

### QS World Future Skills Index 2025

India has emerged as the second most prepared job market globally for future in-demand skills, trailing only the United States, according to the QS World Future Skills Index 2025.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Released by:** It was the **first edition of the Future Skills Index**. It has been released by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- ❖ **Assessment areas:** The index evaluates countries on their readiness to meet evolving job market demands. The index assesses four main areas:
  - Skills fit,
  - Academic readiness,
  - Future of work,
  - Economic transformation
- ❖ **India's Overall ranking:** India ranks 25th overall across all indicators, earning recognition as a "future skills contender."



- ❖ **India's ranking in "Future of Work" category:** Notably, the country excels in the "Future of Work" category, securing the second-highest global score (99.1), just behind the United States.
- ❖ The index highlights India's strong potential in critical sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital, and green industries.

### Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

On 17th January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025** is the largest mobility expo in India.
- ❖ **Venues:** It is scheduled to be held from January 17-22 across three venues: **Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in the national capital and India Expo Center and Mart, Greater Noida.**
- ❖ **Theme:** The theme "**Beyond Boundaries: Co-creating Future Automotive Value Chain**", aims to foster collaboration and innovation across the automotive and mobility sector with an emphasis on sustainable and cutting-edge technological advancements.
- ❖ It will bring the entire value chain of the mobility ecosystem -from automobile manufacturers to components, electronics parts, tyre and energy storage makers, and automotive software firms and material recyclers - under a single umbrella.

- ❖ It is an **industry-led and government-supported initiative** and is being **coordinated by Engineering Export Promotion Council of India** with the joint support of various industry bodies and partner organizations.
- ❖ **Hosted by:** The global expo is being hosted by industry associations, including Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA), Nasscom, Indian Steel Association, Material Recycling Association of India, and CII.

### Gaza ceasefire Deal

After months of deadlock and more than 15 months of war, Israel and the militant group Hamas reached a fresh Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The agreement is expected to **unfold in three phases beginning from 19th January 2025.**
- ❖ It was mediated by the **U.S., Qatar and Egypt.**
- ❖ The deal includes a **six-week initial ceasefire phase**, the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas of Gaza and the release of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian detainees held by Israel.

Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023, when militants stormed into southern Israel and killed about 1,200 people and abducted around 250. A third of the 100 hostages still held in Gaza are believed to be dead.

The Israel Hamas-war has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to authorities.

### Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan App

In a historic move to showcase India's military heritage, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan app on January 15, 2025, during the 77th Army Day celebrations in Pune.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Developers:** It is developed by the Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ The Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan app is a revolutionary digital tool for history enthusiasts and travelers alike. It provides detailed insights into key historical sites, including:
  - **Siachen**, the world's highest battlefield.
  - **Galwan**, the site of the 2020 India-China clash. Longewala, where the Indian Army triumphed during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.
  - In addition to these, the app **highlights Rezang La, Bum La Pass, Pangong Tso, and Doklam, key locations in India's military history.** These sites, often difficult to access, are now available for exploration through historical narratives, and interactive content.

### 21st Third Eye Asian Film Festival

The 21st edition of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival, a cornerstone of Maharashtra's film culture concluded on 16th January 2025 at Movie Max Cinemas in Mumbai.

#### Key Points

- ❖ This year's festival held at MovieMax Theatres in Andheri, Sion, and Thane, screened an impressive 61 films from across Asia to cinephiles in Mumbai and Thane.
- ❖ This includes films from countries like China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Bhutan. Renowned lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar has been felicitated with the Asian Cinema Culture Award.
- ❖ The **Satyajit Rai Memorial Award** was given to veteran film journalist **Rafiq Baghdadi** where National award-winning writer **Professor Anil Jhankar** was given a special award for film writing in memory of **Sudhir Nandgaonkar**.
- ❖ The film **'Gypsy'** won the best film award in the Marathi films category, while Shashi Khandare won the best director award for the same film.
- ❖ **Actor Mangesh Arote** bagged the best actor award for **'Gypsy'**.
- ❖ **Shraddha Khanolkar** won the best actress award for the film **'Bhera'**.
- ❖ Director **Anil Bhalerao** of the film **'Chhabila'** and actor **Prithviraj Chavan** of the film **'Cineman'** were honoured with the Special Jury Award.
- ❖ In the Indian Cinema category, the film **'Juiphool'** was selected as the best film at this festival.

### National Sports Awards 2024

On 17th January 2025, the President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Sports Awards 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

#### Key Points

The Selection Committee for the awards was headed by **former Supreme Court Judge Justice (Retd.) V. Ramasubramanian** and eminent sportspersons, persons having experience in sports journalism and sports administrators.

