



# Daily Current Affairs

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

### India's Foreign Direct Investment Inflows Jump 73% to USD 47 Billion in 2025: UNCTAD

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows into India rose sharply by **73%** to **USD 47 billion** in **2025**, driven largely by investments in **manufacturing, services, digital infrastructure, IT, and R&D**.
- The **FDI surge** reflects strong **global investor confidence** and India's integration into **global supply chains**.
- **FDI inflows into China declined** for the third consecutive year, falling **8%** to **USD 107.5 billion**, highlighting a **shift in global capital flows**.
- At the **global level**, **FDI flows increased by 14%** to around **USD 1.6 trillion** in **2025**, though growth remained uneven across regions.
- The **United States** remained the **largest global FDI recipient**, mainly due to cross-border **mergers and acquisitions** in **technology and semiconductors**.
- **India** ranked among the **top 10 global recipients** of **data-centre investments**, alongside France, US, South Korea, Brazil, and Malaysia, highlighting India's growing role in the **global digital and AI ecosystem**.
- Total **greenfield investment** in **data centres** surpassed **USD 270 billion**, representing over **one-fifth** of all investment projects.
- **Greenfield investment** activity in **lower-income economies declined**, with the number of announcements falling **10%** and total value dropping **30%** to **USD 189 billion**.
- **Project finance activity** increased in Syria, Philippines, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan, but **declined in Egypt and India**.
- The bulk of **FDI growth in 2025** came through **greenfield investment**, especially in **data centres**, contrasting with the traditional dominance of international project finance in telecommunications.
- In **2025**, **FDI flows to developed economies rose by 43%** to **USD 728 billion**, while flows to **developing economies declined 2%** to **USD 877 billion**, accounting for **55%** of global flows.
- **Three-quarters** of **least-developed countries (LDCs)** experienced **stagnant or declining** FDI inflows.

#### FDI Inflows into India Up 73% at \$47B in '25: UNCTAD

**Our Bureau**

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India in 2025 surged 73% to \$47 billion, led by large investments in services and manufacturing and supported by policies aimed at integrating the economy into global supply chains, UNCTAD said in its Global Investment Trends Monitor.

Global FDI reached \$1.6 trillion in 2025, registering a 14% increase. Data centres drove much of the FDI trend in 2025, recording an increase of \$25 billion in greenfield announcements and \$30 billion in international project finance.

Greenfield investment activity in lower-income economies declined in both the number and value of announced projects, according to the report.

The number of greenfield announcements fell 10%, representing around 250 fewer projects than in 2024, largely due to declines in Asia, especially in Bangladesh and Cambodia. The total value of announced greenfield projects fell 30% to \$189 billion. Project finance activity increased in Syria, the Philippines, Vietnam and Uzbekistan, but declined in Egypt and India.

"An increase in flows of more than \$40 billion through several global financial centres played an important part," UNCTAD said.

FDI flows to developed economies increased 43% to \$728 billion, while flows to developing economies declined 2% to \$877 billion, or 55% of global flows.

"Three-quarters of the least-developed countries saw stagnant or declining inflows," it said.

### Reserve Bank of India Releases Report on State Finances 2025–26 Highlighting Demographic Transition Impacts

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the report "**State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025–26**", themed "**Demographic Transition in India – Implications for State Finances.**"
- The report assesses **State government finances** for **2025–26** using actual data for **2023–24** and revised/provisional estimates for **2024–25**.

- States' **consolidated gross fiscal deficit** rose to **3.3% of GDP** in **2024–25**, crossing the **3% mark** mainly due to **50-year interest-free loans** from the Centre under **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment**, and is budgeted at **3.3% again** in **2025–26**.
- **16 states** have budgeted for a **fiscal deficit of more than 3%** of their **GSDP** in **2025–26**, with **13** of them projecting it **higher than 3.5%**.
- **Capital expenditure** by States remained strong at **2.7% of GDP** in both **2023–24** and **2024–25**, supporting long-term growth, and is budgeted at **3.2% of GDP** in **2025–26**.
- The **consolidated outstanding liabilities** of States remained elevated with a **budget estimate of 29.2% of GDP** at end-March 2026.
- Indian States are at different stages of **demographic transition**, shaping their finances. **Youthful States** benefit from an **expanding working-age population** and **stronger revenue mobilisation**.
- **Ageing States** face **fiscal pressures** due to a **shrinking tax base** and **rising committed expenditure**, requiring reforms in **healthcare, pensions, and workforce policies**.
- **Intermediate States** need to balance **growth priorities** with early preparation for **ageing populations**.

**States' gross fiscal deficit topped 3% in FY 25 after three years: RBI report**

**By Anurag Chandra**  
New Delhi, January 25

States' consolidated gross fiscal deficit increased to 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024-25, after remaining below 3 per cent during the previous three financial years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report titled 'State Finances: A Study of Budgetary Operations'.

The 2024-25 state consolidated gross fiscal deficit of 3.3 per cent of GDP was higher than the previous year's 3.2 per cent, RBI said. The deficit was higher than the 3 per cent mark for the first time since 2019-20.

The RBI said that the increase in the deficit was mainly due to the 50-year interest-free loans from the Centre under special assistance to states for capital expenditure. This is also due to the central government's policy of raising the 2024-25 states' budgeted gross fiscal deficit of 3.3 per cent of GDP.

The report on capital expenditure report was released on a report released today at 3.2 per cent of GDP in 2024-25 and 2023-24. Consolidated outstanding liabilities of states declined to 29.1 per cent of GDP at end-March 2024, from a peak of 29.5 per cent in March 2023. The improvement reflects both fiscal consolidation efforts and financial discipline. The outstanding liabilities are budgeted to increase to 29.2 per cent of GDP by end-March 2026. It said.

The report also noted that the increase in the deficit was mainly due to the 50-year interest-free loans from the Centre under special assistance to states for capital expenditure. This is also due to the central government's policy of raising the 2024-25 states' budgeted gross fiscal deficit of 3.3 per cent of GDP.

