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# Current Affairs

**FEBRUARY 20**

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**Ms. Ruthra Priyaa**



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**Benitta Robinson**  
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**Mega**  
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Got a clear cut view on banking awareness... I have referred many materials for the past 6 yrs and yours is the best one... Thank you sir

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★★★★★

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★★★★★

Very clear explanation and most important topics. Thank you sir.

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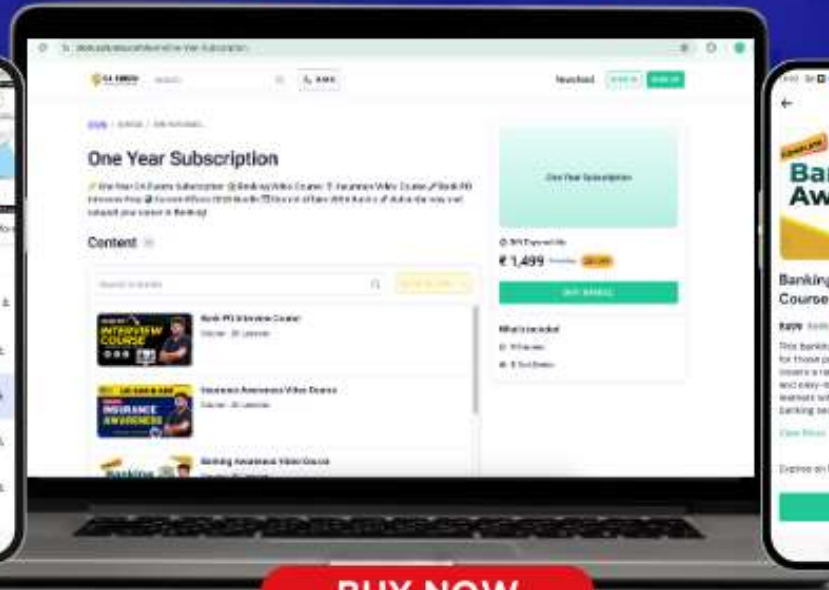
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➤ **What is the theme of the World Day of Social Justice 2025?**

- A) Social Justice for Global Equality
- B) Advancing Human Rights for All
- C) Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future
- D) Inclusive Growth for Economic Resilience
- E) Ensuring Fair Wages and Social Protection



**Answer**

**C) Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future**



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Day of Social Justice 2025
- **Date:** February 20, 2025
- **Location:** Global Observance



# Important Days



## History and Significance:

- **Origin:** Established by the United Nations (UN) in 2007, first observed in 2009.
- **Background:** Originated from the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.
- **Objective:** Promotes fairness, equality, and inclusivity by addressing poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.



# Important Days



## Theme of 2025:

- **Title:** “Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future”
- **Importance:** Focuses on climate change, economic shifts, and social disparities, aligning with WSSD2.



# Important Days



## Key Highlights:

- **Multilateralism for Social Justice:** Strengthening international cooperation.
- **Bridging Gaps & Alliances:** Supporting the Global Coalition for Social Justice.
- **Economic Justice:** Ensuring social justice remains central to global economic policies.



# Important Days



## Topics for Discussion:

- **Inclusive Growth & Trade Policies:** Role of financial institutions in reducing inequality.
- **Green Economy Transition:** Creating sustainable jobs while protecting workers.
- **Sustainable Financing:** Green investment for low-income countries.
- **Social Protection Systems:** Education and skills training for a changing economy.



# Important Days



## Global Initiatives:

- **Global Coalition for Social Justice:** Works on economic growth and labor rights.
- **Centre for Dalit and Subaltern Studies (CDSS), India:** Conducts awareness programs.
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), India:** Empowers youth.





# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	The World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20.
Event	World Day of Social Justice 2025
Date	February 20, 2025
Location	Global Observance
Organizer	United Nations (UN)
Theme of 2025	Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future
History	Established in 2007, first observed in 2009, linked to the 1995 Copenhagen Summit.
Significance	Addresses poverty, unemployment, gender equality, and labor rights.
Key Highlights	Global cooperation, economic justice, social protection.
Topics for Discussion	Trade policies, green economy, sustainable financing, skill development.
Global Initiatives	Global Coalition for Social Justice, CDSS India, RGNIYD India.



➤ **Who won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year (ISWOTY) 2024 award?**

- A) Aditi Ashok
- B) Avani Lekhara
- C) Smriti Mandhana
- D) Manu Bhaker
- E) Vinesh Phogat

**Answer**  
**D) Manu Bhaker**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Manu Bhaker Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2024
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** India



## Award Details:

- **Award Name:** BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year (ISWOTY) 2024
- **Organizer:** British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- **Selection Process:** Expert panel nominations + Public voting
- **Other Nominees:** Aditi Ashok (Golf), Avani Lekhara (Para-Shooting), Smriti Mandhana (Cricket), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling)



## Manu Bhaker's Historic Achievements:

- **Olympic Milestone:** First Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting (Bronze in 10m Air Pistol, Paris 2024).
- **Additional Medal:** Won a second bronze in Mixed 10m Air Pistol with Sarabjot Singh.
- **Unique Feat:** First Indian athlete post-independence to win two medals in a single Olympic Games.
- **Historical Reference:** The only other Indian to achieve this was Norman Pritchard (Paris 1900 Olympics, two silver medals).



## Previous BBC ISWOTY Winners:

- **2019:** PV Sindhu (Badminton)
- **2020:** Koneru Humpy (Chess)
- **2021 & 2022:** Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
- **2023:** No award was held



## Other BBC Awards 2024 Winners:

- **Indian Para-Sportswoman of the Year:** Avani Lekhara (Shooting) – First Indian woman to win three Paralympic medals.
- **BBC Emerging Athlete of the Year:** Sheetal Devi (Archery) – India's youngest Paralympic medallist at Paris 2024.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Mithali Raj (Cricket) – Longest-serving Indian women's cricket captain (2004-2022).



# SPORTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Manu Bhaker won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2024 award.
Event	BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year (ISWOTY) 2024
Date	February 2025
Location	India
Organizer	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
Selection Process	Expert panel nominations + Public voting
Other Nominees	Aditi Ashok, Avani Lekhara, Smriti Mandhana, Vinesh Phogat





# SPORTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Olympic Achievement	First Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal (Bronze, 10m Air Pistol, Paris 2024)
Additional Medal	Won a second bronze in Mixed 10m Air Pistol with Sarabjot Singh
Other Indian with Multiple Medals in One Olympics	Norman Pritchard (Paris 1900)
Previous BBC ISWOTY Winners	2019 – PV Sindhu, 2020 – Koneru Humpy, 2021 & 2022 – Mirabai Chanu, 2023 – No award
Other BBC Awards 2024 Winners	Avani Lekhara (Para-Sportswoman), Sheetal Devi (Emerging Athlete), Mithali Raj (Lifetime Achievement)
Mithali Raj's Contribution	Longest-serving captain of Indian women's cricket (2004-2022)



➤ **What is the purpose of LIC's newly launched 'One Man Office' initiative?**

- A) To set up small physical branch offices in remote areas
- B) To provide LIC agents with 24×7 digital tools for policy management
- C) To hire new LIC agents across India
- D) To replace all existing LIC branches with digital offices
- E) To offer health insurance policies through LIC



**Answer**

**B) To provide LIC agents with 24×7 digital tools for policy management**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** LIC Unveils 'One Man Office' to Digitally Empower Agents
- **Date:** February 17, 2025
- **Location:** India



## Initiative Details:

- **Name:** One Man Office (OMO)
- **Organizer:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- **Objective:** Enhance agent efficiency by providing 24×7 digital tools
- **Strategic Vision:** Supports LIC's 'Insurance for All by 2047' initiative



## Key Features of 'One Man Office':

- **Digital Policy Management:** Enables agents to sell policies, calculate premiums, and register e-NACH for auto payments.
- **Customer Service Tools:** Allows loan requests, claim processing, and renewal premium payments digitally.
- **Knowledge & Training Resources:** Provides insurance calculators, policy illustrations, and agent training materials.



