead role in shaping BRICS youth entrepreneurship policies.



Objectives of the BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meeting:

- Establish the **BRICS Youth Council's Entrepreneurship Working Group** as a permanent initiative.
- Align **entrepreneurship strategies** across BRICS nations.
- Develop **innovative engagement formats** to boost international entrepreneurial cooperation.
- Connect young entrepreneurs to **global market opportunities**.
- Encourage youth participation in **economic and trade activities** within BRICS.



Run-Up Events Organized in India:

- **Completed Events:**
 - **Miranda House, Delhi University** – January 15, 2025
 - **Mata Sundri College for Women, Delhi** – January 17, 2025
 - **IIM Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir** – January 24, 2025
 - **NFSU, Gandhinagar, Gujarat** – January 28, 2025
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **KIIT, Odisha** – February 4, 2025
 - **IIT Guwahati, Assam** – February 7, 2025
 - **IISc, Bangalore, Karnataka** – February 11, 2025



Why is the BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meeting Significant?

- **BRICS accounts for 42% of the world's population, 27% of global GDP, and 16% of international trade.**
- The BRICS Youth Council was launched in **2023** at the South Africa Youth Summit to promote education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and health initiatives.
- This meeting will provide **a roadmap for youth-led business expansion and cooperation** across Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting
Date	March 3 to 7, 2025
Location	India
Theme	Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth
Countries Involved	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS)
Participants	Around 45 youth representatives from BRICS nations
Run-Up Events	Organized in Delhi, Jammu, Gujarat, Odisha, Assam, Karnataka
Objectives	Strengthening cooperation, innovation, and youth entrepreneurship
BRICS Established	2006
BRICS Youth Council Launched	2023 (South Africa Youth Summit)
BRICS Global Impact	42% of world population, 27% of global GDP, 16% of global trade



➤ What is the revised ex-mill price of ethanol derived from C Heavy Molasses (CHM) for ESY 2024-25 under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme?

- A) ₹56.58 per litre
- B) ₹57.97 per litre
- C) ₹58.50 per litre
- D) ₹60.00 per litre
- E) ₹55.00 per litre

Answer

B) ₹57.97 per litre



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Cabinet approval of ethanol procurement price revision under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.
- **Location:** Nationwide (India).



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Revise the administered ex-mill price of ethanol derived from **C Heavy Molasses (CHM)**.
 - Promote ethanol blending up to 20% in petrol by **ESY 2025-26**, ahead of the previous target of 2030.
 - Enhance ethanol distillation and blending capacity in line with the "Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25."



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - **Reduce Crude Oil Imports:** Substitute crude oil with ethanol to reduce energy import dependency.
 - **Save Foreign Exchange:** Achieve quantifiable savings in forex; ₹1,13,007 crore saved over the past decade.
 - **Boost Domestic Agriculture:** Provide better remuneration to sugarcane farmers by creating demand for molasses-based ethanol.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - **Environmental Benefits:** Promote cleaner and greener alternative fuels to reduce carbon emissions.
 - **Achieve Energy Self-Reliance:** Align with Atmanirbhar Bharat by enhancing domestic production capacity for ethanol.



Key Highlights of the Programme

1. Revised Ethanol Price:

- New ex-mill price for ethanol derived from C Heavy Molasses (CHM): ₹57.97 per litre (increased from ₹56.58).
- Represents a 3% increase to ensure sufficient ethanol supply for blending targets.

2. Blending Progress:

- Ethanol blending in petrol increased from 38 crore litres (ESY 2013-14) to 707 crore litres (ESY 2023-24).
- Achieved an average blending rate of 14.60% in ESY 2023-24.
- Target of 18% blending for ESY 2024-25.



Key Highlights of the Programme

3. Advancement of 20% Blending Target:

- Original target for 20% ethanol blending was 2030, now advanced to ESY 2025-26.
- Public "Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25" aligns with this accelerated goal.

4. Economic Benefits:

- Over the last decade, ethanol blending led to:
 - Crude oil substitution: 193 lakh metric tonnes.
 - Foreign exchange savings: ₹1,13,007 crore.
- Additional investments in ethanol distillation plants, logistics, and storage facilities.



Key Highlights of the Programme

5. Infrastructure Enhancements:

- Increased ethanol distillation capacity to 1713 crore litres per annum.
- Initiatives include Long-Term Off-Take Agreements (LTOAs), dedicated ethanol plants (DEPs), and multi-feed distilleries.
- Availability of E-20 and E-100 fuels, and promotion of flex-fuel vehicles.



Key Highlights of the Programme

6. Wider Impacts:

- Accelerates Atmanirbhar Bharat goals by reducing dependency on imported fuel.
- Benefits sugarcane farmers with better pricing and faster payment cycles.
- Environmental and economic gains through cleaner fuel and reduced emissions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:**
 - A government initiative to blend ethanol with petrol to reduce fossil fuel dependency and promote renewable energy sources.
- **C Heavy Molasses (CHM):**
 - A by-product of sugar production used for ethanol extraction. Ethanol derived from CHM is cost-effective and widely used in blending programs.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ex-Mill Price:**
 - The price at which ethanol is sold by manufacturers (distilleries) to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) before additional taxes and transportation costs.
- **Flex-Fuel Vehicles:**
 - Vehicles capable of running on a blend of ethanol and petrol, offering flexibility in fuel choice.
- **Long-Term Off-Take Agreements (LTOAs):**
 - Contracts between OMCs and ethanol producers to ensure a stable supply of ethanol for blending programs.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Revised Ethanol Price (CHM)	₹57.97 per litre (up 3% from ₹56.58)
Blending Target (ESY 2024-25)	18%
20% Blending Target	Advanced to ESY 2025-26 (from 2030)
Ethanol Blending Growth	38 crore litres (2013-14) → 707 crore litres (2023-24)
Ethanol Distillation Capacity	1713 crore litres per annum
Foreign Exchange Savings	₹1,13,007 crore in the last decade
Crude Oil Substitution	193 lakh metric tonnes
Major OMCs	IOC, BPCL, HPCL
Environmental Impact	Reduced carbon emissions and cleaner fuel usage



