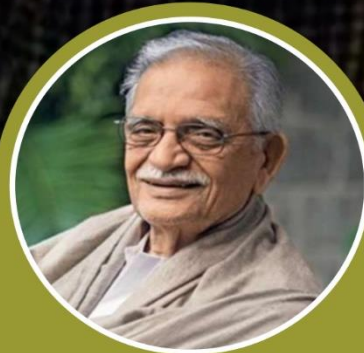
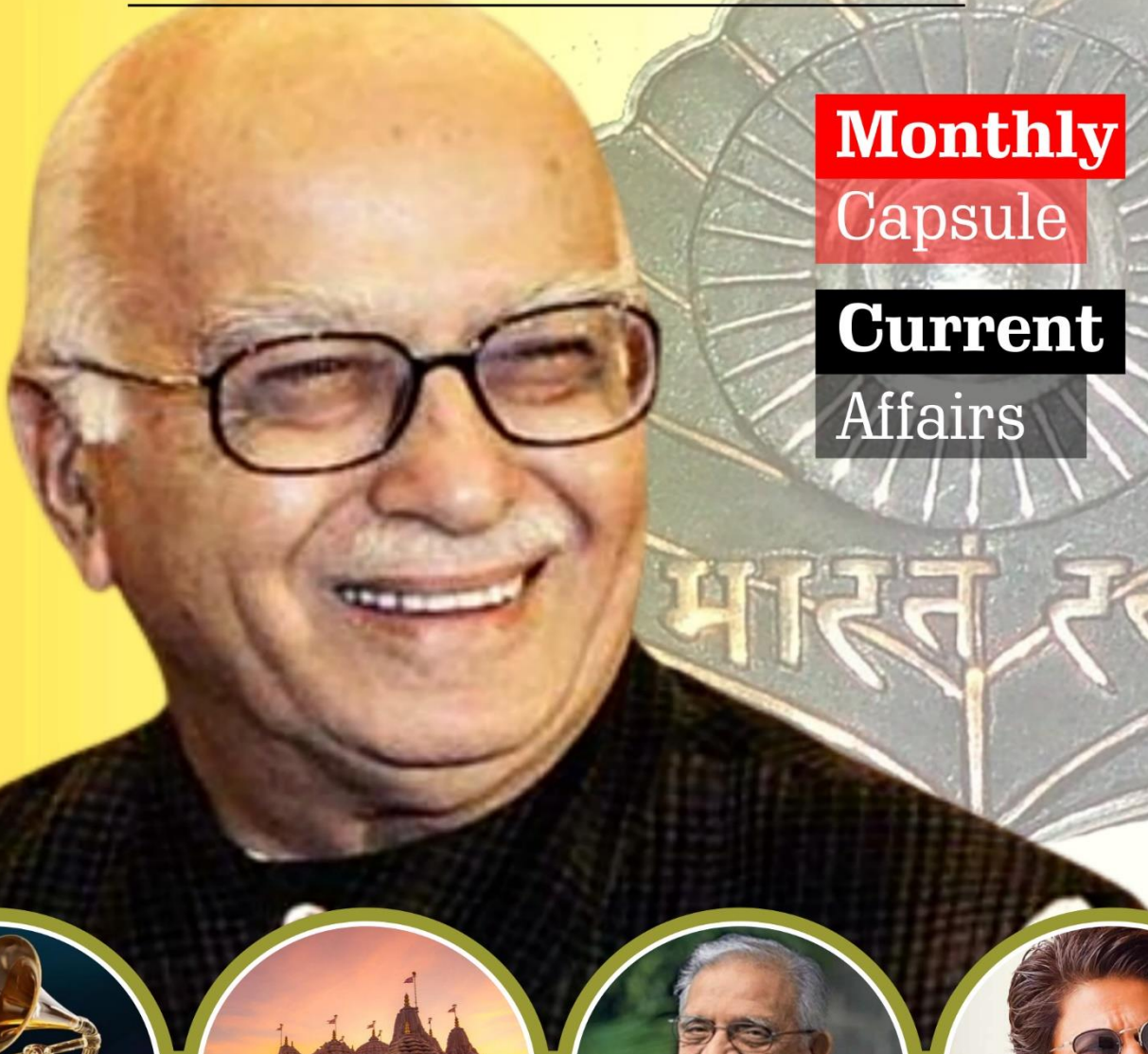


# THE HINDU REVIEW

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 4

**Monthly**  
Capsule

**Current**  
Affairs



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The Most Important Current Affairs February 2024

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners List

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners

The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event featured hosting by Karan Johar, and performances by Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, and Kartik Aaryan among others. This year, the two-day celebration in Gujarat opened with a Curtain Raiser, leading up to the Filmfare Awards ceremony. The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in GIFT City, Gujarat.

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners

The Filmfare Awards 2024 celebrated the finest achievements in Indian cinema. Here's a glimpse of the notable winners honored for their outstanding contributions in various categories, showcasing excellence and talent in the film industry. Follow the below table to know the Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners name list.

Category	Winner
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Film (Critics')	Joram (Devashish Makhija)
Best Actor (Critics')	Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
Best Actress (Critics')	Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs. Norway), Shefali Shah (Three of Us)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya ("Tere Vaaste" – Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
Best Music Album	Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani, Bhupinder Babbal, et al.)
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly – Animal)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang – Pathaan)
Best Story	Amit Rai (OMG 2), Devashish Makhija (Joram)
Best Screenplay	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)

Category	Winner
Best Dialogue	Ishita Moitra (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Background Score	Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal)
Best Cinematography	Avinash Arun Dhaware (Three of Us)
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty, Amit Ray (Sam Bahadur)
Best Costume Design	Sachin Lovelekar, Divvyra Gambhir, Nidhhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
Best Sound Design	Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
Best Editing	Jaskunwar Singh Kohli- Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Action	Spiro Razatos, Anl Arasu, Craig Macrae, Yannick Ben, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues (Jawan)
Best VFX	Red Chillies VFX (Jawan)
Best Choreography	Ganesh Acharya ("What Jhumka?" – Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Debut Director	Tarun Dudeja (Dhak Dhak)
Best Debut Male	Aditya Rawal (Faraaz)
Best Debut Female	Alizeh Agnihotri (Farrey)
Lifetime Achievement Award	David Dhawan

Australian Open 2024 Winners

Jannik Sinner secured his first Grand Slam in men's singles, while Aryna Sabalenka claimed her second in women's singles. Rohan Bopanna, at 43, became the oldest man to win men's doubles. Hsieh Su-Wei and Elise Mertens won women's doubles, and Hsieh, with Jan Zielinski, clinched mixed doubles.

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Zheng Qinwen (China)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna (India) & Matthew Ebden (Australia)	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (Italy)
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)	Jelena Ostapenko and Lyudmyla Kichenok (Latvia-Ukraine)
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) & Jan Zielinski (Poland)	Desirae Krawczyk (USA) & Neal Skupski (Britain)

**Finance Ministry Issues ‘Indian Economy – A Review’ Report Instead of Economic Survey**

In 2024, India will not have the usual **Economic Survey** traditionally presented before the **Union Budget**. Instead, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** will present an interim budget, known as a vote-on-account, on February 1. The reason for not presenting the Economic Survey this year is the election context. 2024 is an election year in India, and presenting the Economic Survey could lead to politicization due to the potential change in government after the elections. This could disrupt the regular Budget process.

However, the **Ministry of Finance** has released an alternative report titled “**Indian Economy – A Review**,” prepared by the office of **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran**. This report does not replace the official Economic Survey but provides valuable insights into the Indian economy’s trajectory and prospects over the past decade and its future outlook. It’s important to note that the official Economic Survey is expected to be presented after the general elections and the formation of the new government. The Review consists of two chapters and takes stock of the state of the Indian economy and its journey in the **last 10 years and offers a brief sketch of the outlook for the economy in the coming years**.

**Key points from “Indian Economy – A Review” include**

1. India’s projected growth to a \$5 trillion economy in the next 3 years and a potential to reach \$7 trillion by 2030.
2. The review focuses on structural reforms undertaken in the past decade and their positive impact.
3. It offers a cautious outlook on future growth and inflation, acknowledging global uncertainties and challenges.
4. India is expected to surpass a GDP growth rate of 7.2% in FY24, outpacing the global economy.
5. For the third consecutive year, the Indian economy is set to achieve a growth rate exceeding 7%.
6. There has been a rise in public sector investment, a robust financial sector, and substantial non-food credit growth over the past decade.
7. India is now the third-largest fintech economy globally, after the USA and the UK.
8. India has become the fourth-largest stock market worldwide, surpassing Hong Kong.
9. The PM Jan Dhan Yojana has significantly increased the percentage of women holding bank accounts.
10. There has been a surge in the female labour force participation rate and initiatives like the Skill India Mission, Start-Up India, and Stand-Up India are contributing to this increase.
11. A significant increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females in higher education.
12. The report highlights the dynamism in the MSME sector due to government support.
13. The implementation of GST and the integration of domestic markets have improved economic efficiency and lowered logistics costs.

**Government Appoints Four key Members of the Sixteenth Finance Commission**

The government has taken a significant step in shaping the **Sixteenth Finance Commission (SFC)** by appointing **4-key members**, three of whom are designated as full-time members. The Commission, headed by **Shri Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, was constituted on December 31, 2023.

**Appointed Members**

1.	<b>Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha, former member, 15th Finance Commission and former Secretary, Expenditure</b>	<b>Full time Member</b>
2.	<b>Smt. Annie George Mathew, former Special Secretary, Expenditure</b>	Full time Member
3.	<b>Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, Executive Director, Artha Global</b>	Full time Member
4.	<b>Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India</b>	Part time Member

**Sixteenth Finance Commission: Dr. Arvind Panagariya Appointed Chairman**

**Context**

In adherence to **Article 280(1)** of the Constitution, the Government of India, with the President’s approval, has established the Sixteenth Finance Commission. **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Professor at Columbia University, assumes the role of Chairman. **Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey** has been appointed as the Commission’s Secretary, and detailed terms of reference have been outlined in the official notification.

**Key Appointments**

- **Chairman:** Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- **Secretary:** Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

**Terms of Reference**

The Sixteenth Finance Commission is tasked with making recommendations on three crucial matters:

**1. Distribution of Net Proceeds**

- Allocation of taxes between the Union and the States under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution.
- Division of respective shares among the States.

**2. Grants-in-Aid:**

- Principles governing grants-in-aid to States’ revenues from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Sums to be granted under Article 275 for purposes other than specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article.

**3. Resource Augmentation:**

- Measures to enhance a State’s Consolidated Fund for supporting Panchayats and Municipalities, based on State Finance Commission recommendations.

**Additional Mandate**

The Commission will also review financing arrangements for Disaster Management initiatives, aligning with the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and provide relevant recommendations.

**Timeline**

The Sixteenth Finance Commission is expected to submit its comprehensive report by **October 31, 2025**, covering a five-year period starting from April 1, 2026.

**Union Budget 2024 Detailed Sector Wise**

In the Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, the Union Government demonstrates a robust commitment to bolstering economic growth through substantial investments in infrastructure development. The total expenditure in the Budget is estimated at **47,65,768 crore (47.65 Lakh Crore), with a significant focus on capital expenditure, reaching 11,11,111 crore(11.11 Lakh Crore)**. This reflects a commendable increase of 16.9% in capital expenditure over the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2023-24.

**Capital Expenditure Highlights**

- Total Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates `11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure, marking a 16.9% surge over the RE for 2023-24.
- Effective Capital Expenditure:** The effective capital expenditure for 2024-25 is projected at `14,96,693 crore, showcasing a substantial increase of 17.7% over the RE for 2023-24.

**State Finances**

- Total Resources to States:** In the fiscal year 2024-25, resources transferred to states, including devolution, grants, loans, and centrally sponsored schemes, amount to **22,22,264 crore(22.22 Lakh Crore)**. This represents a noteworthy increase of **4,13,848 crore** over the Actuals of FY 2022-23.
- Comparison with Previous Years:** The total expenditure in the RE for 2023-24 stands at **44,90,486 crore, surpassing the Actuals of FY 2022-23 by 2,97,328 crore**. The capital expenditure in the RE for 2023-24 is estimated at `9,50,246 crore.

**Revenue and Capital Receipts**

- Tax and Non-Tax Revenue:** Tax revenue (Net to Centre) is projected at **26,01,574 crore(26.01 Lakh Crore), while non-tax revenue is estimated at 3,99,701 crore**.
- Capital Receipts Breakdown:** Capital receipts include recovery of loans (**29,000 crore**), other receipts (**50,000 crore**), and borrowings and other liabilities (`16,85,494 crore).

**Expenditure Breakdown**

- On Revenue Account:** The Budget allocates **36,54,657 crore (36.54 Lakh Crore) on revenue account, covering interest payments (11,90,440 crore) and grants in aid for capital account creation (3,85,582 crore)**.

- On Capital Account:** Capital account expenditure is estimated at **11,11,111 crore, contributing to the effective capital expenditure of 14,96,693 crore**.

**Deficit Metrics**

- Fiscal Deficit:** The fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is projected at `16,85,494 crore, constituting **5.1% of the Nominal GDP**.
- Revenue Deficit and Effective Revenue Deficit:** The revenue deficit is anticipated to be **6,53,383 crore, while the effective revenue deficit is projected at 2,67,801 crore**.
- Primary Deficit:** The primary deficit for 2024-25 is estimated at `4,95,054 crore.

**Government's Effective Capital Expenditure (in ₹ Crore) Overview**

In the fiscal year 2024-25 Budget, the government's focus on effective capital expenditure is evident, with allocations specified for key sectors. The below information provides a breakdown of major items, showcasing the allocation and expenditure trends from the past fiscal years to the estimated figures for 2024-25.

**Effective Capital Expenditure Breakdown**

- Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates ₹11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure in 2024-25, reflecting a strategic commitment to investment in critical areas.
- Grants in Aid for Capital Assets:** Under this category, ₹3,85,582 crore is allocated for creating capital assets, emphasizing the government's investment in long-term infrastructure development.
- Total Expenditure of Major Items:** The effective capital expenditure for major items is detailed, covering key sectors critical for economic growth.

**Expenditure of Major Items (in ₹ Crore)**

- Pension:** ₹2,39,612 crore is allocated, recognizing the importance of honoring commitments to retired personnel.
- Defence:** A substantial allocation of ₹4,54,773 crore emphasizes the government's commitment to national security.
- Subsidies:** Noteworthy subsidies include **Fertiliser (₹1,64,000 crore), Food (₹2,05,250 crore), and Petroleum (₹11,925 crore)**, addressing key sectors crucial for public welfare.
- Agriculture and Allied Activities:** ₹1,46,819 crore is earmarked for the development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- Education:** A significant allocation of **₹1,24,638 crore** underscores the importance of investing in education for national progress.
- Health:** ₹90,171 crore is allocated to the health sector, reflecting the government's commitment to public well-being.
- Interest Payments:** With ₹11,90,440 crore allocated, managing interest payments remains a critical component of fiscal planning.
- Others:** Various sectors such as IT and Telecom, Rural Development, and Social Welfare receive targeted allocations, emphasizing holistic development.

**Allocations for specific ministries**

- **Defence Ministry:** ₹6.1 lakh crore
- **Ministry of road transport and highways:** ₹2.78 lakh crore
- **Ministry of railways:** ₹2.55 lakh crore
- **Ministry of consumer affairs, food & public distribution:** ₹2.13 lakh crore
- **Ministry of home affairs:** ₹2.03 lakh crore
- **Ministry of rural development:** ₹1.77 lakh crore
- **Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers:** ₹1.68 lakh crore
- **Ministry of communications:** ₹1.37 lakh crore
- **Ministry of agriculture and farmer’s welfare:** 1.27 lakh crore
- **Ministry of Education:** ₹1.24 Lakh Crore
- **Ministry of Health:** ₹90,171 Crore

**Transfer of Resources to States and Union Territories with Legislature (in ₹ Crore) Overview**

The allocation and transfer of resources to states and union territories play a crucial role in fostering balanced development across regions. The below information provides a breakdown of actuals for 2022-23, revised estimates for 2023-24, and budget estimates for 2024-25.

**Devolution of States Share in Taxes**

- I. **Actual Devolution (2022-23):** ₹9,48,406 crore was devolved to states, forming a critical component of their fiscal resources.
- II. **Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 is ₹11,04,494 crore, indicating an increase in the devolution share.
- III. **Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget proposes a further increase, with ₹12,19,783 crore earmarked for devolution, emphasizing the government’s commitment to empowering states financially.

**Some Important Items of Transfer**

- I. **Actual Transfer (2022-23):** ₹1,20,366 crore was allocated for essential items, supporting various initiatives at the state level.
- II. **Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 stands at ₹1,60,986 crore, reflecting adjustments in response to evolving fiscal needs.
- III. **Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget earmarks ₹1,88,703 crore for important items of transfer, underscoring the government’s focus on targeted financial support.

**Finance Commission Grants**

- I. **Actual Grants (2022-23):** Finance Commission Grants amounted to ₹1,72,760 crore, addressing specific developmental needs identified by the Finance Commission.
- II. **Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 is ₹1,40,429 crore, reflecting adjustments based on the Commission’s recommendations and evolving fiscal priorities.

III. **Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget allocates ₹1,32,378 crore for Finance Commission Grants, highlighting continued support for state-level development.

**Government of India’s Budget Allocation for Major Schemes (2024-2025)**

In the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the Government of India has outlined a comprehensive allocation for various major schemes. These schemes are strategically categorized into three sections, emphasizing their significance and funding priorities.

**1. Core of the Core Schemes (A):**

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program:** ₹86,000 crore
- National Social Assistance Program: ₹9,652 crore
- Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities: ₹913 crore
- Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups: ₹2,150 crore
- Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes: ₹4,241 crore
- Umbrella Scheme for Development of Schedule Castes: ₹9,560 crore

**2. Core Schemes (B):**

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY):** ₹80,671 crore
- **Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Mission:** ₹70,163 crore
- National Health Mission: ₹38,183 crore
- Samagra Shiksha: ₹37,500 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna:** ₹19,000 crore
- National Livelihood Mission – Aajeevika: ₹15,047 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman: ₹12,467 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna: ₹11,391 crore
- **Urban Rejuvenation Mission (AMRUT and Smart Cities):** ₹10,400 crore
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna: ₹7,553 crore
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: ₹7,500 crore
- Krishionnati Yojana: ₹7,447 crore
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin): ₹7,192 crore
- Assistance to States Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains: ₹7,075 crore
- **PM Schools for Rising India:** ₹6,050 crore
- Swachh Bharat Mission: ₹5,000 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission: ₹4,108 crore
- Modernisation of Police Forces: ₹3,720 crore
- Interlinking of Rivers: ₹3,500 crore
- Mission Shakti: ₹3,146 crore
- Blue Revolution: ₹2,352 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan: ₹1,815 crore

- **Mission VATSALYA:** ₹1,472 crore
- Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States: ₹1,250 crore
- Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan: ₹1,064 crore
- Vibrant Villages Programme: ₹1,050 crore
- Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary: ₹1,000 crore
- Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme: ₹880 crore
- Environment, Forestry and Wildlife: ₹714 crore
- National River Conservation Plan – Other Basins: ₹592 crore

**3. Major Central Sector Schemes (C):**

- Crop Insurance Scheme: ₹14,600 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:** ₹60,000 crore
- Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations: ₹582 crore
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme: ₹22,600 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojna: ₹1,738 crore
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund: ₹600 crore
- Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security: ₹930 crore
- Research and Development Projects: ₹1,200 crore
- Nuclear Power Projects: ₹2,228 crore
- Feedstock: ₹1,253 crore
- R&D projects of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre: ₹1,100 crore
- Fuel Recycle Projects: ₹805 crore
- Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Projects: ₹764 crore
- **Urea Subsidy:** ₹1,19,000 crore
- Nutrient Based Subsidy: ₹45,000 crore
- Development of Industry (Pharmaceutical): ₹1,300 crore
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (Pharmaceutical):** ₹2,143 crore
- Regional Connectivity Scheme: ₹502 crore
- Interest Equalisation Scheme: ₹1,700 crore
- Industrial Development Scheme for Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand: ₹567 crore
- Fund of Funds: ₹1,200 crore
- Refund of Central and Integrated GST to Industrial Units in North Eastern Region and Himalayan States: ₹1,382 crore
- Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure: ₹2,000 crore
- Domestic Industry Incentivisation Scheme: ₹1,911 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:** ₹2,05,250 crore
- **Works under Border Roads Development Board:** ₹6,500 crore
- Other works: ₹1,500 crore
- Border Area Development Programme: ₹2,000 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana: ₹300 crore

- Solar Rooftop Scheme: ₹2,000 crore
- Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor: ₹10,000 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban):** ₹9,500 crore
- Subsidy for Interest on Loans under Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana: ₹408 crore

**International Assistance Schemes Allocation**

**1. Scheme for Bhutan:**

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹2467 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹2401 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹2399 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹2069 crore**

**2. Scheme for Nepal:**

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹434 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹550 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹650 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹700 crore**

**3. Maldives Assistance:**

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹183 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹400 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹771 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹600 crore**

**4. Support to International Training/Programmes:**

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹480 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹435 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹1105 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹769 crore**

**LK Advani to be awarded Bharat Ratna, Announced by PM Modi**

The Indian government has announced that **LK Advani**, one of the most prominent figures in Indian politics, will be conferred with the **Bharat Ratna**, the nation’s highest civilian award. This prestigious honour is a testament to Advani’s indelible contribution to Indian politics and society over several decades. The Bharat Ratna is a fitting recognition of LK Advani’s legacy as a statesman who has dedicated his life to the nation. His leadership has not only shaped the BJP but also left a lasting impact on Indian politics and governance. The award celebrates his immense contributions and his role as a catalyst for political and social change in India.

Born on **November 8, 1927, in Karachi**, LK Advani’s political journey is a saga of resilience, leadership, and profound influence on the Indian political landscape. Advani, a key architect of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been instrumental in shaping the party’s ideology and steering it to national prominence.

**LK Advani, Architect of Political Change**

Advani’s political career is marked by his visionary leadership and strategic acumen. His **Rath Yatra in 1990** was a turning point in Indian politics, significantly impacting the national discourse and contributing to the BJP’s rise as a major political force. As a seasoned parliamentarian and a government official, Advani has held several key positions, including that of the Deputy Prime Minister of India.

**LK Advani, Contributions and Controversies**

Advani’s tenure in politics has not been without controversies. However, his contributions to national security, governance, and public welfare have been significant. His role in promoting infrastructure development and his tough stance on national security are particularly noteworthy. Advani’s political journey is a reflection of his commitment to his principles and his unwavering dedication to India’s development.

**Grammy Awards 2024, Check The Complete List Of Winners**

**Grammy Awards 2024**

The **66th Annual Grammy Awards**, marking a significant milestone in the music industry, celebrated the most remarkable recordings, compositions, and artists of the year, from **October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023**. Chosen meticulously by the esteemed members of The Recording Academy, this prestigious ceremony took place on February 4, 2024. Returning to the iconic **Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles for its 21st year**, the event was broadcast live on CBS, with streaming options available on Paramount, ensuring a global audience could partake in the festivities. Hosting for the fourth consecutive time, **Trevor Noah** brought his charismatic presence and sharp wit to the stage, making the night unforgettable for both the winners and the worldwide viewers. This year’s ceremony not only highlighted the incredible talent and achievements within the music industry but also continued the tradition of celebrating the universal language of music in all its diversity and splendour.

**Grammy Awards 2024, Check The Complete List Of Winners**

Here is the list of Grammy Awardees 2024, the winners list is a testament to the wide-ranging tastes and sounds that have defined the musical landscape over the years.

