

Daily



Current Affairs

FEBRUARY 22 & 23

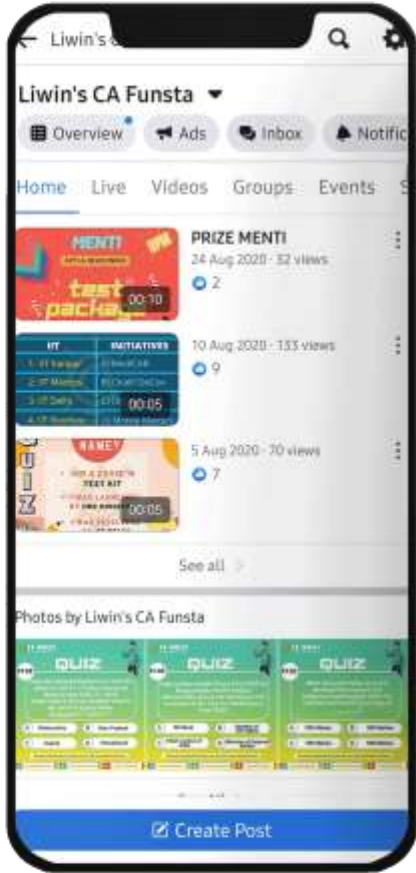
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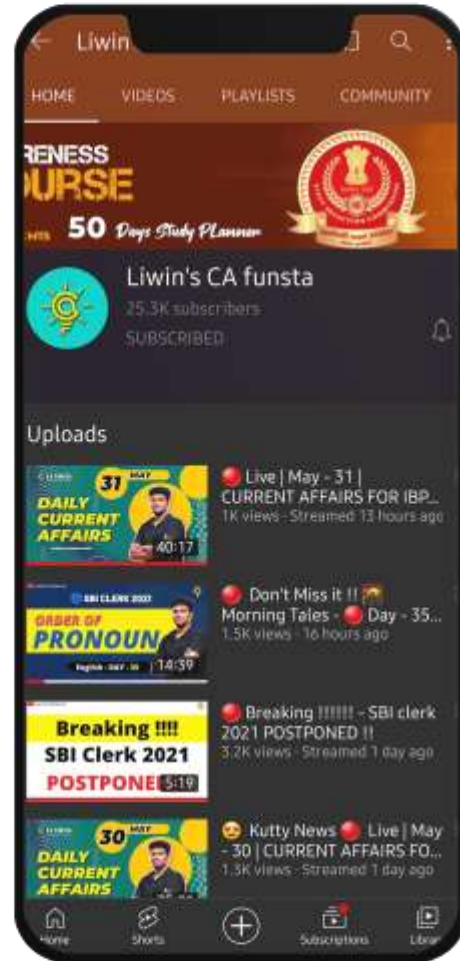
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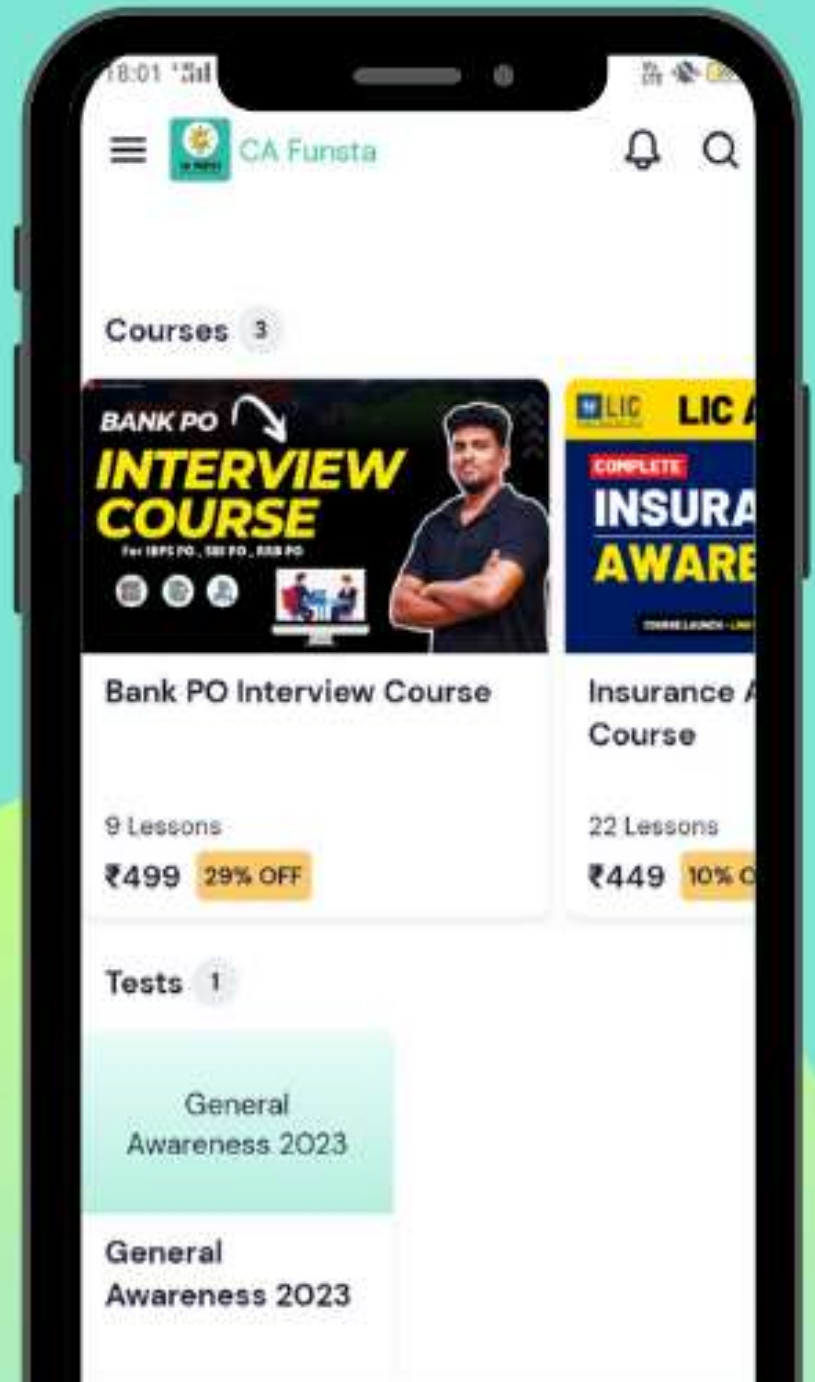


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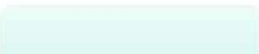


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Mariappan B

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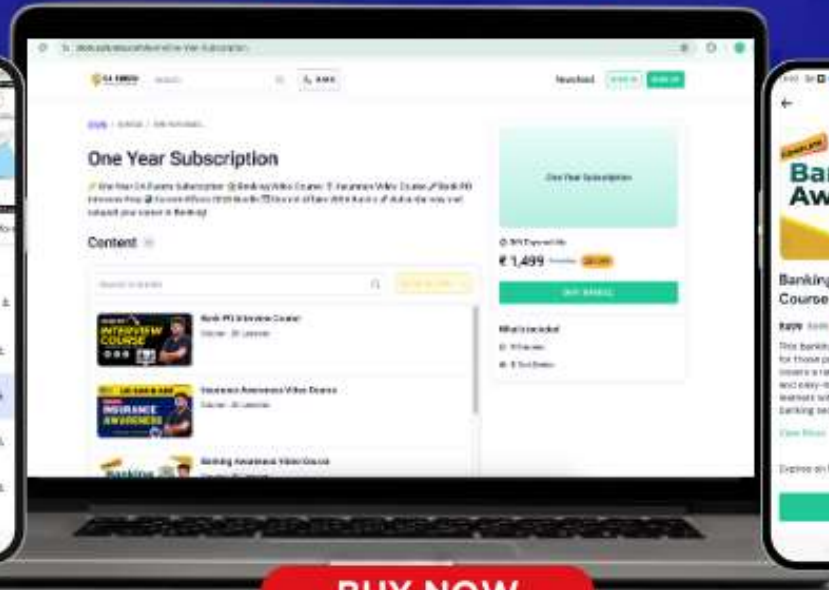


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➤ Which Indian prodigy won the Memory League World Championship in 2025?