The RBI said that the increase in the deficit was mainly due to the 50-year interest-free loans from the Centre under special assistance to states for capital expenditure. This is also due to the central government's policy of raising the 2024-25 states' budgeted gross fiscal deficit of 3.3 per cent of GDP.

**Recent News :**

- In Jan 2026, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026** to simplify and strengthen **grievance redressal** for customers of banks and financial institutions.

**Receivables Exchange of India Limited Becomes First TReDS Platform in India to Return Capital to Shareholders**

- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)**, a **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform, has declared and paid an **interim dividend of 21.6%** on the **face value** of its shares.
- **RXIL** has become the **first TReDS platform in India** to return capital to **stakeholders**, marking a **historic milestone** in the **Indian TReDS ecosystem**.
- **RXIL** received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval in **December 2016** and carried out its **first TReDS transaction** on **9 January 2017**.
- **RXIL** is a **joint venture** of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** and the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, with partner banks **State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and Yes Bank**.
- **RXIL** operates as a **digital platform** for **trade receivables financing**, supporting **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- **RXIL** is the **only TReDS platform in India** that permits **state government participation**, with **Goa and Tamil Nadu (TN)** governments actively involved.



## NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

### Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Marks 11 Years of Empowering the Girl Child

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** completed 11 years since its launch in January 22, 2015.
- The scheme was launched under the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** initiative to support the **education and marriage needs of the girl child**.
- SSY is a **small savings scheme** backed by the **Government of India**, offering **full security on principal and interest**.
- It allows **parents or legal guardians to open an account in the name of a girl child below 10 years of age**.
- The scheme encourages **long-term financial planning** through **high interest rates, tax benefits, and guaranteed returns**.
- The **current interest rate under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is 8.2% per annum**, revised by the government every quarter.
- **Interest is calculated monthly** based on the **lowest balance between the 5th and the end of each month**, but **credited annually**.
- SSY provides **EEE tax benefits (Exempt–Exempt–Exempt)** under the **old tax regime**.
- **Deposits qualify for deduction under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, up to **₹1.50 lakh per financial year**.
- **Interest earned and maturity amount are completely tax-free**.
- The **minimum annual deposit is ₹250**, while the **maximum deposit allowed is ₹1.50 lakh per financial year**.
- Deposits can be made in **lump sum or multiple instalments during the year**.
- **Contributions are required for 15 years** from the date of account opening.
- The **account matures after 21 years**, allowing interest accumulation for **6 additional years without further deposits**.
- If **₹1.50 lakh is invested every year for 15 years**, the **total investment amounts to ₹22.50 lakh**.
- At an **interest rate of 8.2% per annum**, the **maturity value after 21 years is approximately ₹71.82 lakh**, including about **₹49.32 lakh as interest**.
- For **maximum maturity benefit**, deposits should ideally be made between **April 1 and April 5 each year**.
- If investments are made **monthly at ₹12,500**, the maturity amount may reduce to around **₹69.33 lakh**.
- The **SSY account matures 21 years from the date of opening**, and the **entire amount can be withdrawn tax-free**.
- **Early closure is permitted only in special cases**, such as **marriage of the account holder or death**.
- In case of **marriage**, the account holder must be **at least 18 years old**, and closure is allowed **one month before or three months after marriage**.



- Required documents for marriage-related closure include **application, age proof, and declaration on non-judicial stamp paper.**
- In the **event of the account holder's death**, the account can be closed immediately upon submission of a **death certificate.**
- **Partial withdrawal up to 50% of the balance** (as of the previous financial year) is allowed for **education purposes.**
- Withdrawal is permitted once the girl child **turns 18 years old or passes Class 10**, whichever is earlier.
- Withdrawals can be made **as a lump sum or in instalments**, with **one withdrawal allowed per year for a maximum of five years.**
- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is considered a **smart investment option** due to **high returns, zero risk, tax savings, and long-term financial security** for the girl child.

### Gujarat Witnesses Launch of India's First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Unit at Sanand

- Gujarat marked a major milestone in India's space sector with the laying of the **foundation stone for India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing unit at Khoraj in Sanand, Gujarat.**
- The project represents a **significant step in boosting indigenous satellite production** and strengthening **India's private participation in space technology.**
- The advanced satellite manufacturing facility is being set up by **Azista Space.**
- The plant, named **Palmnaro**, is designed to enable **end-to-end satellite manufacturing under one roof.**
- The facility will focus on the production of **satellites and high-end electro-optical payloads.**
- The project aims to **reduce India's dependence on satellite and payload imports** and promote **local innovation in space technologies.**
- The foundation stone laying ceremony was held in the presence of **Gujarat's Minister for Science and Technology, Arjun Modhwadia**, reflecting strong **state government support for advanced manufacturing and space research.**
- Once operational, the **Palmnaro plant is expected to generate a large number of high-skilled technical jobs** in Gujarat.
- The facility will help **attract advanced investments**, encourage **research and development**, and support **startups linked to satellite and space technology.**
- The project is expected to give a strong boost to **high-tech aerospace manufacturing** in the state.
- With this development, **Gujarat is emerging as a key hub for space and aerospace industries** in India.



The foundation stone for the country's first integrated private satellite plant was laid at Khoraj in Sanand in Gujarat today, marking a significant milestone in India's space technology sector. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Electro-Optical payload factory of Azista Space was performed in the presence of Gujarat's Science and

### About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel

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- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **National Parks:** Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Marine National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

### RECENT NEWS

- Gujarat has taken a major step in strengthening preventive healthcare with the launch of a mobile cancer screening unit called 'Asha Van'. The unit was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar.