Category	Winner
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For? from Barbie
Best Pop Vocal Album	Taylor Swift – Midnights
Best R&B Song	SZA – Snooze
Best Country Album	Lainey Wilson – Bell Bottom Country
Best Música Urbana Album	Karol G – Mañana Será Bonito
Best Pop Solo Performance	Miley Cyrus – Flowers
Best Progressive R&B Album	SZA – SOS
Best R&B Performance	Coco Jones – ICU
Best Folk Album	Joni Mitchell – Joni Mitchell at Newport (Live)
Producer of the Year, Non-Classical	Jack Antonoff
Songwriter of the Year, Non-Classical	Theron Thomas
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	SZA featuring Phoebe Bridgers – Ghost in the Machine
Best Dance/Electronic Recording	Skrillex, Fred again.. and Flowdan – Rumble
Best Pop Dance Recording	Kylie Minogue – Padam Padam
Best Dance/Electronic Music Album	Fred again.. – Actual Life 3 (January 1 – September 9 2022)
Best Traditional R&B Performance	PJ Morton featuring Susan Carol – Good Morning
Best R&B Album	Victoria Monét – Jaguar II
Best Rap Performance	Killer Mike featuring André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane – Scientists & Engineers
Best Melodic Rap Performance	Lil Durk featuring J Cole – All My Life
Best Rap Song	Killer Mike featuring André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane – Scientists & Engineers

**NIACL 2024**  
 Assistant Pre & Mains  
 120+ Total Tests  
 Test Series



Category	Winner
Best Rap Album	Killer Mike – Michael
Best Country Solo Performance	Chris Stapleton – White Horse
Best Country Song	Chris Stapleton – White Horse
Best Song Written for Visual Media	Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For? from Barbie
Best Comedy Album	Dave Chappelle – What’s in a Name?
Best Global Music Album	<b>Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain’s fusion band ‘Shakti’</b>
Best African Music Performance	Tyla – Water
Best Musical Theater Album	Some Like It Hot
Best Alternative Music Album	boygenius – The Record
Best Alternative Music Performance	Paramore – This Is Why
Best Rock Album	Paramore – This Is Why
Best Rock Song	boygenius – Not Strong Enough
Best Metal Performance	Metallica – 72 Seasons
Best Rock Performance	boygenius – Not Strong Enough
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Zach Bryan featuring Kacey Musgraves – I Remember Everything

**RBI’s Analysis Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2022-23**

The annual performance report of the Indian banking sector, compliant with **Section 36(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, presents a comprehensive analysis of the sector’s achievements and challenges. It encompasses cooperative banks and **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, providing insights into their contributions to the country’s economic framework.

**Stability and Strength of the Banking System**

The report highlights the robustness of India’s banking system and NBFCs, underpinned by high capital ratios, improved asset quality, and substantial earnings growth. This solid foundation has enabled credit expansion in double digits, thereby supporting domestic economic activities. However, the report emphasizes the necessity for enhanced governance, risk management, and the creation of additional financial buffers to sustain progress.

**Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)**

SCBs have experienced significant growth, with their combined balance sheets expanding by 12.2% in the fiscal year 2022-23, marking a nine-year high. This growth is attributed mainly to credit expansion in the retail and services sectors. Additionally, SCBs have strengthened their capital buffers and asset quality, with the **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio reaching a ten-year low of 3.9% by March 2023 and further dropping to 3.2% by September 2023**. Remarkably, no bank was under the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework by March 2023, indicating improved health of the banking sector.

**Capital Adequacy Ratios**

The Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) has seen varying trends across different bank types:

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) reported an increase in **CRAR from 14.6% in 2022 to 15.5% in 2023**.
- Private Sector Banks (PVBs) experienced a slight decrease in **CRAR from 18.8% to 18.6%**.
- Foreign Banks (FBs) maintained a stable **CRAR at 19.8%**.
- These figures reflect the banking sector’s efforts to maintain or improve capital adequacy, essential for absorbing potential losses.
- Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)
- The report provides a detailed analysis of NPAs, showing an overall improvement in asset quality. The Gross NPA percentage of Gross Advances decreased for most bank groups, indicating effective management of bad loans. Public Sector Banks (PSBs), for instance, saw a decrease in **Gross NPA percentage from 7.3% to 5.0%**.

**Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**

NBFCs have shown remarkable growth and improvement in asset quality, with their combined balance sheets growing by **14.8%** in 2022-23. The sector has witnessed a significant credit expansion, particularly in unsecured loans, micro-finance, and MSME loans. The **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for NBFCs declined to 4.1%**, showcasing an improvement in asset quality.

**Co-operative Banks**

Co-operative banks continue to play a vital role in India’s financial landscape, especially in rural areas. The government and the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** have taken steps to enhance the regulatory framework and provide these banks with more autonomy in capital acquisition, ensuring their continued contribution to financial inclusion.

**Contagion Risk and Regulatory Measures**

The interconnectedness between NBFCs and banks poses a potential contagion risk, necessitating careful monitoring. The RBI has introduced macroprudential measures to maintain financial stability, including increased risk weights for certain types of consumer credit loans and bank lending to NBFCs.

**Customer Service and Financial Inclusion**

Despite advancements in banking technology, the RBI has noted that customer service quality needs to catch up. Efforts are being made to ensure banking solutions are accessible to all, including seniors and those with special needs. Additionally, the RBI is focused on mitigating systemic risks by evaluating the over-reliance on specific IT service providers.

**RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate Holds Steady at 6.5%**

The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has made a pivotal announcement, maintaining the repo rate at **6.5 per cent**. This decision marks the sixth consecutive time the rate has remained unchanged, following closely on the heels of the Interim Budget presented on February 1, 2024. The RBI’s stance continues to focus on the withdrawal of its accommodative monetary policy, aiming to balance inflation control with economic growth. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **April 3 to 5, 2024**.

**Repo Rate Decision**

In a recent meeting that concluded on February 8, 2024, five out of six MPC members voted in favour of keeping the repo rate steady. This move was widely anticipated by financial experts, who expected the rate to remain at 6.5 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the importance of a disinflationary stance in monetary policy to ensure inflation aligns progressively with the target.

**RBI Repo Rate are as under**

- Policy Repo Rate: **6.50%**
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): **6.25%**
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: **6.75%**
- Bank Rate: **6.75%**
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: **3.35%**
- CRR: **4.50%**
- SLR: **18.00%**

**Inflation and Growth Projections**

The RBI has maintained its inflation forecast at **5.4 per cent for the fiscal year 2023-2024**, with a detailed outlook for the following year predicting a **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 4.5 per cent**. This detailed projection includes quarterly estimates, starting with 5 per cent in the first quarter and gradually adjusting to 4.7 per cent by the fourth quarter of FY 2024-2025.

**RBI projects real GDP growth of 7 pc for FY’25 with risks evenly balanced.**

Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7%

- For FY24Q1 is projected at 7.2%
- For FY24Q2 is projected at 6.8%
- For FY24Q3 is projected at 7%
- For FY24Q4 is projected at 6.9%

**Key Announcements and Policy Measures**

The MPC’s decision comes with several significant announcements aimed at strengthening the economy and ensuring financial stability:

- **India’s Forex Reserve:** Currently standing at **\$622.5 billion**, India’s foreign exchange reserves are deemed comfortable for meeting all foreign obligations.
- **Loan Transparency:** Lenders are now required to provide “key fact statements” for loans to retail and MSME borrowers, enhancing transparency and consumer protection.
- **Inflation and GDP Targets:** The RBI remains vigilant, focusing on achieving a durable inflation target of 4 per cent while projecting a balanced real GDP growth.

**Who are members of the RBI MPC?**

The RBI MPC is comprised of six members, including both external members and RBI officials. This includes the RBI Governor, 2 deputy governors, and 3 external members

1. Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI
2. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI
3. Rajiv Ranjan, Officer of RBI nominated by the Central Board, Member
4. Prof. Ashima Goyal, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Member
5. Prof. Jayanth R. Varma, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Member
6. Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Member.

**Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, Check Complete List of Winners**

In a dazzling ceremony that underscored the indomitable spirit of athletes and their tireless dedication to sports, the **Sportstar Aces Awards 2024** celebrated the best in the world of sports. Recognizing remarkable achievements across various categories, the awards brought to the forefront the relentless pursuit of excellence that defines sportsmanship. Here’s a detailed look at the luminaries who graced the winner’s circle this year.

**Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, Check Complete List of Winners**

This table summarizes the achievements and honorees of the Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and teams in the field of sports.

Category	Winner
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	Men’s Relay Team
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	Parul Chaudhary
Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)	Hardik Singh, Mohammed Shami
Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports)	Vandana Katariya

Category	Winner
Sportsman of the Year (Individual)	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual)	Rameshbabu Vaishali, Sift Kaur Samra
Sportsman of the Year (Parasports)	Sumit Antil
Sportswoman of the Year (Parasports)	Thulasimathi Murugesan
Coach of the Year	Rahul Dravid
Young Achiever of the Year (Male)	Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar
Young Achiever of the Year (Female)	Tilottama Sen
Lifetime Achievement Award	Chandu Borde, Karnam Malleswari
Sportstar of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra
Sportstar of the Year (Female)	Sheetal Devi
National Team of the Year	India Men's Cricket Team
Club/State Team of the Year	Saurashtra Cricket Team
Moment of the Year	Sheetal Devi Hits the Bullseye
International Icon	Muttiah Muralitharan
Best State for the Promotion of Sport	Tamil Nadu
Best PSU for the Promotion of Sport	NTPC Ltd
Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport	Tata Steel Ltd
Best University for the Promotion of Sport	SRM Institute of Science and Technology
Sport for Social Good	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board
Ace of Aces Award	Rohan Bopanna

**AIIMS Launches iOncology.ai for Early Cancer Detection**

In a landmark collaboration between AIIMS, New Delhi, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune, the groundbreaking **AI platform iOncology.ai** has been unveiled. This cutting-edge technology focuses on the early detection of cancer, particularly targeting breast and ovarian cancers, which are prevalent among women in India.

**Global Cancer Scenario**

- Cancer surpasses cardiovascular diseases in high-income and middle-income countries in terms of fatality rates.
- GLOBOCAN estimates for 2020 show 19.3 million incident cancer cases worldwide, with India ranking third after China and the United States.

**Cancer Statistics in India**

- A Lancet study predicts a 57.5% increase in cancer cases in India by 2040, reaching 2.08 million.
- In 2022, over 8 lakh deaths in India were attributed to cancer, mainly due to late detection, resulting in a mere 20% survival rate.

**About iOncology.ai**

- Developed in collaboration with CDAC and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, iOncology.ai utilizes AI to reduce false negatives in manual cancer diagnosis.
- The platform employs deep learning models and self-learning capabilities to analyze complex medical data with unparalleled accuracy and efficiency.
- Initial focus lies on early detection of breast and ovarian cancers, leveraging a dataset of approximately half a million radiological and histopathological images from AIIMS.

**Positive Reception and Future Collaborations**

- iOncology.ai has been successfully implemented in five district hospitals, demonstrating its potential for widespread impact.
- It received positive feedback at a Med-Hackathon event during AIIMS Research Day celebrations and is poised for further partnerships with cancer hospitals and research centers across India.

**MoU between AIIMS and DGE for Rheumatological Disorders**

- The Department of Rheumatology at AIIMS New Delhi has signed an MoU with the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- This initiative aims to address challenges faced by patients with disabilities due to rheumatological disorders by providing certifications for employable skills and promoting economic upliftment and vocational rehabilitation.

**Bharat Ratna to Honour PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan**

India's highest civilian award, the **Bharat Ratna**, is set to honour the indelible contributions of three distinguished individuals whose efforts have significantly shaped the nation's trajectory. **Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan**, are the esteemed recipients of this prestigious accolade, acknowledging their unparalleled dedication to the progress of India.

**Bharat Ratna, PV Narasimha Rao**

**PV Narasimha Rao**, often hailed as the **Architect of Modern India**, played a pivotal role in ushering in economic liberalization in the early 1990s. His visionary leadership not only averted a financial crisis but also laid the groundwork for India's rapid growth and integration into the global economy. Rao's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by bold reforms that transformed the economic landscape, fostering investment, expansion of the private sector, and enhancing India's competitiveness worldwide.

Beyond economics, Rao's impact was profoundly felt in India's foreign policy, where he redefined relationships, steering the country through the post-Cold War era with strategic finesse. His initiatives towards strengthening ties with the East, including the Look East policy, paved the way for a new era in diplomatic relations and economic partnerships.

Rao's contributions extended into the realms of language and education, where he championed the cause of cultural diversity and literacy. His policies aimed at preserving India's rich linguistic heritage while promoting education as a means of empowerment.

**Bharat Ratna, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Champion of the Farmers**

Chaudhary Charan Singh revered as a true champion of India's agrarian community dedicated his life to the welfare of the farmers. His tenure as Prime Minister, though brief, was impactful, particularly his advocacy for policies that supported the agricultural sector and upheld the rights of the farmers. Singh's legacy is a testament to his commitment to rural development and his belief in the vital role of agriculture in India's economy.

Singh's initiatives aimed at alleviating farmer distress, improving agricultural productivity, and ensuring fair prices for crops have left an enduring mark on India's agricultural policies. His efforts to reform the agrarian landscape resonate with millions of farmers across the nation, making him a beloved figure among the rural populace.

**Bharat Ratna, MS Swaminathan, Father of the Green Revolution**

**Dr. MS Swaminathan's** contributions to India's agricultural revolution are monumental. As the architect of the **Green Revolution**, Swaminathan's scientific acumen and innovative approaches to crop improvement significantly increased food production, thereby mitigating the threat of famine and ensuring food security for millions. His work not only transformed India from a food-importing country to one of self-sufficiency but also inspired agricultural reforms worldwide.

Swaminathan's dedication to sustainable agriculture and his advocacy for the conservation of biodiversity have shaped the discourse on ecological balance and responsible farming practices. His vision extends beyond immediate agricultural gains, focusing on the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

**PM Modi's UAE Visit**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** embarked on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he was warmly received by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Their cordial meeting included discussions on various fronts, signifying the strengthening of bilateral relations.

**Here are the key highlights of PM Modi's visit****Warm Reception and Strategic Talks**

- President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan warmly welcomed Prime Minister Modi at the airport, showcasing the strong personal rapport between the leaders.
- The two leaders engaged in wide-ranging discussions, focusing on reviewing the strategic partnership and identifying areas for further collaboration.
- Several agreements were signed during the visit, including a **Bilateral Investment Treaty** and an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, signifying a deepening of economic cooperation.

**Inauguration of BAPS Mandir and Gratitude for Support**

- Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude to President Al Nahyan for his support in facilitating the construction of the first Hindu stone temple in the UAE, located in Abu Dhabi.
- The inauguration of the **Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)** Mandir underscores the cultural and religious ties between India and the UAE.

**Digital Initiatives and Financial Collaboration**

- Modi congratulated the UAE President on the launch of the domestic card JAYWAN, which is based on India's digital RuPay credit and debit card stack.
- A transaction using the JAYWAN card was witnessed by both leaders, highlighting the advancement of financial technology and collaboration between the two countries.

**Participation in World Government Summit 2024**

- Prime Minister Modi's participation as a guest of honor in the World Government Summit 2024 in Dubai underscores India's global significance and commitment to multilateral cooperation.
- His keynote address at the summit reaffirms India's role in shaping discussions on global governance and development.

**Frequent Engagements Highlight Strong Ties**

- Modi's visit marks his seventh to the UAE since 2015, demonstrating the continuity and depth of engagement between the leadership of India and the UAE.
- With his third visit in the past eight months alone, the frequency underscores the importance both nations attach to strengthening bilateral relations.

### Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Transfer Of 3 High Court Judges

The **Supreme Court collegium**, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, has recommended the transfer of **three high court judges** upon their respective requests. The decisions were made in accordance with the interests of better administration of justice and personal reasons cited by the judges.

#### Recommendation 1: Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya

- **Request:** Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya of the Calcutta High Court has sought a transfer to another high court due to personal reasons, as conveyed in a communication dated February 12, 2024.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has acceded to Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya's request and recommended her transfer to the High Court for the State of Telangana.

#### Recommendation 2: Justice Anu Sivaraman

- **Request:** Justice Anu Sivaraman has requested a transfer out of the State of Kerala.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has accepted Justice Anu Sivaraman's request and recommended her transfer to the Karnataka High Court.

#### Recommendation 3: Justice Sujoy Paul

- **Request:** Justice Sujoy Paul has sought a transfer because his son practices in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has resolved to recommend Justice Sujoy Paul's transfer to the High Court for the State of Telangana, considering the better administration of justice.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Abu Dhabi's First Hindu Stone Temple

In a historic event on February 14, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple**, marking a significant milestone in the **UAE's** cultural and religious inclusivity. The inauguration ceremony was imbued with devotional chants and witnessed the presence of spiritual leaders from the Swaminarayan sect, highlighting the temple's importance to the global Hindu community.

#### Global Aarti: A Spiritual Unison

A highlight of the event was the "Global Aarti," performed simultaneously at over **1,200 temples of the Swaminarayan** sect worldwide. This act of global spiritual unity was orchestrated by the **Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)**, illustrating the widespread reverence and support for the newly inaugurated temple.

#### A Meeting of Faiths

Prior to the inauguration, Prime Minister Modi engaged with individuals from various faiths who played a crucial role in the temple's construction, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that underpinned the project. This interaction underscored the temple's ethos of unity and the bridging of cultural divides.

#### Temple Architecture: A Blend of Tradition and Technology

Located on a **27-acre site near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway**, the temple was constructed at a cost of approximately **Rs 700 crore**. It stands as a testament to ancient architectural principles derived from Hindu scriptures, the Shilpa and Sthapathya Shastras, which guide mandir design and construction. The temple's architecture harmonizes traditional methods with modern scientific techniques, incorporating over 300 high-tech sensors to monitor temperature, pressure, and seismic activity. This innovative approach allows for ongoing research and ensures the temple's safety and sustainability.

#### Eco-Friendly Construction

Remarkably, the temple's construction involved no metal use, with fly ash replacing a significant portion of cement in the concrete mix, thereby reducing the carbon footprint. The use of heat-resistant nano tiles and heavy glass panels merges traditional aesthetics with modern functionality, catering to the UAE's extreme temperatures and ensuring visitor comfort.

#### Craftsmanship and Global Collaboration

Constructed in the Nagara style of architecture, similar to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the temple required 18 lakh bricks, seven lakh man-hours, and 1.8 lakh cubic metres of Rajasthan-sourced sandstone. The intricate carvings and the marble used in the interiors, mined from Italy and carved in India, showcase the global effort and craftsmanship invested in the temple's creation.

#### A Landmark of Hindu Faith in the Gulf

The temple's establishment, supported by the land donated by the UAE government, marks a new era for the Hindu community in the Gulf region. It joins three other Hindu temples in Dubai but stands out for its size and traditional stone architecture, symbolizing a significant cultural and religious landmark.

#### Prime Minister Modi's UAE Visit

This visit, Prime Minister Modi's seventh to the UAE since 2015 and his third in the last eight months underscores the deepening ties between India and the UAE. The inauguration of the temple during this visit highlights the mutual respect and acknowledgement of cultural and religious diversity between the two nations.

The Abu Dhabi Hindu temple not only serves as a place of worship but also as a beacon of cultural harmony, architectural innovation, and environmental consciousness. It signifies the growing inclusivity within the UAE and strengthens the bond between India and the Emirates, promising a future of shared values and mutual respect.

### Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Awarded Prestigious Jnanpith Award 2023

The **Jnanpith Award**, India's most prestigious literary accolade, has announced its recipients for the year 2023, marking a momentous occasion in the annals of Indian literature. This year, the honour is bestowed upon two luminaries from the world of letters: celebrated Urdu poet and Bollywood personality **Gulzar**, and the distinguished Sanskrit scholar and spiritual leader **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya**. Their selection for the **58th edition of the award** underscores the rich diversity and depth of Indian literary traditions, spanning the classical to the contemporary.

#### Gulzar: A Versatile Literary Genius

**Gulzar**, born **Sampoorn Singh Kalra**, has etched his name in the realms of Urdu poetry and Hindi cinema with an indelible ink. As one of the finest Urdu poets of his generation, Gulzar's contributions extend beyond the poetic to include significant works as a writer and director in Bollywood. His achievements have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the Padma Bhushan, and several National Film Awards. Notably, his song "Jai Ho" from the film "Slumdog Millionaire" has won both an Oscar and a Grammy, showcasing his international acclaim.

Gulzar's directorial ventures such as "Koshish," "Parichay," and "Mausam," among others, are considered classics. His creation of the 'Triveni,' a unique genre of non-rhyming three-line poetry, and his focus on children's poetry in recent years, highlight his innovative spirit and versatility.

#### Jagadguru Rambhadracharya: A Scholar of Sanskrit and Spirituality

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya stands as a towering figure in the world of Sanskrit scholarship and Hindu spirituality. As the founder and head of **Tulsi Peeth in Madhya Pradesh**, his contributions to education, literature, and spiritual discourse are unparalleled. Authoring over 240 books and texts, including four epics, Rambhadracharya's prolific output spans a variety of themes and forms. His receipt of the Padma Vibhushan in 2015 attests to his significant impact on Indian culture and scholarship.

A polyglot fluent in 22 languages, Rambhadracharya's influence extends across linguistic and sectarian boundaries, embodying the universal appeal of Indian spiritual and literary traditions.

#### Jnanpith Award 2023 Committee

The awardees were selected by a committee headed by Odia writer Pratibha Rai. Other members of the selection committee included Madhav Kaushik, Damodar Mauzo, Suranjan Das, Purushottam Bilmale, Praful Shiledar, Harish Trivedi, Prabha Verma, Janaki Prasad Sharma, A. Krishna Rao and Jnanpith director Madhusudan Anand.

### The Jnanpith Award, A Legacy of Literary Excellence

Established in **1965** by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith**, the **Jnanpith Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to Indian literature. With a legacy spanning over five decades, the award has celebrated the works of authors across various Indian languages, reflecting the country's rich linguistic and cultural tapestry. The award includes a cash prize of **₹11 lakh**, a statue of Vagdevi, and a citation, symbolizing the highest honour in Indian literature.

This year's selection of Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for their contributions to Urdu and Sanskrit literature, respectively, marks the second time Sanskrit and the fifth time Urdu has been recognized, highlighting the inclusive nature of the award.

### BAFTA Awards 2024, Check the Complete List of Winners

The **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2024**, hosted by the illustrious **David Tennant**, best known for his role in "Doctor Who," was a celebration of cinematic excellence that unfolded at London's Royal Festival Hall. Esteemed as the British counterpart to the Oscars, the event saw a live broadcast in the U.S. via BritBox International, albeit with a tape delay, allowing film aficionados worldwide to partake in the festivities.

#### "Oppenheimer" Dominates the Evening

Leading the charge with an impressive 13 nominations, "Oppenheimer" emerged as the night's biggest winner, securing seven BAFTAs, including Best Film. Directed by Christopher Nolan, the movie not only captivated the audience with its riveting storytelling and direction but also shone in categories such as Cinematography, Editing, Original Score, and Supporting Actor, with Robert Downey Jr. winning for his role. Cillian Murphy's portrayal of the titular character earned him the Leading Actor award, cementing the film's position as a cinematic masterpiece of the year.

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[Check out the FULL List of BAFTA Awards 2024 Winners Here](#)

This table provides a comprehensive overview of the winners across various categories at the BAFTA Awards 2024.

S.No	Category	Winner
1	Best Film	Oppenheimer
2	Outstanding British Film	The Zone of Interest
3	Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director, or Producer	Earth Mama – Savanah Leaf (Writer, Director, Producer), Shirley O'Connor (Producer), Medb Riordan (Producer)
4	Film Not in the English Language	The Zone of Interest
5	Documentary	20 Days in Mariupol
6	Animated Film	The Boy And The Heron
7	Director	Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer
8	Original Screenplay	Anatomy of a Fall
9	Adapted Screenplay	American Fiction
10	Leading Actress	Emma Stone, Poor Things
11	Leading Actor	Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
12	Supporting Actress	Da'Vine Joy Randolph, The Holdovers
13	Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer
14	Original Score	Oppenheimer
15	Cinematography	Oppenheimer
16	Editing	Oppenheimer
17	Casting	The Holdovers
18	Production Design	Poor Things
19	Costumer Design	Poor Things
20	Makeup & Hair	Poor Things
21	Sound	The Zone of Interest
22	Special Visual Effects	Poor Things
23	British Short Animation	Crab Day
24	EE Rising Star Award	Mia McKenna-Bruce
25	British Short Film	Jellyfish and Lobster

**Henley Passport Index 2024, France tops list of world's most powerful passports**

The Henley Passport Index, a renowned metric for measuring the strength and global mobility afforded by the passports of various countries, has unveiled its rankings for 2024. This year, **France leads the pack**, with its passport holders enjoying visa-free access to **194 countries**, a testament to the country's robust diplomatic relations and its citizens' global mobility.