- A) Anand Subramanian
- B) Rohan Mehta
- C) Vishvaa Rajakumar
- D) Aryan Sharma
- E) Devansh Kapoor

Answer

C) Vishvaa Rajakumar



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Vishvaa Rajakumar wins the Global Memory Championship
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** International Event



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Memory League World Championship:** A global competition testing memory speed and recall abilities
- **Winner:** Vishvaa Rajakumar (India), 20 years old
- **Achievement:**
 - Recalled 80 digits in just 13.5 seconds, setting a new benchmark in memory sports
 - Demonstrated exceptional cognitive skills using advanced memory techniques



Key Highlights of His Victory:

1. Utilization of the "Memory Palace" Technique:

- An ancient Roman memorization method
- Involves associating information with familiar locations to improve recall speed
- Rajakumar mapped rooms in a house to remember sequences of numbers and words



Key Highlights of His Victory:

2. Physical Well-being and Hydration:

- Stressed the role of hydration in enhancing brain function
- Drinking adequate water improves memory retention and recall speed

3. Emotional Reaction:

- Overwhelmed with joy after his victory
- Called it an amazing and life-changing experience



Future Plans of Vishvaa Rajakumar:

- Aims to become a memory trainer
- Plans to establish a memory training institution in India
- Wants to mentor aspiring memory athletes and spread knowledge of cognitive techniques



Important Terms Explained:

- **Memory League World Championship:** A global memory competition where participants must memorize and recall sequences at high speed
- **Memory Palace Technique:** A memorization strategy where information is linked to familiar locations for easy recall
- **Cognitive Training:** The process of improving memory, focus, and recall abilities through structured practice



Tabular Summary:

Event	Vishvaa Rajakumar wins Memory League World Championship
Date	February 2025
Winner	Vishvaa Rajakumar (India)
Competition	Memory League World Championship
Achievement	Recalled 80 digits in 13.5 seconds
Memory Technique Used	Memory Palace (Ancient Roman technique)
Key to Success	Practice, Hydration, Cognitive Strategies
Emotional Impact	Overwhelmed with joy, moved to tears
Future Plans	Become a memory trainer and establish a memory institute



RANKING



➤ **According to The Lancet study, by what percentage has India's suicide rate declined between 1990 and 2021?**

- A) 10%
- B) 20%
- C) 30%
- D) 40%
- E) 50%

Answer
C) 30%



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's Suicide Rate Drops 30% in Three Decades – Lancet Report
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Study Published By:** The Lancet
- **Data Source:** Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021
- **Key Finding:** India's suicide death rate declined by 30% from 1990 to 2021
- **Global Statistic:** One person dies by suicide every 43 seconds worldwide



India-Specific Suicide Rate Trends (1990-2021):

1. Overall Decline in Suicide Rate:

- **1990:** 18.9 per lakh population
- **2021:** 13 per lakh population

2. Gender-Specific Suicide Rate Decline:

- **Females:** 16.8 per lakh (1990) → 10.3 per lakh (2021)
- **Males:** 20.9 per lakh (1990) → 15.7 per lakh (2021)

3. Most Affected Group:

- Educated women in India (2020) recorded the highest suicide death rates
- Family problems were the leading cause of suicides



Initiatives & Factors Behind the Decline:

1. Decriminalization of Suicide:

- **Mental Healthcare Act (2017):**
 - Decriminalized suicide attempts, ensuring treatment over punishment
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):**
 - Omitted Section 309 of IPC, which previously criminalized suicide attempts

2. National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022):

- **Objective:** Reduce suicide mortality by 10% by 2030

3. WHO's Mental Health Action Plan (2013–2030):

- Recognizes mental health as a critical factor in overall well-being



Initiatives & Factors Behind the Decline:

4. Other Key Suicide Prevention Initiatives:

- **National Mental Health Policy (2014):**
 - Focuses on mental well-being and suicide prevention strategies
- **Mental Health Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Promote early intervention and psychological counseling

5. Toll-Free Mental Health Helplines in India:

- **Manodarpan:** Launched by the Ministry of Education for student mental health support
- **KIRAN:** A national helpline for mental health support



Important Terms Explained:

- **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study:** A worldwide research effort that provides data on mortality and disease burden trends
- **Mental Healthcare Act (2017):** Indian legislation that ensures rights-based mental health treatment and decriminalizes suicide attempts
- **National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022):** A government plan aimed at reducing suicides through policy reforms and awareness programs



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Event	India's Suicide Rate Drops 30% in Three Decades – Lancet Report
Date	February 22, 2025
Published By	The Lancet
Data Source	Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 Study
Global Suicide Statistic	One person dies by suicide every 43 seconds worldwide
India's Suicide Rate (1990-2021)	18.9 per lakh (1990) → 13 per lakh (2021)
Decline in Female Suicide Rate	16.8 per lakh (1990) → 10.3 per lakh (2021)
Decline in Male Suicide Rate	20.9 per lakh (1990) → 15.7 per lakh (2021)
Most Affected Group	Educated women (2020)
Main Cause of Suicides in India	Family problems
Key Government Initiatives	Mental Healthcare Act (2017), National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022)
Mental Health Helplines	Manodarpan (Students), KIRAN (National Mental Health Support)



➤ **According to the RBI's State of the Economy report, which factor is contributing to India's economic recovery in the second half of 2024-25?**

- A) Declining oil prices
- B) Rising tractor sales and FMCG growth
- C) Higher fiscal deficit
- D) Increased government borrowing
- E) Reduction in interest rates



Answer

B) Rising tractor sales and FMCG growth



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI's High-Frequency Indicators Signal Economic Recovery
- **Date:** February 20, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **RBI's "State of the Economy" report** highlights a sequential economic recovery in the second half (Oct-March) of FY 2024-25.
- India remains **the fastest-growing major economy** in 2025-26.
- **Retail inflation in January 2025** fell to a five-month low, driven by lower vegetable prices.



Key Indicators of Economic Recovery:

1. Improvement in Industrial Activity:

- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) shows expansion in manufacturing and services.

2. Higher Consumer Demand:

- Increased tractor sales and fuel consumption indicate rural and industrial recovery.
- FMCG sector growth supports higher consumption.
- Air passenger traffic is rising, signaling economic optimism.

3. Corporate Sector Growth:

- Listed non-government financial firms report higher sales and profit margins.



Challenges to Economic Growth:

1. Global Uncertainties:

- US trade policy risks similar to the 2019 US-China trade war.
- Tariff impacts and trade fragmentation could raise costs for businesses and consumers.

2. Financial Market Volatility:

- Selling pressure from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in emerging markets.
- Currency depreciation due to a strong US dollar.

3. Slower Disinflation Process:

- Inflation is easing but still a concern.
- A strong dollar affects import costs.



Outlook for India's Economy:

- Momentum expected to continue in FY 2025-26.
- India is positioned as the fastest-growing major economy.
- Retail inflation remains under control, supporting consumer spending.



Important Terms Explained:

- **High-Frequency Indicators:** Economic data sets released at short intervals (monthly/quarterly) to assess trends.
- **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI):** A measure of business activity in the manufacturing and services sector.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs):** Overseas investors who invest in Indian financial markets.
- **Disinflation:** A slowdown in the rate of inflation while prices are still rising.



Tabular Summary:

Event	RBI's High-Frequency Indicators Signal Economic Recovery
Date	February 20, 2025
Economic Recovery Period	Second half (Oct-March) of FY 2024-25
Main Growth Indicators	Higher tractor sales, fuel demand, FMCG growth, rising air travel
Corporate Sector Performance	Improved sales & profit margins in non-govt financial firms
Retail Inflation (Jan 2025)	Moderated to a five-month low due to lower vegetable prices
Key Challenges	US trade uncertainty, foreign investor sell-off, rupee depreciation
India's Economic Outlook	Fastest-growing major economy in 2025-26



➤ What is the revised FY25 GDP growth forecast for India according to SBI Research?

- A) 7.2%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.3%
- D) 6.6%
- E) 6.4%

Answer
C) 6.3%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** SBI cuts India's FY25 GDP forecast to 6.3%
- **Date:** February 22, 2025



Mandates and Objectives:

- **GDP Growth Revision:** SBI Research revised India's FY25 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%, down from earlier estimates
- **Reason for Slowdown:** Decline in lending, manufacturing, and aggregate demand



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sectoral Growth Projections:**
 - **Agriculture:** Growth expected to increase to 3.8% (from 1.4% in FY24) due to better monsoon conditions
 - **Industry:** Expected to slow to 6.2% (from 9.5%) due to weaker exports and manufacturing
 - **Services:** Growth estimated at 7.2% (down from 7.6%), indicating moderate consumption and demand
- **Private Consumption:** Expected to grow at 7.3%, driven by rural demand and lower food inflation
- **Investment Growth:** Slowed to 6.4% from 9%, with high borrowing costs limiting recovery



Comparative GDP Growth Projections:

- **SBI Research:** 6.3%
- **NSO (National Statistical Office):** 6.4%
- **RBI (Reserve Bank of India):** Revised to 6.6% from 7.2%
- **IMF (International Monetary Fund):** 6.5% for FY25 and FY26



Policy Measures Taken to Support Growth:

- **Tax Cuts:** Personal income tax threshold raised to boost consumer spending
- **Monetary Policy Adjustment:** RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to lower borrowing costs
- **Fiscal Reforms:** Government initiatives to stimulate investment and economic activity



Challenges and Economic Impact:

- **Slowing Growth in Key Sectors:** Industry and services witnessing a decline in expansion rates
- **High Borrowing Costs:** Causing weaker corporate investments and delayed recovery
- **Global Economic Trends:** Slowdown in exports impacting manufacturing and overall GDP growth



Important Terms Explained:

- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** The total value of goods and services produced in a country within a specific time
- **NSO (National Statistical Office):** Government agency responsible for compiling economic data in India
- **Repo Rate:** The rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks, influencing borrowing costs
- **Fiscal Year (FY25):** The financial year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025



