



# DPPG Weekly

NAVIGATING MANAGEMENT REALMS >

## BUZZ

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## 81st Edition



### Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, one of the largest spiritual gatherings globally, began on January 13 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, coinciding with the sun's transition into Capricorn (Makar Sankranti) and the start of Uttarayan, an auspicious period in Hindu tradition. This year's event holds special significance due to rare celestial alignments occurring once every 144 years, enhancing its spiritual essence. Rooted in the legend of the Samudra Manthan, the Maha Kumbh celebrates the divine nectar (amrita) believed to have fallen at four locations, including Prayagraj. Millions of devotees gather to perform the ritual of snan (holy bathing) at the Triveni Sangam, seeking spiritual purification and liberation (moksha). Extensive arrangements by the Uttar Pradesh government ensure safety and convenience for the record-breaking turnout, highlighting India's unity in diversity. The event is both a profound spiritual journey and a vibrant cultural phenomenon, attracting pilgrims and seekers from around the world.





### 8th Pay Commission: What Salary Hike Central Employees Can Expect

### PM Modi commissions 3 naval vessels, calls for open & secure Indo-Pacific

### Is RBI Ready to Transform the Rupee into a Global Powerhouse?



Union Cabinet Approves 8th Pay Commission.

New Delhi, January 16, 2025: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the formation of the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries for public sector employees, ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. PM Modi emphasized the government's support for its workforce, stating on X (formerly Twitter), "The Cabinet's decision on the 8th Pay Commission will improve quality of life and boost consumption."

The revised structure follows the 7th Pay Commission implemented in 2016. Reports suggest a possible increase in the fitment factor from 2.57 to 2.86, potentially raising the minimum basic salary for government employees from ₹18,000 to ₹51,480. Central employees and pensioners have already been receiving 53% of their basic salary as Dearness Allowance (DA) since July 2024, with the next revision scheduled for January 2025.

Source: NDTV.com

Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned three naval vessels—INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer—at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, marking the first-ever simultaneous commissioning of a destroyer, frigate, and submarine. Over 75% indigenous, these warships showcase India's growing self-reliance and global maritime presence. Modi highlighted India's rich maritime legacy, referencing the Chola dynasty and Gujarat's ancient ports, while emphasizing the importance of securing territorial waters, trade routes, and energy corridors. He also addressed regional security challenges like terrorism and illegal trafficking, underlining the vessels' role in safeguarding national interests.

The commissioning is a milestone in India's defence growth, with defence production surpassing ₹1.25 lakh crore and exports reaching over 100 nations. Modi highlighted the rise in maritime employment from 1.25 lakh in 2014 to nearly three lakh now and announced initiatives like the Samudrayaan project to explore ocean depths and the naming of five Indian Ocean seamounts. These steps reflect India's ambition to strengthen its maritime presence and emerge as a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, cementing its role as a major naval power.

Source: Times of India



### Rupee Accounts for Overseas Transactions.

The RBI now allows banks to open rupee accounts in their overseas branches for non-residents, enabling international trade in rupees and reducing dependence on the dollar. SRVAs for such operations require RBI approval.

### Simplifying Trade and Investments

Non-residents can use rupee accounts for investments, including FDI. Exporters can open foreign currency accounts abroad, simplifying trade payments.

### Global Collaborations

Since 2022, foreign banks have opened SRVAs in India. RBI has partnered with the UAE, Indonesia, and the Maldives to promote local currency trade, with initiatives like UPI-PayNow boosting efforts.

### Strengthening the Rupee

The RBI's 2024 report highlights currency arrangements, like those with the Asian Clearing Union, to enhance the rupee's global reliability and economic stability.

Source: The Economic Times





### What's Driving the IMF's Optimism About India's Growth Story?



#### Steady Growth for FY26 and FY27, Dip in FY25.

The IMF projects India's economy to grow by 6.5% in FY26 and FY27, maintaining earlier expectations. However, the FY25 forecast was lowered to 6.5%, down from October's 7%.

#### India Leads Despite Slower Growth.

India's growth slowed from 8.4% in FY24 to 6.7% in Q1 and 5.4% in Q2 FY25, the lowest in two years. Despite this, India remains the fastest-growing major economy, with the World Bank predicting 6.7% growth for FY26 and FY27.