**The Top Tier: A Global Access Elite**

France, along with Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain, stands at the pinnacle of passport power, each providing their citizens visa-free access to 194 countries. This elite group represents a diverse cross-section of global leaders, underscoring the importance of soft power and the benefits of international cooperation.

**Global Rankings and Mobility Insights**

The Henley Passport Index 2024 reveals interesting shifts and trends in global mobility. While India saw a slight decrease in its rank, slipping to **85th with visa-free access to 62 countries**, its maritime neighbour **Maldives ranked 58th**, enjoying access to 96 countries. China improved its standing slightly to 64th, as it seeks to rejuvenate its tourism sector by extending visa-free access to many European countries.

The United States moved up to 6th position, reflecting its strong passport despite the nation's contentious anti-immigration policies. This year's index also highlights a remarkable growth in global mobility compared to two decades ago, with the average number of countries accessible visa-free nearly doubling from 58 in 2006 to 111 in 2024.

**Detailed Passport Power Rankings for 2024**

The table below outlines the top rankings on the Henley Passport Index for 2024, offering a clear view of how different countries compare in terms of the travel freedom afforded to their citizens:

Rank	Country(s)	Visa-Free Access
1st	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain	194
2nd	Finland, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden	193
3rd	Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, United Kingdom	192
4th	Belgium, Norway, Portugal	191
5th	Australia, Greece, Malta, New Zealand, Switzerland	190
6th	Canada, Czechia, Poland, United States	189
7th	Hungary, Lithuania	188
8th	Estonia	187
9th	Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	186
10th	Iceland	185
<b>85th</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>62</b>

**The Implications of Passport Strength**

The rankings not only reflect the travel convenience enjoyed by citizens of these countries but also signify the diplomatic clout and international relations strength. Countries with stronger passports enjoy a higher degree of soft power, influencing international affairs through cultural and economic means rather than military might.

**MS Dhoni Named Captain of IPL's Greatest All-Time Team**

The **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, since its inception in 2008, has been a powerhouse of talent and excitement in the cricketing world. To commemorate its success, a selection panel comprising esteemed former cricketers and journalists convened to assemble the IPL's all-time greatest team.

**Selection Panel:**

- WasimAkram
- MatthewHayden
- TomMoody
- DaleSteyn
- Approximately 70 Journalists

**Captaincy:**

The iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni was unanimously chosen to lead this star-studded ensemble, bringing his unparalleled leadership and cricketing acumen to the fore.

**Batting Order:**

Position	Player
Opener	David Warner
Opener	Virat Kohli
3	Chris Gayle
4	Suresh Raina
5	AB de Villiers
6	Suryakumar Yadav

**All-Rounders:**

- Hardik Pandya
- Ravindra Jadeja
- Kieron Pollard

**Bowling Attack:**

Type	Player
Spinner	Rashid Khan
Spinner	Sunil Narine
Spinner	Yuzvendra Chahal
Pacer	Lasith Malinga
Pacer	Jasprit Bumrah

**Prime Minister Modi's Ambitious Inaugurations and Initiatives in Jammu**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to **Jammu** is set to mark a significant milestone in the region's developmental journey. With a suite of projects worth over **Rs 45,375 crore (\$5.5 billion approximately)** set to be inaugurated or initiated, this visit underscores the Central Government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir.

**World's Highest Railway Bridge**

A highlight of the Prime Minister's visit is the inauguration of the world's highest railway bridge over the **Chenab River**. Towering at **359 metres** above the riverbed, this engineering marvel surpasses the height of the Eiffel Tower by 35 metres. Spanning **1.3 km**, the bridge is a critical component of the **111-km Katra-Banihal stretch of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) Project**. This bridge is not just an infrastructural achievement but a significant step towards connecting the Kashmir valley with Katra in Jammu, promising to reduce travel time between Katra and Srinagar by five hours. Additionally, PM Modi will flag off the valley's first electric train and a train service linking Sangaldan station to Baramulla station, further enhancing the region's connectivity.

**AIIMS Jammu Inauguration**

Another significant initiative is the inauguration of the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu**. This state-of-the-art facility, established under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana** at a cost of over **Rs 1,660 crore, sprawls over 227 acres**. It boasts 720 beds, a medical college with 125 seats, a nursing college with 60 seats, and an AYUSH Block, among other amenities. The hospital is set to offer 18 specialities and 17 super-specialities, including cardiology, neurology, and surgical oncology, equipped with an ICU, emergency services, modular operation theatres, and digital health infrastructure to extend its reach to remote areas.

**New Terminal at Jammu Airport**

The foundation stone for a new terminal at **Jammu Airport** will also be laid by the Prime Minister. **Envisioned on a 40,000 sqm area**, the terminal aims to cater to 2,000 passengers during peak hours, embodying modern facilities while reflecting the local culture. This development is expected to bolster air connectivity, tourism, trade, and economic growth in the region.

**Additional Projects**

Moreover, PM Modi will initiate the development of a state-of-the-art, fully automated Common User Facility (CUF) Petroleum depot in Jammu. With a storage capacity of about **100,000 KL**, the **Rs 677 crore** facility will store various fuels and is aimed at enhancing the region's energy security.

**Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 Announced**

The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024** took place in Mumbai, where 40 individuals received accolades for their significant contributions to the advancement of Indian cinema. Selected by a panel comprising esteemed figures from the Indian film industry, these awardees were recognized at the **70th edition of DFIFF**. The ceremony was a glamorous affair, attended by luminaries like Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukerji, Kareena Kapoor, Vikrant Massey, Nayanthara, Shahid Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, and Sandeep Reddy Vanga, making it a memorable evening.



**Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards list**

The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 has celebrated the remarkable talents and contributions of individuals in the Indian cinema industry.

Category	Winner	Work
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan	Jawan
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji	Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
Best Film	Jawan	
Best Director	Sandeep Reddy Vanga	Animal
Best Actor (Critics)	Vicky Kaushal	Sam Bahadur
Best Actress (Critics)	Kareena Kapoor	Jaane Jaan
Best Film (Critics)	12th Fail	
Best Director (Critics)	Atlee	Jawan
Best Actor in a Negative Role	Bobby Deol	Animal
Best Actress in a Comic Role	Sanya Malhotra	Kathal
Best Actor in a Comic Role	Ayushmann Khurrana	Dream Girl 2
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Anil Kapoor	Animal
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Dimple Kapadia	Pathaan
Most Versatile Actress	Nayanthara	
Most Promising Actor	Vikrant Massey	12th Fail
Most Promising Actress	Adah Sharma	The Kerala Story
Best Music Director	Anirudh Ravichander	Jawan
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Varun Jain and Sachin Jigar	"Tere Vaste"
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Shilpa Rao	"Besharam Rang"
Best Lyricist	Javed Akhtar	"Nikle The Kabhi Hum Ghar Se"
Best Short Film	Good Morning	
Best International Feature Film	Oppenheimer	
Best Cinematographer	Gnweana Shekar VS	IB71

**Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards in Television**

At the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards for Television, Neil Bhatt won Best Actor for "Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin," Rupali Ganguly was awarded Best Actress for "Anupamaa," and "Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin" was named the Television Series of the Year.

Category	Winner	Work
Best Actor in a Television Series	Neil Bhatt	Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin
Best Actress in a Television Series	Rupali Ganguly	Anupamaa
Television Series of the Year	Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin	

**Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards for OTT**

At the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards for OTT, Shahid Kapoor and Sushmita Sen clinched Best Actor and Actress for "Farzi" and "Aarya 3" respectively, with "Farzi" also winning Best Web Series, while Aditya Roy Kapur and Karishma Tanna were honored in the Critics' category for "Night Manager" and "Scoop," and "The Railway Men" took Best Web Series (Critics).

Category	Winner	Work
Best Actor in a Web Series	Shahid Kapoor	Farzi
Best Actress in a Web Series	Sushmita Sen	Aarya 3
Best Actor in a Web Series (Critics)	Aditya Roy Kapur	Night Manager
Best Actress in a Web Series (Critics)	Karishma Tanna	Scoop
Best Web Series	Farzi	
Best Web Series (Critics)	The Railway Men	

**Special Awards:**

- Outstanding Contribution to the Film Industry: Moushumi Chatterjee
- Outstanding Contribution to the Music Industry: KJ Yesudas

**Army Clinches Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Title on Final Day**

The **Khelo India Winter Games 2024** concluded in Gulmarg, with the **Army emerging victorious** after a thrilling final day of competition.

**Army Tops the Medal Tally**

Alpine skier **Bobby Pandey's gold medal** in the parallel slalom event proved decisive, propelling Army to the top of the medal table with **10 gold medals**. This narrow margin placed them one gold ahead of **Karnataka (9 gold)** and three ahead of **Maharashtra (7 gold)**, who had led after the first round in Ladakh.

**Individual Performances Shine**

- **Mehak from Uttarakhand** secured gold in the women's parallel slalom.
- **Uttarakhand** finished fifth overall with three gold medals, all in skiing events.

- **Himachal Pradesh** secured fourth place with four gold medals, led by **Aanchal Thakur's double gold** performance.
- **Army** dominated the games, particularly in Gulmarg, with **nine gold medals** added to their ice hockey gold from Ladakh. Notably, **snowboarder Kulvinder Sharma and Nordic skier Padma Namgial** each bagged two individual gold medals for the team.
- **Karnataka's Thekkada Bhavani Nanjunda** emerged as the individual star, clinching a remarkable **hat-trick of gold medals** in Gulmarg, despite their reliance on ice skating success in Ladakh.

**Technical Expertise and Olympian Involvement**

The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** successfully managed the technical aspects of the games. Additionally, **six Olympians, including Shiva Keshavan and Arif Mohammed Khan**, actively contributed to the conduct of the event, lending their expertise and experience.

The **Khelo India Winter Games 2024** witnessed exceptional performances and a captivating battle for the top spot. The Army's triumph, individual brilliance, and the involvement of Olympians mark a successful edition of the winter sporting event.

**Gaganyaan Mission and ISRO Projects Inauguration by PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi disclosed the identities of the four pilots currently undergoing training for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. The astronauts, **Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander S Shukla**, were also awarded 'astronaut wings' by the Prime Minister. Accompanying PM Modi were Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister Muraleedharan, and ISRO Chairman S Somanath.

**Astronaut Designates**

- Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair
- Group Captain Ajit Krishnan
- Group Captain Angad Pratap
- Wing Commander S Shukla

**About the Gaganyaan Mission**

The Gaganyaan mission marks India's pioneering venture into manned space exploration, slated for launch between 2024-2025. Its objective is to deploy a crew of three individuals into a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission, culminating in a safe return to Earth via landing in Indian sea waters.

**ISRO's Milestones and Progress**

ISRO achieved a significant milestone in the human rating of its **CE20 cryogenic engine**, a pivotal component powering the cryogenic stage of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions. The completion of the final round of ground qualification tests on February 13, 2024, at the High Altitude Test Facility in ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, signifies a crucial advancement in India's preparations for the mission.

**Inauguration of Space Infrastructure Projects**

- PM Modi inaugurated three key space infrastructure projects during his visit to Kerala, including the **PSLV Integration Facility (PIF)** at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Additionally, he inaugurated the new **'Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and stage Test facility'** at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, and the **'Trisonic Wind Tunnel'** at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram.
- These projects, developed at a cost of approximately ₹1,800 crore, signify India's commitment to enhancing its space capabilities and infrastructure.

**India's Position at 42 in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024**

The **US Chamber of Commerce** recently unveiled the **12th edition** of its **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index**, offering a comprehensive evaluation of the IP landscape across the globe. This year's index ranked 55 economies, assessing their IP frameworks' effectiveness in fostering innovation and creative industries. The United States retained its position at the pinnacle, followed closely by the United Kingdom and France, highlighting the critical role of robust IP systems in economic development.

**India's Position in the Global Ranking**

**India** secured the **42nd position out of the 55 countries evaluated**, with an overall score of 38.64 percent. This placement underscores the ongoing challenges and opportunities for India in strengthening its IP framework to bolster innovation and economic growth. Despite the static position, the inclusion of India in the analysis signifies its importance in the global IP discourse.

**Global Leaders in IP Rights**

The index identified the top 10 economies with the most effective IP frameworks, led by the United States with a score of 95.48 percent. The United Kingdom and France followed, demonstrating the preeminence of Western economies in the IP domain. This hierarchy of nations reflects the direct correlation between strong IP protections and economic prosperity.

**Top 10 Economies for IP Rights**

1. United States (95.48%)
2. United Kingdom (94.12%)
3. France (93.12%)
4. Germany (92.46%)
5. Sweden (92.12%)
6. Japan (91.26%)
7. Netherlands (91.24%)
8. Ireland (89.38%)
9. Spain (86.44%)
10. Switzerland (85.98%)

**Trends and Observations**

The report highlighted several key trends, including the advancement of 20 economies in their overall IP scores. Notably, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Nigeria emerged as the top gainers, reflecting their concerted efforts to invest in policy-

driven innovation. This improvement among various countries signals a positive trend towards strengthening global IP policies. Conversely, the index also revealed stagnation in 27 economies, including India, where no significant progress was noted. Furthermore, eight countries, such as Ecuador, experienced a decline in their rankings due to inadequate enforcement mechanisms against IP infringements.

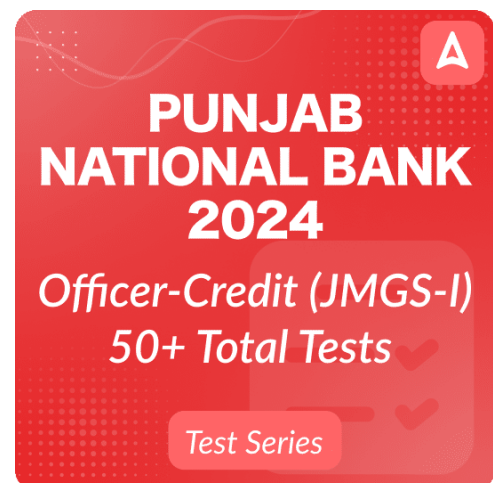
**Implications for Global IP Policy**

The findings from the index suggest a plateau in progress among the top-ranked economies, calling for renewed leadership from the United States and the European Union in IP policy. The report advocates for multilateral organizations to reassert their commitment to global IP standards, cautioning against counterproductive measures like IP waivers that could undermine the IP framework's integrity.

**Banking and Financial Current Affairs**

- Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has undergone a rebranding, emerging as **'BOBCARD Limited'** with the tagline **"Credit Reimagined."** The transformation includes a distinctive logo named **'Baroda Sun,'** featuring dual 'B' letterforms enveloping the rays of a rising sun. This initiative signifies a revitalized commitment to reshaping India's credit landscape by offering innovative and customer-centric credit solutions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed major business restrictions on **Paytm Payments Bank**, effective from **February 29**. The regulatory action comes in response to persistent non-compliances and material supervisory concerns identified during a comprehensive external audit of the bank's systems. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) surged to 418.77 in September 2023, showcasing a robust growth trajectory from 395.57 in March 2023 and 377.46 in September 2022. This remarkable uptick aligns with a **10.94% annual rise in digital payments** by the end of March 2023, underscoring the increasing adoption of online transactions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, the Indian government has decided to substantially increase the issuance of **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB)** for the upcoming fiscal year. The allocation for SGBs has been more than doubled, rising from ₹1,500 crore in the financial year ending March 31, 2023, to a significant ₹3,500 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has officially entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance**. This collaboration aligns the two organizations in their commitment to prioritizing customer needs, fostering a culture of growth, and promoting innovation in the financial sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed on February 1 that **97.50% of the Rs 2,000 currency notes** in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have been successfully reintegrated into the banking system. This development follows the government's decision to withdraw the high-denomination bills as part of the clean note policy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The RBI's announcement on **January 1, 2024, revealed that a staggering 97.38 per cent of ₹2,000 notes in circulation had been successfully returned.** The deadline for deposit and exchange at bank branches was October 7, 2023, marking the end of an era for the vibrant-coloured currency. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- HDFC Bank and its affiliated companies have obtained approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire stakes in six prominent banks. This approval, received on January 5, 2024, grants HDFC Bank and its group entities the authority to acquire an aggregate stake of up to 9.5% in **ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, YES Bank, Bandhan Bank, and Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)**. The approval, valid until February 4, 2025, follows applications submitted by the bank as a promoter or sponsor of the group on December 18, 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently granted final authorization to fintech firms **Juspay and Decentro**, along with software-as-a-service company **Zoho**, to operate as payment aggregators. This approval comes in the wake of stringent criteria set by the regulator and positions these entities alongside other notable players in the payments aggregator landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announces the introduction of **offline functionality for e-rupee** transactions to facilitate payments in areas with poor or limited internet connectivity. This move aims to enhance accessibility and usability of the Central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot project. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed **Visa and Mastercard** to cease card-based commercial payments by businesses, citing concerns over **Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance**. This directive extends to transactions made by both small and large enterprises, with a focus on ensuring adherence to regulatory norms. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has augmented its shareholding in **SBI Cards & Payments Services Limited** from 4.99% to 5.02% of the paid-up capital through open market purchases. This acquisition, completed on February 9, 2024, marks LIC's increased ownership in the non-banking financial company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **South Indian Bank** has clinched the esteemed title of Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the **19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations**. The bank's remarkable achievements were acknowledged with a total of six prestigious awards, including three wins, one runner-up position, and two special mentions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant collaboration with Nepal Rastra Bank, aiming to integrate the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and the **National Payments Interface (NPI)** of Nepal. This integration seeks to streamline cross-border remittances between the two countries, facilitating instant and cost-effective fund transfers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Fintech giant **PayU** has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to introduce a groundbreaking feature called **'Credit Lines on UPI' for merchants**. This integration, available within the PayU application, facilitates digital payments through pre-sanctioned credit lines, enhancing financial flexibility for both merchants and consumers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a triumphant display of technological prowess, **City Union Bank**, under the stewardship of Dr. N Kamakodi, claimed an impressive **seven awards at the 19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations in 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has released the impact assessment report of the **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**, a pivotal element of the Start Up India Action Plan initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2016. Conducted by **CRISIL**, a leading analytics company in India, the report, titled **"Prabhaav,"** underscores the transformative influence of the FFS scheme on the Indian startup ecosystem. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a convenient self-subscribing journey for its customers to enrol under the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** schemes digitally, eliminating the need to visit a branch or Customer Service Point. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has rolled out a new insurance product named **'Amritbaal'**. This announcement, made, introduces a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan specifically tailored for the younger demographic. Here's a detailed look at what 'Amritbaal' offers and how it stands to benefit its policyholders. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- ICICI Bank announced the appointment of **Mr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha** as the Non-Executive Part-time Chairman at its recent board meeting. This decision follows the retirement of Mr. G. C. Chaturvedi, the current Chairman, effective June 30, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- According to recent data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), In January 2024, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments surged by **25.7% year-on-year to \$2.09 billion**. However, there was a sequential decline from December 2023 figures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **HDFC Bank** emerges as the **most profitable company** in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, with a net profit of Rs 44,300 crore. **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** follow closely, reporting profits of Rs 40,378 crore and Rs 34,781 crore, respectively. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 23 million loan aimed at bolstering fintech education, research, and innovation within the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India**. GIFT, a state-owned enterprise, serves as a hub for nurturing fintech ecosystems and financial services in India, being the nation's premier international financial services centre. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- In a recent report, the Bank of Baroda (BoB) has forecasted India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for fiscal years 2024-25, approximately **6.75-6.8%**, with a growth rate of **6.8% estimated for the FY24**, alongside insights into sectoral performance and economic indicators. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- HDFC Bank has secured approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for the divestment of a **90% stake in HDFC Credila**, its education loan subsidiary. This decision follows RBI's directive to HDFC to reduce its stake in Credila to below 10% within two years post the HDFC Bank merger in April 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is promoting financial literacy among young adults through their annual **Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign, held from February 26 to March 1, 2024**. This year's theme, **"Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart,"** with emphasis on "Saving and Power of Compounding", "Banking Essentials for Students" and "Digital and Cyber Hygiene" which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dvara Money**, a leading fintech company, has announced a strategic partnership with **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB)**. This collaboration aims to harness the technological capabilities of Jana SFB and the innovative Spark Money platform by Dvara Money to set new standards in digital banking services. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Economy Current Affairs

- India's core sector output growth plummeted to a **14-month low of 3.8% YoY** in December, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This sharp decline from the previous month's 7.9% was attributed to a high base and a slowdown in six constituent sectors. Notably, only fertilizers (5.8%) and cement (1.3%) sectors saw an output acceleration in December. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a commendable financial feat, the Centre reported a **10.4% surge** in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for January, reaching an impressive **₹1,72,129 crore**. This milestone represents the **second-highest GST collection ever** recorded, with the ₹1.7 lakh crore benchmark surpassed for the third time in the fiscal year 2023-24. The Ministry of Finance disclosed that the robust growth is indicative of a significant year-on-year increase, showcasing a notable rise from the ₹1,55,922 crore collected in January 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reports a remarkable milestone in Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions for January, reaching a **record ₹18.41 trillion**. This marks a 52% increase in volume and a substantial 42% rise in value compared to the same month in the previous financial year. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The liquidity deficit in the banking system has significantly reduced to approximately **₹1.40 lakh crore** as of February 4, down from a **recent high of ₹3.46 lakh crore** on January 24. This decline is attributed to increased government spending, as per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Consequently, overnight money market rates have eased, with the weighted average rate dropping to 6.33 per cent from last month's range of 6.50 per cent to 6.75 per cent. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In its latest interim economic outlook, the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) upwards to 6.2%, a marginal increase from the previous estimate of 6.1%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Fitch, a global ratings agency, forecasts **India's fiscal deficit to reach 5.4%** of GDP in FY25, surpassing the government's target of 5.1% announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The agency views the government's adjustment of the FY24 deficit target to 5.8% from 5.9% as modest. Achieving the FY25 target is seen as critical for reaching the goal of a 4.5% deficit in FY26. However, Fitch believes this target might be challenging due to potential setbacks, particularly from increased spending before general elections. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** have surged to a one-month high, reaching **\$622.47 billion** as of February 2, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 9. This marks the second consecutive week of increase, with reserves climbing by \$5.74 billion during the reporting period, the largest rise in nearly two months. The previous week saw a modest increase of \$590 million. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- During a meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**, it was decided to increase the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits to **8.25%** for the fiscal year 2023-24. This marks a three-year high for the interest rate on EPF deposits. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In January 2024, **India's retail inflation** reached a three-month low of 5.1%, while the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** exhibited a growth of 3.8% in December 2023, showcasing a favorable trend in both sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** recorded a notable moderation, reaching a three-month low of 0.27% in January. This decline was attributed to reduced prices in both food articles and manufacturing products, as per data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. Notably, this marks the third consecutive month of positive territory for wholesale inflation after experiencing deflation for a significant part of the previous fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's services trade surplus** reached an unprecedented \$44.9 billion in the October-December quarter of FY24, marking a 16% year-on-year increase. This surge in surplus, amidst challenging global conditions, is anticipated to alleviate the current account deficit (CAD) for the period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **National Coal Index** (Provisional) has shown a significant **decline of 4.75% in December 2023** at 155.44 points compared to December 2022, where it was at 163.19 points. This notable decrease indicates sufficient availability of coal in the market to meet the growing demands. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In its latest analysis, **Morgan Stanley Research projects India's GDP growth** for FY25 to moderate to **6.5%**, down from the 6.9% projected for FY24. Despite this moderation, the report maintains a constructive outlook on the Indian economy, citing improvements in domestic demand and macro stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India Ratings and Research projects a moderation in **India's GDP growth to 6.5%** for the financial year 2024-25, slightly lower than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7%. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's mineral output witnessed a notable increase of **5.1%** compared to the same period in 2022, according to the **Ministry of Mines**. The mining and quarrying sector's index of mineral production for December reached 139.4, marking a significant rise from the previous year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** for India, compiled by HSBC, reached a seven-month high of **61.5 in February**, indicating strong performance in both manufacturing and services sectors. However, stagnant job growth raises concerns despite robust economic activity. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Business Current Affairs