➤ **What is the primary objective of the 'SwaRail' SuperApp launched by Indian Railways?**

- A) To introduce a new railway ticketing system
- B) To integrate multiple railway services into a single platform
- C) To replace all railway employees with AI-based automation
- D) To provide entertainment services on train journeys
- E) To introduce a new railway pricing model



Answer

B) To integrate multiple railway services into a single platform



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the 'SwaRail' SuperApp for railway services integration
- **Date:** January 31, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the 'SwaRail' SuperApp:

- **All-in-One Railway Services:** The app integrates multiple services such as ticket booking, PNR inquiry, platform booking, food ordering, and complaint lodging.
- **Eliminates Multiple Apps:** The app reduces device storage usage by replacing multiple railway applications.
- **User Convenience:** Provides a seamless and unified experience for Indian Railways passengers.



Services Offered by 'SwaRail' SuperApp:

- **Ticket Bookings:** Supports both reserved and unreserved ticket reservations.
- **Platform and Parcel Bookings:** Allows users to book platform tickets and manage parcel services.
- **Train and PNR Inquiries:** Offers real-time updates on train schedules and Passenger Name Record (PNR) statuses.
- **Food Ordering:** Enables passengers to order meals during their journey.
- **Rail Madad:** Serves as a grievance redressal platform for complaints and assistance requests.



How to Participate in Beta Testing?

- The app is currently in **beta testing** and available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.
- **Existing users of RailConnect or UTS Mobile App** can log in using their current credentials.
- **New users** can register with minimal data entry requirements.
- **User feedback** will help refine the app before its official public launch.



Unique Features of 'SwaRail' SuperApp:

- **Single Sign-On:** One set of credentials for accessing all railway services.
- **Integrated Services:** A unified platform displaying PNR status along with train details.
- **User-Friendly Onboarding:** Quick registration process for new users.
- **Secure Login Options:** Includes m-PIN and biometric authentication for enhanced security.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of the 'SwaRail' SuperApp for railway services integration
Date	January 31, 2025
Location	India
Purpose	To provide a one-stop solution for railway services, reducing the need for multiple apps
Services Offered	Ticket booking, PNR inquiry, food ordering, platform booking, parcel services, complaints (Rail Madad)
Unique Features	Single Sign-On, integrated services, secure login (m-PIN & biometric authentication), user-friendly onboarding
Login Options	Existing users of RailConnect or UTS Mobile App can log in with the same credentials
Final Launch	After successful beta testing and user feedback improvements



➤ **What is the theme of the Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India in 2025?**

- A) Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- B) Space Exploration
- C) Green Revolution
- D) Digital India
- E) Future of Biotechnology



Answer

C) Green Revolution



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India
- **Date:** January 30, 2025
- **Location:** Panaji, Goa



Significance of the Sci-Fi Science Film Festival:

- **Promoting Science & Innovation:** The festival aims to inspire young minds and encourage scientific exploration.
- **Honoring Dr. M. Swaminathan:** The event is dedicated to the renowned scientist known for his contributions to agriculture and sustainability.
- **Fostering Scientific Curiosity:** Encourages students to engage in science and contribute to India's future.



Key Highlights of the Event:

- **Inaugurated by:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant
- **Organized by:**
 - Vidnyan Parishad Goa
 - Goa Science & Technology Department
- **Festival Duration: 4-day event**
- **Theme:** “Green Revolution” – focuses on sustainability and environmental awareness.
- **Dignitaries Present:**
 - **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan** (Scientist)
 - **Harilal Menon** (Vice-Chancellor, Goa University)
 - **Prasad Rangnekar** (President, Vidnyan Parishad Goa)



Tribute to Dr. M. Swaminathan:

- Known as the “**Father of the Green Revolution in India**”.
- His work in **agricultural science** helped India achieve food security.



Goa as a Hub for Scientific Research:

- Key Scientific Institutions in Goa:
 - **IIT Goa**
 - **NIT Goa**
 - **National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)**
 - **National Forensic Sciences University**



Festival's Legacy and Origin:

- Conceptualized by **late Manohar Bhai Parrikar and Jayantrao Sahasrabuddhe.**
- Aims to **combine science, cinema, and education** to inspire youth.

CM Sawant's Vision for 'Viksit Bharat':

- Encouraging **youth participation in science and research.**
- Promoting **STEM careers for national development.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India
Organized By	Vidnyan Parishad Goa & Goa Science & Technology Department
Chief Guest	Goa CM Pramod Sawant
Festival Duration	4 Days
Theme	Green Revolution
Honored Scientist	Dr. M. Swaminathan
Dignitaries Present	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Harilal Menon, Prasad Rangnekar
Scientific Institutions in Goa	IIT, NIT, NIO, National Forensic Sciences University
Legacy Founders	Late Manohar Bhai Parrikar, Late Jayantrao Sahasrabuddhe
CM's Vision	Encouraging youth participation and fostering careers in science for 'Viksit Bharat'



➤ Which state has received its first-ever Ramsar site in 2025 along with Jharkhand?