### Punjab Launches Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana for Free Cashless Healthcare

- The Punjab government has introduced the **Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana** to provide **free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family per year**.
- The scheme aims to ensure **affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare for all residents of Punjab**, without any income-based restrictions.
- The scheme was **officially launched in Mohali** by Punjab Chief Minister **Bhagwant Mann**, along with **AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal**.
- The initiative is expected to bring a **major transformation in Punjab's healthcare system**, benefiting people across all income groups.
- The scheme will cover **all 65 lakh families of Punjab**, benefiting nearly **three crore people**.
- Any **resident of Punjab** possessing either an **Aadhaar card** or a **Voter ID card** is eligible.
- There is **no income limit**, making it distinct from earlier health insurance schemes.
- Each family is entitled to **cashless treatment up to ₹10 lakh annually**.
- Treatment can be availed at **government hospitals** as well as **empanelled private hospitals**.
- Beneficiaries are **not required to pay any money upfront** for approved treatments.
- The scheme covers **more than 2,350 medical treatment packages**, significantly higher than previous schemes.
- Major treatments included are **cardiology, oncology, neurology, nephrology, orthopaedics, general medicine, urology**, and other **specialised medical services**.
- This ensures that even **high-cost and critical treatments** become affordable for the common public.
- Around **850 government and private hospitals** across Punjab have been empanelled under the scheme so far.



MOHALI: AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday rolled out the state government's ambitious 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' which will provide free cashless medical treatment of up to ₹10 lakh to every family in the state.

The universal healthcare cover will be provided to all 65 lakh families in the state. Any person who is a resident of Punjab and has an Aadhaar card and a voter card will be eligible to avail the benefits of this scheme. Over 2,500 medical procedures are covered under this

scheme, including both government and some private hospitals.

- The state government plans to **include more hospitals**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**, to improve healthcare access.
- **Health cards** will be issued to all eligible families to avail scheme benefits.
- These cards can be obtained through **facilitation centres, Common Service Centres (CSCs), and online registration**.
- **Youth club members** will assist families through **door-to-door support** in obtaining health cards.
- The Punjab government believes the scheme will **reduce financial stress**, ensure **timely medical treatment**, and significantly **improve health outcomes**.
- By removing income barriers and involving private hospitals, the scheme sets a **new benchmark for universal healthcare** and positions **Punjab as a model state in public health delivery**.

#### About Punjab:

- Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann
- Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary, Aishvan Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Bunerheri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Dosanjh Wildlife Sanctuary

#### RECENT NEWS

- Punjabi singer Kaka has launched a new mobile application called Friendo to enhance women's safety in India. The app focuses on providing quick emergency assistance and digital support tools for women and girls.

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Spain Finance Minister Jose Manuel Albares Visits India to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

- **Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, undertook a **one-day official visit to India** at the invitation of **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Minister of External Affairs (MEA), India.
- The visit coincided with the **70th anniversary of diplomatic relations** between India and Spain, which were established in **1956**, marking seven decades of bilateral ties.



#### Key Highlights :

- During the visit, **Jose Manuel Albares** held bilateral talks with **Dr. S. Jaishankar** at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**, reviewing cooperation in trade, investment, defence, culture, tourism and people-to-people relations.
- The Spanish Foreign Minister also met **President of India Droupadi Murmu** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, where both sides emphasized cooperation on global issues through multilateral platforms such as the **UN and G20**.

- **Spain formally joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** after presenting the **Declaration of Accession** to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during the visit.
- Following Spain's accession to **IPOI**, India and Spain upgraded their relationship to a **"Strategic Association"**, the **highest level of diplomatic partnership** accorded by India.
- Under the **Strategic Association**, both countries will enhance cooperation in **defence and maritime security**, trade and investment, **renewable energy**, infrastructure, technology, innovation, and multilateral forums such as the **UN, EU and G20**.
- The **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** was launched by the **Government of India in 2019** at the **East Asia Summit in Bangkok (Thailand)** to promote a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific, and it builds on India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** initiative launched in **2015**.
- **Jose Manuel Albares** and **Dr. S. Jaishankar** jointly unveiled the **logo** for the **India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations.
- The **India-Spain Dual Year logo** was selected from over **1,900 entries** received through an open competition.
- During the **India-Spain Dual Year**, both nations will organize cultural festivals, exhibitions, tourism promotion, **scientific and AI cooperation**, along with academic, business and people-to-people exchanges.
- The **Dual Year initiative** aims to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen **economic and technological cooperation** between India and Spain.

**Recent News :**

- In Jan 2026, **Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, unveiled the **logo, theme, and official website** of India's **BRICS Chairship 2026** at a launch ceremony in **New Delhi**.

**About Spain :**

- **Prime Minister : Pedro Sánchez**
- **Capital : Madrid**
- **Currency : Euro (EUR)**.

**United States President Donald Trump Launches Board of Peace Initiative at Davos to Promote Global Stability**

- **Donald Trump, President of the United States**, officially launched the **Board of Peace** initiative at the **World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland**, aimed at promoting **global geopolitical stability**.
- The **Board of Peace** will work in coordination with the **United Nations** and other international partners to **resolve global conflicts**.
- The initiative is linked to **Trump's second-phase peace plan for Gaza**, where the board is expected to oversee



### reconstruction and stability efforts.

- Trump proposed that participating countries contribute at least **\$1 billion each** towards **Gaza's reconstruction**, raising questions about funding and governance.
- Around **35 countries**, including **Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, and Belarus**, have agreed to join the initiative.
- **France declined**, the **UK is not joining** at present, **China has not clarified** its position, and **Russia is studying** the proposal.
- **India** has opted for a cautious **“wait and watch”** approach, choosing to **stay away** from the Board of Peace despite an invitation to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The **Board of Peace is chaired by Donald Trump** and includes prominent figures such as **Jared Kushner**, former UK Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, and US Secretary of State **Marco Rubio**.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Mozambique's Graca Machel Awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025