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**, a Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has taken a remarkable step towards fostering transparency and promoting renewable energy initiatives. On January 25, 2024, IREDA unveiled '**Pahal**,' the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to accountability and sustainability. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **THDC India Limited (THDCIL)**, a prominent Power Sector PSU, proudly unveiled **India's Largest Electrolyser End Fuel Cell-based Green Hydrogen Pilot Project** at its office complex in Rishikesh. The initiative aligns with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission," showcasing THDCIL's commitment to sustainable energy practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **GAIL**, India's leading gas company, has made significant strides in enhancing its liquefied natural gas (LNG) portfolio through a recent partnership with the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) **ADNOC Gas**. Under this deal, GAIL is set to procure 0.5 million tonnes of LNG annually for a decade, marking a crucial step towards meeting India's growing demand for natural gas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Toyota**, the renowned Japanese automaker, has once again secured its position as the **world's top-selling automaker in 2023**. This achievement underscores Toyota's continued dominance in the global automotive market and its commitment to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a notable development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its GDP growth estimate for India to **6.7% for the current financial year**, marking a 40 basis points increase from its earlier forecast of 6.3%. This optimistic adjustment is attributed to robust public investment and favorable labor market outcomes, as highlighted in the latest World Economic Outlook report. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move to bolster the **mobile phone manufacturing industry in India**, the Centre has announced a significant reduction in import duties on mobile phone components. The import duty on parts used for mobile phone manufacturing has been slashed to **10% from the earlier 15%**. This decision aligns with India's broader objectives to enhance its role in global supply chains and increase exports. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL)**, a subsidiary of NTPC, recently inked a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth **Rs 80,000 crore with the Maharashtra government**. This strategic collaboration aims to pioneer green hydrogen projects within the state, aligning closely with the government's vision outlined in its Green Investment Plan. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to escalating rice prices, the Government of India has unveiled the '**Bharat**' brand rice, aiming to address market volatility and ensure affordability for consumers. The rice will be available in **5- and 10-kg packs at ₹29 per kg** through cooperatives such as Nafed, NCCF, and Kendriya Bhandar. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India has officially introduced the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** at the iconic **Eiffel Tower** in Paris, marking a significant step towards realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI. This initiative follows the digital payments sector agreement signed between India and France in July of the previous year, making France the first European country to adopt India's UPI for retail transactions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Gautam Adani-led Adani Group is constructing the **world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant** in Mundra, Gujarat. This \$1.2 billion facility, set to commence its first phase operations by March-end, aims to reach a full-scale production capacity of 1 million tonnes by 2029. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Forty days after an ammonia gas leak from a fertilizer plant owned by **Coromandel International Limited** shook Ennore in Tamil Nadu, the Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department has taken decisive actions against the company. The department has slapped a significant penalty of **Rs 5.92 crore** on Coromandel International Limited for its role in the gas leak incident. This reflects the seriousness with which authorities are addressing environmental hazards. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honored with the prestigious **Best Green Bond – Corporate Award** at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance. This recognition underscores REC's commitment to Sustainable Finance and Environmental Sustainability. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Tata Group has made history by becoming the first Indian conglomerate to surpass the **₹30 lakh crore mark** in combined market capitalization. This significant achievement is driven by strong performances from key subsidiaries, including **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Motors, Tata Power, and Indian Hotels.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a visionary collaboration with philanthropist Ratan Tata, **Tata Trusts** proudly announces the launch of the nation's foremost **Small Animal Hospital in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai.** This groundbreaking initiative is a testament to Mr. Tata's enduring commitment to pet healthcare and veterinary care. Spanning an impressive 98,000 square feet across five floors, this state-of-the-art facility epitomizes excellence in pet healthcare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Flywire Corporation, in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), aims to modernize and **digitize international education payments** for Indian students. This partnership facilitates seamless transactions in Indian Rupees, ensuring compliance with the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) guidelines. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$200 million loan** to enhance flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India. This project aims to build on previous successful initiatives and address the persistent challenges of flooding and erosion in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's flagship instant payment system, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), along with RuPay card services, is set to be launched in **Sri Lanka and Mauritius** on February 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth will oversee the launch, marking a significant milestone in digital financial integration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paytm E-commerce has undergone a significant transformation, renaming itself as **Pai Platforms.** Alongside this rebranding, it has acquired **Bitsila**, a prominent seller platform operating within the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, is exploring transitioning its payments service into a **third-party payment app (TPAP)** to ensure uninterrupted access to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for its customers. Talks have begun with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the governing body overseeing the UPI ecosystem in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of **₹20-lakh crore.** This marks the first instance of any company achieving this valuation on the Indian bourses. The surge in market value is attributed to various factors including robust performance across its business segments and favorable market conditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Group and Uber** are in talks to form a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing traffic volumes and engagement on Tata's digital platform, **Tata Neu.** Despite Tata Neu's positioning as a 'super app,' it has encountered challenges such as stagnant user growth and low engagement. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, led by Adar Poonawalla, has recently secured the prestigious title of **India's most valuable unlisted company**, boasting a valuation of Rs 1.92 lakh crore, as per the esteemed **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.** This achievement highlights SII's crucial role not only in driving innovation in healthcare but also in shaping the nation's economic trajectory. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, **Tata Steel** recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP).** This partnership signifies a strategic alignment between industry and academia to explore avenues for mutual growth and development. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The government has increased the authorized capital of the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** from **₹10,000 crore** to **₹21,000 crore**, demonstrating a significant commitment to enhancing its operational capacities. This initiative, announced by the Food Ministry, underscores the government's dedication to strengthening FCI's role in ensuring food security and safeguarding farmers' interests. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a prominent NBFC, has been honored with the '**Innovative Technology Development Award**' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow' CSR Summit, hosted by IIT Madras. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government is set to invite private investment worth **\$26 billion** into its **nuclear energy sector**. This initiative aims to bolster non-carbon-emitting energy sources, aligning with India's goal of increasing non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation to 50% by 2030. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- IT services and consulting firm **Tech Mahindra** finalized the acquisition of **Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI)**, purchasing a 100% stake in the company through its wholly-owned subsidiary for a total of \$3.27 million (₹24.75 crores). This move marks a significant step for Tech Mahindra in expanding its service offerings and strengthening its partnership with TPG Telecom. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Paymart**, a fintech startup, announced its **partnership with five Indian banks** to introduce a groundbreaking virtual, cardless, and hardware-less cash withdrawal service. The partnered banks include IDBI Bank, Indian Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, and Karur Vyasa Bank, with discussions underway with four additional banks for further collaboration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries**, led by **Mukesh Ambani**, in collaboration with some of the country's premier engineering institutions, is poised to unveil its pioneering **ChatGPT-style service named 'Hanooman' next month**. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the advancement of AI capabilities within India, promising to bring a new era of digital innovation and accessibility. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mswipe Technologies**, a prominent player in India's digital payments sector, has been awarded a **Payment Aggregator (PA) license** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This significant development follows the company's receipt of an in-principle approval earlier in 2022. Mswipe aims to leverage this license to bolster its range of offerings, providing comprehensive payment technology solutions across various channels. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- PhonePe has launched the **Indus Appstore**, a made-in-India Android app marketplace, aiming to rival Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The platform hosts over **2 Lakh apps** across 45 categories, offering a diverse range of applications to users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The legal battle between **PayPal and the FIU** commenced in March 2018 when the latter demanded registration as a reporting entity under the PMLA. Despite PayPal's resistance, the FIU imposed a penalty in December 2020, alleging non-cooperation and failure to comply with anti-money laundering obligations. This penalty was initially overturned in July 2023, but the court ruled that PayPal must adhere to reporting obligations under the PMLA as a payments system operator. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SJVN Limited**, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' Central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, has marked a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable energy solutions. On February 23, 2024, SJVN announced the commencement of successful commercial operations of its **50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station** in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.** inaugurates its inaugural solar project in **Chhattargarh, Rajasthan**, with a capacity of 70 MW, marking a significant milestone in India's renewable energy sector. This project contributes to NTPC Group's total installed capacity, which now stands at 73,958 MW, further solidifying its position as a key player in the country's energy landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** has released findings from the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** conducted from August 2022 to July 2023. This survey aimed to assess the Household **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)** across various demographics, spanning rural and urban sectors, states, union territories, and socio-economic groups. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, the Founder and CEO of Paytm, has resigned from his role as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of **Paytm Payments Bank**. This move comes amidst a restructuring of the bank's board in response to regulatory concerns and a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to wind down operations by March 15. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Gautam Adani's conglomerate inaugurated two defense facilities in northern India, representing an investment of **30 billion rupees (\$362 million)**. These facilities, established by Adani Defence & Aerospace, signify India's drive towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- **KPDCL (Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited)** has extended its amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme allows consumers to clear outstanding electricity dues in easy installments without late payment surcharges. Disconnected connections can be restored by paying only the principal amount. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation** have launched a bold initiative, **Vantara (Star of the Forest)**, dedicated to the rescue, treatment, care, and rehabilitation of animals in need. This ambitious program, spearheaded by **Anant Ambani**, aims to create a national and international impact on animal welfare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Amazon Pay**, the fintech arm of Amazon India, has secured a **payment aggregator license** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), joining a select group of authorized organizations in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has unveiled a significant merger deal with **Viacom18 Media and The Walt Disney Company**, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV) that will integrate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India. This strategic move is poised to reshape the landscape of the Indian entertainment and sports industry. RIL commits to investing Rs 11,500 crore (approximately US\$ 1.4 billion) into the JV to support its growth strategy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### International Current Affairs

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** concluded his two-day visit to India, participating as the chief guest in the 75th Republic Day celebrations. The visit aimed at strengthening strategic ties between India and France, featuring a 40-member delegation and significant diplomatic engagements. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a disputed electoral process, **Comoros President Azali Assoumani** has claimed victory for a fourth term with 63% of the vote, as announced by the electoral body Ceni. However, the opposition, boycotting the poll, decries it as “fraudulent.” ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bhutan’s liberal leader, **Tshering Tobgay**, from the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), has commenced his second term as prime minister, following recent elections in the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **QatarEnergy and Excelerate Energy** have finalized a pivotal 15-year LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with the goal of providing LNG to Bangladesh. Under the SPA, Excelerate will secure up to one million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG from QatarEnergy. The deliveries, set to commence from January 2026, will be directed to floating storage and regasification units in Bangladesh. The agreement encompasses Excelerate’s procurement of 0.85 MTPA of LNG in 2026 and 2027, and one MTPA from 2028 to 2040. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic ceremony, **Sultan Ibrahim of Johor** state has been installed as **Malaysia’s 17th king**. This event marks a significant moment in the nation’s constitutional monarchy system, where the throne rotates among the rulers of the nine Malay states. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a surprising move, the military regimes in **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger** have announced their immediate withdrawal from the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, citing the bloc as a threat to member states. The Sahel nations, facing challenges of jihadist violence and poverty, have had strained relations with ECOWAS since recent coups. Despite being founding members in 1975, they were suspended and faced heavy sanctions for the overthrow of civilian governments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant milestone, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has issued its first-ever certificates acknowledging advancements in eliminating trans fatty acids (TFA), both industrially produced and naturally occurring. Five countries—**Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand**—have been commended for their pioneering efforts in demonstrating effective policies and robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in their TFA elimination strategies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development on January 1, **Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia** officially joined the BRICS group, expanding its membership to ten nations. The expansion, initially set to occur during the 15th BRICS summit in August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa, aims to enhance the group’s influence on the global stage. Argentina, initially invited, opted out in December. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

A blue promotional banner for SBI Clerk Mains. It features the SBI logo in the top right corner. The text reads: "SBI Clerk Mains 90+ Total Tests | ebooks". Below this, there is a graphic of a book with checkmarks, and the words "Test Series" are written in a white rounded box at the bottom.

- In a groundbreaking move, **Michelle O'Neill**, an Irish nationalist representing Sinn Fein, has been appointed as **Northern Ireland's First Minister**. This marks a significant departure from the traditional dominance of pro-British unionists in the region's political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **As of January 1, 2024, France** has pioneered the issuance of **Digital Schengen visas**, marking a significant leap in streamlining visa processes within the **European Union**. This groundbreaking initiative precedes the broader digitalization of Schengen visa procedures scheduled for full implementation in **2026**. The move is strategically aligned with the preparations for the **2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris**, with French authorities aiming to distribute around **70,000 digital visas**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Yemen's** Presidential Leadership Council, in a significant move, appointed Foreign Minister **Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak** as the country's new Prime Minister. This appointment comes at a critical time as Yemen faces increased tensions and security challenges. The outgoing Prime Minister, Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed, has been appointed as an advisor to the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, marking a notable shift in the country's political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Geological Institute of Israel** has recently made a groundbreaking discovery near Cyprus, uncovering an underwater canyon of unprecedented proportions. Named **Eratosthenes** after the nearby underwater mountain, this canyon sheds new light on the geological history of the Mediterranean region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Sri Lanka, facing economic challenges and seeking to spur growth, plans to establish **free trade agreements (FTAs)** with several countries including India by the end of 2024. Foreign Minister Ali Sabry outlined the government's strategy to address the nation's economic woes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Iran eliminates visa requirements for Indian tourists from **February 4, 2024**, aiming to boost tourism and global engagement. Indian ordinary passport holders can visit every six months for up to 15 days. The move extends to 33 countries, acknowledging India's growing outbound tourism market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- El Salvadoran President **Nayib Bukele** triumphantly secures his reelection, despite lingering concerns over authoritarian tendencies. Bukele's landslide victory underscores his firm stance against gang violence and his vision for democratic reforms. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kazakh President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** has appointed **Olzhas Bektenov**, his chief of staff, as the new prime minister. Bektenov, aged 43, previously headed the state anti-corruption agency and assumed the role of presidential administration head in April 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), the largest sovereign wealth fund in the UAE, is establishing a substantial investment fund totaling **\$4-5 billion through India's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China** has inaugurated its newest Antarctic research station, the **Qinling facility**, situated on Inexpressible Island in the Ross Sea. This marks **China's fifth research station** in Antarctica and signifies its commitment to advancing scientific exploration in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Prime Minister **Alexander Stubb** secured victory in **Finland's presidential runoff** against ex-Foreign Minister **Pekka Haavisto**. This win places Stubb in charge of navigating Finland's foreign and security policies, particularly significant given Finland's recent NATO membership following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China** has officially opened the **Qinling Station in Antarctica**. This significant development marks a new chapter in China's scientific exploration and research in the Antarctic region, underscoring its commitment to contributing to global understanding of this remote and pristine environment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has officially declared a **state of "national emergency"** following a significant oil spill in the eastern Caribbean. The spill, originating from an overturned vessel near Tobago, has led to widespread environmental damage along the coastline, prompting concerns about the impact on the nation's economy, particularly its tourism sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Saudi Arabia** is preparing to introduce its **first luxury train**, named the **Dream of the Desert**. It will be the first luxury train in the Middle East, offering travelers a journey through Saudi Arabia. With its promise of luxury and cultural immersion, this new venture is positioned to become a classic in its own right. Reservations for the train's first ride will open by late 2024, before its planned launch in 2025. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Official data reveals that **Germany** has surpassed **Japan** as the **world's third-largest economy**, primarily due to a significant depreciation in the yen compared to the stability of the euro. Japan's economy, despite growing 1.9% last year, contracted in the fourth quarter, leading to its relegation to the fourth position. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Prabowo Subianto** emerges victorious in Indonesia's Presidential race, securing nearly 60% of the votes in the first round. His military background and alignment with **President Joko Widodo's** policies propel him to a clear-cut victory, sparking positive reactions in Indonesian markets. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **US House of Representatives** has overwhelmingly passed the **Quad bill** aimed at enhancing cooperation between the **US, Australia, India, and Japan**. The bill mandates the establishment of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to bolster joint efforts in various domains. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Greece has made history by legalizing same-sex marriage and granting **equal parental rights to same-sex couples**, marking a significant shift in the country's societal and legal landscape. Despite facing opposition from the **Orthodox Church**, lawmakers passed the bill, making Greece the first Orthodox Christian nation to embrace such progressive legislation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's infrastructure and innovation** landscape, the Japanese government has pledged a substantial loan of **232.209 billion yen (approximately Rs 12,800 crore)** to fund nine distinct projects across various sectors in India. This financial assistance marks a notable step in enhancing the strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, a relationship that has been thriving since 1958. The agreement was formalized between **Vikas Sheel**, Additional Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, and **Suzuki Hiroshi**, the Japanese Ambassador to India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Malta**, a small yet significant player in the global arena, recently took a remarkable step towards sustainable energy by joining the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. This move underscores the country's commitment to reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and embracing environmentally friendly alternatives. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Government of Japan** has committed **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** loan of JPY 232.209 billion for **nine projects** across various sectors in India. The exchange of notes for these projects took place between **Mr. Vikas Sheel**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and **Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi**, Ambassador of Japan to India, marking another milestone in the partnership between the two nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- As the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine approaches, **Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** has affirmed Japan's commitment to Ukraine's long-term reconstruction, labelling it as a strategic investment for the future. In a significant move, Japan, in collaboration with the Ukrainian government and various business organizations, co-organized a conference where Kishida outlined a vision for a comprehensive partnership between the two nations, emphasizing inclusivity, humanitarianism, and the sharing of technology and knowledge. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Turkey** celebrates a milestone achievement as its **first fifth-generation aircraft, KAAN**, successfully completes its inaugural flight, marking a significant advancement in the country's military capabilities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bangladesh** observes **Amar Ekushey** on February 21st, a day to remember the people who died fighting for Bangla to be an official language in 1952. This event led to significant changes in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India and Thailand**, four revered relics of Lord Buddha and his disciples have arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, accompanied by a delegation from India. The delegation, led by Governor of Bihar **Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, includes esteemed monks, officials, curators, artists, and scholars. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In Pakistan, two big-time political groups, the **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)** and the **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)**, have decided to share power. This means **Shehbaz Sharif** is set to be the Prime Minister again, and **Asif Ali Zardari** will be the President. It's like when two captains from different teams decide to work together to win the game. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Philippines** has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Asian country to ratify the **Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190)** as announced by the **International Labor Organization (ILO)**. The convention addresses workplace violence and harassment comprehensively, marking a crucial step towards ensuring safe and respectful work environments globally. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Vietnam has set forth an ambitious national hydrogen strategy, aiming to become a significant player in the global hydrogen market. With targets ranging from **100,000 to 500,000 tons** of clean hydrogen production annually by 2030, escalating to **10-20 million tons by 2050**, the strategy seeks to leverage both green and blue hydrogen production methods. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET)** has announced the introduction of a five-year multiple-entry visa aimed at enhancing travel between India and the UAE. This initiative comes in response to the significant increase in Indian visitors to Dubai, with India being the top source market for tourists in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Less than two years after being demoted to the **Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "gray list,"** the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been swiftly removed, signaling significant progress in the country's efforts to combat illicit financial activities. The Paris-based watchdog acknowledged the UAE's strengthened anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures, leading to the country's exit from increased monitoring. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Maryam Nawaz**, the daughter of Pakistan's former Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif** and a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, has achieved a significant political milestone by becoming the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab province. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Algeria** celebrated the grand opening of what has been acclaimed as "**Africa's largest mosque**" and the third-largest mosque in the world. **President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** presided over the ceremony, officially revealing the Great Mosque of Algiers as the world's third-largest mosque. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **New Zealand government** plans to revoke a pioneering law scheduled for implementation in July. This law, considered the toughest globally, aimed to ban tobacco sales to individuals born after January 1, 2009, while also reducing nicotine content and slashing tobacco retailers by over 90%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In 2023, **South Korea** experienced a further decline in its already **record-low fertility rate**, exacerbating concerns about population decline. Political promises aim to tackle the crisis, but similar trends in Japan and China underscore the complex challenges of reversing declining birth rates. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Peru** has declared a **health emergency** in response to the escalating cases of **dengue fever** across the nation. Health Minister **Cesar Vasquez** announced on Monday that over **31,000** cases of dengue have been reported within the first eight weeks of **2024**, resulting in **32** fatalities. The emergency declaration will encompass **20 out of Peru's 25 regions**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### National Current Affairs

