

# IACE

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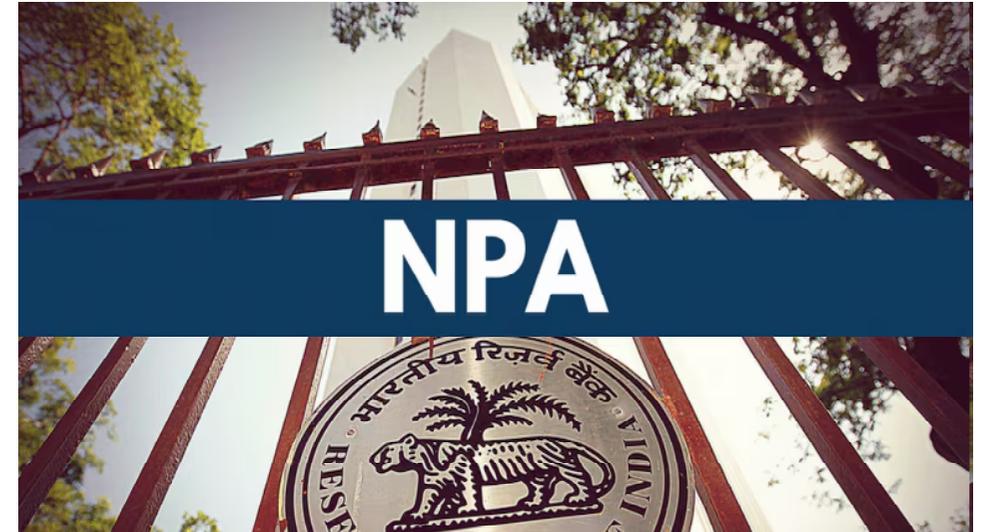
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## RBI Data: India's Banking Sector Hits 20-Year NPA Low; Records Strongest Profit Surge

- ✓ India's banking sector has achieved a historic milestone, recording its lowest level of Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) in 20 years, which declined from 11.46% (in 2018) to 2.31% (by March 2025), the lowest in 20 years.
- ✓ Similarly, Net NPA (NNPA) ratio dropped its lowest in the last 2 decades i.e. to 0.52% compared to 6.1% (in 2018), driven by stronger provision buffers.
- ✓ As per the official data, GNPAs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) declined from 9.11% (March 2021) to 2.58% (March 2025).
- ✓ Likewise, the GNPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reduced from 7.33% to 2.22% during the same time period.
- ✓ The data showed that domestic deposits and credits have nearly tripled in the last 10 years, with deposits increasing from Rs 88.35 lakh crore (2015) to Rs 231.90 lakh crore (2025) and credit rising from Rs 66.91 lakh crore (2015) to Rs 181.34 lakh crore (2025).
- ✓ Capital to Risk Weighted Assets (CRAR): It increased from 12.94% (in March 2015) to 17.36% (in March 2025).



- ✓ The total business of PSBs increased from Rs 203 lakh crore in Financial Year 22-23 (FY23) to Rs 252 lakh crore (FY25).
- ✓ The net profit of these banks surged from Rs 1.05 lakh crore to Rs 1.78 lakh crore during the same time period.
- ✓ SCBs registered their highest ever aggregate net profit of Rs 4.01 lakh crore (in FY25) over Rs 3.5 lakh crore (in FY24).

## Sberbank, JSC First Asset Management introduce First-India mutual fund offering Russian investors access to Nifty50 equities

- ✓ Sberbank and JSC First Asset Management have launched a new mutual fund, FirstIndia, providing Russian retail investors exposure to India's equity market via the Nifty50 Index.
- ✓ The fund was unveiled during Sberbank CEO Herman Gref's visit to India, at an event hosted by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- ✓ The product offers a direct route for Russian investors to participate in the growth of India's largest and most liquid companies
- ✓ The Nifty50 Index, launched in 1996, comprises 50 major stocks across 15 sectors and is among the world's most widely tracked indices, with 45+ passive funds in India and 22 overseas funds linked to it.
- ✓ NSE MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan



## Cabinet Nod to Atomic Energy Bill Unlocks Opportunities for Private Nuclear Projects

- ✓ The government approved a Bill that seeks to open up the tightly controlled civil nuclear power sector for private participation as India eyes 100 GW atomic energy capacity by 2047.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, marking a major policy shift by opening India's tightly regulated nuclear power sector to private participation.
- ✓ A central feature of the Bill is the amendment of India's civil nuclear liability framework.
- ✓ It seeks to shield plant operators and cap the liability of equipment suppliers, addressing long-standing concerns that have deterred private and foreign investment.
- ✓ Operator insurance cover is proposed to be redesigned at Rs. 1,500 crore per incident through the Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool.