- A) Assam
- B) Sikkim
- C) Kerala
- D) Rajasthan
- E) Odisha



Answer
B) Sikkim



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India adds four new Ramsar wetlands, increasing the total to 89
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the New Ramsar Wetlands:

- **Increased Wetland Conservation:** With these additions, India now has 89 Ramsar sites, reinforcing its commitment to wetland conservation.
- **First Ramsar Recognition for Jharkhand & Sikkim:** Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand and a wetland in Sikkim have been designated as Ramsar sites for the first time.
- **Ecological Importance:** These wetlands provide habitats for migratory birds and wildlife while supporting local biodiversity and water conservation.



Four Newly Added Ramsar Wetlands in India:

1. **Udhwa Lake, Jharkhand** – Jharkhand's first Ramsar site, rich in biodiversity.
2. **Sikkim's First Ramsar Site** – Recognized for its unique Himalayan ecosystem.
3. **A Wetland in Gujarat** – Strengthens Gujarat's environmental conservation efforts.
4. **A Wetland in Northeast India** – Highlights the ecological significance of the region.



How Do These New Wetland Sites Contribute to India's Environmental Goals?

- **Enhancing Conservation Efforts:** The Ramsar designation ensures better protection and management of these wetlands.
- **Boosting Eco-Tourism:** Increased international recognition can lead to sustainable tourism opportunities.
- **Supporting Scientific Research:** Facilitates wetland biodiversity studies and conservation projects.



India's Growing Ramsar List and Conservation Efforts:

- **India now has 89 Ramsar sites**, up from 85 previously.
- **Ramsar designations align with India's environmental policies** to protect wetlands and promote sustainable management.



What is the Ramsar Convention?

- An international treaty adopted on **February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.**
- Came into force for India on February 1, 1982.
- Recognizes wetlands of international importance and promotes conservation and sustainable use.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India adds four new Ramsar wetlands
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	India
Total Ramsar Sites in India	89
Newly Added Ramsar Sites	Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand), a site in Sikkim, one in Gujarat, one in Northeast India
First-time Recognitions	Jharkhand & Sikkim receive their first Ramsar sites
Significance	Enhances biodiversity, supports wildlife, and strengthens conservation efforts
Environmental Impact	Promotes wetland protection, eco-tourism, and scientific research
Ramsar Convention Adoption	February 2, 1971 (Ramsar, Iran)
Ramsar Convention in India	Came into force on February 1, 1982



➤ Which fund will provide the Rs 3,027.86 crore allocated for disaster mitigation projects?

- A) National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)
- B) State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)
- C) National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)
- D) Prime Minister's Relief Fund
- E) Contingency Reserve Fund



Answer

C) National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Centre approves Rs 3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the Disaster Mitigation Allocation:

- **Strengthening India's Disaster Preparedness:** Funds will be used to reduce risks from droughts, lightning, and forest fires.
- **Largest Allocation for Drought-Prone Areas:** 12 states to benefit from Rs 2,022.16 crore for drought mitigation.
- **First-of-its-Kind Lightning Safety Program:** 10 states to receive Rs 186.78 crore to prevent lightning-related deaths.
- **Forest Fire Management Plan:** 19 states will share Rs 818.92 crore to manage 144 high-risk districts.



Key Highlights of the Allocation:

- **Approved by:** High-Level Committee (HLC) chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- **Committee Members:**
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
 - Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
 - Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog



Breakdown of Allocated Funds:

- **Drought-Prone Areas Mitigation:**
 - **Total Cost:** Rs 2,022.16 crore
 - **Central Share:** Rs 1,200 crore
 - **States Covered (12):**
 - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh



Breakdown of Allocated Funds:

- **Lightning Safety Mitigation:**
 - **Total Cost:** Rs 186.78 crore
 - **States Covered (10):**
 - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal



Breakdown of Allocated Funds:

- **Forest Fire Risk Management:**
 - **Total Cost:** Rs 818.92 crore
 - **Central Share:** Rs 690.63 crore
 - **Districts Covered:** 144 high-priority districts
 - **States Covered (19):**
 - Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand



Previous Disaster Risk Mitigation Approvals:

- **Urban Flood Risk Mitigation:** Rs 3,075.65 crore for 7 major cities.
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation:** Rs 150 crore for 4 states.
- **Landslide Risk Mitigation:** Rs 1,000 crore for 15 states.



Financial Assistance Released to States:

- **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):**
Rs 17,479.60 crore (27 states).
- **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF):**
Rs 4,808.30 crore (18 states).
- **State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF):**
Rs 1,973.55 crore (13 states).
- **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF):**
Rs 719.72 crore (8 states).