Tabular Summary:

Event	SBI cuts India's FY25 GDP forecast to 6.3%
Date	February 22, 2025
SBI GDP Growth Estimate	6.3% for FY25
NSO GDP Growth Estimate	6.4%
RBI GDP Growth Estimate	6.6% (down from 7.2%)
IMF GDP Growth Estimate	6.5%
Sectoral Growth Projections	Agriculture: 3.8%, Industry: 6.2%, Services: 7.2%
Private Consumption Growth	7.3%, driven by rural demand and lower food inflation
Investment Growth	Slowed to 6.4% from 9%
Policy Measures Taken	Tax cuts, repo rate cut by 25 bps



➤ **Why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sell over \$15 billion in forex in December 2024?**

- A) To increase liquidity in the domestic market
- B) To counter rupee depreciation and stabilize the currency
- C) To boost foreign institutional investments
- D) To meet government foreign debt obligations
- E) To finance India's trade deficit



Answer

B) To counter rupee depreciation and stabilize the currency



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI Net Sold Over \$15 Billion Forex in December 2024
- **Date:** February 20, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **RBI's forex intervention** aimed at stabilizing the rupee amid market volatility
- **Net forex sales in December 2024:** \$15.2 billion
- **Comparison with previous month:**
 - November 2024: \$20.2 billion forex sold
 - December 2024: \$15.2 billion forex sold (\$5 billion decrease)
- **Major trigger:**
 - US tariff war concerns under President-elect Donald Trump
 - Stronger US dollar led to pressure on the Indian rupee



Key Data on RBI's Forex Transactions (December 2024):

- **Total forex sold:** \$69 billion
- **Total forex purchased:** \$53.9 billion
- **Net outstanding forward sales:** \$67.9 billion (end of December 2024)
- **Forex reserves depletion:** From \$701 billion (Oct 2024) to \$638 billion (Feb 2025)



Reasons for RBI's Forex Intervention:

1. Countering Rupee Depreciation:

- A weaker rupee increases import costs, especially for crude oil and edible oil
- RBI's forex sale reduced excess volatility in the exchange market
- 5% depreciation in the rupee leads to 30-35 basis points inflation

2. Managing Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)

Outflows:

- **January 2025:** FIIs recorded outflows of ₹87,375 crore, one of the highest monthly sell-offs in recent years



Reasons for RBI's Forex Intervention:

3. Impact on India's Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER):

- **January 2025:** Trade-weighted REER weakened to 104.82 from 107.13, indicating reduced currency strength

4. Maintaining Liquidity Stability:

- RBI's action controlled excessive speculation and maintained financial stability



Key Insights from Forex Purchase Data (2024-25):

- **Significant forex purchases (March 2024):** \$13.2 billion
- **Largest forex sale (November 2024):** \$20.2 billion
- **December 2024 forex sale:** \$15.2 billion, second highest in the year



Impact of RBI's Forex Actions:

- Rupee stabilized against a basket of 40 currencies
- Reduced excessive volatility in forex markets
- Prevented uncontrolled inflation due to import cost hikes



Important Terms Explained:

- **Forex Reserves:** Foreign currency assets held by a country's central bank to manage exchange rates and liquidity
- **Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER):** A measure of a currency's value against a basket of foreign currencies, adjusted for inflation
- **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs):** Investors from outside India who invest in Indian financial markets
- **RBI's Spot Market & Forward Market Interventions:**
 - **Spot Market:** Immediate buying and selling of forex
 - **Forward Market:** Contracts for future forex transactions to hedge against currency risks



Tabular Summary:

Event	RBI Net Sold Over \$15 Billion Forex in December 2024
Date	February 20, 2025
Total Forex Sold (Dec 2024)	\$69 billion
Total Forex Purchased (Dec 2024)	\$53.9 billion
Net Forex Sales (Dec 2024)	\$15.2 billion
Previous Month's Sales (Nov 2024)	\$20.2 billion
Forex Reserves (Oct 2024 - Feb 2025)	Decreased from \$701 billion to \$638 billion
Main Reason for Sale	Rupee volatility & trade war fears under US President-elect Donald Trump
FII Outflows (Jan 2025)	₹87,375 crore – one of the highest sell-offs in recent years
RBI's Policy Impact	Stabilized rupee, controlled inflation, maintained forex market liquidity



➤ **What was the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into India during April-December 2024?**

- A) \$16.9 billion
- B) \$18.5 billion
- C) \$20.3 billion
- D) \$22.8 billion
- E) \$25.1 billion

Answer

B) \$18.5 billion



Event and Location:

- **Event:** FDI Declines Marginally to \$18.5 Billion in April-December 2024
- **Date:** February 20, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **FDI Inflow (April-Dec 2024):** \$18.5 billion
- **Comparison with Previous Year:** \$18.8 billion in April-Dec 2023
- **Key Factor for Decline:** Increased repatriation by foreign investors
- **Gross FDI Inflows (April-Dec 2024):** \$62.5 billion (up by 20.5%)
- **Repatriation & Disinvestment:** Rose by \$10.9 billion, reducing net FDI



FDI Trends and Sectoral Insights:

- 1. Equity Inflows:**
 - \$41.4 billion, 8.3% higher than April-Dec 2023
- 2. Reinvested Earnings:**
 - \$16.9 billion, up by 17.4%
- 3. Gross FDI Inflows (December 2024):**
 - \$6.8 billion, 48% increase from previous months
- 4. Major Investors Selling Stakes:**
 - Companies like Hyundai and startup investors booked profits by selling stakes at IPOs



Government Strategy to Boost FDI:

- Positioning India as a preferred investment destination
- Encouraging global firms to diversify manufacturing from China to India
- Startup and telecom sector investments driving past record highs
- India saw record FDI inflows of nearly \$85 billion in 2021-22



FDI Monthly Trends (2024):

Month	Gross FDI (\$ billion)
January	8.0
February	6.0
July	5.2
August	8.6
December	6.8



Impact of Repatriation on FDI:

- Investors exited Indian markets after booking profits
- Startup and IPO gains led to disinvestment
- Despite strong gross inflows, net FDI suffered due to high capital outflows



Important Terms Explained:

- **FDI (Foreign Direct Investment):** Investment by foreign entities in Indian businesses with ownership or control
- **Equity Inflows:** Capital invested by foreign entities in Indian companies
- **Reinvested Earnings:** Profits earned by foreign investors but reinvested in India instead of repatriation
- **Repatriation:** Process of investors withdrawing capital from India after selling assets



Tabular Summary:

Event	FDI Declines Marginally to \$18.5 Billion in April-Dec 2024
Date	February 20, 2025
Net FDI (April-Dec 2024)	\$18.5 billion
Net FDI (April-Dec 2023)	\$18.8 billion
Gross FDI Inflows (April-Dec 2024)	\$62.5 billion (up 20.5%)
Repatriation & Disinvestment	Increased by \$10.9 billion
Equity Inflows	\$41.4 billion (8.3% increase)
Reinvested Earnings	\$16.9 billion (17.4% increase)
Major FDI Investors	Hyundai, Startup investors
Government Strategy	Boosting manufacturing & global investments
FDI Peak Year	2021-22 (\$85 billion in startups & telecom)



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who was sworn in as the ninth Director of the FBI on February 21, 2025?**

- A) Christopher Wray
- B) Jim Jordan
- C) Kash Patel
- D) Susan Collins
- E) Ted Cruz

Answer
C) Kash Patel



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Kash Patel sworn in as the ninth Director of the FBI
- **Date:** February 21, 2025
- **Location:** Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Decentralization of FBI Operations:** Plans to relocate 1000 FBI employees to field offices and 500 to Huntsville, Alabama
- **Shift in FBI Priorities:** Focus on traditional crime-fighting over intelligence-gathering
- **Tough Stance on Crime:** Promises aggressive action against threats to national security
- **Reforming Internal Operations:** Addressing concerns about political bias within the FBI



APPOINTMENTS



Challenges and Controversies:

- **Trump Loyalist Allegations:** Critics fear Patel may favor Trump's interests over independent law enforcement
- **Democratic Opposition:** Narrow Senate confirmation vote of 51-49, with two Republicans voting against him
- **Internal FBI Upheaval:** The Justice Department removed senior FBI officials amid ongoing political tensions
- **January 6 Riot Investigations:** Patel takes charge at a time when FBI's handling of Capitol riot investigations remains controversial



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bhagavad Gita:** A Hindu scripture symbolizing philosophical and spiritual guidance
- **Decentralization of FBI:** A strategic move to shift FBI resources from Washington, D.C., to regional offices
- **January 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol Riot:** A violent attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters leading to political and legal consequences
- **Christopher Wray:** Former FBI Director (2017–2025) who resigned at the end of the Biden administration



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Swearing-in of Kash Patel as FBI Director
Date	February 21, 2025
Location	Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C.
Oath Administered By	U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi
Oath Taken On	Bhagavad Gita
Succeeded	Christopher Wray
Senate Confirmation Vote	51-49
Republicans Who Voted Against Him	Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski
Key Attendees	Ted Cruz, Jim Jordan, Family Members
Key Plans	Decentralization of FBI, Crime Crackdown, Intelligence Shift