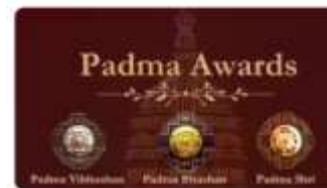
- **Graca Machel**, a renowned human rights activist from **Mozambique**, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025**.
- The award was announced by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust** in recognition of her **lifelong contributions to education, child welfare, women's empowerment, humanitarian work, peace, and social justice**, particularly in **conflict-affected regions**.
- The **Indira Gandhi Prize** is one of India's most prestigious international honours, awarded to individuals or organisations for **outstanding contributions to peace, development, and social justice**.
- The award carries a **cash prize of ₹1 crore**, along with a **trophy and a citation**.
- **Graca Machel was selected by an international jury** chaired by former **National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon**.
- In **1973**, Graca Machel returned to Mozambique and joined **FRELIMO (Mozambican Liberation Front)** as a **freedom fighter and teacher**.
- The **United Nations** appointed her to lead a landmark study on children affected by armed conflict.
- Her **1996 report**, **“The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children,”** reshaped international policies and strengthened protection mechanisms for children in war zones.
- For her global humanitarian efforts, she received the **UN Nansen Refugee Award** and was appointed **Honorary Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE)** in **1997**.
- Graca Machel is a **founding member of The Elders**, a group of global leaders working for **peace, justice, and human rights**.



- She also co-founded **Girls Not Brides**, an international NGO working to **end child marriage worldwide**.
- She is currently a member of the **UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocacy Group**.
- In **2010**, she established the **Graca Machel Trust**, focusing on **women's economic empowerment, food security, leadership, and good governance in Africa**.
- Graca Machel was married to **Samora Machel**, the first President of Mozambique, who died in **1986**.
- By conferring the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025** on Graca Machel, **India has honoured a global icon whose life's work represents peace, human dignity, and inclusive development**, continuing to inspire generations worldwide.

### Padma Awards 2026 Announced (Provisional List Released)

- Ahead of **Republic Day 2026**, a **provisional list of Padma Awards 2026 recipients** has been released, recognising individuals for **long-standing and sustained contributions** across diverse fields.
- The list highlights India's continued focus on **honouring grassroots changemakers and unsung heroes**, especially those working in **remote, rural, tribal, and underserved regions**.
- **Padma Awards** are among **India's highest civilian honours**, announced annually on **Republic Day** and **instituted in 1954** along with the **Bharat Ratna**.
- The awards are conferred in **three categories**:
  - **Padma Vibhushan** for **exceptional and distinguished service** (second-highest civilian award).
  - **Padma Bhushan** for **distinguished service of a high order** (third-highest civilian award).
  - **Padma Shri** for **distinguished service in any field** (fourth-highest civilian award).
- Originally named **Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg, and Tisra Varg**, the awards were **renamed in 1955** through a **Presidential notification**.
- These are **civilian (non-military) honours** and do **not confer any title**. The award name **cannot be used as a prefix or suffix**.
- The **Padma Awards 2026** continue the government's emphasis on recognising **service beyond the spotlight**, with many awardees having worked **quietly for decades at the grassroots level**.
- Contributions of the awardees span **healthcare delivery, education for the underprivileged, social work, sanitation, environmental sustainability, livelihood generation, preservation of traditional arts and heritage, medicine, science, sports, public affairs, literature, and civil service**.



NEW DELHI: Ahead of Republic Day, a provisional list of this year's Padma Awards has been released, as per sources. Those believed to be on the list are said to represent individuals with long-standing contributions across diverse fields.

The awardees are from varied regions, including remote and underserved areas, and many have worked at the grassroots level for decades. Their contributions span healthcare, education, livelihood generation, sanitation, environmental sustainability, and the preservation of traditional arts and heritage. Several are also said to belong to marginalised communities.

The awards are expected to continue the focus on the 'unsung heroes', recognising individuals whose sustained, often low-profile efforts have had a meaningful social impact. The official list is likely to be announced as part of the customary Republic Day honours.

- Several recipients reportedly belong to **marginalised communities**, reinforcing the **inclusive spirit** of the awards.
- The provisional list reflects **wide regional diversity**, with awardees drawn from **different states, cultures, and linguistic backgrounds**.
- Individuals from **remote and lesser-known regions** feature prominently, ensuring **decentralised national recognition** beyond urban centres.
- According to sources, the **provisional list includes 45 individuals**.
- Reported names include **Anke Gowda, Armida Fernandez, Bhagwandas Raikwar, Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda, Brij Lal Bhat, Budhri Tati, Charan Hembram, Chiranji Lal Yadav, Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya, Gafruddin Mewati Jogi, Hally War, Inderjit Singh Sidhu, K Pajanivel, Kailash Chandra Pant, Khem Raj Sundriyal, Kollakkayil Devaki Amma G, Kumarasamy Thangaraj, Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai, Mohan Nagar, Naresh Chandra Dev Varma, Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala, Nuruddin Ahmed, Othubar Thiruthani Swaminathan, Padma Gurmet, Pokhila Lekthepi, Punniamurthy Natesan, R Krishnan, Raghupat Singh, Raghuvver Tukaram Khedkar, Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar, Rama Reddy Mamidi, Ramchandra Godbole and Sunita Godbole, S G Susheelamma, Sangyusang S Pongener, Shafi Shauq, Shrirang Devaba Lad, Shyam Sundar, Simanchal Patro, Suresh Hanagavadi, Taga Ram Bheel, Techi Gubin, Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam, Vishwa Bandhu, and Yumnam Jatra Singh.**
- Inclusion of a **husband–wife duo (Ramchandra Godbole and Sunita Godbole)** reflects recognition of **joint social contribution**.
- The **official categorisation** of awardees into **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri** will be announced with the **final list**.
- **Eligibility criteria** allow **all individuals irrespective of race, gender, occupation, or position** to be nominated.
- **Government servants are generally not eligible**, except **doctors and scientists employed by the government**.
- **Posthumous awards are usually not given**, but may be allowed in **highly deserving cases**.
- A **minimum gap of five years** is required for consideration of a **higher Padma award**, though relaxation is permitted in **exceptional cases**.
- **Public nominations and self-nominations are allowed**, making the process inclusive and participatory.
- The **Padma Awards Committee**, constituted **annually by the Prime Minister** and headed by the **Cabinet Secretary**, evaluates nominations.
- Recommendations are submitted to the **Prime Minister and the President of India**, with **final approval by the President**.
- The award ceremony is usually held in **March or April**, and recipients receive a **Sanad (certificate) and a medallion**.
- There is an **annual cap of 120 awards**, excluding **posthumous awards, Non-Resident Indians, foreign nationals, and Overseas Citizens of India**.