Government's Vision for a Disaster-Resilient India:

- Aligned with PM Narendra Modi's vision of a disaster-resilient India.
- Funds will strengthen state capacities for disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- Focus on reducing loss of life and economic damage due to natural disasters.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Centre approves Rs 3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	India
Total Fund Allocation	Rs 3,027.86 crore
Approved By	High-Level Committee (HLC) chaired by Amit Shah
Committee Members	Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Fund Source	National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)
Drought Mitigation	Rs 2,022.16 crore (12 states)
Lightning Safety	Rs 186.78 crore (10 states)
Forest Fire Management	Rs 818.92 crore (19 states, 144 districts)
Urban Flood Mitigation	Rs 3,075.65 crore (7 cities)
Landslide Risk Mitigation	Rs 1,000 crore (15 states)
GLOF Risk Mitigation	Rs 150 crore (4 states)
SDRF Assistance	Rs 17,479.60 crore (27 states)
NDRF Assistance	Rs 4,808.30 crore (18 states)
SDMF Assistance	Rs 1,973.55 crore (13 states)
NDMF Assistance	Rs 719.72 crore (8 states)



➤ **What is the total allocation for the Railway Budget 2025?**

- A) ₹2.45 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.52 lakh crore
- C) ₹2.65 lakh crore
- D) ₹2.75 lakh crore
- E) ₹2.85 lakh crore



Answer

C) ₹2.65 lakh crore



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Announcement of the Railway Budget 2025
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of the Railway Budget 2025:

- **Sustained Investment in Infrastructure:** The budget maintains last year's allocation of ₹2.65 lakh crore to continue capital expenditure on rail expansion.
- **Emphasis on Electrification and Modernization:** Indian Railways aims for 100% electrification and expansion of high-speed rail networks.
- **Challenges in Customer Services and Freight Corridors:** Declining investments in passenger amenities and freight corridors raise concerns.



Rail Budget 2025 Allocation and Expenditure:

- **Total Budget Allocation:** ₹2.65 lakh crore (unchanged from last year).
- **Capital Expenditure (Capex):** ₹2.52 lakh crore, including Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investments.
- **FY 2024-25 Budget Utilization (till Jan 23, 2025):** ₹2.09 lakh crore (79.33% utilization).
- **Actual Expenditure for FY 2023-24:** ₹2.45 lakh crore.



Major Infrastructure Projects Announced:

- New railway lines, track doubling, and quadrupling projects.
- Construction of flyovers, underpasses, and station redevelopment.
- Investment in rolling stock and modern signaling systems.



Concerns Over Declining Investments:

- **Customer Amenities Budget Reduction:**
 - **FY 2024-25:** ₹15,510 crore → Revised: ₹12,993.97 crore
 - **FY 2025-26:** ₹12,118.39 crore
- **Freight Corridor Corporation Investment Cut:**
 - **FY 2024-25:** ₹5,499 crore → FY 2025-26: ₹500 crore
 - **Impact:** Delays in logistics projects and freight transportation expansion.



Concerns Over Declining Investments:

- **Reduction in Public Sector Unit (PSU) and Joint Venture Investments:**
 - **FY 2024-25:** ₹27,570.77 crore → FY 2025-26: ₹22,444.33 crore
 - **Impact:** Slowdown in railway PSU modernization and new ventures.



Railway's Growth in Freight and Electrification:

- **Freight Capacity:** Target of 1.6 billion tonnes by March 2025, making India the 2nd largest cargo railway network globally (after China).
- **Electrification Goal:** 100% railway network electrification by FY 2025-26 to reduce the carbon footprint.



Bullet Train and High-Speed Rail Expansion:

- **Indigenous Bullet Train Project:** 280 kmph speed trains in collaboration with BEML and NHRCL.
- **Budget Allocations:**
 - FY 2023-24: ₹18,295 crore
 - FY 2024-25: ₹21,000 crore
 - FY 2025-26: ₹19,000 crore
- **Fleet Expansion:**
 - 100 Amrit Bharat trains (non-AC).
 - 50 NAMO Bharat trains (130 kmph city connections).
 - 200 Vande Bharat trains (sleeper and chair car versions).
 - 17,500 general coaches (1,200 already manufactured).



Revenue and Future Plans:

- **Passenger Revenue Target:** ₹3 lakh crore in FY 2025-26 (first time in history).
- **Future Expansion Focus:**
 - Metro and semi-high-speed rail connectivity.
 - Private investments via PPP models.
 - AI-based safety and monitoring systems.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Railway Budget 2025 Announced
Date	February 1, 2025
Total Budget Allocation	₹2.65 lakh crore
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	₹2.52 lakh crore
Major Infrastructure Investments	New railway lines, station redevelopment, modern signaling
Customer Amenities Budget	Reduced to ₹12,118.39 crore
Freight Corridor Investment	Reduced to ₹500 crore
PSU and JV Investments	₹22,444.33 crore (declined from ₹27,570.77 crore)
Freight Capacity Target	1.6 billion tonnes (2nd largest globally)
Electrification Goal	100% by FY 2025-26
Bullet Train Expansion	₹19,000 crore allocated for FY 2025-26
Passenger Revenue Target	₹3 lakh crore in FY 2025-26
Train Fleet Expansion	200 Vande Bharat, 100 Amrit Bharat, 50 NAMO Bharat trains



➤ Which article of the Indian Constitution requires the government to present the Annual Financial Statement?

- A) Article 110
- B) Article 112
- C) Article 266
- D) Article 265
- E) Article 280

Answer

B) Article 112



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Explanation of Government Budgeting Process and Constitutional Requirements
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



Significance of Government Budgeting:

- **Legal Framework for Revenue and Expenditure:** The budget ensures that tax collection and government spending follow constitutional rules.
- **Financial Planning and Economic Stability:** Budgeting allocates resources for development while maintaining fiscal discipline.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The Parliamentary approval process ensures public accountability in financial management.



