



# Current Affairs

22 Jan, 2025

## IDFC FIRST Bank Launched UPI-enabled FIRST EARN Credit Card



### 1. IDFC FIRST Bank Launched UPI-enabled FIRST EARN Credit Card

IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced the FIRST EARN Credit Card, which comes with UPI-enabled functionality for seamless digital payments. This innovative card allows users to link their credit accounts to UPI for hassle-free transactions, combining the flexibility of UPI with the benefits of a credit card. Customers can enjoy enhanced spending limits, reward points, and cashback offers while making payments directly from their UPI apps. The card is designed to cater to the evolving needs of tech-savvy customers, ensuring secure and convenient usage. With this launch, IDFC FIRST Bank aims to revolutionize the credit card market by integrating advanced digital payment solutions.



#### Foot notes:

- The FIRST EARN Credit Card is a digital credit card that can be used to make payments at over 60 million merchants via UPI, and it also offers cashback on every spend, with 1% cashback on spends via the IDFC FIRST Bank mobile app and 0.5% cashback on UPI spends via other apps and online spends.
- The credit card has a joining fee of 499 + GST and an annual fee of 499 + GST from the second year onwards, with an interest rate starting from 0.75% per month (9% p.a.).
- To apply for the FIRST EARN Credit Card, users need to register and verify their details, create a fixed deposit with IDFC FIRST Bank, and complete their KYC process.

- The credit card offers several benefits, including a 25% discount up to ₹ 100 on movie tickets booked on District by Zomato, complimentary roadside assistance worth ₹ 1,399, and a personal accident cover of 200,000.
- The FIRST EARN Credit Card is linked to the IDFC FIRST mobile banking app for UPI payments, and users can also link it to other UPI apps to make payments.

## 2. Justice Alok Aradhe Appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

Justice Alok Aradhe has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He brings a wealth of judicial experience, having previously served in various capacities across different High Courts. Known for his legal acumen and commitment to justice, Justice Aradhe has handled significant cases during his career. His appointment is expected to bolster the efficiency and integrity of the Bombay High Court, one of India's premier judicial institutions. This development underscores the emphasis on appointing seasoned judges to uphold the judiciary's standards.



### Foot notes:

- He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on January 21, 2025, by Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- Justice Aradhe has a wealth of experience, having served as a judge in several high courts, including the Telangana High Court, Karnataka High Court, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, and Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- He was born on April 13, 1964, in Raipur, and began his career as an advocate in 1988, practicing law in the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Jabalpur.
- Justice Aradhe has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and the Karnataka High Court, and has been a visiting faculty member at the Judicial Officers Training and Research Institute of Madhya Pradesh.
- His appointment as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court is a significant development, and he is expected to bring his extensive experience and expertise to the role, shaping the court's decisions and judgments in the years to come.

## 3. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya Takes Oath as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya has taken oath as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. With a distinguished career in the judiciary, he has previously served in various key judicial roles across different High Courts. Known for his deep

understanding of legal principles and commitment to justice, his leadership is expected to enhance the functioning of the Delhi High Court. The oath-taking ceremony marks a significant milestone, further strengthening the judiciary in the national capital. Justice Upadhyaya's appointment reflects the focus on experienced judicial leadership to address complex legal challenges effectively.



**Foot notes:**

- Justice Upadhyaya has a rich experience in the legal field, having graduated in law from Lucknow University in 1991 and practicing as an advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
- He has previously served as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, a position he held from July 29, 2023, to January 20, 2025, and as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Upadhyaya's appointment as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court is a testament to his exceptional judicial skills and his ability to lead the court with wisdom and integrity.
- As the new Chief Justice, he is expected to bring his extensive experience and expertise to the role, shaping the court's decisions and judgments in the years to come.

**4. RBI Directs Use of '1600xx' Series for Transactional Calls**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated the use of the '1600xx' series for transactional calls to enhance consumer safety and prevent fraud. This directive ensures that calls related to financial transactions are easily identifiable, promoting transparency and trust among customers. The move is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to combat phishing scams and unauthorized access to sensitive information. All financial institutions and entities are required to implement this standardized series for their transactional communication. The initiative underscores the RBI's commitment to safeguarding consumer interests in the evolving digital economy.