- In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over **Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh**. The diverse projects spanned crucial sectors such as rail, road, oil and gas, and urban development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court** of India and unveiled key technology initiatives during the event held at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi. The occasion marked the beginning of the **Supreme Court's 75th year**, coinciding with the 75th year of the Indian Constitution. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Republic Day Parade 2024** witnessed a remarkable tableau that captured the essence of India as the '**Mother of Democracy**.' This stunning representation not only enthralled the audience but also clinched the **first spot in the parade**, symbolizing India's rich democratic heritage. The tableau of the **Ministry of Culture** has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the President of India nominated **Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu** as a member of the Rajya Sabha. This decision recognizes Sandhu's remarkable contributions to education, philanthropy, and community development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** recently spearheaded the inauguration of cutting-edge healthcare facilities at **AIIMS Bhubaneswar**, marking a pivotal moment for healthcare in Odisha. Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas expressed gratitude towards Minister Mandaviya for his unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Chief Minister Assam, laid the foundation stone for the **Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN)** and a **100-bedded Naturopathy hospital at Dihing Khamtighat in Dibrugarh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Building on the resounding success of the 2023 edition, **India Energy Week 2024** is set to take place in Goa from February 6 to 9, 2024. This premier event, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, is the country's largest and sole comprehensive energy exhibition and conference. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Following the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has introduced a meticulously crafted tour program, immersing travelers in the spiritual tapestry woven by the Ramayana. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for India's cultural heritage, Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** recently laid the foundation stone for the country's **digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad**. Spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, this museum aims to house approximately one lakh ancient writings spanning various times and languages, preserving them for future generations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** forecasts India to become the primary driver of global oil demand growth by 2030, despite a projected decline in domestic production. This trend, highlighted at the **India Energy Week 2024**, underscores India's emergence as the second-largest crude importer worldwide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The Education Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, recently started the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme. This new program is all about making it easier for students who don't have much money to get a good education. It follows the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's** goals to make education available to everyone. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the '**Vividhata ka Amrit Mahotsav**' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, showcasing Northeast India's cultural richness. Organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Ministry of Culture, the event ran from February 8th to 11th, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- NITI Aayog, under the leadership of CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, is spearheading an ambitious initiative to drive economic transformation in four key cities – **Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, and Vizag**. This initiative aims to propel India towards becoming a developed economy by 2047. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Culture** takes a momentous stride towards cultural enrichment with the inauguration of the **Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi** in Hyderabad, known as the **Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra**. This initiative aims to foster the diverse cultural heritage of South India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move towards growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated development projects in **Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh**, focusing on uplifting the tribal population. These projects, with an estimated worth of about Rs 7300 crores, aim to bolster various sectors, including water supply, education, road infrastructure, and more. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region, G. Kishan Reddy, revealed that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the upcoming **fourth terminal at Cherlapally, Telangana** towards the end of the month or in the first week of March. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo inaugurated the 2nd edition of the **SARAS Aajeevika Mela**, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM). Accompanied by dignitaries including Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Indu Kanwal Chib, Dulloo emphasized the event's role in showcasing the resilience and creativity of rural women entrepreneurs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After 42 years of its existence, the **Palace on Wheels** luxury train is set to embark on a new route, delving into the sacred Indian cities of **Ayodhya, Kashi, and Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh. This significant alteration in its itinerary marks a departure from its traditional destinations, promising passengers a unique spiritual experience. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Rail Coach Factory (RCF) aims to roll out the first prototype of the Vande Metro coach by April. The Vande Metro is designed on the concept of India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train, Vande Bharat, catering to intercity passengers covering distances of up to 250 km. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Five years ago**, on February day, India faced one of its darkest moments in recent history. **The Pulwama attack**, a horrific act of terrorism, shook the nation to its core, leaving an indelible scar on the heart of every Indian. A suicide bomber, driving an explosives-laden vehicle, targeted a convoy of **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** personnel in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, claiming the lives of 40 brave soldiers. These soldiers were either returning from leave or heading to deployment areas, unaware of the tragedy that lay in wait. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is engaged in discussions with ministers from member countries of the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** regarding its application to attain full membership in the **Paris-based organization**, comprising **31 nations**. These talks acknowledge India's strategic significance in addressing global energy and climate challenges, as highlighted during the IEA's 2024 ministerial meeting held in Paris. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On February 14th, 2024, a vehicle dedicated to NMBA was launched at the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DAIC)** in Delhi. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. This vehicle served as a platform for conducting NMBA awareness activities across Delhi-NCR, amplifying the reach and impact of the initiative. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Supreme Court** ruled the **electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional**, citing it as arbitrary and violative of **Article 14** of the Constitution. This verdict came following a batch of pleas challenging the legality of the scheme, which allowed for anonymous funding to political parties. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY), in collaboration with the **National Institute of Electronics and IT** (NIELIT), is hosting the Future Skills Summit in Guwahati. The event, inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, aims to convene young Indians, thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, educators, and technology enthusiasts to strategize on catalyzing future-ready talent for India and the world. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **Ruchira Kamboj**, recently chaired the **62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development**, marking a notable moment in international cooperation on social development issues. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated the **Jyotisar Anubhav Kendra**, a museum and interpretation center inspired by the epic Mahabharata, from Rewari. While the project is still under completion, the opening of two out of its five planned galleries marks a promising start. This initiative, with an investment of approximately Rs 240 crore, is set to enhance the cultural and spiritual tourism landscape of Kurukshetra, Haryana. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to unveil a colossal **125-foot statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan in Lahdoigarh, Hologapar, Jorhat**. This announcement was made by the Assam Chief Minister in a recent statement, highlighting a series of significant events planned for the first week of March this year, aimed at honoring the state's rich history and cultural heritage. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** has cemented its position as the **third-largest digitalized nation in the world**, trailing only behind the technological powerhouses of the **United States of America (USA) and China**. This significant finding is part of the **"State of India's Digital Economy Report, 2024,"** unveiled by the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**, a renowned Delhi-based think tank. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **'Sagar Aankalan'** guidelines aim to enhance the **efficiency and competitiveness of Indian ports**. Enforced nationwide, these guidelines for National Benchmarking of Indian Ports Performance are set to revitalize the country's maritime infrastructure. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the **Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh**. The event was marked by speeches from key figures, including Chairman **Pramod Krishnam** and Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, reflecting on the temple's significance and highlighting developmental initiatives in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and UAE Vice President **Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** laid the foundation stone of **Bharat Mart**, integrating retail, warehousing, and logistics at **Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai**, during a virtual ceremony. The Bharat Mart facility is set to emerge as a pivotal hub for commerce and logistics in Dubai. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated a series of ambitious educational and infrastructure projects across India, totaling an investment of ₹13,375 crore. These projects are part of a larger initiative that saw the launch of projects worth ₹30,500 crore in various sectors. The educational sector benefited significantly, with the establishment of new **IIMs, IITs, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, and an AIIMS**, marking a significant boost to India's educational infrastructure. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, virtually launched several projects **valued at over Rs 100 crore**. These initiatives, focused on improving rehabilitation facilities and promoting inclusivity, highlight the government's dedication to citizen welfare. The inauguration ceremony featured the introduction of crucial facilities across various regions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a historic moment, the **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad** (IITH) witnessed the dedication of its transformative Campus Development Project to the nation by the Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi via Video Conference. The dedication ceremony of the **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad's (IITH)** transformative Campus Development Project witnessed the presence of distinguished leaders, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, spearheaded the inauguration of the **first Skill India Centre (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha**. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Secretary, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, and CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International, Shri Ved Mani Tiwari. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of AYUSH** and the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** have unveiled a collaborative effort aimed at improving the **public health of tribal students**. This joint initiative focuses on implementing Ayurvedic interventions to address health issues among over 20,000 tribal students. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The Chief Justice of India, **Justice DY Chandrachud**, inaugurated the **'Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre'** within the premises of the Supreme Court of India. The event took place today in the presence of Companion Judges of the Supreme Court of India, along with guests including Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, and Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **9th edition of Raisina Dialogue** in New Delhi, marking a significant moment for global discourse on geopolitics and geo-economics. Joining him in the inaugural session was the Prime Minister of Greece, **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, who graced the event as the Chief Guest. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the foundation stone laying ceremony for **550 Amrit Bharat stations on February 26**. The initiative aims to improve railway station facilities by developing rooftop plazas and city centers, with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore. Additionally, the Prime Minister will lay foundation stones for about **1,500 road overbridges and underbridges across different states**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024**, marks the **647th anniversary of the birth of Guru Ravidas**, observed on **February 23rd**. Guru Ravidas, also known as **Raidas**, stands as one of the eminent saints of the **North Indian Bhakti movement**. Born into a marginalized untouchable leather-working caste in **Varanasi**, his life and works profoundly reflect the challenges and struggles of his social background. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)** has collaborated with the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong** to establish the first **'Gati Shakti Research Chair'** in India. This initiative aims to enhance academic research in multimodal logistics, particularly focusing on the North-East region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After the success of the 'International Purple Fest, 2024' held in Goa from 8th to 13th January, 2024, the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is set to host a day-long celebration of inclusivity at **Amrit Udyaan** in the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 26th February, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated **two institutes** of the Union Ministry of Ayush, marking a significant step forward in the promotion of healthcare across the nation. The inauguration ceremony, held virtually, saw the unveiling of the **'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' (CRIYN)** in Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled **'NISARG GRAM'** in Pune, Maharashtra. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** introduced the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024** on 21-2-2024, altering the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022. These amendments, effective immediately, address significant changes regarding the use of donor gametes and consent agreements in surrogacy arrangements. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, revealed plans for a new office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in **Chandigarh**. This move aims to support filmmakers in the region by making the process of obtaining film certification more convenient. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the **110th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates the remarkable contributions of women across India. With Women's Day around the corner, he highlights the inspiring journey of women like **Sunita Devi**, affectionately known as "Drone Didi," who are breaking barriers and transforming lives. From mastering drone technology to revolutionizing agriculture in villages, women are scripting a new narrative of empowerment and progress. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's healthcare infrastructure and services, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated **Five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to the nation**. The AIIMS facilities located in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh) mark a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards enhancing tertiary healthcare access and quality. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Union IT Minister, recently met with Shanker Trivedi, senior vice president at NVIDIA, at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The discussion centered around India's evolving Digital Public Infrastructure and examined potential collaborative efforts in the field of Sovereign AI. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government has announced the initiation of the **'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye'** campaign in higher educational institutions nationwide starting from February 27, 2024. This campaign aims to foster active participation among the youth in the electoral process, emphasizing the significance of voting for the betterment of the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The pilot project for the **'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector'**, expansion of PACS, and digital transformation aim to enhance food security, economic development, and governance, benefiting millions of farmers. The ceremony, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marks a significant step towards enhancing food security, economic development, and governance within the cooperative domain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** is set to confer the esteemed title of '**Global Jain Peace Ambassador**' upon **Acharya Lokesh Muni**. The ceremony, scheduled to take place in Karnataka, will be organized by the Jain pilgrim center, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra, in Hubli Varur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has announced the launch of the **SWAYAM Plus** platform, operated by **IIT-Madras**. This initiative aims to provide industry-relevant courses to enhance the employability of learners, including working professionals. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The central government, under Section 3 of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, has declared two factions of the **Muslim Conference in Jammu & Kashmir** as

unlawful associations. This measure aims to combat terrorism and preserve national security. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** made the announcement via a statement on social media platform **X**, highlighting the government's dedication to dismantling terror networks and safeguarding the nation's integrity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, along with Gujarat Chief Minister **Shri Bhupendra Patel** and other dignitaries, inaugurated the '**Swaminarayan Institute of Medical Science and Research**' at the Shri Swaminarayan Vishwamangal Gurukul in **Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. This significant development marks a pivotal moment in the advancement of medical education and healthcare services in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### States Current Affairs

- In a significant turn of events ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Janata Dal-United (JDU) chief **Nitish Kumar** was sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister for the ninth time, breaking ties with the 'Mahagathbandhan' and securing support from the BJP. The swearing-in ceremony, held at Raj Bhavan in Patna, saw Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar administering the oath of office. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The vibrant hues of oranges and the aroma of citrus filled the air as the **4th edition of the Rüsoma Orange Festival** unfolded in the picturesque village of Rüsoma, nestled in the Kohima district in **Nagaland**. With approximately 3400 attendees, this year's event showcased the best of organic produce, community spirit, and rural entrepreneurship. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **National Chilika Birds Festival**, a hallmark event in Odisha's calendar, commenced with grandeur on January 26. Hosted against the breathtaking backdrop of Chilika Lake, this festival brings together birders and enthusiasts from across India to celebrate the State of India's Birds. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Under the visionary leadership of **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann**, a groundbreaking initiative has been unveiled to enhance road safety across the state. The inauguration of the **Sadak Surakhya Force (SSF)** marks a significant leap forward in safeguarding lives and preventing accidents on Punjab's extensive road network. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant political development, **Champai Soren** has been announced as the **next Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, following the resignation of **Hemant Soren**. This marks a pivotal moment in Jharkhand's political landscape, bringing Champai Soren, a seasoned politician and a key figure in

the **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**, to the forefront of the state's governance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Madhya Pradesh CM **Mohan Yadav** announced the green light for **IIT Indore's Ujjain satellite campus**, marking a pivotal moment for education and skill development. With approval from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, this project promises substantial benefits for the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu** has set a new benchmark in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection by securing two more **Ramsar sites**, thus achieving the highest number of such designated areas in the country. The recent addition of the **Longwood Shola Reserve Forest in The Nilgiris and the Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary in Ariyalur** has propelled the state to the forefront of ecological conservation efforts in India. With these new designations, Tamil Nadu now boasts 16 Ramsar sites, a testament to its rich biodiversity and the state government's commitment to preserving it. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Assam**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, advances with key decisions. The recent cabinet meeting saw approvals crucial for the state's growth. These include the **Assam Tourism Development and Registration Bill 2024** and the **Mising Autonomous Council Amendment Bill 2024**. Additionally, infrastructure strides are evident with the approval of a significant flyover project in Guwahati. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The first-ever **Mangalore Beachside Startup Fest** is set to unfold from February 16th to 18th, marking a significant milestone in the region's entrepreneurial landscape. With a focus on nurturing and promoting nascent ventures, this event promises to be a catalyst for the burgeoning startup ecosystem in Mangalore. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- **Surat Airport**, situated in Gujarat, has officially received recognition as an **International Airport** from the Indian government, a significant development overseen by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** and the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Karnataka** clinched the **Nagesh Trophy**, marking a significant milestone in the **Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24**. The thrilling final, held in Nagpur, saw **Karnataka** defeating Andhra Pradesh by nine wickets, ending a 20-year wait for a national title. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish a cutting-edge **Centralized GIS Data Centre in Ayodhya** under the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA). This initiative aligns with the Chief Minister's vision to enhance the city's infrastructure and efficiently manage the ongoing **141 projects worth Rs 30,977 crore**, aimed at restoring Ayodhya's historical grandeur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Uttarakhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has greenlit the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill**, marking a historic move. The bill, crafted based on recommendations from a government-appointed committee, will be presented in the **Uttarakhand Assembly on February 6**. If passed, Uttarakhand would be the first state post-Independence to adopt the Uniform Civil Code, aiming to standardize civil laws for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Justice Ritu Bahri** has become the new **Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court**. The Governor, Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh, gave her the oath at a beautiful ceremony at Raj Bhawan. Many important people, including the Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, were there to see this big moment. It shows how important Justice Bahri's new job is. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Ellora – Ajanta International Festival**, held in **Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar** concluded marking the end of a three-day musical extravaganza that delighted audiences with a rich cultural treat. After a **seven-year hiatus**, the event returned in 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator **Banwarilal Purohit** resigned from his post, citing "personal reasons." In his resignation letter, he wrote, "Due to my personal reasons and certain other commitments, I tender my resignation from the post of governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Please accept the same and oblige." ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Uttarakhand**, Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the "**Dhami against drugs campaign**," a pivotal initiative spearheaded by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun. This campaign, running from February 5 to February 10, marks a significant step in the state government's resolution to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by the year 2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the heart of Patna, Bihar, a new landmark has emerged as a monumental tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi**, fondly known as the **Father of the Nation**. The **Bapu Tower**, located in Gardanibagh, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. This tower, the first of its kind in the country dedicated to Gandhi, has been completed, marking a significant milestone in the architectural and cultural landscape of Bihar. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The collaboration between the **Maharashtra government** and the **National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** marks a significant step towards advancing connectivity and tourism development through ropeways under the **National Ropeway Programme 'Parvatmala'**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently embarked on a day-long visit to **Goa**, where he inaugurated several significant infrastructural projects aimed at advancing various sectors, including sea survival training, energy, education, and waste management. These projects not only signify India's progress towards self-reliance but also underscore the government's commitment to fostering development and innovation across different domains. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment in Goa's educational landscape as he inaugurated the **permanent campus of the National Institute of Technology Goa**. The campus, built at a cost of over ₹1330 crore, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, faculty, and staff. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**, also known as **Monkey Fever**, has emerged as a significant health concern in Karnataka, India. With two fatalities reported this year and 49 positive cases, the state's health department is on high alert. Originating from the Kyasanur Forest in 1957, KFD is caused by the **Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV)**, belonging to the Flaviviridae family. This article delves into the essentials of KFD, from transmission and symptoms to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Uttar Pradesh government** is taking significant steps to promote the manufacture and use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. One of the key initiatives in this endeavour is the enhancement of the '**EV Upyog**' portal, which serves as a platform to facilitate EV-related activities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Maharashtra government** has announced 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' is set to benefit around **15 lakh senior citizens** suffering from physical or mental disabilities. Under this scheme, eligible citizens above the **age of 65** will receive financial assistance of three thousand rupees, providing much-needed support and relief to vulnerable members of society. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to growing safety concerns among **Telangana citizens residing abroad** and recognizing the need for immediate support and assistance for Telangana citizens facing challenges overseas, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the **establishment of a dedicated help desk**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Uttarakhand** has marked a significant milestone in **India's legislative history by becoming the first state** to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**. This groundbreaking move was initiated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, with the state Assembly passing the UCC Bill. The UCC aims to standardize laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and more across all citizens, irrespective of their religion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards bolstering infrastructure and fostering socio-economic development, Chief Minister (CM) **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** recently spearheaded the '**Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar**' program at Amb-Pathiyar under the Jawalamukhi assembly constituency. The event served as a platform for the CM to engage with local residents and gain insight into their concerns, while also unveiling a series of transformative announcements aimed at propelling the region forward. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative effort between the **Assam government** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the **Construction Skill Training Centre in Assam**. This initiative **aims to address unemployment** by providing comprehensive training opportunities to the youth and enhancing their employability in the construction sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** aims to revolutionize its energy sector by constructing **one million tonne per annum (mtpa)** green hydrogen production capacity, generating an estimated **120,000 jobs**. This initiative stems from the state's commitment to sustainable development and capitalizes on the burgeoning global green hydrogen market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Telangana Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** made groundbreaking announcements during her address to the joint session of the legislature, outlining the state government's ambitious agenda for digital inclusion and technological advancement. With a focus on ensuring universal access to the internet and **positioning Hyderabad and Telangana as the nation's AI capital**, Governor Soundararajan's vision sets a bold precedent for the state's future development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards empowering the youth of **Odisha**, the state government has unveiled the '**Swayam**' scheme aimed at providing interest-free loans to young entrepreneurs. This initiative, announced by Odisha Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, underscores the government's commitment to fostering self-employment opportunities and economic growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Karnataka** has emerged as the frontrunner in **India's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure** development, boasting the highest number of public charging stations according to **Bureau of Energy Efficiency statistics**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the dynamic landscape of India's automobile industry, the latest data from the **Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)** for October-December 2023 reveals intriguing trends. **Uttar Pradesh emerges as the frontrunner** in vehicle sales during this period, with Maharashtra closely trailing behind. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Arunachal Pradesh**, nestled in the northeastern corner of India, celebrates its Foundation Day annually on **February 20th**, marking the day it attained **full statehood in 1987**. This occasion commemorates the region's transition from the **North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)** to a distinct state within the Indian union. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The renowned **Khajuraho Dance Festival** embarks on its **50th year of celebration** in **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**, marking a milestone in the preservation and promotion of India's classical dance heritage. This prestigious event is being inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, showcasing the state's commitment to cultural festivities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a draft bill to extend a **10 percent reservation to the Maratha community** in both educational institutions and government employment. This move follows a report submitted by the **Maharashtra Backward Class Commission (MBCC)** justifying the extension beyond the 50 percent cap. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Arunachal Pradesh** has made a significant achievement by **reaching 100 percent saturation** in the '**Har Ghar Jal**' scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), announced by Chief Minister Pema Khandu. This milestone sets Arunachal Pradesh apart as the first state in the northeast and the **tenth in India to fully embrace the central government's initiative**, aimed at ensuring clean and safe piped water for every household. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled the **'Himalayan Basket'** initiative from his residence. Initially conceived by local entrepreneurs Sumit and Sneha Thapliyal in 2018, this innovative project aims to harness the agricultural riches of Champawat district, propelling it towards becoming an ideal district through the enhancement of local employment opportunities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Arunachal Pradesh** government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** to establish the **state's first Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)**. This move aims to bolster conservation efforts and protect the tiger population within the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Medaram Jatara, known as **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara'**, began this year on February 21 in Medaram, Mulugu district, showcasing Telangana's rich tribal heritage. This four-day event, considered the world's largest tribal gathering, attracts pilgrims to the remote village of Medaram once every two years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a bold move aimed at revolutionizing the educational landscape, the **Madhya Pradesh government** has announced a groundbreaking initiative – the introduction of a **'bag-less school' policy**. This policy, set to be implemented once a week from the upcoming academic session of 2024-25, marks a significant departure from traditional educational norms and underscores the government's commitment to student welfare and holistic development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Forest Department in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district**, in collaboration with the **Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India**, is initiating a conservation effort. This endeavor aims to establish a **turtle conservation reserve** along the Sarju river, a tributary of the Ghaghra river. Gonda district is known for its turtle diversity, making it an ideal location for such a conservation effort. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Haryana** Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the **"Savera" program**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer in women. Developed in collaboration with the Medanta Foundation and the Health Department, Savera leverages the **unique ability of visually impaired women** to conduct breast cancer screenings. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Recently, the **Central University of Bihar (CUSB)** achieved a significant milestone as the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** granted it **Category-1 status**. This accomplishment holds particular significance in a state where state universities encounter accreditation challenges and academic performance issues. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for India's defense sector, the **Adani Group** has inaugurated the **Ammunition & Missiles Complex in Kanpur**, Uttar Pradesh. This complex, owned by Adani Defence, marks the first phase of the state's defense corridor and is dedicated to the brave warriors of the Balakot strike. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially laid the foundation stone for **Sikkim's inaugural railway station in Rangpo**, marking a significant moment in the state's history. The station's design, deeply rooted in local culture, heritage, and architecture, reflects Sikkim's rich traditions and the majestic Himalayan landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Tripura Chief Minister, Dr. Manik Saha**, marked a pivotal moment in the state's development with the inauguration of the **Jagannath Dighi Waterfront Development Project** in Udaipur. This significant endeavor reflects the government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and promoting tourism in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Telangana government** has opted to discontinue the much-touted **Hyderabad Pharma City project**, citing legal complexities, farmer protests, and environmental concerns. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttarakhand government** will introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property. In the upcoming budget session, they intend to present the **Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill**, aiming to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Chief Minister Prof Dr Manik Saha** inaugurated the **2nd State Level Shehri Samridhi Utsav** organized by Tripura Urban Livelihood Mission at Children's Park, Agartala. The event aimed at fostering urban livelihood opportunities and empowering women in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, is set to unveil a groundbreaking innovation in timekeeping with the world's first **Vedic Clock**. This meticulously crafted timepiece, housed on an **85-foot tower at the city's Jantar Mantar**, will be officially inaugurated on **March 1st, 2024**, by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in a virtual ceremony. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Schemes and Committees