## Integration with ANANDA Platform:

- **Platform Name:** ANANDA (Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application)
- **Launched in:** 2020 to digitize policy issuance
- **Usage:** Facilitated over 1.15 million policy sales in FY 2023-24 (42.84% growth from the previous year).
- **Impact:** The One Man Office and ANANDA integration enables a single-window solution for policy sales and customer management.



## LIC's Other Digital Expansion Plans:

- **Jeevan Samarth Initiative:** A strategic partnership with A.T. Kearney (July 2024) to modernize LIC's agency network.
- **Health Insurance Expansion:** LIC plans to enter the health insurance sector under the composite insurance licensing policy.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	LIC launched the 'One Man Office' (OMO) initiative.
Event	LIC's Digital Expansion for Agents.
Date	February 17, 2025
Location	India
Organizer	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
Objective	Provide LIC agents with 24x7 digital tools for policy sales & management.
Key Features	Policy sales, premium collection, loan requests, and claims processing.
Platform Integration	Linked with ANANDA for seamless digital transactions.
Strategic Vision	Supports LIC's 'Insurance for All by 2047' initiative.
Other Digital Plans	Agency modernization with 'Jeevan Samarth' and expansion into health insurance.





➤ **By what percentage did India's total exports grow year-on-year (YoY) during April 2024 - January 2025?**

- A) 5.8%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 7.2%
- D) 8.0%
- E) 9.1%

**Answer**  
**C) 7.2%**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's Exports Surge by 7.2% YoY in Apr-Jan 2025
- **Date:** April 2024 - January 2025
- **Location:** India



## Export Growth Details:

- **Growth Rate:** 7.2% YoY increase in total exports
- **Source:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Key Contributors:** Electronics Manufacturing & Aerospace Industry



## Key Drivers of Export Growth:

- **Electronics Manufacturing:**
  - Dixon Technologies played a major role, assembling Google's Pixel smartphones.
  - Reported ₹285.77 billion revenue in nine months (ending Dec 2024), up from ₹177.13 billion in FY24.
  - Indian electronics market projected to grow from ₹1.46 trillion (2022) to ₹6 trillion by FY27.



## Key Drivers of Export Growth:

- **Aerospace Industry:**
  - Hical Technologies & JJG Aero benefitted from increased sourcing by Airbus & Rolls-Royce.
  - Hical aims to double aerospace revenue to \$57.57 million in three years.
  - Asia-Pacific aerospace market 54% larger in 2024 compared to 2019.



## Challenges to Future Export Growth:

- **Potential U.S. Tariffs:**
  - Risk of \$7 billion in annual export losses if the U.S. imposes reciprocal tariffs.
  - Key sectors affected: Chemicals, metals, jewelry, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, and food products.
  - India exported \$74 billion in goods to the U.S. in 2024, majorly pearls, gems, pharmaceuticals, and petrochemicals.



## Government's Export Target for FY25:

- **Target:** Surpass \$800 billion in total exports by March 2025.
- **Strategy:**
  - Strengthen bilateral trade relations.
  - Enhance production capabilities.
  - Diversify export markets to mitigate trade risks.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	India's total exports grew 7.2% YoY during April 2024 – January 2025.
Event	India's export growth driven by electronics & aerospace sectors.
Date	April 2024 - January 2025
Location	India
Major Growth Sectors	Electronics Manufacturing (Dixon Technologies) & Aerospace Industry (Hical Technologies, JJG Aero).
Electronics Market Growth	Dixon Technologies' revenue hit ₹285.77 billion; sector to reach ₹6 trillion by FY27.
Aerospace Industry Growth	Airbus & Rolls-Royce increased sourcing; Asia-Pacific aerospace market grew 54% from 2019.
Potential Challenges	U.S. tariffs may impact exports, risking \$7 billion in annual losses.
Government Export Target	India aims to surpass \$800 billion in exports by March 2025.





➤ **How many Chartered Accountants (CAs) faced disciplinary action by ICAI in the current financial year, setting a new record?**

- A) 119
- B) 200
- C) 241
- D) 180
- E) 300

**Answer**  
**C) 241**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** ICAI Takes Disciplinary Action Against 241 Chartered Accountants
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



## Key Highlights:

- **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** disciplined 241 CAs this financial year.
- **Previous Year:** 119 CAs faced disciplinary action.
- **Penalty:** Includes removal from membership for up to five years.
- **Reason:** Ensuring high ethical standards and a robust disciplinary mechanism.



## Statements by ICAI President Charanjot Singh Nanda:

- **ICAI** aims to maintain the highest ethical standards in the profession.
- **ICAI can only act against individual members**, while the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) takes action against firms.
- **Audit is the exclusive domain of Chartered Accountants**, countering demands from Company Secretaries and Cost Accountants.
- **ICAI seeks government support** to help Indian CA firms expand globally.



## Future Initiatives by ICAI:

- Committee to prioritize work-life balance for CAs.
- Collaboration with ICSI & ICMAI to discuss regulatory matters.
- Support for Indian CA firms to grow internationally.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	ICAI took disciplinary action against 241 Chartered Accountants, setting a new record.
Event	ICAI's crackdown on unethical practices among CAs.
Date	February 2025
Location	New Delhi, India
Total CAs Disciplined	241 (Up from 119 last year)
Action Taken	Removal from membership for up to five years.
ICAI President	Charanjot Singh Nanda
Key Focus	Maintaining high ethical standards & disciplinary actions.
Regulatory Limitation	ICAI can act against individual CAs, while NFRA regulates firms.
ICAI's Future Plans	Support Indian CA firms' global expansion & work-life balance initiatives.



➤ **According to Goldman Sachs, what is the estimated maximum impact on India's GDP due to Trump's proposed reciprocal tariffs?**

- A) 0.2%
- B) 0.4%
- C) 0.6%
- D) 1.0%
- E) 1.2%

**Answer**  
**C) 0.6%**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India May Face Up to 0.6% GDP Impact from Trump's Reciprocal Tariffs
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Source:** Goldman Sachs Report





## Key Highlights of the Report:

- **Potential GDP Impact:**
  - India's GDP could be affected by 0.1% to 0.6% due to US reciprocal tariffs.
  - The extent of the impact depends on the tariff increase scenario and price elasticity of US demand for Indian exports.
- **India's Trade Surplus with the US:**
  - India's goods trade surplus with the US doubled in the past decade.
  - It reached \$35 billion (~1% of India's GDP) in FY24, driven by electronics, pharmaceuticals, and textiles.



## Key Highlights of the Report:

- **India's Higher Tariff Rates vs. US:**
  - India's average tariff rate is higher than that of the US (6.5 percentage points higher).
  - Sectors with the largest tariff differences:
    - Agricultural products
    - Textiles
    - Pharmaceuticals



## Three Possible Ways India Can Be Impacted:

- **Country-Level Reciprocity:** US imposes tariffs on all Indian imports, matching the average tariff differential (~6.5 percentage points).
- **Product-Level Reciprocity:** US matches India's tariffs on each imported product (could raise average tariff differential by ~11.5 percentage points).
- **Non-Tariff Barriers:** Includes administrative barriers, import licenses, export subsidies, leading to further trade restrictions.



## Wider Impact of US Tariffs:

- If the US imposes global tariffs on all countries, India's GDP exposure to US demand would be ~4%, potentially leading to 0.1%-0.6% GDP impact.
- India's gross exports to the US are ~2% of its GDP, lower than many emerging market peers.