#### Global Economy Faces Headwinds.

Global GDP growth is expected at 3.3% for 2025 and 2026, below average. China's slowdown to 4.7% in Q3 2024 and Japan's contraction contrast with the U.S., which grew 2.7% due to strong consumer spending.

#### Inflation to Decline.

Global inflation is forecast to drop to 4.2% in 2025 and 3.5% in 2026, with advanced economies meeting targets faster than developing nations.

Source: ndtvprofit.com

### GIFT City gets fintech institute

CM inaugurates GIFT Int'l Fintech Innovation Hub.

Gandhinagar, January 17, 2025: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the GIFT International Fintech Institute and GIFT International Fintech Innovation Hub at GIFT City. Developed in collaboration with Ahmedabad University, IIT-Gandhinagar, and UC San Diego, these institutes aim to reshape the future of financial technology.

The institutes offer specialized courses such as 'AI & ML in Finance,' 'Treasury and Risk Management,' and 'Fintech Foundations,' designed by experts from partner universities. CM Patel stated that the initiative positions Gujarat as a global destination for fintech innovation. IITGN Director Prof. Rajat Moona emphasized the goal of building an institution catering to the finance sector's needs.

Dignitaries including Tapan Ray, MD of GIFT City, and Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, were present at the event.

Source: Ahmedabad Mirror

### PM Modi says India selling more than 2.5 cr cars every year, more than population of many countries



New Delhi [India], January 17 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's automotive sector growth, with annual car sales exceeding 2.5 crore—outpacing the population of many countries. Speaking at the "Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025," Modi attributed this growth to a young population, rising incomes, a growing middle class, and government initiatives like "Make in India" and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.

He emphasized the sector's potential for further expansion, driven by urbanization, improved road infrastructure, and smart mobility solutions like Fastag. Modi noted that over 25 crore people have risen out of poverty in the past decade, forming a new aspirational middle class fueling demand for vehicles. Affordable cars under the "Make in India" initiative are positioning India as a global manufacturing hub, catering to domestic needs and boosting exports.

Source: ANI News



## BUSINESS LEADERS NEWS

### SUPAM MAHESHWARI CEO & CO-FOUNDER FIRSTCRY

FirstCry, Asia's biggest the baby and mother care products retailer, is headed to market after more than a decade of building a business from scratch while also carving out a niche segment of its own. Brainbees Solution, which operates omnichannel businesses FirstCry, has announced a Rs 4,194 crore initial public offering (IPO) which will open on August 6 and close on August 8. The IPO is likely to value FirstCry at \$3-3.5 billion.

Founded by Supam Maheshwari and his colleague from a previous business, Amitava Saha, FirstCry has been the darling of investors which include SoftBank, Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, Premji Invest, Mahindra & Mahindra and TPG Growth. Though Maheshwari has scripted a unique success story by creating not only a big business but also a whole business segment, it was not an easy or straight journey for him.

The beginning of Supam Maheshwari

A mechanical engineer from Delhi College of Engineering and MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad, Maheshwari started his first company, elearning startup Brainvisa Technologies, in March 2000 which raised Rs3 crore from Infinity Ventures 3-4 months before the dotcom bubble burst.

The business started as a customer facing online test preparation play but had to pivot to a business-to-business model. After running the business as CEO for over seven years, it was acquired by Indecomm Global in 2007 for \$16 million where he also saw impact on corporate business of Lehman Brothers bankruptcy.

You become richer by experience, there is no shortcut to it. Importance of cash, running a business in a cost-efficient way and building that culture internally is very important," Maheshwari told about his Brainvisa experience. He said that he has applied these lessons at FirstCry, which he founded in 2010 with Brainvisa colleague Amitava Saha.



### Amplify

Amplify buzzword means the extension of some action or idea to unlock more opportunities for the business. Also, Amplification is a standard marketing buzzword to define methods to reach a wider audience.

#### Head Of The Department

Dr. Nilam Panchal

#### Team Members

##### Batch 2024-2026

1. Simran Bazaz
2. Kashish Dagiya
3. Anushka Arapada
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