- Overall, the **Padma Awards 2026** underline India's commitment to **recognising excellence, selfless service, inclusive development, and grassroots nation-building**, making the topic **highly important** for IBPS Current Affairs examination preparation.

### MOUS AND AGREEMENT

#### Goa Government Signs MoU with Starlink to Boost Digital Connectivity and Disaster Preparedness

- The **Goa government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Starlink Satellite Communications**, led by **Elon Musk**, to strengthen **digital connectivity**, expand **internet access in remote areas**, enhance **disaster resilience**, and improve **emergency response and smart governance** across the state.
- The MoU was signed between the **Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C), Goa**, and **Starlink**.
- The partnership aims to provide **faster, reliable and wider digital access** to citizens, public services, and key infrastructure in Goa.
- The partnership will **improve public services** through better and uninterrupted connectivity.
- It aims to **bridge the digital divide** by ensuring **internet access in remote and underserved areas**.
- Improved connectivity is expected to **promote tourism, investment, and talent growth**, making Goa more digitally competitive.
- Under the MoU, both parties will collaborate to provide **digital connectivity** in areas with **weak or no terrestrial networks**, including **schools, healthcare centres, and disaster management locations**.
- The agreement focuses on strengthening **disaster preparedness** by ensuring **reliable communication systems** during emergencies.
- It will support **smart governance** by enabling **technology-driven public services** and improved infrastructure development.
- The MoU includes **training and capacity building** programmes for **government staff and local communities** to enhance effective use of digital tools.
- **Starlink services have not yet been officially launched in India**, but the company plans to offer satellite internet at **₹8,600 per month**, with a **one-time hardware kit cost of ₹34,000**.
- The satellite-based service is designed to provide connectivity in regions where **traditional internet services are unreliable or unavailable**.
- Through this partnership, the Goa government aims to position the state as a **model of digital transformation**, improve **citizen welfare**, boost **economic growth**, and build a **resilient, technology-driven ecosystem** for the future.



In a move aimed at strengthening digital infrastructure and connectivity across the State, the Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C), Government of Goa, on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited.

## Uttarakhand Government Signs MoU with ITBP Under 'Swasth Seema Abhiyan' to Strengthen Healthcare in Border Areas

- The Uttarakhand government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** under a new initiative named '**Swasth Seema Abhiyan**' to improve healthcare facilities in **remote border villages** of the state.
- The MoU was signed in the **presence of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** at his residence. **Health Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat** and **Cabinet Minister Saurabh Bahuguna** were also present, along with senior officials from the **state government and ITBP**.
- Under this initiative, **integrated primary healthcare services** will be provided to **108 border villages** located in **Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts**, which are **difficult and hard-to-reach areas**.
- The programme will be implemented in **phases**, starting with the **most remote villages**.
- As per the agreement, **ITBP Headquarters (Northern Frontier), Dehradun** will act as the **first party**, while the **Medical Health and Family Welfare Department, Uttarakhand** will be the **second party**.
- **ITBP** will deploy **trained doctors and paramedical staff** in the border villages and provide medical services through **existing MI rooms and telemedicine facilities**.
- **Regular medical visits** will be conducted in selected villages, **health cards** will be issued to beneficiaries, and **medical records** will be maintained.
- **ITBP** will be responsible for **management of medical equipment, medicines and consumables**.
- The **state government** will initially provide **essential medical equipment** and ensure the **continuous supply of medicines every six months**.
- Since **November 2024**, **ITBP** has been purchasing local produce on a **trial basis**, with **full-scale procurement starting from March 2025**.
- So far, **local purchases worth ₹11.94 crore** have been made.
- Overall, **Swasth Seema Abhiyan** reflects the state government's focus on **strengthening healthcare, boosting the rural economy**, and ensuring **long-term development of border villages** through close coordination with the **ITBP**.



Dehradun: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Uttarakhand govt and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) under the Swasth Seema Abhiyan at the chief minister's residence on Thursday, aimed at providing integrated primary healthcare services to civilians in 108 border villages across Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts.

"The Swasth Seema Abhiyan is a significant step towards improving the living standards of people residing in border areas. It will not only strengthen healthcare facilities but also promote trust, security and stability in border villages. The govt is committed to the overall development of border areas, and this MoU is an important step in that direction," Dhami said.

## DEFENCE NEWS

### Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Unveils Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

- **General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, released the **Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework** in **New Delhi**, providing a comprehensive policy roadmap for adopting quantum technologies across the **Indian Army (IA)**, **Indian Navy (IN)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

- The document was unveiled in the presence of **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi (CNS)**, **General Upendra Dwivedi (COAS)**, **Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh (CAS)** and **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (CIDS)**, highlighting **tri-service commitment** to quantum capability development.
- The **Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework** is aligned with the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** and aims to ensure **technological superiority**, **secure communications**, and **future-ready defence operations**.
- The framework emphasizes **civil–military cooperation**, creation of **dedicated governing bodies**, and close coordination among the armed forces for **seamless integration** of quantum technologies.