## US-India Relations & Trade Developments:

- **US-India Trade Target:** \$120B (2024) → \$500B (2030).
- **Defence Imports:** India's US defence imports grew from near zero to \$20B, making the US India's 3rd-largest arms supplier.
- **Energy Trade:** India and the US reached an agreement to increase US energy imports to India.
- **Immigration Policy:** 220+ unauthorized Indian immigrants deported by the US in February 2025.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Goldman Sachs predicts up to 0.6% GDP impact on India due to US reciprocal tariffs.
US Tariff Impact on GDP	0.1% - 0.6% of India's GDP.
India's Trade Surplus with the US	\$35 billion (~1% of India's GDP) in FY24.
Major Export Sectors to US	Electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles.
India's Tariff vs. US	6.5 percentage points higher on average.
India's Total Exports to US (GDP Share)	~2% of GDP, lower than EM peers.
US-India Trade Target	\$120B (2024) → \$500B (2030).
Other US-India Trade Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- India's defence imports from US: \$20B (3rd-largest supplier).</li><li>- Increased energy trade with the US.</li><li>- 220+ Indian immigrants deported in Feb 2025.</li></ul>



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



➤ Which company is set to acquire a 15% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance?

- A) ICICI Prudential
- B) HDFC Life
- C) SBI Life
- D) 360 ONE Asset
- E) Aditya Birla Capital



**Answer**

**D) 360 ONE Asset**



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** 360 ONE Asset to Acquire 15% Stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** India





# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Acquisition Details:

- **Investor:** 360 ONE Asset
- **Stake Acquired:** 15% in Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- **Objective:** Infuse fresh capital, drive innovation, and strengthen market presence
- **Regulatory Status:** Awaiting approval



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Bharti AXA Life Insurance – Ownership & Financial Strength:

- **Current Owner:** Bharti Life Ventures Private Limited (BLVPL) (Since March 2024)
- **Solvency Ratio:** 1.64x (June 2024), improved from 1.62x (March 2024)
- **Promoter Equity Infusion:** ₹135 crore (FY24) + ₹42 crore (Q1FY25)



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Expected Impact of the Deal:

- **Financial Strength:** Enhances capital base and supports long-term growth
- **Expansion:** Strengthens distribution network and operational reach
- **Innovation:** Helps in developing customer-centric insurance products



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	360 ONE Asset to acquire a 15% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
Event	Strategic investment in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
Date	February 2025
Location	India
Investor	360 ONE Asset
Stake Acquired	15%
Current Owner	Bharti Life Ventures Private Limited (BLVPL)
Solvency Ratio	1.64x (June 2024), improved from 1.62x (March 2024)
Promoter Equity Infusion	₹135 crore (FY24) + ₹42 crore (Q1FY25)
Regulatory Status	Awaiting approval
Expected Impact	Expansion, innovation, and financial growth for Bharti AXA Life Insurance.



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of SBI Cards, effective April 1, 2025?**

- A) Abhijit Chakravorty
- B) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- C) Salila Pande
- D) Rajnish Kumar
- E) Ashwini Kumar Tewari



**Answer**  
**C) Salila Pande**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** SBI Cards Appoints Salila Pande as New MD & CEO
- **Date:** Effective from April 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



# APPOINTMENTS



## Leadership Change:

- **New MD & CEO:** Salila Pande (currently Chief General Manager at SBI)
- **Predecessor:** Abhijit Chakravorty, retiring on March 31, 2025
- **Term Duration:** Two years, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals



# APPOINTMENTS



## About Salila Pande:

- **Career in Banking:** Joined SBI in 1995 as a Probationary Officer
- **Key Roles:**
  - **Vice President** – Mid Office, SBI Singapore
  - **Deputy General Manager** (Business & Operations), Delhi
  - **President & CEO**, SBI California (SBI's foreign subsidiary)
- **Educational Qualifications:**
  - **Postgraduate** in Physics
  - **Certified Financial Risk Manager** (FRM) – GARP, USA
  - **Certified Associate** of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB)





## Financial Update:

- **Q3 FY24 Profit Decline:** SBI Cards' net profit dropped 30% to ₹383 crore, compared to ₹549 crore in Q3 FY23, due to rising credit card delinquencies.

## Dividend Announcement:

- **Interim Dividend:** ₹2.50 per share (25% of ₹10 face value)
- **Record Date:** February 25, 2025
- **Payout Date:** By March 18, 2025



# APPOINTMENTS



## Stock Performance:

- **Share Price (as of Feb 18, 2025):** ₹846.45
- **Market Movement:** Declined 0.86%

## Future Outlook:

- **Strategic Focus:** Under Salila Pande's leadership, SBI Cards aims to expand its credit card portfolio, enhance financial performance, and strengthen its position in digital payments.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	SBI Cards appointed Salila Pande as its new MD & CEO.
Event	Leadership change at SBI Cards & financial update.
Date	Effective April 1, 2025
Location	India
New MD & CEO	Salila Pande
Predecessor	Abhijit Chakravorty (Retiring March 31, 2025)
Term Duration	2 years (subject to approvals)
Q3 FY24 Profit	₹383 crore (30% decline from ₹549 crore in Q3 FY23)
Dividend Declared	₹2.50 per share (25% of ₹10 face value)
Record Date for Dividend	February 25, 2025
Dividend Payout Date	By March 18, 2025
Stock Price (Feb 18, 2025)	₹846.45 (0.86% decline)



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Delhi in 2025?**

- A) Atishi
- B) Rekha Gupta
- C) Sheila Dikshit
- D) Manjinder Singh Sirsa
- E) Sushma Swaraj



**Answer**  
**B) Rekha Gupta**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rekha Gupta Sworn in as Delhi's New Chief Minister
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Ramlila Maidan, Delhi



# APPOINTMENTS



## New Delhi CM Details:

- **Name:** Rekha Gupta
- **Political Party:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- **Constituency:** Shalimar Bagh
- **Delhi's 4<sup>th</sup> Woman CM:** After Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Atishi
- **Administered by:** Lt Governor VK Saxena
- **Swearing-in Attendees:** PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and other dignitaries



# APPOINTMENTS



## **Cabinet Ministers Sworn In:**

- 1. Parvesh Verma**
- 2. Manjinder Singh Sirsa**
- 3. Ashish Sood**
- 4. Pankaj Singh**
- 5. Kapil Mishra**
- 6. Ravinder Indraj Singh**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Political Significance:

- **BJP's Focus on Women Leadership:** Strengthens BJP's commitment to women's empowerment in governance.
- **First BJP CM in Delhi in Over a Decade:** Replaces AAP's Atishi-led government.
- **Opposition Reaction:** Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi congratulated Rekha Gupta, while AAP urged the government to continue development initiatives.





# APPOINTMENTS



## Delhi's Development Agenda Under Rekha Gupta:

- **Financial Assistance:** ₹2,500 monthly aid for women, fulfilling BJP's election promise.
- **Environmental Focus:** Yamuna River cleaning for better public health.
- **Healthcare:** Implementation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana for Delhi residents.
- **Infrastructure:** Traffic decongestion and urban development projects.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Rekha Gupta sworn in as Delhi's new Chief Minister.
Event	Swearing-in ceremony at Ramlila Maidan.
Date	February 2025
Location	Delhi, India
New Delhi CM	Rekha Gupta (BJP)
Administered by	Lt Governor VK Saxena
Delhi's 4th Woman CM	After Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Atishi.
Cabinet Ministers	Parvesh Verma, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ashish Sood, Pankaj Singh, Kapil Mishra, Ravinder Indraj Singh.
Key Election Promise	₹2,500 financial assistance for women.
Development Priorities	Yamuna cleaning, Ayushman Bharat, infrastructure upgrades.