- ✓ The bill proposes allowing up to 49% foreign direct investment and creating a unified legal framework for atomic energy, including a specialised nuclear tribunal.
- ✓ FM Nirmala Sitharaman had announced govt's intent to open the sector to private participation in her Feb Budget speech.
- ✓ She had also unveiled a Nuclear Energy Mission with Rs 20,000 crore for R&D on small modular reactors (SMRs), and a plan to operationalise five indigenously developed SMRs by 2033.

# World Inequality Report 2026

- ✓ Global inequality is extremely high across income, wealth, gender, education, and climate impact.
- ✓ Top **10% own 75% of global wealth**; bottom **50% own only 2%**.
- ✓ The richest **0.001% (about 60,000 people)** own **3 times more wealth than half of humanity**.

## Education gap:

- ✓ Sub-Saharan Africa: **€220 per child**
- ✓ Europe: **€7,430**
- ✓ North America & Oceania: **€9,020**

## Climate inequality:

- ✓ Richest 10% cause **77% of emissions** linked to private wealth
- ✓ Poorest 50% cause only **3%**

## Gender inequality:

- ✓ Women work **53 hours/week**, men **43 hours/week**
- ✓ Women earn only **61% of men's hourly income** when unpaid work is excluded



## **Key Findings for India**

### **Income inequality:**

- ✓ Top 10% earn **58% of total income**
- ✓ Bottom 50% earn only **15%**

### **Wealth inequality:**

- ✓ Top 10% own **65% of wealth**
- ✓ Top 1% alone owns **40%**

### **Female workforce participation:**

- ✓ Only **15.7%**, among the lowest globally

### **Average living standards:**

- ✓ Average income: **€6,200 per year (PPP)**
- ✓ Average wealth: **€28,000 (PPP)**

## Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty becomes first woman President of Press Club of India

- ✓ Senior journalist Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty has been elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India (PCI), marking a historic milestone in India's media institutions.
- ✓ Her election reflects a significant shift in leadership representation within the journalist fraternity in New Delhi.
- ✓ Pisharoty's panel achieved a clean sweep, winning all office-bearers and managing committee posts with a 21-0 mandate in the Press Club elections
- ✓ Along with her election as President, Afzal Imam was elected Secretary General and Jatin Gandhi became Vice-President.
- ✓ Aditi Rajput was elected Treasurer and P. R. Sunil as Joint Secretary, both elected unopposed.
- ✓ The Managing Committee consists of 16 members from print, digital, and broadcast media, ensuring diverse representation
- ✓ The election is widely seen as a landmark for gender representation in Indian media leadership



## Bihar to Build India's First Power Museum in Patna

- ✓ Bihar is set to develop the country's first power museum at the decommissioned Karbigahiya Thermal Power Station in Patna.
- ✓ This is going to be India's first and the world's fourth such museum and it will be built at a cost of approximately Rs. 200 crore.

### **Karbigahia Power Plant:**

- ✓ It was built by the British in 1930 to supply electricity to Patna. It was the main source of energy for the Governor House, Patna High Court, Legislature, Secretariat, hospitals, VIP residences, and other parts of the city.
- ✓ The Karbigahia Power Plant was coal-based. It generated electricity with the help of five turbines. A 126-foot-high chimney or cooling tower expelled the smoke released as a byproduct of electricity generation. It was shut down in 1984



## Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Tool 2025

- ✓ The 2025 Stanford **Global AI Vibrancy Tool** measures how prepared countries are for AI, using data up to **2024**.
  - ✓ It evaluates countries across **7 pillars**:
    - Research & Development
    - Responsible AI
    - Economy
    - Talent
    - Policy & Governance
    - Public Opinion
    - Infrastructure
  - ✓ **36 countries** are fully ranked; data for **67 countries** is included for selected indicators.
- India's Performance:**
- ✓ India scored **21.59** in the **2024 Global AI Vibrancy Index**.
  - ✓ Ranked **3rd globally**, up from **7th in 2023**.