### Key Highlights :

- The policy is structured around **four core pillars: Quantum Communication, Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing & Metrology, and Quantum Materials & Devices**.
- **Quantum Communication** enables **ultra-secure communication** using quantum mechanics, crucial for **battlefield communications, command-and-control systems, and secure data transfer**.
- **Quantum Computing** uses **qubits** to deliver **high-speed computation**, supporting **cryptography, logistics planning, simulations, data analysis, and defence against advanced cyber threats**.
- **Quantum Sensing & Metrology** allows **high-precision detection** and navigation, enhances **stealth threat detection**, improves **battlefield awareness**, and supports **quantum-enabled inertial navigation** when **GPS** is unavailable.
- **Quantum Materials and Devices** focus on **next-generation materials** with quantum properties to improve the performance, durability, and capability of **defence hardware** across computing, sensing and communication systems.
- The **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** was launched by the **Government of India (GoI)** in **2023** with a financial outlay of **₹6,003.65 crore** for **2023-24 to 2030-31**.
- **NQM** is led by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** under the **Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T)** to advance quantum research, development and applications nationwide.
- The mission targets development of **intermediate-scale quantum computers** with **50–1,000 physical qubits** over the next **8 years** using multiple quantum technology platforms.
- **NQM** implementation follows a **hub-and-spoke model** through **four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)** located at **IISc Bengaluru, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, and IIT Delhi**, strengthening India's quantum ecosystem for strategic and civilian applications.

### Indian Army Performs India's First 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent at Army Hospital Delhi Cantt

- **Indian Army** achieved a major medical milestone as the **Ophthalmology Department, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt** successfully performed **India's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent**, marking a breakthrough in **advanced glaucoma care**.
- The pioneering procedure combined **advanced real-time imaging** with **Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)**, placing the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** at the forefront of global ophthalmic innovation.
- The surgery was led by **Brigadier Dr. Sanjay Mishra**, Head of Ophthalmology, and utilised a **stand-mounted Spectralis imaging system** along with a **state-of-the-art 3D operating microscope** for enhanced precision.
- **3D Flex Aqueous Angiography** enables **real-time visualisation of aqueous humour outflow pathways**, allowing surgeons to perform highly **targeted and precise interventions** in glaucoma patients.
- The **iStent**, a **microscopic implant**, improves **aqueous fluid drainage** and helps reduce **intraocular pressure**, which is critical in managing **glaucoma**, a leading cause of **irreversible blindness**.
- This **first-of-its-kind procedure in India** sets a new benchmark in **glaucoma diagnosis and treatment**, offering better **intraoperative imaging**, improved **surgical accuracy**, and enhanced **long-term patient outcomes**.
- **Glaucoma**, known for its **silent progression**, often leads to late diagnosis; the introduction of this technology allows **earlier detection** of blocked drainage channels and slows disease progression.
- Following the success, **AFMS** will procure the same advanced system for **Command Hospital, Lucknow**, which serves around **3.5 lakh patients** across six states and Nepal.
- The expansion of this technology will significantly strengthen **advanced glaucoma care**, benefiting **defence personnel, veterans, and civilian patients**, while also enhancing **operational readiness** of the Armed Forces.

India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent performed by Army Hospital (Research & Referral)

Published on: 01/20/2025 11:00AM by PWS/AS/AS

For a landmark achievement in India's ophthalmology, the Ophthalmology Department of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt has successfully performed India's first-ever 3D Flex aqueous angiography with iStent, combining advanced imaging with minimally-invasive glaucoma surgery. It utilized state-of-the-art stand-mounted Spectralis system and a state-of-the-art 3D operating microscope, and pioneering procedure places the Armed Forces Medical Services at the forefront of global ophthalmology.



#### About Indian Army :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** : General Upendra Dwivedi

#### Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Indian Army Inaugurate Foundation of Helicopter MRO Hub at Missamari, Assam

- **P.B. Rangarao**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Helicopter Complex, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), along with the **General Officer Commanding (GOC), Gajraj Corps**, laid the **foundation stone** for HAL's **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub** at **Missamari, Assam**.



- The new **MRO facility** will reduce **repair turnaround time**, streamline **logistics support**, and provide sustained **maintenance support** to **Indian Army (IA) aviation** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- The proposed **MRO hub** is expected to enhance **combat readiness** in the region and represents a **major milestone** in bolstering **indigenous aerospace support infrastructure**.
- The initiative aligns with the **Government of India (GoI)**'s vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliance)** and reaffirms the **IA's commitment to self-reliance, operational excellence, and long-term capability collaboration** with the **defence public sector industry**.

### Ministry of Defence Signs Rs 4,666 Crore Deals for Close Quarter Battle Carbines and Heavyweight Torpedoes

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed contracts worth **Rs 4,666 crore** for the procurement of **Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine** and **Heavy Weight Torpedoes** in New Delhi, in the presence of **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.
- The **CQB Carbine** contract, valued at **Rs 2,770 crore**, covers over **4.25 lakh carbines** with accessories for the **Indian Army and Indian Navy**, signed with **Bharat Forge Ltd** and **PLR Systems Pvt Ltd**.
- The **CQB Carbine** provides **high lethality** in close combat, with a **compact design** and **high rate of fire**, replacing **legacy systems** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- The project strengthens **Make-in-India** initiative, boosts **indigenous defence industries**, empowers **MSMEs**, and creates **employment opportunities**.
- The **Heavy Weight Torpedoes** contract, valued at **Rs 1,896 crore**, covers **48 torpedoes** with associated equipment for **Kalvari Class Submarines (P-75)** of the Indian Navy, signed with **WASS Submarine Systems S.R.L., Italy**.
- The **torpedoes** will enhance **combat capabilities**, feature **advanced technology**, and are scheduled for **delivery from April 2028 to early 2030**.
- In **FY 2025-26**, the **Ministry of Defence** signed **capital contracts** worth **Rs 1,82,492 crore** for the **modernisation** of the Armed Forces.
- These contracts reflect **Government commitment to indigenous technology, operational readiness, and advanced capabilities** for the **Indian Army and Indian Navy**.



### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### IndusInd Bank Names Former SBI MD Arijit Basu as Chairman Following Sunil Mehta's Exit

- **Arijit Basu** has been appointed as **part-time Chairman** of **IndusInd Bank**, effective **January 31, 2026**, succeeding **Sunil Mehta** after the completion of his tenure.