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025?**

- A) Urjit Patel
- B) Raghuram Rajan
- C) Shaktikanta Das
- D) Subhash Chandra Garg
- E) Ajay Bhushan Pandey

Answer

C) Shaktikanta Das



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Shaktikanta Das Appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to PM Modi
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** India



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **New Role:** Shaktikanta Das appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to PM Modi
- **Appointed By:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- **Tenure:** Co-terminus with the Prime Minister's term or until further orders
- First Principal Secretary with expertise in both fiscal and monetary policy



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Background of Shaktikanta Das:

- **Former RBI Governor** (December 2018 – December 2024)
- **1980-batch IAS officer** (Tamil Nadu cadre)
- **Served in the Ministry of Finance in key roles:**
 - Revenue Secretary
 - Economic Affairs Secretary
 - Fertilizers Secretary
- Played a major role in **key economic policies and financial stability initiatives**



APPOINTMENTS



Significance of His Appointment:

- Comes at a time when **India faces economic challenges such as:**
 - Global trade wars affecting exports
 - Rupee volatility in forex markets
 - Economic slowdown concerns
- Expertise in balancing government's growth objectives with inflation control



APPOINTMENTS



Key Achievements as RBI Governor (2018-2024):

1. Managing Financial Stability Amid Crises:

- **IL&FS collapse:** Handled its impact on NBFC sector
- **Russia-Ukraine war:** Managed inflationary pressures caused by global instability
- **COVID-19 financial policies:**
 - Reduced repo rate by 125 basis points
 - Implemented loan moratorium & restructuring package

2. Strengthening the Banking Sector:

- Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) reduced from 10.8% (2018) to 2.8% (2024)
- Improved RBI's oversight on bad loans and stressed assets



APPOINTMENTS



Key Achievements as RBI Governor (2018-2024):

3. RBI-Government Coordination:

- Rs 1.76 lakh crore surplus transfer to the government (2019)
- Liquidity infusion policies and loan restructuring measures

4. Contribution to Major Economic Reforms:

- **Demonetization (2016):** Played a key role in the remonetization process
- **Budget Planning:** Led critical divisions in the Finance Ministry
- **15th Finance Commission:** Contributed to fiscal planning and tax devolution
- **G20 Sherpa (2017):** Represented India in global economic discussions



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA):** The total value of bad loans in the banking sector
- **Repo Rate:** The rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks
- **Surplus Transfer:** RBI's excess reserves transferred to the government for fiscal management



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Shaktikanta Das Appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to PM Modi
Date	February 22, 2025
Appointed By	Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
New Role	Principal Secretary-2 to PM Modi
Tenure	Co-terminus with PM Modi's term
Previous Role	RBI Governor (2018-2024)
IAS Batch & Cadre	1980, Tamil Nadu
Key Expertise	Fiscal & Monetary Policy
Major Challenges Managed	Demonetization, IL&FS crisis, COVID-19 economy revival, Russia-Ukraine war impact
Banking Reforms	Reduced GNPA from 10.8% to 2.8%
Government-RBI Coordination	Rs 1.76 lakh crore surplus transfer (2019)



➤ **Which endangered bird species has Purnima Devi Barman worked to conserve?**

- A) Indian Vulture
- B) Greater Adjutant Stork
- C) Siberian Crane
- D) Great Indian Bustard
- E) Black-necked Crane



Answer

B) Greater Adjutant Stork



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Purnima Devi Barman named in TIME's Women of the Year 2025 list
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** Global Recognition



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Recognition:** TIME Magazine named Purnima Devi Barman among Women of the Year 2025
- **Sole Indian Representative:** She is the only Indian woman on the list, joining global leaders like Nicole Kidman and Gisele Pelicot
- **Field of Work:** Wildlife conservation and community empowerment



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Conservation Success:**
 - Saved the Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila), a once-endangered species
 - Increased population from 450 (2007) to over 1,800 (2023)
 - Led efforts that resulted in the IUCN changing the bird's status from "Endangered" to "Near Threatened"



Major Conservation Efforts:

1. Hargila Army Initiative:

- Founded the Hargila Army, a network of 20,000+ women dedicated to protecting storks
- Conducts awareness programs, nest protection drives, and cultural integration efforts
- Empowers women economically and socially through conservation-led community projects



Major Conservation Efforts:

2. Cultural and Social Transformation:

- Introduced baby showers for stork chicks to encourage local engagement
- Integrated stork motifs into traditional Assamese textile weaving, creating livelihood opportunities
- Successfully transformed conservation into a part of Assamese culture

3. Global Influence:

- Her conservation model has reached France and Cambodia, inspiring schools to teach about stork conservation
- Recognized internationally for environmental protection and gender empowerment



AWARDS



TIME's Recognition Criteria:

- Women selected for contributions to **gender equality, climate action, and social justice**
- Leaders honored for **combating violence, advocating rights, and pioneering change**



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila):** A large scavenger bird once endangered, now near threatened due to conservation efforts
- **Hargila Army:** A women-led conservation movement protecting stork habitats and promoting community participation
- **IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature):** A global organization that classifies species based on their risk of extinction



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Purnima Devi Barman named in TIME's Women of the Year 2025 list
Date	February 22, 2025
Recognition	TIME Magazine's Women of the Year 2025
Field of Work	Wildlife Conservation and Community Empowerment
Key Achievement	Conservation of Greater Adjutant Stork
Population Increase	From 450 (2007) to 1,800+ (2023)
Hargila Army	20,000+ women protecting storks and earning livelihoods
Global Influence	Conservation model extended to France & Cambodia
Cultural Impact	Conservation integrated into Assamese traditions
TIME's Recognition Criteria	Contribution to gender equality, climate action, and social change



➤ Which receptor does the new bat coronavirus HKU5-CoV-2 use to infect human cells?

- A) CD4
- B) ACE2
- C) CCR5
- D) DPP4
- E) Hemagglutinin

Answer
B) ACE2



Event and Location:

- **Event:** New bat coronavirus HKU5-CoV-2 discovered in China
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** China



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Discovery of HKU5-CoV-2:** A new bat coronavirus found by researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology
- **Mode of Entry into Human Cells:** The virus uses the ACE2 receptor, similar to SARS-CoV-2, but with lower binding efficiency
- **Potential Risks:**
 - Lower risk of widespread transmission compared to SARS-CoV-2
 - Presence of furin cleavage site, which enhances viral infectivity and raises concerns about potential transmission



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Comparisons with Past Viruses:**
 - Similar to RaTG13, a bat coronavirus identified in 2013, which had 96.1% genetic similarity to SARS-CoV-2
 - Belongs to the Merbecovirus subgenus, which includes the MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) virus



Expert Opinions and Public Health Concerns:

- **Dr. Michael Osterholm (University of Minnesota):**
 - Existing immunity to SARS-like viruses may limit the impact of HKU5-CoV-2
 - The virus has a low binding affinity to ACE2, reducing the likelihood of a severe outbreak
- **Need for Continuous Surveillance:**
 - Experts stress monitoring bat-borne viruses to detect potential threats early
 - Increased biosecurity measures are recommended in regions where humans and bats frequently interact
 - Global surveillance programs needed for early detection and genetic sequencing



Important Terms Explained:

- **ACE2 Receptor:** A protein on human cells that allows viruses like SARS-CoV-2 and HKU5-CoV-2 to enter the body
- **Furin Cleavage Site:** A genetic feature in some viruses that increases their ability to infect human cells
- **Zoonotic Spillover:** The process where viruses jump from animals to humans, potentially causing new outbreaks
- **Merbecovirus Subgenus:** A group of coronaviruses, including MERS-CoV, that can infect both humans and animals



Tabular Summary:

Event	New bat coronavirus HKU5-CoV-2 discovered in China
Date	February 22, 2025
Location	China
Discovered By	Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers
Virus Name	HKU5-CoV-2
Mode of Entry	Uses ACE2 receptor, like SARS-CoV-2
Infection Potential	Can infect human respiratory and intestinal cells
Threat Level	Lower risk than SARS-CoV-2 due to weaker binding efficiency
Key Concern	Presence of furin cleavage site, which may enhance infectivity
Comparative Virus	RaTG13, a bat coronavirus found in 2013
Expert Opinion	Low risk of outbreak but continuous monitoring needed



➤ Which organization collaborated with ISRO to develop the world's largest vertical propellant mixer?