### **Ranked ahead of:**

- ✓ South Korea (**17.24**)
- ✓ United Kingdom (**16.64**)

### **India performed strongly in:**

- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Economic competitiveness
- ✓ Improvement credited to **new initiatives strengthening India's AI ecosystem.**

### **Key Highlights:**

- ✓ The **United States** ranks **1st globally** with a score of **78.60** in the Global AI Vibrancy Index.
- ✓ **China** ranks **2nd globally** with a score of **36.95**.
- ✓ Notable AI models include **Gemini 2.0 Pro, o1, and Llama 3.1** developed in the **US**, and **DeepSeek** developed in **China**.

## Reserve Bank of India Updates Rules on Carrying Indian Currency To and From Nepal and Bhutan

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised directions to modify rules on the export and import of Indian currency to and from Nepal and Bhutan.
- ✓ Under the new rules, any person except citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh may carry Indian currency notes up to Rs. 100 denomination without limit while travelling to/from Nepal or Bhutan.
- ✓ Individuals are allowed to take out of India Indian currency above Rs. 100 denominations up to Rs. 25,000 to Nepal or Bhutan.
- ✓ Travellers may bring into India from Nepal or Bhutan Indian currency above Rs. 100 denominations up to Rs. 25,000.
- ✓ Authorised Persons have been directed to inform customers and stakeholders about the revised provisions.
- ✓ The amendments were notified via FEMA (Export and Import of Currency) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, published in the Official Gazette on 2 December 2025.



## Team MRF Tyres has been given the 2025 FIA European Rally Championship team title

- ✓ The team was officially awarded the title at the FIA Awards Gala.
- ✓ The ceremony marked the end of the 2025 European Rally Championship season.
- ✓ Arun Mammen represented Team MRF Tyres at the event and collected trophy.
- ✓ He is Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd.
- ✓ Team MRF Tyres remained a consistent performer throughout the season, competing successfully across a variety of rally terrains.
- ✓ MRF Tyres secured the European Rally Team Championship for the third time. It earlier won the title in 2022 and in 2023



## Raj Kumar Goel sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner

- ✓ The Oath of Office was administered to Raj Kumar Goyal as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✓ The oath-taking ceremony was held in the presence of senior constitutional and government functionaries.
- ✓ Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan attended the event along with Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh.
- ✓ Raj Kumar Goyal is a retired Indian Administrative Service officer of the 1990 batch.
- ✓ He belongs to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.
- ✓ Mr. Goyal superannuated on August 31 as Secretary in the Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ✓ He has earlier served as Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



## **Central Information Commission:**

- ✓ As per the RTI Act, 2005, there shall be a Central Information Commission (CIC) at the central level and State Information Commissions (SICs) in the states.
- ✓ Each Commission consists of one Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners, with a maximum strength of 11 members (including the Chief).
- ✓ The Chief Information Commissioner heads the Central Information Commission.
- ✓ The Chief Information Commissioner, or Information Commissioners shall hold office for a period of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office.
- ✓ The Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
  - ✓ The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
  - ✓ The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
  - ✓ A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister

# Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Rythanna Meekosam' to Empower Farmers

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh government launched a large-scale initiative titled 'Rythanna Meekosam', a farmer-centric programme designed to provide long-term support under a Five-Point Formula
- ✓ The core of Rythanna Meekosam is a Five-Point Formula that focuses on the following:
- ✓ Water Security
- ✓ Demand-Based Cultivation
- ✓ Agri-Tech Adoption
- ✓ Food Processing Expansion
- ✓ Comprehensive Government Backing
- ✓ Government has spent Rs. 1,000 crore in the last 18 months to directly aid farmers.



## Vijay Diwas: 16 December

- ✓ Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 16 December to commemorate Indian Army's victory over Pakistan during the 1971 war.
- ✓ This year marks 54th anniversary of the 1971 war.
- ✓ On 16 December 1971, East Pakistan was declared independent and Bangladesh was created as a new nation.
- ✓ The war began when Pakistan carried out airstrikes on 11 Indian airbases on 3 December 1971.
- ✓ India won the war against Pakistan after fighting for 13 days.
- ✓ During the historic war of 1971 between Pakistan and India, Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ Vijay Diwas is also celebrated in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos' or Bangladesh Liberation Day.