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is leading the IRDAI-formed committee to review the Insurance Act, 1938?**

- A) N Kannan
- B) Saurabh Sinha
- C) Dinesh Khara
- D) Girish Radhakrishnan
- E) M Nagaraju

**Answer**  
**C) Dinesh Khara**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** IRDAI Forms Committee to Review the Insurance Act, 1938
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Mumbai, India



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of the Committee Formation:

- **Regulator Involved:** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- **Committee Leader:** Dinesh Khara (Former Chairman, SBI).
- **Other Members:**
  - N Kannan (Former CEO, ICICI Pru Life).
  - Saurabh Sinha (Former Executive Director, RBI).
  - Girish Radhakrishnan (Former CMD, UIIC).
  - Alok Mishra (MD & CEO, MFIN).
  - Rakesh Joshi (Former WTM, IRDAI).
  - L Vishwanathan (Legal Expert).
  - **Committee's Task:** Review the Insurance Act, 1938, and suggest amendments.
  - **Report Submission Deadline:** Three months.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Expected Changes in the Insurance Sector:

- **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** to be allowed in the insurance sector.
- **Safeguards** to ensure revenue from insurance sales remains in India.
- **Introduction of composite insurance companies** (covering life, non-life, and health insurance under a single entity).



# APPOINTMENTS



## Budget Announcements Related to Insurance:

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announced plans to amend the Insurance Act to accommodate 100% FDI.
- **Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju** stated that the government will permit composite insurance companies to function.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	IRDAI formed a high-powered committee to review the Insurance Act, 1938.
Event	Formation of a committee to propose amendments to the insurance sector.
Date	February 2025
Location	Mumbai, India
Committee Leader	Dinesh Khara (Former SBI Chairman)
Other Key Members	N Kannan, Saurabh Sinha, Girish Radhakrishnan, Alok Mishra, Rakesh Joshi, L Vishwanathan.
Deadline for Report Submission	Three months.
Expected Reforms	100% FDI in insurance, composite insurance companies, revenue safeguards.
Budget Announcement	Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed amendments to the Insurance Act.
Government Representative	Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju.





# AWARDS



➤ **Which Indian philanthropist was recently honored with the Governor of Massachusetts' Citation?**

- A) Ratan Tata
- B) Sudha Murthy
- C) Nita Ambani
- D) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- E) Indra Nooyi

**Answer**  
**C) Nita Ambani**



# AWARDS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Nita Ambani Honored with Governor of Massachusetts' Citation
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Massachusetts, USA



# AWARDS



## Award Details:

- **Recipient:** Nita Ambani
- **Awarded By:** Governor of Massachusetts, USA
- **Recognition For:** Contributions to education, healthcare, sports, arts, culture, and women's empowerment
- **Organization:** Reliance Foundation (Founder & Chairperson)



# AWARDS



## Key Contributions:

- **Education:** Founder of Dhirubhai Ambani International School, one of India's top-ranked schools.
- **Healthcare:** Led Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, providing world-class medical care.



# AWARDS



## Key Contributions:

- **Sports:**
  - Established Reliance Foundation Young Champs and India Super League (ISL) to nurture young sporting talent.
  - Reliance Foundation received Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (2017) for sports development.
- **Arts & Culture:**
  - Founded Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai to promote Indian heritage globally.



## Other Global Recognitions:

- **Citizen of Mumbai Award (2023)** – Rotary Club of Bombay.
- **Honorary Trustee**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2019) – First Indian on the board.
- **Global Philanthropist & Leader of the Year (2017)** – Awarded by Vogue India.



# AWARDS



## Impact of the Award:

- Strengthens **India's global cultural and philanthropic presence.**
- Highlights **Reliance Foundation's** role in shaping social development.



# AWARDS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Nita Ambani received the Governor of Massachusetts' Citation.
Event	Recognition for contributions to philanthropy and social impact.
Date	February 2025
Location	Massachusetts, USA
Awarded By	Governor of Massachusetts, USA
Recipient	Nita Ambani (Founder & Chairperson, Reliance Foundation)
Key Contributions	Education, Healthcare, Sports, Arts, Culture, Women's Empowerment
Major Initiatives	Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Sir H.N. Reliance Hospital, ISL, NMACC
Other Recognitions	Citizen of Mumbai Award (2023), Honorary Trustee (Met Museum, 2019), Vogue India Leader of the Year (2017)
Impact	Strengthens India's global presence in philanthropy and cultural leadership.





- At which international defense exhibition did Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) showcase its indigenous vessels in 2025?



- A) Aero India 2025
- B) DEFEXPO 2025
- C) NAVDEX 2025
- D) Euronaval 2025
- E) IMDEX Asia 2025

**Answer**  
**C) NAVDEX 2025**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Goa Shipyard Ltd Showcases Indigenous Vessels at NAVDEX 2025
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)** displayed **indigenous Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**.
- The exhibition promotes India's naval innovation and strengthens international defense partnerships.
- The vessels are part of the "Make in India" initiative to boost domestic defense manufacturing.
- The event provides a platform to expand India's maritime presence globally.



## Key Vessels Displayed by GSL:

- **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV):**
  - **Length & Speed:** 50 meters, 35 knots.
  - **Role:** Anti-smuggling, anti-terrorist operations, patrolling, coastal security.
  - **Propulsion System:** Three 2,720 kW diesel engines with waterjets for high maneuverability.
  - **Capacity:** 35 personnel with fully air-conditioned accommodation.
  - **Operational Strength:** Suitable for long-duration missions in rough sea conditions.



## Key Vessels Displayed by GSL:

- **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV):**
  - **Primary Roles:** Combat operations, law enforcement, anti-piracy patrols, search and rescue (SAR), and environmental disaster response.
  - **Design:** Robust steel hull for durability in rough sea conditions and optimized for multi-role adaptability.



## Key Vessels Displayed by GSL:

- **Additional Maritime Solutions Showcased:**
  - **Floating Docks:** Adapt to tidal movements, unlike traditional fixed docks.
  - **Pollution Control Vessels:** Designed for marine pollution management and oil recovery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Make in India:**
  - Launched in 2014 to promote indigenous manufacturing in various sectors, including defense.
  - Aims to reduce dependency on imports and boost self-reliance in military production.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):**
  - A maritime zone extending 200 nautical miles from a nation's coast.
  - Grants the coastal state special rights over marine resources and environmental protection.



# DEFENCE



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) displayed indigenous vessels at NAVDEX 2025.
Event	NAVDEX 2025 (Naval Defence Exhibition)
Date	February 2025
Location	Abu Dhabi, UAE
Organizer	ADNEC Group, UAE Ministry of Defence & Tawazun Council
Showcased Vessels	Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
FPV Highlights	50m length, 35 knots speed, used for anti-smuggling, anti-terrorism, patrolling
OPV Highlights	Multi-role adaptability, combat, SAR, anti-piracy, environmental response
Additional Displays	Floating docks, pollution control vessels
GSL Legacy	Established in 1957, DPSU since 1967, known for indigenous warship design
Strategic Impact	Strengthens India's naval capabilities & international defense collaborations





➤ **Which Indian naval squadron recently departed from Sihanoukville, Cambodia, after a goodwill visit?**

- A) Second Training Squadron
- B) First Training Squadron
- C) Western Fleet Squadron
- D) Eastern Fleet Squadron
- E) Coastal Defence Squadron

**Answer**

**B) First Training Squadron**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian Naval Training Squadron Leaves Sihanoukville Port
- **Date:** 17 February 2025
- **Location:** Sihanoukville, Cambodia



## Naval Squadron Details:

- **Squadron Name:** First Training Squadron (1TS)
- **Participating Vessels:** **INS Sujata** (Indian Navy) & ICGS Veera (Indian Coast Guard)

## Key Engagements:

- **Meetings with Cambodian Officials:** Capt Anshul Kishore and commanding officers met Admiral Tea Vinh, Commander of the Royal Cambodian Navy (RCN).
- **Discussion Topics:** Bilateral cross-training, interoperability, regional security, and joint exercises.