- A) HAL
- B) DRDO
- C) CMTI
- D) BHEL
- E) CSIR

Answer
C) CMTI



Event and Location:

- **Event:** ISRO develops the world's largest vertical propellant mixer
- **Date:** February 13, 2025
- **Location:** Bengaluru, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Development of a 10-tonne Vertical Planetary Mixer:**
 - Largest of its kind globally, designed for solid propellant production
 - Created by ISRO in collaboration with the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru
 - Enhances efficiency, safety, and productivity in solid rocket motor manufacturing
- **Significance:**
 - Strengthens India's self-reliance in space technology
 - Supports indigenous development of critical space machinery



Technical Specifications:

- **Weight:** 150 tonnes
- **Dimensions:** 5.4m (L) × 3.3m (B) × 8.7m (H)
- **Features:**
 - Multiple hydrostatic agitators for precise mixing
 - PLC-based (Programmable Logic Controller) automated system for remote operation
 - SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) monitoring for real-time control



Handover Details:

- **Handover Date:** February 13, 2025
- **Received By:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota
- **Presence of:** ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan



Strategic Importance:

- **Boosts India's Space Capabilities:** Essential for producing heavy solid rocket motors
- **Indigenous Technology Advancement:** Reduces dependency on foreign technology
- **Aligns with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' Initiative:** Strengthens self-reliance in space technology



Important Terms Explained:

- **Solid Propellants:** Highly combustible materials used in rocket motors for thrust generation
- **Programmable Logic Controller (PLC):** A computerized system that automates industrial processes
- **SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition):** A monitoring system ensuring safe and efficient machine operation
- **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC):** India's primary space launch center, located in Sriharikota



Tabular Summary:

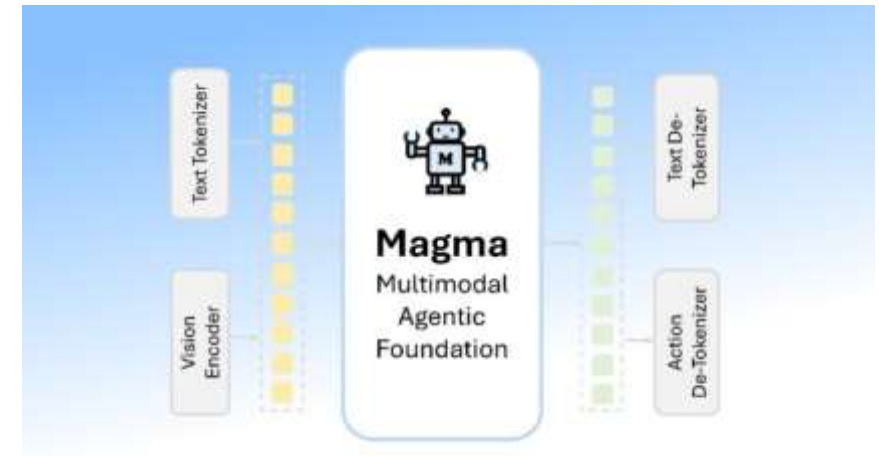
Event	ISRO develops the world's largest vertical propellant mixer
Date	February 13, 2025
Location	Bengaluru, India
Developed By	ISRO & CMTI, Bengaluru
Purpose	Enhances solid propellant production for rocket motors
Weight & Size	150 tonnes, 5.4m (L) × 3.3m (B) × 8.7m (H)
Key Features	Hydrostatic agitators, PLC-based control, SCADA monitoring
Received By	Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota
ISRO Chairman Present	V. Narayanan
Significance	Strengthens India's space technology and self-reliance



➤ Which AI model has Microsoft introduced that can understand images and language for real-world tasks?

- A) OpenVLA
- B) GPT-4o
- C) Magma
- D) Video-LLaMA2
- E) DeepMind Gemini

Answer
C) Magma



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Microsoft unveils Magma, a multimodal AI model for real-world tasks
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** Global



Mandates and Objectives:

- Microsoft introduced **Magma**, a multimodal AI model capable of understanding both visual and linguistic data
- **Developed by:** Microsoft Research, University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin-Madison, KAIST, and University of Washington



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Features of Magma:**
 - **Multimodal AI:** Processes images and text simultaneously
 - **Spatial Intelligence:** Enables navigation, planning, and real-world action execution
 - **Robotic Manipulation:** Controls robots with enhanced accuracy
 - **UI Navigation:** Recognizes and interacts with digital interfaces
 - **State-of-the-art Accuracy:** Outperforms existing AI models in real-world applications



How Magma Differs from Traditional Vision-Language (VL) Models:

- **Traditional VL Models:**
 - Focus on image-text pairing but lack action-based intelligence
- **Magma's Advancement:**
 - Integrates verbal and spatial intelligence, allowing it to predict movements, track objects, and execute tasks
 - Surpasses GPT-4o in spatial reasoning, despite using less training data



How Magma Was Trained:

- **Dataset Sources:**
 - **Images:** To recognize clickable items
 - **Videos:** To understand object movements
 - **Robotics Data:** To learn motion patterns for robotic control
- **Training Techniques:**
 - **Set-of-Mark (SoM):** Grounding clickable UI elements
 - **Trace-of-Mark (ToM):** Tracking object movements in videos and robotics



Real-World Applications of Magma:

1. UI Navigation:

- Checking weather updates
- Enabling flight mode on smartphones
- Sharing files and sending texts

2. Robotic Manipulation:

- Soft object handling (grasping delicate items)
- Pick-and-place tasks (grabbing and relocating objects)
- Adapting to new robotic tasks



Real-World Applications of Magma:

3. Spatial Reasoning:

- Predicting future states of objects
- Executing real-world movements with minimal supervision

4. Multimodal Understanding:

- Outperforms Video-LLaMA2 and ShareGPT4Video in video comprehension tasks



Future Implications of Magma:

- **AI-powered assistants** capable of performing real-world tasks
- **Smart home automation** with AI-driven robotic control
- **Healthcare robotics** for patient assistance
- **Autonomous navigation systems** for industrial applications



Important Terms Explained:

- **Multimodal AI:** An AI model that can process and understand multiple types of data (text, images, videos, and actions)
- **Spatial Intelligence:** The ability of AI to interpret and interact with real-world environments
- **Set-of-Mark (SoM):** A labeling technique to identify UI elements for interaction
- **Trace-of-Mark (ToM):** A method used to track object movements in videos and robotics



Tabular Summary:

Event	Microsoft unveils Magma, a multimodal AI model
Date	February 22, 2025
Developed By	Microsoft Research, University of Maryland, KAIST, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington
Key Features	Multimodal AI, Spatial Intelligence, Robotic Manipulation, UI Navigation
How It Was Trained	Images, Videos, Robotics Data using Set-of-Mark (SoM) and Trace-of-Mark (ToM) techniques
Outperformed Models	GPT-4o, OpenVLA, Video-LLaMA2, ShareGPT4Video
Applications	UI Navigation, Robotic Control, Spatial Reasoning, Multimodal Understanding
Future Uses	AI Assistants, Smart Home Automation, Healthcare Robotics, Industrial AI



➤ Which space agency has approved John McFall as the first astronaut with a disability for ISS missions?

- A) NASA
- B) ISRO
- C) ESA
- D) Roscosmos
- E) JAXA

Answer
C) ESA



Event and Location:

- **Event:** First astronaut with a disability cleared for ISS mission
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** European Space Agency (ESA)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **John McFall's Certification:**
 - ESA medically approved British astronaut John McFall for long-duration ISS missions
 - McFall becomes the first astronaut with a disability to be cleared for spaceflight
- **ESA's "Fly! Feasibility" Study:**
 - Initiated in 2022 to assess challenges faced by astronauts with disabilities
 - Evaluated prosthetic function in microgravity, medical fitness, and emergency evacuation procedures
 - Concluded that lower-limb amputees can safely operate in space



Who is John McFall?

- **Age:** 43 years
- **Nationality:** British (From Cardiff, UK)
- **Background:**
 - Lost his right leg above the knee in a motorcycle accident at 19
 - Won bronze in the 100m sprint at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics
 - Became a trauma and orthopaedic surgeon before joining ESA
- **Astronaut Selection:**
 - Selected by ESA in 2022 for the "Fly! Feasibility" study
 - Now part of ESA's astronaut reserve, awaiting a mission assignment



Significance of McFall's Selection:

- **Promotes Inclusivity in Space Exploration:**
Challenges traditional astronaut selection criteria
- **Demonstrates Human Resilience:** Proves astronauts with disabilities can train, function, and contribute
- **Encourages Future Space Accessibility:** Opens doors for more diverse astronaut candidates



Future Spaceflight Opportunities for McFall:

- **Potential ISS Mission:** May fly before ISS decommissioning in 2030
- **Private Space Missions:** Discussions ongoing with Axiom Space for commercial flights



Important Terms Explained:

- **ESA (European Space Agency):** Europe's leading space research organization
- **ISS (International Space Station):** A multinational space laboratory orbiting Earth
- **Axiom Space:** A private spaceflight company developing commercial missions to space



Tabular Summary:

Event	First astronaut with a disability cleared for ISS mission
Date	February 22, 2025
Approved By	European Space Agency (ESA)
Astronaut Name	John McFall
Nationality	British (UK)
Background	Former Paralympian, Trauma Surgeon
Disability	Lost right leg in motorcycle accident
Selection Year	2022 (Fly! Feasibility Study)
Study Findings	Proved astronauts with disabilities can function safely in space
Future Missions	Awaiting ISS or commercial spaceflight assignment
Significance	Promotes inclusivity and diversity in space exploration



➤ Which country did India take over the Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO from?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Maldives
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Myanmar
- E) Thailand