- In a significant move towards the development and empowerment of approximately one crore tribals in Odisha, the state government, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has approved the launch of the '**LABHA**' scheme. LABHA, an acronym for **Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya**, is a 100% state-funded Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister **Udhayanidhi Stalin** recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. Named after the late Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the '**Kalaignar Sports Kit**' initiative is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu government**, under the leadership of **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, has taken a significant step towards improving public service delivery and expediting the implementation of various schemes through the launch of the "**Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril**" (**Bringing Services to Your Doorstep**) scheme. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the gap between the government and the public by ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach the grassroots level. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In an era where digital devices have become an extension of our lives, the **Government of Karnataka** has taken a pioneering step towards fostering a healthier digital ecosystem. Recognizing the need to mitigate the adverse effects of excessive online gaming, the state has announced a groundbreaking **digital detox initiative** to create a responsible gaming environment. This move not only highlights the government's commitment to public health but also sets a precedent for digital wellbeing. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a monumental achievement, the **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** portal has garnered over 1.45 crore youth registrations within a remarkable three-month period, attesting to its widespread popularity. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 31, 2023, the platform has swiftly become a crucial driver of youth development and engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a concerted effort to fortify child protection measures, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has pioneered the development of two pivotal portals: the **Track Child Portal** and the **GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite Portal**. These platforms play a crucial role in tracking missing and found children, enhancing restoration and repatriation processes, and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable minors under the purview of the Juvenile Justice system. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards scientific progress, **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** has initiated two groundbreaking endeavors: **the establishment of the Human DNA Bank** and **the imminent completion of the Wildlife DNA Bank**. These initiatives, powered by cutting-edge technologies such as the Automated DNA Extractor Machine, epitomize India's commitment to innovation and indigenous manufacturing under the Make in India initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S P Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, virtually launched the **Kilkari programme** and **Mobile Academy**, aimed at strengthening public health infrastructure in **Maharashtra and Gujarat**. Kilkari provides timely audio messages on reproductive maternal, neonatal, and child health, while Mobile Academy offers training for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) via mobile phones. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Cabinet has given its approval for the upcoming telecom spectrum auctions, scheduled to take place later this year. The reserve price for the auctions has been fixed at **Rs 96,317 crore**. All available spectrum in various bands including **800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300, 2500, 3300 megahertz (MHz)**, and 26 gigahertz (GHz) will be up for auction. The decision aligns with recommendations from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and follows the government's commitment to holding annual spectrum auctions, as decided in September 2021. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Arjun Munda** introduced several key initiatives under the **Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** in New Delhi on 8th February 2024. These initiatives aim to benefit insured farmers and mitigate their risks. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards fostering entrepreneurship in **Tamil Nadu**, the MSME Minister, T M Anbarasan, launched two pivotal initiatives during an event organized by StartUp TN. These initiatives, the **Smartcard scheme** and the **StartUp Challenge website**, underscore the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups and fostering innovation in the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move for the Northeast region, **Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim** announced the revival of the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)** for state government employees **hired on or after April 1, 2006**, during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention. This decision underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of its workforce. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** responded to queries from the opposition, emphasizing the importance of stability and sustainability in driving infrastructure and industrial development in Uttar Pradesh. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by the state government, including the establishment of the **Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA)** between Kanpur and Jhansi, a significant development after 46 years. CM Yogi underscored the strategic importance of semiconductors in advancing industrial growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move aimed at providing relief to beneficiaries of social security schemes in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced a significant increase in monthly pension amounts under the **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)**. Rs 500 increase for each category, effective from February. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Odisha** has taken a significant step towards conservation by declaring the **Gupteswar forest in Koraput district** as its **fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**. This declaration marks a pivotal moment in the state's environmental conservation efforts, joining the ranks of Mandasaru, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan, which have previously been recognized for their unique biodiversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The NTR Stadium in Hyderabad hosts the 36th edition of the National Book Fair. Organized by the Hyderabad Book Fair Society, the event kicked off on February 9. The book fair runs until February 19. Drawing bibliophiles (People who love and collect books) from all corners of the city, the fair is a highly anticipated annual event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Assam**, the state government has officially declared **kaji nemu (Citrus limon)**, a variety of lemon unique to the region, as the **'State Fruit'**. The announcement was made by State Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, following a Cabinet meeting on February 12, underscoring the fruit's cultural, traditional, and nutritional significance to the state and its people. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is set to launch its **first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** from **Uttarakhand**, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare and aviation sectors. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced this groundbreaking initiative, highlighting its importance in providing rapid medical assistance to those in need. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Sandeep Kaur**, Director of the Women's Welfare Department, has declared substantial increments in grants under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. This follows Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive to raise the grant from **Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per beneficiary** annually starting this April. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Tamil Nadu Assembly** made a significant political statement by unanimously adopting two resolutions that challenge the Union government's proposals on **'One Nation, One Election'** and the **post-2026 delimitation process**. This move underscores the state's firm stance on maintaining its democratic principles and the autonomy of its electoral processes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards environmental conservation, **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** inaugurated the **'Van Mitra' scheme** and its accompanying portal. This innovative initiative is designed to foster community engagement in afforestation efforts, specifically targeting non-forest areas across the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Rajasthan's Karauli district** has emerged as a new focal point for mineral exploration after the Mines Department announced the discovery of substantial iron ore deposits. This find, located near Hindon, spans approximately **1,888 hectares** and is poised to significantly impact the state's industrial landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The World Bank has approved a new project aimed at supporting the state of Sikkim in India. The project focuses on training, upskilling, and providing jobs for **300,500 women and youth** in high-growth and priority sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the **Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute (BSCCRI)** in Bhubaneswar. This state-of-the-art facility, established in collaboration with the Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Bengaluru, represents a leap forward in making high-quality cancer treatment accessible and affordable to patients. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- G Kishan Reddy and Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone for the **Komuravelli Railway Station in Siddipet District, Telangana**. The station aims to improve transportation to the renowned Komuravelli Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, attracting millions of devotees annually. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The government is preparing to extend the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme to **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** and **Anganwadi workers/helpers**. This initiative aims to provide free health coverage to these essential healthcare workers, aligning with the broader goals of the **AB-PMJAY scheme**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 Feb, 2024, the **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**, New Delhi, witnessed the launch of the **"Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)"** Portal. Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, initiated this significant step towards addressing gender disparity in science and technology fields. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Hon'ble Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, Shri S. Krishnan, inaugurated the groundbreaking SWASTHA project and the state-of-the-art ISO 5 and 6 Clean Room Facilities at IIT Guwahati's Centre for Nanotechnology on 9th February 2024. Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Officiating Director, IIT Guwahati, and other dignitaries were also present at the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the National Conference on **APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card** in New Delhi. This conference aimed to emphasize the importance of the APAAR ID as a universally recognized document for students across the nation. Pradhan highlighted the significance of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) and their proliferation, both globally and within India, with 19 established DPIs in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards the welfare of laborers and street vendors in **Rajasthan**, Finance Minister Diya Kumari presented the state's budget on February 8, 2024, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal. This budget marks the presentation of the financial budget in Rajasthan after nearly 22 years. Notably, it includes special announcements for the youth, farmers, women, and the elderly. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, unveiled the realigned **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) scheme** and introduced a **Radio Jingle** for AHIDF in New Delhi. The Minister highlighted the significance of the scheme, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasized its realignment and extension for another three years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **16th Finance Commission (FC)** convened its inaugural session with **Arvind Panagariya** at the helm to deliberate upon its **Terms of Reference (ToR)**. The commission aims to engage in comprehensive analytical endeavors and leverage expertise from prominent research institutions and think tanks specializing in fiscal federal relations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduces the **'Sangam: Digital Twin'** initiative, calling upon industry leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, and innovators to join hands in reshaping infrastructure planning and design through cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Food Processing **Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras** inaugurated **"SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024,"** stressing the importance of such events in promoting networking, sharing knowledge, and aiding startups in accessing government schemes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- MSME Minister **Narayan Rane** launched a special scheme for informal micro enterprises (IMEs), exempted from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. This scheme **enables IMEs to access collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh** under the government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The scheme, titled **'Special Provision for Informal Micro Enterprises under Credit Guarantee Scheme,'** aims to provide credit support to micro or nano enterprises. It seeks to moderate the credit risk perception associated with lending to IMEs, as stated by the MSME Ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Union Cabinet has approved modifications to the **National Livelihood Mission (NLM)**, enhancing its scope with **new subsidy provisions**. These changes aim to bolster entrepreneurship in the livestock sector and improve fodder cultivation, alongside simplifying the livestock insurance program. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, alongside Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, **Vishnu Deo Sai**, marked the inauguration of **211 PM SHRI schools in Raipur**. This significant event showcased the government's commitment to bolstering the education sector, particularly through schemes like PM SHRI. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government has decided to extend its flagship scheme for **women safety until 2025-26** with a budget approval of **Rs 1,179.72 crore**. This decision aims to combat the rising incidents of crimes against women across the country, as evidenced by recent statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana** in Sambalpur, Odisha. The initiative, launched virtually across 9 cities, aims to empower beneficiaries of the **PM SVANidhi scheme** nationwide. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After discussions within the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) regarding the need for **uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms**, the government has taken action by establishing an expert committee. Headed by Finance Secretary **T V Somanathan**, this committee aims to streamline and finalize uniform KYC norms across various sectors. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Amidst the grandeur of India's Republic Day celebrations, a significant milestone was quietly achieved as **French Defence Minister Sebastien Locornu** and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval sealed the **Defence Space Agreement** on January 26. The low-key signing belied the transformative potential of this pact, marking a pivotal moment in Indo-French relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** and **Oman** have taken significant strides in bolstering their strategic partnership through **enhanced defence cooperation**. The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) underscores their commitment to deepening collaboration in various realms of defence engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** and **Saudi Arabia** recently engaged in discussions aimed at bolstering their bilateral defence and strategic cooperation. These talks, held between Minister of State for Defence **Ajay Bhatt** and Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister **Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** in Riyadh, highlighted several key areas of collaboration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NITI Aayog** and the Embassy of the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** have collaborated on energy transition efforts since 2020. Their joint report, released during India Energy Week on February 6, 2024, focuses on the adoption of **LNG as a transportation fuel** in medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCVs) in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** and **Russia** have strengthened their long-standing nuclear cooperation with the signing of a protocol amending the 2008 intergovernmental agreement. The agreement focuses on the construction of additional nuclear reactors at the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project** site and the development of Russia-designed nuclear power plants at new locations in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development in the aerospace industry, **Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer** and **Mahindra** announced a strategic partnership aimed at fulfilling the Indian Air Force's (IAF) acquisition of the **C-390 multi-mission transport aircraft**. With the IAF seeking to replace its aging fleets of AN32 planes, this collaboration aligns with India's defense modernization efforts under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Aiming to significantly broaden the accessibility of football within the school setting for students, the **Ministry of Education** has embarked on a transformative initiative in partnership with the **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**. This initiative involves the distribution of 11 lakh footballs across the country in a phased manner, benefitting more than 1.5 lakh schools. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a development for indigenous manufacturing and innovation, **Prama India** has forged a partnership with the Government of India's **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**. This collaboration, facilitated through a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement, focuses on the production, marketing, and support of Thermal Cameras. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Multiple memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were exchanged between **India** and the **United Arab Emirates** during a significant diplomatic event, signifying a deepening of ties and cooperation between the two nations. An MoU on interlinking the instant payment platforms – **UPI (India) and AANI (UAE)** – was among the key agreements exchanged. This move aims to facilitate seamless cross-border transactions, enhancing financial connectivity between India and the UAE. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** and **Colombia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation. The agreement aims to foster **digital transformation** through the sharing of India's open-sourced Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs), particularly focusing on India Stack Solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- An innovative endeavor is underway to improve fishermen's direct market reach in India's fisheries industry through digital commerce. Scheduled for February 19th, 2024, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be inked between the **Department of Fisheries (GoI)** and **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** and **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance renewable energy initiatives across the nation. Signed at IREDA's registered office in New Delhi on February 19, 2024, the agreement paves the way for **joint efforts in co-lending and loan syndication** for a spectrum of renewable energy projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**), operating under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has partnered with **DBS Bank** to bolster awareness regarding **investment safety and fraudulent schemes**. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between these entities aims to utilize DBS Bank's digital platforms to disseminate crucial messages to investors across India. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)**, renowned as the **world's first airport fully powered by solar energy**, has embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** to establish a Green Hydrogen plant within its premises. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Government of Goa has unveiled plans for a pioneering **Blended Finance facility** in collaboration with the World Bank. This initiative marks a significant step towards climate-focused financing at a subnational level, aiming to bolster Goa's resilience to the challenges posed by climate change. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis** engaged in extensive discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bolster cooperation between the two nations. The visit marks the first by a Greek head of state to India in 15 years. The talks primarily focused on expanding strategic collaboration in various sectors, including trade, defense, and counter-terrorism efforts, with an emphasis on doubling bilateral trade by 2030. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has partnered with **Swiggy**, a leading food delivery platform in India, to facilitate the **delivery of pre-ordered meals** booked by passengers through IRCTC's e-catering portal. This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and choice for railway travelers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Renewable power solutions provider **CleanMax** and **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** have signed a **25-year long-term power purchase agreement** aimed at fostering sustainable energy practices. The agreement entails the generation and supply of renewable energy sourced from a Solar-wind Captive Power Project, marking a pivotal step towards green energy adoption in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative effort between the **US Consulate and the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA)**, the first-ever **US-India Cyber Security Initiative** has been launched. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### New Appointments: International

- **Sharat Chauhan**, a seasoned 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been designated as the **new Chief Secretary of Puducherry**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Railway Board Chief **Anil Kumar Lahoti** has been appointed as the chairman of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** following the vacancy left by PD Vaghela. The appointment, approved by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), marks a significant transition in India's telecommunications sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- AU Small Finance Bank announced the appointment of **Harun Rashid Khan**, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as its Non-Executive Chairman. The appointment, effective January 30, 2024, received approval from the Board of Directors, RBI, and shareholders. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jay Shah**, the Secretary of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, was unanimously appointed for a third consecutive term as the **President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Consequent upon approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), **Shri Pawan Kumar**, ICoAS, has assumed charge as **Chief Adviser (Cost)**, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, in Level-17 (Apex level) on 01/02/2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Apurva Chandra** used to be in charge of the Information and Broadcasting department, but now he's going to be the Health Secretary. He's been working for the government since 1988, so he has a lot of experience. **Sanjay Jaju** is going to take Apurva Chandra's old job as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary. He used to work in Telangana and started his government job in 1992. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bollywood superstar **Ranveer Singh** has recently invested in the popular lifestyle brand **boAt**, becoming not only a stakeholder but also the official face of the brand's audio products. This partnership marks a strategic move for boAt, as they welcome Singh into their illustrious list of brand ambassadors, which already features notable celebrities and sports personalities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move within the Indian Army, **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** has been appointed as the new **Army Vice Chief**, effective February 15. This transition signifies a seamless succession plan as Lt Gen Dwivedi steps into the role, succeeding Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who is set to assume command at the Northern Army Command in Udhampur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **K.R. Mangalam University** proudly announces the appointment of the **distinguished former Chief Justice of India**, Hon'ble Justice **U.U. Lalit**, as the Eminent Jurist and Distinguished Professor at The School of Legal Studies. This significant development follows closely on the heels of the university securing the 2nd position in Haryana, according to the BW Legal World Law School Rankings 2022, affirming its commitment to delivering unparalleled legal education. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rajasthan** has welcomed Senior Advocate **Rajendra Prasad Gupta** as its new Advocate General, following the approval of his appointment by Governor Kalraj Mishra. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced the appointment of **Mio Oka** as its new **Country Director for India**, succeeding **Takeo Konishi**. Ms. Oka brings nearly three decades of professional experience, including over 18 years with ADB, to her new role. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in ADB's continued partnership with India in supporting its development goals and economic growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Justice Vijay Bishnoi** has recently been sworn in as the **Chief Justice of the esteemed Gauhati High Court**, marking a significant milestone in his illustrious legal career. The ceremony, graced by dignitaries including the Assam Governor and Chief Minister, commemorated Justice Bishnoi's ascension to this esteemed position. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Digital** has announced the appointment of **Naveen Tahilyani** as the new **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Group's e-commerce unit**. Tahilyani, who presently holds the position of CEO and MD at Tata AIA Life Insurance, is set to transition into his new role on February 19, taking over from Pratik Pal. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management has appointed **Ravi Kumar Jha** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive. With over 30 years of experience at LIC, Jha brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has announced the appointment of its President and Chief Distribution Officer, **Venkatachalam H**, as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, pending regulatory approval. This strategic move marks a new chapter for the company as Venkatachalam, a veteran in the insurance and financial services sector, prepares to steer Tata AIA Life towards future growth and innovation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** recently announced the appointment of **Ajay Kumar Choudhary** as its new non-executive chairman and independent director, effective February 8, 2024. Mr Choudhary, a distinguished central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this crucial role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Fit India Movement** broke the mold by appointing **Narendra Kumar Yadav, an IRS officer**, as its new brand ambassador. This groundbreaking choice highlights the diverse paths to fitness and challenges us to rethink what it means to be a role model for a healthier India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, a pivotal organization in the field of Chartered Accountancy in India, announced a significant leadership transition. In a recent meeting, the Council of ICAI elected CA. **Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** as the President and CA. **Charanjot Singh Nanda** as the Vice-President for the term 2024-25, starting from February 12, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), **Mr Sanjay Kumar Jain**, an accomplished **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer** of the 1990 batch, has assumed the pivotal role of Chairman & Managing Director. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move that marks the beginning of a new chapter for **SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS)**, the investment banking arm of State Bank of India (SBI), **Virendra Bansal** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Boeing, the American aerospace giant**, has made a significant move to enhance its operations and propel its growth strategy in India by appointing **Nikhil Joshi** as the managing director of **Boeing Defense India (BDI)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **Nand Kishore Yadav** has been elected as the **Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly**. This election marks a pivotal moment in Bihar's political landscape, with Yadav bringing a wealth of experience to the prestigious position. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nawaf Salam** was elected president of the **ICJ in The Hague**, succeeding US Judge Joan Donoghue. This significant milestone marks him as the first Lebanese and second Arab to hold this prestigious position for a three-year term. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move to boost voter engagement and participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the **Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office** has announced Indian cricketer **Shubman Gill** as the new "state icon" for **Punjab**. This appointment is a strategic effort to connect with the youth and sports enthusiasts, ensuring that the electoral process resonates more deeply across various demographics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has re-designated **KVS Manian**, a seasoned professional with nearly three decades of experience within the institution, as the joint managing director. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has made significant appointments for the chairmanship of several prominent banks in India. Former LIC Chairman **M R Kumar** has been appointed as the part-time non-official Director and non-executive Chairman of the Bank of India (BOI). **Srinivasan Sridhar** has been selected as the part-time non-official Director and non-executive Chairman of the Board of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). **Aravamudan Krishna Kumar** has been appointed as the part-time non-official Director and non-executive Chairman on the Board of UCO Bank. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **SBM Bank India**, a subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius, has announced the appointment of **Ashish Vijayakar** as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank**. The appointment is effective from February 17, 2024, and has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as per their letter dated February 6, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move that highlights the deepening ties between the technology sectors of India and the United States, **Salil Parekh**, the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the **US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)**. This appointment underscores the critical role of digital trade in consolidating the strategic partnership between the two nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The government has appointed **A S Rajeev**, former Managing Director and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra, as the **Vigilance Commissioner** of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Geeta Batra**, a distinguished Indian economist, has been appointed as the Director of the **Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. This appointment marks a significant milestone, as Batra becomes the first woman from a developing country to assume this prestigious role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, former Supreme Court judge Justice **Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Lokpal**, the anti-corruption ombudsman of India. His appointment comes after a distinguished career in the judiciary, retiring from the apex court in July 2022. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The World Gold Council (WGC)**, representing global gold miners, has named **Sachin Jain** as its new **CEO for India**, effective from March. Jain's extensive experience, particularly in the jewellery market and strategic leadership, positions him well for this crucial role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **PayU Payments Private Ltd**, a prominent fintech arm of the global consumer internet group Prosus, has announced the appointment of **Renu Sud Karnad** as the chairperson and independent director. The addition of Karnad, a distinguished director at HDFC Bank, underscores PayU's commitment to leveraging experienced leadership to navigate the evolving fintech landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ravindra Kumar**, the newly appointed **Director-Operations at NTPC Ltd**, brings over three decades of rich experience and expertise in the power sector. From his early days as a graduate engineer trainee to his recent leadership roles, Kumar's journey exemplifies a commitment to excellence and innovation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Sports Current Affairs

- **India** finished as runner-up at the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup after a 7-2 loss to the **Netherlands** in the final in Muscat. India tried to make a comeback and scored twice – **Jyoti Chhatri (20th minute) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (23rd minute)** – but could not catch the Dutch team which added one more goal courtesy of Kalse before the full-time hooter. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Hyderabad's Tanmay Agarwal** scored an unbeaten **323 off just 160 balls** against **Arunachal Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy Plate Group game**. His innings included 33 fours and 21 sixes, showcasing his aggressive batting style. Agarwal achieved his triple century in a record 147 balls, surpassing the previous record of 191 balls set by Marco Marais. This feat also marked the second-fastest triple ton by time, taking 183 minutes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Naorem Roshibina Devi**, the pride of Manipur, has clinched the prestigious title of **International Wushu Federation Female Athlete of the Year**, solidifying her place as a powerhouse in the world of wushu. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sonam Maskar** made a remarkable debut in the **shooting World Cup in Cairo, Egypt**, clinching the women's air rifle **silver medal**. Despite her impressive performance, she was narrowly **beaten by Anna Janssen of Germany** by a mere 0.9 points. Maskar's stellar performance highlights her potential as a rising star in the sport. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian boxer **Mandeep Jangra** secured a remarkable triumph at the US-based National Boxing Association's (NBA) intercontinental **super featherweight championship**. His win came after a compelling bout against American Gerardo Esquivel in Toppenish City, Washington. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The mascot for the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the majestic snow leopard, named **'Sheen-e She' or 'Shan' in the Ladakh region**. Native to the high-altitude areas of J&K and Ladakh, the snow leopard symbolizes the spirit of the Games and brings attention to the conservation of this endangered species. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's shining moment at the **ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup** was marked by stellar performances in the **10m air pistol mixed team event** and the **10m air rifle mixed team event**. Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal showcased exceptional skill and coordination to secure gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, while **Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar** displayed resilience to clinch silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Divyansh Singh Panwar** continues to carve his name in the annals of shooting history, securing his **fourth World Cup gold** in the **10m air rifle event**. This latest triumph adds to his impressive collection, which includes victories in Munich, Beijing, and Delhi since 2019. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The ancient tradition of the **Olympic Torch Relay** continues its journey towards **Paris 2024**, with the flame set to cross the Mediterranean and embark on a 68-day adventure across France. **Abhinav Bindra**, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, is among the 11,000 torchbearers chosen to carry the iconic symbol. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The highly anticipated **FIFA World Cup 2026** is set to take centre stage, promising football fans a thrilling and expanded 48-team tournament. The **United States, Canada, and Mexico** are co-hosting this global spectacle, with **MetLife Stadium in New York** selected as the venue for the July 19 final. In this blog post, we'll delve into the key details and highlights of the upcoming tournament. **MetLife Stadium in New York emerged victorious in the bid to host the final on July 19**, overcoming stiff competition from Dallas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **PT Usha**, was honoured with the prestigious '**Lifetime Achievement**' award. This accolade was presented to her by the **Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI)** and **Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA)**, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to Indian athletics. The award ceremony saw the attendance of notable personalities, including **Rajeev Shukla, Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha** and **Vice President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, and former Indian shooter **Jaspal Rana**, among the Guests of Honour. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Telangana Football Association (TFA)** has achieved a significant milestone by securing approval to host the FIFA World Cup qualifiers round between **India and Kuwait**. The match is scheduled to take place on June 6th of this year in **Hyderabad**, announced Dr. K.T. Mahi, Chairman of TFA. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium** is set to be rebranded as the **Niranjan Shah Stadium**. This change comes as a tribute to the former first-class cricketer and senior cricket administrator, **Niranjan Shah**, marking his immense contributions to the sport and the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **International Football Association Board (IFAB)** is preparing to debut a new card, the **blue card** as part of trials involving sin bins in professional football. In November 2023, the governing body recognized the necessity of addressing player conduct towards match officials, leading to the implementation of temporary dismissals for dissent and certain tactical infractions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Grand Master **Wei Yi** emerged triumphant in the highly anticipated **2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament**, showcasing his exceptional skill and tactical prowess. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a surprising turn of events, the **SAFF Women's U-19 Championships** concluded with **India and Bangladesh** being declared joint winners. The tournament, held in Dhaka, witnessed a series of unusual occurrences that led to this unprecedented decision. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- With the Paris Olympic Games approaching, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) hosted the "**Road to Paris 2024: Championing Clean Sports and Uniting for Anti-Doping**" Conference. The event aimed to educate Indian athletes about the dangers of prohibited substances while emphasizing ethical competition. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Etihaad Airways** joins forces with the **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** as their official sponsor, marking a thrilling new chapter for both entities. This strategic partnership, announced on February 9th, 2024, promises to propel the excitement of cricket to new heights for fans around the world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The iconic **Jungfrauoch**, also known as the **Top of Europe**, witnessed a momentous event recently. India's Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower, **Neeraj Chopra**, was honoured with a **commemorative plaque** at the renowned **Ice Palace**. This prestigious recognition adds another feather to his cap and strengthens the bond between **Switzerland and India**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Pathum Nissanka** etched his name in Sri Lankan cricket history, by becoming the **first-ever player** to score a **double century** in One Day Internationals (ODIs) for the nation. His **unbeaten knock of 210 runs** against Afghanistan was a masterclass in batting, shattering records and propelling Sri Lanka to a massive victory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Australia U19** win the **U19 World Cup 2024 Final** by 79 runs. With the massive win over India, Australia has secured its fourth World Cup title in U-19 cricket. Australia added to their triumphs in **2002, 2010, and 2020**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** have officially announced the appointment of **Katrina Kaif** as their brand ambassador for the upcoming **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season**. This partnership marks a significant milestone for the five-time IPL champions, signalling a new chapter in their illustrious journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Nagal's journey began in 2023 when he played as a player ranked 506 in the world and qualified for the ATP Chennai Open Challenger. Despite setbacks, including a hip injury in 2021, Nagal persisted and continued to pursue his dream. His success in Chennai Challenger last year marked the beginning of his resurgence after surgery. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In an event that has cast a shadow over the world of athletics, **Kelvin Kiptum**, the men's marathon world record holder, and his coach, Gervais Hakizimana, met with a tragic end in a traffic accident on the night of February 12, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the winners of the **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month for January 2024**. West Indies' Shamar Joseph and Ireland's Amy Hunter have been bestowed with this honour, marking their remarkable contributions to their respective teams in the past month. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Gandhinagar Premier League (GPL) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The event, graced by the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel among other dignitaries, marks a pivotal step towards enhancing grassroots cricket and fostering local talent across the nation. **Hardik Pandya**, an India all-rounder, was spotted with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Gandhinagar Premier League's launch. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** handed over the **Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary**, the host city for the **45th edition of the Chess Olympiad**. The ceremony, held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, was not just a formal handover but also a celebration of chess as an intellectual sport deeply rooted in India's heritage. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has suspended hammer thrower Rachna Kumari for 12 years for a second anti-doping rule violation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Taghi Askar**, a 100-year-old diver from the Islamic Republic of Iran, made waves at the **Diving World Championships in Doha** as he wiped away tears of gratitude and emotion for the overwhelming support he received. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian football**, the national team has fallen **15 places to the 117th position** in the latest FIFA rankings, registering its lowest position in the past seven years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** has etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the second Indian bowler to take **500 wickets in Test matches**. This milestone was reached during the second day of the third Test between India and England in Rajkot, marking a significant achievement in Ashwin's already storied career. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- UK-based club cricketer **Rizwan Javed** has been handed a severe ban from all cricketing activities for a period of **17 ½ years**. This decision comes in the wake of his involvement in several breaches of the **Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code for Participants**. The ramifications of his actions highlight the stringent measures taken to uphold the integrity of the sport. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Shah Alam, Malaysia**, the Indian women's badminton team etched their names into history by clinching a historic gold medal at the **Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** inaugurated the **Khelo India University games** in Guwahati. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, addressed Khelo India University Games being held across the seven states in the Northeast via a video message. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- An eight-year-old chess prodigy from **Singapore** has made headlines by achieving a remarkable feat in the world of chess. In a gripping three-hour game at Switzerland's Burgdorfer Stadthaus-Open, **Ashwath Kaushik** emerged victorious against the seasoned Polish grandmaster **Jacek Stopa**, securing his place in history as the **youngest chess player to defeat a grandmaster**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Babar Azam** showcased his unparalleled prowess once again as he etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the quickest batter to surpass the milestone of **10,000 runs in T20 cricket**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable display of endurance and determination, **Bhagwan Singh and Mahesh Khurana from Bhopal** have completed the **Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon 2024**, held in Leh-Ladakh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move for Indian cricket, **Jacinta Kalyan** has etched her name in the annals of sports history as the country's first female pitch curator. With the highly anticipated **2nd edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL)** just around the corner, the excitement among fans, players, and tournament organizers is palpable. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**NIACL 2024**  
*Assistant Pre & Mains*  
**120+ Total Tests**  
 Test Series

- Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** etched his name in cricketing history, surpassing legendary leg-spinner **Anil Kumble** to become the **leading wicket-taker in Test matches played on Indian soil.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has demonstrated unwavering support for Armed Forces personnel who excelled in the **19th Asian Games** and **4th Asian Para Games**, held in Hangzhou, China, during September-October 2023. In a landmark move, the Ministry of Defence has announced a **Financial Incentive Scheme to reward the Medal Winners**, aiming to foster Recognition and Motivation among these athletes as they prepare for the Paris Olympics Games 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton**, the dynamic **Namibian batter**, etched his name in cricketing history by scoring the **fastest T20 International (T20I) century** in a blistering innings against Nepal. Loftie-Eaton's extraordinary feat occurred during the first T20I of the Tri-Nation series on Tuesday, February 27, leaving fans and pundits in awe of his remarkable display of power-hitting. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Veteran fast bowler **Neil Wagner** has called time on his international cricketing career, bringing an end to a distinguished 12-year Test match journey with the Black Caps. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Summits And Conferences

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is all set to inaugurate the **Bharat Mobility Global Expo**, a groundbreaking event in India's automotive landscape. Taking place from **February 1-3** in the national capital, this expo aims to highlight India's emergence as a global hub for mobility. With over 800 exhibitors and 50 overseas participants, the event covers the entire mobility value chain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **PM GatiShakti Summit**, a collaboration between the **Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** and the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, unfolded in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development strategy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted the **Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the prestigious **World Government Summit (WGS)** in Dubai on February 14. This marks his second invitation to the WGS, with the **first being in 2018**. The WGS, an annual global gathering held in Dubai since 2013, convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A **North-East Sammelan** convened at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi** drawing attention to the region's progress and collaborative efforts. The event boasted the presence of distinguished ministers, MPs, MLAs, officers, and students, accentuating the significance of the occasion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant moment for regional sports diplomacy, the **first-ever BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship** was officially declared open in New Delhi on February 6th, 2024. The ceremony, graced by the esteemed presence of **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, Honourable Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports of India, and **Shri Dig Bahadur Limbu**, Honourable Minister of Youth & Sports of Nepal, marked the commencement of a historic sporting event within the BIMSTEC framework. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **2024 World Governments Summit**, scheduled to be held in Dubai from February 12-14, has designated **India, Türkiye, and Qatar** as guests of honor. Themed 'Shaping Future Governments,' the summit aims to facilitate discussions among over 25 government and state heads worldwide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is organizing the **67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM)** in Lucknow from February 12th to 16th, 2024. This esteemed event, entrusted to the RPF by the Central Coordinating Committee of AIPDM, aims to foster excellence and collaboration among police officers, enhancing internal security through scientific crime detection and investigation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The 7th Indian Ocean Conference recently convened in Perth, Australia, drawing together leaders, ministers, and officials from Indian Ocean rim countries. Organized by India Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the conference aimed to address diverse issues under the theme "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean." ([Read Complete Article](#))
- At the **World Government Summit 2024**, Dubai has unveiled groundbreaking agreements to introduce the world's inaugural air taxi service, setting a new standard in urban transportation. This initiative, centered around the innovative **Joby Aviation S4 aircraft**, promises to revolutionize Dubai's cityscape with its electric-powered, environmentally friendly design. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** is currently participating in the **60th Munich Security Conference in Germany**. During the conference, he is engaging in various discussions and meetings with global leaders to address bilateral cooperation and key global and regional concerns. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The highly anticipated **INDUS-X Summit** is set to take place on February 20-21, 2024, in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the United States in defense innovation. **Organized by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, and Department of Defence (DoD), United States, in conjunction with the U.S.-India Business Council and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), the summit aims to drive strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between the two nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade Fair**, held in New Delhi on 19-20 February 2024, is a collaborative effort between ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi, and various stakeholders. The event aims to showcase the multifaceted uses of neem in agriculture, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mobile World Congress (MWC)** brings people from the mobile industry together and gives them a chance to connect as well as collaborate. It also, given its importance, sets the technology tone for companies that deal in mobile and wireless technologies. At the same time, MWC gives companies a chance to showcase their latest products and innovations. This year, the event will start with a keynote on February 26 and will go on until February 29. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Vimarsh 2023 5G Hackathon**, a collaborative effort between **Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE) India** under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), aimed to revolutionize Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) operations. This initiative sought to explore groundbreaking solutions and promote innovation within the law enforcement domain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Bharat Tex 2024**, the largest textile event in India, emphasizing its focus on sustainability, circularity, and economic growth. The event witnessed participation from over 3000 exhibitors and traders from 100 countries, showcasing India's rich textile heritage and modern innovations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- The '**INDIA AGEING REPORT 2023**,' jointly conducted by the **International Institute for Population Sciences** and the **United Nations Population Fund**, provides a comprehensive overview of the aging demographic in Jammu Kashmir. **Jammu Kashmir** emerges as a region with remarkable resilience against elderly poverty, boasting a mere 4.2 percent of its aged population falling below the poverty line. Among the elderly, constituting 9.4 percent of the region's population, Jammu Kashmir stands out with the **highest life expectancy after the age of 60**. Males exhibit a life expectancy of 20.3 percent, and females, 23.0 percent, making it the leader in this demographic indicator between 2015-19. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22**, released by the Ministry of Education, unveils a significant spike in higher education enrollment. The total enrollment soared from 4.14 crore in the previous session to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22, marking a notable uptick of 19 lakh students. The report highlights a commendable rise in female enrollment in the science stream, surpassing male counterparts. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri **Bhupender Yadav**, released a significant report on the status of Snow leopards in India. This groundbreaking study, part of the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program**, marks the first-ever scientific exercise to assess the population of this elusive species in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's placement in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023 remained largely unchanged, securing the **93rd position out of 180 countries**. The CPI, curated by Transparency International, evaluates nations based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, utilizing a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 signifies high corruption and 100 represents very clean governance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, Mukesh Ambani, the visionary leader steering Reliance Industries Limited, secures the first position among Indian executives and an impressive second globally in the prestigious **Brand Guardianship Index 2024** by Brand Finance. This recognition places Ambani ahead of renowned global leaders such as Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai, Tim Cook, and Elon Musk. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India's logistics performance has seen remarkable improvements, as indicated by its rank in the **Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Report by the World Bank**. Through collaborative efforts among various ministries and departments, alongside the implementation of key policies and initiatives, India is advancing towards enhancing its competitiveness globally. India has significantly climbed in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranking, securing the **38th position out of 139 countries**, according to the World Bank's report. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- TomTom**, a leading expert in location technology, has unveiled revealing insights into the global challenge of traffic congestion. Among the standout findings, **London emerges as a focal point**, experiencing the slowest traffic in 2023. This revelation, based on TomTom's comprehensive analysis, underscores the pressing need for innovative solutions to tackle urban mobility challenges. TomTom's report also sheds light on the traffic woes plaguing major Indian cities such as Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi, and Mumbai. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released by the National Statistical Office indicates a continued improvement in India's urban labour markets. The **urban jobless rate** for Q3FY24 dropped to **6.5%**, showcasing a marginal decrease from the previous quarter and marking a significant decline from the peak observed during the Covid-affected period in FY22. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards environmental conservation and sustainable land management, **NITI Aayog**, the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, launched the **Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and portal**. This groundbreaking initiative aims to transform India's underutilized wastelands into productive agroforestry zones, leveraging state-of-the-art remote sensing and **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies** for a comprehensive analysis at both state and district levels. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In 2023, India ranked as the **80th most targeted country** for cybercrime globally. Local threats affected approximately 34% of users, resulting in the blocking of 74,385,324 incidents by **Kaspersky products**. The country's cybersecurity market reached USD 6.06 billion in 2023, yet the surge in sophisticated external cyber threats poses a significant challenge for enterprises, according to IDC. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In 2023, **India surpassed China** to become **HSBC's third-largest profit hub**, showcasing a remarkable surge in profitability. The fiscal year ending December 2023 saw India's profits soar by 25% to reach an impressive **\$1.5 billion**. HSBC's annual report for the fiscal year ending December 2023 unveiled key insights into India's exceptional performance. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- NITI Aayog **CEO B V R Subrahmanyam** highlights key findings from the latest NSSO consumer expenditure survey, revealing a significant reduction in poverty levels to **below 5% in India**. He emphasizes the growing prosperity evident in both rural and urban areas, as indicated by the substantial increase in per capita monthly household expenditure. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's weightage in the **MSCI Global Standard (Emerging Markets) index** has reached a **historic high of 18.2%** following MSCI's February review. This surge, **nearly doubling since November 2020**, is attributed to various factors such as standardized foreign ownership limits, sustained domestic equity rally, and relative underperformance of other emerging markets, particularly China. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
February 1st	Indian Coast Guard Day
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Wetlands Day</li> <li>Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day</li> </ul>
February 1st to 7th	World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)
February 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Cancer Day   Theme: "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care,"</li> <li>International Day of Human Fraternity</li> </ul>
February 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation</li> <li>Safer Internet Day   Theme: "Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online,"</li> </ul>
February 7th	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day   Theme: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities
February 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of the Arabian Leopard</li> <li>World Pulses Day   Theme: Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People</li> </ul>

Date	Day & Theme
February 11th	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
February 11	World Unani Day
February 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism</li> <li>National Productivity Day</li> </ul>
February 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Radio Day</li> <li>National Women's Day</li> </ul>
February 13th	International Epilepsy Day   Theme: Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey
February 14	Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day
February 14	Basant Panchami
February 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Childhood Cancer Day</li> <li>World Hippo Day</li> <li>World Anthropology Day</li> </ul>
February 17	United Nations' Global Tourism Resilience Day
February 18	World Whale Day
February 19th	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti
20th of February	World Day of Social Justice
February 20th	Mizoram Foundation Day
February 21	International Mother Language Day in 2024   Theme: Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning
February 24th	Central Excise Day
February 23	World Peace and Understanding Day
February 27th	World NGO Day
	National Science Day   Theme: 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat',

### Defence Current Affairs

- The inaugural joint military exercise, **Sada Tanseeq**, between the armies of **India and Saudi Arabia**, is poised to commence in **Rajasthan**, showcasing a significant leap in bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia. Scheduled from **January 29th to February 10th, 2024**, Sada Tanseeq signifies a landmark collaboration, epitomizing the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia. [\(Read the Complete Article\)](#)
- In the realm of national defense, rapid deployment and robust infrastructure are paramount. The **Indian Army**, under the Ministry of Defence, stands vigilant against external threats, prioritizing cutting-edge equipment like **SARVATRA** – a Multispan Mobile Bridging System. Crafted by **Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE)** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SARVATRA epitomizes innovation in bridging solutions, ensuring seamless connectivity for the Indian Army. [\(Read the Complete Article\)](#)
- Visakhapatnam's Naval Dockyard** will witness a momentous occasion as **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** presides over the commissioning ceremony of **INS Sandhayak**. This event marks a significant addition to the Indian Navy's capabilities, reinforcing its presence in the Indian Ocean Region. Distinguished guests, including Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar and senior officials from the navy and the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, will be in attendance to celebrate this milestone. [\(Read the Complete Article\)](#)
- Havildar Preeti Rajak**, a distinguished trap shooter in the Indian Army, has reached a historic milestone by being promoted to the esteemed rank of **Subedar**. Her promotion marks a groundbreaking achievement, as she becomes the **first woman in the Indian Army to hold this prestigious rank**, signifying not only her personal accomplishment but also a significant advancement for women in the armed forces. [\(Read the Complete Article\)](#)
- In a strategic move to bolster efficiency and bolster the well-being of its civilian workforce, the **Indian Navy** has declared 2024 as the **'Year of Naval Civilians.'** This groundbreaking initiative targets comprehensive Civilian HR Management, with a sharp focus on enhancing administrative efficiency, embracing digital transformation, implementing targeted training programs, and fostering employee welfare activities. [\(Read the Complete Article\)](#)



- India's strategic collaboration with the **United States** in defense takes a significant leap forward with the procurement of **MQ-9B armed drones**. This acquisition underscores the strengthening ties between the two nations and represents a pivotal moment in enhancing India's military capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to conduct **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**, a grand display of its aerial might, on 17 February 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer. Following the successful execution of the previous edition on 16 February 2019, this year's exercise promises to be an even more impressive demonstration of the IAF's offensive and defensive capabilities, both during the day and night. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **General Anil Chauhan** made a significant announcement at the Defence Literature Festival, "Kalam and Kavach," in Pune. He unveiled a groundbreaking book titled '**Artificial Intelligence and National Security**,' marking a pivotal moment in blending India's rich cultural heritage with contemporary national security strategies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In an endeavor to bolster border security measures, India has embarked on a significant project to fence the entire **1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar border**. Home Minister Amit Shah made the announcement, underscoring the government's commitment to fortifying national borders and enhancing surveillance capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral **R. Hari Kumar** visit was the inauguration of a state-of-the-art **Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh**. This advanced radar system is a game-changer for naval aviation, providing highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to aircraft, particularly under low visibility conditions such as heavy rain and fog. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India has announced the **replacement of military personnel** operating aviation platforms in the Maldives with competent Indian technical personnel. This decision comes after negotiations between Indian and Maldivian authorities, with the latter expressing a clear demand for the withdrawal of Indian troops. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a memorable event at **TonsBridge School in Dehradun**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Uttarakhand's Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled a statue of General Bipin Rawat, who was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This ceremony was not just about remembering a great leader but also about inspiring the future generations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has achieved a significant milestone on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**, recording procurement worth **₹1 lakh crore** since the portal's inception in 2016. This achievement underscores MoD's commitment to optimizing public spending in the defense sector through efficient procurement practices on GeM. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh**, has approved various capital acquisition proposals amounting to **Rs 84,560 crore** on February 16, 2024. These approvals emphasize the procurement of equipment from Indian vendors to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **12th edition** of the **MILAN naval exercise** is poised to set sail in the strategic port city of Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, marking a significant gathering of naval forces from over 50 countries. This year's theme, "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future," underscores the exercise's commitment to enhancing global maritime security through cooperation and strategic dialogue. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **SAMAR** (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) air defense missile system marked a significant milestone as it was **fired for the first time during the Vayushakti Exercise** in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Saturday, February 17th. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army is embarking on a significant endeavor to modernize its armored forces by replacing its aging Russian T-72 tank fleet with cutting-edge **Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs)**. These FRCVs, totaling 1,770 units, will be produced indigenously in India with advanced technologies including **artificial intelligence (AI), drone integration, active protection systems**, and enhanced situational awareness. The induction will occur in three phases, each incorporating newer technologies for maximum survivability and lethality. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted '**Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**' at the **Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, presenting a formidable display of its aerial firepower. The event, attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, marked a significant demonstration of the IAF's offensive capabilities through a series of meticulously planned aerial manoeuvres and precision strikes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is hosting the **12th edition of the 'Milan' naval exercise in Visakhapatnam**, aimed at bolstering maritime cooperation among like-minded nations. The exercise comes amidst growing global concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the Red Sea. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** embarks on a comprehensive upgrade project worth **Rs 60,000 crore** for the **Su-30MKI** fighter jet fleet. The initiative aims to bolster the aircraft's capabilities through the integration of advanced technologies and indigenous systems. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Kathmandu** became the focal point of global peacekeeping efforts as it hosted the commencement of the multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV'. This significant event, which draws army representatives from 19 countries actively involved in United Nations Peacekeeping missions, underscores the collaborative spirit and dedication towards maintaining global peace and security. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** has taken a significant stride towards enhancing the operational capabilities of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**. This strategic partnership aims to integrate futuristic weapons and sensors onto the LCA Tejas platform, ensuring its readiness and effectiveness in modern warfare scenarios. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a notable stride towards advanced military technology, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is reportedly gearing up to test a real prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, **DURGA-2**. The project, designed in secrecy by the Indian defence establishment, has garnered attention in global strategic circles due to its potential to transform warfare dynamics by neutralizing ballistic missiles. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships** joined the **Dosti 16 exercise** held in the **Maldives** from February 22-25. This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has approved the acquisition of over **200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles** for deployment on Indian Navy warships. The deal, valued at **₹19,000 crore**, signifies a significant step towards bolstering India's naval capabilities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian'** commenced today at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India. The exercise, scheduled to run from February 25th to March 9th, 2024, brings together the **Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)** for a focused training program aimed at enhancing interoperability and fostering closer military cooperation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) missile system**. This innovative system leverages repurposed **Russian R-27 air-to-air missiles**, transforming them into a potent surface-to-air defense solution. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, **Steadfast Defender 2024**, in late January 2024. This large-scale operation, conducted against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, serves as a potent symbol of NATO's collective military might and unwavering commitment to the security of its member states. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Awards News

- The prestigious **Blavatnik Awards** will recognize the exceptional contributions of **Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat**, and other early career scientists at a black-tie gala in London on February 27. These awards, totaling 480,000 pounds in grants, underscore the importance of recognition and research funding in propelling scientific breakthroughs. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Nikhil Mukund Wagh**, who works as a **Public Relations Officer at Goa Shipyard Limited**, was recently given the "**Maha Gaurav 2024**" award. This award was handed to him by **Shri Ajit Pawar**, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, during a ceremony at Kaneri Math in Kolhapur on Monday, January 29. The award is a big deal because it recognizes Nikhil's great work in public relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri**, the chief priest (Rawal) of the world-renowned **Badrinath Dham** in Uttarakhand, was honoured with the **Shankar Smriti Award in Kerala**. This recognition marks a significant acknowledgement of his dedication and service to the spiritual domain, enhancing the rich tapestry of Indian religious practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Bina Modi**, the esteemed Chairperson of **Modi Enterprises**, has been honored with the prestigious '**Outstanding Business Woman of the Year**' Award. This recognition, bestowed upon her by **Rajnath Singh**, Defence Minister of India, at a distinguished conference organized by the **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)**, underscores her exceptional leadership and contributions to the industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Renowned Mathematics educator **Anand Kumar**, founder of **Super 30**, achieved a significant milestone on Tuesday, February 6, as he was granted the prestigious '**Golden Visa**' by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) government**. This recognition catapults Kumar into an elite group, traditionally dominated by Bollywood stars and sports icons. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a celebration of nature’s serene beauty, a photograph depicting a **polar bear asleep on an iceberg** has clinched the prestigious **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People’s Choice Award**. This enchanting image, titled ‘Ice Bed,’ captured by British amateur photographer Nima Sarikhani, has emerged victorious in a competition that saw a record-breaking 75,000 votes from the public. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **second DNPA Conclave & Digital Impact Awards** served as a pivotal platform for discussions on the **revenue-sharing disparity between digital news publishers and major technology platforms**. Key stakeholders, including the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), converged to address this pressing issue amidst the backdrop of the imminent Digital India Act. The Conclave focuses on the theme **‘Navigating Digital Transformations and Challenges in the Media Industry.’** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Pyarelal Sharma**, one-half of the legendary composer duo **Laxmikant-Pyarelal**, has been felicitated with the prestigious **Lakshminarayana International Award**. This honour was bestowed upon him as part of the **Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival**, acknowledging his invaluable contributions to the Indian music industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government of India has recently unveiled the prestigious **‘National Creators Award’**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable contributions of new-age influencers and creators in shaping India’s digital landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The field of space exploration and technology in India witnessed a momentous occasion as the **IEEE Kerala Section** announced the recipient of the prestigious **K.P.P. Nambiar Award**. This year, the accolade was bestowed upon **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath**, a figure synonymous with innovation and leadership in space technology. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noida, a city in the National Capital Region, has garnered recognition for its efforts in water conservation and management. **The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation**, under the Union Water Ministry, has honored Noida with the title of **“Water Warrior” city**. This recognition comes as a testament to the city’s measures in waste water treatment and reuse for various purposes, particularly irrigation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** was honoured with the **9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024**, held in the **United Arab Emirates**. This accolade is a testament to India's innovative use of artificial intelligence in enhancing government services, specifically under the 'AI-Powered Government Services' category. The award, established by the UAE government, acknowledges the creative and innovative technological solutions implemented by government entities worldwide. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Havildar Varinder Singh**, a member of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army, has been honored with the prestigious **Vishisht Seva Medal** for his remarkable contribution to military technology. President Droupadi Murmu bestowed this accolade upon him in recognition of his outstanding efforts in developing a groundbreaking piece of equipment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Film Awards**, one of India’s most prestigious film award ceremonies, is set to see significant changes in its 70th iteration in 2022. Previously known as the **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film**, this category will now be simply referred to as the **“Best Debut Film of a Director.”** The award category previously known as the **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration** has undergone not just a name change but also a broadening of its scope. It will now be known as the **“Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values,”** effectively merging the aspects of national integration, social issues, and environmental conservation into a single category. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Hon’ble President of India, in a momentous ceremony on Republic Day 2024, bestowed the prestigious **‘Jeevan Raksha Padak’** upon **Sh. Shashikant Kumar**, a constable of the Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF). This esteemed recognition stands as a testament to Kumar’s exceptional valor and selflessness in the face of danger. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Diplomat, author, and politician, **Shashi Tharoor** has been bestowed with the prestigious **‘Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur’ (Knight of the Legion of Honour)**, France’s highest civilian honour. This accolade celebrates Tharoor’s lifelong dedication to fostering global understanding and his significant service to India and the world at large. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Swedish photographer **Alex Dawson** has clinched the prestigious title of **Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024**. His winning entry, 'Whale Bones', is a mesmerizing image that transports viewers beneath the icy expanse of the Greenland ice sheet, where a diver is seen exploring the skeletal remains of a minke whale. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a world propelled by technological advancements, quantum computing emerges as a frontier of innovation. At its forefront stands **Dr. Aditi Sen De**, a distinguished physicist from the Harish Chandra Research Institute in Prayagraj. Recently honored with the **2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence**, Dr. De's groundbreaking contributions to quantum technologies mark a significant milestone in scientific research. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, has achieved a remarkable feat by clinching the **top position in three categories** at the esteemed **14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards**. The event, held on February 21, 2024, at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, witnessed C-DOT's groundbreaking innovations being recognized and celebrated. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The recipient of this year's **Romain Rolland Book Prize** is **Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee** for his remarkable translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's "**Le Divan de Staline**" into Bengali, titled "**Staliner Divan.**" Published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir, Kolkata, Chatterjee's translation stood out for its linguistic prowess and fidelity to the original text. This marks the second time that a Bengali translation has been honoured with this prestigious award. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Science and Technology