#### Following are the winners:

- ❖ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** World Chess Champion **D Gukesh**, Double Medalist in Paris Olympics **Manu Bhaker**, Indian Hockey Team Captain **Harmanpreet Singh** and Gold Medalist in Paris Paralympics **Praveen Kumar** are awarded with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ **Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024:** 32 Sportspersons are given Arjuna Award. They include Athletes **Jyothi Yarraji** and **Annu Rani**, Boxers **Nitu** and **Saweety**, Chess player **Vantika Agrawal**, Hockey players **Salima Tete**, **Abhishek Sanjay**, **Jarmanpreet Singh** and **Sukhjeet Singh**. Para-Archer **Rakesh Kumar**, Para Athletes **Preeti Pal**, **Jeevanji Deepthi**, **Ajeet Singh** and **Sachin Khilari**.



- ❖ **Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024:** Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar are honoured with Arjuna Awards (Lifetime).
- ❖ **Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2024:** Para-Shooting coach Subhash Rana, Shooting coach Deepali Deshpande, Hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan, Badminton coach S Muralidharan and Football coach Armando Agnelo Colaco are presented Dronacharya Award.
- ❖ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:** The Physical Education Foundation of India is given Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.
- ❖ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy:** Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar are given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.

### Mahamrityunjaya Yantra

World's first 'Mahamrityunjaya Yantra' ready in Prayagraj.

#### Key Points

- ❖ It is **52-foot-long, 52-foot-wide and 52-foot-tall** 'Mahamrityunjaya Yantra'.
- ❖ It has been installed at **Tapovan Ashram in Jhunsi Havelis in Prayagraj**.
- ❖ It is believed that the Mahamrityunjaya (victory to death) Yantra makes one healthy and courageous by freeing him from the fear of death, disease and danger. This is a spiritual tool connecting devotees with the higher consciousness of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ The **Mahamrityunjaya Yantra was created in 52 days at a cost of Rs 4 crore**.
- ❖ A total of 151 'acharyas' are chanting 'Mahamrityunjaya Mantra' sitting under this Yantra since Makar Sankranti on January 14. These saints are consecrating 11,11,111 Rudrakshas.



### One Plate, One Bag

'One Plate, One Bag' Campaign launched for making Maha kumbh Plastic-Free.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The "One Plate, One Bag" campaign was launched in Sector 18 on the Old GT Road by **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** to replace plastic bags and disposable items.



- ❖ **Cloth bags, and steel plates and glasses** are being distributed at the Maha Kumbh to ensure that the world's largest religious congregation is plastic-free.

### Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is intensifying efforts to **eradicate filariasis from the state by 2027**. As part of the initiative, the mass drug administration (MDA) campaign will commence on February 10, 2025.

### Person In News- Appointments

#### V. K Singh

He is a former Army chief who has sworn in as the **25th Governor of Mizoram in the northeastern State's capital Aizawl** on January 16, 2024



#### Nidhi Khare

She is a Consumer Affairs **Secretary and** has been entrusted with **additional charge** of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) secretary on January 14, 2024.



### Important News- Other States

#### Nagaland

As per the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), the Centre has agreed **in principle to executive, legislative, and financial autonomy for the Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT)**, an administrative area proposed to be carved out of six eastern districts of Nagaland.

The ENPO is an apex organisation representing seven Naga tribes, and has been spearheading the demand for the creation of the FNT comprising six districts — Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang.

### Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has granted a Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to 'His Holiness the **Dalai Lama Charitable Trust**' for "religious" purposes, among others. **FCRA** registration is a mandatory requirement to receive foreign funds.
  - The NGO is not directly linked with the spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, but is associated with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), which looks after the welfare of the Tibetan community in India. The CTA is headquartered in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamsala.
- ❖ The government announced on 16th January 2025, **India is poised to become the 'GCC Capital of the World,' with 1,700 global capability centres (GCCs)** employing over two million people - a figure expected to grow significantly by 2030,.
  - GCCs are at the forefront of adopting emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, data analytics, robotic process automation, digital commerce, cybersecurity, blockchain, augmented reality, and virtual reality.

- ❖ In a significant move, the United States has officially lifted sanctions on three major Indian organizations: the Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Indian Rare Earths Limited, and the Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center (IGCAR).
  - These sanctions had been in place since the Cold War era, restricting these entities from collaborating with American companies and research institutions.
  - The announcement was made by the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS).
- ❖ The government has announced the formation of the 8th Pay Commission for central employees and pensioners. The term of the 7th Pay Commission is going to end on 31 December 2025.
- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **Third Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre of ISRO at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh** at a cost of 3985 Crore rupees.
- ❖ On 17th January 2025, the **Indian Navy celebrated the 'Year of Naval Civilians'** at Dr DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. An exclusive Naval Civilians Song 'Jee Jaan Lagan Se' was also composed. The beauty of this song lies in the fact that the lyricist, music composer and singers are all Naval Civilian employees.

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