**Foot notes:**

- The RBI has instructed banks to use the '1600xx' series for all transactional calls, including those related to debit/credit card transactions, net banking, and mobile banking.
- This move is expected to help customers easily identify genuine calls from their banks, reducing the risk of phishing and other frauds.

- The '1600xx' series will be used for all outgoing calls from banks, including calls related to transaction alerts, account updates, and customer support.
- Banks have been given a deadline to implement this directive, and customers can expect to see the new number series in use soon.
- The RBI's directive is part of its ongoing efforts to improve customer protection and enhance the overall security of banking transactions, and is expected to bring greater transparency and trust to the banking system.

### **5. Harry Brook Appointed Vice-Captain of England's White-Ball Team**

Harry Brook has been appointed as the vice-captain of England's white-ball cricket team, reflecting his rapid rise in international cricket. Known for his consistent performances and explosive batting, Brook has become a key player in England's limited-overs setup. His leadership potential and experience in high-pressure situations make him a valuable asset to the team. This appointment is expected to bolster England's leadership group as they aim for continued success in white-ball formats. Brook's elevation highlights the team's focus on nurturing young talent for future challenges.



#### **Foot notes:**

- He'll be serving as Jos Buttler's deputy for the upcoming T20I and ODI series against India, as well as the Champions Trophy 2025.
- Brook brings valuable leadership experience, having captained Yorkshire in the T20 Blast and Northern Superchargers in The Hundred, and even briefly stepping into international captaincy during the ODI series against Australia.
- He replaces Moeen Ali, who retired from international cricket, and was chosen for the role over other strong contenders like Liam Livingstone and Phil Salt.
- Brook has quickly established himself as a key player for England, with impressive performances in ODIs, T20Is, and Test cricket, and will play a crucial role in the upcoming series against India.
- His appointment marks a new chapter for England's white-ball cricket, and fans will be watching closely to see how he shoulders his new responsibilities on the international stage.

### **6. Dr. Padmakar Nandekar Honored with Trendsetter Award 2025 at Prestigious Ceremony**

Dr. Padmakar Nandekar has been honored with the prestigious Trendsetter Award 2025 for his outstanding contributions in his field. The award ceremony, held at a renowned event, recognized Dr. Nandekar's pioneering work and leadership in his area of

expertise. Throughout his career, he has been a catalyst for innovation, making significant strides in both research and practical applications. His efforts have had a profound impact, setting new standards and inspiring future generations. This recognition highlights his dedication to excellence and the transformative role he has played in shaping his industry.

**Foot notes:**

- He is the Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Universal Communications Ltd., and has been instrumental in launching several TV channels, including DD Metro and Zee Cinema.
- Dr. Nandekar has extensive experience in television production, and has overseen the creation of numerous TV programs, including the popular TV serial "Jungle Book" (Mowgli).
- The award ceremony, organized by Times Applaud, was held at Hotel Ginger and recognized trailblazers who have made significant contributions to their respective industries, with Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan gracing the occasion as the chief guest.
- Dr. Nandekar expressed heartfelt gratitude upon receiving the award, stating that it inspires him to continue pushing boundaries and contributing to the growth of the media and advertising industry.
- Dr. Nandekar is deeply involved in social and spiritual initiatives, practicing disciplines like Vipassana, Silva, Reiki, and Isha Yoga, and actively contributing to community welfare through various organizations.



Dr. Padmakar Nandekar Honored with Trendsetter Award 2025 at Prestigious Ceremony

**7. Alok Kumar Agarwal Appointed CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance**

Alok Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as the CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance, marking a significant leadership change in the organization. With extensive experience in the insurance and financial sectors, Agarwal is expected to drive the company's growth and strategic initiatives. His appointment aligns with Zurich Kotak's vision of enhancing customer-centric solutions and expanding its market presence. Under his leadership, the company aims to strengthen its position in the competitive general insurance industry. This move underscores Zurich Kotak's commitment to bringing seasoned professionals on board to lead its operations.