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that it has successfully executed all experiments within the **Payload Orbital Experiment for Microgravity (POEM-3)** mission, which was launched as part of the PSLV-C58 mission. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to launch its latest meteorological satellite, **INSAT-3DS**, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities. This satellite, **designed to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management**, represents a culmination of rigorous testing and collaboration between ISRO and various stakeholders. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of tiny lizards in the biodiverse forests of the Western Ghats, describing them as "**diminutive dragons.**" The newfound species, named **Agasthyagama edge** or the northern kangaroo lizard, belongs to the **Agamidae family**, characterized by its diminutive size with a maximum snout-vent length of 4.3 cm. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking development, **Neuralink**, the neurotechnology company co-founded by **Elon Musk**, has successfully implanted its first brain chip into a human being. This marks a significant step forward in the field of **brain-computer interfaces (BCIs)** and opens up a myriad of possibilities for the future of medical treatment and human enhancement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a pioneering leap for India's space endeavors, **Vyommitra**, the woman robot astronaut developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to embark on an uncrewed mission in the third quarter of this year. The mission, named after the Sanskrit words "**Vyoma**" (**Space**) and "**Mitra**" (**Friend**), signifies a significant stride towards the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, the country's maiden manned space flight, slated for 2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Russian cosmonaut **Oleg Kononenko** achieved a historic milestone by setting a world record for the **most time spent in space**, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka's previous record of 878 days in orbit, as reported by Russia's space corporation, Roscosmos. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic partnership aimed at advancing India's self-reliance in defence, **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** and **Munitions India Limited** have joined forces to pioneer the development of 155 Smart Ammunition. This groundbreaking collaboration underscores a concerted effort towards achieving indigenisation in the defence sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** has made a significant discovery—a **super-Earth** located in a habitable zone, offering tantalizing possibilities for the conditions conducive to life. This discovery sheds light on the diversity of planets in our universe and the potential for habitable worlds beyond our solar system.
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- Alphabet's Google has made significant strides in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI), recently rebranding its chatbot and introducing a new subscription plan. This move places Google in direct competition with its rival OpenAI, signaling a pivotal moment in the ongoing AI race. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The vast expanse of our planet's oceans and the intricate dance of Earth's atmosphere hold key secrets to understanding and battling climate change. In a recent groundbreaking move, **NASA** launched the **Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE)** mission, embarking on a crucial journey to unlock these mysteries. This ambitious project promises to revolutionize our understanding of the complex interactions between air, water, and life, providing invaluable insights into our planet's changing climate. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Epic Foundation** has recently unveiled the **Milkyway tablet**, heralding a new era of 'designed in India' technology tailored for the educational needs of school children. Ajai Chowdhry, the Chairman of Epic Foundation, emphasized that the Milkyway tablet is the first product designed from the ground up in India to be fully repairable and upgradable, setting a benchmark for sustainability and innovation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Professor **Karan Nathwani** from IIT-Jammu has created a groundbreaking anti-drone system that relies on **sound technology**. This innovative approach ensures affordability and user-friendliness. Unlike conventional methods using visual or radar technology, Nathwani's system identifies drones accurately by analyzing their distinct acoustic signatures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is preparing to launch its first spy satellite developed by **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** aboard a **SpaceX rocket** in April. This satellite, designed for discreet information gathering, will bolster the country's defense capabilities by providing real-time monitoring and ground control. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) introduces the "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani Karyakram" (YUVIKA) to foster the innate curiosity of children and youth towards space science. YUVIKA aims to impart fundamental knowledge on Space Science, Technology, and Applications, particularly targeting rural areas. The program aspires to ignite interest in STEM fields and nurture future talents in space exploration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking collaboration between **NASA** and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**), the world's first wooden satellite, dubbed the **LignoSat probe**, is poised for imminent launch. Developed by Kyoto University scientists in partnership with Sumitomo Forestry, this innovative initiative aims to revolutionize spaceflight operations by prioritizing sustainability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India has taken a significant step by opening its space sector to **100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** through an amendment in the FDI policy. This move aims to attract investors, enhance ease of doing business, and foster growth, in line with the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The collaboration between **Microsoft and iCreate** to launch the **iMPEL-AI (iCreate-Microsoft program for Emerging Leaders in Artificial Intelligence)** program marks a significant milestone in India's quest to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for economic growth and innovation. This article provides a detailed analysis of the initiative and its potential impact on the Indian startup ecosystem. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Odysseus spacecraft**, spearheaded by **Intuitive Machines (IM)**, has achieved what was once solely the domain of national space agencies: a successful soft landing on the lunar surface. This landmark event marks the first commercial venture to accomplish such a feat, signalling a significant leap forward in private sector involvement in space exploration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking partnership, **Nokia** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** have united to pioneer **6G technology research** and its real-world applications, with a particular focus on India. This collaboration, headquartered at **Nokia's newly inaugurated 6G Lab in Bengaluru**, will delve into various facets of 6G technology, from radio technologies to architecture, while integrating machine learning into the 6G air interface. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a monumental stride towards promoting technological advancement and innovation, the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**, in collaboration with **EduRade**, has inaugurated **India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO)**. Spanning across 18 acres, this initiative boasts the capability to simultaneously fly 9 medium-class drones, positioning itself as a frontrunner in drone technology training. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The newly discovered **Northern Green Anaconda**, scientifically named **Eunectes akayima**, challenges our perceptions of the natural world. Measuring an astonishing **26 feet in length and weighing 200 kg**, this anaconda's dimensions are beyond any previously recorded. Its head, comparable in size to that of a human, and a body as wide as a car tyre, underscore the snake's immense size and strength. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- For the first time, an international collaboration of researchers has successfully demonstrated the **laser cooling of Positronium**, a short-lived hydrogen-like atom that provides an ideal testing ground for bound-state quantum electrodynamics.
- In the recently published paper in the **Physical Review Letters**, the AEGIS team has described the laser cooling of Positronium atoms achieved from ~380 Kelvin (106.85 degrees Celsius) to ~170 Kelvin (minus 103.15 degrees Celsius), using a 70-nanosecond pulsed alexandrite-based laser system. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his address at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in Thiruvananthapuram, declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035. This initiative aims to facilitate advanced exploration of the universe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu**. This marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration endeavors, promising to revolutionize the nation's satellite launch capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** and Prof. **Thillai Rajan A** of **IIT Madras** inaugurated the '**Investor Information and Analytics Platform**,' developed by **CREST**. This platform serves as a centralized hub for startups to access investors, government schemes, and other crucial components of the startup ecosystem. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Books & Authors

- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** released the first edition of '**Political History of Assam (1947-1971)- Volume 1**, marking a significant step in documenting the state's political journey. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- '**Ek Samandar, Mere Andar**,' a collection of 75 poems penned by BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi, was launched in a prestigious event graced by top Indian defence and literary figures. This book reflects the confluence of creative expression and defence expertise. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Vice President of India **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has released the book titled '**9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government – Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana**' at Surajkund Faridabad. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The recent book release event for '**Maha Swaapnikudu (A Great Visionary)**' marks a significant moment in the political discourse of India, celebrating the illustrious career of former Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**. Authored by journalist **P. Vikram** and published by **NRI Koduri Venkat**, this book was unveiled by former Supreme Court judge **V. Gopala Gowda**, shining a spotlight on Naidu's remarkable journey in Indian politics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In his compelling work, "**Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorised & Otherwise, Recollections of a Non-Career Diplomat**," Professor **S.D. Muni** offers an unparalleled glimpse into the intricate web of South Asian geopolitics through the lens of an academic deeply entrenched in the region's affairs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A new book titled "**Sculpted Stones: Mysteries of Mamallapuram**" has emerged as a beacon guiding readers through the rich tapestry of history and artistry that defines the ancient town of Mamallapuram. Authored by **Ashwin Prabhu** and published by **Tulika Books**, this captivating exploration invites readers to delve into the enigmatic world of ancient sculptural art. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Governor **Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai** unveiled his latest literary contribution, "**Basic Structure and Republic**," marking his 212th publication. The ceremony was adorned by the gracious presence of His Gracious **H. G. Mar Joseph Perumthottam**, Archbishop of Changanacherry, Kerala, and **Shri. Subhash Shirodkar**, Minister for Water Resource Development, Co-Operation, and Provedoria, highlighting the significance of the occasion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- On the occasion of the **159th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, January 28, 2024**, we commemorate the life and contributions of one of India's most revered freedom fighters, politicians, and authors. Fondly known as **Punjab Kesari**, **Lala Lajpat Rai** left an indelible mark on India's struggle for independence and its socio-political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On **January 28**, we celebrate the **birth anniversary of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa**, the **inaugural Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army**. Recognized as a national hero, Cariappa's pivotal role in shaping the Indian military from colonial to independent India remains revered. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** has nominated the '**Maratha Military Landscapes**' for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle**. This significant move by the Culture Ministry highlights the exceptional fortification and military systems envisioned by the Maratha rulers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A remarkable feat unfolded as two-year-old **Carter Dallas** from **Scotland** etched his name into the annals of mountaineering history by becoming the **youngest person to reach the Mount Everest base camp**. Accompanied by his parents, **Ross and Jade**, Carter embarked on an extraordinary journey that captured the world's attention. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a groundbreaking move towards inclusivity and equality, **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced a significant government initiative **declaring free bus travel for the transgender community within the national capital**. Emphasizing the long-standing neglect faced by marginalized groups, Kejriwal underscored the importance of extending equal rights and privileges to all members of society, regardless of gender identity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **New Delhi Book Fair**, organized by the **National Book Trust** in collaboration with the **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)**, is set to enchant visitors at Pragati Maidan from February 10 to 18, 2024. This year's theme, **"Multilingual India: A Living Tradition,"** promises a celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural exchange. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sindhu Ganapathy's** appointment as the **first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of Southern Railway** marks a significant milestone in the journey towards inclusivity and acceptance in the Indian workforce. At the age of 37, Ms. Ganapathy has not only broken barriers but also set a precedent for the transgender community's representation in prestigious government positions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous commemoration of the **200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati**, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** delivered a profound address via video message at the birthplace of the revered **Swami, Tankara in Morbi, Gujarat**. The event, organized by the Arya Samaj, stands as a testament to Swami Ji's enduring contributions to Indian spirituality and societal reform. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nepal** is a tapestry of cultures and traditions, each contributing to the rich mosaic of its heritage. Among these, the **Tamang community** holds a significant place, celebrating their identity and history through the vibrant festival of **Sonam Losar**. Sonam Losar, the New Year according to the Tamang calendar, is not just a festivity but a profound expression of the community's culture, spirituality, and ancestral bonds. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a development announced by India's Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, the nation is set to embark on testing (Global navigation satellite system) **GNSS-based toll collection on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway**. This move underscores the government's commitment to leveraging technologies to modernize infrastructure and improve transportation systems. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Sominsai festival**, an ancient tradition deeply rooted in Japanese culture, has recently concluded its final celebration after a millennium-long legacy. Commencing on the seventh day of the Lunar New Year and spanning through the night, it was a spectacle of tradition and spirituality. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **U Tirot Sing Syiem**, a revered freedom fighter from the Khasi community, was commemorated for his indomitable spirit and sacrifice as the **Meghalaya government** unveiled his life-size bust at the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The annual **"Aadi Mahotsav – National Tribal Festival,"** inaugurated by Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, concluded on 18th February 2024. Held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, from February 10 to February 18, the 9-day festival organized by **TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India)** showcased a vibrant tapestry of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture, Cuisine, and Commerce. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Northern Railway Firozpur division** is set to revolutionize connectivity in the region with the introduction of a new **Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) train service** between Baramulla and Sangaldan stations, Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the ongoing **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project**, enhancing transportation infrastructure and facilitating easier access for commuters. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The vibrant city of Chandigarh** became a melting pot of cultural heritage and artistic innovation as it hosted the **11th International Puppet Festival at Tagore Theatre**. The event, inaugurated by Punjab Governor and Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh, **Banwarilal Purohit**, alongside Adviser to the Administrator Rajeev Verma and other dignitaries, marked a significant celebration of puppetry's rich legacy and its enduring appeal across ages. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **CITCO (Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation)** introduces a **pizza maker** near Sukhna Lake, producing hot pizzas in three minutes, a first in North India. The pizza vending machine is the only one operational in India, marking a significant breakthrough. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)**, a celebration deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural heritage of India, is set to embark on a new journey as it finds its foreign soil in **Sri Lanka**. Scheduled from March 1 to 3, the **fifth edition** of the IGM promises to be a grand affair, bringing together devotees and enthusiasts from around the world. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has officially unveiled the logo for the highly anticipated **7th North East Youth Festival 2024**. The emblem beautifully encapsulates the vibrant essence of the eight northeastern states, marking a tribute to the rich cultural tapestry of the region. Moreover, the festival has chosen the Phayre's leaf monkey as its mascot, further symbolizing the unique biodiversity and heritage of the North East. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** has commissioned **India's largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

## Obituaries Current Affairs

- **Dr. Nitya Anand**, who made the first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli' in India, passed away at 99 in Lucknow. Dr. Anand was in charge of the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) from 1974 to 1984. He was part of CDRI since it started in 1951. He guided 100 PhD students, wrote over 400 papers, and had more than 130 patents. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The academic community is in mourning following the passing of **R. Champakalakshmi**, a revered historian, former president of the Indian History Congress, and professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Namibia is mourning the loss of **President Hage Geingob**, who succumbed to cancer at the age of 82. He had been undergoing treatment for the illness, leaving the nation in a period of transition. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On February 1st, 2024, the entertainment world was rocked by the news of the passing of **Carl Weathers**, a beloved Hollywood actor renowned for his unforgettable roles in 'Rocky' and 'Predator.' The announcement, made by **Deadline**, a leading US-based media outlet, marked the end of an era in Hollywood. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The prestigious **Bharat Rang Mahotsav**, India's foremost theatre festival, inaugurated its festivities in the culturally vibrant Kachchh district of Gujarat, heralding the onset of a lively homage to the performing arts. The festival kicked off in grand style with a mesmerizing rendition of 'Uttaramacharitam,' a classic masterpiece by Bhavabhuti, directed by Dr. Chavan Pramod R. from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. This stirring play, presented in Gujarati, showcased the remarkable talent of NSD students. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Civil Aviation Ministry** has granted in-principle approval for the installation of a towering **242 feet high statue of Adiyogi Shiva** near the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, western Uttar Pradesh. This monumental decision clears the path for the Isha Foundation to spearhead the establishment of this spiritual landmark. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India has taken a significant step towards the economic development of the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** by announcing an **interim Budget of \$14 billion for fiscal year 2024-25**. This financial commitment is noteworthy, as it is approximately 4.5 times greater than the total amount Pakistan is seeking from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** to address its ongoing economic challenges. The allocation of such a substantial sum underscores India's dedication to fostering growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Divya Kala Mela**, an initiative by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, is set to grace the vibrant city of **Agartala, Tripura**. This event, inaugurated on **6th February 2024**, aims to celebrate the talents and skills of Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs from across the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Farooq Nazki**, a revered poet, broadcaster, and a distinguished recipient of the **Sahitya Akademi Award**. At the age of 83, Nazki's passing marks the end of an era in Kashmiri literature, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chile's political landscape was shaken as news broke on February 6th of the tragic death of former **President Sebastian Pinera** in a helicopter crash in the south of the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Art world lost one of its most distinctive voices when **Ramachandran** passed away. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The literary world mourns the loss of **Usha Kiran Khan**, a distinguished writer and **Padma Shri awardee**, who passed away at the age of 78 after a brief illness in a private hospital on Sunday. Her demise has left an indelible void in the realm of Hindi and Maithili literature, marking the end of an era of profound storytelling and cultural enrichment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dattajirao Gaekwad**, the **nation's oldest Test cricketer**, passed away recently at the age of 95. Gaekwad, a name synonymous with resilience, elegance, and sportsmanship, leaves behind a legacy that is etched in the annals of Indian cricket history. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Chef Imtiaz Qureshi**, who passed away at the age of 93. The **Padma Shri awardee**, often hailed as a "culinary genius," was instrumental in bringing the ancient dum pukht cooking technique back to the forefront of Indian cuisine. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kavita Chaudhary**, a veteran actor and creative force best known for her groundbreaking role in the television show "Udaan" and as the iconic Lalitaji in Surf commercials. Chaudhary passed away at the age of 67 due to cardiac arrest in Amritsar, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Renowned Jain monk **Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj**, aged 77, breathed his last on Sunday, February 18 at Chandragiri Teerth in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district. The revered spiritual leader undertook 'sallekhna,' a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian entertainment industry mourns the loss of **Rituraj Singh**, a versatile actor who passed away at the **age of 59** due to cardiac arrest. ([Read Complete Article](#)) Renowned constitutional jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate **Fali S Nariman** passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- **Faiz Fazal**, the esteemed Vidarbha cricketer, has decided to retire from all forms of the game. At 38, his contributions to Vidarbha cricket have been immense, culminating in a legacy that will be celebrated for generations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ameen Sayani**, the legendary voice that defined radio for generations of Indians, passed away at the age of 91. Known for his iconic program **Binaca Geetmala**, Sayani's voice was a staple in Indian households, bridging the gap between music and its lovers across the nation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Former Lok Sabha Speaker and ex-Maharashtra Chief Minister, **Manohar Joshi**, passed away at the age of 86, marking the end of an illustrious career that spanned several decades in Indian politics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The world of football is mourning the loss of one of its most celebrated figures, **Andreas Brehme**, who passed away at the age of 63. Fondly remembered as **Germany's World Cup hero of 1990**, Brehme's sudden and unexpected death has left a profound sense of sadness among fans and former teammates alike. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Aegis South Zone tournament, a platform for cricket battles, turned into a scene of sorrow as Karnataka cricketer **Hoysala K**, aged 34, passed away due to a cardiac arrest. The tournament, which had been showcasing the rivalry between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, took a turn with the sudden demise of this player. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of **acclaimed director Kumar Shahani**, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The music world mourns the passing of legendary ghazal singer **Pankaj Udhas**, who died at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Raja Venkatappa Naik**, a revered figure in Surapur's political landscape in Karnataka and a dedicated Congress MLA, bid farewell on February 25, leaving behind a rich political legacy. His demise, at the age of 66, marked a poignant moment for Surapur and Karnataka's political fraternity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Shafiqur Rahman Barq**, a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party and MP representing Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, breathed his last at a private hospital in Moradabad at the age of 94. Reportedly, he succumbed to a kidney infection after being in a weakened and unwell state for some time. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Static Current Affairs

- Etihad Airways Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;
- Etihad Airways Foundation Year: 2003.
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- NPCI Foundation Year: 2008
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- NASA Foundation Year: July 29, 1958
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson (as of February 10, 2024)
- Switzerland Capital: Bern
- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc (CHF)
- Switzerland President: Ignazio Cassis (as of February 10, 2024)
- Switzerland Official Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh
- Switzerland Population: Approximately 8.7 million
- Switzerland Area: 41,285 square kilometres (15,940 square miles)
- Switzerland Government: Federal republic
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).
- Press Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Press Council of India Founder: Parliament of India;
- Press Council of India Founded: 4 July 1966, India.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is chairman of the council .
- All India Football Federation President: Kalyan Chaubey;
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937;
- All India Football Federation HQ: Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007–);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India(SBI) Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India(SBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India(SBI) Established in – 1955
- State Bank of India(SBI) Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018

- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh;
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967;
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham;
- UAE Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum;
- UAE President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IRCTC Founder: Ministry of Railways;
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999.
- SBICAPS Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBICAPS Parent organization: State Bank of India;
- SBICAPS Founded: August 1986.
- American Anthropological Association Founder: Franz Boas;
- American Anthropological Association Founded: 1902;
- American Anthropological Association headquarters: Arlington, Hopewell, Virginia, United States;
- American Anthropological Association President: Ramona Perez.
- Current President of FIFA is Gianni Infantino;
- The Headquarters of FIFA is located in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida;
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Yen;
- Tripura Capital: Agartala;
- Tripura Governor: Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya;
- Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha.
- International Basketball Federation Founded: 18 June 1932;
- International Basketball Federation Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland;
- International Basketball Federation President: Hamane Niang.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States;
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer: Satya Nadella.
- Swimming Federation of India Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat;
- Swimming Federation of India Affiliation: World Aquatics;
- Swimming Federation of India Founded: 1948;
- Swimming Federation of India Membership: 30 State/UT associations;
- Swimming Federation of India CEO: Virendra Nanavati.
- Capital of Ireland: Dublin
- Currency of Ireland: Irish Pound, Euro
- Prime Minister of Ireland: Leo Varadkar
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime Minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;

**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK 2024**  
**Officer-Credit (JMGS-I)**  
**50+ Total Tests**  
 Test Series

- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee;
- Nepal Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- President of Nepal: Mr Ram Chandra Paudel.
- Reliance Industries Owner: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani;
- Reliance Industries President: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founded: 1957, Maharashtra;
- Reliance Industries Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Chairperson: Satya Nadella (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).
- SBM Bank India Founded: 1st December 2018;
- SBM Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, India.
- NSDC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NSDC Founded: 31 July 2008;
- NSDC CEO: Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Bird: Indian paradise flycatcher;
- Madhya Pradesh Flower: White lily;
- Madhya Pradesh Formation: 26 January 1950;
- Madhya Pradesh CM: Mohan Yadav;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel.

**Space Research Centre In India List**

List of Space Centres in India - Space Research Centres In India	
Space Centres In India Located At	Space Centres In India List
New Delhi	DOS branch secretariat
	ISRO branch office
	Delhi earth station
Dehradun	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing
	Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia-Pacific (CSSTEAP)
Byalalu	Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN)
	Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC)
Lucknow	ISTRAC Ground Station
Kolkata	Eastern RRCC
Aluva	Ammonium Perchlorate Experimental Plant
Bhopal	Master Control Facility-B (MCF)
Chandigarh	Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)
Shillong	North Eastern Space Application Centre
Hyderabad	NRSA or NRSC – National Remote Sensing Agency /Centre
Tirupati	NMRF-National Atmospheric Research Laboratory
Sriharikota	Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR
Port Blair	Down Range Station
Mahendra Giri	ISRO Propulsion Complex
Thiruvananthapuram	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
	Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
	ISRO Inertial Systems Unit
	Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)
Hassan	Master Control Facility
Banglore	Space Commission
	Department of Space and ISRO Headquarters

<b>List of Space Centres in India - Space Research Centres In India</b>	
<b>Space Centres In India Located At</b>	<b>Space Centres In India List</b>
	Civil Engineering Programme Office
	U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)
	Laboratory for Electro-Optical Systems (LEOS)
	Southern RRSC
	Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)
	INSAT Program Office
	NNRMS Secretariat- National Natural Resources Management System
	Antrix Corporation
	ISTRAC-ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network
	New Space India Limited (NSIL)
	Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
Mumbai	ISRO Liaison office
Nagpur	Central RRSC-Regional Remote Sensing Centre
Mount Abu	Infrared Observatory
Ahmedabad	Space Application Centre (SAC)
	Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)
	Development & Educational Communication Unit (DECU)
Jodhpur	Western RRSC – Regional Remote Sensing Centre
Udaipur	Solar Observatory