Key Constitutional Provisions for Budgeting:

- **Article 112:** Requires the President to lay before Parliament the Annual Financial Statement (Budget).
- **Article 265:** No tax shall be levied or collected except by the authority of law.
- **Article 266:** No expenditure can be made without legislative approval.



The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:

- **Ensures fiscal discipline** by controlling government deficits.
- Mandates the presentation of **documents on fiscal policy and government expenditure** along with the budget.



Key Budget Documents Presented in Parliament:

- **Annual Financial Statement (AFS)** – Article 112
- **Demands for Grants (DG)** – Article 113
- **Appropriation Bill** – Article 114(3)
- **Finance Bill** – Article 110(a)
- **FRBM Act Mandated Documents:**
 - Macro-Economic Framework Statement
 - Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement
 - Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement
 - Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Statement



Railway Budget and Union Budget Presentation:

- **Until 2016:** The Railway Budget was presented separately.
- **Since 2017:** The Railway Budget is merged with the Union Budget.
- **Budget Presentation Date: February 1** each year (changed from the last working day of February in 2017).



Vote on Account:

- **Temporary funding mechanism** when the full budget is not passed before the new financial year.
- Provides **short-term financial approval for government operations** (usually two months).

Budget Speech Structure:

- **Part A:** General economic outlook and policy changes.
- **Part B:** Taxation proposals and revenue generation plans.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Government Budgeting in India Explained
Date	February 1, 2025
Budget Term in the Constitution	Annual Financial Statement
Constitutional Provision for Budgeting	Article 112
Taxation Approval Requirement	Article 265
Expenditure Approval Requirement	Article 266
Fiscal Management Law	FRBM Act, 2003
Budget Documents Presented	AFS, Demands for Grants, Appropriation Bill, Finance Bill
Railway Budget Change	Merged with Union Budget since 2017
Budget Presentation Date	February 1
Temporary Budget Mechanism	Vote on Account



➤ Under the new tax regime in the Union Budget 2025, what is the tax rate for income between ₹8 lakh to ₹12 lakh?

- A) Nil
- B) 5%
- C) 10%
- D) 15%
- E) 20%

Answer

C) 10%



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Budget 2025 Presentation
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** Parliament, New Delhi, India



Significance of the Union Budget 2025:

- **Income Tax Relief:** No tax on income up to ₹12 lakh, benefiting middle-class taxpayers.
- **Infrastructure Boost:** A ₹10 lakh crore asset monetization plan announced to fund new development projects.
- **Agriculture and Rural Focus:** PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, Kisan Credit Card expansion, and Makhana Board for Bihar.



Key Tax-Related Announcements:

- **New Income Tax Slabs (FY 2025-26) under the New Tax Regime:**
- Tax Exemption on Income up to ₹12 lakh (including rebates and deductions).
- TDS on rent increased from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹6 lakh.
- Higher tax exemption for senior citizens – Interest income tax-free up to ₹1 lakh.
- Removal of TCS on remittances for education abroad.

Income Range	Tax Rate
₹0 – ₹4 lakh	Nil
₹4 lakh – ₹8 lakh	5%
₹8 lakh – ₹12 lakh	10%
₹12 lakh – ₹16 lakh	15%
₹16 lakh – ₹20 lakh	20%
₹20 lakh – ₹24 lakh	25%
Above ₹24 lakh	30%



Key Sectoral Announcements in Budget 2025:

1. Infrastructure & Economic Growth:

- ₹10 lakh crore for the Asset Monetization Plan (2025-30).
- ₹1.5 trillion allocated to states for capital expenditure.
- ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (Govt. 49%, private sector 51%).
- 100 GW Nuclear Energy Development Target by 2047.



Key Sectoral Announcements in Budget 2025:

2. Social Welfare & Employment:

- Gig Workers' Social Security Scheme: Identity cards & e-Shram portal registration.
- Revamped PM SVANidhi Scheme: UPI-linked credit cards, increased bank loans.
- 3 Centres of Excellence for AI in Education (₹500 crore investment).

3. MSME & Startup Support:

- 45% of India's exports come from MSMEs – additional incentives announced.
- Kisan Credit Cards: Loan limit increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh.
- New Scheme for 5 lakh SC/ST Women Entrepreneurs – Loans up to ₹2 crore.



Key Sectoral Announcements in Budget 2025:

4. Agriculture & Rural Development:

- PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana to improve productivity in 100 agricultural districts.
- Makhana Board established in Bihar for production & processing.
- Aatmanirbharta in Pulses: 6-year mission for self-sufficiency in Tur, Urad & Masoor dal.
- National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds to boost farm productivity.



Key Sectoral Announcements in Budget 2025:

5. Healthcare & Education:

- ₹98,311 crore allocated for Healthcare (up from ₹90,658 crore last year).
- 10,000 new medical seats to be added in 2025, with a target of 75,000 in 5 years.
- 200 cancer daycare centers to be set up in district hospitals within 3 years.
- Jal Jeevan Mission extended till 2028 – 12 crore households already connected.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Union Budget 2025 Presentation
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	Parliament, New Delhi
New Tax Regime Exemption	No tax on income up to ₹12 lakh
Revised Fiscal Deficit Target	4.4% of GDP
Major Infrastructure Plan	₹10 lakh crore Asset Monetization Plan (2025-30)
Kisan Credit Card Expansion	Loan limit increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh
PM SVANidhi Scheme Expansion	More loans, UPI-linked credit cards
Maritime Development Fund	₹25,000 crore (49% Govt, 51% Private)
Healthcare Budget	₹98,311 crore (up from ₹90,658 crore)
Jal Jeevan Mission Extended	Till 2028
Aatmanirbharta in Pulses	6-Year Mission for Tur, Urad & Masoor
Education Focus	3 AI Excellence Centres, 10,000 new medical seats in 2025
Affordable Housing	40,000 new units in FY26



➤ What is the total expenditure allocated in the Union Budget 2025-26?