- **Arijit Basu** has over **42 years of banking experience**, including **37 years with State Bank of India (SBI)**, and retired as **Managing Director of SBI** in **2020**.
- He previously served as **MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance**, **Chief General Manager** at SBI, and **CEO of SBI's Japan operations** in Tokyo.
- Prior to this appointment, Basu was **Chairman of HDB Financial Services** but stepped down due to **conflict-of-interest norms**, as **IndusInd Bank** is promoted by **HDFC entities**.
- **IndusInd Bank** underwent a **leadership transition** following **accounting discrepancies**, leading to the resignation of senior executives and the appointment of **Rajiv Anand** as **MD & CEO** in **August 2025**.
- **Sunil Mehta**, chairman since **January 2023**, informed the board of his desire to step down at the end of his term.
- The chairman's exit follows the bank's **largest-ever quarterly loss** in **FY25** due to a **\$230-million scandal** involving former CEO **Sumant Kathpalia** and deputy **Arun Khurana**, who have since left the company.
- Post-scandal, **IndusInd Bank** appointed a new **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**, **Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)**, and several other senior executives, marking a significant **senior leadership restructuring**.

**Veteran SBI banker Arijit Basu to chair IndusInd Bank**



**About IndusInd Bank:**

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **Founded Year:** 1994
- **Slogan:** "We Make You Feel Richer"

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Zoological Survey of India Unveils New Rare Caecilian Species in Northern Western Ghats**

- A team of scientists led by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Western Regional Centre, Pune** discovered a new **subterranean amphibian species** named **Gegeneophis valmiki** in the **northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra**, marking the first discovery in the **genus Gegeneophis** in over a **decade**.
- The findings were published in the international journal **Phyllomedusa**.
- The species was first collected in **2017** by **K P Dinesh**, senior scientist at **ZSI**, during surveys on the **Valmiki Plateau** in **Satara district, Maharashtra**.
- **Gegeneophis valmiki** is a **blind caecilian** belonging to the family **Grandisoniidae** under the order **Gymnophiona**.



- It is a **limbless, worm-like amphibian** about **160 mm long** with **dark bluish-grey skin, ring-like annuli**, and **eyes concealed beneath bone** as a **fossorial adaptation**.
- The species inhabits **underground soil and humus** at the base of **lateritic plateaus** in the **Satara region** of the **Western Ghats**.
- Named after the **Maharshi Valmiki Mandir** near **Paneri, Palashi (Maharashtra)**, the species **aerates soil** by burrowing, controls **soil invertebrates**, and serves as **prey** for birds, reptiles, and small mammals.

**OBITUARIES**

**East Bengal and Former India Defender Ilyas Pasha Passed Away at 61 in Bengaluru**

- Former **Indian football team defender** and **East Bengal legend Ilyas Pasha** passed away at the age of **61** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

**About Ilyas Pasha :**

- He was born in **1964** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- He began his career in **Bengaluru** and played as a **disciplined right wing-back**, noted for **tactical awareness**, calm demeanour, excellent timing, and strong **reading of the game**.
- He made his **international debut** for India on **27 January 1987** against **Bulgaria** in the **Nehru Cup** at **Kozhikode, Kerala** and earned **eight caps**, featuring in the **Nehru Cup (1987, 1991), SAF Games (1991), and Asian Cup qualifiers (1992)**.
- Domestically, he played for **Vinayaka Football Club** and **Indian Telephone Industries**, represented **Karnataka** in the **Santosh Trophy (1987–1989)**, and later won the trophy with **Bengal** in **1993 and 1995**.
- He joined **East Bengal in 1990**, captained the side in **1993–94**, and was part of the club's **golden era (1990–1998)**.
- With **East Bengal**, he won **five Calcutta Football League titles, five IFA Shields, four Durand Cups, Federation Cup, Super Cup (1996–97), and the Wai Wai Cup (1993)**.
- He **captained East Bengal** to its **first international title** at the **Wai Wai Cup in 1993**, highlighting his leadership qualities.
- He was a member of **East Bengal's Triple Crown-winning team in 1990**.
- In recognition of his immense contribution to Indian football, he was honoured with **East Bengal's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012**, cementing his legacy in the sport.

Former India defender Ilyas Pasha passes away



**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**National Tourism Day 2026 – 25 January**

- **National Tourism Day** is observed on **25th January** each year in India.

- The day is dedicated to **appreciating tourists who visit India**, experiencing its **culture, heritage, traditions, and cuisine**.
- **National Tourism Day was established by the Indian government** to highlight the importance of tourism in national development.
- The observance aims to **raise awareness about the social, economic, cultural, and political significance of tourism**.
- The Ministry works in **collaboration with public sector undertakings and central government organizations** to implement tourism policies and promote India as a global travel destination.
- National Tourism Day celebrates **India's rich cultural heritage** and seeks to encourage citizens and international visitors to **explore and contribute to the country's tourism sector**.



### National Voters Day 2026 – 25 January

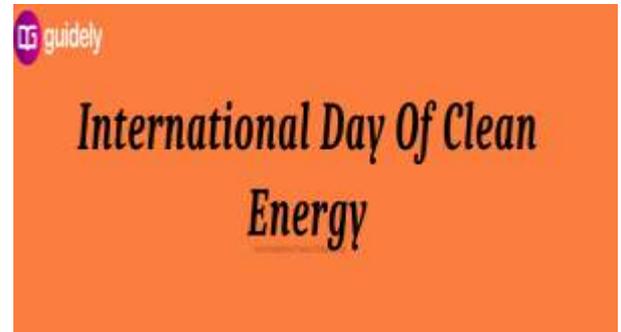
- **National Voters Day 2026 is observed on 25th January** across India.
- The day is celebrated to **honour Indian citizens who exercise their right to vote** during elections.
- It aims to **encourage informed, voluntary, and ethical voting**, especially among **young and first-time voters**.
- The observance highlights the importance of **active citizen participation in strengthening Indian democracy**.
- The **theme for National Voters' Day 2026 is "My India, My Vote"**, reflecting democratic responsibility.
- The **tagline is "Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy"**, emphasizing voter-centric democratic values.
- **The Election Commission of India (ECI)**, the constitutional body responsible for conducting elections, was **established in 1950**.
- **January 25 marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India**, which is why National Voters Day is observed on this date.
- National Voters Day was **first observed in 2011** to promote electoral participation, particularly among youth.
- One of the **primary objectives of the ECI is to promote voter registration**, especially among **eligible and new voters**.
- The day serves as a reminder of **India's democratic values and the fundamental right to vote**.
- Earlier, the **voting age in India was 21 years**.
- The **voting age was reduced to 18 years in 1988** to expand democratic participation.