Answer
C) Bangladesh



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India assumes Chairmanship of Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)
- **Date:** February 20-22, 2025
- **Location:** Malé, Maldives



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Transition:** India took over the Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting
- **Key Areas of Focus:**
 - Strengthening sustainable fisheries development and regional cooperation
 - Supporting small-scale fishers' welfare across Bay of Bengal nations
 - Promoting marine resource management and responsible fishing practices
 - Enhancing capacity building, research, and policy advocacy
 - Tackling Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing



Role of India's Leadership:

- **Indian Representative:** Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India
- **Key Leadership Initiatives:**
 - Driving policy innovation for sustainable fisheries management
 - Emphasizing technological advancements, knowledge exchange, and data sharing
 - Strengthening regional policies to boost the blue economy



India's Alignment with Global and National Goals:

- **National Vision:** Aligns with Viksit Bharat 2047, focusing on economic growth and environmental sustainability
- **Global Collaboration:** Expected support from international organizations like:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
 - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



India's Alignment with Global and National Goals:

- **Impact on the Region:**
 - Improving livelihoods of small-scale fishers
 - Ensuring economic sustainability and responsible fishing practices
 - Promoting regional cooperation for marine ecosystem protection



Important Terms Explained:

- **BOBP-IGO (Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation):** A regional organization focused on sustainable fisheries management and marine ecosystem protection in the Bay of Bengal region
- **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:** Fishing activities that violate national or international fishing regulations, leading to overfishing and ecological damage



Important Terms Explained:

- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of marine and coastal resources for economic growth, livelihoods, and environmental health
- **Viksit Bharat 2047:** India's long-term vision for economic development and sustainability by the 100th year of independence



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	India assumes Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO
Date	February 20-22, 2025
Location	Malé, Maldives
Outgoing Chair	Bangladesh
New Chair	India
Indian Representative	Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries
Key Focus Areas	Sustainable fisheries, marine resource management, small-scale fishers' welfare, tackling IUU fishing
Global Collaboration	FAO, SEAFDEC, UNODC
Alignment with National Goals	Viksit Bharat 2047, poverty alleviation, economic growth
Expected Outcomes	Regional cooperation, economic development, ecosystem sustainability



➤ **Where has India's first zoo-based wildlife biobank been established?**

- A) Nandankanan Zoological Park
- B) National Zoological Park, Delhi
- C) Mysuru Zoo
- D) Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park
- E) Arignar Anna Zoological Park



Answer

D) Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's first wildlife biobank opens at Darjeeling Zoo
- **Date:** July 2024
- **Location:** Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP), Darjeeling, West Bengal



Mandates and Objectives:

- **India's First Wildlife Biobank:** Established at PNHZP, Darjeeling, in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) under the Ministry of Science & Technology



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:**
 - Preserve DNA, tissue, and reproductive cells of endangered species for future research and conservation
 - Use cryogenic storage at -196°C with liquid nitrogen to maintain genetic material viability
 - Serve as a 'frozen zoo' to safeguard genetic diversity and aid species revival efforts
- **Current Collection (as of February 2025):** Genetic materials from 60 animals across 23 species



Additional Facilities at PNHZP:

1. Pathology Laboratory:

- Conducts disease diagnostics and genetic health monitoring for zoo animals
- Helps in early disease detection and better veterinary care

2. Skeleton Museum:

- Preserves skeletal remains of endangered species for research and education
- Officially inaugurated on December 23, 2024, by West Bengal Forest Minister Birbaha Hansda



Darjeeling Zoo's Contribution to Conservation:

- **Established:** August 14, 1958
- **Notable Conservation Programs:**
 - Red Panda Breeding Program: Released 9 captive-bred red pandas into Singalila National Park (2022–2024)
 - Himalayan Species Conservation: Focus on snow leopards, red pandas, and Himalayan wolves
 - Recognized by WAZA: Shortlisted for 2024 WAZA Conservation & Environmental Sustainability Awards



Future Expansion Plans:

- **Similar biobanks planned at:**
 - National Zoological Park (Delhi)
 - Nandankanan Zoological Park (Odisha)
- **Expected Impact:**
 - Support species revival efforts using preserved genetic material
 - Enhance research on population genetics and wildlife diseases



Important Terms Explained:

- **Cryogenic Preservation:** Storing biological materials at ultra-low temperatures (-196°C) to maintain viability
- **Frozen Zoo:** A biobank storing genetic material of endangered species for conservation and future research
- **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB):** A leading research institute in genetics and biotechnology



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	India's first wildlife biobank opens at Darjeeling Zoo
Date	July 2024
Location	Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZZP), Darjeeling
Collaborating Institution	Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)
Biobank Purpose	Cryogenic preservation of endangered species' genetic material
Storage Method	-196°C cryogenic storage using liquid nitrogen
Current Collection	60 animals from 23 species (as of Feb 2025)
Additional Facilities	Pathology lab & Skeleton museum
Skeleton Museum Inauguration	December 23, 2024, by WB Forest Minister Birbaha Hansda
Future Expansion	Biobanks planned in Delhi Zoo & Nandankanan Zoo (Odisha)
Conservation Impact	Supports species revival, disease research, and biodiversity preservation



➤ **Where was the first SOUL Leadership Conclave 2025 inaugurated by PM Modi?**

- A) GIFT City, Gujarat
- B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- C) Mumbai International Convention Centre
- D) Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
- E) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

Answer

B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



Event and Location:

- **Event:** PM Modi inaugurates the first SOUL Leadership Conclave 2025
- **Date:** February 21-22, 2025
- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Development:** Aimed at training future leaders for Viksit Bharat (Developed India)
- **Sectoral Focus:** Governance, business, technology, sports, and social service
- **Skill Development:** Enhancing strategic decision-making, adaptability, critical thinking, and risk-taking
- **SOUL Campus:** A dedicated leadership training campus to be set up near GIFT City, Gujarat
- **Workshops Conducted:** For State Education Secretaries, State Project Directors, and Chief Minister's Office (CMO) staff



Key Highlights from PM Modi's Address:

- **Leadership for a Developed India:** Leadership is needed in politics, business, technology, sports, and governance
- **India's Role as a Global Powerhouse:** The country must focus on strategic decision-making and crisis management
- **Scientific Leadership Training:** SOUL will provide structured training in critical thinking, risk-taking, and solution-driven mindset



Key Highlights from PM Modi's Address:

- **Sectors Identified for Leadership Development:**
 - Emerging Sectors: Deep-tech, space, biotechnology, renewable energy
 - Traditional Sectors: Sports, agriculture, manufacturing, social service
- **Public Policy and Governance:** Leaders must create global institutions of excellence and adopt global best practices
- **Team Spirit and Shared Purpose:** Drawing lessons from India's freedom struggle to unite future leaders



Challenges and Impact:

- **Need for Scientific Leadership Training:** To prepare leaders for complex global challenges
- **Policy Formulation:** Must integrate global strategies while prioritizing national interests
- **Leadership in Disruptive Sectors:** Training leaders to adapt to emerging technologies and industries



Important Terms Explained:

- **SOUL (School of Ultimate Leadership):** An initiative to develop world-class Indian leaders for governance, business, and public policy
- **Viksit Bharat:** A vision for a Developed India focusing on leadership, innovation, and national growth
- **GIFT City, Gujarat:** A global financial hub where the SOUL campus will be established
- **Bharat Mandapam:** A premier convention center in New Delhi, hosting major national and international events



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	PM Modi inaugurates the first SOUL Leadership Conclave 2025
Date	February 21-22, 2025
Location	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
SOUL Campus Location	Near GIFT City, Gujarat
Objective	Leadership development for Viksit Bharat
Key Leadership Sectors	Public Policy, Business, Technology, Sports, Social Work
Leadership Qualities Emphasized	Critical Thinking, Risk-Taking, Solution-Driven Mindset, Adaptability
Workshops Conducted For	State Education Secretaries, State Project Directors, CMO Staff
Participants	Leaders from Politics, Business, Arts, Media, Social Sector, Sports, Spirituality



➤ **Which digital platform was used for the presentation of Gujarat's Budget 2025-26?**

- A) e-Budget Portal
- B) NeVA
- C) Digital Vidhan Sabha
- D) e-Legis
- E) Smart Budget Application

Answer
B) NeVA



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Gujarat FM unveils Budget 2025-26 on NeVA
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** Gujarat State Assembly



Mandates and Objectives:

- **First Fully Digital Budget:** Gujarat's Finance Minister Shri Kanu Desai presented the Budget 2025-26 digitally for the first time using NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application)
- **Paperless Governance:** Supports the Digital India initiative by eliminating physical paperwork in legislative proceedings
- **Transparency & Accessibility:** Budget documents are instantly available to legislators and the public through the NeVA platform
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Reduces paper usage, contributing to eco-friendly governance



National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):

- **Full Form:** National e-Vidhan Application
- **Launched Under:** Digital India Programme
- **Objective:** Transform all State Legislatures into fully digital and paperless legislatures
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs



National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):