## Defence and Maritime Cooperation:

- **Equipment Handover:** Small Arms Simulator provided to the Royal Cambodian Army.
- **Media Interaction:** Showcased the Indian Navy's role in regional maritime security.



## People-to-People and Cultural Exchange:

- **Sports Events:** Friendly matches between Indian Navy trainees and Royal Cambodian Navy personnel.
- **Ship Tours:** Hosted the Indian community in Sihanoukville onboard Indian naval vessels.
- **Diplomatic Reception:** Attended by ambassadors, diplomats, military officials, and Indian diaspora members.



## Strategic Significance:

- **Strengthening Defence Ties:** Reinforced India-Cambodia diplomatic and maritime relations.
- **Enhancing Regional Security:** Boosted cooperation and interoperability in Southeast Asia.
- **SAGAR Initiative:** Reaffirmed India's vision of Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).



# DEFENCE



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Indian Naval Training Squadron completed a goodwill visit to Cambodia.
Event	Departure of the First Training Squadron from Sihanoukville Port.
Date	17 February 2025
Location	Sihanoukville, Cambodia
Naval Squadron	First Training Squadron (1TS) – INS Sujata & ICGS Veera.
Key Engagements	Meetings with Royal Cambodian Navy & Army officials, Governor of Sihanoukville, and diplomatic representatives.
Defence Cooperation	Handover of Small Arms Simulator to the Royal Cambodian Army.
People-to-People Engagement	Sports matches, ship tours, and diplomatic receptions.
Strategic Significance	Strengthening India-Cambodia ties under SAGAR initiative.



➤ **Which two countries have recently strengthened their defence cooperation, particularly in Su-30 fighter jet maintenance and operations?**

- A) India and Indonesia
- B) India and Malaysia
- C) India and Vietnam
- D) India and Thailand
- E) India and the Philippines



**Answer**

**B) India and Malaysia**





# DEFENCE



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India, Malaysia Deepen Military and Su-30 Cooperation
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



## Key Defence Cooperation Areas:

- **Su-30 Maintenance Collaboration:**
  - Established **Su-30 Forum** for cooperation between **the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)**.
  - Focuses on exchange of expertise, best practices, and maintenance support.
- **13<sup>th</sup> MIDCOM Meeting (Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee):**
  - **Co-chaired by:** Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh (India) & Lokman Hakim Bin Ali (Malaysia).
  - Formation of a **Strategic Affairs Working Group to enhance defence industry partnerships.**



## Key Defence Cooperation Areas:

- **Emerging Security Domains:**
  - Cooperation in Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and Maritime Security.
  - A Joint Focus Group to tackle non-traditional security threats.
- **Regional & Global Coordination:**
  - Reaffirmed Comprehensive Strategic Partnership as per PMs Narendra Modi & Anwar Ibrahim.
  - India supports ASEAN centrality and Malaysia's leadership in ASEAN and ADMM-Plus.



## Key Defence Cooperation Areas:

- **Defence Industry Collaboration:**
  - India promoted HAL's involvement in Malaysia's defence modernization.
  - Encouraged Indian defence firms to partner with Malaysian companies.
- **Su-30 Fleet Comparison:**
  - **India:** 259 Su-30MKI fighter jets (+12 on order, worth ₹12,573 crore).
  - **Malaysia:** 18 Su-30MKM fighter jets.
  - **Upgrade Program:** HAL expects approval for a Su-30MKI modernization project, extending operational life by 30 years.



# DEFENCE



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	India and Malaysia enhanced defence ties, focusing on Su-30 cooperation.
Event	13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) Meeting.
Date	February 2025
Location	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Su-30 Maintenance Forum	Established for IAF-RMAF collaboration.
Strategic Affairs Working Group	Set up to improve defence partnerships.
Emerging Cooperation Areas	Cybersecurity, AI, maritime security.
India's Su-30 Fleet	259 Su-30MKI jets (+12 on order).
Malaysia's Su-30 Fleet	18 Su-30MKM jets.
Defence Industry Role	HAL & Indian firms to support Malaysian military modernization.
Regional Strategy	India supports ASEAN and Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship.
Indo-Pacific Engagement	India considers Malaysia key to its Act East Policy & SAGAR initiative.



➤ **Which international maritime organization has elected India as its Vice President in 2025?**

- A) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- B) International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- C) International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA)
- D) Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- E) ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)



**Answer**

**C) International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA)**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Becomes Vice President of IALA
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Singapore



## About IALA:

- **Full Form:** International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation
- **Established:** 1957
- **Objective:** Standardizing and enhancing global marine navigation and safety
- **Recent Transition:** Converted from an NGO to an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) in August 2024





## Significance of India's Election as Vice President:

- Strengthens **India's role in global maritime governance.**
- Expands **India's influence in setting international navigation safety policies.**
- Ensures **India's alignment with global maritime standards.**



## India's Representation at IALA:

- **Delegation Led by:** T.K. Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways
- **Other Key Officials:**
  - Mukesh Mangal (Joint Secretary)
  - N. Muruganandam (Director General of Lighthouses & Lightships)
  - S. Saravanan (Deputy Director)



## Upcoming IALA Events in India:

- IALA Council Meeting in December 2025.
- IALA Conference & General Assembly in Mumbai in September 2027.

## Global Impact of IALA's Transition to an IGO:

- Better coordination among member states in maritime navigation.
- Stronger regulations for marine safety and environmental protection.
- India's leadership in maritime technology and policies gets a global boost.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	India elected Vice President of IALA at its first General Assembly in Singapore.
Event	India's leadership in global maritime navigation strengthened.
Date	February 2025
Location	Singapore
What is IALA?	International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation, founded in 1957.
Significance of Election	Enhances India's role in maritime governance & safety policies.
IALA's Transition	From NGO to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) in August 2024.
India's Delegation	Led by T.K. Ramachandran (Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways).
Upcoming IALA Events in India	Council Meeting (Dec 2025), General Assembly in Mumbai (Sept 2027).
Global Impact	Strengthens international cooperation in maritime safety and navigation.



➤ Which country has signed an MoU with India for lithium exploration in 2025?

- A) Chile
- B) Bolivia
- C) Argentina
- D) Brazil
- E) Peru

**Answer**  
**C) Argentina**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Argentina Ink MoU for Lithium Exploration
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



## Key Participants:

- **India:** Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Coal and Mines
- **Argentina:** H.E. Raúl Alejandro Jalil, Governor of Catamarca



## MoU Details:

- **Signed Between:** Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) & Provincial Government of Catamarca, Argentina
- **Objective:** Strengthen bilateral cooperation in lithium exploration and mining
- **Strategic Importance:** Lithium is crucial for EV batteries and renewable energy storage





## India's Interest in Lithium Exploration:

- **Argentina** is part of the 'Lithium Triangle' (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia), home to the world's largest lithium reserves.
- **Indian Companies Involved:**
  - **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** – Engaged in overseas mineral acquisitions.
  - **Greenko** – Actively working on lithium projects in Argentina.



## Key Discussions & Agreements:

### 1. Expanding Lithium Supply for India:

- Securing long-term lithium supply agreements to support India's electric vehicle (EV) and renewable energy industries.
- Potential joint ventures and investment opportunities in Argentina's mining sector.

### 2. Policy & Regulatory Framework:

- Ensuring sustainable mining practices to minimize environmental impact.
- Infrastructure development and technology exchange for efficient mining operations.



## Key Discussions & Agreements:

### 3. Strengthening India-Argentina Relations:

- Expanding trade & investment ties in the critical minerals sector.
- Enhancing knowledge-sharing on lithium extraction and processing.