- A) ₹45.75 lakh crore
- B) ₹50.65 lakh crore
- C) ₹52.30 lakh crore
- D) ₹48.90 lakh crore
- E) ₹55.20 lakh crore



Answer

B) ₹50.65 lakh crore



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Budget 2025-26 Presentation
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** Parliament, New Delhi, India



Significance of Union Budget 2025-26:

- **Economic Growth:** Focus Massive capital investment in infrastructure, MSMEs, agriculture, and rural development.
- **Fiscal Prudence:** Fiscal deficit targeted at 4.4% of GDP, showing commitment to financial discipline.
- **Social Welfare:** Major spending on healthcare, education, rural development, and employment generation.



Key Financial Highlights of Budget 2025-26:

1. Revenue and Expenditure Overview:

Aspect	Amount (₹ Crore)
Total Revenue Receipts	34,20,409
Total Expenditure	50,65,345
Revenue Expenditure	39,44,255
Capital Expenditure	11,21,090
Fiscal Deficit	4.4% of GDP (₹15,68,936 crore)
Revenue Deficit	1.5% of GDP



Key Sector-Wise Allocations:

2. Agriculture & Rural Development:

- **PM-KISAN** ₹63,500 crore for farmers' income support.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Loan** limit increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh.
- **Makhana Board in Bihar** to boost production and processing.
- **Aatmanirbharta in Pulses:** 6-year mission for self-sufficiency in Tur, Urad, and Masoor dal.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural Water Supply)** ₹67,000 crore allocated.



Key Sector-Wise Allocations:

3. MSME and Industrial Development:

- **Revised MSME classification** to expand investment and turnover limits.
- **₹1 lakh crore** Urban Challenge Fund for redeveloping cities.
- **₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund** (49% Govt, 51% Private).
- **Focus Product Scheme** for Leather, Footwear & Toys to enhance exports.
- **National Institute of Food Technology & Entrepreneurship** in Bihar.



Key Sector-Wise Allocations:

4. Infrastructure & Transport:

- **₹1.5 lakh crore** support for state capital expenditure.
- **₹5.48 lakh crore** for Transport Infrastructure (Railways & Highways).
- **₹10 lakh crore Asset Monetization Plan (2025-30)** to fund new projects.
- **100 GW Nuclear Energy Development Target** by 2047.



Key Sector-Wise Allocations:

5. Healthcare & Education:

- **₹98,311 crore** for Healthcare (up from ₹90,658 crore last year).
- **10,000 new medical seats** in 2025 (target 75,000 in 5 years).
- **200 Cancer Daycare Centers** in district hospitals within 3 years.
- **3 AI Excellence Centers** for Education with ₹500 crore investment.
- **₹1.28 lakh crore** for Education, including Atal Tinkering Labs, IITs, and broadband in schools.



Key Sector-Wise Allocations:

6. Tax Reforms & Financial Sector:

- **No Tax Up to ₹12 Lakh** Income under new tax regime.
- **TDS on Rent Increased** from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹6 lakh.
- **Higher Senior Citizen** Benefits – Interest income up to ₹1 lakh tax-free.
- **100% FDI in Insurance** (from 74% to 100%).
- **Grameen Credit Score** for rural credit access.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



How is the Government Funding These Expenses? (Revenue Sources)

Revenue Source	Share in Budget 2025-26
Income Tax (incl. STT)	22%
Corporation Tax	17%
GST & Other Taxes	18%
Excise & Customs Duties	9%
Non-Tax Revenue	9%
Borrowings & Liabilities	24%



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Union Budget 2025-26 Presentation
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	Parliament, New Delhi
Total Budget Expenditure	₹50.65 lakh crore
Total Revenue Receipts	₹34.20 lakh crore
Fiscal Deficit Target	4.4% of GDP
PM-KISAN Allocation	₹63,500 crore
Healthcare Budget	₹98,311 crore
Education Budget	₹1.28 lakh crore
Railways Budget	₹2.55 lakh crore
Transport Infra Budget	₹5.48 lakh crore
Jal Jeevan Mission	₹67,000 crore
AI & Skilling Initiatives	₹500 crore for 3 AI Centers
TDS on Rent	Raised to ₹6 lakh
100% FDI in Insurance	Limit increased from 74% to 100%



- Which of the following items became cheaper after the Budget 2025 customs duty revision?



- A) Interactive Flat Panel Displays
- B) Surimi (Frozen Fish Paste)
- C) Knitted Fabrics
- D) Flat Panel Displays
- E) Provisional Assessment Fees

Answer

B) Surimi (Frozen Fish Paste)



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Budget 2025 Presentation - Custom Duty Revisions
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** Parliament, New Delhi, India



Significance of Budget 2025 Customs Duty Changes:

- **Lowering Costs** Essential medicines, minerals, electronic goods, and EV components see price reductions.
- **Boosting Manufacturing Tariff** exemptions encourage domestic production of EV batteries, textiles, and leather goods.
- **Streamlining Import Duties** Seven tariff rates eliminated for simpler tax structures.
- **Higher Taxes on Luxury Goods** Increased customs duties on flat-panel displays and high-end tech products.