**Foot notes:**

- He has moved to Zurich Kotak from ICICI Lombard, where he spent 22 years, and will be leading the company as MD and CEO, effective January 1.
- Agarwal's extensive experience will be invaluable in driving Zurich Kotak's growth and expansion in the Indian market.
- As CEO, he will be responsible for developing and implementing the company's strategy, overseeing operations, and ensuring that Zurich Kotak remains competitive in the industry.
- With his expertise and leadership, Zurich Kotak is poised to strengthen its position in the Indian general insurance market.
- Agarwal's appointment is a significant development for Zurich Kotak, and his vision and guidance will be crucial in shaping the company's future.

### 8. India Becomes 7th Largest Coffee Producer

India has achieved the milestone of becoming the 7th largest coffee producer in the world, showcasing its growing prominence in the global coffee industry. The country's diverse climatic conditions and fertile soil have contributed to the cultivation of high-quality coffee beans, particularly in regions like Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Indian coffee, renowned for its unique flavors and aroma, has seen increased demand in international markets. This achievement highlights the efforts of Indian coffee growers and the government's initiatives to boost coffee production and exports. India's ascent in the rankings reinforces its position as a significant player in the global coffee trade.



#### Foot notes:

- India's coffee production is dominated by the southern states, with Karnataka accounting for 71%, followed by Kerala with 21%, and Tamil Nadu.
- The country has a long history of coffee production, dating back to the 17th century when it was first introduced by a Muslim saint named Baba Budan.
- Indian coffee is known for its high quality and is grown in the shade, which gives it a unique flavor and aroma.
- The majority of India's coffee production is exported, with countries like Italy, Germany, and the US being major importers.
- India's coffee industry is expected to continue growing, with the government and coffee board taking steps to promote sustainable coffee production and increase exports.

### 9. Reliance Power appoints Neeraj Parakh as Chief Executive Officer

Reliance Power has appointed Neeraj Parakh as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a new leadership era for the company. With extensive experience in the energy and infrastructure sectors, Parakh is expected to drive the company's strategic growth initiatives and operational efficiencies. His appointment comes at a crucial time as Reliance Power focuses on expanding its renewable energy portfolio and optimizing existing assets. Parakh's leadership is anticipated to enhance the company's position in India's evolving power sector. This move underscores Reliance Power's commitment to strengthening its leadership team for future growth



**Foot notes:**

- Neeraj Parakh brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in the power sector for many years, and his appointment is expected to bring new leadership and vision to the company.
- As CEO, Parakh will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations, strategy, and growth, and will play a key role in shaping the company's future direction.
- Reliance Power is a leading power generation company in India, with a portfolio of thermal and renewable energy projects, and Parakh's appointment is seen as a significant development for the company.
- The company has been working to expand its presence in the renewable energy sector, and Parakh's experience and expertise are expected to be invaluable in this area.
- With Parakh at the helm, Reliance Power is poised to continue its growth and expansion, and his leadership is expected to have a positive impact on the company's operations and future prospects.

**10. India Slips To Third Place In Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings**

India has slipped to the third position in the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings, reflecting a shift in public trust dynamics. The annual survey measures trust across key institutions such as government, business, media, and NGOs globally. Despite the drop, India remains among the top countries with high trust levels, highlighting the resilience of its institutional framework. The rankings are influenced by factors such as economic performance, governance, and public perception of transparency. This development underscores the need for continued efforts to



strengthen public trust and address emerging challenges.

**Foot notes:**

- India has slipped to third place in the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings, which is a significant drop from its previous position.
- The survey reveals that Indians are losing faith in their institutions, with a significant decline in trust in the government and media.
- Trust Levels have also decreased among the informed public, with only 45% of respondents saying they trust the government, down from 52% last year.
- The Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings are based on an annual survey conducted by the global communications firm Edelman, which measures public trust levels in institutions across the world.

India's No.1 App  
*for*  
Bank | SSC | Railways  
Competitive Exams

- Job Alerts
- Daily Quiz • Free PDF's
- Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs

Download Now

**MY**  
Make My Exam

Powered by IBT