## Strategic Impact for India:

- **Boosts India's self-reliance on critical minerals** amid rising global demand for lithium.
- **Supports India's transition to green energy** and its goal of becoming a global leader in EV manufacturing.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	India and Argentina signed an MoU for lithium exploration.
Event	Strengthening India's access to lithium for EV and renewable energy sectors.
Date	February 2025
Location	New Delhi, India
Indian Representative	G. Kishan Reddy (Union Minister for Coal and Mines)
Argentinian Representative	Raúl Alejandro Jalil (Governor of Catamarca, Argentina)
MoU Signed Between	MECL (India) & Provincial Government of Catamarca (Argentina)
Indian Companies Involved	KABIL & Greenko
Objective	Lithium exploration & long-term supply security for India.
Key Discussion Areas	Investment, sustainable mining, regulatory policies, infrastructure support.
Strategic Importance	Strengthening India's lithium supply for EVs & green energy.



➤ **Which two institutions signed an MoU to strengthen scientific collaboration between India and Nepal in 2025?**

- A) ISRO and Nepal Space Research Center
- B) CSIR and NAST
- C) DRDO and Nepal Academy of Engineering
- D) ICMR and Nepal Health Research Council
- E) IIT Delhi and Tribhuvan University



**Answer**  
**B) CSIR and NAST**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Nepal Strengthen Scientific Ties with New Agreement
- **Date:** February 18, 2025
- **Location:** CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi



## Institutions Involved:

- **India:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **Nepal:** Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)





## Key Objectives of the MoU:

- **Joint Research Projects:** Focus on biotechnology, food science, alternative energy, drug discovery, and environmental sciences.
- **Exchange Programs:** Scientists and researchers from both countries will collaborate and share knowledge.
- **Workshops & Training:** Capacity-building initiatives to enhance innovation and scientific skills.
- **Technology Access:** Shared research facilities and infrastructure for advanced studies.
- **Institutional Partnerships:** Strengthening collaboration between universities and research institutions.



## Historical Context of Indo-Nepal Scientific Ties:

- **First MoU** signed in 1994 between **CSIR and NAST**.
- **Decades of collaboration** in scientific research, technology exchange, and training programs.
- This new MoU revives and expands the Indo-Nepal scientific partnership.



## Expected Impact of the MoU:

- **First MoU** signed in 1994 between **CSIR and NAST**.
- **Decades of collaboration** in scientific research, technology exchange, and training programs.
- This new MoU revives and expands the Indo-Nepal scientific partnership.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	India and Nepal signed an MoU for scientific collaboration.
Event	Strengthening Indo-Nepal cooperation in research & technology.
Date	February 18, 2025
Location	CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi
Institutions Involved	CSIR (India) & NAST (Nepal)
Historical Background	First MoU signed in 1994 for scientific partnership.
Focus Areas	Biotechnology, energy, drug discovery, food science, material sciences.
Key Initiatives	Joint research, exchange programs, workshops, facility access.
Leadership Remarks	CSIR's Dr. N. Kalaiselvi stressed structured plans; NAST's Dr. Dilip Subba emphasized focused collaboration.
Expected Impact	Strengthens bilateral ties, boosts scientific innovation, and fosters technology sharing.



➤ Which state government has imposed a one-year ban on gutkha and pan masala in 2025?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Rajasthan

**Answer**  
**C) Jharkhand**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Jharkhand Govt Prohibits Gutkha, Pan Masala for a Year
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Jharkhand



## Ban Details:

- **Scope of Ban:** Prohibits the manufacture, storage, sale, and distribution of gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco or nicotine.
- **Legal Basis:** Enforced under Section 30 (2) (a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.
- **Issuing Authority:** Health and Family Welfare Department, Jharkhand.
- **Enforcement Official:** ACS-cum-Food Safety Commissioner Ajay Kumar Singh.



## Reason for Ban:

- **Health Concern:** Jharkhand has seen a sharp rise in oral cancer cases, with 40-45 out of every 70 cancer patients per lakh affected due to gutkha consumption.
- **Government's Objective:** To reduce tobacco-related health risks, especially among youth.





## Legal Action Against Violators:

- **Strict Enforcement:** Individuals and businesses violating the ban will face legal consequences.
- **Public Awareness:** The Director of Public Relations Department (PRD) has been directed to publish the notification.



## Previous Bans in Jharkhand:

- **June 2022:** Ban on 11 brands of pan masala for one year.
- **May 2020:** Ban imposed due to detection of magnesium carbonate in pan masala samples.
- **2023:** The previous ban lapsed, leading to the resumption of gutkha sales.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Jharkhand Govt imposed a one-year ban on gutkha and pan masala.
Event	Prohibition of Gutkha and Pan Masala in Jharkhand
Date	February 2025
Location	Jharkhand
Banned Products	Gutkha and Pan Masala containing Tobacco/Nicotine
Legal Basis	Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 & 2011 Regulations
Issuing Authority	Health and Family Welfare Department, Jharkhand
Enforcement Official	ACS-cum-Food Safety Commissioner Ajay Kumar Singh
Reason for Ban	Rising oral cancer cases linked to gutkha consumption
Action Against Violators	Strict legal enforcement
Previous Bans	2020 (Magnesium Carbonate), 2022 (11 Brands), 2023 (Ban Lapsed)



➤ Which state government has recently approved major schemes for women, youth, and development in 2025?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Meghalaya
- E) Tripura

**Answer**

**C) Arunachal Pradesh**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet Approves Key Schemes for Women, Youth & Development
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Arunachal Pradesh



## Dulari Kanya Scheme:

- **Objective:** Supports girl children born in institutional deliveries and promotes education.
- **Revised Benefit:** Financial support increased to ₹50,000 (₹30,000 Fixed Deposit at birth + ₹20,000 DBT at Class XI enrollment).



## Governance & Economic Growth Initiatives:

- **Arun Parivar Patra Bill, 2025:** Establishes a citizen database for targeted welfare delivery.
- **Institute for Transforming Arunachal (ITA):** A policy think tank under Finance, Planning & Investment for research-backed governance.



## Trade, Handloom & Sports Development:

- **GST Amendment Bill, 2025:** Aligns state taxation with national GST policies for better revenue collection.
- **Handloom & Handicrafts Policy, 2024:** Digital database for weavers and artisans, award for best craftsmanship increased to ₹1,00,000.
- **Mission Olympics:** Focuses on Badminton, Skateboarding, Taekwondo, Judo, Weightlifting, and Wushu with world-class training.





## Youth & Women Entrepreneurship Initiatives:

- **Youth Policy (Year of the Youth 2024-25):** Focuses on education, skill training, health, and entrepreneurship.
- **Women Entrepreneurship Development Cell:** ₹5 crore seed fund for women-led startups, mentorship, and business training.



## Public Safety Enhancements:

- **New Fire Stations:** 5 new stations in Raga, Yupia, Boleng, Lemmi, and Tato, with 90 new staff positions.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved major schemes for women, youth, and development.
Event	Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet Meeting Decisions
Date	February 2025
Location	Arunachal Pradesh
Dulari Kanya Scheme	Increased financial support to ₹50,000 (₹30,000 FD + ₹20,000 DBT).
Arun Parivar Patra Bill, 2025	Establishes a family-centric citizen database for welfare delivery.
Institute for Transforming Arunachal (ITA)	Policy think tank for governance and economic planning.
GST Amendment Bill, 2025	Aligns state GST policies with national taxation laws.