What Gets Cheaper in Budget 2025?

Item	Change
Life-Saving Medicines	36 critical drugs exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD)
Electronic Goods	BCD reduced to 5% on open cells & components
Critical Minerals	Cobalt powder, lithium-ion battery waste, lead, zinc, and 12 others exempted
EV Batteries & Mobile Phone Batteries	35 goods (EV) & 28 goods (mobile) exempted from BCD
Leather Goods	Wet blue leather fully exempted from BCD
Marine Products (Surimi)	BCD reduced from 30% to 5% on frozen fish paste
Handicrafts	9 additional items added to duty-free list, export period extended
Fabrics & Textile Machinery	2 types of shuttle-less looms added to BCD-exempt textile machinery



What Gets Costlier in Budget 2025?

Item	Change
Interactive Flat Panel Displays	BCD increased from 10% to 20%
Flat Panel Displays	Increased customs duty
Knitted Fabrics	Customs duty increased
Provisional Assessment Fees	Two-year time limit introduced for customs clearance
Social Welfare Surcharge	Exemptions removed for 82 tariff lines subject to a cess



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Budget 2025 - Customs Duty Revisions
Date	February 1, 2025
Location	Parliament, New Delhi
Cheaper Items	Life-saving medicines, EV batteries, minerals, leather, textiles, marine products
Costlier Items	Flat panels, interactive displays, knitted fabrics, provisional assessments
Tariff Reforms	7 tariff rates eliminated, simplified customs structure
Social Welfare Surcharge	Exemptions removed for 82 tariff lines



- What is the total capital expenditure (Capex) allocation for FY 2025-26 in Union Budget 2025?



- A) ₹10.18 lakh crore
- B) ₹11.21 lakh crore
- C) ₹13.18 lakh crore
- D) ₹15.48 lakh crore
- E) ₹9.50 lakh crore

Answer

B) ₹11.21 lakh crore



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Budget 2025-26 Presentation
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** Parliament of India, New Delhi



Key Highlights:

- **Capex Allocation for FY26:**
 - ₹11.21 lakh crore allocated for capital expenditure, marking a 0.9% increase from FY25's ₹11.11 lakh crore.
 - Effective Capital Expenditure (Centre + States): ₹15.48 lakh crore.



Sector-Wise Allocation:

1. Defense:

- **Total Allocation:** ₹6.81 lakh crore (+9.53% YoY).
- **Capital Outlay:** ₹1.92 lakh crore, with ₹48,614 crore for aircraft and aero engines and ₹24,390 crore for the naval fleet.

2. Railways:

- **Unchanged Capex:** ₹2.52 lakh crore.
- **Gross Budgetary Support:** ₹2.52 lakh crore.

3. Infrastructure Development:

- **50-Year Interest-Free Loans to States:** ₹1.5 lakh crore for state capital expenditures and reforms.
- **2nd Asset Monetization Plan (2025-30):** Target to plough back ₹10 lakh crore in new projects.



Revised Capex Estimates:

- **FY25 Revised Estimate:** ₹10.18 lakh crore (lower than Budget Estimate of ₹15.01 lakh crore).
- **FY24 Revised Estimate:** ₹9.50 lakh crore (previous estimate: ₹10 lakh crore).
- **FY23 Revised Estimate:** ₹7.28 lakh crore.



Key Initiatives:

- **Urban Challenge Fund:** ₹1 lakh crore for city redevelopment, water management, and sanitation.
- **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:** Focused on agricultural productivity and crop diversification across 100 districts.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** To encourage private sector investment in infrastructure.



Analysis of Budget Impact:

- **Growth-Oriented Spending:**
 - Sustained focus on infrastructure-driven growth with significant allocations to railways, urban redevelopment, and defense.
 - **Healthcare:** ₹98,311 crore allocated, a 9.78% YoY increase.
 - **Education:** ₹1,28,650 crore allocated (+6.6% YoY).
- **Balancing Fiscal Prudence:**
 - Fiscal Deficit Target: 4.4% of GDP (₹15.69 lakh crore).
 - Emphasis on **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** to stimulate private investment while maintaining fiscal discipline.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Total Capex (FY26)	₹11.21 lakh crore
Effective Capex (Centre+States)	₹15.48 lakh crore
Defense Capex	₹1.92 lakh crore (Aircraft, naval fleet, equipment)
Railways Capex	₹2.52 lakh crore (unchanged from FY25)
50-Year Interest-Free Loans	₹1.5 lakh crore to states
2nd Asset Monetization Plan	₹10 lakh crore for infrastructure (2025-30)
Urban Challenge Fund	₹1 lakh crore for city redevelopment
Fiscal Deficit Target	4.4% of GDP
Revised Capex for FY25	₹10.18 lakh crore
Revised Capex for FY24	₹9.50 lakh crore



