

# The Lukmaan Newslines

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Agriculture, Economic Policy

## Govt Extends DAP Subsidy Amid Rupee Depreciation Concerns

The government extended the ₹3,500/tonne special subsidy on DAP until December 31, 2025, to control farmgate prices. Fertiliser firms face rising costs due to the rupee's depreciation, making imports unviable without higher subsidies or MRP hikes. The fiscal burden is estimated at ₹6,475 crore, with availability concerns for the next kharif season looming.

Source: The Indian Express



Health Infrastructure, Technology

## Kashmir's Doctor Network Saves Lives Through WhatsApp-Enabled Early Heart Attack Response

The Save Heart Foundation network, initiated in 2017, connects over 1,200 doctors across J&K via WhatsApp, enabling quick cardiac interventions. With ECG uploads and real-time cardiologist guidance, the network has saved over 6,000 lives, especially in remote areas like Kupwara and Kulgam. This initiative ensures treatment within the critical "golden hour," reducing delays and referrals to tertiary hospitals.

Source: The Indian Express



Economy, Energy Policy, Industrial Impact

## Rising Gas Prices and Policy Shifts Set Stage for Consolidation in CGD Sector

Rising gas prices, reduced APM gas allocation, and reliance on costly RLNG and HPHT gas are straining city gas distribution (CGD) companies. Increased costs, competition from diesel, and slowing CNG growth are expected to reduce sector EBITDA by ₹2,300 crore next year. Larger players with robust infrastructure and balance sheets are likely to endure, while smaller players face acquisition risks, driving sector consolidation.

Source: The Indian Express

## AI and Interest Rates Drive Volatility in Global Markets.

Global markets experienced highs and lows in 2024, driven by the rise of AI investments and fluctuating interest rate policies.



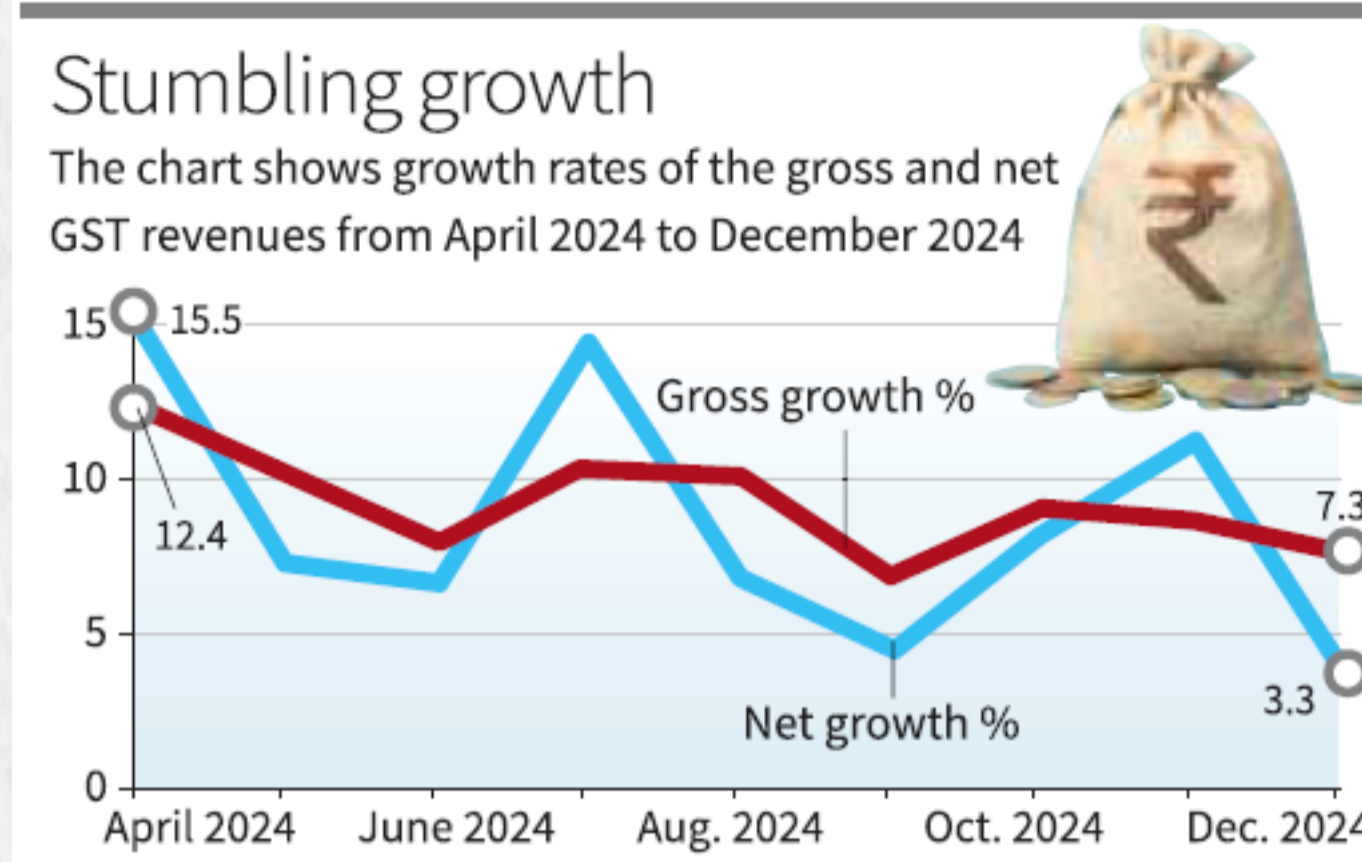
Economy & Technology

## Indian Navy to Induct Scorpene Submarine, Destroyer, and Frigate on January 15

The Indian Navy will commission three frontline platforms on January 15 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai: the sixth Scorpene-class submarine Vagsheer, the fourth stealth destroyer Surat, and the lead frigate Nilgiri. Built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, these platforms signify advancements in indigenous shipbuilding and defense capabilities, boosting India's naval strength.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## GST Collection Growth Slows to 3.3% in December Amid Higher Refunds