➤ **What is the total budget presented by the Odisha government for the financial year 2025-26?**

- A) ₹2.50 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.65 lakh crore
- C) ₹2.90 lakh crore
- D) ₹3.10 lakh crore
- E) ₹3.25 lakh crore

**Answer**

**C) ₹2.90 lakh crore**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Odisha CM Mohan Majhi Unveils ₹2.90 Lakh Crore Budget for 2025-26
- **Date:** February 17, 2025
- **Location:** Odisha



## Budget Overview:

- **Total Budget:** ₹2.90 lakh crore
- **Increase from Previous Year:** Up from ₹2.65 lakh crore (FY 2024-25)
- **Focus Areas:** Agriculture, Irrigation, Rural Development



## Key Allocations:

- **Agriculture & Rural Development:** ₹37,838 crore (12% increase from ₹33,919 crore last year)
- **CM Kisan Yojana:** ₹2,020 crore for direct financial assistance to farmers.
- **Shree Anna Abhiyan:** ₹600 crore for millet cultivation and crop diversification.
- **Irrigation & Infrastructure:** Focus on expanding irrigation projects, details yet to be disclosed.
- **Dairy Sector:** Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana - ₹164 crore for boosting milk production.



## Government's Economic Vision:

- Strengthening **Odisha's agrarian** economy and uplifting rural communities.
- **Ensuring water availability for farming** through improved irrigation.
- **Promoting self-reliance in dairy farming** for rural economic growth.





## Comparison with Previous Year:

- **2024-25 Budget:** ₹2.65 lakh crore
- **2025-26 Budget:** ₹2.90 lakh crore (Significant rise in agriculture spending)



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Odisha government presented its ₹2.90 lakh crore budget for 2025-26.
Event	Budget announcement by CM Mohan Majhi.
Date	February 17, 2025
Location	Odisha
Total Budget	₹2.90 lakh crore
Focus Areas	Agriculture, irrigation, rural development
Agriculture Allocation	₹37,838 crore (12% increase from last year)
CM Kisan Yojana	₹2,020 crore for farmers' financial assistance
Shree Anna Abhiyan	₹600 crore for millet cultivation
Dairy Sector Support	₹164 crore under Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana
Comparison with Previous Year	2024-25 budget was ₹2.65 lakh crore
Government's Objective	Strengthening agrarian economy & rural upliftment



➤ **Which states have received the Fifteenth Finance Commission grants for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in 2024-25?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Jharkhand
- B) Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim
- C) Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Rajasthan
- D) Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Odisha
- E) Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam



**Answer**

**B) Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Centre Releases 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Grants for Rural Local Bodies
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** India



## Grant Allocation Details:

- **Bihar: ₹821.80 crores** (2<sup>nd</sup> installment) + **₹47.93 crores** (withheld 1<sup>st</sup> installment)
- **Haryana: ₹202.46 crores** (2<sup>nd</sup> installment) + **₹7.59 crores** (withheld 1<sup>st</sup> installment)
- **Sikkim: ₹6.26 crores** (2<sup>nd</sup> installment)



## Purpose of Finance Commission Grants:

- **Strengthening Rural Local Bodies (RLBs):** Empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for better governance.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Improve sanitation, water supply, and waste management.
- **Financial Stability:** Ensure timely implementation of rural development projects.



## Fund Categories:

- **Untied Grants:** Flexible funds for local development (except salaries or administrative costs).
- **Tied Grants: For essential services like:**
  - Sanitation & Open Defecation-Free (ODF) Maintenance – Includes waste & sludge management.
  - Drinking Water Supply – Rainwater harvesting & water recycling projects.



## Significance of the Grants:

- Boosts decentralized governance by strengthening PRIs.
- Improves essential public services in rural areas.
- Supports Clean India and Sustainable Water initiatives.





# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	Centre released 15th Finance Commission grants to Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim.
Event	Financial support for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs).
Date	February 2025
Location	India
Bihar Allocation	₹821.80 crores (2nd installment) + ₹47.93 crores (withheld 1st installment).
Haryana Allocation	₹202.46 crores (2nd installment) + ₹7.59 crores (withheld 1st installment).
Sikkim Allocation	₹6.26 crores (2nd installment).
Fund Categories	Untied Grants (Flexible), Tied Grants (Sanitation & Water Supply).
Purpose	Strengthening PRIs, improving sanitation, water supply, and governance.



➤ **Which constitutional body celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day in 2025, highlighting its role in safeguarding Scheduled Tribes' rights?**

- A) National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
- B) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- C) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)
- D) National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
- E) National Commission for Women (NCW)



**Answer**

**C) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Celebrating 22 Years of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi



## Key Highlights of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day Celebrations:

- **Union Minister's Address:**
  - Shri Jual Oram (Union Minister for Tribal Affairs) praised NCST's role in protecting tribal rights.
  - Emphasized implementation of the Forest Rights Act and government schemes for STs.
- **Chairperson's Address:**
  - Shri Antar Singh Arya (NCST Chairperson) highlighted achievements, including the 100-day action plan to review tribal welfare programs.



## Key Government Initiatives for Scheduled Tribes:

- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools** – Providing quality education to tribal students.
- **Pre-matric & Post-matric Scholarships** – Financial aid for ST students.
- **National Overseas Scholarship** – Supporting higher education abroad for tribal students.
- **PVTG Development Plans** – Special programs for 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



## Guest Speakers & Dignitaries:

- **Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** (NCBC Chairperson).
- **Shri Vaddepally Ramchander** (Member, National Commission for Scheduled Castes).

## Focus Areas:

- Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for **Scheduled Tribes**.
- Collaboration with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and universities.



## About the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):

- **Nature:** Constitutional body responsible for safeguarding Scheduled Tribes' rights.
- **Established By:** 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 (Bifurcated from SC/ST Commission).
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 338-A.
- **Composition:** Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 3 members (Appointed by the President).
- **Tenure:** 3 years, with a maximum of 2 terms.



## Functions of NCST:

- Investigates violations of ST rights and ensures constitutional safeguards.
- Advises on socio-economic development programs for STs.
- Monitors implementation of tribal welfare laws and government policies.
- Submits reports to the President and Parliament.





## Powers of NCST:

- **Has the powers of a Civil Court** (can summon witnesses and demand documents).
- Recommends policy changes to improve tribal welfare.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	NCST celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day.
Event	Highlighting the commission's role in safeguarding ST rights.
Date	February 2025
Location	New Delhi
Union Minister's Address	Shri Jual Oram emphasized NCST's work on tribal rights & Forest Rights Act.
Chairperson's Address	Shri Antar Singh Arya spoke on NCST's achievements & 100-day action plan.
Key Govt Schemes for STs	Eklavya Model Schools, Scholarships, PVTG Development Plans.
Guest Speakers	Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir (NCBC), Shri Vaddepally Ramchander (NCSC).
Development Focus Areas	Skill development, entrepreneurship, and tribal welfare initiatives.
NCST's Role	Investigates tribal rights violations, advises on policies, submits reports.
Constitutional Basis	Article 338-A of the Indian Constitution.
Evolution	Created after the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.



➤ Which organization has recently partnered with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI to boost tribal entrepreneurship?

- A) NABARD
- B) TRIFED
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) SIDBI
- E) Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer**  
**B) TRIFED**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** TRIFED Partners with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI
- **Date:** February 18, 2025
- **Location:** Aadi Mahotsav, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi



## Key Partnerships and Objectives:

- **TRIFED & Meesho**
  - **Objective:** Onboard tribal products onto Meesho's social commerce platform.
  - **Expected Outcome:** Increased market access and sales for tribal businesses.
  - Capacity-building & training for tribal suppliers.
- **TRIFED & IFCA (Indian Federation of Culinary Associations)**
  - **Objective:** Connect tribal food products with culinary professionals & hotel chains.
  - **Expected Outcome:** Expanded market reach and long-term collaborations in the hospitality industry.



## Key Partnerships and Objectives:

- **TRIFED & MGIRI (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization)**
  - **Objective:** Train & upskill tribal artisans in craftsmanship and entrepreneurship.
  - **Expected Outcome:** Improved product quality and marketability of tribal goods.