- **Key Features:**
 - **Device-Neutral Platform:** Works on tablets, smartphones, and computers
 - **Legislative Document Access:** Provides bills, notices, questions, reports, and committee details
 - **Enhanced Decision-Making:** Easy access to legislative data improves efficiency
 - **Public Transparency:** Citizens can view legislative documents online



National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):

- **Current Status of NeVA Implementation:**
 - 21 State Legislatures have signed MoUs for implementation
 - 17 State Legislatures have received project approval and funding
 - 9 State Legislatures are fully digital and live on NeVA



Importance of Gujarat's Digital Budget:

- **First Fully Digital Budget in Gujarat:** First time the state used NeVA for a paperless budget presentation
- **Strengthening Digital Governance:** Aligns with India's mission to modernize and digitize legislative procedures
- **Better Policy Making:** Quick access to legislative documents enhances decision-making and efficiency



Important Terms Explained:

- **NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application):** A platform under the Digital India Programme to make state legislatures fully digital and paperless
- **Mission Mode Project (MMP):** Government initiatives that have national-level strategic importance with clear objectives and timelines
- **Digital India:** A flagship government program aiming to digitally empower governance and citizens
- **Paperless Governance:** A system where official records and legislative processes are managed digitally without physical documents



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Gujarat FM unveils Budget 2025-26 on NeVA
Date	February 22, 2025
Location	Gujarat State Assembly
Presented By	Shri Kanu Desai, Gujarat Finance Minister
Platform Used	NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application)
Objective	Paperless governance and digital transformation of legislative processes
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
NeVA Full Form	National e-Vidhan Application
Launched Under	Digital India Programme
NeVA Implementation Status	21 states signed MoUs, 17 sanctioned, 9 fully digital
Key Benefits	Transparency, efficiency, real-time access to legislative documents
First Digital Budget in Gujarat?	Yes



➤ In how many hill districts of Uttarakhand has the purchase of agricultural land by outsiders been banned?

- A) 9
- B) 10
- C) 11
- D) 12
- E) 13

Answer
C) 11



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Uttarakhand tightens land laws for outsiders
- **Date:** February 19, 2025
- **Location:** Uttarakhand



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Legislation Passed:** Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill) to regulate land transactions for non-residents
- **Objective:** Protect Uttarakhand's cultural heritage, natural resources, and citizens' rights while preserving the state's identity



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Features of the Law:**
 - Blanket ban on agricultural land purchases by outsiders in 11 hill districts
 - Restrictions on residential land purchases, with a cap on plot size for non-residents
 - Digitized land transaction system for tracking all land sales
 - Affidavit requirement for non-residents stating the purpose of land use
 - Strict provisions against land misuse, with government takeover of misused land
 - District magistrates lose authority to approve land purchases



District-Wise Implementation:

- **Ban on Agricultural Land Purchases Applies to:**
 - Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Champawat, Almora, and Bageshwar
- **Land Purchase Still Allowed in:**
 - Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar



Industrial and Investment Considerations:

- **Government Assurance:** New land laws will not discourage industries or investors
- **Special Provisions:** Likely to be introduced for economic development and industrial investment



Digital Land Transaction System:

- **Dedicated online portal** for land transaction tracking
- **Ensures transparency** in land purchases
- **Affidavit filing** mandatory for non-residents before purchasing land



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill):** A legal amendment regulating land sales, preventing large-scale purchases by outsiders
- **Digitized Land Transaction System:** An online system for land purchase tracking, ensuring transparency
- **Affidavit Requirement:** Non-residents must declare land use purpose before purchase to prevent misuse



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Uttarakhand Tightens Land Laws for Outsiders
Date	February 19, 2025
Location	Uttarakhand
Legislation Passed	Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill)
Objective	Protect Uttarakhand's cultural heritage, resources, and citizens' rights
Agricultural Land Purchase Ban	Blanket ban for non-residents in 11 hill districts
Residential Land Purchase Restrictions	Limited to one family, with size cap
District Magistrate's Authority	No longer allowed to approve land purchases
Permitted Districts for Land Purchase	Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar
Digital Land Transaction Process	Fully digitized tracking and approval system
Affidavit Requirement	Outsiders must declare land use purpose before purchase
Misuse Clause	Government takeover if land is misused
Industrial Investment Impact	Steps taken to ensure investor-friendly provisions



➤ **Which state unveiled its first Green Budget for the financial year 2025-26?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Gujarat
- D) Karnataka
- E) Madhya Pradesh

Answer
B) Rajasthan



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rajasthan unveils its first Green Budget for 2025-26
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** Rajasthan State Assembly



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Presented By:** Diya Kumari, Deputy CM & Finance Minister of Rajasthan
- **Total Budget Outlay:** ₹5.37 lakh crore
- **Key Focus Areas:** Bijli (Electricity), Sadak (Roads), Paani (Water), Healthcare, and Agriculture
- **Alignment:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030
- **Employment Creation Target:** 2.75 lakh jobs (1.25 lakh govt + 1.5 lakh private sector)



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Green Initiatives:**
 - ₹27,854 crore allocated for environmental sustainability
 - Climate Change Adaptation Plan-2030 introduced
 - Centre of Excellence for Climate Change (₹150 crore)
 - 10 crore trees to be planted
 - Subsidies for 2.5 lakh farmers promoting natural farming
 - Rajasthan Circular Economy Incentive Scheme & Vehicle Scrap Policy launched
 - Waste to Wealth Parks in all district headquarters



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Water & Sanitation:**
 - 20 lakh new water connections
 - ₹5,830 crore allocated under CM Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)
 - 1,000 tubewells and 1,500 handpumps to be installed
 - ₹425 crore for rural drinking water projects
- **Energy & Power:**
 - 6,400 MW additional power generation planned
 - 10 GW private sector power production
 - 50,000 new agriculture electricity connections
 - 5 lakh new domestic electricity connections



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Infrastructure & Transport:**
 - ₹5,000 crore for highways, bypasses, flyovers, and bridges
 - 9 Greenfield Expressways (₹60,000 crore) via Hybrid Annuity Model/BOT
 - ₹6,000 crore to improve 21,000 km of non-patchable roads



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Agriculture:**
 - ₹9,300 crore for Ram Jal Setu Link Pariyojana
 - ₹4,000 crore for Rajasthan Water Grid Corporation
 - ₹1,250 crore subsidy for drip & sprinkler irrigation
 - ₹900 crore for solar pumps & farm ponds
 - PM Kisan Samman Nidhi increased to ₹9,000/year



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Tourism & Culture:**
 - ₹975 crore for tourism infrastructure
 - 10 sites to be developed as Iconic Tourist Destinations
 - ₹100 crore for Tribal Tourist Circuit & ₹20 crore for Rural Tourism
 - ₹50,000 senior citizens to receive AC train & air pilgrimage travel support



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Employment & Youth Welfare:**
 - Rajasthan Employment Policy 2025 launched
 - ₹500 crore Vivekananda Rozgar Sahayta Kosh to support job seekers
 - 1,500 new startups to be promoted
 - More CCTV cameras in schools, 1,500 Atal Tinkering Labs, Digital Planetariums, Open Gyms
- **Industry & Business:**
 - 149 online permissions under Single Window System
 - Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy introduced
 - Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy launched



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Social Security & Welfare:**
 - ₹1,250/month social security pension
 - ₹350 crore Gig & Unorganised Workers Development Fund
 - ₹20,000 financial aid for artificial limbs to 1 lakh differently-abled persons
 - 35,000 scooters for girl students
 - Milk for Anganwadi children (3-6 years) increased from 3 to 5 days a week
 - 10 lakh new beneficiaries added under National Food Security Act (NFSA)



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Law & Order:**
 - Rajasthan Nagrik Suraksha Adhiniyam introduced
 - 3,500 new police jobs
 - Sardar Patel Centre for Cyber Control & War Room (₹350 crore)



Key Budget Announcements:

- **Health & Wellness:**
 - ₹3,500 crore for Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya (MAA) Yojana
 - ₹1,300 crore for strengthening tertiary healthcare
 - 750 new doctor posts & 1,500 paramedics
 - Diabetic Clinics in all district hospitals
 - Fit Rajasthan Campaign (₹50 crore)
 - New AYUSH Policy introduced
- **Education & Research:**
 - Ambedkar Institute of Constitutional Studies & Research in Jaipur
 - ₹1,000 crore for district-level offices in 8 new districts



Important Terms Explained:

- **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM):** A public-private partnership model for road projects where both government and private sector share investment
- **Circular Economy:** A system focusing on recycling, reusing, and reducing waste to promote sustainability
- **Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya (MAA) Yojana:** Rajasthan's healthcare insurance scheme for low-income families
- **Green Budget:** A budget framework that prioritizes environmental sustainability, clean energy, and climate resilience



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Rajasthan unveils first Green Budget for 2025-26
Date	February 22, 2025
Presented By	Diya Kumari, Deputy CM & Finance Minister
Total Budget Outlay	₹5.37 lakh crore
Key Focus Areas	Electricity, Roads, Water, Healthcare, Agriculture
Employment Target	2.75 lakh jobs (1.25 lakh govt + 1.5 lakh private sector)
Green Budget Initiatives	₹27,854 crore allocated, 10 crore trees, Climate Change Adaptation Plan-2030
Infrastructure & Transport	₹5,000 crore for highways, ₹60,000 crore for expressways
Tourism & Culture	₹975 crore for tourism, 10 Iconic Destinations, AC pilgrimage for senior citizens
Social Security	₹1,250/month pension, 35,000 scooters for girl students, 10 lakh new NFSA beneficiaries
Law & Order	3,500 police jobs, ₹350 crore Cyber Control War Room
Health & Wellness	₹3,500 crore for MAA Yojana, ₹1,300 crore for tertiary healthcare



➤ Which Indian state has launched Nayanamritham 2.0, the world's first AI-driven eye screening program?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra
- E) Andhra Pradesh

Answer
B) Kerala



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Kerala unveils Nayanamritham 2.0 – AI-driven eye screening
- **Date:** February 22, 2025
- **Location:** Kerala, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Nayanamritham 2.0** is the world's first government-led AI-assisted eye screening program
- **Developed in partnership with:** Remidio, a health-tech company
- **Objective:** Early detection of chronic eye diseases such as:
 - Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)
 - Glaucoma
 - Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Technology Used:**
 - AI-powered fundus cameras instantly classify cases as referable or non-referable
 - Enables faster diagnosis and early treatment
- **Expanded Healthcare Coverage:**
 - Initially implemented at Family Health Centers (FHCs)
 - Now expanded to Community Health Centers, Taluk Hospitals, and District Hospitals



Why is Nayanamritham 2.0 a Global Milestone?

- **Kerala** becomes **the first public health system worldwide** to integrate AI for chronic eye disease screening
- Enhances efficiency and scalability of mass screenings
- Prevents blindness by ensuring early detection and timely specialist referrals



Expert Opinions:

- **Dr. Bipin Gopal (Deputy Director, Kerala Health Services Department):**
 - AI does not replace doctors but assists optometrists in routine screenings
 - Ophthalmologists can focus on complex cases, improving healthcare efficiency
- **Anand Sivaraman (CEO, Remidio):**
 - Collaboration with Kerala sets a benchmark for AI in public health programs



Future Impact of AI in Public Eye Care:

- Sets an example for other Indian states and countries
- Can be scaled to detect more diseases beyond eye-related conditions
- Strengthens Kerala's reputation as a leader in AI-driven healthcare innovations



Important Terms Explained:

- **Diabetic Retinopathy (DR):** A diabetes-related eye disease that can lead to blindness
- **Glaucoma:** A condition causing optic nerve damage, leading to vision loss
- **Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD):** A disease affecting the central vision, common in the elderly
- **Fundus Camera:** A specialized camera that captures retinal images to detect eye diseases



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Kerala launches Nayanamritham 2.0 – AI-driven eye screening
Date	February 22, 2025
Initiative By	Government of Kerala in partnership with Remidio
Purpose	Early detection of Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, and AMD
Technology Used	AI-powered fundus cameras
Expanded Coverage	Now at CHCs, Taluk Hospitals, and District Hospitals
Global Milestone	First government-led AI screening program for chronic eye diseases
Expert Opinion	AI enhances efficiency, prevents blindness, and supports healthcare providers
Future Impact	Sets a model for AI-driven public health programs worldwide



QUICK RECALL



- **Indian prodigy Vishvaa Rajakumar won the Memory League World Championship 2025.**
- **A Lancet study reported a 30% decline in India's suicide rate from 1990 to 2021.**
- **RBI's State of the Economy report highlights strong economic recovery in Oct-March 2024-25.**
- **SBI Research has revised India's FY25 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%.**
- **RBI sold \$15.2 billion in forex in December 2024 to stabilize the rupee.**
- **India's FDI declined marginally to \$18.5 billion in April-Dec 2024.**
- **Kash Patel was sworn in as the ninth Director of the FBI on February 21, 2025.**
- **Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as Principal Secretary-2 to PM Narendra Modi.**
- **Purnima Devi Barman has been named in TIME's Women of the Year 2025 list.**



QUICK RECALL



- Chinese researchers discovered a new bat coronavirus named HKU5-CoV-2.
- ISRO developed the world's largest 10-tonne vertical propellant mixer for solid rocket motors.
- Microsoft has unveiled Magma, a multimodal AI model capable of real-world action execution.
- ESA has medically approved John McFall as the first astronaut with a disability for ISS missions.
- India assumed the Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting.
- India's first wildlife biobank was established at Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.
- PM Modi inaugurated the first SOUL Leadership Conclave 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



QUICK RECALL



- **Gujarat's Finance Minister presented the Budget 2025-26 digitally using NeVA for the first time.**
- **Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill) on February 19, 2025.**
- **Rajasthan unveiled its first Green Budget with a total outlay of ₹5.37 lakh crore.**
- **Kerala launched Nayanamritham 2.0, the world's first AI-assisted eye screening program.**



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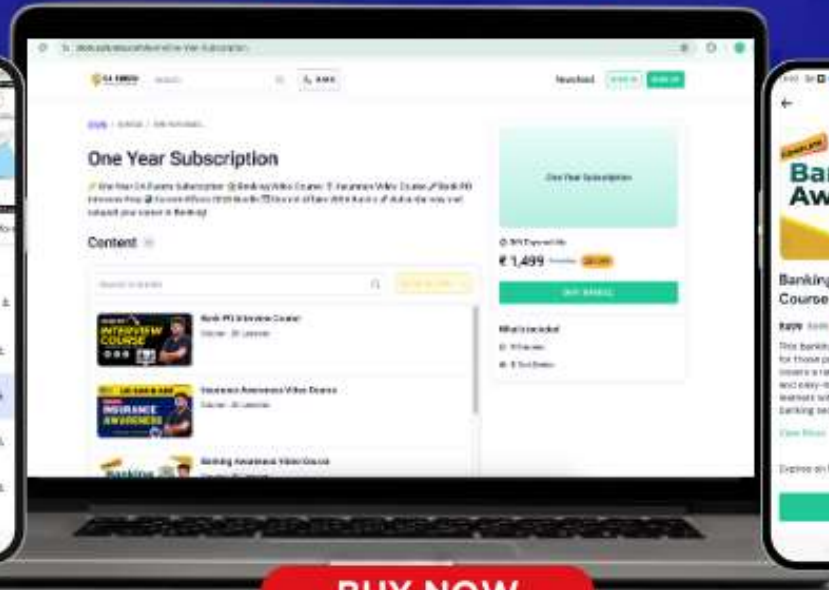
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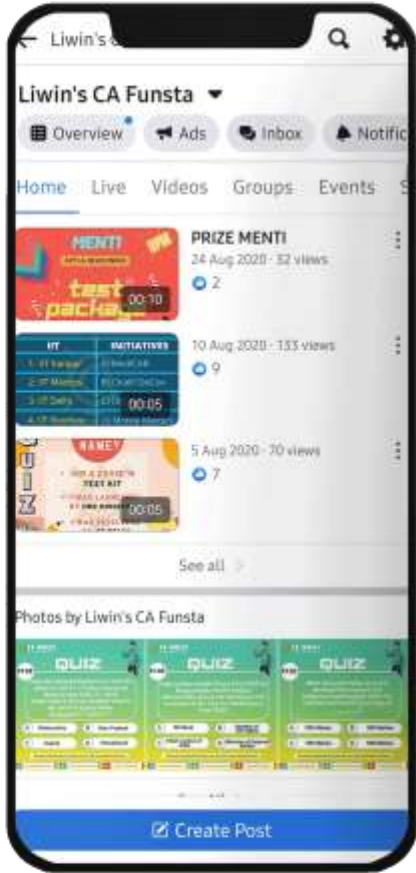
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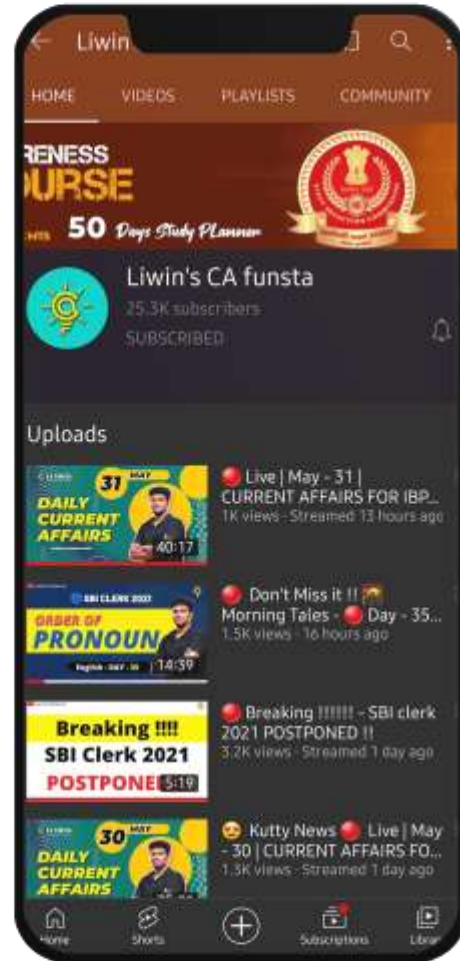


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