QUICK RECALL



- **World Wetlands Day Theme 2025: “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future.”**
- **India won their second consecutive ICC U19 Women’s T20 World Cup.**
- **Gross GST in January 2025: ₹1.95 lakh crore (second highest in FY25).**
- **Book Launch Event The book Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade was launched in New Delhi.**
- **Lifetime Achievement Sachin Tendulkar received the Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.**
- **New Spacewalking Record Sunita Williams logged 62 hours and 6 minutes of total spacewalk time.**
- **The 1st Raisina Middle East Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.**
- **Niger became the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis.**
- **BRICS Youth Meet India is hosting the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Meeting in March 2025.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Revised Price: ₹57.97/litre for CHM ethanol (up 3%).**
- **The 'SwaRail' SuperApp was launched on January 31, 2025.**
- **Goa CM Pramod Sawant inaugurated the Sci-Fi Science Film Festival.**
- **India added four new Ramsar wetlands, increasing the total count to 89.**
- **The Centre approved Rs 3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects.**
- **The Railway Budget 2025 maintains a ₹2.65 lakh crore allocation.**
- **The Annual Financial Statement (Budget) outlines government revenue and expenditure.**
- **No Tax Up to ₹12 Lakh Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh will not pay income tax.**



QUICK RECALL



- **The Union Budget 2025-26 is ₹50.65 lakh crore, with a focus on fiscal discipline.**
- **Life-Saving Medicines 36 critical medicines exempted from Basic Customs Duty.**
- **Total Capex for FY26: ₹11.21 lakh crore, a 0.9% increase from FY25.**

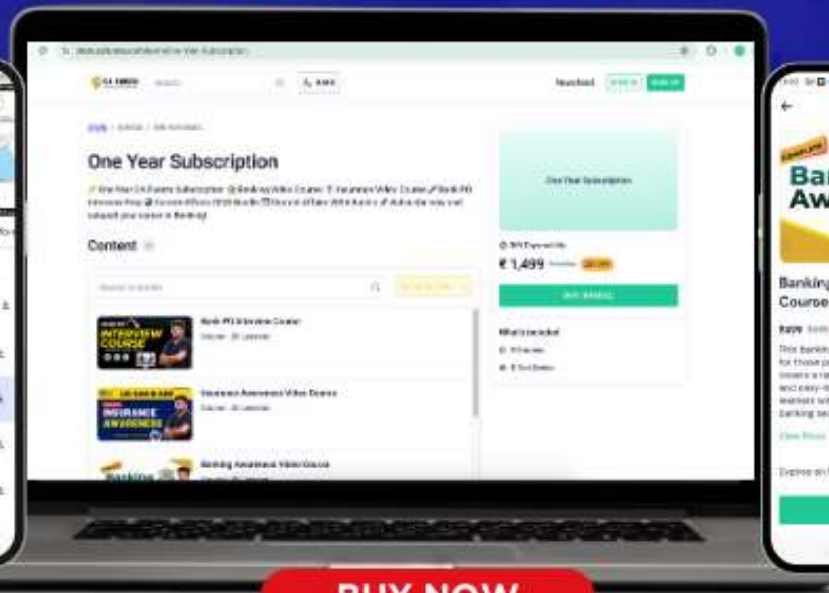


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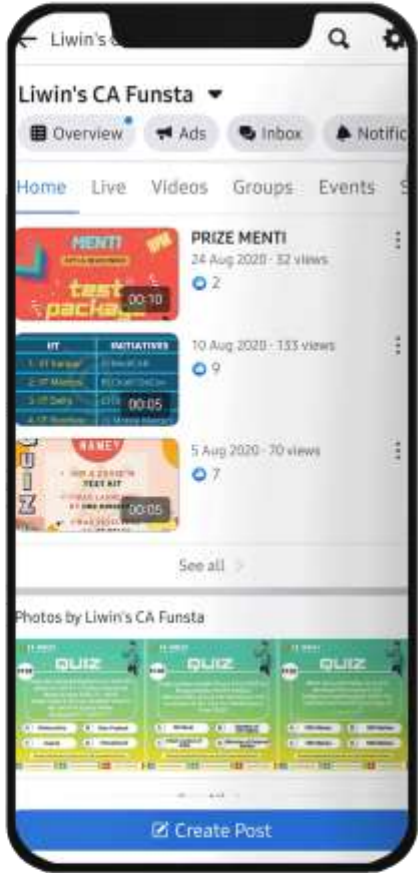
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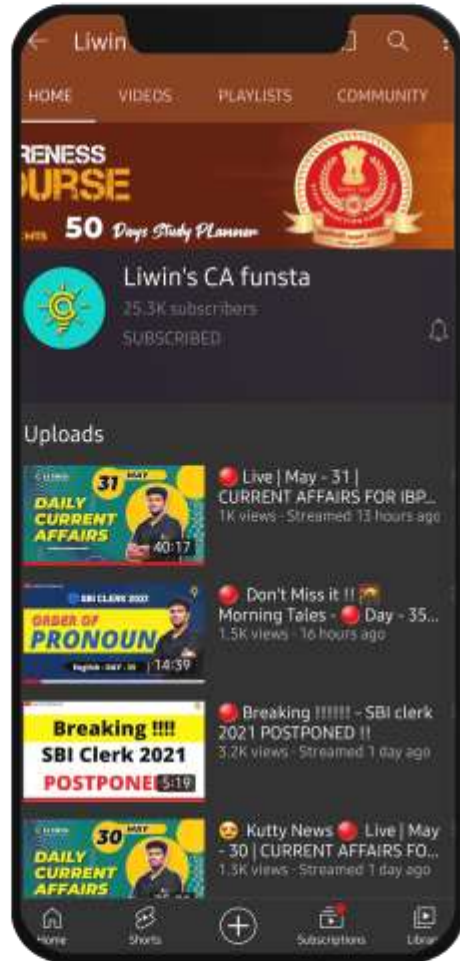


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