- This change was brought through the **Sixty-First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988**, which enabled **citizens aged 18 and above to vote**.

### International Day of Clean Energy 2026 – 26 January

- **The first-ever International Day of Clean Energy** is observed on **26th January 2026**.
- The day was **declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** to promote awareness and action for a **just and inclusive transition to clean energy**, benefiting both people and the planet.
- **26th January also marks the founding day of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**.
- The UNGA adopted **resolution A/RES/77/327 on 25 August 2023**, officially establishing 26 January as the International Day of Clean Energy to be observed annually.
- **2026 is the first year** this day is being observed, making it a historic milestone in global clean energy advocacy.



### Republic Day 2026 – 26 January

- **Republic Day is observed on 26th January** every year in India.
- **Republic Day 2026 marks the 77th Republic Day** of the country.
- The day **commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950**, officially making India a republic.
- Although India gained independence from British rule on 15 August 1947, it **became a sovereign republic only when the Constitution came into force in 1950**.
- The Constitution was **adopted by the Constituent Assembly**, which had its **first session on 9 December 1946** and **final session on 26 November 1949**.
- **Dr B.R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee** of the Constitution.
- Republic Day **also coincides with Constitution Day**, highlighting the significance of India's fundamental legal framework.
- The day **celebrates the spirit of independence and democratic governance**.
- On 26 January 1930, the **Indian National Congress declared Purna Swaraj**, or complete independence, laying the foundation for Republic Day.
- Republic Day **honours the rights of Indian citizens to elect a government democratically** and is observed as a **national holiday to celebrate the Constitution and the republic status of India**.



### International Customs Day 2026 – 26 January

- **International Customs Day 2026 is observed on 26th January** every year.

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- The day was **first initiated in 1983 by the World Customs Organization (WCO)**.
- It is observed to **honour customs officials and customs organisations** who work continuously to ensure **efficient management of global trade and cross-border commerce**.
- Customs officials play a crucial role in **facilitating smooth cross-border trade transactions**, ensuring security, compliance, and trade efficiency.
- The observance also highlights the need to **place people at the core of customs transformation processes**, focusing on modernisation and service delivery.
- The origins of the global customs framework date back to **1948**, when the **European Customs Union Study Group (ECUSG)** was established by the **Committee for European Economic Cooperation**.
- The ECUSG was formed to **examine the feasibility of creating one or more inter-European customs unions**.
- To improve the effectiveness of customs administrations worldwide, the **Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)** was established in **1952**.
- The **first session of the CCC was held on 26 January 1953**, with **17 founding member countries** participating.
- In **1983**, the CCC officially **instituted International Customs Day** to commemorate its first session.
- With expansion beyond Europe and growing global membership, the **Customs Cooperation Council was renamed the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1994**.
- The **headquarters of the World Customs Organization is located in Brussels, Belgium**.



#### Daily CA One- Liner: January 25 & 26

- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)** completed **11 years since its launch in January 22, 2015**
- **Gujarat marked a major milestone in India's space sector** with the laying of the **foundation stone for India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing unit at Khoraj in Sanand, Gujarat**
- The **Punjab government** has introduced the **Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana** to provide **free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family per year**
- **Graca Machel**, a renowned **human rights activist from Mozambique**, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025**
- Ahead of **Republic Day 2026**, a **provisional list of Padma Awards 2026 recipients** has been released, recognising individuals for **long-standing and sustained contributions** across diverse fields

- The **Goa government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Starlink Satellite Communications**, led by **Elon Musk**, to strengthen **digital connectivity**, expand **internet access in remote areas**, enhance **disaster resilience**, and improve **emergency response and smart governance** across the state
- The **Uttarakhand government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** under a new initiative named '**Swasth Seema Abhiyan**' to improve healthcare facilities in **remote border villages** of the state.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows into India rose sharply by **73%** to **USD 47 billion** in **2025**, driven largely by investments in **manufacturing, services, digital infrastructure, IT, and R&D**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the report "**State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025–26**", themed "**Demographic Transition in India – Implications for State Finances.**"
- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)**, a **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform, has declared and paid an **interim dividend of 21.6%** on the **face value** of its shares.
- **Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, undertook a **one-day official visit to India** at the invitation of **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Minister of External Affairs (MEA), India.
- **Donald Trump, President of the United States**, officially launched the **Board of Peace** initiative at the **World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland**, aimed at promoting **global geopolitical stability**.
- **General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, released the **Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework** in **New Delhi**, providing a comprehensive policy roadmap for adopting quantum technologies across the **Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- **Indian Army** achieved a major medical milestone as the **Ophthalmology Department, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt** successfully performed **India's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent**, marking a breakthrough in **advanced glaucoma care**.
- **P.B. Rangarao, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Helicopter Complex, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, along with the **General Officer Commanding (GOC), Gajraj Corps**, laid the **foundation stone** for **HAL's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub** at **Missamari, Assam**.
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- **Arijit Basu** has been appointed as **part-time Chairman of IndusInd Bank**, effective **January 31, 2026**, succeeding **Sunil Mehta** after the completion of his tenure.
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**Gegeneophis valmiki** in the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra, marking the first discovery in the genus **Gegeneophis** in over a decade.

- Former Indian football team defender and East Bengal legend Ilyas Pasha passed away at the age of 61 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- National Tourism Day is observed on 25th January each year in India.
- National Voters Day 2026 is observed on 25th January across India.
- The first-ever International Day of Clean Energy is observed on 26th January 2026
- Republic Day is observed on 26th January every year in India.
- International Customs Day 2026 is observed on 26th January every year.