## Event Highlights:

- MoUs exchanged between **TRIFED General Managers and key representatives:**
  - **Meesho:** Ms. Prachi Bhuchar
  - **IFCA:** Chef Manjit Gill
  - **MGIRI:** Dr. Ashutosh A. Murkute
- **TRIFED MD Shri Ashish Chatterjee** emphasized the impact of these collaborations.



## Aadi Mahotsav 2025:

- Inaugurated by **President Smt. Droupadi Murmu** on February 16, 2025.
- A week-long festival showcasing tribal crafts, culture, cuisine, and commerce.





## Strategic Impact:

- Enhances tribal artisans' digital & offline market access.
- Strengthens rural entrepreneurship & economic independence.
- Promotes sustainable development of tribal communities.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Reason for Coverage	TRIFED partnered with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI to boost tribal entrepreneurship.
Event	MoUs signed during Aadi Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi.
Date	February 18, 2025
Location	Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi
TRIFED & Meesho	Onboard tribal products onto Meesho's e-commerce platform.
TRIFED & IFCA	Collaborate with chefs & hotels to promote tribal food products.
TRIFED & MGIRI	Train tribal artisans to improve skills & craftsmanship.
Event Leadership	TRIFED MD Ashish Chatterjee led the discussions.
Festival Context	Aadi Mahotsav 2025 inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu.
Strategic Impact	Market expansion, skill development, and digital inclusion for tribal entrepreneurs.



# QUICK RECALL



- **World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20.**
- **Manu Bhaker won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year (ISWOTY) 2024 award.**
- **LIC launched 'One Man Office' (OMO) on February 17, 2025, to empower agents digitally.**
- **India's total exports grew 7.2% YoY in April 2024 - January 2025.**
- **ICAI disciplined 241 Chartered Accountants, a record number this financial year.**
- **Goldman Sachs predicts up to 0.6% GDP impact on India due to US reciprocal tariffs.**
- **360 ONE Asset is acquiring a 15% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.**
- **SBI Cards appointed Salila Pande as its new MD & CEO, effective April 1, 2025.**
- **Rekha Gupta sworn in as Delhi's new Chief Minister at Ramlila Maidan.**



# QUICK RECALL



- IRDAI formed a committee to review the Insurance Act, 1938, led by Dinesh Khara.
- Nita Ambani received the Governor of Massachusetts' Citation for her philanthropic contributions.
- Goa Shipyard Ltd participated in NAVDEX 2025 to showcase indigenous patrol vessels.
- Indian Navy's First Training Squadron completed a goodwill visit to Sihanoukville, Cambodia.
- India and Malaysia strengthened defence ties, focusing on Su-30 fighter jet cooperation.
- India elected Vice President of IALA at its first General Assembly in Singapore.
- India and Argentina signed an MoU for lithium exploration in February 2025.
- India and Nepal signed an MoU to enhance scientific collaboration on February 18, 2025.



# QUICK RECALL



- **Jharkhand government imposed a one-year ban on gutkha and pan masala in February 2025.**
- **Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved key schemes for women, youth, and state development.**
- **Odisha CM Mohan Majhi presented a ₹2.90 lakh crore budget for FY 2025-26.**
- **Centre released 15th Finance Commission grants for Rural Local Bodies in Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim.**
- **The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day in February 2025.**
- **TRIFED signed MoUs with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI to promote tribal products.**



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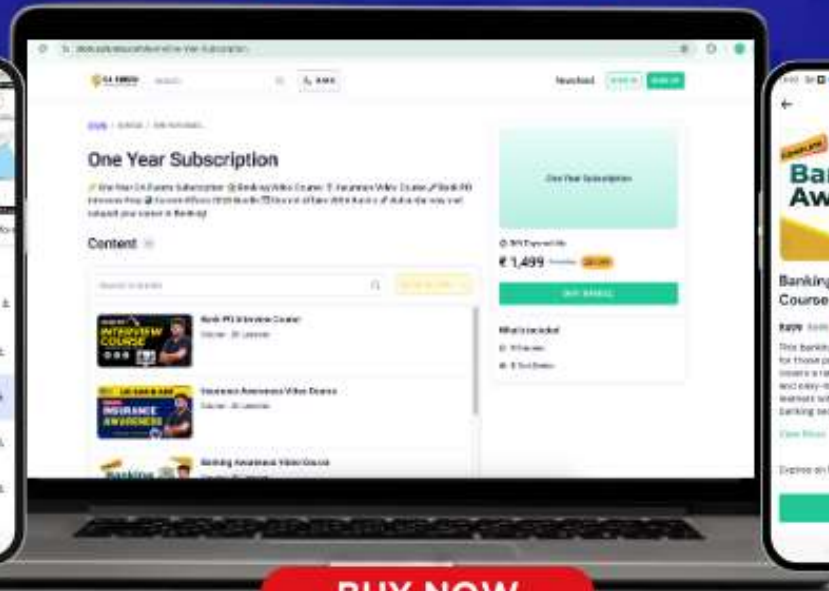


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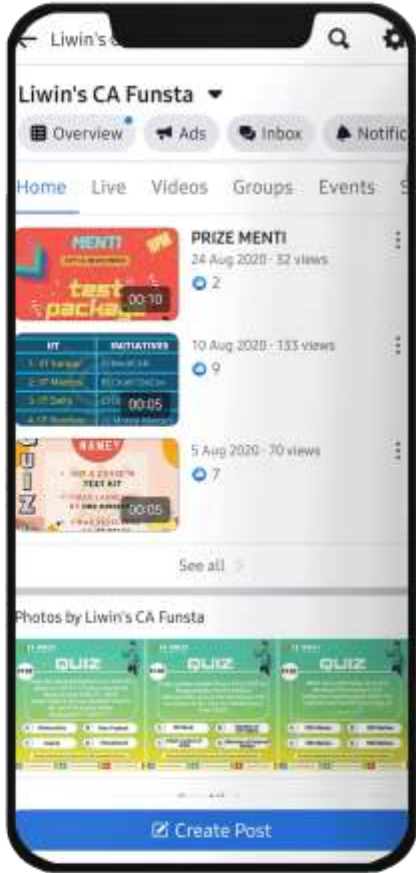
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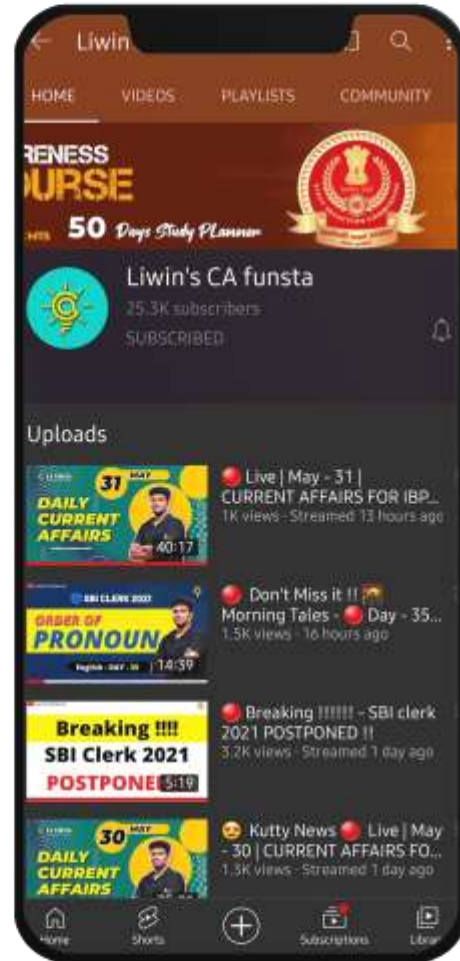
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