India's net GST collections in December grew by only 3.3%, marking the slowest growth in FY 2024-25. Gross GST receipts were ₹1.77 lakh crore, reflecting a 7.3% increase year-on-year. The slowdown was attributed to a sharp 45.3% rise in refunds, totaling ₹22,490 crore. Revenues from domestic transactions rose by 8.4%, while those from imports grew by just 3.9%. Experts believe GST collections might recover in line with GDP growth.

Economy, Fiscal Policy

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Environment, Industrial Safety

## Bhopal Gas Tragedy Toxic Waste Finally Removed After Four Decades

After four decades, 337 tonnes of toxic waste from the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy site have been transported to a treatment facility in Pithampur for incineration. The waste will be processed over three to nine months under strict supervision. While authorities ensured safety protocols, protests in Pithampur highlight local concerns about environmental risks.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Environment & Disaster Management

## Banking on technology, India's weatherman to turn 150 on Jan. 15

Established in 1875, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is set to celebrate its 150th anniversary on January 15. Over the years, IMD has achieved milestones such as radar-based flood services, satellite integration for forecasts, and improved disaster management systems. With over 4,000 personnel, IMD continues to support sectors like aviation, agriculture, and disaster response through state-of-the-art technology and regional centers.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



## SpaDeX first of many as ISRO prepares for Chandrayaan-4

Science & Technology, Space

ISRO successfully launched two satellites under its first Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) via PSLV-C60. The satellites will perform rendezvous and docking in orbit, marking a significant step towards mastering docking technology crucial for Chandrayaan-4. The lunar mission will involve two LVM-3 rockets and multiple docking maneuvers to return lunar soil samples to Earth.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Global Environmental Summits in 2024 Fail to Deliver Tangible Outcomes



In 2024, four major UN environmental summits—on biodiversity (Colombia), climate (Azerbaijan), land degradation (Saudi Arabia), and plastic pollution (South Korea)—failed to achieve meaningful agreements. Key issues included financial commitments, fossil fuel transition, and legally binding plastic treaties. Deep divisions between developed and developing nations over funding and accountability mechanisms remain significant barriers.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

**Generation Beta:** As we step into 2025, a major generational shift begins. What is Generation Beta, and how does it differ from Generation Z and Generation Alpha? *Let's find out.*



GS Paper I - Society and Technology

### Why in News?

With the arrival of 2025, Generation Z (mid-1990s to early 2010s) concludes, and a new era—Generation Beta—begins. This generation is set to grow up in a world dominated by advanced technologies like AI, quantum computing, and the metaverse.

### Key Takeaways:

#### 1. What is Generation Beta?

- Generation Beta includes children born between 2025 and 2039.
- They are expected to be more tech-savvy and adaptive than Gen Z and Gen Alpha.

#### 2. Generational Differences:

- Gen Z (mid-1990s–early 2010s): Known for digital fluency, social media, and smartphones.
- Gen Alpha (2010–2025): Grew up with AI and smart devices.
- Gen Beta: Expected to embrace quantum computing and metaverse technologies seamlessly.

#### 3. Technological Integration:

- By the time Gen Beta matures, AI and digital ecosystems will dominate every aspect of life.
- Technologies like quantum computing and immersive metaverse environments will be second nature to them.

#### 4. A Generation of Adaptability:

- Historically, newer generations surpass their predecessors.
- Gen Beta is expected to demonstrate faster adaptability and innovation in a rapidly changing world.

### Beyond the Nugget: Technology Shaping Gen Beta

#### 1. Metaverse:

- A virtual interactive world enabling engagement through digital avatars.
- It raises concerns about privacy, security, and regulation.

#### 2. Artificial Intelligence (AI):

- ANI (Narrow AI): Task-specific tools like Siri and recommendation engines.
- AGI (General AI): Mimics human cognitive abilities across domains.
- AI and Machine Learning (ML) will play central roles in Generation Beta's development.

### Conclusion:

Generation Beta represents a new chapter in human advancement, shaped by rapid technological evolution and digital transformation. While predictions are still early, one thing is clear—they will redefine how we interact with technology and the world around us.

Source: The Indian Express

## 54,800 Cyber Volunteers Enlisted by Centre and States to Monitor Online Content

The Ministry of Home Affairs and State governments have enrolled around 54,800 volunteers under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to monitor and report unlawful online content. These include 22,942 volunteers for flagging unlawful content, 22,071 for awareness promotion, and 9,819 cyber experts. Critics, however, warn of potential misuse, raising concerns about increased surveillance and societal distrust.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper