



**GENERAL
AWARENESS**
CAPSULE
FOR
IBPS RRB
MAINS
EXAM 2024



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Most Important Current Affairs

Most Important Current Affairs of July 2024

Economic Survey 2023-24: Key Highlights and Analysis

The **Economic Survey 2023-24**, presented by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, provides a detailed overview of India's economic performance and future outlook. Here are the key highlights and analysis, organized by thematic chapters:

Chapter 1: State of the Economy – Steady as She Goes

- **GDP Growth Projection:** The Economic Survey conservatively projects a **real GDP growth of 6.5–7%**, with balanced risks, despite higher market expectations.
- **Momentum Maintenance:** India's economy continued its momentum from FY23 into FY24, facing minimal impact from external challenges due to macroeconomic stability.
- **Real GDP Growth:** Real GDP grew by **8.2% in FY24**, exceeding 8% in three out of four quarters.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** GVA grew by **7.2% in FY24** (at 2011-12 prices) and net taxes at constant prices grew by **19.1%**.
- **Inflation Management:** Retail inflation reduced from **6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24** due to effective administrative and monetary policies.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** CAD improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** from 2.0% in FY23.
- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:** Real GDP in FY24 was **20% higher than FY20**, a notable recovery achieved by few major economies.
- **Tax Collection:** **55%** of tax collected from direct taxes, and **45%** from indirect taxes.
- **Welfare Programs:** Government ensured free food grains to **81.4 crore people** and progressively increased capital expenditure.

Chapter 2: Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation - Stability is the Watchword

- **Banking Sector Performance:** India's banking and financial sectors performed exceptionally well in FY24.
- **Policy Rate:** RBI maintained a steady policy rate, keeping the **policy repo rate at 6.5%**.
- **Credit Growth:** Credit disbursement by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reached **₹164.3 lakh crore**, growing by **20.2%** by March 2024.
- **Broad Money (M3) Growth:** Excluding HDFC merger, M3 grew by **11.2% YoY** as of 22 March 2024.
- **Non-Performing Assets (NPA):** Gross and net NPAs at multi-year lows, indicating improved bank asset quality.
- **Agriculture Credit:** Agriculture and allied activities saw double-digit credit growth in FY24.
- **Industrial Credit:** Industrial credit growth was **8.5%**, up from 5.2% the previous year.

- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** **31,394 corporate debtors** involving **₹13.9 lakh crore** disposed off by March 2024.
- **Capital Markets:** Primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of **₹10.9 lakh crore** in FY24.
- **Market Capitalisation:** Indian stock market's market capitalisation to GDP ratio is the fifth largest in the world.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) is the next big challenge for sustainable economic growth.

Chapter 3: Prices and Inflation - Under Control

- **Retail Inflation:** Maintained at **5.4%** in FY24, the lowest since the pandemic, due to timely policy interventions.
- **Fuel Prices:** Central Government announced price cuts for LPG, petrol, and diesel, keeping retail fuel inflation low.
- **LPG and Fuel Inflation:** LPG cylinder prices reduced by **₹200** in August 2023; petrol and diesel prices lowered by **₹2 per litre**.
- **Core Inflation:** Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low; core goods inflation declined to a four-year low.
- **Food Inflation:** Increased from **6.6% in FY23 to 7.5% in FY24** due to extreme weather events impacting farm output.
- **Inflation Management:** Dynamic stock management, open market operations, and subsidised food items helped mitigate food inflation.
- **State Inflation:** **29 States and UTs** recorded inflation below 6% in FY24.

Chapter 4: External Sector - Stability Amid Plenty

- **Geopolitical Challenges:** Despite geopolitical headwinds, India's external sector remained strong.
- **Logistics Performance Index:** Improved rank from **44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023** out of 139 countries.
- **Current Account Deficit:** Improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** due to moderation in imports and rising services exports.
- **Global Export Share:** India's share in global goods exports was **1.8% in FY24**.
- **Services Exports:** Grew by **4.9% to USD 341.1 billion**, driven by IT/software services and other business services.
- **Remittances:** India is the top remittance recipient globally with **USD 120 billion** in 2023.
- **External Debt:** External debt to GDP ratio was **18.7%** at the end of March 2024.

Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook – A Growth Strategy for New India

- **Policy Focus Areas:** Job and skill creation, agricultural potential, MSME bottlenecks, green transition, managing relations with China, deepening the corporate bond market, tackling inequality, and improving youth health.





- **Amrit Kaal Strategy:** Based on six key areas: boosting private investment, expanding MSMEs, agriculture as a growth engine, financing green transition, bridging education-employment gap, and building state capacity.
- **Growth Compact:** For 7%+ growth, a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector is essential.

Chapter 6: Climate Change and Energy Transition: Dealing with Trade-Offs

- **Climate Action Recognition:** India is the only G20 nation aligned with a 2-degree centigrade warming target.
- **Renewable Energy:** Non-fossil sources reached **45.4%** of installed electricity generation capacity by 31 May 2024.
- **Emission Reduction:** Reduced emission intensity of GDP by **33% from 2005 levels** by 2019.
- **Energy Savings:** Total annual energy savings of **51 million tonnes of oil equivalent**, translating to annual cost savings of **₹1,94,320 Crore**.
- **Green Bonds:** Issued **₹16,000 Crore** in January-February 2023 and **₹20,000 Crore** in October-December 2023.

Chapter 7: Social Sector - Benefits that Empower

- **Welfare Impact:** Digitisation of healthcare, education, and governance has increased the impact per rupee spent.
- **Welfare Expenditure Growth:** Nominal GDP grew at **9.5% CAGR** while welfare expenditure grew at **12.8% CAGR** between FY18 and FY24.
- **Inequality Reduction:** Gini coefficient declined in both rural (from **0.283 to 0.266**) and urban (from **0.363 to 0.314**) sectors.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** **34.7 crore cards** generated, covering **7.37 crore hospital admissions**.
- **Mental Health Coverage:** **22 mental disorders** covered under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY.
- **Early Childhood Education:** 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' programme aims to develop the world's largest, universal, high-quality preschool network at Anganwadi Centres.



- **Vidyanjali Initiative:** Enhanced educational experiences for **1.44 crore students** through community engagement.
- **Higher Education Enrolment:** Faster growth in enrolment from underprivileged sections (SC, ST, OBC) with a **31.6% increase** since FY15.
- **R&D Progress:** Nearly **one lakh patents** granted in FY24, up from less than 25,000 in FY20.
- **Housing and Roads:** Under PM-AWAS-Gramin, **2.63 crore houses** constructed; **15.14 lakh km** roads completed under Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014-15.

Chapter 8: Employment and Skill Development: Towards Quality

- **Labour Market Improvement:** Unemployment rate declined to **3.2% in 2022-23**.
- **Urban Unemployment:** Declined to **6.7%** in the quarter ending March 2024.
- **Workforce Distribution:** **45%** in agriculture, **11.4%** in manufacturing, **28.9%** in services, and **13%** in construction.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Declined from **17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23**.
- **EPFO Payroll:** Significant growth in new subscribers, especially in the **18-28 years band**.
- **Female Labour Force Participation:** Rising steadily for six years.
- **Manufacturing Sector Recovery:** Employment in organised manufacturing sector above pre-pandemic levels.
- **Wages Growth:** Rural wages grew at **6.9% CAGR**, urban at **6.1% CAGR**.
- **Factories Growth:** Number of factories employing over 100 workers grew by **11.8%** over FY18 to FY22.
- **EPFO Membership:** Grew at **8.4% CAGR** between FY15 and FY24.
- **Job Generation Requirement:** **78.5 lakh jobs** annually needed in the non-farm sector until 2030.

Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management – Plenty of Upside Left if We Get It Right

- **Agriculture Growth:** Registered an average annual growth rate of **4.18%** over the last five years.
- **Agricultural Credit:** Total credit disbursed to agriculture amounted to **₹22.84 lakh crore** as of January 31, 2024.
- **Kisan Credit Cards:** **7.5 crore KCCs** issued with a limit of **₹9.4 lakh crore**.
- **Micro Irrigation:** **90.0 lakh hectares** covered under 'Per drop more crop' from 2015-16 to 2023-24.

Chapter 10: Industry - Small and Medium Matters

- **Industrial Growth:** **9.5%** growth rate supporting overall economic growth of **8.2%** in FY24.
- **Manufacturing Sector:** Achieved an average annual growth rate of **5.2%** over the last decade.
- **Coal Production:** Accelerated coal production reduced import dependence.





- **Pharmaceutical Market:** India is the world's third largest by volume with a valuation of **USD 50 billion**.
- **Clothing Manufacturing:** India is the second-largest globally and among the top five exporters.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** Accounts for **3.7%** of the global market share in FY22.
- **PLI Schemes:** Attracted over **₹1.28 lakh crore** of investment until May 2024, leading to production/sales of **₹10.8 lakh crore** and employment generation of **over 8.5 lakh**.

Chapter 11: Services - Fuelling Growth Opportunities

- **Services Sector Contribution:** **55%** of overall GVA, back to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Active Companies:** **65%** of the highest number of active companies are in the services sector.
- **Global Services Exports:** Constituted **4.4%** of the world's commercial services exports in 2022.
- **Computer and Business Services Exports:** Accounted for **73%** of India's services exports, with a **9.6% YoY** growth.
- **Aviation Sector Growth:** **15% YoY** increase in total air passengers handled.
- **Services Sector Credit:** **₹45.9 lakh crore** in March 2024, with a **22.9% YoY** growth.

Chapter 12: Infrastructure – Lifting Potential Growth

- **Public Sector Investment:** Significant role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects.
- **National Highway Construction:** Pace increased to around **34 km per day** by FY24.
- **Railway Capital Expenditure:** Increased by **77%** in the past five years.
- **Airport Infrastructure:** New terminal buildings operationalised at **21 airports**, increasing passenger handling capacity by **62 million** per annum.
- **Clean Energy Investment:** **₹8.5 lakh crore** (USD 102.4 billion) between 2014 and 2023.

Chapter 13: Climate Change and India

- **Global Climate Strategies:** Flawed and not universally applicable, overconsumption not addressed.
- **India's Ethos:** Emphasizes a harmonious relationship with nature, contrasting with overconsumption cultures.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Shift towards 'traditional multi-generational households'.
- **Mission LiFE:** Focuses on human-nature harmony, promoting mindful consumption to address global climate change.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 provides a detailed analysis of India's economic landscape, highlighting its resilience and strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth. With focused efforts on macroeconomic stability, financial inclusion, climate action, and social welfare, India is well-positioned to navigate future challenges and capitalize on growth opportunities.

Budget 2024-25

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

- Total receipts other than borrowings: Rs. 32.07 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure: Rs. 48.21 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipt: Rs. 25.83 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- The government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The budget focuses on **EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS**.

Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling

- Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
 1. **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to Rs. 15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
 2. **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
 3. **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to Rs. 3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
 4. **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling-** 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
 5. **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in Pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat':

1. Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture
2. Employment & Skilling
3. Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
4. Manufacturing & Services
5. Urban Development
6. Energy Security
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation, Research & Development and
9. Next Generation Reforms

Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

- Allocation of Rs. 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
- New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers.





- 1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.

Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

- As part of the Prime Minister's package, 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive' to be implemented - Scheme A - First Timers; Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing; Scheme C - Support to employers.
- To facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce,
 1. working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration
 2. women-specific skilling programmes to be organized
 3. market access for women SHG enterprises to be promoted

Skill Development

- New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling under Prime Minister's Package for 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period.
- Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to
 - Rs. 7.5 lakh.
 - Financial support for loans upto Rs. 10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.

Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Purvodaya

- Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
- Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at Pimpri, to be taken up at a cost of Rs. 21,400 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act

- Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of Rs. 15,000 crore in the current financial year.
- Industrial node at Koppurthy along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

Women-led development

- Total allocation of more than Rs. 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

- Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.

Bank branches in North-Eastern Region

- 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector

- A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

- New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

- The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

- Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

Critical Mineral Mission

- Critical Mineral Mission to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

Offshore mining of minerals

- Auction of the first tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Applications

- Development of DPI applications in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

Priority 5: Urban Development

Transit Oriented Development

- Formulation of Transit Oriented Development plans and strategies to implement and finance 14 large cities above 30 lakh population.

Urban Housing

- Investment of Rs. 10 lakh crore, including the central assistance of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore in next 5 years, under PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 proposed to address the, housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.

Street Markets

- New scheme to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.





Priority 6: Energy Security

Energy Transition

- Policy document on 'Energy Transition Pathways' to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

Pumped Storage Policy

- Policy for promoting pumped storage projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors

- Government to partner with private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

- Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries

- Appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode to be put in place.

Priority 7: Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment by Central Government

- Rs. 11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

Infrastructure investment by state governments

- Provision of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Launch of phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

- Financial support of Rs. 11,500 crore to projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and other schemes in Bihar.
- Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides and other related projects.

Tourism

- Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.
- Assistance for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha.

Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

- Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.
- Financing pool of Rs. 1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

Space Economy

- Venture capital fund of Rs. 1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms

Rural Land-Related Actions

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhuaadhaar for all lands
- Digitization of cadastral maps
- Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership
- Establishment of land registry
- Linking to the farmers registry

Urban Land-Related Actions

- Land records in urban areas to be digitized with GIS mapping.

Services to Labour

- Integration of e-shram portal with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.
- Open architecture databases for the rapidly changing labour market, skill requirements and available job roles.
- Mechanism to connect job-aspirants with potential employers and skill providers.

NPS Vatsalya

- NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

PART B

Indirect Taxes

GST

- Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals

Medicines and Medical Equipment

- Three cancer drugs namely TrastuzumabDeruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
- Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Mobile Phone and Related Parts

- BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

- Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

- BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.
- BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.



**Electronics**

- BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

- BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

- BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

- For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.
- Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

- 25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.
- BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

- Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

- BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.
- Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

- BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.
- BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

- Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.
- Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.
- 58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

- Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.
- 5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.
- 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.

- TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.
- Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

- Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.
- In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

- Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
- Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
- Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

- All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

- 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024' for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
- Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore respectively.
- Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

- Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system,.
- Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
- Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
- Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

- Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
- Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

- Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee's salary.
- Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹20 lakh de-penalised.





Other major proposal in Finance Bill

- Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

- Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-

Revised tax rate structure:

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Three new criminal laws –**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam** –came into effect across the country on **July 1, 2024**. These laws will replace the **colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure** and the **Indian Evidence Act**, respectively.

What is Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita?

- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)** was introduced on **August 11, 2023** to replace the **CrPC**. It amends provisions on bail, expands the scope of property seizure, and alters powers of police and Magistrates. The Bill has been examined by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.
- **Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita** has **531** sections (in place of 484 sections of CrPC). A total of **177 provisions** have been changed in the Sanhita and nine new sections as well as **39** new sub-sections have been added to it. The act has added 44 new provisions and clarifications.



Highlights of the Bill

- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)** seeks to replace the **Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC)**. The **CrPC** provides for the procedure for arrest, prosecution, and bail.
- **BNSS** mandates forensic investigation for offences punishable with **seven years** of imprisonment or more. Forensic experts will visit crime scenes to collect forensic evidence and record the process.
- All trials, inquiries, and proceedings may be held in electronic mode. Production of electronic communication devices, likely to contain digital evidence, will be allowed for investigation, inquiry, or trial.
- If a proclaimed offender has absconded to evade trial and there is no immediate prospect of arresting him, the trial can be conducted and judgement pronounced in his absence.
- Along with specimen signatures or handwriting, finger impressions and voice samples may be collected for investigation or proceedings. Samples may be taken from a person who has not been arrested.

Key Issues and Analysis

- The BNSS allows up to **15 days of police custody**, which can be authorised in parts during the initial 40 or 60 days of the **60 or 90 days period** of judicial custody. This may lead to denial of bail for the entire period if the police has not exhausted the 15 days custody.
- The powers to attach **property** from proceeds of crime does not have safeguards provided in the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**.
- The **CrPC** provides for bail for an accused who has been detained for half the maximum imprisonment for the offence. The **BNSS** denies this facility for anyone facing multiple charges. As many cases involve charges under multiple sections, this may limit such bail.
- The use of handcuffs is permitted in a range of cases including economic offences, contradicting Supreme Court directions.
- The **BNSS** allows evidence collected by retired or transferred investigating officers to be presented by their successors. This violates normal rules of evidence when the author of the document can be cross examined.
- Recommendations of **high level committees** on changes to the **CrPC** such as reforms in sentencing guidelines and codifying rights of the accused have not been incorporated in the **BNSS**.





Difference between New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023) and Old Law

Aspect	Old Law (Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973)	New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)
Introduction Date	1973	2023
Colonial Influence	Retained elements from British colonial rule	Drafted to reflect post-independence and modern Indian values
Language and Terminology	Archaic legal language	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	Detailed procedural code with 484 sections	Revised structure, updated sections
Arrests	Procedures for arrests detailed in Sections 41-60	New provisions for digital warrants, use of technology in arrests
Investigation	Traditional methods of investigation	Emphasis on forensic evidence, cyber investigations
Bail and Bonds	Detailed provisions in Sections 436-450	Streamlined process, emphasis on bail reform
Trial Procedures	Detailed trial procedures	Simplified and expedited trial processes
Witness Protection	Limited provisions	Comprehensive witness protection programs
Victim Rights	Basic recognition of victim rights	Enhanced victim compensation and support mechanisms
Speedy Trial	Emphasis on speedy trial, often delayed	Stronger provisions for ensuring speedy trial
Digital Evidence	Limited recognition	Comprehensive recognition and procedures for digital evidence
Police Reforms	Basic guidelines	Detailed guidelines on police reforms, accountability mechanisms
Appeals and Revisions	Detailed in Sections 372-394	Updated to include digital submission of appeals, faster processes
Juvenile Procedures	Governed by Juvenile Justice Act, 2015	Integrated approach with special provisions for juveniles
Technology Use	Limited use	Extensive use of technology in legal processes
Alternative Dispute Resolution	Basic provisions	Expanded focus on ADR mechanisms
Preventive Measures	Sections on preventive actions like Section 107, 144	Strengthened preventive measures, modern context considerations
Community Policing	Limited provisions	Emphasis on community policing and involvement
Special Courts	Provisions for special courts	Expansion and more specific guidelines for special courts
Inter-State Coordination	Basic guidelines	Enhanced inter-state coordination mechanisms
Legal Aid	Basic provisions for free legal aid	Strengthened and expanded legal aid provisions
Electronic Monitoring	Not covered	Provisions for electronic monitoring of offenders
Public Participation	Limited mechanisms	Increased focus on public participation in criminal justice

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Check Complete Details

The three New Criminal Laws– Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, will come into force July 1, 2024. The

government of India has held regular meetings with **States and Union Territories** and they are fully geared up in terms of **technology, capacity building** and **awareness generation** to implement the **new Criminal Laws**.





What is Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023?

- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** is the official criminal code in the **Republic of India**. It came into **effect on 1 July, 2024** after being passed by the parliament in December 2023 to replace the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which dated back to the period of **British India**.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** has 358 sections (instead of 511 sections of IPC). A total of 20 new crimes have been added to the Sanhita, and the imprisonment sentence has been increased for 33 crimes. The amount of fine has been increased in 83 crimes and mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes.

Offences included in Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

In the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, **20 new offences** have been added to and **19 provisions** in the repealed IPC have been dropped. The punishment of imprisonment has been increased for **33 offences**, and fines have been increased for 83 offences. A mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced for **23 offences**. A sentence of community service has been introduced for six offences.

- **Offences against the body:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on murder, abetment of suicide, assault and causing grievous hurt. It adds new offences such as organised crime, terrorism, and murder or grievous hurt by a group on certain grounds.
- **Sexual offences against women:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on rape, voyeurism, stalking and insulting the modesty of a woman. It increases the threshold for the victim to be classified as a major, in the case of gang rape, from 16 to 18 years of age.
- **Offences against property:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on theft, robbery, burglary and cheating. It adds new offences such as cybercrime and financial fraud.
- **Offences against the state:** The BNS removes sedition as an offence. Instead, there is a new offence for acts endangering India's sovereignty, unity and integrity.
- **Offences against the public:** The BNS adds new offences such as environmental pollution and human trafficking.

Highlight of The New Criminal Law

1. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** will replace the IPC. It will have **358 sections** instead of the earlier 511 sections, 175 sections have been changed, 8 new sections have been added and 22 sections have been repealed.
2. **State-of-the-art technologies** have been incorporated into this law. The definition of documents has been expanded to include **electronic or digital records**, e-mails, server logs, computers, smartphones, **laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mail and messages** available on devices, which can be used in courts, which will give freedom from the pile of papers.
3. A provision has been made in this law to digitise the entire process from **FIR to case diary**, case diary to charge sheet and from charge sheet to judgment. At present, only the appearance of the accused in court can be done through video conferencing.

4. The new laws make **videography compulsory** at the time of search and seizure, which will be part of the case and this will save the innocent citizens from being implicated. No charge sheet will be valid without such recording by the police.
5. The Government will set up the **National Forensic Science University** which after three years will produce **33,000 forensic science experts and scientists** every year. The government aims to take the conviction ratio **above 90%** with these laws. For this, an important provision has been provided which will make the visit of the forensic team to the crime scene compulsory for offences **punishable for 7 years or more**.
6. The new laws also allow '**Zero FIR (e-FIR)**' to ensure the convenience of the citizens. Wherever the crime may have happened, the citizens will be able to **lodge complaints** even outside of their police station area. Within **15 days** of the registration of the crime, it will have to be forwarded to the concerned police station.
7. The **statement of the victim** has been made compulsory in the case of **sexual violence and video recording** of the statement has also been made compulsory in the case of sexual harassment. It will be compulsory for the police to give the status of the complaint to the complainant in **90 days** and thereafter **every 15 days**. No government will be able to withdraw a case of imprisonment of 7 years or more without hearing the victim, which will protect the rights of the citizens.
8. For the first time, the government is bringing community service as a punishment. The scope of summary trials in small cases has also been increased. Now offenses punishable up to **3 years** will be included in summary trial. A time limit of 90 days has been fixed for filing the charge sheet and depending on the situation, the court will be able to give permission for a further 90 days.
9. The government will have to decide on the **permission for trial against a civil servant or police officer in 120 days**, otherwise, it will be treated as deemed.
10. For the first time, a provision has been made to **criminalise sexual intercourse** on the basis of false promises of marriage, employment and promotion and on the basis of false identity. In all cases of gang rape, a provision of **20 years of punishment or life imprisonment** has been made, which is not being implemented today. In the case of **girls below 18 years of age**, a provision of the death penalty has also been kept. For mob lynching, all three provisions of **7 years, life imprisonment and the death penalty** have been kept. There was **no provision for mobile phones or chain snatching from women**, but now provision has been kept for the same.





Difference between The New Criminal Law and Old Law

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Penal Code, 1860)	New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)
Introduction Date	1860	2023
Colonial Influence	Drafted during British colonial rule	Drafted in post-independence India, reflecting modern values
Language and Terminology	Archaic English	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	511 sections	Revised structure, includes new sections
Offenses against the State	Sections on sedition, less emphasis on national security	Stronger focus on national security, cybercrimes, terrorism
Sexual Offenses	Outdated definitions, limited recognition of modern crimes	Expanded definitions, includes cyberstalking, digital harassment
Gender Neutrality	Certain sections gender-specific	More gender-neutral provisions
Cybercrimes	Minimal references	Comprehensive sections on cybercrimes
Punishments	Traditional forms of punishment	Updated punishments, includes alternative sentencing
Restorative Justice	Limited provisions	Emphasis on restorative justice and victim compensation
Corruption and Bribery	General provisions	Detailed provisions to address modern forms of corruption
Economic Offenses	Basic definitions	Expanded to include financial frauds, money laundering
Defamation	Criminal defamation included	Modified to align with freedom of speech considerations
Adultery	Criminal offense	Decriminalized
Homosexuality	Criminalized under Section 377	Decriminalized following the Supreme Court judgment

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Penal Code, 1860)	New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)
Blasphemy	Strict provisions	More balanced approach respecting freedom of religion
Marital Rape	Not recognized	Recognized and criminalized
Implementation Mechanism	Traditional methods	Modernized with emphasis on technology and forensic science
Juvenile Justice	Separate act (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015)	Integrated approach with special provisions
Reform Focus	Punitive	Emphasis on rehabilitation and reform

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023, Check Details

The new criminal laws, the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)** are taking effect from **July 1, 2024**. These laws repeal and replace the **Indian Penal Code**, the **Code of Criminal Procedure** and the **Indian Evidence Act** respectively.

New law passed

The new law was passed by **Parliament** last **December**, with Home Minister Amit Shah, who had piloted the change, saying that the legislations would give priority to providing justice, unlike the British-era laws that gave primacy to penal action. "These laws are made by Indians, for Indians and by an Indian Parliament and marks the end of colonial criminal justice laws," he said.

All about Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam

The **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)** replaces the **Indian Evidence Act** and introduces changes in the way evidence is processed. The BSA allows for "**electronic and digital records**". This covers a wide range of electronic records, which includes emails, server logs, files stored on computers, laptops, or smartphones, website content, location data, and text messages, among others. The BSA also allows for **oral evidence** to be taken electronically. Additionally, to provide more protection to the victim and enforce transparency in investigation related to an **offence of rape**, the statement of the victim shall be recorded through audio-video means.

Expanded secondary evidence

The BSA has also expanded "**secondary evidence**" to include oral and written admissions. It states that secondary evidence will include "evidence of a person who has examined a document, the original of which consists of numerous accounts or other documents which cannot conveniently be examined in Court, and who is skilled in the examination of such documents".





Difference between Old Law and New Law

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Evidence Act, 1872)	New Law (Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023)
Introduction Date	1872	2023
Colonial Influence	Drafted during British colonial rule	Drafted to reflect post-independence and modern Indian values
Language and Terminology	Archaic English	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	Structured with 167 sections	Revised structure, includes new sections
Admissibility of Evidence	Detailed rules on admissibility	Updated rules considering technological advancements
Electronic Evidence	Basic recognition in amendments	Comprehensive provisions for electronic and digital evidence
Hearsay Rule	Strict adherence to hearsay rule	Modified to accommodate modern communication methods
Witness Testimony	Traditional procedures	Enhanced procedures including video conferencing for testimony
Relevance of Evidence	Defined under Sections 5-55	Expanded to include modern types of evidence
Documentary Evidence	Sections 61-90	Updated to include electronic documents
Presumption	Various presumptions detailed	New presumptions reflecting modern societal norms
Confessions	Sections 24-30 cover confessions	Revised provisions on confessions, especially digital confessions
Privileged Communication	Detailed in Sections 122-132	Expanded to cover modern professional communications
Expert Testimony	Sections 45-51	Broadened scope to include digital forensic experts
Burden of Proof	Sections 101-114 cover burden of proof	Updated rules considering new types of evidence
Character Evidence	Sections 52-55	Revised to reflect current societal values
Presumption of Innocence	Strongly upheld	Continued emphasis with additional safeguards
Alibi	Specific provisions	More detailed provisions on proving alibi
Sexual Offenses Evidence	Limited recognition of victims' rights	Enhanced protections and considerations for victims
Corroboration	Requirement for corroboration in certain cases	Updated requirements, especially in cases of digital evidence
Chain of Custody	Basic principles	Detailed procedures for maintaining chain of custody for digital evidence
In-camera Proceedings	Limited provisions	Expanded scope for in-camera proceedings, especially in sensitive cases
Forensic Evidence	Basic inclusion	Extensive provisions for forensic evidence, including DNA
Hostile Witnesses	Provisions for dealing with hostile witnesses	Updated rules considering the impact of digital threats
Adverse Inference	Sections on adverse inference from silence or non-production of evidence	Updated to reflect modern legal standards
Reforms Focus	Admissibility and relevance primarily	Emphasis on efficiency, technology, and victim rights





RBI's 29th Financial Stability Report (FSR) July 2024: An Overview

The **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** is a comprehensive, half-yearly publication that involves contributions from all financial sector regulators in India. It reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council on current and emerging risks to the stability of the Indian financial system. The July 2024 edition of the FSR highlights various aspects of global and domestic macro financial risks, the soundness and resilience of financial institutions, regulatory initiatives, and an assessment of systemic risk.

Global Macrofinancial Risks

The global economy and financial system demonstrate resilience amidst significant risks and uncertainties. Despite the improvement in near-term prospects, several factors pose downside risks:

- **Disinflation Pitstops:** Challenges in achieving the last mile of disinflation.
- **High Public Debt:** The rising levels of public debt across nations.
- **Stretched Asset Valuations:** Overvaluation of assets in financial markets.
- **Economic Fragmentation:** Growing economic divisions among countries.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Persistent geopolitical conflicts and their economic impacts.
- **Climate Disasters:** Increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters.
- **Cyber Threats:** Rising threats from cyber-attacks and security breaches.

Emerging market economies (EMEs) remain particularly vulnerable to these external shocks and spillovers.

Domestic Macrofinancial Risks

India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and a stable financial system have underpinned the sustained expansion of its economy. Key factors supporting this growth include:

- **Moderating Inflation:** A trend of decreasing inflation rates.
- **Strong External Position:** Robust foreign exchange reserves and favorable trade balances.
- **Fiscal Consolidation:** Ongoing efforts to reduce fiscal deficits and manage public debt.

These factors have bolstered business and consumer confidence, with domestic financial conditions further strengthened by the healthy balance sheets of financial institutions.

Financial Institutions: Soundness and Resilience

Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)

SCBs have shown remarkable improvement in profitability and asset quality:

- **Profitability:** Return on assets (RoA) and return on equity (RoE) are at 1.3% and 13.8%, respectively.

- **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):** Gross NPAs and net NPAs are at multi-year lows of 2.8% and 0.6%, respectively.
- **Capital Buffers:** The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio stand at 16.8% and 13.9%, respectively, well above the regulatory minimum.

Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that SCBs have adequate capital buffers to withstand adverse stress scenarios.

Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

- **UCBs:** The CRAR for UCBs increased to 17.5% in March 2024.
- **NBFCs:** The CRAR for NBFCs slightly declined to 26.6%, still significantly above the regulatory minimum.

The insurance sector's consolidated solvency ratio remains above the minimum threshold limit of 150%, and stress tests on mutual funds and clearing corporations indicate robust resilience.

Regulatory Initiatives and Other Developments in the Financial Sector

Global Initiatives

Regulatory efforts globally continue to focus on:

- Promoting financial stability.
- Consistent implementation and refinement of global standards.
- Safeguarding the banking system from interconnectedness with non-banking financial institutions.
- Addressing risks from the digitalization of finance.
- Improving climate-related risk assessments.
- Strengthening resilience to cyber risks.

Domestic Initiatives

In India, regulatory initiatives aim to enhance the safety and resilience of the financial system by:

- Implementing proportionate regulations.
- Leveraging technology to improve customer service, governance, and risk management.
- Limiting procyclical activities while fostering efficiency.

Assessment of Systemic Risk

The most recent systemic risk survey (SRS) conducted in May 2024 categorized all major risk groups to domestic financial stability as 'medium.' Key findings include:

- **Optimism in Domestic Financial System:** Respondents showed optimism regarding the soundness of India's financial system.
- **Global Spillover Risks:** Risks from global spillovers have diminished, with increased confidence in the Indian financial system.
- **Near-term Risks:** The main near-term risks identified were geopolitical risks, tightening of global financial conditions, and capital outflows.





Highlights of the Reports

- The global economy is facing heightened risks from prolonged geopolitical tensions, elevated public debt, and the slow progress in the last mile of disinflation. Despite these challenges, the global financial system has remained resilient, and financial conditions stable.
- The Indian economy and the financial system remain robust and resilient, anchored by macroeconomic and financial stability. With improved balance sheets, banks and financial institutions are supporting economic activity through sustained credit expansion.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) stood at 16.8 per cent and 13.9 per cent, respectively, at end-March 2024.
- SCBs’ gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio fell to a multi-year low of 2.8 per cent and the net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio to 0.6 per cent at end-March 2024.
- Macro stress tests for credit risk reveal that SCBs would be able to comply with minimum capital requirements, with the system-level CRAR in March 2025 projected at 16.1 per cent, 14.4 per cent and 13.0 per cent, respectively, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios. These scenarios are stringent conservative assessments under hypothetical shocks and the results should not be interpreted as forecasts.
- Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) remain healthy, with CRAR at 26.6 per cent, GNPA ratio at 4.0 per cent and return on assets (RoA) at 3.3 per cent, respectively, at end-March 2024.

Indian Government Reshuffles Cabinet Committees in July 2024

On July 3, 2024, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** government reorganized eight important groups within the Union Cabinet. This happened after Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in a row, which is a record.

What are Cabinet Committees?

Cabinet Committees are small groups of ministers who work on specific areas of government. They help make decisions and manage different parts of the government’s work.

Key Points About the New Cabinet Committees

- There are 72 members in the Union Council of Ministers, including Prime Minister Modi.
- 31 of these members are Cabinet-rank ministers.
- These Cabinet ministers are part of the newly formed committees.
- Prime Minister Modi leads most of the committees, but not all.

The Eight Cabinet Committees

1. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

- Members: Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah
- Purpose: Makes decisions about important government appointments

2. Cabinet Committee on Security

- Key members: Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister
- Purpose: Deals with matters related to national security

3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

- Led by: Prime Minister Modi
- Includes: Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, Finance, Agriculture, and others
- Purpose: Handles important economic matters

4. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs

- Headed by: Prime Minister Modi
- Members: Several key ministers including Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance
- Purpose: Manages political issues and strategies

5. Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth

- Led by: Prime Minister Modi
- Includes: Ministers of Finance, Road Transport, Railways, and others
- Purpose: Focuses on boosting investment and economic growth

6. Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment and Livelihood

- Notable absence: Prime Minister Modi is not a member
- Key members: Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, Education, and Labour
- Purpose: Works on improving skills, creating jobs, and enhancing livelihoods

7. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

- Notable absence: Prime Minister Modi is not a member
- Led by: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- Purpose: Manages government business in Parliament

8. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation

- Headed by: Home Minister Amit Shah
- Includes: Ministers of Finance, Housing, and Urban Affairs
- Purpose: Deals with housing and accommodation for government officials

24th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit: Key Highlights

The **24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** took place on July 4, 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan. This important gathering brought together leaders from various countries to discuss regional cooperation and security issues.





Host and Venue

- **Host:** Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- **Location:** Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan

Notable Attendees

Several world leaders participated in the summit, including:

- Russian President Vladimir Putin
- Chinese President Xi Jinping
- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

India's Representation

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not attend the summit
- India was represented by External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar

Key Developments

1. Belarus Joins SCO

- Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO
- Previously, Belarus held observer status in the organization

2. Focus on Combating Terrorism

- Dr. Jaishankar read Prime Minister Modi's address at the summit
- Modi emphasized that terrorism in any form cannot be justified
- He called for decisive action against cross-border terrorism
- The Prime Minister stressed the need to counter terrorism financing and recruitment

3. SCO Expansion

- The SCO was originally established in 2001 with five members
- India and Pakistan joined in 2017
- Iran became the 9th member in 2023
- Belarus is now the 10th member as of 2024

Looking Ahead: 25th SCO Summit

- The next SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting will be held in China
- China has taken over the rotating presidency of the SCO from Kazakhstan
- The Chinese city of Qingdao has been named the SCO's tourism and cultural capital for 2024-2025

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Purpose

- The SCO is an intergovernmental organization focused on regional security and cooperation

Concerns

- Some analysts worry that the SCO is becoming an anti-Western alliance led by China and Russia
- This may be one reason why Prime Minister Modi chose not to attend the summit

Structure

- The Council of Heads of States is the SCO's highest decision-making body
- It meets once a year

Key Facts

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Permanent Members: 10 countries (including the latest addition, Belarus)
- Observer Members: Afghanistan and Mongolia

Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council

The **Sixteenth Finance Commission** has constituted an advisory council with **five members to advise** the Commission on any of the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** or related subjects. The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

Advisory Council Members

Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, has been appointed as the convenor of the Advisory Council. The other members are:

- D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY
- Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank
- Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC Securities & Capital Markets
- Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics at Barclays

Role and Functions of the Advisory Council

The advisory council will assist the Commission in

- Preparing papers or research studies
- Monitoring or assessing studies commissioned by the Finance Commission
- Enhancing the Commission's understanding of issues in its ToR
- Broadening the Commission's ambit and understanding by seeking the best national and international practices on fiscal devolution

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR approved by the Cabinet include

- Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and states under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution
- Allocation of respective shares of such proceeds between states
- Principles governing the grants-in-aid of the revenues of states out of the Consolidated Fund of India
- Sums to be paid to states by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues





Constitutional Mandate

The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body established every five years to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between the Centre and the states as well as among states and local bodies. Currently, India shares 41% of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

UNESCO Expands World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of **11 new Biosphere Reserves** across 11 countries. This expansion brings the total number of sites in the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** to an impressive **759**, spanning **136 countries** worldwide. This development marks a crucial step forward in global efforts to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

Newly Designated Biosphere Reserves

The latest additions to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve list showcase a diverse range of ecosystems and cultural landscapes across the globe. These new sites include:

1. **Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
2. **Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve** (Colombia)
3. **Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve** (Dominican Republic)
4. **Niumi Biosphere Reserve** (Gambia)
5. **Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve** (Italy)
6. **Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** (Italy, Slovenia)
7. **Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve** (Mongolia)
8. **Apayaos Biosphere Reserve** (Philippines)
9. **Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve** (Republic of Korea)
10. **Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)
11. **Irati Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)

Understanding Biosphere Reserves: Balancing Nature and Human Activity

Definition and Purpose

A **Biosphere Reserve** is an international designation granted by UNESCO for areas that represent significant natural and cultural landscapes. These reserves can encompass large terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems, or a combination thereof. The fundamental goal of Biosphere Reserves is to achieve a delicate balance between **economic and social development**, the **preservation of cultural values**, and the **conservation of nature**.

Criteria for Designation

To be designated as a Biosphere Reserve, a site must meet several key criteria:

1. Contain a **protected core area** of high nature conservation value
2. Be a **biogeographically significant unit** large enough to sustain viable populations across all trophic levels

3. Involve **local communities** and utilize their knowledge in biodiversity preservation
4. Demonstrate potential for preserving **traditional tribal or rural modes of living** that harmonize with the environment

The Three-Zone Approach

Biosphere Reserves are typically divided into three interconnected zones:

1. **Core Zone:** The most protected area, often a national park or sanctuary, kept free from human interference
2. **Buffer Zone:** Surrounds the core zone, allowing activities that protect and support the core zone's integrity
3. **Transition Zone:** The outermost part, where human activities and conservation efforts coexist harmoniously

India's Commitment to Biosphere Reserves

The Biosphere Reserve Project

In 1986, the Government of India launched the **Biosphere Reserve scheme**, aligning with UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. This initiative provides financial assistance to states for the maintenance and development of biosphere reserves, with varying ratios of central to state funding depending on the region.

India's Biosphere Reserve Network

As of 2024, India boasts **18 notified biosphere reserves**, of which **12 are recognized** by UNESCO's MAB programme. These reserves span diverse ecosystems across the country, from the Nilgiri mountains to the Sundarbans delta, showcasing India's rich biodiversity and commitment to conservation.

Global Impact and Future Prospects

The expansion of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves represents a significant stride in global conservation efforts. With **759 sites** covering a total area of **7,442,000 square kilometers** and impacting the lives of approximately **275 million people**, these reserves play a crucial role in:

- Conserving biodiversity
- Promoting sustainable development
- Preserving cultural heritage
- Facilitating scientific research and environmental education

As the network continues to grow, it strengthens the global community's capacity to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering sustainable economic growth and cultural preservation.

India to Observe 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' on June 25

The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has made a significant decision to observe **June 25** annually as '**Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas**' (Constitution Murder Day). This observance is intended to commemorate the immense sacrifices and contributions of those who endured the harsh realities of the **1975 Emergency**.





Purpose and Significance

The Union Home Minister emphasized that this decision serves a dual purpose:

1. To honor the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy
2. To acknowledge the inexplicable persecution faced by citizens at the hands of an oppressive government during the Emergency period

The observance of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas is expected to play a crucial role in keeping the eternal flame of **individual freedom** and the defense of **democracy** alive in every Indian citizen. By doing so, it aims to prevent any dictatorial force from repeating the horrors of the past.

The Emergency: A Dark Chapter in Indian Democracy

Historical Context

The Emergency refers to a 21-month period from **June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977**. During this time, the government led by Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** invoked special provisions in the Constitution to impose sweeping executive and legislative measures on the country.

Key Events and Consequences

1. **Suspension of Civil Liberties:** The government curtailed fundamental rights, including the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution.
2. **Press Censorship:** The Emergency saw the implementation of pre-censorship of the press, severely limiting the free flow of information.
3. **Mass Arrests:** Almost all opposition leaders were imprisoned, effectively silencing dissent.
4. **Electoral Disruption:** The government cancelled scheduled elections, undermining the democratic process.
5. **Rule by Decree:** The normal functioning of democracy was replaced by authoritarian rule through executive orders.

Impact on Fundamental Rights

The Emergency period witnessed a severe curtailment of fundamental rights. The freedom of speech and expression, a cornerstone of any democratic society, was particularly targeted. This led to:

- Pre-censorship of the press
- Restrictions on public gatherings and protests
- Limitations on personal freedoms

Significance of June 25, 2024

This year marks a significant milestone as India enters the **fiftieth year** since the imposition of the Emergency. The decision to observe Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas annually from this year onwards carries special weight in light of this anniversary.

Looking Forward: Preserving Democratic Values

Educational Importance

By instituting this annual observance, the government aims to educate younger generations about this critical period in Indian history. It serves as a reminder of the fragility of democratic institutions and the importance of safeguarding constitutional rights.

Strengthening Democratic Foundations

The observance of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas is expected to:

1. Reinforce the importance of constitutional values
2. Encourage civic engagement and political awareness
3. Foster a deeper appreciation for democratic freedoms

National Reflection

This annual event provides an opportunity for national reflection on the importance of:

- Upholding the rule of law
- Protecting individual freedoms
- Maintaining a vibrant and free press
- Ensuring the independence of democratic institutions

NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24

The SDG India Index 2023-24 reveals significant **national and subnational progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. India's composite score improved to 71, reflecting advancements across key sectors like **poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation**.

State-wise Progress

- **Front Runner States:** 32 States and UTs achieved scores between 65 and 99, with notable improvements seen in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal.
- **New Entrants:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and others join the Front Runner category due to substantial score increases.

Goal-wise Achievements

- **Goal 13 (Climate Action):** Score increased from 54 to 67, showcasing enhanced disaster preparedness and renewable energy adoption.
- **Goal 1 (No Poverty):** Improved from 60 to 72, driven by social welfare schemes like PMAY and Ayushman Bharat.

Key Interventions

- Initiatives such as PM Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana contributed significantly to housing, sanitation, and clean energy goals.
- Increased financial inclusion and digital infrastructure development further supported economic growth and societal welfare.





Institutional Framework

NITI Aayog’s role in localizing SDGs and fostering competitive federalism has been pivotal, promoting sustainable development as integral to national and subnational policies.

Future Directions

The SDG India Index serves as a crucial tool for evaluating progress and guiding policy decisions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The focus remains on inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

(Sustainable Development Goals) SDG’s Goal : Key points

Number of Goals

There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations.

Members Involved

All 193 member states of the United Nations have committed to achieving these goals by 2030.

Purpose

The SDGs aim to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

Targets

Each goal has specific targets, totaling 169 targets across all SDGs, to guide national and global efforts towards sustainable development.

Adoption

The SDGs were adopted by all UN member states in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Implementation

Countries are encouraged to localize and integrate the SDGs into national policies and programs, with regular monitoring and reporting on progress.

Global Impact

The SDGs provide a framework for global cooperation, encouraging collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030.

Wimbledon 2024 Final, Check Complete Winners List

Carlos Alcaraz defended his Wimbledon title as he defeated **Novak Djokovic** 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 in the **Wimbledon 2024 final**. At 21, Alcaraz is the youngest player in open era to win men’s singles at Wimbledon and Roland Garros in the same year. On Women’s Category, **Barbora Krejckova** defeated **Jasmine Paolini** in their Wimbledon 2024 singles showdown, at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

Here is the winner’s list of Wimbledon 2024

Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up	Score
Men’s Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic	6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4)
Women’s Singles	Barbora Krejčíková	Jasmine Paolini	6-2, 2-6, 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski	Santiago Gonzalez & Giuliana Olmos	6-4, 6-2
Women’s Doubles	Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe	Not provided
Men’s Doubles	Patten & Heliovaara	Max Purcell & Jordan Thompson	6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (11-9)

Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog

The Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog, the **apex public policy think tank of the Union government**, following changes in the council of ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson, with **economist Suman K Bery** continuing as the vice-chairperson. The reconstituted NITI Aayog includes **four full-time members** and **15 Union Ministers**, including those from BJP allies, serving as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

Leadership and Full-Time Members

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Economist Suman K Bery
- **Full-Time Members**
 - VK Saraswat (Former ISRO DG and Scientist)
 - Ramesh Chand (Agricultural Economist)
 - Dr. VK Paul (Paediatrician)
 - Arvind Virmani (Noted Economist)

Ex-Officio Members from the Cabinet

- **Rajnath Singh** (Defence)
- **Amit Shah** (Home)
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Agriculture)
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** (Finance)

Special Invitees

- **Nitin Gadkari** (Road Transport and Highways)
- **JP Nadda** (Health)
- **HD Kumaraswamy** (Heavy Industries and Steel, from JD(S))
- **Jitan Ram Manjhi** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, from HAM)
- **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh** (Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, from JD(U))
- **Virendra Kumar** (Social Justice and Empowerment)
- **Rammohan Naidu** (Civil Aviation, from TDP)
- **Jual Oram** (Tribal Affairs)
- **Annpurna Devi** (Women and Child Development)





- **Chirag Paswan** (Food Processing Industries, from LJP(RV))
- **Rao Inderjit Singh** (Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Background

NITI Aayog, established in 2015, replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission. This restructuring aims to incorporate a broader range of expertise and representation, including significant input from NDA allies.

AIFF awards 2024 Announced

The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 season. The top honours went to **Lallianzuala Chhangte** and **Indumathi Kathiresan**, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.

Men’s Player of the Year: Lallianzuala Chhangte

Lallianzuala Chhangte, the 27-year-old winger from **Mumbai City FC**, secured the AIFF Men’s Player of the Year award for the second consecutive time. This achievement makes him only the fifth player to win the award multiple times. Chhangte’s exceptional performance included:

- Scoring 11 goals and providing 7 assists in all competitions for Mumbai City FC
- Being the highest-scoring Indian in the Indian Super League (ISL)
- Scoring against Qatar in Doha during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June 2024

Women’s Player of the Year: Indumathi Kathiresan

Indumathi Kathiresan, the 30-year-old midfielder, became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win the AIFF Women’s Player of the Year award. Her accomplishments include:

- Winning the 2023-24 Indian Women’s League (IWL) title with Odisha FC
- Scoring 5 goals in the IWL and winning the Best Midfielder award
- Scoring against Estonia in the Turkish Women’s Cup in February 2024

Promising Players of the Year

Men’s Category: David Lalhlansanga

David Lalhlansanga, the 22-year-old striker from Mohammedan Sporting, was named the AIFF Promising Men’s Player of the Year. His impressive record includes:

- Scoring 34 goals across various competitions (I-League, Calcutta Football League, and Durand Cup)
- Helping Mohammedan Sporting win the I-League and Calcutta Football League titles
- Earning his first national team call-up in May 2024 for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Women’s Category: Neha

18-year-old winger **Neha** received the AIFF Promising Women’s Player of the Year award for her outstanding performances, including:

- Scoring 2 goals in India’s SAFF U19 Women’s Championship triumph
- Contributing 3 goals in Haryana’s run to the Senior Women’s National Football Championship final
- Scoring for HOPS FC in the IWL and being part of the senior India squad for international friendlies

Coaching Excellence

- **Men’s Coach of the Year:** Khalid Jamil (Jamshedpur FC)
- **Women’s Coach of the Year:** Sukla Dutta (India U-19 team and Sreebhumi FC)

Other Notable Awards

- **Referee of the Year:** Ramachandran Venkatesh
- **Assistant Referee of the Year:** Ujjal Halder

Table of AIFF Award Winners for 2023-24

Category	Winner
Men’s Player of the Year	Lallianzuala Chhangte
Women’s Player of the Year	Indumathi Kathiresan
Promising Men’s Player of the Year	David Lalhlansanga
Promising Women’s Player of the Year	Neha
Men’s Coach of the Year	Khalid Jamil
Women’s Coach of the Year	Sukla Dutta
Referee of the Year	Ramachandran Venkatesh
Assistant Referee of the Year	Ujjal Halder

State Association Awards

The AIFF also recognized various state football associations for their contributions to the sport:

- **Most Successful MA (Club Competitions):** Indian Football Association (West Bengal)
- **Most Successful MA (NFC Competitions):** All Manipur Football Association
- **Best MA – Supporting Women’s Football:** Punjab Football Association
- **MA with most player registrations (men’s):** Kerala Football Association
- **MA with most player registrations (women’s):** Western India Football Association (Maharashtra)

Special Recognition

Special awards were given to state governments and associations for their support in hosting various AIFF events:

- Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh Football Association
- Government of Odisha and Football Association of Odisha
- Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council





Most Important Current Affairs of June 2024

QS World University Rankings 2025 Announced

The much-awaited **QS World University Rankings 2025** have been announced, featuring an impressive **1,500 universities** across **105 higher education systems**. This year's ranking stands as the largest ever, underscoring the global commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

Top-Ranked Universities

The rankings are led by prestigious institutions that have consistently maintained their positions at the forefront of higher education. Here are the top 10 universities according to the QS World University Rankings 2025:

Rank	University	Location	Overall Score
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Cambridge, United States	100
2	Imperial College London	London, United Kingdom	98.5
3	University of Oxford	Oxford, United Kingdom	96.9
4	Harvard University	Cambridge, United States	96.8
5	University of Cambridge	Cambridge, United Kingdom	96.7
6	Stanford University	Stanford, United States	96.1
7	ETH Zurich	Zürich, Switzerland	93.9
8	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore	93.7
9	UCL	London, United Kingdom	91.6
10	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	Pasadena, United States	90.9

Top-Ranked Universities-India

Rank	University	Location	Overall Score
118	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	Mumbai, India	56.3
=150	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	New Delhi, India	52.1
211	Indian Institute of Science	Bangalore, India	45.0
=222	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)	Kharagpur, India	43.7

Rank	University	Location	Overall Score
=227	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	Chennai, India	43.5
263	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	Kanpur, India	39.3
=328	University of Delhi	New Delhi, India	33.8
335	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	Roorkee, India	33.4
=344	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	Guwahati, India	32.9
383	Anna University	Chennai, India	30.6

77th World Health Assembly

The **International Health Regulations of 2005** are amended by the **77th World Health Assembly**, taking into account **300 recommendations from member states**. The purpose of amendments is to strengthen nations' capacity to anticipate and address pandemic and public health emergencies of global concern. They contain measures to support developing nations in creating, bolstering, and preserving the fundamental capacities mandated by the IHR, as well as measures to enable **fair access to pertinent health items during medical emergencies**.

Aim of the Amendment

Amendments aim at **improving countries' ability to prepare for and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern and Pandemic Emergencies**. They include provisions for facilitating equitable access to relevant health products during health emergencies, as well as mobilizing financial resources to support developing countries in building, strengthening, and maintaining the core capacities required under the IHR.

Importance of 77th World Health Assembly

In its **77th session**, the theme for this year's event is **"Health For All: All for Health"**.

- To have a **deeper comprehension of the risks to and effects of global healthcare**.
- Key threats to global health are identified in the paper **Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare**, along with possible solutions.

Why there is a need for World Health Assembly

Over the past few years, **society** has experienced a **wave of adverse events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and the impacts of the climate and energy crises**, which have engulfed **global health and healthcare**.

Every year, the World Health Assembly is tasked with tackling global healthcare challenges like these and deciding how best to overcome them.





What is the World Health Assembly

The **World Health Assembly** is the **governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO)**, an organization under the **United Nations (UN)** that is tasked with **advancing global health and ensuring that everyone has access to the best possible medical treatment**. Every year, representatives from WHO member states convene at the **UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland**, to discuss a particular healthcare agenda defined by the organization's Executive Board. There are **34 technically qualified members of the Executive Board** who are elected to **three-year terms**. Each year in January, they convene to decide on the agenda and any resolutions to be presented to the World Health Assembly for approval.

What does the Assembly do

The World Health Assembly's **delegates deliberate over the Executive Board's policy agenda** for the upcoming year and determine the health objectives and tactics that will direct the **WHO's efforts in the field of public health**. Voting to select the organization's **Director-General for a five-year term** is one of the organization's other duties. Head of the world's premier public health agency, **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, was re-elected in 2022 to a second term in office. Along with overseeing financial policies, the Assembly also approves the proposed budget program to finance WHO activities in the future, tracks the implementation of work programs, and develops strategies to close gaps.

RBI Monetary Policy June 2024, Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the **Monetary Policy Committee** has chosen to maintain the policy **repo rate at 6.5%**, with a **4:2 majority decision**. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains **unchanged at 6.25%**, while both the **marginal standing facility (MSF)** rate and the bank rate stand firm at **6.75%**.

RBI Repo Rate are as under

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

Key Decisions From June MPC:

- CPI inflation in Q1 was seen at 4.9%, Q2 at 3.8%, Q3 at 4.6%, and Q4 at 4.5%, said Shaktikanta Das.
- Net FPI inflows stood at \$41.6 billion, compared with outflows in FY22 and FY23, said the RBI Governor.
- RBI will permit use of third-party UPI apps for making UPI payments from PPI wallets.
- RBI will introduce mobile app to operate in retail direct portal for retail investors.
- Total flow of resources to the commercial sector was at ₹31.2-lakh crore in FY24.

Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7.2 per cent.

- Q1 at 7.3 percent,
- Q2 at 7.2 per cent and
- Q3 and Q4 each at 7.3 percent

French Open 2024, Check Complete list of Winners

The **French Open 2024** witnessed a thrilling conclusion as the young Spanish sensation, **Carlos Alcaraz**, emerged victorious in the men's singles final. In a gruelling five-set battle against the formidable **Alexander Zverev**, Alcaraz showcased his resilience and skill, conquering the German with a scoreline of 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

At just 21 years old, Alcaraz has etched his name in the annals of tennis history, becoming the youngest man in the **Open era** to achieve the remarkable feat of winning Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces – hard court, clay, and grass. This extraordinary accomplishment underscores his versatility and unwavering determination on the court.

Iga Swiatek Continues Her Dominance at Roland Garros

In the women's singles final, the indomitable **Iga Swiatek** once again reigned supreme at the iconic **Roland Garros** stadium. The 23-year-old Polish superstar clinched her fourth French Open title, solidifying her status as a true clay-court maestro.

Swiatek's relentless performance saw her dismantle the challenge of **Jasmine Paolini** with a resounding 6-2, 6-1 scoreline. With this victory, Swiatek has etched her name alongside tennis legends, joining Belgium's **Justine Henin** in third place on the all-time list of most French Open titles won by a woman.

List of Winners French Open 2024:

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Alexander Zverev
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek	Jasmine Paolini
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori
Women's doubles	Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova	Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini
Mixed doubles	Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin	Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski

Global Peace Index 2024: An Overview

The **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024**, published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating **163 independent states and territories**. This report highlights the trends, results, and economic impacts of violence across the world, offering valuable insights into the current state of peace and the factors influencing it.





Key Findings

Overall Peacefulness

- **Global Peace Deterioration:** The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.56% in 2024. This marks the fifth consecutive year of declining peacefulness.
- **Country Improvements and Deteriorations:** In the past year, 65 countries recorded improvements in peacefulness, while 97 countries saw deteriorations. This is the highest number of countries to experience a decline in a single year since the index's inception.

Regional Highlights

- **Most Peaceful Countries:** Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- **Least Peaceful Countries:** Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

Regional Performance

- **Europe:** Europe continues to be the most peaceful region, despite a slight deterioration in peacefulness over the past year.
- **Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** MENA remains the least peaceful region, with significant conflicts in countries like Yemen and Sudan contributing to its low ranking.
- **North America:** North America recorded the largest regional deterioration, driven by increased violent crime and perceptions of criminality in both Canada and the US.

Trends in Peacefulness

- **Militarisation:** The Militarisation domain saw the largest year-on-year deterioration. Military expenditure (% of GDP) increased in 86 countries, reflecting broader trends of rising militarisation.
- **Ongoing Conflict:** The Ongoing Conflict domain also deteriorated significantly, influenced by ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine. The number of conflicts involving at least one state has reached a new high.
- **Safety and Security:** This domain recorded a slight improvement, driven by reductions in violent demonstrations, terrorism impact, and the homicide rate in several regions.

Economic Impact of Violence

- **Global Cost:** The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2023 was \$19.1 trillion, equivalent to 13.5% of global GDP or \$2,380 per person.
- **Conflict Costs:** The conflict in Ukraine had a significant economic impact, shrinking Ukraine's economy by an estimated 30% in 2022. The Syrian civil war has led to an 85% drop in GDP since its onset.
- **Military and Security Expenditure:** Over 74% of the total economic impact of violence is attributed to military and internal security expenditure, with military spending alone accounting for \$8.4 trillion.

War in the 21st Century

- **Changing Nature of Conflict:** Modern warfare is increasingly characterised by technological advancements and geopolitical competition. Non-state actors are now more capable of engaging larger states using technologies like drones.
- **Internationalisation of Conflict:** Conflicts are becoming more internationalised, with 92 countries now engaged in conflicts beyond their borders. This complicates negotiation processes and prolongs conflicts.
- **Asymmetric Warfare:** The rise of asymmetric warfare, including drone attacks by non-state groups, has made conflicts more complex and harder to resolve.

Positive Peace and the Halo Approach

- **Positive Peace:** Defined as the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies, Positive Peace is crucial for forecasting and mitigating future conflicts.
- **Halo Approach:** IEP's Halo approach provides a framework for analyzing societal systems and designing resilience-building programs. This adaptive approach helps in creating effective policies for building Positive Peace.

Table of Rankings

Rank	Country	Score	Change in Rank
1	Iceland	1.112	↔
2	Ireland	1.303	↔
3	Austria	1.313	↑1
4	New Zealand	1.323	↓1
5	Singapore	1.339	↑3
6	Switzerland	1.35	↑3
7	Portugal	1.372	↓1
8	Denmark	1.382	↓3
9	Slovenia	1.395	↓2
10	Malaysia	1.427	↑2
116	India	2.319	↑5
163	Yemen	3.397	↓2

Highlights of G7 Summit 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 14, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. The countries including UK counterpart **Rishi Sunak**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky**, and others, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in southern Italy's Apulia. Later, the Prime Minister also met Pope Francis of the Vatican.





About G7 Summit

The **G7 Summit** is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the **G7 member states** of France, the **United States**, the **United Kingdom**, **Germany**, **Japan**, **Italy**, and **Canada** (in order of rotating presidency), and the **European Union (EU)**.

Features of the G7 Summit

At the G7 Summit, the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values such as **freedom, democracy and human rights**, exchange candid views on important challenges the international community is facing at that time, such as the global economy, regional affairs and various global issues, and issue a document as an outcome of such discussions. With the leadership of the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values, the G7 has effectively responded to important challenges that the international community faces.

The Beginning of the G7 Summit

In the **1970s**, developed countries that faced various challenges such as the Nixon shock (1971) and the first oil crisis (1973) began recognizing the need to create a forum to comprehensively discuss policy coordination of macro economy, currency, trade, and energy, among others, at a leader’s level. Against this backdrop, proposed by then-French President Giscard d’Estaing, the **first Summit** was held in **November 1975** at the Chateau de Rambouillet (located in the outskirts of Paris), with participation from six countries-**France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy**. Since then, Summits have been held **annually** with revolving Presidency. **Russia’s membership** was suspended in **March 2014** in response to its annexation of Crimea.

About 2024 G7 Summit

The **50th G7** includes **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. **Italy**, hosting the summit, has invited African leaders-Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, Kenyan President **William Ruto**, and Tunisian President **Kais Saied**-to discuss Meloni’s plans for development and migration in **Africa**. Other guests include Ukrainian President **Zelenskyy**, Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**. Many G7 countries are also experiencing political changes. With Biden, UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**, and French President **Emmanuel Macron** facing elections soon, there is pressure on the G7 to achieve as much as possible while the current leadership remains.

Theme of this year summit

The theme of this year’s summit, which will be attended by President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** of the Republic of Turkiye, as a special guest, has been set as **“rules-based international system.”**

Italy’s agenda for the 2024 summit?

The **2024, 50th G7** summit will be held from **13 to 15 June in Apulia**, in Italy. It will be the first major international forum hosted by the Italian prime minister, **Giorgia Meloni**, since she took office in October 2022. As well as the wars in **Ukraine and Gaza**, Italy says it wants the summit to **focus on Africa and migration, economic security, and international co-operation** on artificial intelligence (AI).

Focus of this year summit

- **Supporting Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom:** G7 leaders announced a plan to provide Ukraine with \$50 billion in new financing by bringing forward the interest earned on immobilized Russian sovereign assets held in the European Union and other jurisdictions. The Biden Administration this week issued a sweeping set of new sanctions and export control measures, guided by G7 commitments to intensify the pressure on Russia for its war against Ukraine. In Puglia, President Biden and President Zelensky signed the U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Security Agreement as a demonstration of enduring U.S. support for Ukraine, including through binding commitments to deepen our security and defense cooperation and to consult in the event of a future armed attack.
- **Advancing International Peace, Security, and Prosperity:** The G7’s work is grounded in a shared commitment to respect the UN Charter, promote international peace and security, and uphold the free and open rules-based international order.
- **Promoting Economic Resilience and Economic Security:** President Biden rallied the G7 to take further steps to protect our workers, industries, and the investments.
- **Partnering with Developing Countries to Invest in their Future:** The G7 is taking ambitious steps to scale up support to developing countries and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition to Address Climate Change:** The G7 is accelerating its work to address the challenges of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.
- **Promoting Health and Food Security:** The G7 continues to lead global efforts to address the food security crisis and support strong, resilient and responsive health systems around the world.
- **Investing in Childcare to Support Women’s Economic Participation:** The G7 is tackling the unequal gender distribution of care work, which contributes to gender inequality.
- **Enhancing Our Partnership on Migration:** Drawn from the principles of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection that President Biden launched at the Summit of the Americas in 2022, the G7 affirmed a collective commitment to addressing migration in ways that reflect both the challenges and opportunities it presents.





- **Deepening Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence:** In line with the Biden Administration’s vision laid out in the October 2023 Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, the G7 is building partnerships around the world to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence and other technologies are widely shared while mitigating risks.
- **Increasing Coordination to Promote AI Safety:** G7 leaders committed to step up efforts to enhance interoperability between our respective approaches to AI governance and risk management.

India’s Environment Performance in 2024

India’s latest ranking in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for 2024** places it at **176th out of 180 countries**, reflecting slight improvement from previous years but still positioning it among the **world’s lowest performers**. The index, prepared by **Yale and Columbia universities**, highlights India’s struggles in crucial areas like air quality, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Top 10 Countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2024

1. **Estonia** – Score: 75.3
2. **Luxembourg** – Score: 75.0
3. **Germany** – Score: 74.6
4. **Finland** – Score: 73.7
5. **United Kingdom** – Score: 72.7
6. **Sweden** – Score: 70.5
7. **Norway** – Score: 70.0
8. **Austria** – Score: 69.0
9. **Switzerland** – Score: 68.0
10. **Denmark** – Score: 67.9

Environmental Challenges

India faces severe challenges in several key environmental metrics:

Air Quality

Continues to be a major concern, with India ranking poorly in air quality compared to global standards, surpassing even its South Asian neighbors.

Biodiversity and Habitat

Scores poorly in measures related to ecosystem vitality, species protection, and terrestrial biome preservation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Despite efforts in renewable energy, India remains one of the largest emitters globally, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress Amid Challenges

While India ranks low overall, there are areas showing improvement:

Climate Change

Notwithstanding its overall low ranking, India’s efforts in climate change mitigation have been recognized, particularly with initiatives in renewable energy and a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Sector-Specific Gains

India’s scores are bolstered by advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agricultural practices.

Policy and International Comparisons

Coal Dependence

Heavy reliance on coal continues to hamper India’s environmental performance, contributing significantly to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Context

The index highlights disparities among nations, with India’s ranking affected by the relative progress of other countries in environmental stewardship.

Future Challenges and Financial Needs

Sustainability Goals

India faces substantial challenges in achieving sustainability across multiple fronts, necessitating significant financial investments estimated at \$160 billion annually to meet climate goals and environmental targets.

India’s Environmental Performance: Key Points

Ranking

India ranks 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index.

Challenges

- **Air Quality:** India faces severe challenges with air quality, often exceeding safe limits.
- **Biodiversity:** Concerns over ecosystem vitality, species protection, and habitat preservation.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** One of the largest global emitters, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress

- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Pursuing renewable energy projects and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Sector-Specific Improvements:** Advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agriculture.

Policy and International Comparisons

- **Coal Dependence:** Heavy reliance on coal remains a significant environmental challenge.
- **Global Context:** India’s ranking affected by the environmental progress of other nations.

Future Needs

- **Financial Investments:** Estimated \$160 billion annually needed for climate mitigation efforts and environmental sustainability.





PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

On **June 19**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new campus** of **Nalanda University**, an international institution of learning near the ancient ruins of Nalanda in Rajgir, Bihar. The PM asserted that Nalanda is a **symbol of India's academic heritage** and a proclamation of the enduring nature of knowledge.

Establishment and Functioning

The **Parliament of India** established Nalanda University through the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**, based on decisions taken at the East Asia Summits in 2007 and 2009.

The university started functioning in 2014 from a temporary location with 14 students, and construction of the new campus began in 2017.

Representatives from **17 participating countries**, including ambassadors and ministers, attended the inauguration event.

Reviving a Global Centre of Learning

PM Modi emphasized that the **renaissance of Nalanda University** will introduce India's potential to the world and once again become a **major centre for cultural exchange**. He highlighted that the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to Nalanda, which flourished for 800 years before its destruction in the 12th century.

Promoting Sustainability and Knowledge

The Prime Minister stressed that India has lived as a model of sustainability for centuries and should become a **centre of education and knowledge for the world**. He expressed his vision for India to have the world's most comprehensive skill system and an advanced research-oriented higher education system.

International Participation and Offerings

Nalanda University has participation from **17 nations**, including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and others, who have signed MoUs in support of the university.

The university offers **137 scholarships** to international students, sponsored by various organizations and countries.

It provides **Post Graduate and Doctoral research courses**, as well as short-term certificate courses.

PM's Commitment and Vision

PM Modi emphasized the Central government's commitment to providing all possible support to Nalanda University. He encouraged students to be curious, courageous, and kind, expressing confidence that the youth will provide leadership to the world, and Nalanda will become an important centre for global causes.

The article is written in simple language, with headings and subheadings. Important keywords are highlighted, and the word limit of 600 words is maintained. The tone of the article is in the style of "Important Days" types, focusing on the inauguration of the new campus of Nalanda University, its historical significance, and PM Modi's vision for reviving India's academic heritage and promoting sustainability and knowledge.

Sweden Tops, India at 63rd Rank on Global Energy Transition Index: WEF

According to the Global Energy Transition Index released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF) on 19 June 2024**, **India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries**, improving three ranks from **last year's 67th position**. Sweden has again topped the Index, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition. The WEF highlighted India's significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.

Global Energy Transition Index Overview

The Global Energy Transition Index, published annually by the WEF in association with Accenture, evaluates nations' progress and preparedness in building an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future. It tracks government policies and their effectiveness in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting non-fossil-based power sources, and enhancing energy efficiency.

2024 Rankings

European nations dominate the 2024 Index's top ranks:

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Finland
4. Switzerland
5. France

China is ranked 20th, while India stands at 63rd. The report indicates that 107 out of 120 countries have shown progress in their energy transition over the past decade, despite challenges such as economic volatility and geopolitical tensions.

India's Progress and Global Role

The WEF commended India's initiatives in encouraging non-fossil-based energy sources, particularly solar energy. India's improvements in energy security, equity, and sustainability are noteworthy, positioning the country as a critical player in the global energy transition alongside China. India is now the fourth largest in the renewable energy market globally, with renewable energy and biomass comprising 42% of its power generation capacity. Significant investments are also being made in electric vehicles and green hydrogen.

World Economic Forum

Founded in 1971 by German economist Klaus Schwab, the WEF is a non-profit international organization **headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland**. It aims to foster collaboration between global stakeholders to address common challenges. The WEF publishes several influential reports, including the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report, and Global IT Report.

Implications and Recommendations

The WEF suggests that other nations can replicate India's policies and innovative initiatives for a green energy transition. Despite progress, the report urges further efforts to reduce coal usage and emissions, emphasizing the potential of green technology in shaping the future of energy systems globally.





World Economic Forum: Key Points

Purpose

- **Collaboration Platform:** Facilitates cooperation among business, political, academic, and other leaders to address global challenges.
- **Global Issues:** Focuses on shaping global, regional, and industry agendas to improve the state of the world.

Foundation

- **Founded:** 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab, a German economist

Headquarters

- **Location:** Cologne, Switzerland

Key Activities

- **Annual Meetings:** Hosts annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, bringing together global leaders from various sectors.
- **Reports and Research:** Publishes influential reports like the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Energy Transition Index, and Global IT Report.
- **Initiatives:** Launches initiatives and partnerships to address issues such as climate change, economic development, and social inclusion.

Notable Reports

- **Global Gender Gap Report**
- **Global Competitiveness Report**
- **Energy Transition Index**
- **Global Travel and Tourism Report**
- **Global IT Report** (in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University)

Overall Mission

- **Improving the State of the World:** Aims to drive impactful actions through public-private cooperation and innovative solutions for global progress.

53rd GST Council Meeting Overview

The **53rd GST Council** met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa and Meghalaya, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Finance Ministers of States & UTs (with legislature), and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance & States/ UTs.

Key Recommendations and Decisions

The GST Council made several recommendations concerning changes in GST tax rates, trade facilitation measures, and compliance streamlining in GST.

Changes in GST Tax Rates

GST Rates on Goods

- **Uniform IGST Rate on Aircraft Parts:** A uniform rate of 5% IGST will apply to imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools, and tool-kits of aircrafts to boost MRO activities.
- **Milk Cans GST Rate:** All milk cans (steel, iron, aluminum) will attract a 12% GST rate.
- **Paper Products GST Rate Reduction:** The GST rate on carton, boxes, and cases of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paper-board has been reduced from 18% to 12%.
- **Solar Cookers GST Rate:** All solar cookers, whether single or dual energy source, will attract 12% GST.
- **Poultry Keeping Machinery:** The GST entry covering poultry keeping machinery attracting 12% GST has been amended to specifically incorporate “parts of poultry keeping machinery” and regularize past practice.
- **Sprinklers GST Rate:** All types of sprinklers, including fire water sprinklers, will attract 12% GST.
- **Defence Forces IGST Exemption:** The IGST exemption on imports of specified items for defence forces has been extended for five years till 30th June 2029.
- **RAMA Programme IGST Exemption:** IGST exemption on imports of research equipment/buoys under the RAMA programme has been extended subject to conditions.
- **Compensation Cess on SEZ Imports:** Compensation Cess on imports in SEZ by SEZ Unit/developers for authorized operations is exempted w.e.f. 01.07.2017.
- **Miscellaneous Exemptions:** Compensation Cess on supply of aerated beverages and energy drinks to authorized customers by Unit Run Canteens under Ministry of Defence and Adhoc IGST exemption on imports of technical documentation for AK-203 rifle kits for Indian Defence forces are also recommended.

GST Rates on Services

- **Indian Railways Services Exemption:** Services provided by Indian Railways to the general public, such as platform tickets, retiring rooms/waiting rooms, cloakroom services, and battery-operated car services, are exempt from GST.
- **SPV Services Exemption:** Services provided by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) to Indian Railways for infrastructure use during the concession period and maintenance services by Indian Railways to SPV are exempt.
- **Accommodation Services Exemption:** Accommodation services valued up to Rs. 20,000 per month per person supplied for a minimum continuous period of 90 days are exempt from GST.
- **Co-insurance and Re-insurance Services:** Co-insurance premium apportioned by lead insurer to the co-insurer and transactions of ceding commission/re-insurance commission between insurer and re-insurer are declared as no supply under Schedule III of the CGST Act.





- **GST Liability on Reinsurance Services:** GST liability on reinsurance services of specified insurance schemes will be regularized retrospectively.
- **Retrocession Clarification:** Retrocession, re-insurance of re-insurance, is eligible for exemption under Sl. No. 36A of notification No. 12/2017-CTR.
- **RERA Statutory Collections:** Statutory collections by Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) are exempt from GST.
- **Incentive Sharing under RuPay and BHIM-UPI:** Further sharing of incentive under NPCI's promotion scheme for RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI transactions is not taxable.

Measures for Facilitation of Trade

- **Section 128A Insertion for Conditional Waiver:** Section 128A will be inserted in CGST Act to provide conditional waiver of interest or penalty for demands raised under Section 73 for FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20.
- **Reduction of Government Litigation:** Monetary limits for filing appeals in GST by the department before GST Appellate Tribunal, High Court, and Supreme Court are prescribed to reduce litigation.
- **Pre-deposit Amount for Appeals:** Pre-deposit amount for filing appeals under GST is reduced to ease cash flow for taxpayers.
- **GST on Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA):** ENA used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption is excluded from GST.
- **TCS Rate Reduction for ECOs:** TCS rate for supplies through Electronic Commerce Operators (ECOs) is reduced from 1% to 0.5%.
- **Appeal Filing Time in GST Appellate Tribunal:** The time for filing appeals in GST Appellate Tribunal is extended.
- **Relaxation in Section 16(4):** Section 16(4) of CGST Act is amended retrospectively for initial years to allow relaxation in availing input tax credit.
- **GSTR-4 Due Date Extension:** The due date for filing GSTR-4 for composition taxpayers is extended from 30th April to 30th June.
- **Interest Calculation in Rule 88B:** Amendment in rule 88B to exclude amounts in the Electronic Cash Ledger on due date from interest calculation for delayed return filing.
- **Section 11A Insertion:** Section 11A is inserted in CGST Act to regularize non-levy or short levy of GST due to common trade practices.
- **Refund of Additional IGST on Export:** A mechanism for claiming refund of additional IGST paid on upward revision in price of exported goods is prescribed.

Clarifications and Compliance Measures

- **Valuation of Import of Services:** Value of import of services by a related person, where the recipient is eligible for full input tax credit, is clarified.
- **Input Tax Credit on Optical Fiber Cables:** ITC is not restricted for ducts and manholes used in Optical Fiber Cable networks.

- **Place of Supply for Custodial Services:** Place of supply for custodial services provided by Indian Banks to Foreign Portfolio Investors is determined under Section 13(2) of the IGST Act.
- **Valuation of Corporate Guarantees:** Valuation of corporate guarantees between related persons is clarified, with amendments to rule 28(2) of CGST Rules.
- **Reverse Charge Mechanism Invoices:** The relevant financial year for availing ITC under RCM is the year the invoice is issued by the recipient.
- **Miscellaneous Clarifications:** Clarifications on various issues, including taxability of re-imbursalment of securities, input tax credit reversals, and taxability of loans between related persons, are provided.

Additional Recommendations

- **Transitional Credit for ISD:** Amendment in section 140(7) of CGST Act to provide transitional credit for invoices before the appointed date.
- **GSTR-1A Facility:** A new optional facility in FORM GSTR-1A is provided for amending details before filing GSTR-13B.
- **Annual Return Exemption:** Filing of annual return in FORM GSTR-9/9A for FY 2023-24 is exempted for taxpayers with annual turnover up to two crore rupees.
- **Section 122(1B) Amendment:** Section 122(1B) of CGST Act is amended to clarify penal provisions for e-commerce operators.
- **Rule 142 Amendment:** Rule 142 of CGST Rules is amended for adjusting amounts paid against pre-deposit for appeals.

Biometric Aadhaar Authentication

- **Pan-India Rollout:** Biometric-based Aadhaar authentication for GST registration applicants is recommended on an All-India basis in a phased manner.

Common Time Limit for Demand Notices

- **Amendments in Sections 73 and 74:** Amendments to provide a common time limit for issuance of demand notices and orders for FY 2024-25 onwards.

Sunset Clause for Anti-Profitteering

- **Amendments in Sections 171 and 109:** Amendments to provide a sunset clause for anti-profitteering under GST and handling by GSTAT.

Export Duty and IGST Refunds

- **Amendments in Section 16 of IGST Act and Section 54 of CGST Act:** Refunds for goods subjected to export duty are restricted.

B2C Inter-State Supplies Reporting

- **Threshold Reduction:** The threshold for reporting B2C inter-State supplies in FORM GSTR-1 is reduced from Rs. 2.5 Lakh to Rs. 1 Lakh.





GSTR-7 Filing Requirements

- **Monthly Filing:** Registered persons required to deduct tax at source must file GSTR-7 monthly, even if no tax is deducted. These comprehensive recommendations and clarifications from the 53rd GST Council meeting aim to streamline GST compliance, facilitate trade, and address various industry concerns.

Centre Notifies Anti-Paper Leak Law Amid NEET, NET Row

The Centre has introduced a stringent anti-paper leak law amid controversies surrounding the **NEET and UGC-NET exams**. The law, which came into force on June 21, 2024, imposes severe penalties, including up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 crore, to curb malpractices in competitive examinations.

Details of the Law

The new law, named the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, aims to prevent cheating in public exams conducted by entities such as the UPSC, SSC, and NTA. It includes provisions for a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment for cheating, and five to ten years of imprisonment for organized cheating crimes, along with hefty fines.

Context and Immediate Reactions

The law’s enactment comes amidst allegations of paper leaks and subsequent cancellation of the UGC-NET 2024, affecting over 9 lakh candidates. The Opposition Congress has criticized the timing, calling it “**damage control.**” **Congress leader Jairam Ramesh** emphasized the need for proactive measures to prevent such leaks.

Exams Impacted by Paper Leaks

The NEET and UGC-NET exams have been at the center of the controversy, with the **CSIR-UGC NET** also facing similar allegations. The education ministry has postponed the CSIR-UGC NET scheduled for June 25-27, 2024, due to claims of a leak on the dark web. This scandal could delay the CUET-UG results, affecting undergraduate admissions in central universities.

Government and NTA Response

Following the allegations, the CBI has registered an FIR against unknown suspects for cheating and criminal conspiracy. The education ministry has instructed the NTA to take preventive measures to ensure the integrity of upcoming exams.

Implications

The implementation of this law marks the first major step towards addressing paper leaks in centrally-conducted public examinations. It highlights the government’s commitment to maintaining the integrity of the examination process, although it has sparked significant political debate and criticism.

Most Important Current Affairs of May 2024

Alok Shukla Wins Prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024

Alok Shukla, a renowned environmental activist and convener of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, has been selected for the **prestigious 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize**. Also known as the “**Green Nobel Prize,**” this annual award honours grassroots environmental champions worldwide for their outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

Winners of the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize

This year, seven people from six inhabited regions of the globe have been selected for the annual Goldman Environmental Prize. They are :

Serial no.	Winner	Country	Region
1	Marcel Gomes	Brazil	South and Central America
2	Murrawah Maroochy Johnson	Australia	Islands & Island Nations
3	Alok Shukla	India	Asia
4	Teresa Vicente	Spain	Europe
5	Andrea Vidaurre	United States of America	North America
6	Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu	South Africa	Africa

Protecting the Hasdeo Arand Forest

Shukla’s recognition stems from his relentless efforts to safeguard the Hasdeo Arand Forest, considered the lungs of Chhattisgarh. In 2010, the government auctioned two coal blocks in this area to private companies for mining. To counter this threat, Shukla founded the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti and mobilized local tribal communities.

Through sustained activism and pressure, Shukla succeeded in compelling the government to reverse its policy of auctioning 21 proposed coal mines in the Hasdeo Aranya area, ultimately leading to the cancellation of the proposed auction in 2022.

Global Recognition for Environmental Leadership

The Goldman Environmental Prize, established in 1989 by American couple Richard and Rhoda Goldman, aims to honor grassroots environmental leaders, draw international attention to environmental problems, and encourage action. This year, seven individuals from six inhabited regions of the globe have been selected for the prestigious award.





Previous Indian Winners

Alok Shukla joins the ranks of seven previous Indian recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize, including renowned activists like Medha Patkar (1992), M.C. Mehta (1996), Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla (2004), Ramesh Agarwal (2014), and Prafulla Samantara (2017). These remarkable individuals have fought tirelessly for environmental justice, land rights, and sustainable development across various parts of India.

Grassroots Environmental Activism

The Goldman Environmental Prize defines grassroots leaders as individuals involved in local efforts where positive change is created through community or citizen participation. Shukla’s recognition highlights the critical role played by grassroots activism in protecting the environment and preserving natural resources for future generations.

As Alok Shukla receives this prestigious award, his efforts serve as an inspiration for environmental champions around the world, reminding us of the power of collective action and the importance of protecting our planet’s precious ecosystems.

Eminent Personalities Honoured with Prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award

Noted Hindi film superstars **Hema Malini** and **Saira Banu**, along with other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award. The award ceremony will take place on **31 August 2024** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

10 eminent personalities to be awarded the Lacchu Maharaj award

The Lacchu Maharaj Award, Instituted in memory of the famous kathak exponent Lacchu Maharaj, was not given after 2014. Thus, the Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has decided to honour 10 personalities this year. No award has been announced for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. The awardees are:

Serial Number	Awardee	Award for Year	Belongs to Place	Exponent of Dance form
1	Uma Sharma	2015	New Delhi	Kathak
2	Rama Vaidyanathan	2016	New Delhi	Kathak
3	Uma Dogra	2017	Jaipur	Kathak
4	Hema Malini	2018	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
5	Saira Banu	2019	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
6	Sandhya Puricha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi	2018	Mumbai	Bharatanatyam Exponent
7	Dr. Malabika Mitra	2021	Kolkata	Kathak
8	Prachi Shah	2022	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
9	Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya	2023	Mumbai	Kathak
10	Pandit Rajendra Gangani	2024	Jaipur	Kathak

Reviving a Celebrated Tradition

The decision to honor these esteemed individuals was taken during a meeting held at Bhatkhande Sanskriti University, Lucknow, presided over by the university’s Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mandavi Singh. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Pt. Lachhu Maharaj Ballet Foundation and senior disciple of Pandit Lachhu Maharaj, Kumkum Adarsh.

Honoring a Decade of Excellence

The Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has decided to honor ten personalities this year, as the award was not given after 2014. The esteemed awardees, spanning various years from 2015 to 2024, represent the pinnacle of artistic excellence in fields such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and cinema.

Celebrating Kathak Legends

Among the awardees are renowned Kathak exponents like **Uma Sharma** (2015), **Rama Vaidyanathan** (2016), **Uma Dogra** (2017), and **Pandit Rajendra Gangani** (2024). Film actresses **Hema Malini** (2018) and **Saira Banu** (2019), both accomplished Kathak dancers, will also be honored for their remarkable contributions.





Recognizing Artistic Brilliance

Other notable awardees include **Sandhya Puricha**, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi (2018), a Bharatanatyam exponent; **Dr. Malabika Mitra** (2021), a Kathak maestro; **Prachi Shah** (2022), a Kathak dancer and film actress; and **Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya** (2023), a Kathak exponent.

Honoring the Legacy of Lacchu Maharaj

The Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award is named after the legendary Kathak exponent, Lacchu Maharaj (1907-1978), who was born Baij Nath Prasad in Lucknow. He is renowned for choreographing Kathak dance sequences in iconic films like Mahal, Mughal-e-Azam, and Pakeezah, as well as numerous ballets.

As these eminent personalities are honoured with the Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award, it serves as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of India and the enduring legacy of artistic excellence that continues to inspire generations.

World Press Freedom Index 2024 Announced, India Ranked 159th Out of 180 Countries

In the latest edition of the **World Press Freedom Index** published annually by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, India finds itself at a concerning position, **ranking 159th out of 180 countries**. This marks a slight improvement from its **previous rank of 161**, yet it still underscores significant challenges faced by journalists in the country. Surprisingly, India trails behind its neighboring nation **Pakistan**, which holds the **152nd position**, while Sri Lanka stands at 150th place. **Norway** topped the ranking, while **Denmark** was on the second rank in World Press Freedom Index. **Sweden** ranked third on the list.

Press Freedom Index Overview

The **World Press Freedom Index** evaluates **180 countries** based on the freedom and independence journalists have to work and report. The rankings shed light on the varying degrees of press freedom across the globe. In the **Asia-Pacific region**, which ranks as the **world's second most challenging area for journalism**, several countries, including Myanmar, China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan, are among the most dangerous for media personnel. Notably, no Asian country made it to the **Index's top 15 this year**, indicating a pervasive challenge to press freedom in the region.

Press Freedom in South Asia

The **recently released 2024 World Press Freedom Index** by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)** has once again shed light on the state of press freedom across the globe. In **South Asia**, India finds itself ranked at **159th**, while its neighbor **Pakistan stands marginally higher at 152**. **Sri Lanka**, another regional player, is **positioned at 150**. These rankings underscore the challenges journalists face in the region, where the ability to work and report independently is often compromised.

Changing Dynamic in Asia-Pacific Region

The **Asia-Pacific region**, known for its complexities, presents a challenging landscape for journalists. **Myanmar, China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan** are among the **top ten most dangerous countries for media personnel**, reflecting the precarious environment journalists operate in. Notably, this year sees none of the region's countries in the top 15 of the index, signaling a concerning trend for press freedom advocates.

Middle East and North Africa

In the **Middle East and North Africa**, press freedom concerns persist, with **nearly half of the countries facing "very serious" situations**. Countries like **Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Syria** continue to grapple with challenges to journalistic freedom. The United Arab Emirates joins the list of countries in the red zone, highlighting widespread issues across the region.

Europe's Role and Challenges

Contrastingly, Europe, particularly within the **European Union**, boasts countries where press freedom is **considered "good."** However, challenges persist, with countries like **Hungary, Malta, and Greece** facing scrutiny for their treatment of the media. The adoption of the **European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)** reflects efforts to safeguard press freedom within the EU.

Global Trends and Concerns

The **2024 World Press Freedom Index** reveals a worrying decline in the political indicator, one of five detailed indicators in the report. States and political forces are increasingly failing to protect press freedom, leading to hostile actions against journalists. The use of artificial intelligence, particularly in disinformation campaigns, poses a significant threat, with deepfakes being utilized to influence elections.

War Against Nature and Journalist Peril

Journalists covering environmental stories also face significant risks, **with 44 journalists killed in the past 15 years** while reporting on environmental issues. This underscores the dangers associated with reporting on critical global issues and the need to protect journalists working in these areas.

2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced

The prestigious **Pulitzer Prizes** for 2024 were announced on **May 7, 2024**, by **Columbia University** in the United States of America. The awards, considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts, were conferred by Columbia University on the recommendation of the **Pulitzer Prize Board**. The winners will be formally recognized at a ceremony later, presided over by the president of Columbia University.





Journalism Category

Category	Winner
Public Service	Pro Publica (Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski, and Kirsten Berg)
Investigative Reporting	Hannah Dreier (The New York Times)
International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
Editorial Writing	David E. Hoffman (The Washington Post)
Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Reuters
Feature Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
Audio Reporting	Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio

Book, Drama, and Music Category

Category	Winner
Fiction	Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips
Drama	Primary Trust by Eboni Booth
History	No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston’s Black Workers in the Civil War Era by Jacqueline Jones
Biography	King: A Life by Jonathan Eig Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo
Memoir and Autobiography	Liliana’s Invincible Summer: A Sister’s Search for Justice by Cristina Rivera Garza
Poetry	Tripas: Poems by Brandon Som
Music	Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) by Tyshawn Sorey
General Nonfiction	A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy by Nathan Thrall

Special Awards and Citations

A special citation was issued to the late writer and critic **Gregory Stephen Tate (Greg Tate)**, an American writer, musician, and producer.

A special citation was also given to journalists and media workers covering the war in Gaza.

About the Pulitzer Prize

The Pulitzer Prize was established by Joseph Pulitzer, a newspaper owner who, in 1904, provided funds for the foundation of the Pulitzer Prize as an incentive for excellence in journalism, arts, and culture. He donated money to the Faculty of Journalism at Columbia University to administer the prizes. The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in 1917, and they continue to recognize outstanding achievements in these fields annually.

Indian Literary Masterpieces Inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register

In a **proud moment** for India, three of its literary treasures – the **Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana** – have been inscribed on **UNESCO’s Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register**. This prestigious recognition celebrates India’s **rich literary heritage and cultural legacy**, affirming the timeless wisdom and artistic expressions that have shaped the nation’s identity.

Preserving Timeless Wisdom for Future Generations

The **inclusion** of these masterpieces in the Register signifies a crucial step in **global cultural preservation efforts**. It ensures that the profound teachings and narratives embodied within these works continue to **inspire and enlighten** generations to come, transcending boundaries of time and place.

Honoring the Creative Genius of Literary Legends

The **Ramcharitmanas**, authored by the renowned **Goswami Tulsidas**, the **Panchatantra** by **Pt. Vishnu Sharma**, and the **Sahṛdayāloka-Locana** by **Acharya Anandvardhan**, have profoundly influenced Indian literature and culture. These literary gems have left an **indelible mark** on readers and artists alike, shaping the nation’s **moral fabric and artistic expressions**.

IGNCA’s Pivotal Role in Securing Global Recognition

The **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** played a pivotal role in securing this historic achievement during the **10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP)**. Professor **Ramesh Chandra Gaur**, representing IGNCA, successfully presented and defended the nominations, highlighting their cultural significance and garnering support from representatives and observers.

A Milestone in Cultural Preservation and Promotion

This milestone not only celebrates India’s literary gems but also underscores IGNCA’s unwavering dedication to **preserving and promoting** the nation’s cultural heritage on a global stage. It reaffirms the organization’s commitment to advancing India’s literary legacy and contributing to the collective efforts of cultural preservation worldwide.

With the **Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana** now inscribed on the prestigious Register, India’s literary treasures have secured their rightful place among the world’s most significant cultural assets, ensuring their enduring impact for generations to come.





2024 MOWCAP Regional Register for Asia-Pacific

Serial Number	Inscribed Item	Country
1	Funafuti: The Edgeworth David 1897 Expedition Documents	Australia and Tuvalu
2	Sultana's Dream- by Rokeya S. Hossain	Bangladesh
3	Archives Relating to the Chengdu Traditional Teahouses	China
4	Huizhou Genealogy Archives	China
5	Printing Blocks Housed at the Derge Printing House	China
6	The Illustrated Manuscripts of Rāmacaritamānasa of Tulasīdāsa	India
7	The Manuscript of the Sahṛdayāloka-Locana: Seminal Text of Indian Poetics	India
8	The 15th Century Manuscript of the Pañcatantra Fables	India
9	Indarung I, The First Cement Plant in Southeast Asia (1910-1972)	Indonesia
10	Indonesian Sugar Research Institute's Archives 1887-1986: The Role of ISRI's Research Activities to the World Sugar Industry	Indonesia
11	The Tambo Tuanku Imam Bonjol Manuscript	Indonesia
12	Al-Tarikh Salasilah Negeri Kedah: Genealogical History of Kedah State	Malaysia
13	The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar)	Malaysia
14	Family Chart of Hereditary Lords of the Khalkha Mongols, the House of Genghis Khan	Mongolia
15	Mongolia's First Postage Stamps 'Eldev Ochir'	Mongolia
16	Doctrina Christiana en Lengua Española y Tagala (Christian Doctrine in Spanish and Tagalog), Manila, 1593	Philippines
17	Hinilawod Epic Chant Recordings	Philippines
18	Images of Khorezm Oasis by Khudaibergan Devanov (1879-1937)	Uzbekistan
19	Turkestan Album" 1871-1872	Uzbekistan
20	Bas-reliefs on the Nine Bronze Urns in Huế Imperial Palace	Vietnam

World's super-rich list of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index

Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani have made it to the **top 15 world's super-rich list of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. This marks a significant achievement, especially for Gautam Adani, who reclaimed his position after losing it in 2023 due to short selling in his company's stock. Notably, for the first time, all individuals in the top 15 have a net worth of \$100 billion or more.

Mukesh Ambani's Ranking and Wealth

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is **ranked 12th with a wealth of \$110 billion**. RIL operates across various sectors including petrochemicals, oil and gas, telecom, retail, and financial services, making Ambani one of the wealthiest individuals globally.

Gautam Adani's Comeback

Gautam Adani, with a **wealth of \$100 billion**, is **ranked 14th**. Adani Group's business interests span ports, airports, power generation and transmission, green energy, edible oils, cement, and real estate. After a challenging year in 2023 due to accusations from Hindenburg Research and a subsequent sharp decline in his company's stock prices, Adani's fortunes rebounded. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Supreme Court cleared his name, leading to a resurgence in share prices driven by foreign investment.

First Woman to Reach \$100 Billion

Bettencourt Meyers, owner of the famous **L'Oreal** company, has become the **first woman to achieve a net worth of \$100 billion**. Her wealth reached \$101 billion, placing her **14th on the list**, due to L'Oreal's share price recording its best year since 1998. This milestone marks a significant achievement in gender representation among the world's wealthiest.

Richest Person in South America

Carlos Slim of Mexico, with a **net worth of \$106 billion**, has been included in the list for the first time, **ranking 13th**. Slim's wealth comes from his diverse business interests, including construction, telecommunications, and retail. He is the richest person in South America, highlighting the region's economic potential.

World's Richest Man

Bernard Arnault, the founder and CEO of LVMH, continues to lead the **world's richest list with a net worth of \$222 billion**. LVMH's luxury brands have maintained robust performance, securing Arnault's top position.

Other notable rankings on the list of billionaires in the world:

- **Jeff Bezos**: The founder of Amazon.com Inc. is the second richest person with a net worth of \$208 billion.
- **Elon Musk**: CEO of Tesla, ranks third with a net worth of \$187 billion. Despite a significant drop of over \$40 billion this year, Musk remains one of the wealthiest individuals globally.





Buddha Purnima 2024

Buddha Purnima 2024, also known as **Buddha Jayanti** or **Vesak**, is celebrated on Thursday, **23 May 2024**. This significant Buddhist festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha. Observed with reverence across South, Southeast, and East Asia, the day is marked by prayer meetings, religious discussions, and cultural events, highlighting the profound teachings and enduring legacy of the Buddha.

Buddha Purnima 2024 – Date

Buddha Purnima, also known as **Buddha Jayanti** or **Vesak**, will be celebrated on Thursday, 23 May 2024. This day is a public holiday in several Indian states, including Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Buddha Purnima 2024: History

Buddha Purnima commemorates the **birth, enlightenment, and death (Mahaparinirvana) of Prince Siddhartha Gautama**, who later became known as Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Born around **563-483 BCE in Lumbini, Nepal**, Siddhartha Gautama was the son of **King Śuddhodana** and **Queen Maya Devi**. Raised in luxury, he was shielded from the sufferings of the world until he encountered old age, sickness, and death during excursions outside the palace. These encounters led him to renounce his royal life and seek enlightenment.

After years of ascetic practices and meditation under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, India, Siddhartha attained enlightenment and became the Buddha. He spent the rest of his life teaching the path to Nirvana until his **death at the age of 80**.

Significance of Buddha Purnima

Buddha Purnima is a significant festival in the Buddhist tradition, celebrated across **South, Southeast, and East Asia**. It marks the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha, making it a day of great reverence for Buddhists worldwide.

The festival is observed according to the lunisolar calendars used in Asian countries, and the date varies each year in the Gregorian calendar, typically falling in April or May. In some leap years, it may extend into June. The public holiday for Buddha Purnima in India was **first introduced by B. R. Ambedkar**, a key figure in Indian history and a convert to Buddhism.

Celebrations of Buddha Purnima 2024

- **Rituals and Observances:** On Buddha Purnima, Buddhists gather at viharas (monasteries) and engage in extended sessions of reading Buddhist sutras, resembling religious services. Idols of the Buddha are worshipped, prayer meetings are held, and devotees participate in religious discussions and group meditations.

- **Major Sites:** In Bodh Gaya, the Mahabodhi Temple is adorned with colorful decorations, and special prayers are conducted under the Bodhi tree, where Buddha attained enlightenment. The national museum in Delhi also displays holy relics of the Buddha on this day.
- **Food Traditions:** A popular dish prepared on Buddha Purnima is ‘Kheer,’ a sweet rice and milk pudding. This dish is symbolic and is shared among devotees as a part of the celebration.
- **International Celebrations:** While Buddha Purnima is a major festival in India, it is also celebrated with great enthusiasm in countries like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other parts of South, Southeast, and East Asia. Each region has its own unique traditions and rituals to honor the Buddha.
- **Community and Cultural Events:** Public talks, seminars, and cultural performances are often organized to spread the teachings of the Buddha and to reflect on his life and philosophy. These events aim to promote peace, compassion, and understanding among people.

Kolkata Knight Riders Win IPL 2024 against Sunrisers Hyderabad

Kolkata Knight Riders (**KKR**) etched their name in the annals of IPL history by clinching their third title after a resounding **eight-wicket victory** over the Sunrisers Hyderabad (**SRH**) in the final of the **IPL 2024** at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The triumphant Knights, led by the astute captaincy of **Shreyas Iyer**, showcased their dominance throughout the tournament, culminating in a comprehensive triumph over SRH in the summit clash.

SRH’s Batting Debacle Sets the Stage

The final witnessed a **batting collapse** of epic proportions from the Sunrisers Hyderabad, who were bundled out for a paltry **113 runs** in just 18.3 overs. This **lowest score in an IPL final** set the stage for a straightforward chase for the Knights, who had previously defeated SRH twice in the league stage.

Venkatesh Iyer’s Blistering Knock Seals the Deal

Leading the charge for KKR was the in-form **Venkatesh Iyer**, who played a blistering innings of **50 runs** off just 24 balls. His explosive batting not only propelled KKR towards the target but also cemented his position as the team’s **most prolific run-scorer in IPL Playoffs**, surpassing the 200-run mark in just five innings. With an **unbeaten streak** extending to six completed matches, the Knights cruised to victory, ensuring their third IPL title triumph in a one-sided contest that showcased their overall superiority.

KKR’s Resurgence and Dominance

The victory marked a momentous occasion for the Kolkata-based franchise, as they celebrated their **third IPL title** triumph, 12 years after their maiden triumph at the same venue against the Chennai Super Kings. Under the guidance of Shreyas Iyer, the Knights displayed a resurgence that saw them dominate the tournament from start to finish.





IPL 2024 Award Winners, Check the Complete list

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the IPL 2024 title, defeating **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** in the final. **KKR's Sunil Narine** was named the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season. SRH's Nitish Kumar Reddy was the Emerging Player of the Season. Virat Kohli (RCB) won the Orange Cap for most runs, while Harshal Patel (PBKS) took the Purple Cap for most wickets. Other award winners included Abhishek Sharma (SRH) for Most Sixes, Travis Head (SRH) for Most Fours, and Jake Fraser-McGurk (DC) for Best Strike Rate. SRH received the Fair Play Award, while the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad won the Pitch and Ground Award.

Here is the full list of awards for the Indian Premier League 2024 season

Kolkata Knight Riders emerged as champions of IPL 2024, defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad in the final. Sunil Narine (KKR) won the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player awards, while Virat Kohli (RCB) and Harshal Patel (PBKS) claimed the Orange and Purple Caps respectively.

Award	Recipient
Winner (Rs. 20 crore)	Kolkata Knight Riders
Runner Up (Rs. 12.5 crore)	Sunrisers Hyderabad
Emerging Player of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Nitish Kumar Reddy (SRH)
Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Sunil Narine (KKR)
Most Valuable Player (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Sunil Narine (KKR)
Orange Cap (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Virat Kohli (RCB)
Purple Cap (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Harshal Patel (PBKS)
Most Sixes Award (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Abhishek Sharma (SRH)
Most Fours Award (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Travis Head (SRH)
Best Strike Rate Award (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Jake Fraser-McGurk (DC)
Catch of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Ramandeep Singh (KKR)
Fair Play Award (Rs. 10 Lakh)	Sunrisers Hyderabad
Pitch and Ground Award (Rs. 50 Lakh)	Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad
Player of the match (IPL Final)	Mitchell Starc
Fantasy player of the match (IPL Final)	Mitchell Starc
Most sixes in the match (IPL Final)	Venkatesh Iyer
Most fours in the match (IPL Final)	Rahmanullah Gurbaz
Most dot balls in the match (IPL Final)	Harshit Rana

ICC Players of the Month for April 2024 Announced

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the winners of the **ICC Player of the Month** awards for **April 2024**.

Hayley Matthews: ICC Women's Player of the Month

Hayley Matthews, the West Indies captain, has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** for her exceptional all-round performances that spearheaded the West Indies' success in Pakistan across both ODI and T20I series.

Dominant Displays Across Formats

Matthews' third ICC Women's Player of the Month award comes after an array of eye-catching all-round displays in April, resulting in **451 runs** and **12 wickets** across both ODIs and T20Is.

The West Indies skipper set the tone early with an unbeaten 140 and three wickets in the opening ODI, followed by a 141-run knock and two wickets in the third ODI, sealing the series sweep. In the subsequent T20I series, Matthews reinforced her position as the top-ranked Women's T20I all-rounder, scoring back-to-back half-centuries and taking six wickets, inspiring the tourists to a 4-1 series triumph.

Muhammad Waseem: ICC Men's Player of the Month

Muhammad Waseem, the UAE captain and opener, has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for his notable run-scoring feats as the UAE triumphed in the ACC Premier Cup.

Explosive Batting Displays

Waseem becomes the first UAE player to win the accolade, thanks to a string of powerful knocks that saw his side claim the ACC Premier Cup in Oman.

The opener struck **269 runs** during the month at an average of 44.83, including a sparkling 56-ball century in the final showdown against the hosts.

With an eye-catching strike rate of 182.99, Waseem's explosive strokeplay was evident throughout the UAE's campaign, with brisk knocks against Bahrain, Oman, and Cambodia.

Reactions from the Winners

Hayley Matthews expressed her happiness at winning the award again, stating, "These performances resulted in the team's success, and that's the most important thing for me as captain."

Muhammad Waseem, on becoming the first UAE player to win the accolade, said, "I am really happy to win the award. These performances resulted in the team's success, and that's the most important thing for me as captain."

The ICC Player of the Month awards recognize and celebrate the best performances in international cricket each month, with Matthews and Waseem's achievements in April 2024 earning them this prestigious recognition.





Key Insights from the RBI Annual Report 2023-24

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Annual Report for 2023-24, presented to the Central Government under Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, provides a comprehensive analysis of the global and domestic economic environment, the working and operations of the RBI, and the prospects for the forthcoming year. The report includes detailed sections on various economic indicators, policy measures, financial inclusion, regulatory developments, and more. Below is a summary of the key points and details from the report:

1. Global Economic Environment

- The global economy showed resilience despite multiple challenges, including elevated inflation, tight monetary conditions, geopolitical tensions, and financial stability risks.
- Global growth is projected to weaken below its historical average in 2024, with uneven pathways across geographies and sectors.
- Inflation eased but remained above target in major economies, with further disinflation impeded by sticky core and services inflation and tight labor markets.
- Emerging market economies (EMEs) began rate-cutting cycles, while major advanced economies (AEs) pivoted towards rate cuts amid inflationary pressures.

2. Domestic Economic Environment

- The Indian economy exhibited strength and stability, emerging as the fastest-growing major economy with robust macroeconomic fundamentals.
- Real GDP growth accelerated to **7.6% in 2023-24 from 7.0% in the previous year.**
- Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) accelerated to **10.2%**, driven by government spending on infrastructure, while private consumption demand grew at a slower pace of **3.0%**.
- Inflationary pressures moderated, with headline inflation softening to **5.4%**, driven by a fall in core inflation and deflation in fuel prices.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the policy repo rate unchanged at **6.50%**, maintaining a stance of withdrawal of accommodation to ensure inflation aligns with the target while supporting growth.

3. Financial Sector

- Domestic financial markets remained stable, with orderly movements in the bond and foreign exchange markets and exuberant equity markets.
- The Indian Rupee (INR) displayed stability, depreciating by **1.4%** during 2023-24, making it one of the best-performing major EME currencies.
- Equity prices recorded solid gains, with the domestic equity market capitalization crossing the US\$ 4 trillion mark.
- The transmission of repo rate increases to banks' lending and deposit rates continued, with a rise in external benchmark linked loans in total outstanding floating loans.

4. Fiscal and External Sector

- The central government achieved fiscal consolidation commitments, with the gross fiscal deficit (GFD) declining to **5.9% of GDP in 2023-24 from 6.4% in the previous year.**
- Revenue spending growth was contained at **2.5%**, while capital expenditure grew in double digits for the fourth consecutive year.
- India's merchandise exports fell by **3.1% in 2023-24**, driven by declines in global trade volume and commodity prices, while imports fell by 5.7%.
- The current account deficit (CAD) moderated to **1.2% of GDP** during April-December 2023 from 2.6% a year ago.
- Foreign exchange reserves rose to an all-time high of **US\$ 648.7 billion**, covering 11.4 months of imports.

5. Regulatory and Supervisory Developments

- Several regulatory and supervisory guidelines were issued to strengthen governance, risk management practices, and capital buffers.
- Guidelines included default loss guarantee in digital lending, framework for compromise settlements and technical write-offs, and prudential norms for investment portfolios of commercial banks.
- The Reserve Bank actively engaged with supervised entities to ensure compliance with governance and assurance functions and conducted comprehensive onsite cyber risk assessments.

6. Financial Inclusion and Digitalisation

- The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) improved from **56.4 in March 2022 to 60.1 in March 2023**, reflecting deepening financial inclusion.
- The rapid momentum of online retail and e-commerce drove overall growth in card transactions, with significant growth in the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- The UPI platform achieved significant milestones, surpassing **13 billion transactions in a single month in March 2024.**
- Enhancements in various payment systems continued to facilitate user access and convenience, including the introduction of near field communication (NFC) technology in UPI-Lite and 'Conversational Payments' on UPI.

7. Prospects for 2024-25

- The outlook for the Indian economy remains bright, underpinned by strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals, robust financial and corporate sectors, and a resilient external sector.
- The government's continued thrust on capex and fiscal consolidation, along with consumer and business optimism, bode well for investment and consumption demand.
- The prospects for agriculture and rural activity appear favorable, with the expected above-normal southwest monsoon and government initiatives to support the agriculture sector.
- Emerging sectors like renewable energy and semi-conductors are expected to advance rapidly, supported by government initiatives and budget allocations.





Most Important Current Affairs of April 2024

Hockey India Awards 2023

Hardik Singh and **Salima Tete** were named the **Players of the Year** for 2023 in the men’s and women’s categories, respectively, at the sixth annual **Hockey India Awards**.

During the event, Hockey India announced the **revival of the Hockey India League (HIL)**, which will return in **January 2025** after a hiatus since 2017. The revived league will feature **eight men’s teams** and **six women’s teams**, with auctions likely to be held after the **Paris Olympics**.

Huge Prize Pool

The awards ceremony saw teams and individuals felicitated for their achievements in the past year, with a total **prize pool of ₹7.56 crores**.

Honoring Past Achievements

Interestingly, the **2016 Junior World Cup winning men’s team** was also honored at the event, eight years after their triumph.

Notable Awards and Winners

- **Hardik Singh**, who was also the **FIH Player of the Year**, received the **Balbir Singh Sr. Trophy** and a cash prize of **₹25 lakhs**.
- The Indian teams that won the **Junior Asia Cups** and the **Asian Champions Trophy** (both men’s and women’s) were rewarded.
- The **men’s Asian Games winning side** was also felicitated.

Other Award Winners:

- **P.R. Sreejesh** (Goalkeeper of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Harmanpreet Singh** (Defender of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Hardik Singh** (Midfielder of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Abhishek** (Forward of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Deepika Soreng** (Women’s U-21 Player of the Year) – ₹10 lakhs
- **Arajjeet Singh Hundal** (Men’s U-21 Player of the Year) – ₹10 lakhs
- **Salima Tete** (Player of the Year, Women) – ₹25 lakhs
- **Ashok Kumar** (Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award) – ₹30 lakhs

The Hockey India Awards celebrated the outstanding performances of Indian hockey players and teams, while also recognizing the sport’s rich history and legacy.

Forbes World’s Billionaires List 2024: Indian Billionaires Make Their Mark

According to the Forbes 38th Annual World’s Billionaires List 2024, **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is the only Indian to make it to the list of the top 10 billionaires in the world. Ambani was ranked 9th on the list, which was topped by Bernard Arnault & family, owner of the French luxury giant LVMH.

Youngest Indian Billionaire:

Nikhil Kamath At the age of **37 years**, **Nikhil Kamath**, co-founder of **Zerodha**, is the **youngest Indian billionaire** in the Forbes list.

Global Wealth and Billionaire Count

According to the Forbes report, there are **2,781 billionaires** in the world from **77 countries**. The **combined wealth** of the billionaires was **\$14.2 trillion**, an increase of **\$2 trillion** from 2023.

Countries with the Highest Number of Billionaires

- **First:** The United States of America, with **813 billionaires** and a combined wealth of **\$5.7 trillion**.
- **Second:** China, with **406 billionaires** and a combined wealth of **\$1.3 trillion**.
- **Third:** India, with **200 billionaires** and a combined wealth of **\$954 billion**.
- **Fourth:** Germany, with **132 billionaires**.
- **Fifth:** Russia, with **120 billionaires**.

Top 10 Billionaires in the World

1. **Bernard Arnault & family** (France): \$233 billion
2. **Elon Musk** (USA): \$195 billion
3. **Jeff Bezos** (USA): \$194 billion
4. **Mark Zuckerberg** (USA): \$177 billion
5. **Larry Ellison** (USA): \$114 billion
6. **Warren Buffett** (USA): \$133 billion
7. **Bill Gates** (USA): \$128 billion
8. **Steve Ballmer** (USA): \$121 billion
9. **Mukesh Ambani** (India): \$116 billion
10. **Larry Page** (USA): \$114 billion

Top 10 Indian Billionaires

1. **Mukesh Ambani**: \$116 billion (9th globally)
2. **Gautam Adani**: \$84 billion (17th globally)
3. **Shiv Nadar**: \$36.9 billion (39th globally)
4. **Savitri Jindal & Family**: \$33.5 billion (46th globally)
5. **Dilip Shanghvi**: \$26.7 billion (69th globally)
6. **Cyrus Poonawala**: \$21.3 billion (90th globally)
7. **Kushal Pal Singh**: \$20.9 billion (92nd globally)
8. **Kumarmangalam Birla**: \$19.7 billion (98th globally)
9. **Radhakrishna Damani**: \$17.6 billion (107th globally)
10. **Lakshmi Mittal**: \$16.4 billion (113th globally)

About Forbes

Forbes is an American **multinational multimedia company** that covers **business, investing, entrepreneurship, technology, leadership**, and other topics.

RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate To Remain Steady For Seventh Time

RBI Monetary Policy Committee has decided by majority 5:1 to keep policy rates unchanged, **Governor Shaktikanta Das** announced on April 5. He also that core inflation has declined steadily. It is the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2024-25. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor** also announced MSF & Bank rates to continue to be at 6.75%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.





RBI Repo Rate are as under

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

Key Decisions From April MPC:

- CPI inflation in Q1 was seen at 4.9%, Q2 at 3.8%, Q3 at 4.6%, and Q4 at 4.5%, said Shaktikanta Das.
- Net FPI inflows stood at \$41.6 billion, compared with outflows in FY22 and FY23, said the RBI Governor.
- RBI will permit use of third-party UPI apps for making UPI payments from PPI wallets.
- RBI will introduce mobile app to operate in retail direct portal for retail investors.
- Total flow of resources to the commercial sector was at ₹31.2-lakh crore in FY24.

Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7 per cent.

- Q1 at 7.1 percent,
- Q2 at 6.9 per cent and
- Q3 and Q4 each at 7 percent

World Economic Forum Announces 2024 Young Global Leaders Community

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced the **20th edition of its Young Global Leaders Community**: The Class of 2024. The list includes nearly 90 individuals under the age of 40 from diverse fields, including politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.

Indians Included in the 2024 List

This year, five Indians have been selected for the Young Global Leaders program. They are:

1. Bhumi Pednekar (Art and Culture) – Bollywood actress known for films like “Dum Laga Ke Haisha”, “Toilet: Ek Prem Katha”, and “Badhaai Do”
2. Adwaita Nayar (Business) – Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
3. Arjun Bhartia (Business) – Director, Jubilant Group
4. Priya Aggarwal Hebbar (Business) – Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited
5. Sharad Vivek Sagar (Social Entrepreneurs) – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

About the Young Global Leaders Program

The WEF’s Young Global Leaders program was launched in 2005 and aims to identify the future generation of leaders who can contribute to addressing the world’s most pressing challenges. The program includes a three-year leadership development curriculum, executive education courses, learning journeys, and opportunities to collaborate with peers.

The World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum is an international non-profit organization headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. It was established in 1971 by Klaus Schwab with the goal of promoting public-private cooperation to address global issues. The WEF is known for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, as well as its research and reports, such as the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, and Energy Transition Index.

Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024: Unveiling the State of Global Startup Ecosystem

In 2024, the global unicorn landscape witnessed significant developments and challenges, as outlined in the **Hurun Global Unicorn Index**. While the **United States maintained its lead with 703 unicorns and China followed with 340, India ranked third with 67 unicorns**. However, India experienced a notable decline in unicorn creation for the first time since 2017, attributed primarily to a lack of investment despite robust stock market performance.

India’s Declining Unicorn Creation: A Concerning Trend

India, once a burgeoning hub for startups, witnessed a notable decline in unicorn creation for the first time since 2017, according to the **Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024**. Despite ranking third globally with 67 unicorns, India experienced a slowdown attributed mainly to a lack of investment, despite robust stock market performance.

Offshore Unicorn Creation: A Surprising Revelation

Contrary to the domestic slowdown, Indian founders showcased remarkable entrepreneurial prowess abroad. The report highlighted India’s role as a significant contributor to offshore unicorns, with 109 unicorns founded outside the country, surpassing the count within India.

Global Unicorn Landscape: Insights and Trends

The Hurun Global Unicorn Index cataloged 1,453 unicorns across 53 countries and 291 cities, reflecting the diverse and expansive nature of the startup ecosystem. While the US and China led in unicorn count, the index underscored the emergence of unicorns from diverse locations, including Australia and Malta.

Year of AI: Transformative Innovations and Valuation Surges

The year **2024 was hailed as “the year of AI,”** marked by notable advancements and valuation surges in **AI-driven startups**. OpenAI’s valuation soared to \$100 billion, symbolizing the growing influence of AI technologies globally, with notable contributions from startups in China and elsewhere.

Entrepreneurship Evolution: Global Expansion and Spinoffs

Entrepreneurship witnessed a golden era, with the number of unicorns tripling since 2019. While the US led in unicorn creation, China emerged as a significant player, driven by sectors like AI, semiconductors, and new energy. Moreover, spinoffs from larger companies, particularly in China, added to the diversity and innovation within the unicorn landscape.





Top 10 Unicorns: Key Players and Value Contribution

The top 10 unicorns represented a substantial portion of the world’s unicorn valuation, contributing \$198 billion in value addition. Notable newcomers like **OpenAI, Canva, and Binance** reshaped the unicorn hierarchy, highlighting the evolving dynamics of the global startup ecosystem.

105 Years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The **Amritsar Massacre**, also known as the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**, remains one of the darkest episodes in India’s struggle for independence. On **April 13, 1919, General Dyer** ordered his soldiers to open fire on an unarmed gathering in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, leading to hundreds of deaths and injuries. In **2024, India observes 105th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** which serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom. The repercussions of this atrocity continue to reverberate through history, influencing political discourse and public memory.

Background of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The **aftermath of World War I** saw heightened expectations among Indians for greater political autonomy from British colonial rule. However, instead of easing repressive emergency powers, the **British government passed the Rowlatt Acts in 1919**, further inflaming tensions. Widespread discontent, particularly in the Punjab region, set the stage for a confrontation between Indian nationalists and British authorities.

The Buildup to Tragedy

The **arrest and banishment** of prominent **Indian leaders in Amritsar** sparked violent protests on **April 10, 1919**. Amidst the chaos, **Brig. Gen. Reginald Edward Harry Dyer** was tasked with restoring order, imposing a ban on public gatherings and escalating tensions in the city.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Unfolds

On **April 13**, a peaceful gathering of thousands at **Jallianwala Bagh**, enclosed by walls with only one exit, became the site of unspeakable horror. Without warning, British troops under Dyer’s command opened fire on the unarmed crowd, trapping them within the confines of the space. The indiscriminate shooting continued until the soldiers ran out of ammunition, leaving hundreds dead and many more wounded.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre – Consequences

News of the massacre spread rapidly, sparking outrage across India and beyond. **Rabindranath Tagore** renounced his **knighthood in protest**, while **Mohandas Gandhi**, initially hesitant to act, launched the **noncooperation movement** in response to the atrocity. The British government ordered an investigation, resulting in Dyer’s censure and resignation from the military. However, reactions in Britain were mixed, with some praising Dyer as a hero.

Legacy of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The Jallianwala Bagh site, now a national monument, serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the struggle for Indian independence. The massacre left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and galvanized the Indian nationalist movement, paving the way for future resistance against colonial rule.

World Cybercrime Index Unveiled: Russia and Ukraine Top List

A newly developed **World Cybercrime Index** sheds light on the origins and prevalence of cybercrime across the globe. Compiled by a team of researchers including Miranda Bruce, Jonathan Lusthaus, Ridhi Kashyap, Nigel Phair, and Federico Varese, the index draws insights from surveys conducted among leading cybercrime experts worldwide. Despite challenges in pinpointing cybercriminal locations due to sophisticated masking techniques, the index identifies key countries where cybercrime thrives, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted preventive measures.

Research Methodology and Findings

The index is based on a comprehensive survey completed by 92 top cybercrime experts. Through expert focus groups and pilots, the survey refined insights into five categories of cybercrime: technical products/services, attacks/extortion, data/identity theft, scams, and cashing out/money laundering. Results highlight a concentration of cybercriminal activity in select countries, with **China, Russia, Ukraine, the United States, Romania, and Nigeria** consistently ranking among the top 10 across all categories.

Key Rankings and Insights

- Russia and Ukraine emerge as the top two hubs of cybercrime, according to the index.
- India secures the 10th position, scoring notably in impact, professionalism, and technical skills.
- China and the United States closely follow, showcasing their prominence in cybercriminal activities.
- Certain cybercrimes are associated with specific countries, such as data/identity theft with the United States and technical products/services with China.





Implications and Limitations

While the index offers valuable insights for cybercrime research and preventive efforts, it faces limitations. The pool of experts surveyed may not represent global diversity adequately, potentially skewing results. Moreover, interpretations of survey questions could introduce inaccuracies. Additionally, the index does not fully address the complex landscape of state-sponsored cybercrime and profit-driven illicit activities, signaling the need for further research and nuanced approaches to combatting cyber threats.

RBI Penalizes Five Co-operative Banks with Rs 60.3 Lakh Fine

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties totaling Rs 60.3 lakh on five co-operative banks for contravening various regulatory norms. These penalties primarily stem from non-compliance with specific directives issued by the RBI, encompassing bans on loans and advances to directors and their relatives, restrictions on opening savings accounts for certain entities, and maintenance of deposit accounts.

Penalty Breakdown

- **Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank:** Fined Rs 43.30 lakh for violations related to loans to directors and their relatives, prohibition on certain savings account openings, and deposit account maintenance.
- **The Kangra Co-operative Bank (New Delhi):** Penalized Rs 5 lakh.
- **Rajdhani Nagar Sahkari Bank (Lucknow):** Also fined Rs 5 lakh.
- **Zila Sahakari Bank, Garhwal (Kotdwar, Uttarakhand):** Subject to a Rs 5 lakh penalty.
- **District Co-operative Bank (Dehradun):** Imposed with a penalty of Rs 2.

RBI's Stance

The RBI clarified that these penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pass judgment on the validity of any transactions or agreements made by these banks with their respective customers.

Indian Girls Shine at 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2024

The 13th edition of the prestigious **European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO)** took place in the picturesque city of **Tskaltubo, Georgia**, from April 11 to 17, 2024. Amidst fierce competition, the Indian contingent emerged victorious, showcasing their remarkable mathematical prowess and securing a coveted haul of medals.

Medal Tally: A Resounding Success

The 4-member Indian team clinched a total of four medals, including two **silver** and two **bronze**, in the 13th EGMO 2024. The illustrious medal winners are:

Student's Name	Location (State)	Award/Medal
Gunjan Agarwal	Gurgaon, Haryana	Silver Medal
Sanjana Philo Chacko	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Silver Medal
Larissa	Hisar, Haryana	Bronze Medal
Sae Vithal Patil	Pune, Maharashtra	Bronze Medal

Guiding Force: A Dedicated Mentorship

The Indian team's success can be attributed to the unwavering guidance and support provided by the esteemed mentors, **Sahil Mhaskar** (Head), **Ms. Aditi Muthkhode** (Deputy Head), and **Ms. Ananya Ranade** (Supervisor) from the **Chennai Mathematical Institute**. Their mentorship has been instrumental in shaping the team's exceptional performance.

A Remarkable Milestone

This achievement marks the second time in India's EGMO journey, which began in 2015, that all four participants have secured medals at the prestigious competition. This feat not only celebrates the individual brilliance of the participants but also highlights India's growing stature in the global mathematical arena.

Nurturing Excellence: TIFR-HBCSE's Pivotal Role

The **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) – Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education (HBCSE)** serves as India's nodal center for Olympiad programs in various disciplines, including Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, and Junior Science. With structured training through the **EGMO Training Camp (EGMOTC)** and continuous support from the **National Board of Higher Mathematics** (Department of Atomic Energy), HBCSE plays a pivotal role in nurturing and preparing talented students for prestigious international competitions.

Felicitation Ceremony: Celebrating Excellence

To honor the achievements of the Indian delegation, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the Main Building of HBCSE on the morning of April 18, 2024. The ceremony served as a platform to celebrate the remarkable success of these young mathematical prodigies and acknowledge their dedication and hard work.

As India continues to foster an environment that nurtures and encourages excellence in the field of mathematics, the achievements of the Indian team at the 13th EGMO 2024 serve as a testament to the nation's commitment to promoting and recognizing exceptional talent on the global stage.

International Mother Earth Day 2024

On April 22nd, the world will unite to commemorate the 54th **International Mother Earth Day**. This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the critical need to address the mounting environmental challenges threatening our planet, including **rapidly rising pollution levels, deforestation, and global warming**.





The Origins of Earth Day

The concept of Earth Day originated in 1970, when Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin proposed a nationwide teach-in to raise awareness about **environmental degradation**. Inspired by the widespread student protests against the Vietnam War, Nelson envisioned channeling that energy into a grassroots movement to address the growing ecological crisis.

With the help of Denis Hayes, a young activist, and Pete McCloskey, a Republican Congressman, Nelson's idea gained traction, and on April 22, 1970, **20 million Americans** participated in various events across the country, marking the birth of the modern environmental movement.

The Theme of Earth Day 2024: "Planet vs. Plastics"

This year's theme, "**Planet vs. Plastics**," aims to shed light on the detrimental effects of **plastic pollution** on human and environmental health. The proliferation of single-use plastics has led to a staggering accumulation of waste, clogging waterways, endangering marine life, and contributing to the global climate crisis.

The Significance of Earth Day

- Raising Awareness:** Earth Day serves as a powerful platform to educate and engage people on pressing environmental issues, fostering a deeper understanding of our collective impact on the planet.
- Inspiring Action:** Beyond awareness, Earth Day encourages individuals and communities to take tangible steps towards sustainability, such as participating in cleanups, planting trees, and adopting eco-friendly practices in their daily lives.
- Building a Global Movement:** Earth Day unites people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, creating a global network of environmental advocates who collaborate, share ideas, and support one another in their efforts to protect the planet.
- Shifting Mindsets:** By celebrating Earth Day, we are reminded of our intrinsic connection to nature and the importance of respecting and preserving the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

The Call to Action

As we approach Earth Day 2024, it is crucial that we heed the call to action and actively participate in the global efforts to safeguard our planet. Whether through individual choices, community initiatives, or advocacy for stronger environmental policies, each of us has a role to play in creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

Let us embrace the spirit of International Mother Earth Day and pledge to be responsible stewards of our planet, fostering a harmonious coexistence with nature and ensuring a thriving, resilient Earth for all.

National Panchayati Raj Day Observed on April 24th every year

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on **April 24th** to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India. This decentralized form of governance, introduced by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993**, aimed to empower **local self-governing bodies**, known as Gram Panchayats, at the village level.

The Origins of Panchayati Raj

The concept of Panchayati Raj has its roots in ancient Indian tradition, where village councils, or Panchayats, played a crucial role in local administration. However, it was not until the late 20th century that the system was revived and granted constitutional status.

In 1957, the Balwantrai Mehta Committee was formed to study the process of **democratic decentralization** and recommend measures to revive the Panchayati Raj system. The committee's recommendations led to the establishment of a three-tier system of Panchayats at the village, block, and district levels.

Significance of Panchayati Raj

The Panchayati Raj system aims to promote **participatory democracy** by involving citizens in decision-making processes that directly impact their communities. It empowers local bodies to plan and implement development programs tailored to their specific needs.

By decentralizing power, the Panchayati Raj system ensures that development initiatives are more inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of rural areas. It also fosters transparency and accountability by bringing governance closer to the people.

National Panchayati Raj Day 2024: Celebrating Achievements

On **National Panchayati Raj Day 2024**, the nation will celebrate the 31st anniversary of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. While there may not be a specific theme announced, the day will be marked by events and award ceremonies recognizing the outstanding work of Panchayats across the country.

These awards serve as a way to appreciate the efforts of local self-governing bodies in improving the lives of rural households and promoting sustainable development. They also encourage best practices and inspire other Panchayats to strive for excellence.

Strengthening Local Governance

As India continues on its path of inclusive growth, the importance of effective local administration cannot be overstated. Panchayati Raj institutions play a crucial role in addressing challenges such as climate change, rural-urban migration, and ensuring equitable development.

On this National Panchayati Raj Day, it is essential to reflect on the successes and challenges faced by Panchayati Raj institutions and explore ways to further **strengthen** and empower them. By doing so, India can build a robust and truly participatory democracy that leaves no one behind.





The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024 Announced

The prestigious **2024 Laureus Sports Awards** ceremony, held in Madrid, was a grand celebration of the world’s best athletes and their remarkable achievements. The event honored several sporting icons who have left an indelible mark on their respective disciplines.

Laureus World Sportsman of the Year: Novak Djokovic

Novak Djokovic, the world’s top-ranked tennis player, etched his name in the annals of Laureus history by becoming the **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time**. This achievement matched Roger Federer’s record for the most decorated male athlete in this category. Djokovic had previously won this coveted award in 2012, 2015, 2016, and 2019.

Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year: Aitana Bonmatí

In a historic moment, **Aitana Bonmatí**, a football star from Barcelona and the Spanish national team, became the first footballer to be named the **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year**. Her exceptional skills and sportsmanship on the pitch were celebrated, marking a significant milestone for the sport.

Comeback of the Year: Simone Biles

Simone Biles, the American artistic gymnast, added another accolade to her impressive collection. With 37 World and Olympic medals, she is now the most decorated gymnast in history. Her remarkable comeback and outstanding contributions to the sport were duly recognized at the awards ceremony.

Breakthrough of the Year: Jude Bellingham

Jude Bellingham, an English professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Real Madrid and the England national team, was honored for his breakthrough performances. Carlos Alcaraz, a tennis ace and a Real Madrid fan, presented the award to Bellingham, acknowledging his contributions to the sport.

Sporting Legends Gracing the Ceremony

The event was graced by sporting legends who presented awards to the winners. **Tom Brady**, a seven-time Super Bowl champion, and **Usain Bolt**, the sprinting GOAT, presented the awards to Djokovic and Bonmatí, respectively, adding to the event’s grandeur and significance.

Other Notable Awards

- **Team of the Year Award:** Spain Women’s Football Team
- **Action Sportsperson of the Year Award:** Arisa Trew
- **Laureus Sport for Good Award:** Fundación Rafa Nadal
- **Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award:** Diede de Groot

About the Laureus Sports Awards

The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual event that celebrates remarkable sporting achievements and showcases the initiatives of Laureus Sport for Good. Shortlists for various categories are created through votes from over 1,000 sports media professionals from more than 70 countries, while the International Paralympic Committee shortlists the World Athlete of the Year with a Disability.

The winners in each category are determined by votes from the Laureus World Sports Academy, a unique group of sporting legends. The event provides a platform for supporting Laureus Sport for Good by showcasing the incredible work done to transform young lives worldwide.

The 2024 Laureus Sports Awards ceremony was a fitting tribute to the world’s greatest athletes and their achievements, highlighting the values of sportsmanship, perseverance, and excellence that inspire generations.

Most Important Current Affairs of March 2024

Oscars 2024 Announced, Check Full List of Winners

The **Oscars 2024 ceremony** took place at the **Dolby Theater in Los Angeles**, with **Jimmy Kimmel** hosting for the fourth time. The film **“Oppenheimer”** emerged as the big winner, earning 13 nominations and taking home prestigious awards, including Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Picture.

Cillian Murphy’s performance in the title role of **“Oppenheimer”** earned him the Best Actor award, continuing his successful run after winning similar honors at other major award shows like the Golden Globes, BAFTAs, and Screen Actors Guild Awards. The film **“Poor Things”** also had a notable presence, winning awards in the categories of Hair and Makeup, Production Design, and Costume Design.

The **Malayalam film “Everyone is a Hero” (2023)**, which was chosen as India’s official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 2024 Academy Awards, has been eliminated from the Oscars race. Despite being the country’s representative, the film did not make it to the final shortlist of nominations in that category.

Oscars 2024 Announced, Check Full List of Winners

The film **“Oppenheimer”** had a triumphant night at the **96th Academy Awards**, securing a remarkable seven Oscars, including some of the most prestigious categories.

Category	Winner
Best Supporting Actress	Da’Vine Joy Randolph, “The Holdovers”
Best Animated Short	“War Is Over!”
Best Animated Feature	“The Boy and the Heron”
Best Original Screenplay	“Anatomy of a Fall”
Best Adapted Screenplay	“American Fiction”
Best Makeup and Hairstyling	“Poor Things”
Best Production Design	“Poor Things”
Best Costume Design	“Poor Things”
Best International Feature	“The Zone of Interest”
Best Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., “Oppenheimer”
Best Visual Effects	“Godzilla Minus One”
Best Film Editing	“Oppenheimer”





Category	Winner
Best Documentary (Short Subject)	"The Last Repair Shop"
Best Documentary Feature	"20 Days in Mariupol"
Best Cinematography	"Oppenheimer"
Best Short Film (Live Action)	"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"
Best Sound	"The Zone of Interest"
Best Score	"Oppenheimer"
Best Song	"What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie"
Best Actor	Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
Best Actress	Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
Best Picture	"Oppenheimer"

India Jumps 14 Ranks on UNDP Gender Inequality Index

According to the **Human Development Report 2023-2024** released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, India has made significant progress in bridging the gender divide. The country has improved its ranking by **14 positions** on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 compared to the previous year.

In the **GII 2022**, India ranked **108 out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437**. This marks a significant improvement from the 2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries, with a score of 0.490. Over the past decade, India's rank in the **GII** has consistently improved, indicating steady progress towards achieving gender equality.

The Gender Inequality Index

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a composite measure that evaluates gender inequality across three dimensions:

1. Reproductive health
2. Empowerment
3. Labor market participation

It takes into account indicators such as maternal mortality ratio, adolescent birth rate, percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, population with secondary education by gender, and labour force participation by gender. A lower **GII** value indicates lower inequality between women and men.

The 2023-2024 HDR builds on the 2021-2022 Human Development Report findings, which saw the global HDI value fall for the first time—two years in a row. This report reveals that human development recovery is uneven in nature. While wealthy countries are showing signs of robust recovery, the poorest are struggling. All the member countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have surpassed their 2019 HDI level. But among least developed countries, only one in two have recovered their already low pre-crisis HDI levels.

Top-Ranked Countries

The top-ranked countries in the **GII 2022** are:

1. Denmark
2. Norway
3. Switzerland
4. Sweden
5. Netherlands

India's Progress on Gender Inequality Index

Year	Rank	Score
2022	108	0.437
2021	122	0.490
2020	123	0.493
2019	122	0.501
2018	127	0.501

India's commitment to accelerating economic growth and improving the quality of life for its citizens is reflected in its steady progress on the Gender Inequality Index and other human development indicators.

Human Development Index (HDI)

India's Human Development Index (HDI) value has also increased to 0.644 in 2022, placing the country at the **134th spot out of 193 countries and territories**. This improvement comes after a drop in HDI value in 2021 and a flat trend over the past few years.

Since 1990, India has made remarkable progress in human development, with increases in life expectancy, expected years of schooling, mean years of schooling, and per-capita gross national income (GNI).

GOI Approves Electric Vehicle Policy to Boost Local Manufacturing

The **Indian government** made a landmark announcement on **March 15**, approving a comprehensive scheme aimed at positioning India as a global hub for **electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing**. This policy, designed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, seeks to entice significant investments from renowned global EV manufacturers into the Indian market. The essence of the policy is to foster innovation, attract investments, and make advanced technology accessible within the country.

Key Policy Highlights

- **Minimum Investment:** Companies are required to invest at least Rs 4,150 crore, with the policy not capping the maximum possible investment. This move is to ensure substantial financial influx into the EV sector.
- **Manufacturing Timeline:** The policy allows a three-year window for companies to establish their manufacturing facilities in India, commencing commercial production of EVs.





- **Local Sourcing:** A notable feature of this initiative is the mandate for companies to achieve a 25% localisation level by the end of the third year and 50% by the fifth year, promoting domestic industries and components.
- **Import Benefits:** To kickstart the transition, the government has permitted companies to import up to 8,000 EVs annually at a reduced customs duty of 15% on cars valued over \$35,000. This is a significant reduction from the current tariffs of 70% to 100%.
- **Incentive Caps and Conditions:** The duty waiver on imported EVs is directly linked to the company's investment or an equivalent incentive under the PLI scheme (capped at Rs 6,484 crore), whichever is lower. Furthermore, the policy outlines a limit of 40,000 EVs over five years, provided the investment hits the \$800 million mark.

Ensuring Compliance and Promoting Domestic Growth

To ensure that companies adhere to their commitments, a bank guarantee equivalent to the customs duty savings is required. This guarantee stands as a compliance measure, safeguarding the policy's objectives and ensuring that the benefits are accurately aligned with investments and local sourcing milestones.

A Leap Towards Sustainable Mobility

This policy is a strategic step towards enhancing the EV ecosystem in India, promoting the Make in India initiative, and ensuring access to cutting-edge technology. It aligns with the global shift towards sustainable transportation solutions, positioning India as a significant player in the EV manufacturing sector. Through this policy, the government aims not only to attract foreign investments but also to stimulate domestic production capabilities, fostering an environment conducive to the growth of the electric vehicle industry in India.

India's Human Development Index ranking 134 out of 193 countries

India's position in the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) for 2022 improved slightly, ranking **134 out of 193 countries with an HDI value of 0.644**. This signifies progress in various dimensions of human development, albeit with a continued need to focus on women-led development, as highlighted by the UNDP.

India's HDI Trends

Between 1990 and 2022, India experienced a significant increase in its HDI value by **48.4%, from 0.434 to 0.644**, placing it in the medium human development category. The country's HDI improvement reflects advancements in life expectancy, education, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

India's Gender Inequality Progress

India has shown progress in reducing gender inequality, ranking **108 out of 166 countries** in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022. Despite improvements, there remains a significant gender gap in the labor force participation rate, with a difference of 47.8 percentage points between women and men.

Performance of India's Neighbors

Comparatively, India's neighbors vary in their human development achievements. Sri Lanka and China are ranked higher, categorized under the High Human Development category. Nepal and Pakistan have been ranked even lower in the HDI index.

Global Inequality Trends

The global HDI is projected to reach record highs in 2023, yet inequality persists. Rich countries have achieved record levels of human development, while half of the world's poorest countries remain below their pre-crisis levels, exacerbating global inequality and stoking political polarization.

Key Country Rankings in HDI 2022

Rank	Country	HDI Value	Change from 2021
75	China	0.788	+0.003
78	Iran	0.780	+0.004
78	Sri Lanka	0.780	-0.003
87	Maldives	0.762	+0.009
125	Bhutan	0.681	+0.004
129	Bangladesh	0.670	+0.008
134	India	0.644	+0.011
146	Nepal	0.601	+0.010
164	Pakistan	0.540	+0.003
182	Afghanistan	0.462	-0.011

These rankings highlight the varying degrees of human development across countries and underscore the need for concerted efforts to address inequalities and foster inclusive development globally.

PM Narendra Modi Presents National Creators Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the **first-ever National Creators Award** at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event marked a significant milestone in recognizing and celebrating creators who have made impactful contributions across various domains.

Awards span 20 categories including storytelling, and social change

The National Creators Award encompasses **20 categories**, highlighting the diversity and depth of creativity across different fields. From storytelling to social change advocacy, environmental sustainability to education, and gaming among others, the awards aim to acknowledge excellence and innovation that drives positive change in society.





Several social media influencers receive awards

Among the recipients of the National Creators Award were notable social media influencers who have captivated audiences with their content and message. Prime Minister Modi presented awards to individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields, inspiring millions with their creativity and vision. Here is the list of winners:

Winner	Award
Jaya Kishori	Best Creator for Social Change
Kabita Singh (Kabita's Kitchen)	Best Creator in Food Category
Drew Hicks	Best International Creator
Kamiya Jani	Favourite Travel Creator
Ranveer Allahbadia (BeerBiceps)	Disruptor of the Year
RJ Raunac (Bauaa)	Most Creative Creator-Male
Shraddha Jain	Most Creative Creator (Female)
Aridaman	Best Micro Creator
Nishchay	Best Creator in Gaming Category
Ankit Baiyanpuria	Best Health and Fitness Creator
Naman Deshmukh	Best Creator in Education Category
Jahnvi Singh	Heritage Fashion Icon
Malhar Kalambe	Swachhta Ambassador
Gaurav Chaudhary	Best Creator in Tech Category
Maithili Thakur	Cultural Ambassador of The Year
Pankhti Pandey	Favourite Green Champion
Keerthika Govindasamy	Best Storyteller
Aman Gupta	Celebrity Creator

Triumph of Creativity at the National Creators Award

The winners, including three international creators, were selected from over 1.5 lakh nominations, highlighting the extensive reach and impact of their work. The National Creators Award serves as a testament to the power of creativity in driving positive change and inspiring millions around the world.

Finland Tops Happiness Rankings For 7th Year, Afghanistan Ranks Last

The **World Happiness Report** is an annual survey conducted by the United Nations. It ranks countries based on factors like **life satisfaction, GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.**

For the seventh year in a row, **Finland** has been named the **happiest country** in the world. Other **Nordic countries** like **Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden** also ranked among the top 10 happiest nations.

World's 10 Happiest Countries in 2024

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Sweden
5	Israel
6	Netherlands
7	Norway
8	Luxembourg
9	Switzerland
10	Australia

Afghanistan Remains the Unhappiest Country

At the bottom of the list is **Afghanistan**, which has been plagued by a **humanitarian crisis** since the **Taliban** regained control in 2020.

Notable Changes in Rankings

The **United States** and **Germany** dropped out of the top 20 happiest countries for the first time, ranking 23rd and 24th, respectively.

Costa Rica and **Kuwait** entered the top 20 at positions 12 and 13. The report noted that the happiest countries no longer include any of the world's **largest countries.**

India's Ranking and Factors Affecting Life Satisfaction

India ranked **126** in the happiness index, the same as the previous year.

Factors like **marital status, social engagement, and physical health** also influence life satisfaction among older Indians.

Satisfaction with living arrangements emerges as a critical factor, reflecting the strong desire among older Indians to age in place and maintain autonomy and social bonds.

India has the second-largest older population globally, with 140 million individuals aged 60 and above, trailing only China. The report said that older Indian men, particularly those in higher age brackets, presently married, and those with an education, tend to report greater life satisfaction compared to their counterparts.

Among older Indians, factors such as dissatisfaction with living arrangements, perceived discrimination, and poor self-rated health are linked to lower life satisfaction. Education level, social caste, and contentment with living arrangements also play a significant role in life satisfaction.





Happiness Trends

The sharpest decline in happiness since 2006-10 was observed in **Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Jordan**.

The biggest increases in happiness were reported in the Eastern European countries of **Serbia, Bulgaria, and Latvia**.

Happiness inequality increased in every region except Europe, which the report described as a “worrying trend”.

Factors Contributing to Finland’s Happiness

According to a happiness researcher from the University of Helsinki, some key factors contributing to Finland’s happiness include:

Close connection to nature

Healthy work-life balance

Attainable understanding of success (not solely focused on financial gain)

Strong welfare society

Trust in state authorities

Low levels of corruption

Free healthcare and education

Generational Differences in Happiness

The report found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in most regions of the world, except for:

North America

Australia

New Zealand

In these regions, happiness among groups under 30 has dropped dramatically since 2006-10, with older generations now happier than the young.

Most Important Current Affairs of February 2024

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 Sampooran 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.

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 – Savannah 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

S.No	Category	Winner
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
85th	India	62

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 Khurranna	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

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)
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, Divvyaa Gambhir, Nidhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
Best Sound Design	Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
Best Editing	Jaskunwar Singh Kohli- Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)

- Outstanding Contribution to the Music Industry: KJ Yesudas

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

1. **Total Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates `11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure, marking a 16.9% surge over the RE for 2023-24.
2. **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

1. **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.
2. **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

1. **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**.
2. **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

1. **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).





2. **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

1. **Fiscal Deficit:** The fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is projected at `16,85,494 crore, constituting **5.1% of the Nominal GDP.**
2. **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.**
3. **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

1. **Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates ₹11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure in 2024-25, reflecting a strategic commitment to investment in critical areas.
2. **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.
3. **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)

1. **Pension:** ₹2,39,612 crore is allocated, recognizing the importance of honoring commitments to retired personnel.
2. **Defence:** A substantial allocation of ₹4,54,773 crore emphasizes the government's commitment to national security.
3. **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.
4. **Agriculture and Allied Activities:** ₹1,46,819 crore is earmarked for the development of agriculture and allied sectors.
5. **Education:** A significant allocation of **₹1,24,638 crore** underscores the importance of investing in education for national progress.
6. **Health:** ₹90,171 crore is allocated to the health sector, reflecting the government's commitment to public well-being.

7. **Interest Payments:** With ₹11,90,440 crore allocated, managing interest payments remains a critical component of fiscal planning.
8. **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
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	Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain’s fusion band ‘Shakti’
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
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.

Farmers Protest 2.0: Key Demands Explained

Farmers affiliated with the **Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM)** and the **Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)** are marching from Punjab and Haryana towards Delhi to demand key reforms. Their primary demand is the enactment of a law guaranteeing a **minimum support price (MSP)** for crops, addressing uncertainties in the market.

Guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) Law

- Demand for a law ensuring MSP for all crops.
- Insistence on legal assurance due to unmet promises by the government.
- Desire for MSP on every crop, citing the government's role in procurement for public distribution.

Implementation of MS Swaminathan Committee Recommendations

- Urgent implementation of recommendations, including a minimum 50% increase in MSP.
- Acknowledgment of Swaminathan's contribution, recently honored with Bharat Ratna.
- Farmers seek economic security and fair pricing mechanisms.

Other Demands

- Pension of Rs 10,000/month for farmers above 60 years.
- Stronger actions against accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.
- Grant of land in Delhi for a memorial honoring previous protest "martyrs".
- Justice for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri tragedy.
- Waiver of farm debts and withdrawal of police cases from previous protests.

Despite government proposals for committee formation, farmer representatives remain skeptical. Political support from AAP and Congress aligns with farmers' cause. Punjab Chief Minister criticizes Haryana's attempts to block the protest march. The steadfastness of the farmers signals a prolonged standoff unless their demands are adequately addressed.

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.





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.

National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of July 2024

- Air India is establishing **South Asia's largest flight training school** in **Maharashtra's Amravati** district with an investment of **over ₹200 crore**. Scheduled to open in the first quarter of the next financial year, this initiative aims to secure a steady pipeline of pilots for the airline, which will require 500-700 pilots annually to support its expansion plans following a mega order of 470 Airbus and Boeing aircraft in 2023.
- **Union Minister of Mines, G. Kishan Reddy**, along with Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey, inaugurated the District Mineral Foundation (**DMF**) **Gallery at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi** on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024. The gallery showcases products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana and those supported by mining companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- The **Government of India** announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The **Smart Cities Mission**, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until **March 31, 2025**. This extension marks a crucial phase in India's journey towards creating technologically advanced and livable urban spaces.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** hosted the **T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team** for breakfast on June 4. The team led by skipper **Rohit Sharma** arrived in Delhi in the early morning from **Bridgetown in Barbados**, where it was stranded for five days owing to a Category-4 hurricane.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** presided over the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, presenting Gallantry Awards to distinguished servicemen and women.
- In a significant move to boost entrepreneurship, **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced an **80% reduction** in licensing fees for **women entrepreneurs** and a **50% reduction for MSMEs** under the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**. This initiative aims to encourage greater participation from women and MSMEs in the petroleum and explosives sectors, balancing industry compliance with public safety.
- India is gearing up to host the prestigious **Malabar naval exercise** alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia in the **Bay of Bengal this October**. This comes amidst escalating regional tensions fueled by China's assertive actions in the South China Sea and its expanding footprint across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. The **28th edition of the exercise** will focus on advanced **anti-submarine warfare** and aims to enhance military interoperability among the four countries.
- The **Government of India** has mandated that all stainless **steel and aluminium utensils** conform to the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. According to a press release by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, this directive, **effective from March 14, 2024**, under the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, makes the ISI mark compulsory for these utensils.





- India, represented by a high-level delegation led by **Shri T.K. Ramachandaran, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, has taken a prominent role in shaping international maritime policies at the **132nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London**. The session, which began on July 8, 2024, and continues until July 12, 2024, addresses critical issues and proposals for the future of global maritime operations.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **INS Towers** at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.
- The Centre has strengthened the authority of the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir** through amendments to the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**. The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has achieved a significant milestone on **social media platform X, surpassing 100 million followers**. This milestone solidifies his position as the **most followed global leader on X**, far ahead of other world figures such as **US President Joe Biden, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed, and Pope Francis**.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** on July 14, inaugurated the **Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence** in all 55 districts of the state from **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Many dignitaries, including the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav** and Union Minister **Smt. Savitri Thakur** were present on the occasion.
- India is set to launch its **first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933'**, alongside an email service under the name **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra)**. Scheduled for launch by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report **drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7**.
- The **Indian government** has released the first tranche of **USD 2.5 million** to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its **annual contribution of USD 5 million** for the year **2024-25**. The **UNRWA**, which has carried out direct relief and works **programmes for registered Palestinian refugees** since **1950**, is making efforts to keep up its functioning in the middle of the **Israel-Hamas war in Gaza**.
- India has announced a **fresh list of 346 military hardware** items that will only be procured from state-run domestic manufacturers after a ban on their import kicks in under a staggered timeline. This is part of a broader initiative to boost domestic defence industries and reduce import dependence.
- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** recently inaugurated Asia's inaugural health research-related **"Pre-clinical Network Facility"** at Faridabad's **Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI)**. This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as **Asia's first and the 9th globally** to handle BSL3 pathogens.
- The **Ministry of Education** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education. This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years.
- In a significant move to bolster India's international relations, **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar** embarked on a two-day visit to Mauritius on July 16 and 17, 2024. This visit marked a crucial step in reinforcing the strong bonds between India and Mauritius, two nations with deep historical and cultural ties.
- India has successfully completed its **4th periodic review** by the **Human Rights Committee** under the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva**, showcasing its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.
- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, launched in September 2023 by key G20 members including India, the United States, and Brazil, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development. The Indian government is preparing to sign a headquarters agreement with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives.
- The theme of the **India Mobile Congress 2024, 'The Future is Now'**, was unveiled on July 19 by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region on July 18. The theme signifies how India stands at the heart of the technological evolution and **IMC 2024** bringing together global leaders, **visionaries, pioneers**, and innovators to collaborate and actively shape the technologies transforming our world today, where the future isn't just a concept, it's happening.





- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an event on **18th July 2024**, named **“Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam”**. Celebrating Achievements, Inspiring Excellence to felicitate best performers under **PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Yojana** and **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**.
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- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a **Mini-Ratna PSU** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved a notable milestone by advancing to the **Scheduled ‘A’ category** of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). This upgrade from **‘Schedule B’** was announced by the Ministry of Railways in an office memorandum dated July 19, 2024.
- **Three training institutes of DoT**– National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (**NTIPRIT**), the National Institute of Communication Finance (**NICF**) and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (**WMTDC**) have been merged into a single administrative entity, named **‘National Communications Academy’ (NCA)** with immediate effect. The Minister of Communications (MoC) approved the merger of these entities on the recommendation of the **Committee for Organisational Reforms**.
- India’s National Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly, just days before the country attained Independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.
- **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** on July 22, joined hands towards building **joint innovation programmes in the Global South**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India’s contribution of **one million dollars** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy is observing **Shiksha Saptah from July 22 to July 28, 2024**, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The Indian Railways has been allocated a record **capital expenditure (Capex) of Rs 2,62,200 crore** for the fiscal year 2024-25, maintaining the same level as announced in the **Interim Budget 2024**.
- In the Regular Union Budget for FY 2024-25, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has received an allocation of **Rs 6,21,940.85 crore (approximately US \$75 billion)**, marking the highest allocation among all ministries.
- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially.
- **Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy**, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, launched **SIMS 2.0**, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** has renamed two important halls in **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, formerly known as **‘Durbar Hall’** and **‘Ashok Hall’**, to **‘Ganatantra Mandap’** and **‘Ashok Mandap’** respectively.
- **India’s installed nuclear power capacity** is set to increase from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32, according to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- **Mankind Pharma** has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in **Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV)** from Advent International.
- **India** has taken over the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for the year 2024-25, succeeding China.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on July 27, 2024, at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi**.
- The Government has approved setting up of 7 (Seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region. Apparel (**PM MITRA Parks** in Greenfield/Brownfield sites (including a Greenfield project in Virudhanagar Tamil Nadu) with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28.
- To fulfill Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of disaster resilient India, Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country.





National Current Affairs of June 2024

- The Centre has introduced a new numbering series, **160xxxxxx**, for making service or transactional calls. This move aims to help citizens easily identify legitimate calls and curb unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers using 10-digit mobile numbers.
- India created a world record with **64.2 crore voters**, including **31.2 crore women**, participating in the **Lok Sabha Election 2024**. Chief Election commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** said that the number is 1.5 times of the voters of all **G7 countries – US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada**.
- **Om Birla**, the incumbent **Lok Sabha Speaker**, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning the **Kota parliamentary seat on June 4, 2024**. With a resounding margin of **41,139 votes**, Birla has become the first **presiding officer in 20 years** to be re-elected to the **Lower House of Parliament**.
- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman, HRI Sanjay Kumar Agarwal**, officially launched the **GST Bhawan**, the official complex of the **Central Board of Indirect Tax (CGST) Rohtak Commissionerate, in Rohtak, Haryana**. At the inaugural ceremony were **Shri Shashank Priya, Member of CBIC (GST, Legal, CX & ST)**, together with officers and staff from the **CGST Rohtak Commissionerate, Panchkula Zone**, and senior CBIC officers.
- **NOTA** created a **record with 2.18 lakh voters in Madhya Pradesh's Indore** opting for the 'none of the above' option in the Lok Sabha elections, counting for which is underway on Tuesday. Of the total voters, **14.01 per cent opted for 'None of the Above', introduced in 2013** following a Supreme Court order.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) South Asia Regional Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), Government of India, organized the **National Stakeholder Workshop on Safe, Trusted, and Ethical AI at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi**. This event, following the approval of the IndiaAI Mission by the Government of India, marks a significant step towards enhancing India's AI ecosystem, with a substantial allocation exceeding Rs 10,000 crore.
- Two environmentalists, **Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana** created **India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve**, called the **Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB)** within the **Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand**.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has issued a notice to four states- **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat**. This notice follows a **2020 case** in which a father sold his daughter for **2.5 lakhs** and later filed a complaint with the commission upon discovering her dead body.
- **Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurated the '**Purna Sthal**' (**Inspiration Site**) within the Parliament House Complex. This newly constructed site houses statues of **national icons and freedom fighters** that were previously scattered across different locations on the premises.
- **India** is set to join an elite group of nations with the launch of its ambitious **Deep Sea Mission**, making it the **sixth country** to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, Space, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, expressed pride and happiness over the progress of this mission during a recent meeting in New Delhi. It has approved economic measures totaling over **₹2.88-lakh crore**, including an MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops, the **expansion of Varanasi airport**, and the establishment of a new major port at Vadhavan. These decisions, announced in the first Cabinet meeting after the allocation of portfolios to Union Ministers in the Modi government's third term, aim to bolster various sectors and drive economic growth.
- As a precursor to the 3rd edition of **World Food India**, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, **Shri Chirag Paswan** and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Railways, **Shri Ravneet Singh**, launched the **website and mobile application for World Food India 2024**.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme** for the implementation of **offshore wind energy projects** in India. This decision marks a significant step towards harnessing the vast offshore wind energy potential within the **country's exclusive economic zone**. The total financial outlay for this scheme is **₹7,453 crore**.
- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has sanctioned the Central Sector Scheme titled "**National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)**" with a comprehensive financial allocation of **Rs. 2254.43 crore spanning from 2024-25 to 2028-29**. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, aims to bolster India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.
- In a significant boost to the **India's port development programme**, as many as **9 ports of India** made it to the **Global Top 100** in the latest edition of **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023**. This report is prepared by the **World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence**. The Union Minister of **Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal** gave credit to the ambitious **Sagarmala programme**, envisioned by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency.





- To realise the vision of saturating **National Highways with green cover**, NHA will undertake a unique initiative to plant **Miyawaki plantation** on land parcels adjacent to National Highways at various locations. Total land area of over **53 acres** has been identified at different places in and around **Delhi-NCR** to establish the Miyawaki plantations.
- The Indian government has approved the construction of a new major port at **Vadhavan in the Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra**. This project, aligned with the PM Gatishakti programme, aims to boost India's foreign trade capabilities and local economy. The **Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, sanctioned this on June 19, 2024.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the proposal of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** for development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore**. It includes Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works.
- In a bid to enhance road safety, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi**, a technical university established by the **Government of National Capital Territory (NCT)**. This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signs on National Highways, covering approximately 25,000 kilometers.
- In a significant development, **Bhartruhari Mahtab**, a **seven-term Lok Sabha member**, has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker** of the Lower House. The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** on June 20.
- The government monetised assets worth **₹1.56 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** in the financial year **2023-24**, falling short of the target of ₹1.8 lakh crore. This performance represents approximately **159% of the achievement in 2021-22**. The NMP aims to unlock the value of brownfield infrastructure assets, with a total monetisation potential estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period from FY22 to FY25.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory circular titled '**Gender Equality in the Civil Aviation Sector**' aimed at increasing **women's representation in aviation to 25% by 2025**. This initiative aligns with the gender equality principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the **International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO)** vision for equal opportunities in aviation.
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated the '**Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme**' at **Terminal-3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi** June 22. Union Home Secretary and several other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- **In Ladakh**, as a tribute to the **heroes of the Kargil War**, the Indian Army has opened the **Khalubar War Memorial** to tourists. This opening ceremony was part of the 'Forever in Operations' Division's Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations as this year, the country will celebrate the **25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas** on 26 July. Located in the renowned **Aryan Valley** this memorial commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers who fought to reclaim the valley during the war.
- **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president** and Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** has been named **Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**. Mr. Nadda replaces Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, who recently won the Lok Sabha election and took oath on June 24, as a member of the Lower House of Parliament.
- On a momentous day for Indian democracy, **Om Birla** was re-elected as the **Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha**. This event marks an important milestone in India's parliamentary history and reminds us of the strength of our democratic institutions.
- In a pioneering move, the Ministry of Coal has initiated India's inaugural pilot project for underground **coal gasification in Jharkhand**. Located at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District**, this innovative venture by Eastern Coalfields Limited aims to transform the coal industry.
- The **Bharat Centre of Olympic Research and Education (BCORE)** was inaugurated on June 23, at the **Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district**. Speaking at the inauguration event, **Indian Olympic Association president** and legendary sprinter **PT Usha** said the centre will serve as a hub of **knowledge, innovation and performance** in the Indian sports ecosystem.
- **Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972**, commissioning mothers opting for surrogacy will now be entitled to **180 days of maternity leave**. This revision extends childcare leave to commissioning mothers with fewer than two surviving children, marking a departure from the **previous 50-year-old regulation**. Commissioning fathers are also granted 15 days of paternity leave under the amended rules.
- The **Director General** of Railway Protection Force (**RPF**) **Manoj Yadava** today launched the **Sangyaan App, designed by the RPF Tech Team** to provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023.





- The **Government of India** has made a **whopping contribution of USD 1,169,746** for **'Hindi @ UN'** project to expand the use of Hindi in the **United Nations**. The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.
- The **Central Railway** has installed a **floating solar plant of 10 MWp** capacity in the **Igatpuri lake** located in the Western Ghats, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways. Central Railway has always played an active role in opting for clean & renewable energy for its traction requirements and has taken various bold and revolutionary steps to fulfil the same.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** took the oath of office for an unprecedented **third straight term** as the head of a **coalition government**. The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the induction of several leaders from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** partners, reflecting the BJP's commitment to rewarding its allies.
- In a strategic move to counter China's growing influence in the region, India sets its sights on managing the **Mongla Port in Bangladesh**. Following the successes of **Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar**, India aims to further strengthen its commercial and security interests by expanding its overseas port operations.
- **India** on June 10, wholeheartedly welcomed **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joining the **BRICS** as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping **hosted by Russia**. Senior diplomat **Dammu Ravi** led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in **Nizhny Novgorod**, in western Russia.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on June 10, signed the release of the **17th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN Nidhi) scheme**. The move will benefit more than 93 million farmers by disbursing **more than Rs 20,000 crore**. 16th Installment of **PM KISAN** scheme was released on **28th February 2024**.
- **The National Commission for Indian Medical Systems** organized a two-day National Conference, **'PRANA' Protecting Rights and Novelties in ASUS (Mind to Market for Indian System of Medicines [ISM] Professionals)** in Collaboration with **All India Council for Technical Education** and **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** to mark its fourth foundation.
- **Indian universities and higher education institutions (HEIs)** will now be allowed to offer **admissions twice a year** on lines of foreign universities. The two admission cycles- followed globally also- will be **July-August** and **January-February** from the **2024-25 academic session**.
- **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** has launched a **Mobile App "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws"** to serve as a comprehensive guide providing complete information about the new criminal laws at one place. The New criminal laws will come into force from the **1st of next month (July)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** on June 12, broadened its existing **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand** into a full-fledged strategic agreement. The partnership taps into New Zealand's globally recognized strengths in breeding technology, sustainable farm management and advanced disease control measures within the **sheep sector**.
- **India** is the **world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O)**, a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly **11%** of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by **China at 16%**. The major source of these emissions **comes from fertiliser usage**, according to a global assessment of N2O emissions published in the journal **Earth System Science Data** on June 12.
- Thousands of **Kashmiri Pandits** converged at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district to attend the annual **festival of Zyestha Ashtami** on June 14. Many of them had migrated to different parts of the country in the **1990s** in the wake of raging militancy.
- **Srinagar** has become the **fourth Indian city** to be recognised as a **'World Craft City'** by the World Craft Council (WCC). Three years after it was designated as part of the **UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)** for crafts and folk arts.

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- Invest India predicts that India's ecommerce sector will skyrocket to **\$325 billion by 2030**, with rural India driving much of the growth. This surge is fueled by factors such as increased internet penetration, affordable internet services, and a rising number of smartphone users.
- A report by the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** highlights India's escalating dependence on Chinese imports, with the import bill surging to over \$101 billion in 2023-24 from around \$70 billion in 2018-19. Over the past fifteen years, China's share of India's industrial goods imports has risen significantly, reaching 30%, while imports from China have outpaced **India's total imports by 2.3 times**.
- India emerged as the **global leader in remittances in 2022**, receiving over **\$111 billion**, surpassing the **\$100 billion mark for the first time**. The **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** highlighted India, alongside Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France, as the top five remittance recipient countries.
- India's toy exports experienced a slight decline to **USD 152.34 million** in the **fiscal year 2023-24**, with limited benefits from quality control measures. Despite efforts to bolster the domestic industry and ensure product safety, exports did not see significant improvement.





- India's remarkable surge in solar energy deployment propelled it past Japan, securing its position as the **world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023**. Solar energy continued its unprecedented growth streak, outpacing coal in global electricity generation for the **19th consecutive year**.
- India has reaffirmed its dedication to the global fight against terrorism by contributing \$500,000 to the UN **Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)**. **Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN**, delivered the contribution to **Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov** on May 7. This financial support adds to India's ongoing commitment, totaling \$2.55 million, aimed at bolstering multilateral efforts against terrorism.
- According to data from the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, an economic think tank, **China** has emerged as India's **largest trading partner** in the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the **United States**. The **two-way commerce** between India and China stood at a staggering **\$118.4 billion**, slightly edging out the **\$118.3 billion** traded with the US.
- The grand commencement of **IndiaSkills 2024 took place at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi** on 15 May 2024. Over the span of four days, this esteemed competition will assess the proficiency of students across 61 diverse categories, providing a platform for showcasing talent at both national and international levels.
- Inauguration of the Bharat Pavilion, formerly known as the **India Pavilion**, marked a significant moment at the **77th Cannes Film Festival**. The renaming reflects India's commitment to traditional storytelling while seeking global collaborations.
- **India** has signed a 10-year agreement to develop and operate Iran's strategic Chabahar Port to strengthen trade ties with Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. However, this deal faces potential US sanctions, complicating New Delhi's strategic objectives.
- In April, India's merchandise exports saw a **modest 1% increase, reaching \$34.99 billion**, driven by robust growth in sectors like electronics, chemicals, petroleum products, and pharmaceuticals, despite global economic uncertainties. However, the trade deficit widened to a five-month high of \$19.1 billion, with imports rising by 10.25% to \$54.09 billion. Notably, imports of gold and crude oil surged, contributing to the deficit.
- The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over **Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission**, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem. Spearheaded by a public-private partnership model, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.
- The **Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition** has made its mark in Dubai as a prestigious platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from India. The event aimed to uncover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.
- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** recently marked **International Women in Maritime Day**, recognizing the significant contributions of 27 women seafarers to the maritime industry. The event aimed to honor these professionals and promote gender equality within the maritime sector.
- India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)** and the 26th Meeting of the **Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)**.
- In a significant stride, India's market capitalization has surged to **\$5 trillion, marking a historic achievement**. This remarkable feat was accomplished in under six months since surpassing the \$4 trillion mark, showcasing the nation's robust economic resilience and investor confidence.
- As the **Doordarshan** channel **DD Kisan** marks its **9th anniversary on 26 May 2024**, it is set to embark on a remarkable journey by introducing **Krish and Bhoomi**, the first **AI anchors** in India's government broadcasting history. This groundbreaking move underscores the channel's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology to better serve the nation's agricultural community.
- India is the only country among the world's top five crude steel producers to record positive growth in April 2024, according to the **World Steel Association**. India, the second-largest crude steel producer globally, achieved a **growth rate of 3.9% compared to April 2023**.
- Smartphones have become a major export success story for India, now ranking as the fourth-largest export item **with a 42% growth, reaching \$15.6 billion in FY24**. This marks an improvement by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year. Data collection for smartphones as a separate category began in April 2022, highlighting the sector's rapid growth.
- The **Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)**, a technical branch of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** responsible for providing logistical support to community nutrition programs, has been **officially dissolved** as part of the government's plan to rationalize various bodies.
- India faced a trade deficit with nine out of its **top ten trading partners in the fiscal year 2023-24**, according to official data. Notably, China emerged as India's largest trading partner, surpassing the United States, with bilateral commerce totaling \$118.4 billion.





- India has achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the indigenously developed **anti-radiation missile Rudram-II**. Fired from a **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha**, this missile is poised to become a vital asset for the Indian Armed Forces, serving as a force multiplier in suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions.
- The Indian government has raised the maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity from **Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh**, effective from January 1, 2024. This revision, issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, aims to enhance benefits for Central government employees.

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- The **Indian government** has taken proactive steps to address carbon emissions in the steel industry by establishing a task force to investigate the potential use of biochar. With the steel sector contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, this initiative aims to reduce carbon intensity and promote **sustainability in steel manufacturing processes**. Given its potential significance in reducing carbon emissions within the steel industry, the formation of the 14th Task Force on 'Use of Biochar and Other Relevant Products in Steel Making' was endorsed by the ministry.
- The Indian government aimed to raise funds through the sale of stakes in state-run companies in the **fiscal year 2023/24**. However, the achieved amount of **165 billion rupees** fell short of the internal target by about **9%**, reaching **\$1.98 billion**. This setback is attributed to the forthcoming general elections, causing a shift in focus away from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's privatization agenda.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was honoured with the '**Merchant Navy Flag**', pinned on his lapel by Secretary **T.K. Ramachandran** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. This marked the beginning of the **National Maritime Week** celebrations, which span from **March 29 to April 5**.
- Amidst the growing buzz around **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, the trailer and song launch event for India's first Hindi film on this subject, "**IRAH**," took place in Mumbai. The movie boasts an impressive cast, including **Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandary** in prominent roles.
- India's engineering exports soared by **15.9% year over year in February 2024**, marking the third consecutive month of growth and reaching a **record high of \$9.94 billion for the fiscal year 2023–2024**. Notably, this growth surpassed December 2023 figures.

- The National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One **FASTag**' norm, which aims to prevent the use of a single **FASTag** for multiple vehicles or linking multiple **FASTags** to a particular vehicle. This new norm has come into effect from **April 1, 2024**. NHAI had previously extended the compliance deadline to the end of March, considering the issues faced by **Paytm FASTag** users.
- The Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare** introduces the **myCGHS app for iOS**, delivering enhanced healthcare accessibility and digital experiences to **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** beneficiaries. **Launched on April 3rd, 2024**, the app prioritizes user safety with robust security measures.
- India aims to bolster its **strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs)** by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30.
- The President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**, launched India's first **home-grown gene therapy** for cancer at **IIT Bombay** on April 4, 2024. This groundbreaking treatment, called '**CAR-T cell therapy**', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer.
- Dr. **Manmohan Singh**, former **Prime Minister of India**, retire from the **Rajya Sabha**, marking the end of his **three-decade-long tenure** in the **Upper House**.
- India is embarking on establishing its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30. This initiative aims to allow the operator the liberty to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as **Japan and South Korea**. India's current SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with plans to expand this approach with new SPR projects.
- In line with its ambitions for a sustainable energy future, India aims to ramp up its nuclear power production significantly, targeting a capacity of **1 lakh MW by 2047**. This objective, outlined in a report titled '**Synchronising Energy Transitions Towards Possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and Clean Energy for All**,' highlights the nation's commitment to expanding its nuclear energy sector.
- In response to requests from friendly nations including **Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Bhutan**, the Indian government has granted approval for the export of onions. India, a significant **global exporter of onions**, had enforced a **ban on onion exports in December 2023**, leading to soaring prices in these nations.
- India aims to halt **urea imports by the end of 2025** by boosting domestic production and promoting alternative fertilizers. This is in response to the nation's significant reliance on imports, which currently satisfy around 30% of its annual urea demand.





- India has removed export restrictions on essential commodities for the Maldives, including items like **eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, and dal, for the fiscal year 2024-25**. This move comes despite strained diplomatic relations between the two countries since November last year.
- In a strategic move to bolster its maritime presence and enhance regional connectivity, India has gained operational control over the **Sittwe Port in Myanmar**, following approval from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. The agreement allows **India Ports Global (IPGL)**, a company fully owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, to manage the **entire port on the Kaladan River**, marking **India's second overseas port acquisition after Chabahar in Iran**.
- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated a two-day **Homoeopathy Symposium organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy** in New Delhi on World Homoeopathy Day (April 10, 2024). The theme of the symposium, "Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency," is highly relevant in the 21st century.
- India has once again utilized the peace clause at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** for the fifth consecutive time, citing rice subsidies exceeding the prescribed limit during the 2022-23 marketing year. Despite breaching the 10% domestic support ceiling, India faces no immediate repercussions due to the peace clause provision, agreed upon at the 2013 Bali ministerial.
- In a landmark achievement, **French automaker Citroën has become the first multinational car manufacturer to export electric vehicles (EVs) produced in India to the international market**. The company announced the commencement of exports of its locally manufactured ë-C3, sending **an initial shipment of 500 units to Indonesia from the Kamarajar Port**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to make history as the **first Indian Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi to grace the cover of Newsweek**. In a comprehensive interview, PM Modi discussed a spectrum of topics, including China, economic reforms, the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Quad alliance, and the role of democracy in India.
- In a gesture of solidarity and support, **India has donated 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations in Nepal**, bolstering infrastructure in the crucial sectors of health and education. **Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava**, officiated the handover ceremony alongside Finance Minister Barshaman Pun.
- In a significant stride towards advancing India's rail infrastructure, the country is gearing up to launch an indigenous **bullet train** capable of reaching speeds exceeding **250 kilometres per hour (km/h)**. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize high-speed rail travel in India, showcasing the nation's engineering prowess and commitment to cutting-edge technology.
- In a move to simplify and streamline the process of students' transition from one school to another, the School Education Department in the state has made the use of **Permanent Education Number (PEN)** mandatory from the academic year 2024-25. PEN is a unique identification number assigned to every student by the Union Ministry of Education, through the **UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus)** portal, which covers more than 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children.
- On the auspicious occasion of **Mahaveer Jayanti**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, **Bhagwan Mahaveer**, whose teachings of **Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), and Aparigraha (Non-attachment)** have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood.
- In celebration of **Earth Day**, the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently unveiled **India's largest Climate Clock at its headquarters in New Delhi**. This initiative underscores CSIR's commitment to raising awareness about climate change and its adverse impacts.
- The **Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC)** is an **apex advisory body** on archival matters in India. Established in **1919**, the IHRC serves as a national forum for creators, custodians, and users of records, advising the Government of India on the **management of records** and their use for **historical research**. The IHRC is headed by the **Union Minister of Culture**.
- India takes a significant step in renewable energy with the inauguration of its first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the **1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri**. Spearheaded by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**, the project aims to produce green hydrogen through renewable energy sources.
- **India's pharmaceutical exports** witnessed robust growth in the **fiscal year 2023-24, reaching \$28 billion, marking a 10% increase compared to the previous fiscal year**. Despite a 3% dip in total exports, the pharmaceutical sector demonstrated resilience and significant expansion.
- The **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** announces a significant milestone for **India's Gem and Jewellery (GJ) industry** as it receives **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status** from the Ministry of Finance. This status, previously denied, now facilitates smoother export-import processes, reduces cargo release times, and lowers bank guarantees by 50%, aiming to enhance ease of doing business.





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- Observed every year on **March 3**, World Hearing Day 2024 fall on a Sunday. The theme for this year, as designated by the World Health Organization (WHO), is **“Changing mindsets: Let’s make ear and hearing care a reality for all.”** This theme underscores the need to combat societal misconceptions and stigmatizing attitudes through heightened awareness and the dissemination of information, targeting both the general public and healthcare providers.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs, **Smriti Zubin Irani**, introduced two significant initiatives aimed at enhancing the Haj pilgrimage experience for 2024. The **Haj Suvidha App** was launched to provide essential information and access to crucial services, while the **Haj Guide-2024** was released to educate pilgrims about various aspects of the journey, with a focus on utilizing the app effectively.
- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, virtually inaugurated **India’s 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar**, on 4th March, 2024. The inauguration also witnessed the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Steel **Sh. Nagendra Nath Sinha**, Managing Director (Jindal Stainless Limited), **Sh. Abhyuday Jindal**, Founder, Hygenco **Sh. Amit Bansal**, and other officials of the Ministry of Steel.
- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, virtually inaugurated **three centers of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) from New Delhi**. These centers, located in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, are significant additions to CIPET’s network.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** marked the beginning of a new era in India’s nuclear energy sector by witnessing the “Core Loading” at the **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**. This event signifies the near completion of India’s first indigenous PFBR, a landmark project fully designed and constructed within the country by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), in collaboration with over 200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs.
- In a significant stride towards bolstering cyber-security measures and enhancing citizen empowerment, the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** recently unveiled the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)** alongside the **‘Chakshu’ facility** on the Sanchar Saathi portal. This initiative aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds.
- Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**, overseeing Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, dedicated **201 CNG Stations and India’s inaugural Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL** to the nation via video conferencing. The event, graced by numerous dignitaries, underscored the government’s pledge to elevate the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030.
- In a significant development, the Indian government, following consultations with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, has revised the minimum age criterion for senior citizens to avail the postal ballot voting facility. The decision, which comes into effect immediately, raises the eligibility age from **80 to 85 years**, marking a pivotal change in the electoral process aimed at ensuring greater convenience for the nation’s elderly population.
- India’s first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC)** was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar**. This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna University campus.
- A new chapter in management education unfolds as the Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated the **Centre of Management Education** jointly established by IIM Mumbai and IIM Sambalpur. The inauguration took place at the NALCO Training Institute in **Angul, Odisha**, amidst the presence of **Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India’s pioneering underwater metro train service in **Kolkata**, ushering in a landmark achievement in the nation’s infrastructure and urban development. The service, which is a significant component of the **Kolkata Metro’s East-West corridor**, is designed to enhance connectivity between **Howrah and Salt Lake**, the twin cities of West Bengal’s capital. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant development, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** will inaugurate the **‘NITI For States’ platform** by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. This platform, serving as a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, is designed to bolster policy formulation and promote good governance across states.
- India, as a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), has recently implemented stringent measures to regulate the possession and trade of exotic pets. **The Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024**, issued by the Union environment ministry on February 28, aim to enforce the provisions of the Convention and ensure the protection of endangered wildlife.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has unveiled his ambitious plan to make **India a prime wedding destination**, aiming to boost tourism and retain revenue within the country. His recent address at a rally in Jammu and Kashmir highlighted this mission, emphasizing the potential of hosting weddings in diverse locales across India.





- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Arjun Munda, unveiled the **Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre** at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. This initiative aims to empower farmers nationwide by providing them with essential information, services, and facilities.
- On the occasion of the **134th Foundation Day of the National Archives** of India, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal, will inaugurate a digital exhibition titled "**Subhash Abhinandan**" in New Delhi on March 11th. Organized by the National Archives of India, the exhibition commemorates the life of Subhash Chandra Bose, featuring 16 sections covering key aspects from his birth to the present day.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will organize **Poshan Pakhwada** nationwide from **March 9 to March 23, 2024**. This 15-day celebration aims to spread awareness about **nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated projects worth Rs 118 crore 72 lakh** in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. These projects are under the **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme** and the **Prasad scheme**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the Viksit Bharat Viksit North East programme in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on March 09, 2024, virtually dedicated the **Sela Tunnel** project to the nation. Constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the tunnel is situated on the road from **Tezpur, Assam, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh's** West Kameng district. The project, valued at **Rs 825 crore**, aims to provide all-weather connectivity and bolster the Armed Forces' readiness in the region.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **125-foot bronze statue** of the legendary Ahom general, **Lachit Borphukan**, at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district. This event marks a significant tribute to Borphukan's valor and leadership in the history of Assam.
- At the end of the decade from **2014 to 2024**, India has emerged as the world's **second-largest producer of mobile phones**. This achievement marks a significant transition for the country's electronics manufacturing sector.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Gurgaon stretch of the **Dwarka Expressway** alongside Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** and Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**. The inspection of the expressway was conducted on foot, showcasing its significance for transportation infrastructure.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the commencement of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** facilities in **41 villages** and various development projects in **178 villages** under the '**Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan**'. The initiative aims to uplift the infrastructure and living standards in rural areas of Delhi.
- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology and Railways, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, unveiled **India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router in Bengaluru**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** made headlines by inaugurating **15 significant airport projects**, marking an unprecedented infrastructural addition in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh. This extensive initiative, almost valued at **₹10,000 crore**, encompasses a blend of new airports, expanded terminals, foundation stones for future airports, and other ancillary facilities.
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** celebrated its **19th Foundation Day** at the **Jacaranda Hall, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi**. To mark this special occasion, the Commission invited children from different parts of the country to acknowledge their efforts and participation in the Commission's Pariksha Parv campaign.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram to inaugurate **Kochrab Ashram** and launch the **Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial**. This significant event commemorated Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and contributions to India's freedom struggle.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the **inaugural automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)**. The ceremony, conducted via video conferencing, signifies a pivotal advancement in the execution of the Prime Minister's flagship Gati Shakti programme.
- Union Minister **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, responsible for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, inaugurated **India's first FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram**. Named the "**Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics**," this pioneering initiative aims to catalyze an ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, inaugurated the "**National Speed Breeding Crop Facility**" at **NABI (National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute)**, Mohali. This initiative aligns with PM Modi's vision of increasing farmers' income and promoting Agri StartUps.
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for **Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare**, spearheaded the inauguration of a credit assistance program aimed at bolstering **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** across India. The program, initiated through a collaboration between **SIDBI** and **PMBI**, underscores the government's commitment to enhancing accessibility and affordability of medicines, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of '**Sanjeevani**' for the underprivileged.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three semiconductor projects virtually, with a combined investment of approximately **Rs 1.25 Lakh Crore**. These projects signify a significant step towards bolstering India's semiconductor industry. The three facilities include a semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat, an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam, and another OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat.
- **Yoga Mahotsav-2024** marked the **100-day** countdown to the 10th edition of the **International Day of Yoga (IDY)** on **June 21st, 2024**, at **Vigyan Bhawan**. This year, the event focused on the theme "Yoga for Women Empowerment," reflecting the **Ministry of Ayush's** commitment to promote global health and peace through yoga, particularly emphasizing women's well-being.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Singh Thakur**, inaugurated **PB-SHABD**, a news sharing service, alongside the revamped websites of **DD News** and **Akashvani News**, and an updated News on Air mobile app at the **National Media Centre**, New Delhi.
- Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri unveiled '**Ethanol 100'**, an automotive fuel aimed at reducing emissions and promoting sustainability. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to increase ethanol blending in petrol, with significant strides already made in enhancing availability and infrastructure across select states.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's first integrated oil palm processing unit, operated by **3F Oil Palm**, marking a significant stride in the nation's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils. Situated in **Arunachal Pradesh's Roing**, this project aligns with Mission Palm Oil under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
- Ahead of announcing the dates for the upcoming **Lok Sabha elections**, **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** introduced a new mobile application called '**Know Your Candidate'** (KYC). This app will enable voters to find out if any electoral candidate in their constituency has any criminal records.
- The **Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital** in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, **Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen**. This restaurant is being hailed as the **first Ayurvedic Kitchen in India**.
- **Pashupati Kumar Paras**, former Union minister and president of the **Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP)**, resigned from the Union Cabinet following his party's exclusion from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In response, President **Droupadi Murmu** accepted his resignation and appointed **Kiren Rijiju** with an additional charge as the **Minister of Food Processing Industries**.
- Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary of India's Department of Telecommunications, led a significant delegation to Geneva for strategic meetings at the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Headquarters from March 18-20. The aim was to enhance collaboration and explore innovative initiatives in telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors.
- **GoodEnough Energy** has announced that it will start operations at **India's first battery energy storage gigafactory** in the northern region of **Jammu and Kashmir** by **October 2023**.
- Haiti is facing a severe **crisis** due to escalating **gang violence**. Armed **gangs** have launched **attacks** in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince, prompting India to launch **Operation Indravati** to **evacuate** its nationals to the Dominican Republic. Similarly, the **US** has airlifted more than 15 Americans to Santo Domingo.
- In a determined effort to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in the electoral process, the **Election Commission has introduced the Saksham App**. This initiative aims to address the needs of **voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities (PWDs) with a 40 percent benchmark disability**, allowing them to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Tshering Tobgay** jointly inaugurated a modern hospital in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu. The **Gyalsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuk Mother and Child Hospital** is a shining example of the strong **development cooperation** between India and Bhutan.
- India aims to replace its minimum wage system with a living wage framework by **2025**, seeking assistance from the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** for technical support in creating and implementing this transition.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is keeping a close watch on the election process through the **cVIGIL app**. The app allows citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct** and **election expenditures** by capturing photos and videos. **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** said that cVIGIL empowers citizens to report violations, with assured action within **100 minutes**.
- In March 2024, **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)** pumped a massive **\$3.63 billion** into Indian equities, their biggest buying spree since December 2023. This made India the top destination for foreign funds among Asian markets.





National Current Affairs of February 2024

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **'Vividhita 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.





- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of July 2024

- On **July 3**, **Japan** will introduce new banknotes featuring what it claims to be the world's pioneering use of **advanced holography**. This technology creates the illusion of historic figures' portraits rotating in **3D** on the bills, serving as a key anti-counterfeit measure. This marks the **first redesign of the banknotes in 20 years**.
- On June 30 and July 1, 2024, the world witnessed a significant event in international relations. The **third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan** took place in **Doha, Qatar**, marking the first time the **Taliban** participated in such talks since taking control of Afghanistan.
- China has constructed a **new presidential palace in Vanuatu**, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations. The **Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai**, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.
- More than **300 domestic companies** and over **100 foreign buyers** from the **US, Germany and other countries** are expected to participate in the four-day international toy fair **beginning on July 6** in the national capital. More than **250 Indian brands** will display their products during the fair, which is being organised at **Pragati Maidan Delhi**.
- Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Under the leadership of **Prime Minister Viktor Orban**, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform. The presidency's motto, **"Make Europe Great Again,"** reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.
- Former spy chief **Dick Schoof** is the new **Dutch prime minister**, leading a right-wing coalition with a focus on implementing the **"strictest-ever"** immigration policy. Schoof, 67, previously headed the **Dutch Secret Service** and takes over from Mark Rutte, who served 14 years in power.
- **Russia** has approved the schedule for the creation of a **Russian orbital station by 2033**. The schedule includes the design and construction of the space modules, flight tests of a new-generation manned spaceship, the creation of launch vehicles and space infrastructure on **Earth**, and a timetable for the work of **scientific institutes** supporting the project.





- **Keir Starmer**, born in 1963 to a working-class family near London, is set to **become Britain's next Prime Minister**. With a background in human rights law and public prosecution, he entered politics relatively late, becoming an MP in 2015.
- **Masoud Pezeshkian**, a seasoned lawmaker and cardiac surgeon, has emerged victorious in **Iran's presidential election**, defeating hardliner Saeed Jalili.
- **Rachel Reeves** has become **the first woman finance minister of UK**. The 45-year-old is an economist and has pledged to grow the nation's economy. Rachel was appointed as the chancellor on June 5, after the **Keir Starmer-led Labour Party** won a majority in Thursday's general election. She is now in charge of the **UK's Budget**.
- **India and Russia** have set a target to increase **bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030**, emphasizing economic collaboration in energy, trade, manufacturing, and fertilizers. Discussions included balancing trade, reducing non-tariff barriers, and exploring an **India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Area**.
- The **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**, a regional security grouping, welcomed **Bangladesh** as its **fifth member** at the **8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA)** level meeting hosted virtually by Mauritius. The CSC includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives, with Seychelles participating as an Observer State.
- As of June 30, 2024, Ireland has overtaken Mauritius to secure the fourth spot among preferred destinations for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** routing funds into India. **Ireland boasts assets under custody (AUC) totaling Rs 4.41 trillion**, slightly edging out Mauritius which recorded Rs 4.39 trillion. The shift highlights Ireland's appeal, with a 26% increase in AUC in the first half of the year compared to Mauritius' 11% uptick.
- In a comprehensive study conducted by InterNations in 2024, **Vietnam** has once again secured its position as the **most affordable destination for expatriates**. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Southeast Asian nation has topped the list, solidifying its reputation as a prime location for those seeking an economical lifestyle abroad.
- **K.P. Sharma Oli** on July 15 was sworn in as **Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time**. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister on July 14, by **President Ram Chandra Paudel** to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.
- The **Philippines** has been chosen to host the board of the **"Loss and Damage"** fund created by **U.N.** talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming. Last month, the **World Bank's board** approved a plan for the bank to act as interim host of the fund for four years.
- A new **high-quality malaria vaccine** developed by the **Serum Institute of India** and the **University of Oxford** is officially being rolled out in **Africa**. With this, **Côte d'Ivoire** has become the **first country in West Africa** to start **administering R21/Matrix-M**.
- **President Paul Kagame** has secured a decisive victory in **Rwanda's 2024 presidential election**, capturing 99.15% of the votes, as reported by the National Electoral Commission. This marks his fourth consecutive term in office.
- **Roberta Metsola**, a **prominent Maltese politician**, has secured a historic **second term as President of the European Parliament**, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history. Known for her leadership and advocacy, Metsola garnered significant support from EU politicians, receiving **562 out of 623 votes in her favor**.
- The **annual Kataragama Esala festival** is being **celebrated in Sri Lanka**. Devotees who started their **Pada Yatra** in May have reached Kataragama completing a **journey of over 500 kilometres** across difficult terrain on foot from as far afield as **Jaffna in Sri Lanka's northern peninsula**.
- Belarus has announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from **35 European countries** to stay in the country for up to **90 days per year**. This policy, effective from July 19, 2024, is seen as an attempt by Minsk to ease tensions with the West, following recent geopolitical shifts and ongoing sanctions.
- **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)** has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of **Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**. This accession marks Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.
- **China** has built the **world's first passenger train** made from carbon fibre, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains.
- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** spoke with Estonia's newly elected **Prime Minister Kristen Michal** on his first day in office, July 22.
- The **Israeli Knesset** has approved a bill to designate the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)** as a terrorist organization.
- The **International Olympic Committee** named the **French Alps** as the host for the **2030 Winter Games** on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions.
- **Salt Lake City** in **Utah** state of the **USA** will host the **Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034**. The decision was taken by the IOC Members during the **142nd IOC Session in Paris** here on July 24.





- **Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 from November 11 to 22 this year**, has announced the creation of a **Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF)**.
- **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**. **India ranks 82nd**, allowing **visa-free entry to 58 countries**.
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

International Current Affairs of June 2024

- **China's space agency** announced on 4 June 2024 that **BEIJING- China's Chang'e-6** probe has lifted off from the far side of the moon, starting its journey back towards Earth. China is getting closer to being the first nation to return samples from the far side of the moon, which is always facing away from Earth, thanks to the probe's successful exit from the moon.
- **Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, a Christian lady**, became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of one-star officer in **Pakistan's 77-year military history**. Her ascension coincides with increased attention being paid to atrocities against minorities in the nation with a majority of Muslims, particularly against Christians. In a historic move, the Pakistani Army elevated Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, a **Christian woman**, to the esteemed **rank of Brigadier** in the nation with a majority of Muslims.
- In a **historic moment** for Mexico, **Claudia Sheinbaum** has been elected as the country's first woman president, according to the provisional results announced by the Mexican election commission. Sheinbaum, from the ruling **Morena party**, has taken an unassailable lead over her nearest rivals in the presidential contest held on **June 2, 2024**.
- Pakistan has launched its second satellite, the Multi-Mission Communication Satellite (**PAKSAT MM1**), in **collaboration with China**. This satellite aims to enhance internet connectivity across Pakistan and improve various communication services.
- **South Korea** has officially launched its space agency, the **Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA)**, to lead policy and industrial development in its aerospace sector. The establishment was made possible after the Country's national assembly **passed a special law** in January to unify government organizations in charge of space policy and projects. The new agency is based in **Sacheon, South Gyeongsang Province**, with an **annual budget of 758.9 billion won (\$556 million)**.

- Amidst tightening Western sanctions, **India's reliance on Russian oil** has seen a significant shift. Despite a decline in imports due to sanctions-related challenges, Russia has maintained its position as India's leading oil supplier for the second consecutive year.
- **Roscosmos state corporation cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko**, who currently works at the **International Space Station** has **booked a record of 1,000 days** for the **first time in the world** in terms of total spaceflight duration.
- **12 countries signed the Zero Debris Charter**, a landmark initiative led by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to address the pressing issue of space debris. Unveiled in 2023, the Charter commits signatories to achieving **debris-neutral space activities by 2030**.
- The **Bank of England** is replacing old banknotes featuring **Queen Elizabeth** with new ones featuring **King Charles III**. People can exchange their old notes for new ones **until June 30, with a limit of £300**.
- **Sheikh Meshal** recently dissolved parliament for as many as **four years** amid the widespread political dysfunction that's gripped Kuwait. **Kuwait Emir** named the small nation's **new crown prince**, nearly six months after he took the throne. **Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah** will become next in line to the throne.
- India, the United States, South Korea, Japan, and the European Union have launched a **Biopharmaceuticals Alliance**, with its first meeting held in **San Diego, USA**, during the **Bio International Convention 2024**, the **world's largest pharmaceutical exhibition**.
- On **June 6, 2024**, the **United Nations General Assembly** convened to **elect new non-permanent members** to the UN Security Council. **Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece** secured seats for a two-year term starting **January 1, 2025, replacing Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Ecuador, and Switzerland**. These newly elected members will join Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia as the other non-permanent members.
- The main tunnel of the **900 MW Arun III Hydropower Project**, being constructed with Indian assistance has achieved a breakthrough, with Nepal Prime Minister **Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda'** on **June 5**, triggering the last blast to mark the completion of heading excavation. **Prime Minister 'Prachanda'** attended an event to mark the completion of heading excavation for the **11.8 km-long Head Race Tunnel of the 900 MW Arun- 3 Hydro Electric Project in the Sankhuwasabha District in eastern Nepal**.
- A **700-metre pedestrian bridge, inaugurated on June 4**. The Bridge of National Unity is **one of the longest bridges in the world**. The **eastern Hungarian city of Satoraljaújhely** has a new tourist attraction.





- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** on June 6, elected former Cameroonian **Prime Minister Philemon Yang** as president of the **79th UNGA session**. Yang will succeed **Denis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago**, president of the **78th UNGA session**, when the 79th UNGA session opens on Sept. 10 at the **UN headquarters in New York**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** took the oath of office for an unprecedented **third straight term** as the head of a **coalition government**. The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the induction of several leaders from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** partners, reflecting the BJP's commitment to rewarding its allies.
- In a strategic move to counter China's growing influence in the region, India sets its sights on managing the **Mongla Port in Bangladesh**. Following the successes of **Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar**, India aims to further strengthen its commercial and security interests by expanding its overseas port operations.
- **India** on June 10, wholeheartedly welcomed **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joining the **BRICS** as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping **hosted by Russia**. Senior diplomat **Dammu Ravi** led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in **Nizhny Novgorod**, in western Russia.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on June 10, signed the release of the **17th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN Nidhi) scheme**. The move will benefit more than 93 million farmers by disbursing **more than Rs 20,000 crore**. 16th Installment of **PM KISAN** scheme was released on **28th February 2024**.
- **The National Commission for Indian Medical Systems** organized a two-day National Conference, '**PRANA**' Protecting Rights and Novelties in ASUS (Mind to Market for Indian System of Medicines [ISM] Professionals) in Collaboration with **All India Council for Technical Education** and **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** to mark its fourth foundation.
- **Indian universities and higher education institutions (HEIs)** will now be allowed to offer **admissions twice a year** on lines of foreign universities. The two admission cycles- followed globally also- will be **July-August** and **January-February** from the **2024-25 academic session**.
- **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** has launched a **Mobile App "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws"** to serve as a comprehensive guide providing complete information about the new criminal laws at one place. The New criminal laws will come into force from the **1st of next month (July)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** on June 12, broadened its existing **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand** into a full-fledged strategic agreement. The partnership taps into New Zealand's globally recognized strengths in breeding technology, sustainable farm management and advanced disease control measures within the sheep sector.
- **India** is the **world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O)**, a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly **11%** of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by **China at 16%**. The major source of these emissions **comes from fertiliser usage**, according to a global assessment of N2O emissions published in the journal **Earth System Science Data** on June 12.
- Thousands of **Kashmiri Pandits** converged at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district to attend the annual **festival of Zyestha Ashtami** on June 14. Many of them had migrated to different parts of the country in the **1990s** in the wake of raging militancy.
- The **European Commission (EC)** has made a significant decision regarding **Tanzania's eligibility** for a conservation grant under its **NaturAfrica initiative**. This decision has implications for **conservation efforts in East Africa**, particularly concerning the **Eastern Rift Savannas and Watersheds (ERiSaWa)** component of the initiative.
- Portugal plans to adapt its **golden visa scheme** to allow wealthy foreigners seeking residency rights to invest in affordable housing for locals or accommodation for migrants.
- In response to his party's heavy loss in the European Parliamentary elections, **French President Emmanuel Macron** has dissolved the **National Assembly and called for snap parliamentary elections**. The far-right **Rassemblement National (RN)** secured a significant victory, **winning 31.5%** of the vote compared to **Macron's Renaissance Party's 15.2%**. Macron announced the dissolution of the National Assembly in an hour-long national address, citing the need to restore trust in the French electoral process.
- **Russia and Belarus** have commenced the second stage of joint drills focused on **tactical nuclear weapons**, aimed at bolstering readiness and deterring Western support for Ukraine. These exercises, initiated by Moscow in response to perceived provocations from Western officials, underline the Kremlin's strategic stance amid heightened tensions.
- **Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** has announced Armenia's decision to leave the **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**, a Russian-led military alliance. Pashinyan cited the alliance's perceived favoritism towards Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a primary reason for Armenia's withdrawal.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the **National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research. **Established in 1956**, NIIMH has been a pioneer in various digital initiatives of Ayush. This recognition, announced on Friday, has been granted for a period of four years, marking NIIMH as the third Indian institute to receive such an honor.





- The G7 has agreed to leverage frozen Russian assets to secure a **\$50 billion loan for Ukraine** to aid in its **defense against Russian invasion**. **US President Joe Biden** emphasized this move as a firm stance against **Russia**, while **President Vladimir Putin** condemned it as theft.
- In a ceremony marked by heightened security following an assassination attempt on **Prime Minister Robert Fico**, **Peter Pellegrini** has been inaugurated as **Slovakia's sixth president**.
- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** was reelected by lawmakers for a **second term** on June 14, after his party struck a dramatic late coalition deal with a former political foe just hours before the vote. Ramaphosa won the vote against **Julius Malema**, leader of the far-left **Economic Freedom Fighters**, winning 283 votes to Malema's 44.
- The **Israeli Navy** on June 16, received the second of two new landing craft from a shipyard in the **United States**, with the vessel mooring at the **Haifa Naval Base** after making a lengthy voyage to the country. The US-built **INS Komemiyut** was the Navy's second landing craft, after the **INS Nahshon**, which was received in early October last year.
- **Chinese scientists** have made a significant breakthrough in solar research through the use of their solar exploration satellite, the **Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE)**, which has led to the discovery of a new pattern of **solar atmospheric rotation**.
- In 2023, the **world's nuclear-armed nations** witnessed significant developments in their arsenals, with a notable increase in spending on nuclear weapons. The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** highlighted that the United States led global expenditures, followed by **China and Russia**. This surge in investment underscores a growing reliance on nuclear deterrence strategies reminiscent of the **Cold War era**.
- **State-run Coal India Ltd (COALNS)**, opens new tab is exploring **lithium blocks** in **Argentina** along with a **U.S. company** to secure supplies of the battery material, an Indian source with direct knowledge said on June 18.
- **Thailand** will become the **first nation in Southeast Asia** to legalize **same-sex marriage** after the kingdom's Senate approved a **marriage equality bill** on June 18, with supporters calling it a **"monumental step forward for LGBTQ+ rights."**
- The **United Kingdom (UK)** has overtaken China to become **India's fourth-largest export market** in May 2024, commerce department data showed. The UK was India's **sixth-largest export** destination in **May last year**. While exports to the UK grew by a third to **\$1.37 billion** in May, the shipments to China saw **3 per cent growth at \$1.33 billion** last month.
- According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, China has significantly increased its nuclear warhead count, rising from 410 in 2023 to 500 at the beginning of this year. The growth suggests a rapid expansion of China's nuclear capabilities, positioning it as the fastest-growing nuclear power globally.
- On June 19, the upper house of the Tajikistan parliament, **Majlisi Milli**, passed a law prohibiting **"alien garments,"** which primarily targets the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing. The **lower chamber, Majlisi Namoyandagon**, had passed the bill on May 8. This move has sparked debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population in the tightly governed ex-Soviet republic.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced that India will start an **e-medical visa facility** for **Bangladeshi nationals**. Those who are coming to India for **medical treatment**, India will open a new consulate in **Rangpur, Bangladesh**, to facilitate services for people in the **northwest region of the country**.
- **China's Chang'e 6 spacecraft** has successfully brought **samples from the far side of the moon** back to Earth, marking the first-ever return of materials from this scarcely seen lunar region. The historic feat signals not only **China's soaring ambitions** as a rising space-exploration superpower but also the next phase of a new space race with the U.S. and its allies to establish outposts at the strategically valuable lunar south pole.
- **Paraguay** has officially become the **100th full member** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone in global solar energy cooperation. The Ambassador of **Paraguay, H.E. Mr. Fleming Raul Duarte**, handed over the Instrument of Ratification during a meeting in **New Delhi with Shri Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED & MER)** and Head of Depository.
- **Denmark** plans to implement a **tax on livestock farmers** starting in **2030**, making it the first nation to do so. This initiative **targets methane emissions** from **cows, sheep, and pigs**, which are significant contributors to **global warming**. The goal is to achieve a 70 per cent reduction in Danish greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by the year 2030.
- **Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States** began the inaugural execution of exercise Freedom Edge, a **trilateral multi-domain exercise**, June 27. The execution of the exercise was announced at the **Camp David Summit** in **August 2023** and at the **Japan, ROK, and U.S.** defense ministerial meeting, which took place in June during the **Shangri-La Dialogue**.





- **Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek** announced that Turkey has been **removed from the FATF 'grey list'** after recent evaluations of the country's progress on **money laundering and terrorist financing**. The decision, declared at the FATF plenary meeting in Singapore, marks a significant milestone for Turkey, which had been placed on the grey list in 2021.
- Former Portuguese Prime Minister **Antonio Costa** has been formally appointed to take on the second highest job in the **European Union**, that of **President of the European Council**. **Ursula Von der Leyen** has been reinstated for a second term as President of the European Commission.

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- The **Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** has introduced a **new kamikaze drone resembling Russia's Lancet drone**. This drone, yet to be named publicly, is designed for targeted attacks, akin to those witnessed in the Ukraine conflict.
- **Iraq's parliament recently passed a stringent law criminalizing same-sex relationships**, imposing a **maximum 15-year prison sentence**. The legislation, titled the Law on Combating Prostitution and Homosexuality, reflects a concerning trend of increased scrutiny and persecution of LGBT individuals in Iraq.
- **Humza Yousaf, Scotland's first Muslim First Minister** and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), has announced his resignation amid political turmoil.
- **Sri Lanka**, amidst a financial crisis stemming from a severe shortage of dollars, has taken a significant step by partially lifting import restrictions. This move aims to rejuvenate the economy, which has been struggling since March 2020.
- Dubai is embarking on an ambitious endeavor to construct the **world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport**, boasting an unprecedented capacity to accommodate 260 million passengers annually, with 400 terminal gates and five parallel runways. **Spearheaded by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, the project signifies Dubai's commitment to innovation and global connectivity.
- **Paleontologists from Argentina** have revealed the unearthing of a novel medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, **Chakisaurus nekul**, which thrived approximately 90 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous period in **present-day Patagonia**. The finding, detailed in the journal Cretaceous Research, sheds light on a remarkable creature known for its speed and unique tail anatomy.
- In a triumphant display of dominance, **Paris Saint-Germain** secured their record **12th Ligue-1 title in the 2023-24 season**. The club's relentless pursuit of excellence saw them claim victory for the third consecutive year, further solidifying their stature as a powerhouse in French football.

Under the astute leadership of **coach Luis Enrique**, PSG showcased their prowess with a commanding performance throughout the season.

- Zimbabwe has launched a new currency called the **ZiG (short for Zimbabwe Gold)** in an attempt to address the country's long-running **currency crisis**. The ZiG, backed by Zimbabwe's **gold reserves**, was introduced electronically in early April and has now been released in **banknote and coin** form.
- China is set to launch the **Chang'e-6 lunar probe** on a **round trip to the Moon**, marking a significant advancement in their space exploration. The mission aims to gather soil and rock samples from the far side of the Moon, providing crucial insights into its early evolution and the inner solar system.
- In a significant political development, the **Solomon Islands** has elected former Foreign Minister **Jeremiah Manele** as its new prime minister, indicating that the South Pacific island nation is likely to maintain close ties with China.
- **American Express** is set to inaugurate its expansive new campus in **Gurugram**, spanning nearly **one million square feet**, showcasing the company's commitment to fostering a vibrant work environment. The move signifies a strategic step in leveraging global expertise and local talent to drive innovation and value for customers worldwide.
- The Japanese men's under-23 football team etched their name in history by clinching the **AFC U-23 Asian Cup** for the second time, defeating Uzbekistan in a nail-biting final at the **Jassim bin Hamad Stadium** in Doha, Qatar. The solitary goal scored by substitute Yamada in injury time secured Japan's victory and qualification for the **2024 Paris Olympics**.
- In a groundbreaking endeavor, **China** has launched the **Chang'e-6 probe** on an ambitious mission to collect samples from the **far side of the Moon**. If successful, China will etch its name in history as the first country to retrieve lunar samples from the enigmatic far side, a feat yet unaccomplished by any other nation.
- In a significant political development, **José Raúl Mulino** has emerged victorious in Panama's presidential election, securing nearly **35%** of the counted votes with over **92%** of the ballots tallied. The 64-year-old former security minister has gained an unassailable 9% lead over his nearest rival, prompting three of his closest opponents to concede defeat.
- In a groundbreaking move that combines cutting-edge technology with diplomacy, **Ukraine** has unveiled an **AI-generated spokesperson**, named **Victoria Shi**, to deliver official statements from its foreign ministry. This significant technological leap in diplomatic communication has captured global attention.
- **Nepal's population growth rate** has hit a historic low, **standing at 0.92% per annum** over the past decade, the slowest in the last eighty years, as reported by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**. The current population stands at approximately 29.2 million, with a growth of **2.7 million from mid-April 2011 to mid-April 2021**.





- **John Swinney**, a veteran of the **Scottish National Party (SNP)**, has been elected as the party's **new leader**, paving the way for him to succeed **Humza Yousaf** as Scotland's **First Minister**. Swinney emerged as the sole contender in the contest to pick a new premier, solidifying his position as a prominent figure in Scottish politics.
- As **Vladimir Putin** embarks on his **fifth term as President of Russia**, the nation finds itself at a critical juncture, with global attention keenly focused on the trajectory of **Putin's leadership and Russia's** evolving role on the world stage.
- The **Sri Lankan government** has approved an agreement with **Adani Green Energy**, led by **Gautam Adani**, for the development of **wind power stations** in **Mannar** and **Poonerin**. The agreement was given the green light by the Sri Lankan cabinet on **May 7**. Under the **power purchase agreement**, which has a duration of **20 years**, Adani Green Energy will be paid **8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)** for the electricity generated from the wind power stations.
- **Mahamat Idris Deby Itno**, **Chad's military dictator** and interim president, has secured victory in the presidential election held on **May 6, 2024**. This provisional result, announced by the **National Election Management Agency** on **May 10, 2024**, is poised to extend Deby's rule for another six years.
- In a widely anticipated move, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has reappointed **Mikhail Mishustin** as the **Prime Minister** of Russia, subject to approval by the lower house of parliament, the **State Duma**. This decision comes as part of the legal procedure following Putin's inauguration for his fifth presidential term.
- The **European Union** has passed its **first-ever legislation** aimed at combating violence against women. The law mandates all EU member states to criminalize practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and online harassment. Despite unanimous agreement on the necessity of the legislation, disagreements arose regarding a common definition of rape. Despite this, the law marks a significant step forward in protecting women's rights across the EU.
- Japanese men's hockey team etched its name in the history books by clinching its **maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy** title. The match against **Pakistan** ended in a 2-2 deadlock after regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout. Japan emerged victorious, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the nerve-racking shootout at the **Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia**, on **11 May 2024**.
- **Russia** has claimed to have discovered massive oil and gas reserves in the **British Antarctic Territory**, a region currently protected under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. According to evidence submitted to the Commons Environment Audit Committee, the reserves uncovered by Russian research ships contain around **511 billion barrels worth of oil**, a staggering amount equivalent to approximately **10 times the North Sea's output over the last 50 years**.
- In a strategic move aimed at positioning **Dubai** as a global gaming hub and bolstering its digital economy, **His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, the **Crown Prince of Dubai**, has unveiled the '**Dubai Gaming Visa**' as part of the **Dubai Program for Gaming 2033**.
- China's industrial output grew by **6.7% year-on-year in April**, a significant **increase from the 4.5% growth recorded in March**. This robust growth, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Friday, exceeded analysts' expectations of a 5.5% rise, indicating a strengthening recovery in the manufacturing sector.
- **Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Prachanda**, is set to seek his fourth vote of confidence on Monday amidst turmoil in parliament. The Janata Samajbadi Party Nepal has withdrawn its support within 18 months of Dahal taking office, prompting this latest confidence vote.
- Hundreds of residents **near Mount Ibu**, an active volcano on **Halmahera island in eastern Indonesia**, have been evacuated following a significant increase in volcanic activity. Authorities raised the alert status to the highest level after two consecutive days of massive eruptions, prompting precautionary measures to ensure the safety of local communities.
- India and the UAE recently concluded a significant meeting focused on the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)**. The meeting, held under the Intergovernmental Framework Agreement, aimed at enhancing cooperation for the development and operationalization of the corridor. This initiative is set to provide alternative supply routes, generating efficiencies and reducing costs.
- In the latest move against perceived infringements on its territorial claims, China has sanctioned **Boeing and two other US defense companies** for their involvement in **arms sales to Taiwan**. The announcement came on the day of Taiwan's presidential inauguration, highlighting tensions in the region.
- **Venezuela** has recently witnessed a poignant environmental milestone, marking a grim reality of the climate crisis. The nation has likely become the **first in modern history to lose all its glaciers**, with the reclassification of the Humboldt glacier as an ice field, its final icy vestige, earlier this month.
- **Japanese consortium** has unveiled the prototype of what is touted to be the **world's first high-speed 6G device**, promising data transfer rates at lightning speed. This groundbreaking innovation opens the door to a realm of possibilities previously unimaginable.
- In a proud moment for Kannadigas and dairy farmers in Karnataka, the **Scotland cricket** team has unveiled its **new ICC T20 World Cup jersey** adorned with the **Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini logo**. This collaboration signifies a significant milestone, bridging the worlds of cricket and dairy in a unique partnership.





- **Iran** mourns its **President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian**, and other officials who were killed in a **helicopter crash in northwest Iran**. This incident occurs amidst heightened tensions in West Asia, notably the ongoing conflict between **Israel and Gaza** and the broader geopolitical confrontations involving Iran, Israel, and the US.
- **Lai Ching-te** was sworn in as **Taiwan's new President** in a ceremony on Monday after winning the election earlier this year. He succeeds **Tsai Ing-wen**, who led Taiwan through eight years marked by economic and social progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic and China's increasing military threats.
- **To Lam**, Vietnam's former minister of public security, has been confirmed as the nation's new president by the National Assembly. His rise comes amid an ongoing **anti-corruption campaign** that has shaken the country's political establishment and business elites, resulting in multiple high-level government changes.
- Spain has officially become the **99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. The Instrument of Ratification was handed over by Spain's Ambassador to India, José María Ridaó Domínguez, to Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, during a meeting in New Delhi.
- The **European Union** has given the **final green light to the AI Act**, marking a historic step in regulating artificial intelligence. This groundbreaking legislation establishes comprehensive rules to ensure trust, transparency, and accountability in AI technologies while fostering innovation within Europe.
- Amid the ongoing **Israel-Hamas conflict**, Ireland, Norway, and Spain have formally recognized Palestine as a state. In response, Israel has recalled its ambassadors to Ireland and Norway, with warnings directed at Spain. This move adds to the diplomatic tensions amidst the escalating **violence in Gaza**.
- **Klaus Schwab**, founder and executive chairman of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, will transition from his current role to become chairman of the board of trustees by January next year, according to an emailed statement from the Geneva-based institution. This move is part of a planned **"governance evolution"** from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.
- **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** awarded the **First-Class Medal of Independence to Jose Aguero Avila**, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the UAE, on the occasion of the end of his tenure as ambassador to the country.
- The **University of Tokyo** has inaugurated the **Atacama Observatory (TAO)**, which has been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the **highest observatory in the world**. Situated at a staggering **5,640 meters above sea level** on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region of Chile, TAO stands as a testament to human ingenuity and determination.
- In a move that reflects the strengthening ties between India and the Maldives, the island nation has announced its intention to launch **India's RuPay service**. This decision underscores the growing economic and financial cooperation between the two countries. While the specific launch date for the RuPay service has not yet been disclosed, the upcoming integration holds promise for enhanced financial inclusivity and cost-saving measures.
- **Saudi Arabia's** appointment of **Faisal bin Saud Al-Mejfel as its ambassador to Syria** signifies a significant shift in bilateral relations, marking the first such appointment in over a decade. This move comes amidst a period of thawing relations between the two nations following years of estrangement sparked by the Syrian civil war.
- In a resounding victory, **Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda** has clinched a second term, triumphing over **Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė**. With preliminary results indicating Nausėda's commanding lead with 74.5% of the votes, his reelection underscores broad support for his moderate conservative stance and unwavering advocacy for Ukraine.
- **Ghana's Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC)** collaborates with Reliance Jio's subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia to bolster its **4G and 5G capabilities**. With a focus on emulating India's telecom success, Ghana aims to enhance connectivity and digital services across various sectors.
- **Nepalese climber Purnima Shrestha** has achieved the extraordinary accomplishment of **climbing Mount Everest three times** during the current season. Shrestha, who works as a photojournalist, successfully summited the world's highest peak on **May 12, May 19, and May 25**.
- **Chad**, a north-central African nation, has witnessed a significant transition in leadership as **Mahamat Idriss Deby** was sworn in as the country's new president. Deby's ascension to power marks the end of three years of **military rule** in the **oil-rich but impoverished nation**.
- A devastating landslide in the remote village of **Yambali** in the **Enga Province of Papua New Guinea** has buried an entire village, resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. According to the United Nations agency International Organization for Migration (**IOM**), more than **670 people** have died, and over **2000** are feared trapped under the soil.





- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has forged a significant technology partnership with **Norway's Nel ASA** to expedite its foray into new energy investments. This alliance is poised to play a pivotal role in facilitating RIL's transition towards green energy, particularly through the production of green hydrogen.
- Russia is set to remove the **Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organizations**, three years after the group regained power in Afghanistan. This move, reported by state-run **RIA Novosti** news agency, comes after years of Russia fostering relations with the Taliban, including holding multiple rounds of talks and boosting trade despite international sanctions.
- In a significant move to fortify **Ukraine's defense capabilities against Russia**, Sweden has announced the donation of two Saab Airborne **Surveillance and Control (ASC) 890 aircraft**. These radar surveillance planes will play a crucial role in enhancing Ukraine's long-range target identification capabilities and supporting the integration of F-16 fighter jets provided by other Western nations.

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- Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on **women's rights**. The appointment of **Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil** has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality.
- Romania and Bulgaria have taken a significant step in their integration with the **European Union by partially joining the Schengen travel zone**. While travelers arriving by air or sea now enjoy ID-check-free access, land border checks persist due to opposition from Austria.
- **The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on **March 29th, 2024**. The event served as a platform to assess the accomplishments and insights gained from the year-long celebration.
- **Katchatheevu, an Indian island** with a tumultuous past, has been a focal point of contention between **India and Sri Lanka since its cession in 1974**.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the country's **first female Prime Minister**. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of **worsening violence** in the mineral-rich **eastern region** bordering Rwanda.
- On **April 1, 2024**, Germany became the largest **European Union (EU)** nation to **legalize recreational cannabis use**, despite facing opposition from politicians and medical associations. Under the new law, **adults over 18** are now permitted to carry up to **25 grams of dried cannabis** and cultivate up to **three marijuana plants** at home.
- Scientists in South Korea have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an **"artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor**. During tests conducted between December 2023 and February 2024, they generated **plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius** for a duration of **48 seconds**.
- **Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, 69**, has commenced his third term as the leader of the nation, extending his tenure until 2030. Amidst battling economic challenges, **Sisi vows to prioritize national interests and fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for a modern, democratic state**.
- A research center in **Romania has revealed the world's most potent laser**, based on the groundbreaking inventions of **Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland**. The laser, operated by the French company Thales, promises revolutionary applications across sectors from healthcare to space exploration.
- **Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi**, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa. **President Emmerson Mnangagwa** cited an **"El Nino-induced drought"** causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over **80% of the country**. This drought, exacerbated by climate change, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region.
- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is marking its **75th anniversary this year**. The alliance, founded in 1949, will hold a special event in Brussels, Belgium to commemorate this milestone.
- In Slovakia's recent presidential election, **Peter Pellegrini** emerged victorious, reinforcing the pro-Russian stance of **Prime Minister Robert Fico's government**. Pellegrini's win signals a continuity in Fico's policies, characterized by a tilt towards Russia, controversial reforms, and strained relations with the West.
- China has surpassed India as the primary importer of Russian crude oil via sea routes, with **China importing 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) in March compared to India's 1.36 million bpd**. This shift is attributed to India's slowdown in imports due to sanctions and rising prices.
- British national **Russ Cook**, known as the **"Hardest Geezer,"** has successfully completed a challenging trek that took him over 352 days to finish. During his journey, he covered more than 10,000 miles, passed through 16 countries, and took over 19 million steps, all while raising money for charity.





- **Simon Harris, aged 37**, has been elected as Ireland's youngest-ever prime minister, succeeding **Leo Varadkar who resigned last month**. Harris, a former health and higher education minister, secured the nomination with a vote of 88-69 in parliament, garnering support from independent lawmakers, as well as his coalition partners Fianna Fail and the Green Party.
- In an effort to stabilize its economy after years of turmoil, **Zimbabwe has launched a new gold-backed currency called ZiG, an abbreviation for "Zimbabwe Gold."** This move comes as the country grapples with hyperinflation and a volatile financial landscape.
- **Former Pakistan Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Syedal Khan Nasir** have been elected as Pakistan's Senate chairman and deputy chairman, respectively.
- In a significant development, Israel deployed its ship-mounted defense system, the **C-Dome, for the first time against a suspicious aerial target near the southern city of Eilat**. The incident occurred following an alert in the area, which had previously been targeted by missile fire from **Yemen's Houthi rebels**. The C-Dome, a naval adaptation of the Iron Dome, successfully intercepted the target, marking its maiden operational use.
- **Russia** successfully tested its **Angara-A5 space rocket** for the first time on April 11, 2024. The test launch was conducted from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome** in the Far East of Russia. In fact, rocket test launches on April 9 and 10 were cancelled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system and a problem with the engine launch-control system.
- **Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong**, after two decades in office, will step down on May 15, passing the baton to his deputy, Lawrence Wong. The transition marks a significant moment for Singapore as it prepares for new leadership amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the new Prime Minister** following the resignation of **Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah**. Sheikh Ahmad, born in 1952, brings extensive experience in finance and government, having held various ministerial positions.
- In a groundbreaking move, **Nigeria** has become the inaugural nation to introduce the **innovative Men5CV vaccine, recommended by the WHO**, targeting five strains of meningococcal bacteria. This historic milestone holds immense promise in combating meningitis, a severe threat in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. The vaccine rollout, **funded by Gavi, is a crucial step towards achieving the WHO's goal of eliminating meningitis by 2030.**
- In a recent announcement on April 20, 2024, **North Korea revealed the testing of a new anti-aircraft Pyolji-1-2 missile and a super large strategic cruise missile Hwasal-1 Ra-3 warhead in the West Sea of Korea**. These tests, conducted on April 19, 2024, mark a significant escalation in tensions between North Korea, South Korea, and the United States.
- **Mayako Pahichan Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board**, orchestrated the groundbreaking **first International Rainbow Tourism Conference**. This one-day event marks a significant leap forward in fostering diversity and inclusivity within Nepal's tourism industry, positioning the country as a welcoming destination for the sexual minority community in South Asia.
- **Indonesia's electoral commission** has officially declared **Prabowo Subianto** as the president-elect after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, currently serving as the defense minister, secured 58.6% of the votes, amounting to more than 96 million ballots, which is more than twice the number received by either of his rivals.
- In the recently released **2024 Special 301 Report by the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR)**, India finds itself on the Priority Watch List for **intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement**. This decision comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding India's handling of IP security issues.

International Current Affairs of March 2024

- **Tuvalu** has named **Feleti Teo**, the former Attorney General, as the Pacific Island nation's new prime minister. This appointment comes in the aftermath of a general election that placed the country's diplomatic affiliations, especially its ties with Taiwan, under intense scrutiny.
- **Dubai** witnessed an extraordinary event with the city-state's inaugural jet suit race. Organized by Gravity Industries in collaboration with the **Dubai Sports Council**, this groundbreaking competition showcased pilots equipped with jet engines on their hands and backs, resembling real-life 'Iron Men'.
- In a groundbreaking move, **France** has made history by becoming the **first nation globally** to anchor the right to abortion within its constitution. This decision represents a significant advancement in the protection of reproductive rights, sparking a mix of applause and criticism across different spectrums of society.
- Hungary's parliament recently appointed a new president following the resignation of the previous head of state amidst a scandal involving a controversial pardon granted in a child sexual abuse case. The appointment of **Tamás Sulyok**, a former head of Hungary's Constitutional Court, sparked debate among opposition parties calling for direct presidential elections.





- Sweden formally became the **32nd member of NATO** after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security.
- **Panama** has officially become the **97th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. This milestone was announced by Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. Panama's accession underscores the country's commitment to embracing sustainable energy sources and marks a crucial step in the global march towards a greener future. (Read the complete article)
- The **Indian Consulate in Dubai** has introduced a new **insurance package** called the **Life Protection Plan (LPP)** for **Indian blue-collar workers** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This plan aims to provide **financial benefits** to the families of the workers in case of **natural or accidental deaths**.
- **Hong Kong** has introduced a **new national security law draft**. The proposed legislation, covering treason, espionage, and external interference, signifies a significant increase in state authority in the region. This development arises amidst a wider crackdown on dissent, resulting in pro-democracy figures being imprisoned or exiled.
- Asif Ali Zardari took oath as **Pakistan's 14th President** following his overwhelming victory in the presidential election.
- China recently announced a new territorial sea baseline in the northern part of the **Gulf of Tonkin**, shared with Vietnam, sparking concerns about potential impacts on existing agreements and regional stability.
- In a landmark gathering in **Yaoundé, Cameroon**, health ministers from **11 African nations**, along with global malaria partners and stakeholders, convened to address the escalating **malaria crisis** in Africa. Despite available tools and systems, malaria cases surged globally, with Africa bearing the brunt, accounting for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths in 2022.
- The naval forces of **China, Iran, and Russia** launched a joint exercise near the **Gulf of Oman**, aimed at safeguarding regional maritime security. The **"Security Belt-2024"** exercise marks the fourth time these countries have conducted such a drill since 2019.
- President **Mahmoud Abbas** of the Palestinian Authority (PA) has appointed **Mohammad Mustafa as the new Prime Minister**. Mustafa, a U.S.-educated economist, is one of the leading Palestinian business figures with a track record of overseeing Gaza's reconstruction efforts under Hamas' rule.
- **Britain** has recently conducted successful test firings of its **DragonFire Laser Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW)**, showcasing its capability to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles at a remarkably low cost. A January demonstration in Scotland displayed the laser's precision in targeting and destroying aerial threats, marking a potential game-changer in air defense technology.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** clinched victory in the recent election with a commanding lead of **76.1% of the vote**, as per preliminary results. This win marks Putin's continued dominance in Russian politics, now extending his tenure to a total of 24 years in power.
- In a move to boost its **tourism industry**, the government of Nepal has officially declared **Pokhara**, a city in the Gandaki province, as the **tourism capital** of the Himalayan nation. The declaration was made during a special ceremony held at the **Barahi Ghat** on the shores of the **Phewa Lake**.
- **Vaughan Gething**, who currently serves as the **Economic Minister of Wales**, has been elected as the new **leader of the Welsh Labour Party**. His victory marks a **historic milestone** as he becomes the **first ever Black person to lead a European country**.
- The **New Zealand government** has announced a **ban on disposable e-cigarettes or vapes**. The move comes less than a month after the country repealed a law that aimed to phase out **tobacco smoking**.
- The **United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia** have forged the AUKUS partnership to bolster trilateral security and construct **nuclear-powered submarines** for the Royal Australian Navy. This landmark agreement signifies a significant advancement in defense collaboration among the three nations.
- **Simon Harris**, a prominent figure in Irish politics, has emerged as the sole candidate in the race to become Ireland's next prime minister following the unexpected departure of **Leo Varadkar**. At 37 years old, Harris is poised to become the **youngest prime minister in Ireland's history**.
- The **Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore** collapsed early on March 26 after a container ship collided with a pylon, resulting in the presumed death of six individuals who fell into the cold waters below. The incident has halted operations at one of the **busiest ports on the U.S. Eastern Seaboard**.
- After eight years of Socialist rule in Portugal, **Luis Montenegro**, leader of the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD), has been appointed as the new prime minister. However, his minority government faces challenges due to his refusal to ally with the far-right Chega party.





- **Rumi Alqahtani**, a 27-year-old model and influencer from Saudi Arabia, announced on Instagram that she will be the first participant from the country in the **Miss Universe** competition. Alqahtani was born in **Riyadh** and has previously won the titles of **Miss Saudi Arabia**, **Miss Arab World Peace 2021**, and **Miss Woman (Saudi Arabia)**. This will be the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's first appearance** in the Miss Universe pageant.
- **Bassirou Diomaye Faye**, an anti-establishment figure, has won the **Senegalese presidential election** with **54.28 per cent** of the votes in the first round. At 44 years old, Faye is set to become **Africa's youngest elected president** and the first opponent to win in the first round since Senegal's independence from France in 1960. His victory still needs to be validated by Senegal's Constitutional Council in the next few days.
- **Thailand's lower house** of Parliament has passed a groundbreaking bill to **legalize same-sex marriage**, marking a significant step towards equality in Southeast Asia. The legislation, an amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code, garnered overwhelming support in the House of Representatives.
- **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** has signed a bill that **prohibits minors under 14 from having social media accounts**. The law requires **parental permission** for 14- and 15-year-olds to create accounts on platforms like **Meta**, **TikTok**, and others. All social media users in Florida must **submit identification documents** to verify their ages.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- **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, Maen 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.

International Current Affairs of February 2024

- 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.
- 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."
- 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.
- **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.



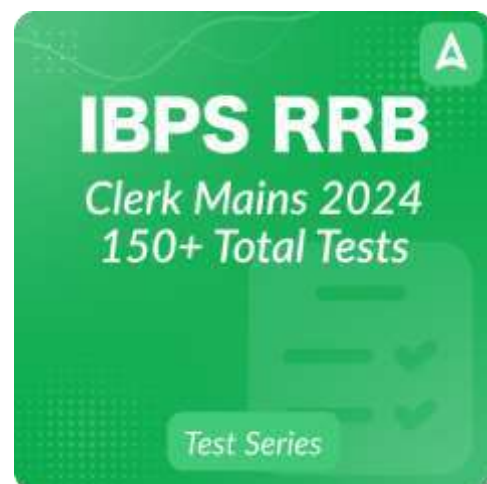


- The **Geological Institute of Israel** has recently made a groundbreaking discovery near Cyprus, uncovering an underwater canyon of unprecedented proportions. Named **Eratosthenes** after the nearby underwater mountain, this canyon sheds new light on the geological history of the Mediterranean region.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.





- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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%.
- 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.
- **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**.





Current Affairs Related to States in India

Current Affairs Related to States in India of July 2024

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **NTR Bharosa pension scheme**, fulfilling a key election promise and bringing hope to millions of beneficiaries across the state.
- Scientists from Hyderabad's **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** have revealed a historic collision between **India and East Antarctica over a billion years ago**. Their findings, including a hidden ridge in **Andhra Pradesh's Darsi and Addanki regions**, suggest significant geological shifts. Seismic data reprocessing uncovered Proterozoic sediment layers, shedding new light on India's eastern coast evolution. Published in the **Journal of Pure and Applied Geophysics**, this research enriches the understanding of ancient Indian subcontinent ties to Antarctica.

Arunachal Pradesh

- A team of researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The new-to-science **Xenophrys apatani**, recorded from the **Talle Wildlife Sanctuary** in the Lower Subansiri district, has been named after the dominant **Apatani community** in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of **wild flora and fauna**.

Assam

- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved the repeal of the **Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935** through the **Assam Repealing Bill, 2024**.
- The **Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as **India's 43rd entry**.

Bihar

- On July 24, 2024, the Bihar Assembly passed the **Anti-Paper Leak Bill** to combat malpractices in government recruitment exams.

Gujarat

- The first confirmed death due to **Chandipura virus infection in Gujarat** was reported as a **four-year-old child from Mota Kanthariya in Aravalli**. The confirmation came from Pune's National Institute of Virology. The virus, initially reported in north Gujarat, has spread to new areas, raising concerns about a potential outbreak with 14 deaths in two weeks and 26 suspected cases under investigation.

Haryana

- The Haryana Cabinet has approved the launch of the **IT Saksham Yuva Scheme, 2024**, targeting the provision of jobs to 5,000 youths in the first phase. This initiative aligns with the **'Mission 60,000' from the 2024-25 budget**, aiming to employ 60,000 young individuals from poor families. Under the scheme, graduates or postgraduates from IT backgrounds will undergo specially designed short-term courses for a minimum of three months.
- Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad are all set to establish **two waste-to-charcoal plants**, also known as **green coal plants**, in the two districts at a cost of **₹500 crore each**.

Himachal Pradesh

- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval on July 12, to rationalise the provisions for **zero electricity bills for domestic consumers** by restricting subsidy to **'one family, one meter'** and interlinking power connections with ration cards.

Jharkhand

- **Hemant Soren** has returned as **Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, reinstated after a five-month hiatus that began with his arrest by the **Enforcement Directorate**. His reappointment follows a tumultuous period marked by political maneuvering within the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which heads the state's ruling alliance.
- On July 25, 2024, **Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched the **Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024** at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (**BCCL**) in **Dhanbad**.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free' at an event in **Koderma, Jharkhand**. NCPCR chairperson **Priyank Kanoongo** announced this as the first-ever successful endeavor to cleanse a supply chain of child labour in mica mining.
- The **Jharkhand government** is working on a plan to open eastern **India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand)** a minister said on June 11. The proposed university will offer **education** according to the needs of students with disabilities. Higher and technical education minister **Champai Soren** directed officials to prepare a proposal to open the university for **physically challenged students in Ranchi**.

Karnataka

- The **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**, a unit of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, has identified lithium resources in the **Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka**.





Madhya Pradesh

- **Bhopal**, Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** has said that our aim is to make all departments as accountable as possible towards the public. **Lokpath Mobile App** prepared by the Public Works Department is being launched with a view to continuously moving forward on the path of public welfare by adopting a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public.
- **Indore** on July 14, set a new **Guinness World Record** in the category of “**the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours**” by planting **more than 11 lakh saplings**. Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** stated that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than **11 lakh saplings in a single day**. The programme was **organised by the state government**.
- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the ‘**Best Performing State**’ under the **Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme**, which supports urban street vendors with collateral-free loans up to ₹50,000. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced this accolade, with Assam securing the second position in the ‘**Best Performing States – Innovation and Best Practices Award**’ category.

Maharashtra

- The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that **Maharashtra** has won the **Best Agriculture State Award for 2024**. The announcement was made by the committee headed by **Justice P Sathasivam**, former Chief Justice of India and Governor of Kerala.
- In a bid to tackle **unemployment among the youth**, the **Government of Maharashtra** has unveiled the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana** (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme). It **aims** to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market.
- **Mumbai**, India’s bustling financial capital, is set to witness a significant transformation in its urban transit system with the inauguration of its first underground metro, the **Aqua Line**.

Meghalaya

- **Meghalaya** launched State-owned **Hello Meghalaya**, an **OTT platform** primarily for regional languages with a limited reach or small market, on July 11.

Mizoram

- In a significant milestone for India's community radio landscape, **Union Minister** of Information and Broadcasting **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the **country's 500th community radio station**, Apna Radio 90.0 FM, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (**IIMC**) in **Aizawl, Mizoram**.

Nagaland

- In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, **Nagaland** has been awarded the title of **best state in horticulture** at the prestigious **Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024**. This accolade highlights the state’s commitment to innovative agricultural practices and rural development.

Odisha

- **Jagannath Rath Yatra** is a famous Hindu festival celebrated every year in the **city of Puri, Odisha**. It takes place on the Dwitiya Tithi, the second day of the bright fortnight of Sharad Paksha, a period of increasing moonlight considered auspicious for spiritual activities. This festival falls in the month of Asadh according to the Hindu lunar calendar, usually corresponding to June or July in the Gregorian calendar.

Punjab

- **Justice Aalia Neelum** on July 11, took oath as the **Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC)** of Pakistan (Lahore), making her the first woman to be elevated as the court’s top judge. **Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan** administered the oath of office to her. Punjab province’s **first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz** was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.

Telangana

- **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** launched a unique programme to provide financial assistance to the **Civil Services aspirants from Telangana**, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with **₹1 lakh for preparation**.
- In a significant step towards eradicating tuberculosis (TB), **Telangana** launched the “**Project Swasthya Nagaram**,” a unique model for **TB-free municipalities**, on July 24, 2024, in **Hyderabad**.

Tripura

- **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha** emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about the historical background of **Kharchi Puja** and its **fourteen deities**. The inauguration of the traditional festival at the **Chaturdash Devta temple** in old Agartala’s Khayerpur on June 14.

Uttarakhand

- The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established **Uttarakhand’s first bird gallery** at the Nature Education Centre, **Jolly Grant, in Dehradun** on July 15. This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand’s birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state’s feathery inhabitants.





Current Affairs Related to States in India of June

2024

- In a significant stride towards enhancing digital healthcare infrastructure, the Uttarakhand government has successfully integrated its **eSwasthya Dham portal** with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. This integration marks a crucial step in improving health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered **Char Dham Yatra**, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives.
- **July 16**, marks the **official beginning of Sawan** accompanied by the vibrant **Harela festival** celebrated across **Uttarakhand**. This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's **agriculture and culture**, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, the state government has passed the draft for the **Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024**. This initiative, chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, is part of a broader strategy to uplift the state's economy to the one trillion dollar mark.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government**, led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has unveiled a major environmental initiative called '**Mitra Van**' (**Friendship Forest**) as part of the **Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024**. This ambitious project aims to enhance greenery along the borders of Uttar Pradesh, including its international border with Nepal.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has secured over **154 defence manufacturing deals worth Rs 25,000 crore**, marking a significant stride in bolstering India's defence production capabilities. These initiatives are part of the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)**, spanning Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra districts.
- **The Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh** has released its latest summer census figures for the state bird, the **Sarus Crane**. The report, unveiled on July 10, 2024, reveals a promising trend in the conservation efforts of this majestic species.
- Uttar Pradesh **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** announced on June 12, in Lucknow that the State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to **Japan and Malaysia**. And for the first time in its **160-year** history, Lucknow's famous **Dussehri** is to be exported to the **United States**. He was inaugurating the **Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024** at **Awadh Shilp Gram**.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Telangana Formation Day** is a momentous occasion celebrated annually on **June 2** in the Indian state of **Telangana**. This day marks the **official establishment** of Telangana as the **28th state** of India on June 2, 2014, after years of **struggle and aspirations** for a separate state identity.
- After a decade-long hiatus, **TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu** is poised to reclaim the **Chief Minister's position in Andhra Pradesh**, with his swearing-in ceremony scheduled for **June 12 at Kesarapalli IT Park near Gannavaram airport**.
- A day before his **swearing-in** as the **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh**, **TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu** has announced that **Amaravati** will be the **sole capital** of the state.
- Three years after vowing to enter the Assembly only as **Chief Minister**, **N. Chandrababu Naidu** has been **sworn in** for his **fourth term** as the **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**. The **oath-taking ceremony**, held near **Gannavaram Airport** in **Kesarapalli** on the outskirts of **Vijayawada**, saw the attendance of key figures including **PM Modi** and **Home Minister Amit Shah**.
- **Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan** was named the **Deputy Chief Minister** in a highly-anticipated move by the **Andhra Pradesh government** on June 14. The actor-turned-politician has also been allocated the **Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Environment, Forests, and Science and Technology** portfolios in the **Chandrababu Naidu-led government**.
- **Telugu Desam Party's** Narsipatnam MLA **C. Ayyanna Patrudu** was elected unanimously as the **Speaker of the 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** on June 22, 2024. Mr. Ayyanna Patrudu's election was a mere formality as no other MLA filed a nomination for the Speaker's post to challenge him.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Pema Khandu** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** took the oath as the **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh** for the third consecutive time.
- **Tesam Pongte** was unanimously elected as the **Speaker of the 8th Arunachal Pradesh Assembly** on June 15. **Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering** announced that **Pongte** was elected unopposed as the **Speaker of the Assembly**.





Assam

- The central government has approved Assam’s proposal to establish a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Kamrup district. **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the “**in-principle approval**” from the **Ministry of Education**, with IIM Ahmedabad slated to mentor the new institution.

Bihar

- India has added **two bird sanctuaries from Bihar, Nagi and Nakti** – to the ‘**Ramsar Sites**’ list, taking the tally to 82. The newest ‘Wetlands of International Importance’, both man-made reservoirs situated in the **Jhajha forest range of Jamui District in Bihar**, were added to **Ramsar Sites** as part of World Environment Day, observed annually on June 5

Haryana

- In a bid to bolster cyber security awareness, Zupee, India’s largest skill-based Ludo platform, has partnered with Gurugram Cyber Police for the 11th edition of the Cyber Security Summer Internship Program, titled ‘**Cyber Warriors**’. The month-long internship aims to train selected candidates in cyber security under the guidance of experts, fostering responsible digital citizenship and tackling real-world cyber threats.
- **Haryana Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad** announced the launch of a **Rs 10,000-crore project** funded by the World Bank to address **air pollution in the state**. The Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development will be rolled out in phases, starting with districts in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- **Nayab Singh Saini** announced that the reservation for the backward classes in **Group-A and Group-B posts**, currently at **15 per cent**, will be increased to **27 per cent**, “**in line with the Central government’s policy**”. Saini was addressing a gathering at ‘**OBC Morcha Sarv Samaj Samrasta Sammelan**’ held in Gurugram.

Ladakh

- The **Hemis Festival**, a vibrant celebration of **Tibetan Buddhism**, takes place annually in **Ladakh, India**. In 2024, this important cultural event will be held on **June 16th and 17th**.

Karnataka

- **Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot of Karnataka** inaugurated the **National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru**, emphasizing yoga’s integral role in Indian culture and its global significance. More than 400 students and 100 teachers from across the country are participating in this inaugural three-day event.

Kerala

- **Kerala’s Kozhikode** is all set to host the **Malabar River Festival 2024**, featuring the International White Water Kayaking Championship from **July 25 to 28**. This exciting event aims to promote white-water kayaking in the region and will be held in **Thusaharagiri, Chalipuzha, and Iruvazhinjipuzha**. The high-octane events and pre-events will host over 100 national-level kayakers from India and kayaking professionals from over 20 countries.
- On **June 23, 2024**, Kozhikode made history by becoming the first **UNESCO City of Literature** in India. This prestigious recognition highlights the city’s rich literary heritage and cultural significance.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** launched an intra-State air service to **promote tourism** on June 13 from **Raja Bhoj International Airport** in the state capital Bhopal. It is called ‘**PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva**’ and the first flight was flagged off from the capital **Bhopal to Jabalpur**. The service **operated by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)** with two aircraft will connect eight cities across the State- **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Khajuraho, Ujjain, Rewa, and Singrauli**.
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has completed preparations for its ambitious cheetah reintroduction project at **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**. This is slated to be the **second home for cheetahs** in India after **Kuno National Park**.
- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet, **led by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**, decided on June 25, 2024, that state ministers will now be responsible for paying income tax on their salaries and allowances out of their own pockets. This marks a significant change from a 1972 rule under which the state government bore the tax burden. This decision was approved unanimously during a cabinet meeting held in Bhopal.

Maharashtra

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has taken a significant step forward in wildlife protection by introducing an advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) system** for early forest fire detection. This innovative approach marks a new chapter in conservation efforts, combining cutting-edge technology with traditional wildlife management practices.

Odisha

- In a historic move, senior **BJP leader Surama Padhy** has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, becoming only the second woman to hold this prestigious position. Padhy, a two-term MLA from the Ranpur constituency in Nayagarh district, assumed office unopposed during a special session of the Assembly.





Punjab

- **Punjab Police** in association with the **Border Security Force (BSF)** and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) will carry out a one-week **drive against drugs** in Fazilka district. They will reach out to residents of as many as 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather actionable intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs.

Rajasthan

- **Bhajan Lal Sharma**, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has announced an ambitious plan to develop the **Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit** with an investment of **Rs 100 crore**. This announcement was made on **8 June 2023** during the inauguration of the Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebration in Udaipur, where the **484th birthday** of the legendary Maharana Pratap of Mewar was celebrated on **9 June 2024** (according to the Hindu calendar).

Sikkim

- **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)** supremo **Prem Singh Tamang** on June 10 took oath as the **Chief Minister of the Himalayan state** for the **second consecutive term**. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by **Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya** at a function held in **Paljor Stadium in Gangtok**.

Uttarakhand

- The Uttarakhand government organized India's first-ever **astro-tourism** event called '**Nakshatra Sabha**' in **Mussoorie**, the 'Queen of Hills', on **June 1 and 2, 2024**. The inaugural event was held at the **George Everest Peak**, famous for its breathtaking views of the Doon Valley and the snow-capped Himalayas.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has unveiled its plans for the **MotoGP event** as it will be hosted by the city of **Noida from 2025 until 2029** and announced a **collaboration with Spain's Dorna Sports** and the Indian partner which is **Fairstreet sports**. Initially, the event was to **take place in 2024**, but resulted in postponement due to weather conditions and is now slated for March 2025.
- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to establish the **world's first conservation** and breeding centre for Asian king vultures or red-headed **vultures in Maharajanj**. The facility will improve the population of critically endangered species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list **since 2007**. The centre is named **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has announced an ambitious plan to establish a **bioplastic park** in the Lakhimpur Kheri district. This innovative project aims to address environmental concerns while boosting the local economy. Let's explore the details of this groundbreaking initiative.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of May 2024

Assam

- Assam has taken a significant step towards enhancing its disaster management capabilities with the launch of the **Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS)**. This state-of-the-art digital platform, an initiative of the **Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)**, aims to streamline the reporting and assessment of damages caused by various disasters, enabling prompt disbursement of aid to those affected.

Goa

- **Goa Statehood Day** is celebrated annually on **May 30** to commemorate the day when **Goa** attained statehood in **1987**. This occasion marks the recognition of Goa as a separate state within the Indian union, distinct from the Union Territory it was previously part of.

Gujarat

- **Gujarat Day, celebrated on May 1st**, commemorates the formation of the **vibrant state of Gujarat on May 1st, 1960**. This annual occasion reflects Gujarat's rich cultural heritage, resilience, and contributions to India's cultural mosaic. With a history steeped in tradition and progress, Gujarat Day serves as a reminder of the state's journey towards independence and its ongoing pursuit of growth and prosperity.

Haryana

- As the Lok Sabha elections in Gurugram, scheduled for May 25, draw near, the district administration has taken a unique approach to encourage voter participation. In a bid to attract the attention of the electorate, particularly the youth, the authorities have roped in **India cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal**, as well as popular singers **MD Desi Rockstar** and **Naveen Punia**, as brand ambassadors.

Karnataka

- The **Karnataka government** has mandated a **33% reservation for women** in outsourced government jobs. This aligns with existing quotas for permanent positions and applies to jobs lasting more than 45 days and involving over 20 employees.

Kerala

- **Kerala's health authorities** have reported West Nile fever cases in three districts: **Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur**. In response, the state government has directed all districts to be vigilant and implement mosquito control measures, including pre-monsoon cleaning drives and surveillance activities.





- In a pioneering move, the state of **Kerala** has introduced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning** in the **Information & Communication Technology (ICT) textbook** for **Class 7** students. This initiative aims to familiarize over **4 lakh students** with AI in the upcoming academic year, marking a significant step towards enhancing technological education in the state.

Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra Day**, also known as **Maharashtra Divas**, is celebrated every year on **May 1st** to commemorate the **formation of the state in 1960**. Maharashtra was carved out of the Bombay Presidency and declared a separate state on this historic day. Present-day Gujarat constitutes the other part of the former Bombay state. The division was a result of the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which aimed to reorganize states based on linguistic boundaries, following massive protests for linguistic states.

Manipur

- Amidst the aftermath of ethnic strife and severe hailstorms, **Manipur's government introduces** the **"School on Wheels" program**, aiming to provide education to students sheltered in relief camps across the state. The initiative, inaugurated by **Governor Anusuiya Uikey**, entails a mobile educational setup equipped with a library, computers, and sports items, accompanied by a teacher, to visit various camps.

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya has made history by appointing **Idashisha Nongrang** as the state's first woman **Director General of Police (DGP)**. Nongrang, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, will succeed **Lajja Ram Bishnoi**, who is set to retire on May 19, 2024.

Rajasthan

- In response to a **public interest litigation (PIL)** on child marriage, the **Rajasthan High Court** has issued a directive aimed at curbing the practice in the state. With the approaching **Akshay Tithiya festival**, notorious for child marriages, the court has emphasized the responsibility of sarpanchs and panchayat members in preventing such unions.
- In a heartening development, the annual waterhole census conducted in the **National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, has revealed a significant presence of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. The survey, which employs the waterhole technique during the scorching summer months, counted a staggering **64 Great Indian Bustards** within the park's boundaries.

Tamil Nadu

- In a remarkable achievement, **P Shyaamnikhil** from Tamil Nadu has etched his name in the annals of Indian chess history by becoming the country's **85th Grandmaster (GM)**. The **31-year-old chess prodigy**, who embarked on his journey at the tender age of eight, finally secured the coveted **third and final GM norm** at the prestigious **2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament**.
- The **government of Tamil Nadu** has launched a three-day survey of the **Nilgiri Tahr**, the state's iconic animal. This initiative aims to better understand and conserve this **endangered species** that faces numerous challenges, including **habitat loss** and **poaching**.

Uttarakhand

- The **Uttarakhand government** has **suspended** the manufacturing **licenses of 14 products from Patanjali Ayurved, founded by Baba Ramdev**, citing misleading advertisements about their efficacy. This move comes amid ongoing scrutiny and legal proceedings against Ramdev for non-compliance with directives to cease misleading advertising.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been actively assisting the state in combating the forest fires. In response to the raging fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking **Bambi Bucket operations** using its **Mi17 V5 helicopters**.
- The **Uttarakhand government** has launched the **'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao'** campaign to contain the raging **forest fires** in the state. Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the campaign in the **Rudraprayag district** on **May 8, 2024**. He urged the people to actively participate in the campaign and stated that cooperatives, **Yuva Mangal Dal**, and **Van Panchayat** would also take part.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** has granted approval to the Uttar Pradesh Government's proposal to **rename eight railway stations in Amethi district**. Spearheaded by BJP Amethi MP Smriti Irani, this decision aims to preserve the cultural identity and heritage of the region by honoring local temples, saints, idols, and freedom fighters through the new station names.
- According to the **Central Electricity Authority's latest data**, **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the top state in terms of adding transmission lines by **state transmission companies in 2023-24**. This achievement follows its leading position in the previous fiscal year, 2022-23.





Current Affairs Related to States in India of April 2024

Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh enthusiastically celebrates the Longte festival**, one of their biggest cultural events. Unlike many other tribal festivals, Longte prohibits the sacrifice of animals, instead adorning altars with decorative white feathers and bamboo decorations.

Kerala

- The southern Indian state of **Kerala** is renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, encompassing a diverse array of **religions, landscapes, rituals, and histories**. Amidst this vibrant melting pot, one festival stands out as a true embodiment of Kerala's profound cultural heritage – the **Thrissur Pooram**.

Madhya Pradesh

- In the realm of environmental conservation, Madhya Pradesh emerges as a frontrunner in the effective execution of the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** initiated by the central government. Over the past two months, the GCP has **greenlit tree plantation initiatives spanning across 500 land parcels, encompassing 4,980 hectares spread over 10 states**.

Manipur

- In **Manipur, Khongjom Day** is observed on **April 23** to pay homage to the brave souls who fought against the British in the Khongjom Battle during the **Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891**. This day holds great significance in the history of Manipur, as it commemorates the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives to protect their homeland.

Meghalaya

- The **34th Seng Khihlang festival**, a revered event for adherents of the **Khasi Indigenous Faith**, recently concluded in **Wahiajer, Meghalaya**. Spanning from **April 19, 2024**, the festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community.

Punjab

- In an innovative move aimed at enhancing voter engagement and accessibility to election-related information, **Punjab's Malerkotla district has introduced the 'Booth Raabta' website**. Spearheaded by **District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Pallavi**, this platform, accessible via **boothraabta.com**, serves as a comprehensive resource hub for voters and polling personnel alike.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Governor **R.N. Ravi** inaugurated the **Param Vir Chakra garden and Aikyam exhibition** at the Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram. Ravi was accompanied by **Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar, Ati Vishishta Seva Medal (AVSM)**, General Officer Commanding (Dakshin Bharat area), and **V.Shankar**, chairman of the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Trust.

Uttarakhand

- The state government of Uttarakhand has initiated proactive measures to assess and mitigate the risks associated with **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Two expert panels have been established to conduct risk assessments and monitor five high-risk glacial lakes in the region. These lakes have been identified as prone to immediate danger, necessitating urgent attention and intervention.

Uttar Pradesh

- In a remarkable feat of engineering and tourism development, the state of **Uttar Pradesh** has unveiled its first-ever **glass skywalk bridge**, located at the enchanting **Tulsi (Shabari) Waterfall in Chitrakoot**. This innovative and visually stunning structure, shaped like Lord Ram's bow and arrow, is poised to become a premier eco-tourism destination for visitors to the region.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of March 2024

Andhra Pradesh

- The **Geological Survey of India**, State Unit: Andhra Pradesh, unveiled a representative **Stratigraphic Column** of the Cuddapah Supergroup in Vajrakarur Diamond Processing Camp, Anantapur district, **Andhra Pradesh**. The ceremony took place on 10th March 2024 and was attended by prominent dignitaries including Shri Ch Venkateswara Rao, ADG & HoD, GSI, Southern Region, and Shri S. N. Mahapatro, Deputy Director General, SU: Andhra Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Bichom**, carved out of West and East Kameng, has been declared the **27th district of Arunachal Pradesh**. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region.

Assam

- **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named '**Ocean Grace**' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) on March 2, 2024. The Ocean Grace is the first Make-in-India **ASTDS Tug** developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The MMU is part of the port's commitment to corporate social responsibility.
- The Chief Minister of Assam, **Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma**, performed the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for a **50 MW Solar Project in Sonitpur district**. The project, being developed by **SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL)**, holds promise for bolstering Assam's renewable energy sector and contributing to sustainable development.

Bihar

- The city of **Begusarai in Bihar** is the **most polluted city in the world**, according to the **World Air Quality Report 2023** released by **IQAir**, a Switzerland-based organization. The report states that out of the **top 100 most polluted places globally, 83 are from India**.





- **Bihar Diwas 2024**, celebrated on **22nd March 2024 in India**, holds immense historical and cultural significance for the state of Bihar. It commemorates the **founding of Bihar as a separate state in 1912**, marking its separation from the **Bengal Presidency**. The inception of **Bihar Diwas dates back to 2010**, when the state government initiated the celebrations to honor **Bihar's 112th statehood anniversary**. Since then, Bihar Diwas has evolved into a vibrant occasion, reflecting the essence of Bihar's rich heritage and traditions.

Chhattisgarh

- **South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine**, located in **Chhattisgarh**, is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine recently received environmental clearance to enhance its production capacity to 70 million tons per annum, up from the existing 52.5 million tons.

Gujarat

- Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, **Praful Pansheriya**, launched the online learning platform **Shiksha Reform** in **Surat**. The event was attended by noted educationist **Deepak Rajguru**, trustees, principals, **Kimmo Nikkanen** from Finland's **Kajaani University of Applied Sciences**, and educationist **Antti Isovita**.

Haryana

- **Nayab Singh Saini**, an influential leader from the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** community, has been appointed as the new **Chief Minister of Haryana**. The decision was announced by the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** on Tuesday afternoon, shortly after **Manohar Lal Khattar**, the outgoing Chief Minister and his entire cabinet stepped down.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu** has announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The announcement comes as part of the Congress party's pre-election promises, marking a pivotal step towards fulfilling its commitments to the electorate. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu unveiled the **"Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna,"** a scheme designed to provide financial support to women aged between 18 to 60 years. Under this scheme, eligible women will receive a **monthly stipend of ₹1,500**, amounting to an annual expenditure of ₹800 crore.
- **The Election Commission** has launched a special campaign in **Himachal Pradesh** to boost voter turnout in **414 polling stations** with less than **60% voting** during the last **Lok Sabha polls**.

Jharkhand

- The **3-day National Dairy Mela** and Agricultural Exhibition at Chaibasa in Jharkhand was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, **Shri Arjun Munda**. Organized by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, this event marks the first of its kind in Jharkhand, aimed at fostering the comprehensive development of livestock and agriculture in tribal areas.

- **Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan** has been given the **additional responsibility** as the **in-charge governor of Telangana**. This comes after **Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned** from her constitutional post as the Telangana Governor.

Karnataka

- **Bengaluru**, famously known as the Garden City, is poised to become the epicenter of cutting-edge advancements in the horticulture sector. The **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** is gearing up to host the three-day **National Horticultural Fair 2024** at its Hessarghatta premises, situated on the outskirts of Bengaluru.
- **Karnataka state government**, in a strategic alliance with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state. This collaboration formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29, aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a significant step in integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape.
- The **Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL)** has received the first set of six train coaches for its upcoming **driverless metro line**, called the **Yellow Line**. This 18.8 km-long line, connecting **RV Road and Bommasandra**, will be the first in India to have a **driverless train** system.

Kerala

- **Kerala school** has introduced **Iris**, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology. Developed in collaboration with **Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited**, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible.
- **Kerala**, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of **Cspace, India's** maiden government-backed **Over-The-Top (OTT) platform**. The much-anticipated unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event.
- At the **4th Semicon India FutureDesign Roadshow in Kerala**, Union Minister Shri Rajeesh Chandrasekhar lauded the remarkable progress of India's semiconductor industry under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized the transformative role of technology and semiconductor engineering in shaping India's future.
- Researchers have made an exciting discovery off the coast of **Kollam in Kerala**. They have found a new species of **deep-sea isopod**, which is a tiny crustacean that feeds on fish. This new species belongs to the genus **Brucethoa** and was found living inside the **gill cavity** of a fish called the Spinyjaw greeneye.

Madhya Pradesh

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is conducting excavations at two **mounds in Nachne village**, located in the **Panna district of Madhya Pradesh**. The goal of these excavations is to uncover what could potentially be the **oldest temple in India**.





Maharashtra

- The state of **Maharashtra** has announced its fourth **women’s policy**, which aims to promote the **holistic development** of women. Aditi Tatkare, the **Women and Child Development Minister**, unveiled this policy on the eve of **Women’s Day** during the golden jubilee year of the Women’s Economic Development Corporation.
- The **Maharashtra** government has taken a historic step by securing approval from the **Jammu and Kashmir** administration to acquire **2.5 acres of land in Ichgam, near Srinagar airport**, for the construction of **Maharashtra Bhawan**. This initiative symbolizes a proactive approach towards fostering cultural and touristic ties between the two regions.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has announced its decision to **rename Ahmednagar district** as **‘Ahilya Nagar’**. The renaming is in honor of the **18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar**.

Mizoram

- **Chapchar Kut**, the grandest festival in **Mizoram**, resonated throughout the state with vibrant traditional customs and jubilant festivities. Thousands of attendees converged upon the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city, filling it to its capacity. The event featured a rich display of Mizo community traditions and culture, highlighted by traditional songs and captivating cultural dance performances, making it a day-long celebration to remember.

Odisha

- **Odisha government** led by **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** has announced an additional **10 days of casual leave for women** working in various government departments. This decision aims to recognize the multitude of responsibilities women shoulder and provide them with greater flexibility to strike a better work-life balance.
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated India’s first **indoor athletics stadium** and **indoor aquatic centre** at the **Kalinga stadium** in **Bhubaneswar**. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new **indoor diving centre** in the stadium complex.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government has decided to distribute **free seeds of millets** and coarse grains to the state’s farmers. This move aims to **boost millet production** in the state.

Tamil Nadu

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has launched the **‘Neengal Nalama’ (Are you fine?) scheme**, a **beneficiary outreach program** aimed at reviewing the implementation of **flagship schemes** and addressing the **grievances of the public**. The initiative was kickstarted by Minister of Rural Development I. Periyasamy, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, other ministers, senior officials, and district collectors reaching out to beneficiaries across the state.

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** on Tuesday, **March 12, 2024**, announced that the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)**, whose rules were notified by the **Union Home Ministry** on **March 11**, will not be implemented in the state. The decision comes amid growing concerns that the CAA goes against **minorities** and **Sri Lankan Tamils** living in camps in Tamil Nadu.
- **Tamil Nadu dominates** the illegal trade in shark body parts, comprising nearly 65% of seizures between January 2010 and December 2022, as per a recent analysis by **TRAFFIC and WWF-India**. This alarming trend poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, with **Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra** also contributing to this illicit trade.
- **Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the Governor of **Telangana**, has **resigned** from her position on Monday, March 18, 2024. According to sources, she is likely to **contest the Lok Sabha elections** from the state of **Tamil Nadu**.
- Tamil Nadu is set to witness a historic event as one of its space startups, **Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited**, prepares to launch its first rocket, **Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SORTeD)**, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This launch marks several significant milestones in India’s space exploration journey.

Uttarakhand

- Under the directions and guidance of Hon’ble **Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami**, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, 5th March. This pivotal agreement took place between **CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun**, and **UCOST** under the aegis of the “Adarsh Champawat” mission. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the region.

Uttar Pradesh

- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called **“Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA).”** This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh.
- **Uttar Pradesh**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has achieved a milestone by becoming the **first state in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards**. This accomplishment underscores the state government’s commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of every citizen.
- **Uttar Pradesh government**, led by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, has announced a complete waiver of electricity bills for private tube wells owned by farmers, effective from April 1, 2023. This decision, announced, aims to alleviate the financial burden on the state’s farmers, enhancing their agricultural productivity and overall well-being.





- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** on March 6 took the priority corridor of the **Agra Metro**, for an inaugural ride after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the project earlier in the day. The **6 km long priority corridor** connects the iconic **Taj Mahal's eastern gate to the Mankameswar Temple station**, providing a vital transportation link for tourists and commuters alike.
- The **Uttar Pradesh police force** is set to adopt the advanced **Trinetra app 2.0**, a **cutting-edge digital platform** that promises to revolutionize **crime prevention and investigation** in the state.
- The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench has declared the **UP Board of Madarsa Education Act of 2004** as **unconstitutional**. The court ruled that the act violated the principle of **secularism**, as well as several articles of the Constitution, including **Articles 14, 21, and 21-A**. Additionally, the court found that the act also contravened **Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act of 1956**.
- Uttar Pradesh boasts of being the state with the most districts in India, totaling 75 districts divided into 18 divisions. Additionally, it **comprises 822 development blocks, 17 municipal corporations, and 351 tehsils**. The easternmost district is Ballia, while Saharanpur is the northernmost, Sonbhadra the southernmost, and Shamli the westernmost district. In this article, we will get to know about the **village of "Choti Kashi" in Uttar Pradesh**.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of February 2024

Arunachal Pradesh

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Assam

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Bihar

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Goa

- 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.





- 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.

Gujarat

- **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.

Haryana

- 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.
- **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.

Himachal Pradesh

- 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.

Jharkhand

- 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.

Karnataka

- 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.

- **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**.
- **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.
- **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.

Madhya Pradesh

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

Maharashtra

- 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.





- 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'**.
- **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.
- 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.

Nagaland

- 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.

Odisha

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.

- 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.

Punjab

- 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.
- 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."

Rajasthan

- **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.

Sikkim

- 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.
- 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.

Tamil Nadu

- **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.





- 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.

Telangana

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Tripura

- 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.

- **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.

Uttarakhand

- 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.
- **Justice Ritu Bahri** has become the new **Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court**. The Governor, Lt Gen (ret'd) 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.





- 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.

Uttar Pradesh

- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Union Territories of India

Union Territories of India of July 2024

Ladakh

- The **Department of Posts** has released a commemorative postage stamp at Dras, Kargil in Ladakh, marking the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

Union Territories of India of March 2024

Delhi

- For the first time, the district of Simdega in Jharkhand is hosting the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela, a national-level agricultural science fair. The event, organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa (New Delhi), is being held at the Albert Ekka Stadium from March 10th to 12th,

marking a significant stride towards realizing the vision of a prosperous farmer community.





New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of July 2024

- **Ravi Agrawal**, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the **new chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. He succeeds **Nitin Gupta**, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2024. Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.
- **Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)** has selected **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** as the **next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)**. **Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse** were two other contenders to the post. **Setty** will succeed the current chairman, **Dinesh Khara**, when he turns 63, the upper **age limit** for the position of **SBI Chairman**. His term is scheduled to end in August 2024.
- **Akhilesh Pathak** has assumed office as the new **Chief General Manager (CGM)** of the **Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I)** of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) on Monday, July 1, 2024.
- **Puma India**, a leading sports brand, announced two new brand ambassadors: **Riyan Parag** and **Nitish Kumar Reddy**. This exciting news showcases Puma's commitment to supporting young talent and connecting with India's youth.
- **Dr. BN Gangadhar**, who was serving as the officiating chairperson, has been officially appointed as the head of the National Medical Commission. This appointment marks a crucial step in stabilizing the leadership of this vital organization.
- The government has recently strengthened the National Security Council (NSC) by making several high-profile appointments. Former **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna** has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA). **T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor** have also been appointed as **Deputy NSAs**.
- SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has appointed **Shri Naveen Chandra Jha** as its new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**. He succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu, nominated by parent company State Bank of India.
- **Justice Sheel Nagu** has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court**, following a notification by the Centre.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Smt. Charulatha S Kar** as **Executive Director (ED)**, effective from July 1, 2024.
- In a significant move to strengthen the **government's communication strategy**, senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer **Dhirendra K Ojha** has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government. This appointment marks an important day in the realm of government communications, as it brings fresh leadership to crucial information dissemination roles.
- State-owned life insurer **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has redesignated its chairman **Siddhartha Mohanty** as chief executive officer and managing director with effect from 30 June 2024. It is not yet known if the life insurance company would appoint a new chairperson.
- **Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi** has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court**, succeeding **Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra** who retired on December 28, 2023. His appointment was recommended by the Supreme Court collegium in December last year and officially announced by the **Union Ministry of Law and Justice on July 3**.
- **Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026. This transition marks a significant moment for the global financial watchdog, as Madrazo brings a fresh perspective aimed at strengthening efforts to combat financial crimes and terrorism financing.
- A division bench of the Supreme Court, comprising **Justice Surya Kant and Justice K V Vishwanath**, passed an order appointing former Chief Justice of India, **Uday Umesh Lalit**, as the chairman of the search and selection committee for appointing vice-chancellors in West Bengal's state-run universities.
- The board of **Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)** has approved the reappointment of **Satyanarayan Goel** as its **Chairman and Managing Director** for a three-year term starting August 10, 2024.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Govind Singh** as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (**Utkarsh SFB**). His new term will commence on September 21, 2024, and will last for three years.
- **Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan** has been appointed as the **Principal Adviser** for the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. This high-profile appointment underscores the Indian government's commitment to eradicating tuberculosis as a public health threat.
- In a significant development for the Indian media landscape, **Rajat Sharma**, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)**. This landmark decision was made during the NBDA's board meeting held on July 9, 2024, marking a new chapter in the organization's history.





- Olympic medalist and badminton sensation **PV Sindhu** has made a significant move in the business world by joining **Hoop**, a Gurugram-based wellness brand, as both an investor and brand ambassador. This announcement marks a new milestone in Sindhu's career beyond the badminton court, showcasing her growing interest in entrepreneurship and brand building.
- The Indian government has made a significant move in the telecommunications sector by appointing **Robert Jerard Ravi** as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**. This appointment, effective from July 15, 2024, marks a new chapter for the state-run telecom operator.
- **Paytm Payments Bank**, an associate entity of **One97 Communications (OCL)**, has appointed **Arun Kumar Bansal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)** and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The **West Bengal government** on July 15 reinstated senior IPS officer **Rajeev Kumar** as the Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal. Mr. Kumar will replace **Sanjoy Mukherjee**, who was appointed the State's DGP at the directions of the Election Commission of India during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.
- The **Supreme Court** now has **two more judges** after **President Droupadi Murmu** cleared the appointments of **Justice N Kotiswar Singh** and **Justice R Mahadevan**. The appointments were announced by **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal July 16**.
- Former **Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Manoj Saunik**, has been appointed as the next Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA). He will succeed **Ajoy Mehta**, whose term ends in September 2024.
- **HSBC Holdings Plc** has appointed its **Chief Financial Officer Georges Elhedery** as its **next CEO**, the bank said on July 17, opting for continuity as it tries to kickstart growth.
- European Parliament lawmakers **re-elected Ursula von der Leyen** to a second five-year term as **President of the European Union's** executive commission. Von der Leyen secured a comfortable majority, preventing a potential leadership vacuum.
- **Shri Vivek Johri**, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), presented a set of **Time Release Studies (TRS)** conducted by the department.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has awarded the **Taxnet 2.0 project to Bharti Airtel Ltd**. This project aims to provide advanced network connectivity, facility management services, and video conferencing services to the **Income Tax Department (ITD)**. Bharti Airtel was chosen through an open tender process for this critical project, which marks a significant advancement over the **current Taxnet 1.0 project**. The new system aims to enhance the digital infrastructure of the ITD by providing secure, reliable, and seamless connectivity services.
- **Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra** has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to the United States**, as confirmed by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** on Friday. Kwatra will assume his new role shortly, filling the position that has been vacant since **Taranjit Sandhu's retirement in January 2024**.
- **UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni** has submitted his resignation citing personal reasons. **Manoj Soni's resignation** has not been accepted yet. The resignation of **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairperson** comes five years before the termination of his tenure and a year after taking charge. His tenure is slated to end in **2029**.
- **Sanjeev Krishan** has been re-elected as the **chairperson of PwC India** for a second term, set to begin on April 1, 2025.
- **Ronald L. Rowe Jr.** has been appointed as the **acting chief of the US Secret Service** following the resignation of Kimberly Cheatle.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Krishnan Venkat Subramanian** as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank, the bank said in an exchange filing on July 22.
- **CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak**, a Fellow Member of the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** and a member of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, has been unanimously elected as the **67th President of ICMAI for the 2024-2025 term**.
- **Nita Ambani**, has been **re-elected unanimously as the IOC from India** at the 142nd session. Nita is the founder of Reliance Foundation and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** on July 25, appointed senior IPS officer **Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal** as the new **Director General of Police of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- Veteran **filmmaker Shekhar Kapur**, known for films such as "Mr India", "Bandit Queen" and "Elizabeth", has been appointed **festival director** for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

New Appointments: National & International of June 2024

- Senior diplomat **Ruchira Kamboj**, who made history after becoming the **first woman to become the Indian Ambassador to the United Nations**, retired on **1 June**, after an illustrious career spanning nearly four decades, she announced on Saturday.
- In a significant move, **PV Sindhu**, the two-time Olympic medallist and World Champion in badminton, has invested in Greenday's 'Better Nutrition' brand. Sindhu has also joined the startup as its brand ambassador, further solidifying her commitment to the cause of tackling **micronutrient deficiencies** in India.





- Centre has appointed **Sushil Kumar Singh**, an officer from the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering (IRSME) of the 1993 batch, as the **Chairman of Deendayal Port Trust** in Kandla, Gujarat. One of the largest state-owned ports in the country, Deendayal Port Trust will be under Singh's leadership until his superannuation in January 2027.
- **Rakesh Mohan Joshi**, an **international trade and management expert**, has been appointed as the **Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)**, a prestigious business school under the **Ministry of Commerce**.
- **Shri Kamal Kishore Soan**, took over the additional charge of **Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** under **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, on May 31. He is a **senior IAS officer from Jharkhand Cadre (Batch : 1998)** currently serving as an **Additional Secretary and Director General, Labour Welfare in the Ministry of Labour & Employment**.
- Bisleri International, the **pioneering force** in India's **carbonated soft drinks industry**, has unveiled an **exciting new campaign** for its refreshing beverage, **Bisleri Limonata**. Featuring the **charismatic Aditya Roy Kapur** as the brand ambassador, the **#DoubleTheChill** campaign aims to capture the essence of Limonata's **unique flavor blend** and establish a strong connection with the **Gen Z** audience.
- PNB MetLife India Insurance has announced **Sameer Bansal as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**, effective from July 1, 2024. Bansal, currently serving as the Chief Distribution Officer, brings over 25 years of financial services experience to his new role. He will succeed Ashish Srivastava, who is transitioning to **MD for MetLife Inc.'s Global Shared Services team in India**.
- **Raj Priy Singh**, an **Indian Forest Service (IFoS)** officer of the 2010 batch, has been **appointed as the Director in the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Rural Development**. His appointment follows a recommendation for Central deputation by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and is governed by the **Central Staffing Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Indian Revenue Service officer InderPal Singh Bindra** will soon take charge as the **Secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**. Bindra will replace **IRS officer Anupama Anand**, who has resigned within eight months of joining the regulator.
- The **Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)** has announced its new leadership for the 2024-25 term, effective from June 2024. **Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Vodafone Idea (VI)**, has been appointed as the **Chairman**, while **Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) of Bharti Airtel**, will serve as the **Vice Chairman**.
- Jun 11, **Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman** was named **Bangladesh's next Army chief** for a three-year term and will assume charge on June 23. **Lt Gen Zaman, 58**, would concurrently be upgraded to the **rank of a four-star general** on the day he assumed charge.
- SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL) has named **Prem Prabhakar** as its **new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**, effective from June 4, 2024.
- **Dr Kapil Dua**, a pioneer in hair transplant surgery in India with over two decades of experience, has been announced as the **President of the Asian Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons (AAHRS)**. The announcement was made at the **8th Annual Scientific Meeting and Surgical Workshop of AAHRS**, held from **June 6th to 9th in China**.
- The Centre on June 13 reappointed former **IPS officer Ajit Doval** as the **National Security Adviser (NSA)**. His appointment will be co-terminus with the term of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** or until further orders.
- **Former IAS officer P K Mishra** has been re-appointed as the **Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Dr P.K. Mishra, IAS (Retired)** as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister with effect from **June 10, 2024**.
- **Ajith Kumar KK** has been appointed as the Managing Director and **CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank** for a three-year term starting June 20, 2024. The announcement was made in a regulatory filing by the Kerala-based private sector bank.
- In a recent development, Paytm has named **Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal**, former whole-time **director of SEBI**, as its non-executive independent director for a five-year term. This change comes alongside the resignation of Neeraj Arora, who cited pre-occupation and personal commitments.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has appointed **IAS officer Ashwani Kumar** as the Commissioner of the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** with immediate effect.
- **Global Wind Energy Council India** has announced that **Mr Girish Tanti**, Vice-Chairman of **Suzlon Group**, has been appointed as the **Chairman**.
- On this significant day for higher education in Karnataka, the **State government** has made a crucial appointment that marks a new era for the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). This appointment represents an important step in the institution's history and development.
- **Sudhakararao Papa** has been appointed as the **Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** following a rigorous selection process by the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on June 15, 2024**. His appointment is pending final vigilance clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.





- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a leading Indian defense electronics company, has announced a significant change in its top leadership. **Manoj Jain** has been appointed as the new **Chairman and Managing Director** of the company.
- The government (on 20 June) has appointed **Atul Kumar Chaudhary**, as the **new Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, the position which was lying vacant after superannuation of **V Raghunandan** on May 31.
- Rear **Admiral Nelson D'Souza** has taken over as **Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT)**, Pune from **Air Vice Marshal Vivek Blouria**. An accomplished alumnus of the **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington** and **Naval War College, Goa**, Rear Admiral D'Souza has served in numerous key positions within the **Indian Navy** since his commissioning in **March 1991**.
- **Pradeep Singh Kharola** is currently the **Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion** and has been appointed as the **Director General of National Testing Agency** as an additional charge. Kharola is a **1985 batch IAS officer**.
- **Paul Thomas, MD & CEO** of **ESAF Small Finance Bank**, has been elected as **Chairperson of the board of Sa-Dhan**, which is an association of microfinance and impact finance institutions. Thomas so far was the co-chair of the Association.
- **Sony Pictures Networks India** on June 24 announced the appointment of former Disney executive **Gaurav Banerjee** as its **Managing Director and CEO**, effective on or before August 26, pending regulatory approvals. Mr. Banerjee will succeed **N. P. Singh**, who will move into the role of **Non-Executive Chairman** after a 25-year tenure.
- Private sector general insurer **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** announced the appointment of **Anuj Tyagi** as its **new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective **July 1, 2024**.
- The government has appointed **Girija Subramanian** as **chairman and managing director (CMD)** of **New India Assurance**, the largest general insurer in India. She will hold this position from June 19, 2024, until she attains the age of superannuation or until further orders.
- **Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani** is set to be the **next Vice Chief of Army Staff** with the government clearing his appointment to the post, official sources said on June 20. The officer, who is presently helming the Army's Central Command, will succeed **Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi**. Lt Gen Dwivedi, currently serving as the **Vice Chief**, will be the next Chief of the Army Staff when incumbent Gen Manoj Pande retires on June 30.
- **Mrs. Aksha Mohit Kamboj** has been appointed as the **Vice President** of the **India Bullion Jewellers Association (IBJA)**, effective from **June 22, 2024**. This historic appointment marks her as the **first woman** to hold this prestigious position in the **gold and jewellery sector**.

- In a significant development for global security, **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has announced the appointment of **Mark Rutte**, the outgoing Dutch Prime Minister, as its next **Secretary General**. This decision marks an important milestone for the 75-year-old alliance as it faces critical challenges in the coming years.
- In a momentous development for Indian golf, **Kapil Dev**, the legendary cricketer and passionate amateur golfer, has been elected as the new **president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)**. This significant appointment marks a new chapter in the history of professional golf in India.
- Deputy National Security Advisor **Vikram Misri** will take charge as the **Foreign Secretary on July 15**, the Government announced on June 28. Mr. Misri, who is a **former Indian ambassador to China**, will succeed **current Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra**.

New Appointments: National & International of May 2024

- **The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has welcomed a new addition to its leadership team. **Sunil Kumar Yadav**, an officer from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), has been appointed as the **Director** of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- In a significant development, the **Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)** has announced the appointment of **Krishna Ella**, co-founder and executive chairman of **Bharat Biotech**, as its new **president** for the next two years, effective April 2024. Ella will take over the presidency from **Adar C. Poonawala**, who held the position from 2019 to March 2024.
- **Sarvadanand Barnwal**, an **Indian Statistical Service (ISS)** officer of the **2010 batch**, has been appointed as **Director** in the **Department of Land Resources**. The appointment was made on **Friday, April 26, 2024**, through an order issued by the **Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)**.
- **Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar** took charge as the Presiding Officer of the **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** on **29 April 2024**. The government of India appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar for a **four-year term**. Before taking over as the presiding officer of SAT, Justice Dinesh Kumar was the chief justice of the **Karnataka High Court**. He retired from the post in **February 2024**.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has granted its approval for the **appointment of Hitesh Kumar Sethia** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Jio Financial Services** for a three-year period, effective from **November 15, 2023**.
- The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has announced the appointment of **Pratima Singh**, an officer of the **Indian Revenue Service (IRS)**, as the Director in the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).





- The Indian political landscape has lost a seasoned leader with the passing of **V. Srinivas Prasad**, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) and former Union Minister. Prasad, who had an illustrious career spanning five decades, breathed his last at the age of 76 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Shashi Bhushan Singh**, a 2010-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has been appointed as the **Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata** under the Ministry of Textiles. The appointment, approved by the Central Government, is effective for a five-year term or until further orders.
- **Atanu Chakraborty's re-appointment** as part-time **Chairman of HDFC Bank** for three years, effective from **May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027**, has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Board of Directors has also sanctioned his re-appointment as an Independent Director for the same tenure.
- **Retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as the **President of the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by the Centre**. The move aims to streamline the resolution of disputes concerning businesses efficiently. The appointment, made by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet based on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, comes with a salary of ₹2.50 lakh per month for a tenure of four years.
- **Subodh Kumar (IAS)**, a 2010-batch **Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre**, has been **appointed as Director in the Ministry of Ayush**. The appointment, effective from the date of assuming charge, is initially until October 8 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Presently, Kumar is on 'Compulsory wait' in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- Following **Deepak Parekh's** resignation from the post of Chairman, HDFC Life Insurance appointed Keki Mistry to fill the position. Subsequently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted approval for Mistry's appointment.
- **R Shankar Raman**, the current **Whole-time Director and CFO** of L&T, has been elevated to the position of **President**. Following this promotion, Raman will continue to hold his existing roles as the Whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company.
- **SBI General Insurance** has announced the appointment of **Jaya Tripathi** as the **Head – Key Relations Group**. In her new role, Tripathi will lead the expansion of new business opportunities and partnerships, drive sales team growth, and deepen partner relationships to enhance profitability.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed **R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director**, effective from May 10, 2024. Rao brings over 30 years of experience at the RBI, having previously served as Chief General Manager in charge of the Department of Regulation.
- Tata Sons chairman **N Chandrasekaran** is set to assume the role of chairman at **Tata Electronics**, a significant move that underscores the Tata group's commitment to its **\$14 billion** investment in the semiconductor business. Chandrasekaran will succeed **Banmali Agrawala**, who has held the position for several years and has recently taken on an advisory role within the group.
- The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has successfully conducted its 15th **RGB elections** for its Board of Directors, marking a remarkable milestone in cooperative governance. The elections, held on **May 9, 2024**, at IFFCO's corporate office in New Delhi, saw the emergence of **Dileep Sanghani** as the **Chairman** and **Balvir Singh** as the **Vice Chairman** of IFFCO.
- **Wipro**, a leading IT major, has announced the appointment of **Vinay Firake** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of its **Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)**, effective immediately. Firake will report directly to **Srini Pallia**, Wipro's CEO and Managing Director, and will also join the company's executive board.
- **NASA** has given a new role to **David Salvagnini** as the agency's **Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer**. This is an addition to his current job as **Chief Data Officer**. The appointment shows NASA's commitment to using AI technology responsibly.
- **Senior advocate Kapil Sibal** has been elected as the **president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** in a recent election held on Thursday in New Delhi. This marks his fourth term serving as the president of the prestigious lawyers' body, succeeding senior advocate Adish C. Aggarwala.
- In a significant development, **senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers A Y V Krishna and N Venu Gopal** have been appointed as **additional directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. Their appointments underscore the government's commitment to bolstering the investigative capabilities of the premier investigative agency.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its nod for the **appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank**, marking a significant development for the private sector lender. The approval, granted for a tenure of three years, underscores the bank's commitment to strengthening its leadership team.
- **Sanjiv Puri, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd.**, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25. Puri succeeds R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, in this prestigious role. Alongside Puri, Rajiv Memani assumes the position of President-Designate, while R Mukundan takes on the role of Vice President for the same term.





- The **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** has reported significant increases in student enrollment under various categories from 2014-15 to 2021-22. According to data released on Saturday, enrollment of **Scheduled Caste (SC) students rose by 44%**, from 4.61 million to 6.62 million. SC female student enrollment increased by 51%. (Click to Read the Article)
- The **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India**, the world's largest television audience measurement organization, has appointed **Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri** as its new **Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics**. He will succeed **Dr. Derrick Gray**, a veteran in the field of audience measurement and advanced analytics, who has been an esteemed member of the BARC India team for six years.
- **Vedanta Aluminium** has announced the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **John Slaven**, as the **Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI)**. In this prominent role, Slaven will spearhead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a **Zero Carbon future**.
- **Shri Ramesh Babu V.** has taken the **oath of office and secrecy** as a Member of the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** on May 21, 2024. The oath was administered by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **Shri R. K. Singh**.
- The board of **IndiaFirst Life Insurance** has approved the promotion of **Rushabh Gandhi**, the current Deputy Chief Executive Officer, to the position of **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO)**. Gandhi's appointment marks a significant milestone for the company, aligning with its succession strategy.
- **L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS)** announced the inauguration of a Simulation **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus. This state-of-the-art facility is set to bolster engineering support for Airbus's aircraft structural simulation activities across its European business units in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain.
- **Shehra BJP MLA Jetha Ahir**, who has previously served as the deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, has been **elected uncontested** as the chairman of the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**. Senior leaders revealed that Ahir secured the support of the sitting **Rajkot MP Mohan Kundariya** to become the NAFED chairman in the election held in Delhi.
- The Indian economy showcased robust growth, with a **GDP increase of 7.4% in Q4 FY24** and an overall **8% growth for the fiscal year FY24**, according to an SBI Research report.
- **Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in partnership with IndusInd Bank**, has introduced the co-branded '**IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card**'.
- In a strategic move to bolster its presence in the burgeoning Indian media landscape, Japan's electronics and entertainment conglomerate **Sony** has appointed **Gaurav Banerjee**, a seasoned executive from **Walt Disney**, as its new **Chief Executive Officer** for India operations.
- The National Asset Reconstruction Company (**NARCL**), India's state-owned **bad bank**, has appointed P Santhosh as its new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**. The decision was made by NARCL's board, which recommended Santhosh for a **three-year term** at the helm of the asset reconstruction company.
- The **Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG)**, popularly known as **Muthoot Blue**, has announced the appointment of **Shah Rukh Khan** as its new brand ambassador. This strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone for MPG, aimed at reinforcing its brand presence and establishing a **new connection** with a diverse audience across the country.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has granted approval for the appointment of **Sandeep Batra** as the **Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company**. The company announced this development.
- **Rakesh Ranjan**, a **1992 batch IAS officer from Manipur Cadre**, has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**. This appointment comes following a notification issued by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet.
- France applauds the election of **Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran** as **Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)** for the 2024-2029 term. She was elected to this position on May 28 at the World Assembly of Delegates, which was held in Paris, and extends her thanks to all the member countries and territories for their show of confidence.
- In a significant move to motivate young children and youth to steer clear of tobacco in all forms, Indian **badminton maestro Ms. PV Sindhu** was designated as the **brand ambassador for Tobacco Control** today.

New Appointments: National & International of April 2024

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA)** has appointed a new team of **office-bearers** for the term of **2024-2025**, according to a statement released. **Moushumi Basu**, a professor at the **School of International Studies**, has been appointed as the next **JNUTA president**.
- **Joyshree Das Verma** has taken over as the **41st National President** of the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** for the year **2024-25**. FLO is the **oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber** of South East Asia.





- **Axis Capital** has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. His appointment is waiting for final approval. Mehra will be overseeing both the **investment banking** and **institutional equities** businesses at Axis Capital.
- **Ms Sheyphali B. Sharan** has assumed charge as the **Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau**, upon the **superannuation** (retirement) of **Shri Manish Desai**. Ms. Sharan is an officer of the **1990 batch of Indian Information Service**.
- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent **industry chamber**, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President**. Nayar has replaced **Ajay Singh**, the Co-Founder of **SpiceJet** airline, whose tenure has ended.
- Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps** on **April 1, 2024**.
- **Santosh Kumar Jha**, an **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS)** officer of the 1992 batch, will assume the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) on April 1, 2024.
- **Sandeep Jain**, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of **IIT-Kanpur**, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** for the year 2024-25.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has roped in popular actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The 39-year-old actor features in the ECI's campaign video that urges youngsters to vote in the upcoming elections.
- **Tata Group's global trading and distribution arm, Tata International**, has announced the **appointment of Rajeev Singhal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)**. Singhal's appointment to the **new position** is **effective from April 1, 2024**. He **succeeds Anand Sen**, who **superannuated (retired)** on **March 31, 2024**, as per a statement by Tata International.
- **The World Bank Group** has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel. This panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel.
- **The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)**, the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors. In the elections held, Dr. **Meenesh Shah** was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization.
- **Wipro**, the IT giant, has announced the resignation of its CEO, **Thierry Delaporte**. In his place, the company's Board of Directors has appointed **Srinivas Pallia** as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, effective April 7, 2024.
- Iconic shot putter and two-time Olympic medalist, **Valerie Adams**, has been named the International Event Ambassador for the **16th edition** of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru, to be held on April 28, 2024.
- **The appointment of Manoj Panda fills a vacancy in the Sixteenth Finance Commission**, allowing it to commence its duties. Panda, an esteemed economist and former director of the Institute of Economic Growth, joins as a full-time member.
- **Air India has appointed Jayaraj Shanmugam**, an industry veteran with 25 years of experience spanning across airlines, airports, and telecom industries, as the **Head of Global Airport Operations**. This decision comes amidst the airline's efforts to enhance its operations and customer experience as part of the Vihaan.AI transformation journey.
- Former Indian hockey player and Dronacharya awardee **Harendra Singh** has been selected by **Hockey India** as the **coach** of the senior national women's hockey team. He will replace Janneke Schopman, a former Dutch hockey player, who resigned last month as the coach of the national women's team after the Indian team failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- The **US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)** has appointed former Revenue Secretary and ex-Secretary of Economic Affairs **Tarun Bajaj** as the head of the US-India Tax Forum. Bajaj, 61, joined the USISPF as an advisor to the Board of Directors in January and will now spearhead the US-India Tax Forum.
- **PhonePe, in collaboration with eSewa** and the **Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara**, is set to promote UPI during the **Fewa New Year Festival in Nepal**. The festival, spanning from April 11-14th, is a celebrated event attracting both locals and Indian tourists, offering cultural experiences and culinary delights.
- **The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel** has recommended **Sushil Sharma** for the position of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **SJVN Limited**. This decision was made during the panel's meeting on April 8th. Sharma, currently serving as Director (Projects) within the organization, emerged as the frontrunner from a pool of nine candidates interviewed by the PESB selection panel.
- **Sachidananda Mohanty** has been appointed as a Member of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** for a period of three years with immediate effect. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, as per a gazette notification.





- **India** has been elected to several key bodies at the United Nations. This includes a significant victory by its nominee, **Jagjit Pavadia**, who was re-elected for a third term to the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**.
- In a significant development, **Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul**, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in financial services and banking, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Posts. Kaul, a 1989-batch Indian Postal Service officer, currently serves as **Member (Banking & Direct Benefit Transfer) of the Postal Services Board**. She will succeed Vineet Pandey upon his superannuation.
- **Supreme Court Justice Aniruddha Bose** has been named the new director of the **National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal**, as announced by Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud during a ceremonial bench held on April 10. The NJA, established in 1993, operates under the guidance of the Supreme Court and aims to enhance the skills of judges and facilitate court administration.
- In a significant development in India's law enforcement landscape, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior **IPS officer Anurag Kumar as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. This move, which comes into effect immediately, underscores the government's confidence in Kumar's leadership and expertise to serve in this crucial role.
- **Kristalina Georgieva** has been re-appointed as the **Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for a new 5-year term starting on 1 October 2024. She was the sole candidate nominated for the position this year, and her appointment was made by the IMF executive board.
- **BharatPe**, the fintech company that has been making waves in the Indian payments landscape, has officially elevated **Nalin Negi** as its chief executive officer. This move comes 15 months after Negi took charge as the company's interim CEO and chief financial officer, during a period of significant upheaval and transition.
- In a significant move, the **Central Government** has entrusted IAS officer **Saurabh Garg** with the additional charge of Secretary of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. This decision, communicated through an order issued by the **Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)**, underscores Garg's extensive experience and expertise in the realm of public administration.
- In a significant move, the appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved two key appointments in India's premier security agencies. **Nalin Prabhat**, a 1992 batch **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the **Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG)**, while **Sapna Tewari**, a 1992 batch IPS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the **Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** greenlights **Ajith Kumar KK's appointment as Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank**, marking a pivotal moment amidst the bank's preparations for a ₹300 crore rights issue. The leadership transition follows a series of senior management exits amid internal conflicts.
- In a strategic move to capitalize on the rapid economic growth in India and fortify its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, **Intel Corporation** has announced the appointment of new executives for its **Sales, Marketing, and Communications Group (SMG)**. This reorganization is part of the company's ongoing transformation initiatives.
- In a strategic move to enhance its brand presence and awareness in the Indian market, French carmaker **Citroen** has engaged cricketing legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador. The Stellantis Group company, which is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market, aims to find a firm footing and strengthen its brand identity through this association.
- The United Nations Secretary-General, **António Guterres**, has appointed **Gita Sabharwal** of India as the new **UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia**. Sabharwal assumed her post on Monday, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- In a historic move, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor **Naima Khatoun** as the first woman **Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**, breaking a century-old glass ceiling. The appointment, seen as part of the BJP government's outreach to Muslim women, comes days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended candidates for the positions of Managing Director (MD) at State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Bank. **Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been proposed for SBI MD, while Asheesh Pandey has been recommended for Indian Bank MD.**
- **Axis Bank's board** has approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO for another three years**, effective January 2025, subject to RBI approval.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the re-appointment of **T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term**, effective from May 3, 2024. Sankar, a seasoned central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the RBI, was initially appointed as Deputy Governor on May 3, 2021, for a three-year period.





- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)** has completed the process mandated by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**, the global governing body for the sport. As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an **Athletes Commission** to address the grievances of wrestlers. Subsequently, the newly elected members unanimously chose **Narsingh Yadav** as the **Chairman of the Athletes Commission**.
- **Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL)**, a leading provider of agri-solutions, has announced a significant leadership transition. **Arun Alagappan**, the former Executive Vice Chairman, has been appointed and re-designated as the **Executive Chairman** of the company.

New Appointments: National & International of March 2024

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)**, one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion **Neeraj Chopra**. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, '**Speed**.' This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors.
- The world of archaeology mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished figures, Padmashree **Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma**, who passed away at the age of 90 at his residence in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Sharma's career was marked by significant contributions to Indian archaeology, including his pivotal role in the excavation of the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site.
- The **Bihar government** made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer **Brajesh Mehrotra** as the new chief secretary of the state. This appointment underscores the government's commitment to efficient governance and administrative excellence.
- Sub-Inspector **Suman Kumari** has etched her name in history as the first woman sniper of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**. Her recent completion of an eight-week intensive sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore not only showcases her exceptional abilities but also her pioneering spirit. Suman achieved the prestigious 'instructor grade', a testament to her proficiency and expertise.
- **Alok Rungta** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance**, effective April 1st, pending regulatory approvals. He will succeed **Bruce De Broize**, who currently holds the position until March 31st.
- **Slice**, the popular mango-flavored drink, has recently announced the appointment of acclaimed actress **Nayanthara** as its latest brand ambassador.
- **German** technology giant **SAP** has made a significant leadership change in the **Indian Subcontinent** region. **Manish Prasad** has been appointed as the new **president and managing director** for the region, succeeding **Kulmeet Bawa**.
- **Rajendra Prasad Goyal**, Director (Finance) of NHPC, has recently assumed the additional charge of **Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited**, a premier hydropower company in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India. This transition marks a significant moment in the company's leadership, bringing Goyal's extensive experience and expertise to the forefront.
- **Devendra Jhajharia**, a two-time Paralympic gold medalist, has been elected as the new **President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)**. He succeeds another renowned para-athlete, **Deepa Malik**. **AS Rajeev** was appointed as **Vigilance Commissioner** in the **Central Vigilance Commission** by the Honourable President of India on 9th February 2024.
- **Kishor Makwana** has assumed the charge of **Chairman** of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** in New Delhi. **Shri Luv Kush Kumar** has also taken charge as a **Member** of the NCSC.
- Justice **Satyendra Kumar Singh** was appointed as the new **Lokayukta** (anti-corruption ombudsman) of **Madhya Pradesh**. He took the **oath of office** on Sunday night, with the ceremony being administered by **Governor Mangubhai Patel** at Raj Bhavan.
- **The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)** has appointed **Mr. Deepak Ballani** as its new **Director General**. With over 25 years of extensive experience in public policy, government affairs, and organizational management, Mr. Ballani brings a wealth of expertise to this pivotal role.
- **Sanjay Kumar Singh** is poised to step into the role of **Director (Projects) at NHPC Limited**, following a commendation by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on March 12.
- The **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**-led three-member committee has appointed **Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** as new **Election Commissioners**. This decision was conveyed to the media by Congress leader **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** after the committee's meeting on March 14, 2024.
- **B Sairam** has been appointed as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)**. NCL is the **Singrauli-based flagship Subsidiary of Coal India Limited**. Sairam has assumed the charge for this post.
- Retired bureaucrat **Navneet Kumar Sehgal** has been appointed as the new **chairperson** of the **Prasar Bharati Board**. The position had been **vacant for four years** after **A Surya Prakash** retired in **February 2020** after turning **70**, the upper age limit for the post.





- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has appointed **Jaideep Hansraj**, the current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as the **Group President – One Kotak**, effective from **April 1, 2024**. This move signifies a strategic shift towards optimizing the Group's financial conglomerate model and enhancing customer offerings through collaborative efforts across subsidiaries.
- Senior bureaucrat **Rahul Singh** has been appointed as the **chairperson** of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, as part of a **senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle** effected by the **Centre**.
- **Poonawalla Fincorp**, a notable NBFC, has chosen **Arvind Kapil**, a seasoned retail banking expert from HDFC Bank, as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Kapil will commence his five-year term on June 24, 2024, succeeding Abhay Bhutada, who opted for early retirement.
- **Vinay Kumar**, an **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch**, has been named as the **next Ambassador of India to Russia**. Kumar is currently serving as the **Ambassador of India to Myanmar**.
- Leading **FMCG company P&G India** has announced the appointment of **Kumar Venkatasubramanian** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective from **May 1, 2024**.
- The Election Commission of India has made a significant decision regarding the leadership of the West Bengal police force. Vivek Sahay has been replaced by **Sanjay Mukherjee as the new Director General of Police (DGP)** for the state of West Bengal. This decision comes amidst a series of changes in key positions within the state administration, particularly in light of past incidents and the upcoming elections.
- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has elected **M V Rao**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the **Central Bank of India**, as its new **Chairman**. The decision was taken during the IBA's managing committee meeting.
- **Naveen Jindal**, Chairman of **Jindal Steel and Power**, has been unanimously elected as the **President** of the **Indian Steel Association (ISA)** by the apex committee, which is the governing body of the ISA. He took charge on Thursday, succeeding **Dilip Oommen**, CEO of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India**.
- **Microsoft** named British AI pioneer **Mustafa Suleyman** as the head of its **AI division**. Suleyman, who co-founded **Google's DeepMind**, will now report directly to Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella**.
- **Ashwani Kumar**, Partner at Victor Forgings in Jalandhar, has been **unanimously elected** as the new **President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**.
- **Mariam Mammen Mathew**, CEO of Manorama Online, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA)** for a two-year term starting April 1, 2024. She succeeds Tanmay Maheshwari, Managing Director of Amar Ujala.
- The **Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB)** has appointed **Govind Dholakia**, a **Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat**, as its new **chairman**. This appointment comes a day after the previous chairman, **Vallabhbai Patel (Lakhani)**, resigned from his position.
- Senior Indian diplomat **Abhay Thakur** has been appointed as the country's next **ambassador** or top **envoy to Myanmar**. This was announced by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** on **March 26**.
- **Eveready Industries India (EIL)**, a leading battery brand, has announced a partnership with **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic gold medalist and World no. 1 in men's javelin throw, as its new **brand ambassador**.
- **Hansha Mishra**, an officer of the **Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)** from the **2010 batch**, has been appointed as **Director** in the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, Delhi. Her appointment comes after she was recommended for central deputation by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi** has taken oath as the new judicial member of the **Lokpal** (ombudsman) on **27 March 2024**. The oath was administered by **Justice AM Khanwilkar**, the Chairman of the **Lokpal of India**. **Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava** and senior officers from CBI and Enforcement Directorate were present.
- **Sadanand Vasant Date**, a distinguished 1990-batch **IPS officer** from **Maharashtra cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Director General of the NIA**. **Piyush Anand**, a 1991-batch **IPS officer** from the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**, has been entrusted with the responsibility of heading the **NDRF**. **Rajeev Kumar**, an accomplished **IPS officer** from the **Rajasthan cadre**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the BPR&D**.
- In a significant development, the central government has approved the appointment of **Nidhu Saxena** as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of the **Bank of Maharashtra**. This appointment will be effective for a period of **three years** starting from **27 March 2024**.
- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Kamal Kishore of India** as the new **Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction**. He will lead the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**.
- **Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani** was administered the **oath of office** as an **Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** in Srinagar.
- **Arnab Banerjee**, the **Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd.**, has been elected as the new **Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)**. ATMA is the national industry body representing the **automotive tyre sector** in India.





- **Microsoft** has named **Pavan Davuluri** as the new head of its combined **Windows** and **Surface** teams. This move comes after the previous leader, **Panos Panay**, left for **Amazon** last year.
- **Girija Subramanian**, the current Chairperson and MD of **Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC)**, has been selected as the next CMD of **New India Assurance**. **Bhupesh Sushil Rahul**, a General Manager at AIC, has been chosen as the new CMD of **United India Insurance**.

New Appointments: National & International of February 2024

- **Sharat Chauhan**, a seasoned 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been designated as the new Chief Secretary of Puducherry.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

- **Rajasthan** has welcomed Senior Advocate **Rajendra Prasad Gupta** as its new Advocate General, following the approval of his appointment by Governor Kalraj Mishra.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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. **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.





- **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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- **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)**.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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).
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.





Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July 2024

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has entered into a **\$60 million** financing agreement with **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** to provide housing loans to women in India. The initiative aims to address the shortage of financing in the **low-income and affordable housing segment**. Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- The **Philippines and Japan** have taken a big step in their security relationship. They signed a new deal that allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily. This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has initiated talks with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to develop an **AI Audit Tool** aimed at overseeing corporate India and detecting frauds. **ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** has confirmed that a proposal has been sent to **MeitY Secretary Krishnan**.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities among rural, tribal, and farming communities in India. This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR's technological innovations and MSSRF's grassroots outreach to empower marginalized groups.
- The **India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)** for Organic Products, effective from **July 8, 2024**, aims to enhance trade by allowing certified organic products from each country to enter the other's market. India's **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency are the respective implementing agencies for this landmark agreement.
- The government and Netflix India have partnered to create opportunities for voice-over artists, especially women, to enhance their skills and find better opportunities in the media and entertainment sector. The **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and Netflix India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch "**The Voicebox**," a program to train voice-over artists in **multiple languages** including English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Gujarati.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** announced the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for the establishment of the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at the latter. This initiative **formalised on July 3, 2024**, marks a significant **step towards institutionalising** BIS's collaboration with leading academic and research establishments across India.
- In a significant step towards developing Indigenous technology, the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and Indian Institute of Technology, **Mandi (IIT Mandi)**.
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**.
- On July 26, 2024, India and the United States signed their first-ever Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) during the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2024

- In a significant partnership, Finnish telecom giant **Nokia** and **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly explore advancements in **5G and 6G communications**, specifically targeting transportation and logistics sectors. The agreement, signed in the presence of **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chancellor of GSV**, aims to leverage Nokia's expertise in telecommunications to enhance various aspects of transportation and logistics.
- The **Department of School Education** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Book Trust** to create an institutional framework for the **Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**.
- In a significant step towards enhancing investment cooperation between India and Qatar, the inaugural meeting of the **Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI)** took place in **New Delhi**. Co-chaired by **Ajay Seth, Secretary of India's Department of Economic Affairs**, and **Mohamed bin Hassen Al-Malki, Undersecretary of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the meeting aimed to fortify bilateral relations and explore avenues for accelerated growth and collaboration across sectors like infrastructure, energy, technology, and innovation.
- In a significant move aimed at addressing the mental health needs of armed forces personnel and their families, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration establishes a dedicated **Tele MANAS cell**, the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), to provide comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services.





- **IIT Kanpur**, in collaboration with the **Centre of Excellence for UAVs and DFI**, has unveiled UDAAN, a pioneering drone startup acceleration initiative. **UDAAN aims to empower emerging drone ventures by offering them access to state-of-the-art facilities, expert mentorship, financial support, and tailored business development guidance, fostering rapid business growth.**
- India and the UAE have embarked on a groundbreaking initiative with the introduction of the **Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS)**, aimed at transforming their economic relations. This system allows transactions between the two nations to be conducted in their respective domestic currencies—**Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams**—thus reducing reliance on intermediary currencies like the US Dollar.
- Adani Defence and Aerospace has announced a strategic cooperation agreement with **UAE-based EDGE Group**, aimed at integrating their defence and aerospace capabilities. This partnership will leverage their combined product portfolios to cater to global and regional defence needs, emphasizing advancements in technology and bilateral cooperation between India and the UAE.
- In a significant move to enhance public accessibility to Indian art and culture, the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sansad TV**. This collaboration allows Sansad TV to broadcast **IGNCA's cultural programs** and utilize its extensive archival content. The **MoU was formalized by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi**, Member Secretary of IGNCA, and **Mr. Rajat Punhani**, CEO of Sansad TV.
- **Oracle** has teamed up with the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation** to enhance IT skills among the state's youth through the **Naan Mudhalvan program**. This initiative aims to provide training and certification in cutting-edge technologies like cloud computing, data science, AI, ML, and blockchain, offering employment-linked opportunities to over 200,000 students.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the State Bank of India (**SBI**) have formalized a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to integrate **SBI's payment gateway, SBlePay, with the eMigrate portal**. This collaboration aims to bolster digital payment services for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and users of the portal.
- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on **"Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru**, in observance of International Day of Yoga (**IDY 2024 with the theme "Yoga for Self & Society."**) This conference brought together experts from various fields to enhance societal health, including astronauts, by exploring the benefits of yoga in extreme conditions and space environments.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on enhancing **cyber-resilience in India's financial sector**. This partnership aims to leverage the shared expertise of both entities in cybersecurity incident response, capacity building, and advanced malware analysis.
- **Adani Defence & Aerospace** has signed an agreement with **Thales Group** to manufacture 70mm rockets locally. This strategic collaboration aligns with the Indian government's **"Make in India"** initiative, aiming to enhance self-reliance in defence production.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of May 2024

- **India's Bharat 6G Alliance** is set to sign a cooperation agreement with Europe's Industry Alliance 6G, following a similar agreement with the US. This partnership aims to foster collaboration in **developing 6G technology**.
- In a groundbreaking move, **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has joined hands with the **Bank of Namibia (BoN)** to introduce a real-time payment system akin to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in Namibia. This partnership marks NPCI's first collaboration with a central bank for deploying the UPI stack in an international market, aiming to revolutionize digital payments in Namibia. In a significant development, **Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal**. This agreement aims to strengthen collaboration and facilitate the exchange of expertise in auditing practices between the **Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)** of both countries.
- **India and Nigeria** have agreed to finalize the **Local Currency Settlement System Agreement** to enhance bilateral trade. The agreement, to be settled in Indian rupees and Nigerian naira, was discussed during the **2nd session of the India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee in Abuja**.
- Infibeam Avenues' **CCAvenue, a leading payments platform**, has entered into a strategic partnership with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB)** to enhance merchant access. Through this collaboration, merchants registered with CCAvenue will gain access to Shivalik SFB's extensive customer base.
- The **Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park** in Nagaland hold profound significance, celebrating the collaborative effort between the **Government of Japan, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Government of Nagaland**. The inauguration of these projects represents not only historical importance but also serves as a symbol of **peace, reconciliation, and educational value**.





- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and **Hindalco Industries**, a leading industry group, have joined forces to promote the manufacturing and supply of **indigenous marine-grade aluminium** for the construction of ships. The collaboration, formalized through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, aims to enhance India's self-reliance in the shipbuilding sector.
- In a significant move to bolster research and conservation efforts concerning sharks and rays in the **Arabian Sea, India and Oman are set to embark** on a joint initiative. This collaboration aims to enhance understanding, promote conservation, and facilitate capacity building in elasmobranch research, with a particular focus on the Arabian Sea region.
- **India and Iran** have inked a significant **10-year bilateral contract** aimed at enhancing the operations of the **Chabahar Port**. This move underscores India's strategic interests in bolstering trade links with Central Asia and parts of Europe, leveraging the port's strategic location on Iran's southwestern coast.
- In a significant step towards empowering women in emerging technology sectors, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd to conduct **two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana**.
- India and the UK have reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** during the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London. This marks a significant step as the two nations have already conducted 13 rounds of talks, with the **14th round commencing in January 2024**. The discussions also reviewed progress on the 2030 Roadmap, established in 2021 to enhance cooperation in various sectors.
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity.
- SJVN, formerly **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam**, has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)** aimed at revolutionizing tunneling project performance through the integration of advanced geological models.
- The **United States and Britain** have joined forces to bolster the safety measures surrounding **artificial intelligence (AI)** amidst concerns over upcoming advanced AI iterations. This collaboration, formalized through a memorandum of understanding, aims to collectively develop advanced AI model testing procedures, aligning with commitments made during the AI Safety Summit held at Bletchley Park.
- The **European Union (EU)** and India have embarked on a collaborative effort to nurture startups in the field of **Electric Vehicle (EV)** battery recycling. This initiative is a direct outcome of the **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** announced in April 2022, aimed at enhancing cooperation in clean and green technologies.
- In the wake of the recent **terrorist attack in Moscow**, believed to be perpetrated by extremists from Central Asia potentially influenced by Pakistani seminaries, **India and Kazakhstan** convened in Astana to bolster their collaboration against terrorism.
- In a significant move toward bolstering India's mineral security, **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT)** have entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Technical & Knowledge cooperation**. The agreement aims to leverage CSIR-IMMT's technical prowess in various domains crucial for mineral processing and metal extraction.
- India and Mauritius recently signed an amendment to their **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** on March 7, 2024. The amendment includes a **principal purpose test (PPT)** aimed at combating tax avoidance by ensuring that treaty benefits are granted only for transactions with a genuine purpose. This move raises concerns about increased scrutiny on foreign portfolio investments via Mauritius and potential implications for past investments.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of April 2024

- The Indian and Nepalese governments, along with scholars from both countries, have collaborated to advance **Sanskrit research and education**. This partnership aims to strengthen bilateral relations and preserve the cultural heritage shared by **India and Nepal**.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** has collaborated with Panasonic Energy to establish a joint venture aimed at producing lithium-ion cells in India. This strategic partnership comes in response to the anticipated surge in demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage solutions within the country.
- **Apple has partnered with CleanMax to deploy 14.4 megawatts** of rooftop solar installations across six industrial sites in India, aimed at reducing emissions associated with its operations in the country.
- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait announced the launch of the **first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait**, a significant step to deepen ties between the two nations. Initiated by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, the program will air every Sunday on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3, highlighting the bond between India and Kuwait.





- **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, India,** and Starburst Aerospace of France have signed a significant **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** aimed at advancing innovation in aerospace, defence, and homeland security. This collaboration, aligned with the India-France Strategic Partnership, includes the creation of a 100 million euros venture capital fund and export promotion support for Indian startups.
- In a bid to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India, the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have joined forces.** The partnership aims to provide vocational training to marginalized communities, initially focusing on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Air India** has entered into a **codeshare partnership** with **All Nippon Airways (ANA)**, Japan's largest airline. This agreement, effective from **May 23, 2024**, will allow passengers of both airlines to **combine flights** between India and Japan using a single ticket.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of March 2024

- In a recent development, **India and Nepal** have bolstered their financial cooperation, with a focus on digital payments. This initiative aims to streamline cross-border transactions and enhance convenience for citizens of both nations.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta have joined forces to establish **Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs)** in strategically important schools. This collaboration aims to democratize access to future technologies and foster innovation among students.
- **India** aims to enhance its strategic partnership with **South Korea** by expanding cooperation into new and critical areas, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced during the **10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul.** Co-chairing the meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yul, Jaishankar highlighted the comprehensive and productive discussions held on various aspects, including defence, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This collaboration aims to establish the **"NPCI-IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Deep Tech Research & Development"** to drive innovation in the fintech sector.

- **Airbus**, a prominent name in the aviation industry, has announced a significant partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai)** to deliver high-quality aviation training to professionals. This collaboration marks a crucial step towards enhancing industry-ready skills among aspiring and working individuals in the aviation sector.
- **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Sports**, has introduced significant reforms in the recruitment, promotion, and incentive mechanisms for athletes. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and turning sports into a lucrative career option.
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising **Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein** have signed a **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).** This modern and ambitious agreement marks India's first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with four developed nations in Europe, offering significant economic opportunities and promoting free trade and economic integration.
- NTPC and its renewable energy arm NGEL signed non-binding MoUs with **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL)** in Jaipur. These agreements represent a significant stride towards improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the **Chhabra Thermal Power Plant.** The focus lies on exploring avenues for integrating supercritical units into the current infrastructure to modernize and enhance power generation.
- The **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under the Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**) has entered a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Prasar Bharati**, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, and the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a Digital Public Infrastructure (**DPI**) initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- On March 12, 2024, a significant milestone in the diplomatic and economic relations between **India** and the **Dominican Republic** was achieved as the Protocol for the establishment of the **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo.
- Grain commerce platform **Arya.ag** has collaborated with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** to extend financial assistance to farmers, agro-processors, and micro-enterprises. This partnership aims to facilitate over **₹200 crore** in warehouse receipt financing in the current fiscal year, enhancing financial inclusion in the agricultural ecosystem.





- **India and Singapore** have solidified their cooperation in the realm of **law and dispute resolution** through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law **Mr. Edwin Tong SC** and India's Minister for Law and Justice **Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal**. This agreement aims to bolster collaboration in areas such as international commercial dispute resolution.
- The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** is collaborating with the **Council of Architecture (COA)** to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** in public spaces and buildings. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in architectural practices and aims to raise awareness about designing environments that accommodate the needs of PwDs.
- In a significant step towards promoting innovation and advancing the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector, the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and **Europol** have entered into a significant **Working Arrangement** aimed at combating crime and fostering cooperation between the two agencies. This collaborative effort underscores the necessity of global partnerships in addressing modern-day challenges posed by transnational crime networks.
- **Tech Mahindra** and **IBM** have joined forces to inaugurate a **Synergy Lounge** in **Singapore**, aimed at accelerating digital adoption for enterprises across the **Asia-Pacific region**. This collaboration seeks to leverage next-gen technologies to drive innovation and offer unique solutions to various industries.
- State-owned power giant **NTPC** has finalized an agreement with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to obtain foreign currency loans totaling **USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or approximately Rs 1,650 crore)**. This financing arrangement signifies a significant step in NTPC's endeavor to augment its renewable energy initiatives.
- The **Indian Parliamentary Delegation**, led by **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh**, held a bilateral meeting with their **Armenian counterparts** on the sidelines of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** event in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)** and **ABRASAT, the Brazilian Satellite Communications Association**, have joined forces to propel advancements in the space sector. This strategic partnership aims to foster collaboration and drive innovative ventures and technological cooperation between India and Brazil.

- In a significant move poised to reshape **India's Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) industry**, the Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (**IIM Mumbai**) partners with **Starburst**, a prominent **European Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) accelerator**. This collaboration aims to bolster the ASD startup ecosystem in India, leveraging the resources and expertise of both entities.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of February 2024

- 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.
- **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.
- **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)**.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.





- 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.
- 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.
- In a development for indigenous manufacturing and innovation, **Prima 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In a collaborative effort between the **US Consulate and the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce**, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), the first-ever **US-India Cyber Security Initiative** has been launched.





Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of July 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Union Bank of India	Union Bank of India has launched “ Union Premier ” branches tailored for high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets .
2.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced “ MSME Sahaj ,” a revolutionary online business loan solution tailored for MSMEs. This web-based platform allows MSMEs to obtain credit against their GST registered sales invoices swiftly and seamlessly .
3.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank announced the launch of its ‘ Student Sapphire Forex Card ’, a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education.
4.	Bank of Baroda (BoB)	Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to raise up to ₹7,500 crore through Additional Tier-I (AT1) and Tier-II bonds to meet regulatory requirements and support business growth.
5.	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	In response to rising cyber fraud incidents, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the ‘ Safety Ring ’ security feature . This optional mechanism provides an additional layer of protection against unauthorized access, aimed at minimizing potential financial losses for users of its internet and mobile banking services.
6.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme , “ Amrit Vrishti ”, with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent .
7.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of ‘ Wrestle for Glory ’ program, a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28% , from ₹47,010 crore to ₹60,118 crore, effective from July 1, 2024.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI),	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), along with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and central banks of four ASEAN countries , is collaborating on Project Nexus, a multilateral initiative aimed at enabling efficient, faster, and cost-effective retail cross-border payments.
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 5 imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced its quarterly “ Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey ” (OBICUS) for the manufacturing sector, aimed at informing monetary policy decisions .
5.	Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) , which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023 . This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a committee to review the fee structure of white-label ATMs (WLAs) . This panel aims to evaluate current policies and recommend a balanced and sustainable model for all stakeholders.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 26 prescribed a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for relatively weak urban co-operative banks (UCBs), with deposits above ₹100 crore (upper tier category), to nurse them back to health.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to **Sammaan Capital Ltd**. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding, effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company’s 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.
- Muthoot Finance has been exclusively selected as the only Indian NBFC for the **Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF)** Mutual Evaluation report for 2023-24. This recognition highlights Muthoot Finance’s global trustworthiness and compliance with stringent financial regulations.
- The **National Pension System (NPS)** witnessed a robust **40.1% year-on-year growth**, reaching **₹2.47-lakh crore** by





June 29, fueled largely by buoyant equity markets and expanding private sector subscriptions. Overall NPS assets, including **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, approached **₹12.5-lakh crore**, marking a 28.64% increase, as per **PFRDA data**.

- **ICICI Lombard**, a leading private general insurer in India, has **launched 'Elevate'**, a pioneering health insurance product **integrating AI technology**. This innovative offering is designed to meet the diverse needs of modern lifestyles and unforeseen medical emergencies, emphasizing personalized solutions and comprehensive coverage.
- Four public sector banks, including Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and EXIM Bank, have collectively paid a **dividend of ₹6,481 crore** to the government for the financial year **2023-24**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** received dividend cheques from each bank's managing directors and CEOs.
- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has made a significant move in the Indian investment landscape by launching the **ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF**.

- **Kotak Mahindra AMC** has introduced the **Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund**, a passive equity scheme mirroring the **BSE PSU Index comprising 56 PSU stocks**. This fund aims to capitalize on the strong momentum in public sector undertaking (PSU) stocks, which have shown significant growth recently. Investors can participate in India's economic trajectory through a cost-effective investment vehicle managed systematically by the fund.
- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the launch of 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The **All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)** and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) (Base: 1986-87=100) saw an increase of 11 points each in June 2024, reaching 1280 and 1292, respectively.

Banking Current Affairs of June 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) achieved a significant milestone as its market capitalization surpassed ₹8 lakh crore, driven by a remarkable surge in its stock prices.
2.	Punjab National Bank	The Board of Punjab National Bank (PNB) has approved the initiation of the process to dilute 10% of its shareholding in Canara HSBC Life Insurance through an initial public offering (IPO).
3.	ICICI Bank	Adani One, the digital platform of the Adani Group, and ICICI Bank have introduced two variants of co-branded credit cards in partnership with Visa. This launch signifies Adani Group's entry into the retail financial sector, offering cardholders up to 7% Adani reward points on spending within the Adani ecosystem.
4.	All India Bank Employees' Association	The Bank Clinic, spearheaded by the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), aims to empower retail customers by providing guidance on addressing their grievances in the rapidly evolving landscape of banking technology and regulatory standards set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
5.	Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have joined forces in a strategic bancassurance partnership aimed at boosting insurance penetration and financial inclusion in India.
6.	SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF)	SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) achieved a historic milestone on Monday by becoming the first fund house in India to surpass Rs 10 trillion in assets under management (AUM).
7.	Bank of India	The Bank of India has acquired a 6.125% stake in the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) for ₹6.125 crore, aiming to enhance its strategic presence in GIFT City IFSC.
8.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) has teamed up with 23 non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)/housing finance companies (HFCs).
9.	Punjab National Bank	, Punjab National Bank (PNB) is set to open a representative office in Dubai, as approved by its board of directors. PNB Managing Director Atul Kumar Goel confirmed the move, indicating that regulatory clearance is being sought and the office is expected to materialize within the current financial year.
10.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SME Digital Business Loans', aiming to sanction loans within an astonishing 45 minutes. Recognizing the pivotal role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in its growth strategy, SBI has streamlined the borrowing process, eliminating traditional credit underwriting and appraisal procedures.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
11.	Axis Bank	The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has levied a penalty exceeding Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for neglecting to implement adequate measures to identify and report suspicious transactions.
12.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) has distributed a dividend of Rs 6,959 crore to the Indian government for the financial year 2023-24.
13.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI), under Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, aims to open 400 new branches across India in the fiscal year 2024-25.
14.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank in India plans to expand its branch network by 175 to 200 branches in FY25. This decision comes despite recent regulatory restrictions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on digital customer acquisition and credit card issuance due to IT-related issues.
15.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank's market capitalisation(m-cap) on June 25 crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time, becoming only the sixth company to do so.
16.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	India's external debt increased by \$39.7 billion to \$663.8 billion at end-March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
17.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) has successfully raised Rs 10,000 crore through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance. The bonds, with a tenure of 15 years and a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually, garnered significant investor interest, oversubscribed nearly four times the base size of Rs 5,000 crore.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the auction of 10-year green bonds as traders refused to pay the greenium, the premium for sustainability impact. This move highlights the market's reluctance to invest at the desired yields, leading to significant financial implications.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions totaling ₹44,430 crore, aiming to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the green light to Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated its third global hackathon, HaRBInger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation, aimed at developing innovative tech-based solutions to predict, detect, and prevent financial frauds in real-time. The hackathon features two key themes: 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly'.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a revision in the threshold for bulk fixed deposits, increasing the limit from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Tiger Global-backed neobanking startup Jupiter Money has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to offer digital wallet services.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed fines on Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC for breaches related to customer protection and KYC norms. Central Bank of India faces a penalty of ₹1.45 crore for irregularities including improper sanctioning of loans and delays in reversing unauthorized transactions.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of Purvanchal Co-operative Bank, located in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, citing inadequate capital and bleak earning prospects.
9.	Reserve Bank of India's	Banks showed high demand for cash by bidding Rs 1.6 trillion in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) variable rate repo (VRR) auction, held on Friday, against a notified amount of Rs 1 trillion.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant update to its 'Database on Indian Economy' (DBIE) portal, effective immediately.
11.	India's Reserve Bank (RBI)	India's Reserve Bank (RBI) has announced a notable decline in the proportion of short-term debt within the country's total external debt, marking a decrease of 2.1 percentage points by March 2024 compared to the previous year.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a further improvement in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), estimating it to decrease to 2.5% by March 2025.
13.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India with the concurrence of the Government of India has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027.





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) achieved a record-breaking 14.04 billion transactions in May, marking a significant increase from the 13.30 billion transactions recorded in April. This reflects a 49% year-on-year growth. The total transaction value reached Rs 20.45 lakh crore, with an average daily transaction count of 453 million and an average daily transaction value of Rs 65,966 crore.
- Arka Fincap Limited, a subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited, has obtained a Corporate Agency License from the IRDAI, marking a significant milestone.
- NPCI International and the Reserve Bank of Peru have joined forces to introduce a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru, marking a pioneering move for South America. This collaboration aims to revolutionize Peru's financial landscape, fostering economic growth and financial inclusion by leveraging India's renowned Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology.
- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) on Friday affirmed the **Baa3 ratings on three Indian public sector banks — Bank of Baroda (BOB), Canara Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB)**. The rating agency maintained stable outlooks on the long-term ratings of all three banks, citing improved credit metrics, strong profitability, and adequate liquidity buffers.
- ATM operators in India are advocating for an increase in interchange fees by **Rs 2 per transaction**, citing financial sustainability challenges. The **Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI)** has formally approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to raise the current maximum fee from **Rs 21 to Rs 23 per transaction**, as reported by the Economic Times.

Banking Current Affairs of May 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	ICICI Bank	In a remarkable achievement, ICICI Bank has etched its name among India's top five companies by market capitalization, surpassing the Rs 8 trillion mark. The private lender's shares surged over 5%, propelling its market value to new heights and cementing its position as a financial powerhouse.
2.	YES Bank	YES Bank has partnered with ANQ to introduce two innovative credit cards, Pi and Phi, aiming to blend traditional banking with fintech solutions. The Pi card offers digital-only credit on UPI for domestic transactions, while the Phi card provides physical access for both domestic and international purchases.
3.	HDFC Life	HDFC Life launches the "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" campaign, aimed at simplifying and expediting life insurance purchases through its online platform.
4.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank has unveiled a groundbreaking feature allowing non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to utilize Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India through their international mobile numbers.
5.	HDFC Bank	HDFC Bank and Atal Innovation Mission, under NITI Aayog, have empowered social sector startups in India by providing grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore in FY24.
6.	YES BANK	YES BANK, a leading private sector bank in India, is collaborating with EBANX, a global fintech firm specializing in payment solutions for emerging markets. Together, they aim to provide a comprehensive range of scalable payment solutions to merchants, facilitating seamless cross-border transactions and expanding global commerce opportunities for both merchants and customers in India.
7.	State Bank of India	In its latest quarterly report, State Bank of India (SBI) showcased remarkable financial performance, recording its highest standalone quarterly net profit at ₹20,698 crore.
8.	HDFC Bank	HDFC Bank has rolled out Pixel Play, the nation's inaugural virtual credit card partnered with Visa. Offering two distinct variants, Pixel Play and Pixel Go, this innovative card empowers users to craft personalized cards tailored to their lifestyle preferences and chosen merchants, all through the bank's PayZapp mobile app.
9.	State Bank of India	SBI General Insurance, the non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI), has launched 'Surety Bond Bima' to support infrastructure development by providing a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.
10.	Bank of Maharashtra	Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as a top performer among public sector banks, showcasing impressive growth in total business and deposit mobilization. With a 15.94% rise in total business and a 15.66% increase in deposits, it outshines competitors like State Bank of India.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
11.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued comprehensive guidelines outlining the voluntary transition path for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) seeking to become Universal Banks.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) seeking to transition into Universal Banks, providing a pathway for conversion.
13.	Reserve Bank of India's	The Reserve Bank of India's decision to increase risk weights on bank loans to higher-rated non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) has led to a significant uptick in quarterly commercial paper (CP) issuances. This, coupled with investor confidence and diversified funding sources, has propelled CP issuances by NBFCs to a four-and-a-half-year high of ₹1.2-lakh crore in January-March 2024.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the license of Acemoney (India) Limited, a Delhi-based non-banking financial company (NBFC), citing irregular lending practices. This action stems from the company's violation of RBI guidelines regarding excessive interest charges and inadequate protection of customer information.
15.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on five co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
16.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed that 97.76% of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have been reabsorbed into the banking system, leaving only Rs 7,961 crore in circulation with the public. Since the announcement of their withdrawal from circulation on May 19, 2023, the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes has significantly decreased.
17.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the lifting of restrictions on Bank of Baroda's BoB World mobile application, permitting the bank to onboard customers immediately.
18.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India recently conducted a buyback of government securities (G-Secs), receiving offers totaling ₹17,384.552 crore, but accepting only ₹10,513 crore, despite the notified amount being ₹40,000 crore.
19.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, subject to conditions and provisions under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, was disclosed in a regulatory filing.
20.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repurchased government bonds worth only Rs 2,069 crore out of the notified Rs 60,000 crore. Banks resisted selling at lower prices, resulting in limited acceptance.
21.	Reserve Bank of India	The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of Rs 2.11 lakh crore as a dividend to the Government of India for the financial year 2023-24
22.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited due to non-compliance with certain provisions of the fair practices code.
23.	Reserve Bank of India	The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch for non-compliance with certain provisions of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 (FIC Act).
24.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has unveiled three major initiatives: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App, and a FinTech Repository.
25.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has penalized ICICI Bank and YES Bank for violations of regulatory norms pertaining to their financial positions as of March 31, 2022.
26.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh on HSBC Limited for breaching regulations outlined in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
27.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stringent action against Edelweiss Group's lending and asset reconstruction arms due to concerns regarding the manipulation of loans and structured transactions.
28.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 88.70 lakh on SBM Bank (India) for non-compliance with specific regulatory norms. This includes licensing conditions and directives related to the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The increasing reliance of India on Chinese industrial goods presents significant economic and security concerns, with China's share in New Delhi's imports rising from 21% to 30% over the last 15 years. This situation demands a strategic reassessment of import strategies to foster diversified and resilient supply chains.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has joined forces with SBI Cards and select telecom operators to address the rising issue of **one-time password (OTP)** frauds. In light of increasing phishing attacks targeting bank customers, a solution is being developed to alert individuals about potential OTP thefts.
- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector enterprise, has been granted the coveted '**Navratna**' status by the government, according to a recent filing with the stock exchanges. This prestigious designation takes the total number of **Navratna PSEs (Public Sector Enterprises)** in India to 17.
- Cred has launched an innovative UPI-based '**Scan and Pay**' service, marking its entry into the offline payments sphere, challenging incumbents like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. This service allows users to make payments directly from their bank accounts using any QR code, extending convenience to large format stores such as supermarkets, fast-food joints, beauty salons, and fashion boutiques.
- In the dynamic landscape of Indian startups, **former BharatPe COO Dhruv Dhanraj Bahl** steps into the world of venture capital with the launch of his **maiden fund, Eternal Capital**, with a substantial corpus of **Rs 240 crore**, including a greenshoe option.
- The Government of India has introduced a **Floating Rate Bond (FRB)** maturing in 2034, with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) declaring an 8% interest rate** for the **Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034**. This bond offers a variable interest rate that resets every six months, reflecting market conditions.
- In a significant development, REC Ltd., under the Ministry of Power, has obtained approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a subsidiary in **Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT), Gandhinagar**.
- India and Ghana are poised to integrate their payment systems, **UPI and GHIPSS**, to facilitate instant and cost-effective fund transfers between the two nations. Within **six months, NPCI's UPI is set to be operational on Ghana's GHIPSS platform**, marking a significant step in financial collaboration.
- In a groundbreaking move, **GetVantage, a start-up specializing in revenue-based finance (RBF)**, has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. This accomplishment marks a pivotal moment as GetVantage becomes the first RBF and alternative funding platform in India to receive such authorization.
- In response to the introduction of the **T+1 settlement regime for stocks**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated the guidelines for custodian banks regarding the issuance of **Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs)**. Under these revised guidelines, custodian banks issuing IPCs will be subject to a maximum intraday risk, considered as **capital market exposure (CME)**, capped at **30 percent** of the settlement amount.
- Following the reduction in trade settlement time from **T+2 to T+1 and T+0 for select equities by stock exchanges**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decreased the maximum risk for custodian banks issuing irrevocable payment commitments (IPCs) from 50% to 30%. This decision is based on the assumption of potential downward price movements of equities purchased by foreign institutional investors/mutual funds over two successive days from the trade date.
- **Investments through participatory notes (P-notes)** in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering **Rs 1.5 lakh crore** at the end of February 2024, marking the highest level in nearly six years.
- IREDA, a state-owned entity under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, has formed a subsidiary named **IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** within GIFT City, Gujarat. This move aims to leverage global financial markets to support the growth of the renewable energy sector in India.
- **Bharti Enterprises, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal**, divested 38.50 lakh shares of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for **₹663 crore through open market transactions**.
- Zeta, a global provider of cutting-edge banking technology, has unveiled its Digital Credit as a Service offering at Democratizing Credit 2024. Leveraging **NPCI's Credit Line on UPI scheme**, Zeta aims to tap into the burgeoning credit market in India, projecting transaction volumes to surpass \$1 trillion by 2030.
- **Public sector banks (PSBs)** are poised to deliver **approximately 30% higher dividends** to the government in FY24 compared to the previous fiscal year. The total dividends from PSBs are **estimated at ₹18,013 crore for FY24**, a significant uptick from ₹13,804 crore in FY23, reflecting their robust financial performance.





- The Government of India, being the largest shareholder in **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**, will receive a dividend of **Rs 3,662 crore** following LIC's declaration of an interim dividend of Rs 6 per share. LIC reported a net profit of Rs 13,782 crore for the quarter ending March 31, 2024, marking a 4.5 percent increase compared to the same period last year.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** committed \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2023, aiming to bolster

various sectors including urban development, power, industry, horticulture, connectivity, and climate resilience.

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, **Axis Bank and Mastercard** have launched the NFC Soundbox, set to redefine payment experiences in India. This innovative device is poised to be an all-in-one solution, enabling users to accept various payment methods such as Bharat QR, UPI, Tap & Pay, and Tap + Pin.

Banking Current Affairs of April 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	HDFC Bank	HDFC Bank, a leading private sector lender in India, is pursuing the sale of its entire stake in HDFC Education and Development Services. This move comes as the bank seeks to maintain transparency and regulatory compliance while selecting a buyer through the Swiss challenge method.
2.	Karnataka Bank	Karnataka Bank has successfully concluded a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to raise Rs 600 crore, adding to its planned capital raise program of Rs 1,500 crore announced in September 2023.
3.	AU Small Finance Bank	AU Small Finance Bank has merged with Fincare Small Finance Bank, marking a significant consolidation in the banking sector. The merger, finalized on April 1, 2024, through an all-stock deal, strengthens AU SFB's presence in South India and enhances its customer base and distribution network.
4.	Canara Bank	A significant collaboration between Canara Bank and Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay was formalized on April 3rd through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU aims to facilitate financial assistance to startups, marking a pivotal moment for the startup ecosystem.
5.	HDFC Bank	Private lender HDFC Bank has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a presence in the Union Territory. This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in Lakshadweep by offering a wide range of services with a focus on personal banking and digital banking solutions. The branch will provide customized digital solutions, including QR-based transactions for retailers, to cater to the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in the region.
6.	India Post Payments Bank	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has implemented service charges for Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions, effective from June 15, 2022
7.	Bank of India	India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) has entered into a strategic partnership with Bank of India (BOI) to introduce mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products.
8.	Bank of Baroda	In response to a surge in cyber fraud incidents, including the Bank of Baroda World app scam, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) halted Bank of Baroda's customer onboarding on its 'BoB World' mobile app in October 2023. The Finance Ministry is now proposing stringent measures to combat such frauds, focusing on enhancing cybersecurity and bolstering financial institutions' due diligence practices.
9.	Airtel Payments Bank	Airtel Payments Bank has introduced NCMC-aligned debit and prepaid cards in collaboration with NPCI, powered by RuPay. These cards are designed to support India's One Nation, One Card initiative.
10.	Airtel Payments Bank	In a groundbreaking collaboration, Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have unveiled the UPI Switch, a cutting-edge cloud-based infrastructure designed to revolutionize the landscape of digital payments.
11.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank's shares plummeted by 10% following punitive measures imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which restrict the bank from onboarding new customers online and issuing fresh credit cards due to IT system deficiencies in 2022 and 2023.
12.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH), has achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing the Reserve Bank of India's pilot program on programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the nation's central banking institution, is entering its 90th year on April 1st, 2024. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the event at Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is contemplating the establishment of the Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat the proliferation of illegal lending apps.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred the implementation of new regulations governing exchange-traded forex derivatives to May 3. These regulations, initially set to take effect imminently, aim to ensure participants in the market have genuine foreign-exchange exposure. However, the delay has prompted brokerages to urge clients to close out contracts, anticipating significant changes in market dynamics.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on two financial institutions – IDFC First Bank and LIC Housing Finance – for non-compliance with various regulations.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	During the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announcement, Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the importance of maintaining moderate inflation to ensure economic stability. The projected CPI inflation for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) stands at 4.5%, with fluctuations across quarters.
6.	Reserve Bank of India's	The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent survey conducted in March 2024 indicates a significant improvement in consumer confidence for the year ahead. The Future Expectations Index (FEI) rose by 2.1 points to reach 125.2, the highest level since mid-2019.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	In a recent announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made significant regulatory decisions regarding the registration of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). The RBI has cancelled the registration certificates of four NBFCs and has received voluntary surrender of licenses from 11 other entities for various reasons, including business exit, amalgamation, and non-requirement for registration as per specific criteria.
8.	Reserve Bank of India's	In a significant move following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) issuance of fresh guidelines, State Bank of India (SBI) and Standard Chartered Bank India conducted a Credit Default Swap (CDS) trade valued at ₹25 crore. This marks a notable development in the financial landscape, particularly in credit risk management.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	In a significant development, Revolut India, backed by Tiger Global and Softbank, has secured in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI). This approval marks a crucial step for Revolut in expanding its presence in the Indian market, enabling the provision of multi-currency forex cards and cross-border remittance services.
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a comprehensive master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), which will come into effect from April 24, 2024. These guidelines aim to enhance the regulatory framework for ARCs and ensure their financial stability and effectiveness in resolving distressed assets.
11.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled regulations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to facilitate the direct listing of Indian companies on international stock exchanges. These regulations aim to streamline foreign exchange transactions and reporting procedures, offering companies greater flexibility in utilizing funds raised through overseas listings.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed Talkcharge Technologies to halt the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or wallets.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) concluded FY24 on a remarkable note, achieving new milestones in transaction volume and value during March 2024. Despite a slight dip in February 2024 due to fewer days in the month and increased

investment activity ahead of the financial year end, transactions worth ₹19.78 lakh crore were processed in March 2024, marking a significant increase from the previous record of ₹18.41 lakh crore set in January 2024.





- As of **December 2023**, India witnessed a surge in credit card usage, with the total number crossing the **100 million mark**. This trend has been steadily growing over the past few years, fueled by both strategic bank initiatives and evolving consumer spending habits, according to RBI Data.
- In the second half of 2023, UPI transactions in India witnessed a remarkable surge of 56% year-on-year, outpacing the modest growth of 6% in card transactions, according to a report by payment service provider Worldline. The report reveals that the volume of **UPI transactions soared to 65.77 billion**, marking a substantial increase from **42.09 billion** in the same period. Moreover, transaction value saw a **significant rise of 44%, reaching Rs 99.68 trillion from Rs 69.36 trillion**.
- **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has forged a partnership with fintech platform KarmaLife to extend micro loans to gig workers. This collaboration aims to enhance financial inclusion for gig workers by leveraging **KarmaLife's mobile app** technology to streamline loan access without the need for extensive paperwork.
- The government aims to produce **170 million tonnes of coal** from captive and commercial coal blocks in the upcoming financial year, as per the review conducted by M Nagaraju, the additional secretary of coal. Representatives from **74 coal mines participated** in the review meeting, expressing confidence in achieving the set target.
- Fitch Ratings has upheld the long-term **issuer default rating (IDR) of "BBB-"** for both the State Bank of India (SBI) and Canara Bank. The agency also maintains a **"stable"** outlook for these state-run lenders. Despite variations in risk appetite and loan growth patterns, both banks exhibit adequate capacity for fulfilling their financial commitments.
- **Mahindra Susten, a subsidiary of the Mahindra Group**, enters the hybrid renewable energy sector with a **₹1,200-Crore project in Maharashtra**, combining 101 MW wind and 52 MW solar capacity. The project aims to generate 460 million kWh of clean energy and offset 420,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- The **Adani family, led by Gautam Adani, has infused ₹8,339 crore into Ambuja Cements Ltd.**, increasing their stake to **70.3%**. This investment, part of a larger strategy, aims to bolster Ambuja's growth trajectory and cement its position in the market.
- **SBI Life Insurance has inaugurated IdeationX**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering life insurance innovation. This initiative encourages future leaders from top B-Schools to devise unconventional solutions that cater to evolving consumer needs in the insurance sector.
- In a groundbreaking move, **Sany India**, a leading manufacturer of mining and construction equipment, has launched the **SKT105E Electric Dump Truck**. This remarkable feat marks a significant milestone in the Indian mining industry, as the SKT105E becomes the first locally manufactured electric off-highway dump truck, paving the way for a more environmentally conscious and cost-effective future.
- RuPay, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, introduces the **'Link it, Forget it' campaign during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024**. This initiative aims to showcase the seamless integration of RuPay credit cards with UPI, emphasizing the convenience of leaving physical wallets behind.
- **Bandhan Life Insurance, formerly known as Aegon Life Insurance**, has rebranded itself with the tagline **'Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Se'**, reflecting its commitment to empowering the aspirations of India. Under the ownership of Bandhan Financial Holdings, the company is embarking on an aggressive growth strategy, aiming to recruit 1,000 new employees and expand its customer base.
- **CRED, the Bengaluru-based fintech start-up**, has recently obtained in-principle approval for a payment aggregator license, as reported by the Economic Times. This significant development allows CRED to broaden its services beyond its focus on reward-based credit card payments. With the new license, CRED can now facilitate merchant payments directly, enhancing its role in the digital payments ecosystem.
- According to a recent report by S&P Global, **three Indian banks—State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank—**have secured positions among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region based on their assets.
- In a significant move, **banker Deepak S Parekh has resigned from his positions as chairman and non-executive director of HDFC Life Insurance**, effective April 18, 2024. Following this, **Keki Mistry**, who has been associated with the company since December 2000, has been unanimously **appointed as the new Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance**. Mistry's extensive experience and leadership within the organization make him a natural choice for this pivotal role.
- In a significant development, PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted **in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to function as a **Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007**. This approval, after a year-long process, marks a pivotal moment for PayU's operations in India.
- **SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics** as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of **environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** assessments in India. This accreditation underscores the growing importance of independent ESG ratings in financial markets, particularly in guiding decision-making for issuers and investors towards sustainable practices.





- In a strategic collaboration, **NABARD has joined forces with the RBI Innovation Hub** to revolutionize agricultural lending through digitalization. The partnership aims to streamline loan processing and enhance accessibility for farmers across India.
- SBI Card has introduced three variants of its **travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES**, catering to diverse travel needs. The variants—**SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES**—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts.

Banking Current Affairs of March 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Axis Bank	Ecommerce giant Flipkart has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, Flipkart UPI, in partnership with Axis Bank.
2.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank has unveiled its latest offering, the Smart Choice Gold Loan, targeting aspirational customers seeking convenient and flexible loan options
3.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Mastercard, introduces 'Indus PayWear,' offering tokenised wearables for debit and credit cards. This innovative solution aims to enhance payment flexibility, convenience, and security for users.
4.	State Bank of India	Aurionpro Solutions has clinched a significant deal with the State Bank of India (SBI) for the license, implementation, and support of its cutting-edge cash management and transaction banking platform, iCashpro+.
5.	Axis Bank	In an effort to advance cancer care in India, Axis Bank has pledged a significant contribution of ₹100 crore to the National Cancer Grid (NCG), in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre. This partnership aims to bolster research, innovation, and digital health adoption in oncology over the next five years.
6.	YES Bank	YES Bank has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families.
7.	Airtel Payments Bank	Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with Noise and Mastercard, introduces a pioneering solution for contactless payments through the Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch.
8.	DBS Bank India	DBS Bank India announced a lending commitment of USD 250 million for new-age start-ups, demonstrating its dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in India's thriving start-up ecosystem. With over 90,000 start-ups and more than 100 unicorns in India as of 2024, access to capital remains a significant challenge for these companies despite their growing resilience.
9.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	In a strategic move, Kotak Mahindra Bank has successfully acquired Sonata Finance Private Limited (Sonata) for a total consideration of approximately Rs. 537 crore. This acquisition grants Kotak Mahindra Bank full ownership of Sonata, bolstering its presence in the microfinance sector.
10.	Axis Bank	Axis Bank has announced the introduction of digital US dollar fixed deposits (FDs) for NRI customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat. The bank has become the first to offer a digital journey for opening deposits at GIFT City.
11.	Bank of India (BoI)	Bank of India (BoI) has disclosed the receipt of an order from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit, concerning the Assessment Year (AY) 2018-19. The order imposes a penalty of ₹564.44 crore on various disallowances made by the bank.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stern action against IIFL Finance by imposing an immediate ban on the approval and disbursement of gold loans.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
3.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das recently announced the forthcoming launch of an interoperable payment system for internet banking, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of digital payments in India.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that 30 banks are now participating in the UDGAM portal, designed for individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits/accounts.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued notices to Federal Bank and South Indian Bank, directing them to halt the issuance of new co-branded credit cards. The two banks informed the stock exchanges about this development.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.40 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released draft guidelines outlining a disclosure framework for climate-related financial risks applicable to various regulated entities (REs). These guidelines aim to ensure transparency and better management of climate risks within the financial sector.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	In January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made its largest gold purchase since July 2022, acquiring 8.7 tonnes of gold. This brought the RBI's gold holding to 812.3 tonnes, up from 803.58 tonnes in December 2023. The central bank's move is aimed at diversifying its forex reserves and hedging against foreign currency risks.
10.	RBI	RBI imposed fines on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (Rs 1.31 crore) and DCB Bank (Rs 63.6 lakh) for non-compliance with directives on 'Interest Rate on Advances'.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken action against five co-operative banks for various rule violations. These penalties are imposed based on regulatory compliance shortcomings and do not question the validity of the banks' transactions with customers. Navsarjan Industrial Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mehsana Jilla Panchayat Karmachari Co-operative Bank, Halol Urban Co-operative Bank, Stambhadri Co-operative Urban Bank and Subramanianagar Co-operative Urban Bank.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Innoviti Payments and Concerto Software have received payment aggregator (PA) licences from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marking significant milestones in the digital payments landscape of India. Innoviti operates the PA 'Innoviti Link', serving 2,500 online merchants, while Concerto Software's gateway 'Vegaah' joins the league of authorized PA solutions.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)** in New Delhi. This umbrella organization aims to modernize and strengthen the **Urban Cooperative Banking Sector**, benefiting banks and customers alike.
- After reaching an all-time high in January, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in India experienced a **slight decrease in both value and volume in February**. This decline, amounting to 0.7% in value and 0.8% in volume, can be attributed to various factors including technical issues at multiple banks and the shorter duration of the month.
- In a virtual ceremony, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received an interim dividend

- cheque of **₹2,441.44 crore** from LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, showcasing the insurance giant's financial strength. The event also marked the inauguration of **LIC's new international business centre at GIFT City**, Gujarat, emphasizing the company's dedication to offering top-notch insurance and financial services globally.
- Private sector life insurer **Kotak Life Insurance** made headlines with the launch of its latest offering, **Kotak G.A.I.N**. This non-linked participating product is designed to cater to individuals seeking long-term savings or a steady income stream. With its unique features and flexibility, Kotak G.A.I.N **aims to address the diverse financial needs of customers** while ensuring robust protection for their loved ones.





- **Big Bang Boom Solutions (BBBS)**, a homegrown IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) startup, clinches a major order **exceeding Rs 200 Crores** for its state-of-the-art anti-drone technology. Signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with BBBS, this **contract marks the largest under the IDEX initiative**, aimed at benefiting the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has secured **\$24.5 million** from the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** for its inaugural anchored project, the **Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)**, valued at **\$120 million**. This funding marks a significant milestone in climate finance and sustainability initiatives within India.
- The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen significantly, reaching **34% as of December 2023**, up from 25% at the end of the **financial year 2017-18**. This growth has been driven by aggressive interest rate offerings and improved customer relationship management strategies adopted by private banks.
- **SANY India**, a top construction equipment manufacturer, has forged a strategic partnership with **J&K Bank** to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region. The collaboration aims to offer accessible financial solutions to customers, facilitating the acquisition of advanced machinery for infrastructure projects.
- According to **Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi**, the **insurance sector** in India has received a massive **Rs 53,900 crore as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the last **9 years** (between December 2014 and January 2024). There are currently **70 insurance companies** operating in the country.
- **Axis Mutual Fund**, a prominent asset management firm based in Mumbai, has teamed up with **Enparadigm**, a leader in AI-driven experiential learning solutions. This collaboration aims to provide tailored learning journeys to enhance the performance and productivity of Axis MF employees across various levels.
- In February 2024, the **All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Agricultural Laborers and Rural Laborers** remained stable, with figures of 1258 and 1269, respectively, based on the 1986-87=100 index. However, there were notable fluctuations observed among constituent states. Eight states saw a decline in the CPI-AL, while seven experienced a similar trend in the CPI-RL, with two states showing no change.
- SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd, in collaboration with Titan Company Ltd, proudly presents the **Titan SBI Card**, an exclusive shopping credit card designed to offer unparalleled benefits to its users. With a focus on cashbacks, gift vouchers, and reward points, this card promises benefits worth over ₹2,00,000 annually.

Banking Current Affairs of February 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Bank of Baroda's	'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.
2.	Paytm Payments Bank	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.
3.	ESAF Small Finance Bank	ESAF Small Finance Bank has officially entered into a bancassurance partnership with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.
4.	HDFC Bank	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.
5.	State Bank of India	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.
6.	City Union Bank	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.
7.	South Indian Bank	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.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
8.	State Bank of India	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.
9.	ICICI Bank	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.
10.	HDFC Bank	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.
11.	HDFC Bank	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.
12.	Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB).	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.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	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.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	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.
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	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.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	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).
5.	Reserve Bank of India	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.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	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.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	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.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	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.
9.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI),	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.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	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,".





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.

- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of July 2024

- The World Bank has approved a **second round of \$1.5 billion** in financing to help India accelerate its development of **low-carbon energy**. This funding aims to promote the market for green hydrogen, electrolysers, and increased renewable energy penetration. The initiative aligns with **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission** and **energy transition targets**, including **achieving 500 GW** of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070.
- In June 2024, India's gross goods and services tax (GST) collection reached **Rs 1.74 trillion**, marking a 7.7% year-on-year growth, lower than previous months' increases of 12.4% in April and 10% in May. Despite this slowdown, cumulative collections for the fiscal year stood at Rs 5.57 trillion. The finance ministry anticipates continued robust collections above Rs 1.6 trillion in the coming months, despite withholding detailed tax figures citing GST regime stability.

- In May 2024, growth in **India's core sector industries** decelerated to **6.3% from 6.7% in April**, driven by varied performance across sectors. Coal and electricity saw accelerated growth due to increased demand during a heat wave, while sectors like cement and fertilizers contracted. Factors such as reduced capex, adequate fertiliser stocks, and lower diesel demand influenced sectoral output. The overall impact of these dynamics reflects on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), expected to print between **4-5% for May 2024**.
- India's employment growth provisionally rose to **6% in FY24 compared to 3.2% in FY23**, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This increase brought the total employment to 643.3 million, up from 596.7 million the previous year, with 46.7 million jobs created.
- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)**, which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to **64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023**. This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.





- In June 2024, India's economic landscape witnessed significant growth driven by robust performance in both manufacturing and services sectors. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing soared, accompanied by strong hiring activity, marking a 19-year high. Concurrently, the **Eight Core Industries Index expanded by 6.5% year-on-year** in the initial months of FY25, led by sectors like coal and electricity.
- In June 2024, India's retail inflation reached a **four-month high of 5.08%**, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, particularly vegetables, amidst extended heatwave conditions. This surge marks the 57th consecutive month above the **RBI's 4% target range**, limiting immediate prospects for interest rate cuts.
- In **May 2024, India's industrial output** expanded by **5.9% year-over-year**, marking the **highest growth in seven months**. This growth surpassed expectations, with notable contributions from electricity generation and consumer durables.
- In June 2024, the All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed a **year-on-year inflation rate of 5.08%**. This rate varied across rural and urban areas, with rural inflation at 5.66% and urban inflation at 4.39%. Compared to May 2024, inflation for essential sub-groups like 'Eggs', 'Spices', 'Meat & fish', and 'Pulses & products' decreased. The CPI for General Indices and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) also showed increases, with rural CFPI notably rising by 9.15%. These figures reflect varied price dynamics impacting different segments of the population across India.
- In June 2024, **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** showed a provisional annual inflation rate of **3.36% compared to June 2023**, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors. The overall **WPI for all commodities rose to 153.9 (base year 2011-12=100)**, marking a month-on-month increase of **0.39% from May 2024**.
- In its latest **World Economic Outlook**, the IMF has increased **India's GDP growth** forecast for the ongoing **fiscal year to 7%**, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections. This upward revision reflects improved consumption prospects, particularly in rural areas, supporting India's economic trajectory. However, the IMF retained a slower **growth rate of 6.5%** for the following fiscal year.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** on July 17, maintained **India's GDP growth** forecast at **7 per cent** for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections. The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its **GDP growth projections** for India to **7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent** projected in April.

- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust **7% GDP growth** for India in the **fiscal year 2024-25**. The survey, conducted in July 2024, reflects optimism among participating economists about the country's economic prospects, though caution is advised due to global headwinds and inflationary pressures.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of June 2024

- In a significant partnership, Finnish telecom giant **Nokia and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly explore advancements in **5G and 6G communications**, specifically targeting transportation and logistics sectors. The agreement, signed in the presence of **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Chancellor of GSV**, aims to leverage Nokia's expertise in telecommunications to enhance various aspects of transportation and logistics.
- The **Department of School Education** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Book Trust** to create an institutional framework for the **Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**.
- In a significant step towards enhancing investment cooperation between India and Qatar, the inaugural meeting of the **Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI) took place in New Delhi. Co-chaired by Ajay Seth, Secretary of India's Department of Economic Affairs, and Mohamed bin Hassen Al-Malki, Undersecretary of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the meeting aimed to fortify bilateral relations and explore avenues for accelerated growth and collaboration across sectors like infrastructure, energy, technology, and innovation.
- In a significant move aimed at addressing the mental health needs of armed forces personnel and their families, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration establishes a dedicated **Tele MANAS cell**, the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), to provide comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services.
- The Centre approved the disbursement of **₹1,39,750 crore in tax devolution to the states for June**, including an additional instalment for accelerated development. This will enable state governments to enhance development and capital spending.
- In its latest biannual Global Economic Prospects, the **World Bank maintains India's growth projection at 6.6% for FY25**, affirming its status as the fastest-growing among the largest economies. The forecast reflects a moderate pace of expansion following a **high growth rate in FY 2023/24**. Over the subsequent three fiscal years, India is expected to sustain an average growth of 6.7%, with projections of 6.7% for FY26 and 6.8% for FY27.





- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth rate of **4.9% in March 2024**, showing a slight slowdown primarily attributed to a faltering mining sector. This decline follows a robust 5.6% growth in February 2024 and contrasts sharply with the 1.9% growth seen in March 2023.
- India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation **dropped to a 12-month low of 4.75% in May 2024**, down from 4.83% in April, marking a continued trend within the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2-6% since September 2023.
- India's wholesale inflation, measured by the **wholesale price index (WPI)**, surged to a 15-month high of **2.61% in May from 1.26% in April**, driven by an adverse base effect and a sharp increase in food prices. The inflation rate for food items reached 9.82%, contrasting with -3.61% in May 2023.
- Fitch Ratings has revised **India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2%**, up from the previous estimate of 7%. This adjustment is attributed to expected recovery in consumer spending and continued investment, although at a slower pace than recent quarters. The economy had grown by **8.2% in FY24**.
- The rationalisation of GST rates is under **preliminary assessment** to address imbalances and avoid the inverted duty structure where the **final product's tax is lower than that on inputs**. Although the industry has called for **rationalisation**, involving reworking rates and merging the four slabs into three, the government plans to proceed cautiously with a detailed analysis.
- S&P Global Ratings has maintained its GDP growth forecast for India at **6.8% for FY25**, citing high interest rates and reduced fiscal stimulus as factors tempering demand in non-agricultural sectors. The projection for **FY26 and FY27 stands at 6.9% and 7%, respectively**.
- **Gross domestic product (GDP) growth** during 2024-25 (FY25) may turn out to be **higher than 7 per cent** and even close to **7.5 per cent**, with high frequency indicators showing resilience amid growth dynamism in the Indian economy. The monthly economic review released by the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCEAR)**.
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) forecasts India's GDP to surpass **7% and possibly reach 7.5% in fiscal year 2024-25**, citing resilient domestic economic indicators and favorable global conditions.
- In March, the growth of **India's core sectors slowed to 5.2% from February's 7.1%**, primarily due to the statistical effect of a high base. However, sequentially, there was a notable increase of 9.9%, marking the highest growth in a year.
- India's manufacturing sector has continued its robust performance into the first quarter of the new fiscal year, maintaining its momentum from the previous year's stellar showing. In April, the **HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** revealed a buoyant picture, with manufacturing activity registering its second strongest expansion since early 2021.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has revised **India's GDP growth projection upward to 6.6%** for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- India Ratings and Research have revised upward their **GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1%**, citing strong government expenditure, improved corporate and banking sector balance sheets, and a budding private corporate capex cycle. However, they caution that growth could be constrained by factors such as uneven consumption demand and export challenges due to global economic sluggishness.
- India's fiscal deficit for the **fiscal year ending March 2024** is anticipated to outperform government projections, coming in slightly better than the estimated 17.35 trillion rupees (\$207.81 billion). This optimistic outlook is attributed to increased tax receipts and bolstered non-tax revenues, according to a government source speaking anonymously in New Delhi. The official announcement regarding the **2023/24 fiscal deficit is slated for May 31st**.
- India's industrial production growth rate decelerated to **4.9% in March 2024** compared to **5.7% in February**, as per data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for FY24 stood at 5.8%, up from 5.2% in the previous year. In March 2023, industrial output had grown by 1.9%.
- Factory output in India saw a notable rise, **registering a growth of 4.9% in March**, a significant leap from the 1.9% recorded in the same period the previous year. However, this figure fell slightly short of **February 2024's 5.7%**. For the fiscal year 2023-24, the factory output grew by 5.8%, a marginal increase from the previous year. The uptick was particularly evident in manufacturing and construction goods output.
- India's retail inflation has eased marginally to **touch an 11-month low of 4.83 per cent on an annual basis in April**, according to government data released on **Monday**. This slight dip from the previous month's **figure of 4.85 per cent aligns** closely with the projections of a **Reuters poll of 44 economists**, who estimated the number to **come down to 4.80 per cent**. Importantly, this figure falls within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6 per cent.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of May 2024

- India has adjusted its **windfall tax on petroleum crude**, reducing it to 8,400 Indian rupees (**\$100.66**) per metric ton **from 9,600 rupees**, effective May 1. This decision comes after a recent increase in the tax from 6,800 rupees to 9,600 rupees per metric ton on April 16.
- In April 2024, India witnessed a historic milestone in its **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** revenue collection, reaching an unprecedented **Rs 2.10 lakh crore**.





- In the **financial year ending March 2024**, the cumulative profit of public sector banks (PSBs) **surged, reaching over ₹1.4 lakh crore**, marking a significant 35% increase from the previous year's earnings of ₹1.04 lakh crore. State Bank of India (SBI) emerged as a major contributor, accounting for over 40% of the total earnings.
- In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) saw a significant increase in its gold reserves, adding **27.46 metric tonnes** and reaching a **total of 822.10 metric tonnes** by the end of **March 2024**. This brought the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves to about 8.15%, up from 7.81% in the previous year.
- In April, wholesale inflation in **India soared to a 13-month high of 1.26%**, up from 0.53% in March. This surge was primarily fueled by rising prices of food articles, particularly vegetables, and a year-on-year increase of 1.4% in fuel and power costs after months of deflation.
- **Moody's Ratings predicts a 6.6%** expansion for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending **March 2025 (FY25)**. This growth trajectory is anticipated to fuel strong credit demand, particularly benefiting the **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, despite challenges posed by rising funding costs.
- The United Nations has revised **India's economic growth forecast for 2024**, projecting a robust expansion driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption. India's economy is now expected to grow by **6.9% in 2024, up from the 6.2% forecast in January**, with a 6.6% growth rate projected for 2025. This optimistic outlook highlights India's role in bolstering South Asia's overall economic performance.
- **India's internet economy** is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will reach **\$1 trillion by 2030**. This surge is primarily driven by the e-commerce sector, which is expected to grow at an annual rate of 25%, from \$60 billion in FY2023 to \$325 billion, making it the third largest globally.
- The **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** forecasts India's merchandise exports to reach **\$500-510 billion in FY25**, rebounding from a 3% contraction in the previous fiscal year. Services exports are estimated to contribute \$390-400 billion, culminating in total exports of approximately \$890-910 billion. Noteworthy sectors driving this growth include engineering, advertising services, and the expansion of global capability centers.
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** saw an increase of **\$2.56 billion**, reaching a total of \$644.15 billion for the week ended May 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a previous increase of \$3.668 billion after three consecutive weeks of decline.
- **Jenny Erpenbeck**
- The Indian economy showed robust growth in the first three quarters of the 2023-24 fiscal year, with GDP expanding by 8.2% in the June quarter, 8.1% in the September quarter, and 8.4% in the December quarter. India Ratings and Research (Ind-RA) expects the **GDP growth rate to be 6.7% for the March quarter and around 6.9-7% for the entire fiscal year**, according to their principal economist, Sunil Kumar Sinha. The official GDP numbers for Q4 and provisional estimates for FY24 will be released on May 31.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has made significant adjustments to the regulations governing surety bonds in response to feedback from insurance stakeholders. These changes aim to enhance the accessibility of surety insurance products and encourage more insurers to participate in servicing the growing demand across various sectors of the economy, particularly the infrastructure sector.
- SEBI has introduced significant amendments to its **Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations**, focusing on the computation of market capitalization for listed companies. The amendments aim to redefine the criteria for applicability and establish a defined period for calculating average **market capitalization**.
- India's MSME sector, contributing over **30% to the GDP** and employing **approximately 12 crore people**, faces a significant credit gap of around **Rs. 28.2 lakh crores**. **RXIL's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception.
- **Net foreign direct investment (FDI)** into India experienced a notable **decrease of 62.17%** in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), plummeting to **\$10.58 billion from the previous year's \$27.98 billion**. This decline is attributed primarily to increased repatriation of capital and Indian companies' investments abroad.
- In a move aimed at strengthening corporate governance in the insurance industry, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has issued new guidelines that reduce the **engagement period of statutory auditors** with insurance companies from **10 years to 4 years**. This strategic decision is poised to ensure regular rotation and independence of audit firms, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in the sector.
- In a strategic move to improve liquidity in the commodity derivatives market, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **reduced the deliverable period for commodity derivatives** from the previous 5 days to **3 days**. This regulatory change is set to take effect from **July 1, 2024**, and will apply to contracts with staggered delivery scheduled after this date.





- In its latest report, CRISIL Ratings predicts a slowdown in bank credit growth for fiscal year **2025 to 14%**, marking a decline of 200 basis points from the estimated **16% growth in FY24**. This moderation is attributed to various factors including a high base effect, revision in risk weights, and a slightly slower pace of GDP growth.
- **In April, India's core sector**, comprising coal, steel, cement, fertilizers, electricity, natural gas, refinery products, and crude oil, witnessed a notable **6.2% growth**, reflecting positive momentum in key industries.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of April 2024

- In March 2024, the **Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection** in India witnessed a notable surge, marking the second-highest since its inception in July 2017. The month's collection amounted to Rs 1.78 lakh crore, reflecting an 11.5% increase compared to the previous year.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SCORES 2.0**, an upgraded version of its Complaint Redress System (SCORES), to strengthen mechanisms for addressing investor complaints. This enhanced system features automated routing, oversight by designated authorities, and streamlined processes.
- The World Bank has revised **India's GDP growth projection for FY25 to 6.6%**, indicating a moderate yet steady growth trajectory. Despite the anticipated slowdown, robust economic activity in India is expected to drive growth in South Asia, outpacing other emerging market and developing economies.
- In FY24, the non-life insurance industry experienced a **notable growth of 12.78%** in gross direct premium, **reaching Rs 2.89 trillion**. However, this growth fell short of the Rs 3 trillion mark due to a slowdown in health, motor, and crop insurance segments. **General insurers recorded a 14.24% year-on-year growth**, with public sector insurers at 8.99% and private sector counterparts at 17.53%.
- **Moody's Analytics projects** a modest uptick in **India's economic growth for 2024, estimating a 6.1% expansion**, slightly higher than the 6% projected earlier in March. Despite the growth, it remains **lower than the 7.7% recorded in 2023**. The report highlights concerns regarding inflation, citing India's recent consumer price inflation hovering around 5% with no clear evidence of abating pressure.
- **India's retail inflation** dropped to a **10-month low of 4.85% in March**, aligning with the **RBI's tolerance band of 2-6%**. Meanwhile, industrial production (IIP) saw a significant rise, hitting a **four-month high at 5.7% in February**.

- Trade between **India and China** has historically seen **India importing more than it exports**. In April 2022, India faced a **trade deficit of -8.37 Billion USD**, which improved **slightly to -1.38 Billion USD in April 2023** but still remained a deficit.
- March 2024 witnessed a **positive inflation rate of 0.53% in India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** compared to March 2023. This inflation was primarily attributed to increased prices in food articles, electricity, crude petroleum & natural gas, machinery & equipment, and other manufacturing sectors.
- In March 2024, **India's goods exports surged to a 12-month high at \$41.68 billion**, marking a significant achievement despite a slight decrease of 0.67% compared to the previous year. Notably, the goods trade deficit narrowed to \$15.6 billion, the lowest in 11 months. This boost was largely propelled by a substantial decline in gold imports by 53.6%, offset by a remarkable 1059% increase in silver imports.
- **India's merchandise trade deficit reached a low of \$15.60 billion annually in March**, marking a significant reduction in the yearly deficit to \$240.2 billion in FY24. This decline comes as India strategically curtails its overseas purchases. Economists had initially estimated **March's deficit to be \$18.55 billion**, making this reduction even more noteworthy.
- The **IMF projects India's GDP to grow at 6.8% in FY25**, with a slight dip to 6.5% in FY26, attributing the strength to robust domestic demand and a growing working-age population. For **FY24, the IMF raised its GDP growth projection to 7.8%**, reflecting continued economic momentum.
- **UNCTAD forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.5% in 2024, a slight deceleration from the previous year's 6.7%**. This projection aligns with the IMF's revised forecast, attributing growth to strong public investment and the services sector. The report highlights the trend of multinational corporations shifting manufacturing processes to India, which bolsters exports. Despite moderated commodity prices, restrained public consumption spending is offset by robust public investment, sustaining growth momentum.
- In the **fiscal year 2023-24**, India experienced a significant decline in its **gems and jewellery exports by 14.94%**, amounting to **US\$32.02 billion compared to US\$37.6 billion in the previous year**. The **Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** released provisional data highlighting this downturn.
- **The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) predicts India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2024-25 to be 7.1%**. Utilizing high-frequency models, NIPFP underscores the government's fiscal consolidation efforts, emphasizing tax buoyancy and compression of revenue expenditure.





Economy/Financial Current Affairs of March 2024

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has released a report predicting that India's GDP growth for the financial year 2023-24 is likely to be **close to 8%**. This optimistic forecast comes after India recorded an impressive 8.4% growth in the December quarter, with the National Statistical Office (NSO) revising upwards the GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of the fiscal year.
- Moody's, the global credit rating agency, has raised its **GDP forecast for India in 2024 to 6.8%**, reflecting a positive economic outlook. This revision is based on India's position as the fastest-growing economy among G20 nations, supported by robust growth prospects and policy continuity.
- In February, India's service sector sustained its growth trajectory, supported by positive demand trends. However, there was a slight moderation in growth compared to January, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropping to **60.6 from 61.8**.
- Crisil Ratings predicts India's economy to expand by **6.8% in FY25**, with significant growth potential driven by domestic reforms and cyclical factors. By 2031, India aims to double its economy to \$7 trillion and achieve upper-middle-income status.
- The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a **4% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA)** and Dearness Relief (DR) for central government employees and pensioners, effective from January 1. This decision aims to benefit over 10 million employees and 6.79 million pensioners, with a combined impact on the exchequer of **Rs 12,869 crore** annually.
- UBS anticipates a moderation in **India's real GDP growth** for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, projecting rates of 7% and 6.8%, respectively. Despite this, India is expected to maintain its position as one of the fastest-growing global economies. The report highlights the continuation of growth momentum in the first three quarters of fiscal year 2024, driven by cyclical recovery and structural improvements.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2024 reflects a **growth rate of 3.8%**, indicating a slowdown compared to December 2023. The data, released with a six-week lag, provides insights into the performance of various sectors within the industrial landscape of India.
- Retail inflation in February 2024 saw a decline to a **four-month low of 5.09 per cent**, remaining well within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of **6 per cent for the sixth consecutive month**. While the overall inflation figure remained relatively steady compared to January, certain items within the food basket experienced price increases.
- Fitch Ratings has raised India's growth forecast for **FY25 to 7%**, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%. The upgrade is attributed to robust domestic demand and sustained growth in business and consumer confidence, following a strong **8.4% expansion in Q3FY24**.
- **India's foreign exchange** reserves witnessed a significant surge, marking a third consecutive increase in the week ended **March 8, 2024**. This surge propelled the reserves to reach a two-year high of **\$636.1 billion**, showing the highest weekly increase since **July 14, 2023**, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In FY 2023-24, Gross Direct Tax collections soared to **Rs. 22,27,067 crore**, marking an 18.74% increase from the previous year. Net collections rose by over 19.88%, with Advance Tax contributions hitting **Rs. 9,11,534 crore**, up 22.31%, showcasing robust economic growth.
- In a notable increase, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments soared to **\$3.47 billion in February 2024**, marking a significant rise from the \$2.82 billion recorded in February 2023, and an increase from \$2.18 billion in January 2024. This data, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), highlights a growing trend in India's financial commitments abroad. In **January 2024**, the index of mineral production in the mining and quarrying sector stood at **144.1**, indicating a **5.9% increase** compared to January 2023. The cumulative growth for **April-January 2023-24** over the corresponding period of the previous year is recorded at **8.3%**.
- **S&P Global** released its Economic Outlook **Asia-Pacific Q2 2024** report, offering insights into the region's economic landscape. The report focuses on **GDP** growth forecasts for various economies, factors influencing growth trajectories, and expectations regarding monetary policy adjustments.
- In the third quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, India's current account balance showed a deficit of **US\$ 10.5 billion, equivalent to 1.2 per cent of GDP**. This marked a decrease from **US\$ 11.4 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP)** in the previous quarter and **US\$ 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP)** in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.
- S&P Global Ratings anticipates a repo rate reduction of up to **75 basis points by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** during the fiscal year 2024-25. This move aligns with projected adjustments in US policy rates, with the majority of the cuts expected in the latter **half of the financial year**. The agency also foresees similar rate adjustments in Indonesia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. Factors such as **declining inflation, a reduced fiscal deficit, and lower US policy rates** set the stage for the RBI to initiate rate cuts, possibly around June 2024 or later.
- The Indian government has outlined its borrowing strategy for the first half of the fiscal year 2024-25, aiming to raise **Rs 7.5 lakh crore** from the market through the issuance of various bonds, including sovereign green bonds.
- Morgan Stanley has increased its **GDP growth forecast** for India for the **financial year 2024-25 (FY25) to 6.8%**, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%. This revision reflects a positive outlook on India's economic trajectory, emphasizing its strength and stability in the current cycle. The firm also revised its growth forecast for the ongoing financial year, FY24, to 7.9%.





- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) witnessed a significant **6.7% increase** (provisional) in **February 2024** compared to the same month in 2023. This growth was driven by positive performances across various growth sectors, including **Coal, Natural Gas, Cement, Steel, Crude Oil, Electricity, and Refinery Products**.
- In a significant move, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **cancelled the registration of Karvy Investor Services Ltd (KISL) as a merchant banker** due to a **breach of eligibility criteria**.
- India's foreign exchange reserves have soared to a new peak, **reaching \$642.631 billion** in the week ending March 22, marking the fifth consecutive week of increase, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Government e Marketplace (GeM) has witnessed a remarkable growth, doubling its Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) to **₹4-lakh crore in fiscal year 2023-24**. **CEO P K Singh** announced plans for potential expansion, including opening the portal for consumer use and enhancing its services.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of February 2024

- 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.
- India's core sector output 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.
- 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.
- 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%.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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%.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Business Current Affairs

Business Current Affairs of July 2024

- Tata Group has maintained its position as **India's most valuable brand** with a value of **US\$ 28.6 billion**, marking a **9% increase from last year**. Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place following its merger with HDFC Ltd.
- One 97 Communications Limited, the parent company of Paytm, has introduced '**Paytm Health Saathi**', an affordable healthcare and income protection plan tailored for its merchant partners. Available through the '**Paytm for Business**' app, this initiative aims to support the well-being and business continuity of Paytm's extensive network of merchants.
- **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to **Sammaan Capital Ltd**. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding, effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a '**Maharatna**' and **Fortune Global 500 Company**, has proudly announced its role as the official **Principal Partner of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for four years**, spanning from the **Paris Olympics in 2024** to the **Los Angeles Olympics in 2028**.
- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited has launched the '**Ghar Ghar Solar**' initiative in **Uttar Pradesh**, starting from **Varanasi**, aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions. This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.

- **Markets regulator SEBI** has issued **new guidelines to streamline operations** and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies. The circular introduces specific timelines for dealing with appeals made by companies regarding rating actions carried out during periodic surveillance of ratings.
- REC Limited, a leading lender in the power sector, has successfully secured a **5-year green loan** amounting to **31.96 billion Japanese yen** (approximately \$200 million). The transaction, facilitated by **Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch**, marks one of the initial yen-denominated green loan deals for the bank in India.
- **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police**. Despite facing rejection and discrimination from coaching centers, Kashyap persevered and cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams.
- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest and largest urban tunnel** project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. This Rs. 16,600 crore project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.





- **Ratings agency ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to AAA/Stable from AA+/Stable. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to AAA/Stable. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by **Rs 7.10 or 0.47%**.
- **Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom) has inaugurated a **centre of excellence** on **"Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G"** at **IITM Research Park, Chennai**. This is a **sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India** and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. **Shri Sanjeev Kumar Bidwai**, Sp DGT, **Tamil Nadu** was among those present at the occasion.
- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, a subsidiary of ONGC, has acquired **Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field** and an associated **oil pipeline for \$60 million**. This increases OVL's stake in the oil field to 2.95% and in the **Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 3.097%**.
- **Airbus and Tata** are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** is set to develop India's first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.
- **Adani One**, the digital platform of the Adani Group, and **ICICI Bank** have introduced two variants of co-branded credit cards in partnership with Visa. This launch signifies Adani Group's entry into the retail financial sector, **offering cardholders up to 7% Adani reward points** on spending within the **Adani ecosystem**.
- **Arka Fincap Limited**, a subsidiary of **Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited**, has obtained a Corporate Agency License from the **IRDAI**, marking a significant milestone. This license allows Arka to venture into insurance distribution, enhancing its existing financial solutions portfolio to meet customer needs comprehensively.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is set to develop a **global economic hub in Navi Mumbai**, having secured sub-leases on approximately **3,750 acres of land for Rs 13,400 crore**. The lease spans 43 years and stems from a **memorandum of understanding signed with the Maharashtra government in 2018**.
- **Muthoot Microfin Limited** has entered into a strategic **co-lending partnership** with the State Bank of India (SBI). This collaboration aims to extend financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas across India. Under this agreement, both entities will co-lend to **Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)** engaged in agricultural, allied activities, and other income-generating enterprises. The loan amounts, ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 3,00,000, are tailored to provide substantial support to women entrepreneurs in rural regions.
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has granted approval for the merger of Air India and Vistara, marking a significant step towards the formation of one of the world's largest airline groups. This merger, announced in **November 2022**, will see Singapore Airlines holding a 25.1% stake in Air India, which is set to be completed by the end of this year.
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)** inaugurated its **East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi, Kenya**, aiming to expand India's business footprint in the resource-rich and demographically young continent of East Africa.
- The Indian digital payment company **PhonePe** has announced a partnership with **Sri Lankan ride-hailing platform PickMe**. This collaboration allows Indian travelers in Sri Lanka to use PhonePe's UPI payment option to pay for PickMe rides, enabling cashless transactions and enhancing travel convenience.
- **GAIL (India)** plans to establish a 1500 KTA Ethane Cracker Project in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, with an estimated capex of Rs 60,000 crore. The project aims to produce a range of ethylene derivatives, bolstering the petrochemical infrastructure in the region.

Business Current Affairs of June 2024

- Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) achieved a **record-breaking 14.04 billion transactions in May**, marking a significant increase from the 13.30 billion transactions recorded in April. This reflects a **49% year-on-year growth**. The total transaction value reached Rs 20.45 lakh crore, with an average daily transaction count of 453 million and an average daily transaction value of Rs 65,966 crore.
- **Ashok Leyland**, the Indian flagship of the **Hinduja Group** and one of the country's leading commercial manufacturers, launched **'Sarathi Suraksha Policy'** a **comprehensive insurance policy for safeguarding the driver community**
- **SEBI**, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, has launched **"Saathi 2.0,"** a mobile app designed to provide comprehensive tools for simplifying complex financial concepts and empowering investors with reliable information. The app features modules on various financial aspects like KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares, investor grievances redressal, and an Online Dispute Resolution platform. It also offers educational videos to assist investors in their personal finance planning.





- **Aurionpro Payments**, a subsidiary of Aurionpro Solutions, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007. This authorization allows the Mumbai-based company to offer digital payment services to merchants nationwide through its payment gateway brand, AuroPay.
- India's equity market has once again outpaced **Hong Kong, securing the position as the world's fourth-largest by market capitalization**. With India's market value soaring to \$5.2 trillion, bolstered by a 10% surge following a post-election market rebound, it now leads Hong Kong, which stands at \$5.17 trillion after a 5.4% decline from its peak this year. This marks a significant shift in global market rankings, reflecting India's robust economic fundamentals and investor confidence.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the **World Bank Group**, has committed **\$105 million** (approximately Rs 871 crore) to **Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan**. This investment will be in the form of non-convertible debentures, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has teamed up with **Ria Money Transfer**, a global leader in cross-border money transfers and a business segment of **Euronet Worldwide, Inc.**, to offer innovative remittance services in rural India. This collaboration aims to provide convenient and affordable financial services directly to the doorsteps of customers in remote areas.
- **SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited)**, a payment solutions provider, has announced that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted final approval to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007**.
- Indian funds in Swiss banks have plummeted by **70% in 2023**, reaching a **four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (₹9,771 crore)**, according to the **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**. This marks a significant decline after a peak in 2021 and is attributed to decreases in bonds, securities, and other financial instruments.
- At its Golden Jubilee celebration, Central Electronics Limited (CEL) was honored with "**Mini RATNA**" status (**Category-1**) by **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**. This recognition underscores CEL's transformation from a loss-making PSU to a profitable entity, achieving a net profit of approximately **Rs 58 crore** and consistently paying dividends to the Government of India for three consecutive years.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved **Tata Sons' proposal** to build a '**museum of temples**' in Ayodhya, a project worth **Rs 650 crore** to be funded through **Tata's corporate** social responsibility fund.

- **MindSpace Business Parks REIT**, the owner and developer of quality Grade A office portfolio, has announced its **₹650 crore Sustainability Linked Bond issuance** placed with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**.

Business Current Affairs of May 2024

- **Hitachi Payment Services** has unveiled **new upgradable ATMs in India**, allowing banks to adapt their machines into **Cash Recycling Machines (CRMs)** as per evolving needs. Manufactured under the 'Make in India' initiative, these ATMs offer flexibility and efficiency to banks, potentially revolutionizing the Indian ATM industry.
- Deloitte India has revised its GDP growth forecasts for FY24 and FY25, with a significant increase in projections. The consultancy anticipates a robust **GDP growth of 7.6-7.8% for FY24**, up from the previous estimate of **6.9-7.2%**. Looking ahead to FY25, Deloitte expects GDP to expand by **6.6%**, driven by strong economic activity fueled by rising consumption expenditure.
- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has announced a significant investment of **Rs 5,215 crore to develop 1 gigawatt (GW)** of renewable energy capacity in India. This strategic move aligns with IOC's broader diversification strategy beyond traditional oil and gas ventures.
- **Worldline ePayments** India has announced its receipt of approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator. This approval underscores the company's dedication to the Indian market and emphasizes its commitment to compliance within a well-regulated payments landscape.
- **In April 2024, Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** transactions witnessed a marginal dip of **1% in volume and 0.7% in value** compared to March. Despite this, year-on-year growth remains robust, with a 50% increase in volume and 40% in value. The dip in April is attributed to the typically higher transaction volumes in March.
- The Government of India has signed an agreement with the Government of **Bangladesh** to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for training **1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030**. The agreement was signed between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, and the Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration.
- **Micron India's Sanand unit** gears up to unveil its inaugural batch of domestically manufactured **semiconductor chips in 2025**, with a focus on global exportation. Anand Ramamoorthy, the managing director, underscores the burgeoning global demand, strategic partnerships, and the diverse applications spanning various sectors, notably emphasizing agility and the scarcity of talent in niche domains such as cybersecurity.





- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has successfully secured **USD 400 million** financing from a consortium of five leading international banks for its **750 MW solar projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat**. The financing will support the construction of these projects, expected to come online from November 2024 onwards.
- Fi, a neobanking startup, backed by investors such as **Peak XV and Temasek**, has obtained a **non-banking finance company (NBFC)** license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling it to provide loans from its own books.
- **Bhavesh Gupta, the President and Chief Operating Officer** overseeing payments and lending businesses, will transition to an advisory role due to personal reasons. This move aims to ensure smooth continuity in Paytm's growth initiatives.
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** Mumbai has sanctioned Sapphire Media's acquisition plan for **Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM**. This approval follows a resolution process initiated in February 2023 under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**.
- **Thomas Cook India** has revolutionized international money transfers with the **launch of TCPay**, a user-friendly digital service designed to simplify and enhance the remittance process.
- **Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL)** has obtained approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** for the acquisition of Reliance Capital. This acquisition encompasses Reliance Capital's insurance subsidiaries, including Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- Infosys, a global leader in digital services and consulting, has been awarded the **ISO 42001:2023 certification by TUV India**, for its **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)**. This certification highlights Infosys' commitment to implementing responsible AI practices and adhering to regulatory standards.
- In a significant stride towards sustainable energy practices, the **Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)**, a key unit of the **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** situated in **Chhattisgarh**, is set to inaugurate the state's premier floating solar project. This venture marks a pivotal moment in Chhattisgarh's journey towards renewable energy and underscores BSP's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint while promoting eco-friendly initiatives.
- In a groundbreaking move, **Hero MotoCorp, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer**, has become the first in its sector to integrate with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**. By leveraging ONDC's platform, Hero MotoCorp aims to enhance accessibility and convenience for its customers, offering a seamless digital experience for purchasing two-wheeler parts, accessories, and merchandise.
- In a significant move, **PhonePe has joined forces with LankaPay** to introduce **UPI payments in Sri Lanka**. This collaboration allows PhonePe users to seamlessly utilize UPI for transactions across LankaPay QR merchants, providing them with familiarity and security while traveling.
- In an effort to combat tax evasion in the **pan masala and tobacco sectors**, the **GST portal** has introduced **new forms and procedures for manufacturers** to register their machinery and report monthly inputs and outputs. This initiative follows recommendations from the GST Council and aims to enhance compliance and reduce illicit trade.
- The **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** forecasts India's merchandise exports to reach **\$500-510 billion in FY25**, rebounding from a 3% contraction in the previous fiscal year. Services exports are estimated to contribute \$390-400 billion, culminating in total exports of approximately \$890-910 billion. Noteworthy sectors driving this growth include engineering, advertising services, and the expansion of global capability centers.
- In anticipation of increased demand in the automotive sector, **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd** has unveiled an ambitious plan to **invest ₹26,000 crore** in its automotive business over the **next three years**. This significant investment will span **from FY25 to FY27** and is aimed at developing new vehicles and enhancing production capacity.
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** saw an increase of **\$2.56 billion**, reaching a total of \$644.15 billion for the week ended May 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a previous increase of \$3.668 billion after three consecutive weeks of decline.
- The Indian government has announced plans for public sector companies like **Coal India, NMDC, and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)** to actively seek critical mineral assets overseas. This strategic move aims to secure vital mineral resources essential for various industries, including clean energy technologies and electric vehicles.
- Tata Motors' subsidiaries, **Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV)** and **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM)**, have teamed up with Bajaj Finance to offer an innovative financing programme for their authorised passenger and electric vehicle dealers. This partnership aims to streamline financing options and support the business operations of these dealers.
- Tech mogul **Elon Musk** introduced **SpaceX's Starlink satellite** internet service in **Indonesia**, aiming to enhance connectivity in remote regions of the archipelago nation. The inauguration took place in Bali, where Musk, alongside Indonesian officials, emphasized the transformative potential of improved internet access.





- AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company, announced plans to construct a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Singapore with a focus on producing **antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)**, a promising class of **cancer-fighting medications**.
- Online food delivery platform **Swiggy** has partnered with **SHIELD**, a device-first risk AI platform, to bolster its **fraud prevention** and **detection capabilities**. This strategic move aims to address promo abuse and deter fraudulent practices within Swiggy's Delivery Partner ecosystem.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has marked a significant milestone by exporting its first-ever consignment of **100 octane premium fuel, XP100, to Sri Lanka**. The high-quality fuel, designed for premium high-end vehicles, was **shipped from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai**. This event highlights IOCL's commitment to expanding its global reach and showcasing the quality of its products.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, a prominent player in India's non-banking finance sector, has secured a corporate agency license from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. This license empowers Mahindra Finance to act as a 'corporate agent (composite)' under the Insurance Act, 1938, facilitating the distribution of insurance products.
- Tech giant **Google is investing \$350 million** in Walmart-owned e-commerce firm Flipkart as part of a \$1 billion funding round. This investment aims to support Flipkart's growth as it targets a \$60 billion valuation at the time of its initial public offering (IPO), planned for 2025-26.
- Walt Disney Co. has struck a deal to **sell its 30% minority stake in Tata Play Ltd. to Tata Group, valuing the company at approximately \$1 billion**. This move allows Disney to focus on merging its Indian unit with **Mukesh Ambani's Viacom 18 Media Pvt**, forming an \$8.5 billion entertainment giant.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has signed a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading **commercial bank in Kuwait**. Burgan Bank will deploy TCS BaNCS to consolidate multiple legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution, enhancing innovation and customer relationships.
- The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a **financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore)** on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch for non-compliance with certain provisions of the country's **Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 (FIC Act)**. The penalty comprises an immediately payable portion of 5.50 million rand, already paid, and a suspended amount of 4.50 million rand, contingent on compliance within 36 months.
- **GAIL (India) Ltd.**, the nation's leading **natural gas transmission and distribution company**, has achieved a **significant milestone** with the commissioning of its **first green hydrogen plant**. Located in **Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh**, this plant marks GAIL's foray into the realm of **new and alternative energy sources**.
- Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on **India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai in June**, a project conceptualized 12 years ago. Despite initial setbacks, the project, valued at Rs 1,424 crore and spanning 184.27 acres in Tiruvallur district, is now ready to proceed, with potential to revolutionize the southern region's logistics landscape.
- Reliance Industries, India's major refining company, has inked a significant agreement with **Russia's Rosneft**. Under this deal, Reliance will purchase at least 3 million barrels of oil per month from Rosneft, **paying in Russian roubles**. This move aligns with Russian President Vladimir Putin's call for alternative trading mechanisms amid Western sanctions. Additionally, the agreement enables Reliance to secure oil at discounted rates amidst expectations of extended OPEC+ supply cuts.
- European Union banks, including **Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas**, are facing hurdles in trading Indian government bonds and derivatives due to a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights. The **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)** de-recognized the **Clearing Corp of India (CCIL) in October 2022**, prompting the need for alternative clearing mechanisms.
- Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) and **Tata Group**, two of India's prominent business conglomerates, have been named among the **World's 100 'Most Influential Companies'** by the renowned TIME magazine. This recognition highlights their significant impact and influence on a global scale.
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** has clinched a significant 30-year concession agreement with the Tanzania Ports Authority to operate **Container Terminal 2 (CT2) at Dar es Salaam Port**. This marks APSEZ's third venture into international ports, signaling its strategic expansion beyond Indian shores.

Business Current Affairs of April 2024

- **Chhattisgarh-based Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)**, a unit of **Vedanta Aluminium**, has achieved the **Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification**. This accolade positions BALCO as the inaugural Indian company to attain this certification, reflecting its commitment to sustainable practices in the aluminium value chain.
- Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, surpasses Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, to become India's leading cargo-handling major port in the fiscal year 2023-24, handling **145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo**, marking a **7.4% growth from the previous year**.





- **Tata Technologies and BMW Group** have inked a partnership to establish an automotive software and IT development center in Chennai, Pune, and Bengaluru. With Chennai's prominence in housing IT solution hubs for auto giants like Visteon, Ford, and Renault Nissan, the focus here will be on business IT solutions.
- In a significant move, PepsiCo India announces a massive investment of **₹1,266 crore to establish a cutting-edge flavour manufacturing facility in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **10,000 MW** of renewable energy capacity in its operational portfolio. This accomplishment solidifies AGEL's position as the foremost player in India's renewable energy sector.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has granted approval to Axis Bank for its proposed acquisition of a stake in Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. This strategic move aims to bolster Max Life's growth trajectory, fortify its capital base, and enhance solvency margins.
- Star Health Insurance, a leading provider of **retail health insurance** in India, has collaborated with PhonePe, a prominent digital payments platform. This partnership aims to make quality health insurance accessible through PhonePe's app, offering the **Star Comprehensive Insurance Policy with monthly and annual payment options.**
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year (FY25) to **7%** from the previous estimate of **6.7%**. This growth will be driven by robust investment in public and private sectors, as well as an improvement in consumer demand. For the **2025-26 fiscal, ADB has projected India's growth at 7.2%.** The growth estimates for the current fiscal are lower than the **7.6% estimated GDP expansion in 2022-23 fiscal**, where strong investment was the primary driver.
- In a strategic move aimed at enhancing insurance distribution across India, **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company** has forged a partnership with **Policybazaar.** This collaboration aims to leverage Policybazaar's digital platform to offer a wide range of insurance products to **approximately 10 million customers.**
- **Ashneer Grover** is the co-founder and former managing director of the fintech company **BharatPe.** After his high-profile exit from BharatPe in 2022, Grover has now ventured into the fintech space again with a new app called **ZeroPe.**
- In a significant move, **Japan's MUFG is set to purchase a 20% stake in HDB Financial Services,** a subsidiary of India's HDFC Bank. The deal is poised at a valuation of \$9-10 billion before the initial public offering (IPO), making it one of the largest transactions in India's shadow banking sector.
- **Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company,** is building the world's largest renewable energy park in **Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat.** The park is spread over 538 square kilometers, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris.
- In a recent move, **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** announced that its stake in **FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** has surpassed 5%. The Corporation augmented its shareholding in HUL from 4.99% to 5.01% of the company's paid-up capital by acquiring additional shares from the open market. This increase amounted to a purchase of 3,05,000 equity shares, bringing LIC's total shares in HUL to 11,77,18,555.
- **India's electronics industry** experienced a notable surge in exports, reaching \$29.12 billion in fiscal year 2023-24, a substantial **23.6% increase** from the previous year. This growth is particularly significant amid an overall contraction of the country's total exports by **3%.**
- In a significant development, provisional figures released by the Ministry of Finance reveal that net direct tax collections for the **Financial Year (FY) 2023-24** have surpassed **Union Budget Estimates by a substantial margin of Rs. 1.35 lakh crore,** marking a remarkable increase of 7.40%. The provisional direct tax collections stand at Rs. 19.58 lakh crore, showcasing a robust growth of 17.70% compared to the preceding FY 2022-23.
- In a significant move, **BharatPe has unveiled BharatPe One,** an innovative all-in-one payment device set to redefine digital transactions.
- **Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala** has received approval from the government to operate as India's inaugural transshipment port. This designation is significant as it allows cargo to be transferred from large vessels to smaller ones, contributing to India's goal of becoming a manufacturing hub. Presently, a substantial portion of India's transshipment cargo is handled by ports abroad, such as those in Colombo and Singapore.

Business Current Affairs of March 2024

- PB Fintech's subsidiary, **Policybazaar Insurance Brokers,** has secured approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to transition from a direct insurance broker to a **composite insurance broker.** This upgrade enables Policybazaar to sell reinsurance products in addition to general and life insurance offerings, thereby enhancing insurance penetration in India.
- **REC Limited,** a prominent Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has recently joined hands with the **Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)** to bolster educational initiatives in **Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.** Through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm, REC Foundation, REC has pledged a significant financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores for the education of approximately 75,500 children in the district.





- **Tata Motors**, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has recently unveiled its **next-generation, green-fuel powered commercial vehicles to Tata Steel**. The fleet comprises Prima tractors, tippers, and the Ultra EV bus, which are powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric technologies.
- The government of India has announced plans to sell up to **7% of its stake in NLC India**, formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corp, through an Offer for Sale (OFS). This move aims to raise between **Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,100 crore**, contributing to the government's disinvestment goals.
- Accenture, a global leader in technology consulting and services, has unveiled a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing upskilling opportunities for its clients. This involves a significant **investment of \$1 billion over three years** and includes the acquisition of California-based edtech platform, Udacity.
- **Fly91**, a regional airline headquartered in **Goa**, has reached a significant milestone in its journey with the issuance of its **Air Operator Certificate (AOC)** by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- State-owned **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has clinched a significant order from power giant **NTPC** to establish a **1,600 MW Singrauli thermal power project (Stage-II)**. This underscores BHEL's continued prowess in the power generation equipment sector.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC)**, the nation's premier oil firm, is set to revolutionize the motorsports industry by manufacturing fuel tailored for adrenaline-pumping **Formula One (F1) racing**. With its latest offering, 'Storm' petrol, IOC aims to expand its repertoire of niche fuels, catering to the high-performance demands of motor racing enthusiasts.
- **Infibeam Avenues**, India's pioneering AI-powered fintech company and the country's first listed entity in this domain, has achieved a significant milestone. On March 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted the final authorization for Infibeam Avenues to function as a **payment aggregator** under its renowned payment gateway brand, CCAvenue. This development follows the in-principle approval given in October 2022.
- **NLCIL** has emerged victorious in securing a **600 MW Solar Power Project** tender within the **GSECL Khavda Solar Park**, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding process. Reflecting its commitment to renewable energy initiatives, NLCIL has entrusted the project development responsibilities to NIGEL, its green energy wholly owned subsidiary.
- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)** has partnered with Nepal's leading payment network, **Fonepay Payment Service Ltd**, to enable cross-border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal. This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and efficiency in transactions for tourists visiting Nepal from India.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with T-Hub, has launched the **Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)** in Hyderabad. This initiative aims to accelerate AI innovation, facilitate job creation, and foster a supportive ecosystem for AI and ML startups.
- **Aditya Birla Capital's** decision to merge with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Aditya Birla Finance, is poised to reshape the **NBFC** landscape in India. This strategic move not only consolidates their financial services arm but also aligns with RBI's regulations, avoiding the need for Aditya Birla Finance to go public.
- On March 11, 2024, the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** celebrated its **38th Foundation Day**, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards promoting renewable energy development in India. This special occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on IREDA's remarkable 37-year journey and its accomplishments in the field of green finance.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the merger of a financial technology company, **Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL)**, with the **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**. This strategic move aims to combine the strengths of both entities in the financial services sector.
- **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL)**, a fully integrated solar company in India and a subsidiary of TPREL (Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited), has achieved a significant milestone by completing the **country's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project** in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** of India and the **Information Technology Institute (ITI) of Egypt**. This significant event took place in Cairo, Egypt. This collaboration seeks to **bridge the gap in ICT skills**, enhancing industry engagement and fostering meaningful international cooperation between India and Egypt.
- In a strategic move to bolster its production capacity in South India, automaker **Tata Motors** has announced plans to set up a **new manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu**. With an investment of **Rs 9,000 crore over the next five years**, the company aims to leverage the state's conducive business environment to propel its growth trajectory.
- **India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have collaboratively signed a **\$181 million** loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding **Ahmedabad** city in **Gujarat**.





- India's **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** opens its first overseas office in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, signaling its commitment to international expansion and stronger regional ties. High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, inaugurates NRL's liaison office in the presence of NRL managing director Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan and other dignitaries.
- **Reliance Industries**, India's largest private company, has announced its acquisition of **Paramount Global's** entire **13.01%** stake in **Viacom 18 Media** for **Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million)**. This significant transaction underscores Reliance's strategic positioning in the media industry, further solidifying its presence in the competitive market.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** releases the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for India. This report provides crucial information on price changes in various sectors of the economy, aiding in economic analysis and policy formulation. The WPI for February 2024, with a base year of 2011-12, reflects a 0.20% provisional annual inflation rate, driven primarily by increases in food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, machinery & equipment, and motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers.
- The Union Government of India, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has finalized a **\$23 million loan agreement** aimed at bolstering the fintech landscape within the country. The agreement targets the enhancement of access to quality fintech education and innovation, particularly within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City).
- **Adani Green Energy** announced the operationalisation of an additional **126 MW** capacity in its **300 MW** wind power project in **Gujarat**. This comes after the earlier operationalisation of **174 MW**, marking a significant milestone for the company.
- **Max India Ltd** announced a strategic partnership between its subsidiary, **Antara Assisted Care Services Limited**, and the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)**. This collaboration aims to address the challenges faced by India's aging population by developing tailored solutions to improve their quality of life.
- **Startup Mahakumbh 2024**, a groundbreaking initiative led by industry giants such as ASSOCHAM, Nasscom, Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation, TiE, and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association, is set to unite over 1,000 startups, 50 unicorns, 500 incubators, and 5,000 delegates from 23 countries. This three-day event, supported by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, aims to foster innovation and collaboration across various sectors, featuring prominent figures like Amitabh Kant, Sivasubramanian Ramann, and Falguni Nayar.
- Tata Sons, aiming to alleviate its debt, plans to sell **0.65% equity in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** for **₹9,362.3 crore**. This move precedes a potential IPO, with related stocks rallying. TCS dividends, contributing 95% of FY23 revenue, highlight its strategic importance within Tata's asset portfolio.
- **Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL)** has solidified a strategic partnership with **Elephant House**, a prominent Sri Lankan beverage manufacturer. This collaboration aims to introduce, market, distribute, and sell Elephant House brand beverages throughout India, thereby augmenting RCPL's beverage offerings.
- **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA)** has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**. This recognition was bestowed upon by the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, highlighting GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's **power landscape**.
- The **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is gearing up to introduce the **BhashaNet** portal during the upcoming **Universal Acceptance (UA) Day**. This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between **NIXI** and the Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **PolicyBazaar**, a prominent player in insurance and financial services, has unveiled plans to diversify its offerings by establishing a wholly owned subsidiary named 'PB Pay Private Limited.' This subsidiary, approved by the Board of Directors on March 20, 2024, aims to specialize in payment aggregation services, both domestically and internationally, subject to regulatory clearances.
- In a significant move, the **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**, the organization behind the iconic **Amul** brand, is set to launch its fresh milk products in the United States for the first time. This expansion marks a major milestone for the brand, as it aims to cater to the **Indian diaspora and Asian population** in the US.
- In a strategic collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, Federal Bank introduces '**Flash Pay**,' a revolutionary RuPay smart key chain facilitating contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments. This innovative solution enables users to tap and pay at metro stations and PoS terminals, ensuring swift transactions with enhanced security.
- The Modi government has allocated **Rs 6212.03 crore to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** as part of the recapitalization scheme on **March 6**. **RRBs, established in 1975** and owned by the Indian government, function at the regional level across various states. They were set up with the objective of offering fundamental banking and financial services to rural regions, specifically targeting small and marginal farmers, agricultural laborers, artisans, and small entrepreneurs.





Business Current Affairs of February 2024

- **PepsiCo**, the U.S. food and beverage giant, has committed to investing an additional **\$400 million** in **Vietnam**. This decision was made public during a visit by delegations from over 60 U.S. enterprises, including Suntory PepsiCo Vietnam Beverage, to Vietnam last week.
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, has acquired a controlling **95% stake in Gopalpur Port** located in **Odisha**. The deal, valued at Rs 3,350 crore, solidifies APSEZ's position in the ports and logistics sector.
- On March 26, 2024, the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** granted approval to **Adani Power Limited**, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, for the complete acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited. This acquisition involves the transfer of **100% equity share capital of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited to Adani Power Limited**.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has designated three insurers as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for the year 2023-24. These insurers, namely **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and New India Assurance Co Ltd**, have retained their D-SII status from the previous year. D-SIIs are insurers of significant size and market importance whose distress or failure could disrupt the domestic financial system.
- **Wipro-GE Healthcare**, a prominent player in medical technology and digital solutions, is set to invest **Rs 8,000 crore** over the next five years in India. This investment aims to strengthen its manufacturing output and research and development capabilities. The company's focus is on expanding its **'Make in India for the World' initiative**, emphasizing increased localization and exports of medical equipment.
- In a remarkable move, two of India's richest businessmen, **Mukesh Ambani** and **Gautam Adani**, have joined forces for the first time. **Reliance Industries**, owned by Ambani, has acquired a **26% stake** in a power project owned by Adani's company in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), a unit of **Tata Motors**, has announced a strategic partnership with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** to establish a **nationwide network of 5,000 public charging stations** for electric vehicles (EVs) by the end of 2024.
- **The Adani Group** has announced the start of the first phase of the world's largest single-location **copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat**. The facility, owned by Kutch Copper (a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd), will help reduce **India's dependence on copper imports** and support the **energy transition**.

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.





- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of July 2024

- India has taken a significant leap in military technology with the development of **SEBEX 2**, a powerful new explosive. Certified by the Indian Navy, SEBEX 2 is reported to be twice as lethal as the standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT), marking it as one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives globally. This breakthrough is set to revolutionize artillery shells and warheads, enhancing their destructive capabilities without increasing their weight.
- July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in India-Thailand relations. The **Maitree Exercise**, a joint military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **Royal Thai Army**, kicks off at Fort Vachirapakan in Tak Province, Thailand. This two-week exercise, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, **Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari**, inaugurated the **Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad**, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch.
- **Indian army** has inducted the first-ever indigenous **chip-based 4G mobile** base station, which it procured from **Bangalore-based firm Signaltron** through the government e-marketplace portal. **Signaltron** founder **Himamshu Khasnis** told PTI that the chip used in the **Sahyadri LTE base stations** has been developed by **Signalchip**.





- **India's defence sector** has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24, with total annual defence production reaching an all-time high of **Rs 1,26,887 crore**. This unprecedented achievement, announced by the **Union Ministry of Defence on July 5, 2024**, marks a significant leap in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- India has unveiled the **'Zorawar' light tank**, developed jointly by **DRDO and Larsen & Toubro**, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in high-altitude environments. Designed within a record two-year timeframe, the tank features advanced weaponry and protection systems, including a 105mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor. **Named after General Zorawar Singh**, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the **"Grow with the Trees"** plantation drive at the **BSF Headquarters in Srinagar**. The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.
- **Azerbaijan Army** servicemen have arrived in **Kazakhstan to take part in the "Birlestik-2024"** operational-tactical command-staff exercise. This joint military drill, scheduled from July 11 to July 17, will be conducted at the Oymasha training ground and Cape Tokmak in the Caspian Sea. The exercise is part of a collaborative effort between the Defense Ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The Armed Forces Medical Services witnessed a significant change in leadership as **Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, NM, VSM**, assumed the role of Commandant at the **Army Hospital (Research & Referral)**, widely recognized as the apex hospital of the Indian Armed Forces. This appointment marks a new chapter in the hospital's illustrious history and promises to bring fresh perspectives to military healthcare.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of remittances to **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**. This allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC, facilitating various financial services and products as per the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has embarked on a significant international engagement by participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2024**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at their Base Darwin, Australia. This biennial, multi-national exercise, scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024, represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken a significant step towards promoting self-reliance in the defense sector by awarding seven new projects to industries under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**. These projects aim to address various requirements of the Armed Forces and the aerospace & defense sectors, while simultaneously nurturing the growth of industries, particularly **MSMEs and start-ups**, in these domains.
- On July 14, 2024, **Visakhapatnam** hosted the prestigious **Fleet Awards Function** to honor the **Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements** over the past year. **INS Delhi** was recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its outstanding performance and operational prowess.
- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar** arrived at Hamburg, Germany on **17 July 24** for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include **professional exchanges** between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of **INS Tabar** will also engage in community service.
- **Captain Supreetha C.T.** has etched her name in history by becoming the **first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence** to be operationally deployed at the **Siachen Glacier**.
- On July 23, 2024, India's naval prowess took a significant leap forward with the launch of the first of two Advanced Frigates at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.
- On July 24, 2024, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security.
- The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise **KHAAN QUEST 2024**.





Defense Current Affairs of June 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed its formidable **Rafale fighter jets** for the two-week multinational air exercise **Red Flag**, which commenced on **May 30** in **Alaska**. The IAF contingent, supported by **IL-78 air-to-air refuelers** and **C-17 transport aircraft**, arrived at the **Eielson Air Force Base** in the United States for the advanced aerial combat training exercise.
- A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. '**Vidyut Rakshak**', developed by the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)** was launched by the **Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi**.
- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** will take over as the next **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on June 30. In his career of over 39 years, he has served as **Northern Army Commander and Director General (DG)** infantry amongst other appointments.
- The **8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24)** has commenced at Yokosuka, Japan, hosted by the **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)**. Indian Navy's **INS Shivalik** and Japan's **JS Yugiri** are participating.
- The launch of '**Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)**', the **fifth** Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by **MSME Shipyard. M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL)**, Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was undertaken on **10 Jun 24** at M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Ltd, Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra (launch site of M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd). The launching Ceremony was presided over by **Cmde Manish Vig, General Manager (QA), ND(Mbi)**.
- India has achieved a significant milestone in its defense capabilities with the induction of the **indigenous Nagastra-1 kamikaze drones** developed by **Solar Industries, based in Nagpur**. This deployment addresses the escalating drone-related incidents along India's Northern borders, highlighting the critical need for advanced indigenous drone technologies in combat applications.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to make history this August by hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024**. The exercise is slated to be held in two phases, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from **late August to mid-September**.
- The **Indian Army** on June 18, announced the opening of a **state-of-the-art skin bank** facility at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral). The facility offers the latest modern treatment for **severe burn injuries** received by armed forces personnel and their families.
- In a significant move towards self-reliance, the **Northern Command** of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured **ASMI submachine guns** worth Rs 4.26 crores from **Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited**. This marks the first time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army.
- **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** released the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations** during the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** meeting held on **June 18, 2024**, in New Delhi. The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment.
- In a landmark event, the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) of the Indian Army and the **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on '**Next Generation Wireless Technologies for the Indian Army**'.
- **India's defence exports to the United States (US)** has grown to account for **over 50 per cent of the total exports**, exceeding **\$2.8 billion** during the last 5 years, said **Ranjana Khanna**, Director General and CEO – American Chamber of Commerce in India (Amcham).
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the **Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)** to the Indian Navy in a ceremony held in **New Delhi**. This rocket creates a microwave obscurant cloud in space, forming an effective shield against threats with radio frequency seekers.
- **Jaipur Military Station** has become the **second military station in India** to have a road made from plastic waste. The **road, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R.S. Godara**, General Officer Commanding of 61 Sub Area, is 100 meters long and stretches from Sagat Singh Road under bridge to Cubs Corner complex.
- The deployment marks sustained participation of an Indian Military Contingent in military parade organized as part of Seychelles National Day **since 1976**. **INS Sunayna** entered **Port Victoria**, Seychelles on 26 Jun 24 as part of her long range deployment in the **South West Indian Ocean Region**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) '**ABHYAS**' with improved booster configuration from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), **Chandipur, Odisha**.





Defense Current Affairs of May 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Indian Navy have bolstered their combat capabilities with the induction of the Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missile, previously utilized by the Israeli Air Force in operations against Iranian targets. The missile, known as the **High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2** within the Indian Air Force, offers a striking range of up to 250 kilometers.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities with the successful flight-test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (**SMART**) system. This next-generation **torpedo delivery system** was successfully flight-tested on **May 01, 2024**, at around 8:30 AM from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's **first Constitution Park in Pune**. The ceremony, **led by Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh**, emphasized the importance of citizens honoring their duties outlined in the Constitution to drive India towards development by 2047.
- **Flying Wedge Defence**, a Bengaluru-based defense and aerospace technology firm, recently revealed the **FWD-200B**, India's inaugural indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft. With a focus on cost-effectiveness and self-reliance, the firm aims to position India as a leader in innovative defense solutions.
- Air Marshal **Nagesh Kapoor** has taken charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command (TC) in the Indian Air Force**. With over 34 hundred hours of flying experience, he was commissioned into the Fighter stream in December 1986.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024.
- **Visa**, the global digital payments platform, announced on Tuesday that it has appointed **Sujai Raina** as the new **Country Manager for India**. In this role, Raina will be responsible for leading and executing Visa's strategic initiatives in the Indian market, partnering with clients and the broader payments ecosystem.
- The Indian Army's **Kharga Corps**, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab. The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of **attack helicopters** in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar have initiated a partnership aimed at advancing research in **electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems, and radar systems**. DRDO has sanctioned nine projects from the **Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS) Cluster** to IIT Bhubaneswar, with an additional seven projects awaiting approval, backed by ₹18 crore in funding.
- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM**, a seasoned naval officer with over 35 years of distinguished service, has assumed the pivotal role of **Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 10 May 2024**. His extensive career has been marked by a series of challenging and fulfilling appointments, both at sea and ashore.
- In a strategic move to bolster its surveillance capabilities along the Pakistan border, the Indian Army is set to induct advanced drones, including the **Drishti-10 (Hermes-900)**. Scheduled for an induction ceremony in **Hyderabad on May 18**, these drones mark a significant addition to the Army's existing fleet, aligning with the **'Make in India'** initiative in Defence.
- The Indian Air Force recently conducted a test in Agra for the BHISHM portable hospital, a crucial component of **"Project BHISHM"** aimed at providing rapid and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies. These portable cubes, part of a broader initiative, can cater to up to 200 casualties, emphasizing swift response and extensive care.
- Defence Secretary **Giridhar Aramane** unveiled a commemorative Rs 250 coin during the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in New Delhi on May 14, 2024. The event, hosted by MDL, commemorated its evolution from a dry dock in 1774 to a premier naval shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan** attended the **'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024'** on May 22, 2024, emphasizing the critical importance of enhancing India's cyber defence capabilities. Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency from May 20 to May 24, 2024, this comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to bolster collaboration and integration among military and national agencies, advancing the nation's cyber defence readiness.
- **Indian Army** has joined hands with the **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for **demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology**. This collaboration underscores the Army's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship.
- **Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos** has achieved a remarkable feat by successfully launching the **world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine**. After four failed attempts, Agnikul triumphed on its fifth try, launching its own rocket, named **Agnibaan**, into space. This launch marks **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket**, which was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.





- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has joined a **16-day multi-nation mega military exercise** in **Alaska, United States**, designed to provide **realistic training** to participating forces in a **simulated combat environment**. The exercise, known as **'Red Flag 24'**, commenced on **May 30** and will continue until **June 14**.

Defense Current Affairs of April 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is showcasing its might and capability to carry out **high-octane operations** during the upcoming **'Gagan Shakti-2024'** exercise "in a realistic environment" from **April 1-10**. The exercise involves **all air force bases and assets** scattered across the country.
- Highlighting the importance of **"collaboration and interoperability"** among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister **Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon** said the trilateral exercise **'Dosti'** will unite the troika to address **"shared maritime security concerns** through collaboration."
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that India's defence exports surged to a record **Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24**, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year. This achievement is attributed to the concerted efforts of both the private sector and **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, supported by policy reforms and initiatives aimed at facilitating ease of doing business.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has commenced a project in Junput village, West Bengal, to establish a test centre for the country's weapon systems. This initiative aims to address the saturation of testing activities at **Odisha's Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR)** by providing an additional operational area.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called **'Agni-Prime'**.
- The **Army Medical Corps (AMC)** celebrated its **260th Raising Day on 03rd April 2024**. Raised in the year 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication, and sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' meaning 'let all be free from disease'.
- The Indian Army has commenced the induction of the indigenous **Akashteer system**, marking a significant advancement in its air defence capabilities. This automated air defence control and reporting system, developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, aims to integrate the army's air defence units for enhanced operational efficiency.

- **Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal** inaugurated the **Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu**, as part of his four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry. The visit aimed to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region, with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.
- A two-day coastal security exercise called **Sagar Kavach 01/24** was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from **April 1-2, 2024**. The exercise involved the participation of all maritime security agencies, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies.
- The Indian Army has bolstered its **Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD)** capabilities with the acquisition of **Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)** from Russia. This procurement, part of a larger deal for 120 launchers and 400 missiles, signifies a significant upgrade over outdated systems.
- The inaugural **Tri-Service Planning Conference, dubbed 'Parivartan Chintan,'** convened in **New Delhi on April 8, 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence**. This landmark event aimed to foster jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Forces, especially in light of ongoing efforts to establish unified theatre commands.
- Every year on **April 9th, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** celebrates its Bravery Day, or Valour Day, to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who have selflessly served the nation. **This year, 2024, marks the 59th anniversary of this significant day.**
- In a significant training endeavor, the **Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army** executed a rigorous **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** exercise in Sikkim, operating at an altitude of 17,000 feet. The exercise involved Missile Firing Detachments from Mechanized and Infantry Units of the Eastern Command, emphasizing live firing scenarios against both moving and static targets, simulating battlefield conditions.
- The fifth edition of the India-Uzbekistan **Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK** is set to commence on **April 15, 2024, in Termez District, Uzbekistan**. This exercise marks another milestone in the strategic partnership between the two nations, fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing military capabilities.
- In a significant milestone for India's defense capability, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Indian Army have successfully conducted trials of the indigenously designed and developed **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**. This indigenous development marks a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defense systems, as underscored by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.





Defense Current Affairs of March 2024

- DRDO conducted a successful test flight of the **Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha**. The missile showcased excellent performance, closely monitored by various sensors and the Indian Air Force.
- During his visit to **Uzbekistan from April 15-18, 2024**, **Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande**, marked a significant milestone in bilateral defense cooperation between India and Uzbekistan by inaugurating a state-of-the-art IT Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces. This initiative stems from a commitment made during the Defence Ministers' meeting in September 2018, highlighting the growing partnership between the two nations.
- The Government of India has appointed **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, currently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**, as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **April 30, 2024**. He will succeed the present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, who retires from service on the same day.
- In a significant move reflecting the deepening military cooperation between India and the Philippines amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, India has successfully delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. This delivery marks the fruition of a **\$375 million deal signed in January 2022**, making the Philippines the first export customer for this **joint venture missile between India and Russia**.
- The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, **'Poorvi Leher,'** along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces.
- **India has emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023**, allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia. This significant investment underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, particularly along the **China border post the Ladakh standoff in 2020**.
- In a move to honour the **courageous Indian soldiers** who fought valiantly in the **First and Second World Wars**, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an **annual multi-faith event** at the town's **India Gate memorial** this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these **warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent**.

- The **Indian Navy** is set to inaugurate a new naval base, **INS Jatayu, on Minicoy Island**, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands. Scheduled for March 6, the commissioning ceremony will be graced by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, underscoring the importance of this development.
- The **Indian Navy** is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the **MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi**. This induction marks a crucial juncture in India's defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities. The Seahawks squadron will be designated as **INAS 334**, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the new **Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC), Goa** on March 5, 2024. The modern edifice, named the **'Chola'**, pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought.
- The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, **INS Jatayu, at Minicoy island of Lakshadweep**. This strategic move aims to enhance the Navy's capabilities and reach in the vital Indian Ocean region, reinforcing its efforts in anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea.
- The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called **'Bharat-Shakti'** at **Asia's largest field firing range** located in **Jaisalmer** district of Rajasthan. **PM Modi's Likely Visit** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** may visit **Pokhran** on **March 12, 2024**, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces.
- The arrival of the US Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of **'Sea Defenders-2024,'** a joint exercise between the **United States Coast Guard (USCG)** and the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.





- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology**. This new capability allows the weapon system to deliver **multiple nuclear warheads** against different targets spread across hundreds of kilometers, further enhancing India's **strategic deterrence capability**. The test, codenamed "**Mission Divyastra**" (divine weapon), propels India into an exclusive league of countries that possess the capability to deploy **MIRV missile systems**, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China.
- Coinciding with International Women's Day and the 40th anniversary of INAS 318, the Andaman & Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its **first-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission**. This landmark event underscores the commitment to gender equality and recognizes the indispensable role of women in national defense.
- The **Indian Navy** recently took part in a major maritime exercise called **Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24)**. This exercise was held in **Port Victoria, Seychelles** from **26 February to 08 March 2024**.
- On 13th March 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the **Indian Navy's** shipbuilding program with the launch of '**Agray**' and '**Akshay**', the **5th and 6th ships of the 08 x ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project**. These ships are being built by M/S Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy.
- In a significant stride towards gender equality and inclusivity, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has emerged as a frontrunner among central paramilitary forces in **terms of female representation**. This achievement marks a notable departure from the traditional male-dominated landscape within such organizations. With women now constituting a remarkable **10 per cent of its personnel**, the RPF has set a new benchmark in gender diversity within central paramilitary forces.
- The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated **headquarters** building. The newly constructed **Nausena Bhawan** located at **Delhi Cantonment** was formally **inaugurated** by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **March 15th, 2024**.
- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the **Tenth edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** between the **Indian Army** and **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**. The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from **18-27 March 2024**.
- A joint military exercise called **Tiger Triumph-24** between **India** and the **United States** started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the **Eastern Seaboard** (East Coast) of India. The main purpose of this exercise is to improve **cooperation** between the two countries' armed forces for **humanitarian assistance** and **disaster relief** operations.
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized **technology unit** called **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)** to research and evaluate **next-generation communication technologies**.
- The **Indian defence industry** is expanding its reach to the **Caribbean** region. The **Guyana Defence Force (GDF)** plans to purchase two aircraft from **India** with a loan of **\$23.27 million** from the **Export-Import Bank of India**.
- The Indian Army has raised its **first squadron**, the **451 Aviation Squadron**, to operate the newly acquired **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters**. The squadron was formally established on **March 15** at **Jodhpur**.
- The Indian Navy is all set to participate in the second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT-2024)**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from **21-29 March 2024**. The Indian Naval Ships **INS Tir** and **INS Sujata** will represent India in this trilateral exercise.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful landing of **Pushpak, India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**, during the RLV-LEX-02 landing experiment at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga on March 22, 2024. This accomplishment marks a continuation of ISRO's success in space exploration and technology advancement.
- In response to escalating tensions along the northern borders with **China**, the **Indian Army** has initiated significant enhancements to its air defence capabilities. Central to this strategic maneuver is the deployment of cutting-edge **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS)**, developed domestically in collaboration between the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Bharat Electronics**.
- The second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise, IMT TRILAT 24**, concluded successfully in **Nacala, Mozambique** on March 28th, 2024. This week-long exercise aimed to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability among the navies of **India, Mozambique, and Tanzania**.





Defense Current Affairs of February 2024

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of July 2024

- In a significant recognition of feminist literature and studies, writer, critic, and feminist activist **P. Geetha** has been awarded the first **K. Saraswathi Amma Award**. This prestigious accolade, instituted by **WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala**, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.
- Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation**, Thrissur, received **Spice Award 2024**, instituted by **ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research**. The award has been given to her for her initiatives in enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies, promoting a sustainable spice-based cropping system.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of IT services firm **HCLTech**, has been conferred with the **"Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"** (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France.
- Tamil literature, renowned author **Sivashankari** has been selected as the recipient of the highly esteemed **Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award**. This prestigious accolade celebrates her immense contributions to the rich tapestry of Tamil literary culture and her role in shaping contemporary Indian literature.
- In a significant recognition of his contributions to alternative medicine, **Dr. Arpit Chopra**, a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner, was bestowed with the **Excellence Award at the NDTV MSMES (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Summit held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. The award ceremony, which took place at the Marriott Hotel, saw the presence of several high-ranking state officials and industry leaders.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** ceremoniously presented with the **Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called**, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the two countries.
- In a significant recognition of his contributions to the field of **victimology**, retired professor **K. Chockalingam** from Tamil Nadu, India, has been selected for the esteemed **Hans von Hentig award**. This honour highlights the global impact of Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.
- Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** on July 12, won the **Golden Sand Master award** at an international championship in **Russia**. The event, International Sand Sculpture Championship was **organised from July 4-12 in St Petersburg** at the **iconic Peter and Paul Fortress**. The **world's 21 master sculptors** participated in the event.
- Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been awarded the prestigious **2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**. This accolade not only highlights India's progress in sustainable farming but also places Andhra Pradesh on the global map for its pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture.
- Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust**, has been honoured with the **"Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024."** This esteemed accolade was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024, at the **Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon**. The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility.
- The **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**, the world's first scientific body dedicated to space science research, has recognized the outstanding contributions of two Indian space scientists at its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea. **Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**, one of India's most senior space scientists, received the esteemed **Harrie Massey Award**. **Anil Bhardwaj**, the director of the Ahmedabad-based **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, was awarded the **Vikram Sarabhai Medal**.
- Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, the renowned **Nobel Peace Prize** laureate and Guatemalan human rights activist, has been honored with the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2020**. This prestigious accolade recognizes her lifelong commitment to advocating for **Indigenous rights** and promoting peace and social justice.
- Ram Charan**, the superstar known for his stellar performance in the global blockbuster "RRR", is set to be the guest of honor at the prestigious **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024**. This recognition comes as a testament to his significant contributions to Indian cinema and his rising international profile.
- The **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during the **96th Foundation Day celebrations** of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.
- Curator and author Rahaab Allana** has been awarded the insignia of **Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** by the **French government**.





- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has honored **Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist**, with the prestigious Olympic Order.
- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** has been honoured with customised **gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris**.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, announced the winners of the **10th National Community Radio Awards** and inaugurated the country's **500th Community Radio Station**.
- The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) honored **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** in Visakhapatnam with the '**Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman**' for the year 2023-24.

Awards & Recognition of June 2024

- The famous Annual **Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award** has been given to **Krishna Prakash**, who is well-known for leading Mumbai Police's special counterterrorism team, Force One. The award was given out at Mumbai's multicultural **Sab Me Ram Shashwat Shri Ram event**.
- **Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti** has been chosen for the prestigious **Gudleppa Hallikeri Award** for 2024 by the **Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation, Hosaritti (Haveri District)**. Veeranna Chekki, senior trustee of the **Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial foundation** of Hosaritti, haveri District announced. This is the **19th award** and will be presented **in the honour of the birth anniversary of Gudleppa Hallikeri on 6 June**.
- At the prestigious **New York Indian Film Festival 2024**, Sanya Malhotra has etched her name in glory by winning the **Best Actress award** for her captivating performance in the film "Mrs." This triumph marks a significant milestone in Malhotra's burgeoning career and underscores her exceptional talent as an actress.
- The **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** has announced the **Dilip Bose award** for lifetime achievement to coach **Nar Singh**. The first award would be presented to the 69-year-old **Rohini Lokhande** who was a member of the national team along with **Kiran Bedi, Nirupama Mankad, Susan Das and Udaya Kumar**, before she took to coaching at a young age.
- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, established on August 24, 1984, by the Government of India, is a premier telecom research and development centre. Its mission is to revolutionize the telecom sector in India by developing cutting-edge technologies and products tailored to Indian conditions.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has been awarded the Asia-Pacific region's '**Best Conduct of Business Regulator**' by **The Asian Banker**. The award was received by **SEBI's Whole Time Member, Kamlesh Chandra Varshney**, at a ceremony held in Hong Kong.
- **Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII)** and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd., secured the prestigious **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 award**, marking the fourth time an entrepreneur from India has won this global title. His visionary leadership and transformative strategies have propelled both TII and Chola to unprecedented success, earning him recognition on the global stage.
- **Siddhesh Sakore**, a farmer and the founder of **AGRO RANGERS from Maharashtra**, has been recognized as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on **World Desertification and Drought Day**. The announcement was made during a programme in Bonn, Germany, honoring 10 Land Heroes from around the globe.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been awarded the prestigious "**Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024**" by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in London. This accolade recognizes the RBI's significant strides in cultivating a robust risk culture and heightened awareness, solidifying its essential role in maintaining the stability of India's financial system.
- The **Sahitya Akademi** on June 15, announced the names of **23 writers**, including English writer **K Vaishali** and Hindi author **Gaurav Pandey**, who will receive the prestigious **Yuva Puraskar** across as many languages.
- The **Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala**, a renowned Ayurvedic institution, celebrated a significant achievement as its **managing trustee and chief physician, P. Madhavankutty Varier**, was awarded an **honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree** by the **Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS)**.
- Eminent children's filmmaker **Vinod Ganatra** has become the first Indian to be conferred with South Africa's prestigious '**Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award**' for his outstanding contribution to children's cinema. The award was presented to him at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival.
- The renowned wildlife filmmaker **Subbiah Nallamuthu** has been conferred with the prestigious **18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking. The award was presented to him by the **Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan**, at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, a regional rural bank sponsored by **Canara Bank**, has been honoured with a national award by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for significant enrolment under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.





- **India's first artificial intelligence university**, Universal AI University (UAIU), has appointed international strategist and multiple award-winning professor **Simon Mak** as its **vice-chancellor**. Mak is the first non-Indian to hold the position of **founding vice chancellor** of an Indian institution.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.** has been honoured with the **"Sustainable Governance Champion Award"** at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. This recognition highlights GRSE's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.
- In a significant recognition of her literary contributions, **Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the esteemed **Pen Pinter Prize** for 2024. This honour comes at a time when Roy faces potential legal challenges, highlighting the importance of her work and the ongoing struggle for freedom of expression.
- In a heartwarming celebration of linguistic and cultural ties between India and Nepal, **Dr. Usha Thakur** has been honoured with the **12th Vishwa Hindi Samman**. This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between Hindi and Nepali languages.

Awards & Recognition of May 2024

- **Gina Justus**, an English High School teacher at the Sharjah Girls Branch in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been named the regional winner for the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region at the prestigious **2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**. This achievement celebrates her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity work.
- **Sana**, the **AI-powered news anchor** developed by the **India Today Group**, has achieved remarkable success at the prestigious **International News Media Association (INMA) Global Media Awards** held in London. This groundbreaking AI innovation has captured two coveted awards, solidifying its position as a **trailblazer** in the field of AI-driven journalism.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** honored **K.V. Kamath**, Chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development and Chairman of Jio Financial Services Ltd., with an honorary doctorate at a special convocation on April 29, 2024. The ceremony celebrated Kamath's exceptional leadership in banking, finance, and sustainable development, recognizing his significant contributions to India's financial sector and global impact.
- **Dr. Bina Modi**, Chairperson and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises – KK Modi Group, was honoured by the esteemed Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of **Corporate Social**

Responsibility (CSR)'. The felicitation took place during the inauguration of the new building for the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), where the Vice President graced the occasion as the chief guest.

- **Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**, a wildlife biologist from **Assam**, has been recognized with the prestigious **Whitley Gold Award** for her exemplary conservation efforts aimed at protecting the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. This accolade, often referred to as the 'Green Oscar', highlights her remarkable contributions to wildlife conservation and underscores the importance of grassroots efforts in safeguarding biodiversity.
- In a gesture of solidarity and recognition, **Palestinian journalists** covering the **crisis in Gaza** have been named laureates of the **2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. The announcement comes from the recommendation of an International Jury of media professionals, emphasizing the courage and commitment of these journalists amidst challenging circumstances.
- Bollywood actress **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has been appointed as the **National Ambassador for UNICEF India**. This prestigious role comes as a recognition of her long-standing association with the organization since 2014, where she has served as a **Celebrity Advocate**.
- In a remarkable feat, The Hindu secured three prestigious awards at the **6th International Newspaper Design Competition organized by newspaperdesign.in**. The accolades were garnered for their exceptional explainer page titled **"The science behind Neeraj's skills,"** shedding light on Neeraj Chopra's remarkable journey and success in athletics.
- Oxford Bookstores announced **Bhavi Mehta** as the winner of the **9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize**. Mehta's winning entry was the book jacket for **"The Book Beautiful"** published by Hachette India and authored by Pradeep Sebastian.
- **Pawan Sindhi** was bestowed with the prestigious **Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024** at an event attended by esteemed **saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus**. The occasion celebrated Mr. Sindhi's remarkable contributions to society and his dedication to serving humanity.
- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious **McGill University** during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.
- In a prestigious ceremony held in New Delhi, **Cmde Hemant Khatri**, the Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) of **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, was bestowed with the esteemed **'PSU Samarpan Award'** by Gov Connect. The award recognizes Khatri's outstanding leadership and his pivotal role in driving the transformation of the shipyard, inspiring countless individuals within the industry.





- In a prestigious ceremony held at the Sahara Star Hotel in Mumbai on May 12th, **Chandrakant Satija**, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of **Chandra Admission Consultants**, was honored with the **Global Excellence Award 2024**. The award, presented by the famous Bollywood actress **Shilpa Shetty Kundra**, recognized Satija as the **Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in the Vidarbha Region**.
- In a momentous occasion, the **eminent author Ruskin Bond** has been bestowed with the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**, the highest honour conferred by India's premier literary organization, the Sahitya Akademi. Due to Bond's **ill health**, the prestigious award was presented to him at his **Mussoorie home** by Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik and Secretary K. Sreenivasarao, in the presence of his son.
- Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of **Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) in Sri Lanka**. The stamp was presented by the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Senthil Thondaman.
- The public sector company **NTPC** has secured the **third rank in the world for the Talent Development category** at the prestigious **ATD BEST Awards 2024**. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024. Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, NTPC's chief general manager strategic HR & talent management, accepted the award on behalf of the company.
- **Srinivas R. Kulkarni**, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the **prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy** for 2024. This prestigious recognition celebrates Kulkarni's **groundbreaking discoveries** in the field of astronomy, including his pioneering work on **millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena**.
- **Arti**, an 18-year-old woman from the Bagraich district of Uttar Pradesh, has been honored with the prestigious **Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award** by King Charles III of the United Kingdom.
- **NHPC**, India's premier hydropower company, has been bestowed with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'. This coveted recognition highlights NHPC's unwavering commitment to fostering a future-ready workforce and its strategic approach to human resource management.
- The 77th Cannes Film Festival witnessed a remarkable achievement for Indian cinema as **Payal Kapadia's** film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the prestigious **Grand Prix** award, the second-highest honour at the festival. This triumph marks a historic moment, as Kapadia becomes the first Indian filmmaker to receive this prestigious accolade.
- The Indian gymnast, **Dipa Karmakar**, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any **Asian Championships**. Hailing from Tripura, Dipa achieved this remarkable feat in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on May 26, 2024.
- **Major Radhika Sen**, an **Indian military peacekeeper** serving with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (**MONUSCO**), has been awarded the prestigious **2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**. This award recognizes her dedication and efforts in promoting the principles of **UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security**.
- The **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)**, Bengaluru, India's premier mental health institution, has been conferred the prestigious **Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion** for 2024 by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. This award recognizes individuals, institutions, and organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

Awards & Recognition of April 2024

- **Professor Meena Charanda**, Principal of **Kalindi College, Delhi University**, has been awarded the prestigious '**International Culture Award**' for the year 2024. Prof. Charanda received this honour in recognition of her remarkable work in the field of **education and social service**. The award ceremony took place on **March 30, 2024**, at the **India International Center**.
- **Vineet Jain**, the managing director of the **Times Group**, received the prestigious **Exchange4Media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023** for his significant contributions to **Indian television news**.
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the **SKOCH ESG Award 2024** in the '**Renewable Energy Financing**' category. The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. Executive Director of REC Limited, **Shri T.S.C. Bosh**, received the award in New Delhi.
- Dr. Kommuri was felicitated with the Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) title at the **National Fame Awards 2024**, held at The Club in Mumbai. The chief guest of the ceremony was **Dia Mirza**.





- **SJVN Limited**, a leading public sector undertaking, has been honored with two prestigious awards at the **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024**. The awards were given by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in recognition of SJVN's remarkable contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- The small town of **Miraj in Maharashtra's Sangli district** is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, particularly **sitars and tanpuras**. These instruments have now been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, recognizing their unique origin and quality.
- GAIL (India) Limited has been honored with the prestigious **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award in the 'Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects' category for its remarkable accomplishment in the Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL)**. The project, an integral component of the Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Pipeline project, marks a significant milestone by connecting North-East India to the National Gas Grid for the first time.
- The late Russian dissident **Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya**, will receive the Freedom Prize of the Media from a leading German forum, the Ludwig Erhard Summit. The award is presented annually to public figures who have made significant contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy.
- **Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital's research team** has been honoured with the prestigious **'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)**. The award-winning study focused on 'The efficacy of RevitalVision vision-training software in improving best-corrected vision in stable keratoconus patients post Crosslinking surgery.'
- **Gopi Thotakura** is making history as the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining **Blue Origin's NS-25 mission**. His selection highlights a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, marking a new era for space tourism.
- **Dr. Gagandeep Kang**, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the **2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for her achievements in global health research.
- The **American President's Volunteer Service Award** was established in 2003 during George Bush's presidency. The award is given to individuals who have provided at least 500 hours of voluntary service in the United States and whose work has positively impacted communities and inspired those around them.
- **Lindy Cameron**, a distinguished **Oxford University alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre**, has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in UK-India relations, coming 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.
- In a remarkable achievement, Indian-American actress **Avantika Vandanapu**, best known for her role as Karen Shetty in the 2024 musical comedy "Mean Girls," has been honored with the prestigious **"South Asian Person of the Year" award by Harvard University**. This accolade recognizes Vandanapu's outstanding contributions to the arts and her role in promoting South Asian representation in global media.
- **Mamta G. Sagar**, a renowned Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist based in Bengaluru, has added another feather to her cap by winning the prestigious **World Literary Prize** from the **World Organization of Writers (WOW)**. This prestigious accolade recognizes Sagar's exceptional contributions to the world of literature, solidifying her status as a trailblazing literary icon.
- The **World Economic Forum** has named **Adwaita Nayar**, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, as a **'2024 Young Global Leader'**. This prestigious recognition highlights Nayar's remarkable achievements as a change-maker and entrepreneur, solidifying her place among the most influential young leaders in the world.
- In a prestigious ceremony, **Vels University in Chennai** conferred an honorary doctorate in literature upon renowned Indian actor **Ram Charan**. This distinguished recognition celebrates Charan's remarkable contributions to the world of cinema and his profound impact on audiences across the globe.
- In a momentous announcement, the prestigious **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** will be presented to the esteemed Hindi cinema actor, **Amitabh Bachchan**, this year. This honour, bestowed by the **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratisthan Public Charitable Trust and the Mangeshkar family**, serves as a testament to Bachchan's exceptional contributions to the world of Indian cinema over the span of his illustrious five-and-a-half-decade career.
- In response to the soaring gold prices, **expected to surpass \$2700 per ounce** this year amidst escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a significant policy amendment. This move allows resident entities to diversify their hedging strategies against gold price volatility in overseas markets.
- **Deepika Soreng**, the promising forward of the **India Women's Hockey Team**, has been honoured with the prestigious **Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award** for Upcoming Player of the Year during the **Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023**. The award recognizes her outstanding performance and immense potential as a rising star in the sport.
- **Kaushik Rajashekara**, a distinguished professor at the **University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering**, has been elected as an **International Fellow** of the prestigious **Engineering Academy of Japan**. This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of **power conversion** and the **electrification of transportation**.





- **Pavuluri Subba Rao**, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of **Ananth Technologies**, has been conferred with the prestigious '**Aryabhata Award**' by the **Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)**. This honour recognizes Rao's "**tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.**"
- **Mohammed Salem** is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the **World Press Photo of the Year award**.
- **Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the esteemed KISS Humanitarian Award 2021** at a ceremony held at his Mumbai residence. The award, initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, recognizes individuals and organizations epitomizing humanitarian efforts globally.
- Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). The **KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award**, while the **Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award**.
- In a prestigious ceremony held at Mumbai's **Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih**, actor **Randeep Hooda** was bestowed with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to **Indian cinema** and his recent film "**Swatantrya Veer Savarkar**".
- **Yatin Bhaskar Duggal**, a promising talent from Haryana, has emerged triumphant as the winner of the esteemed **National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024**. The announcement came during the conclusive session held in New Delhi, where Duggal was awarded the first prize for his exceptional performance.
- **Sahitya Akademi**, the esteemed National Academy of Letters in India, is marking its **70th anniversary** this year, and in honor of this milestone, the annual '**Sahityotsav**' has transformed into the world's largest literary festival.
- Renowned filmmaker **Zoya Akhtar** and British Indian chef **Asma Khan** were honored at the annual '**India-UK Achievers**' awards in London. The event celebrated Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's contributions to culinary arts.
- India has been awarded the prestigious '**Measles and Rubella Champion**' Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership. This award recognizes India's **exemplary efforts in preventing measles and rubella diseases**.
- Delhi Airport has once again asserted its dominance in the aviation sector by securing the prestigious title of '**Best Airport**' in the Asia-Pacific region for the sixth consecutive year. This accolade, bestowed by the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards**, reaffirms Delhi Airport's commitment to excellence and leadership in providing top-notch services to passengers.
- **Riken Yamamoto**, a Japanese architect from Yokohama, has been named the winner of the **2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize**, widely regarded as the highest honour in the field of architecture.
- The **Praemium Erasmianum Foundation** has awarded the **Erasmus Prize 2024** to the Indian writer **Amitav Ghosh**. He receives this prestigious honour for his **passionate contribution** to the theme "**imagining the unthinkable,**" in which he explores the **unprecedented global crisis of climate change** through his literary works.
- **Mr. Srinivasan Swamy**, currently serving as the chairman and managing director of RK Swamy Ltd, was honored at the 45th IAA World Congress in Penang, Malaysia. Governor Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak presented him with the esteemed **IAA Golden Compass Award**, recognizing his significant contributions to the global marketing, advertising, and media industries.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius. This prestigious honor demonstrates the depth of bilateral ties between India and Mauritius.
- The prestigious **Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024** for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year has been given **jointly** to two remarkable journalists: **Greeshma Kuthar** – Independent Journalist and **Ritika Chopra** – Indian Express.

Awards & Recognition of March 2024

- **Dr. Pradeep Mahajan**, the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre, along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024**.
- On the occasion of the **48th Foundation Day** of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has been honored with the **Award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24**. This prestigious accolade signifies the Ministry's outstanding contribution and commitment to financial excellence.
- Legendary golfer **Tiger Woods** has been selected to receive the Bob Jones Award, the highest honour bestowed by the **United States Golf Association (USGA)**. This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors.





- **Ratan Tata**, former chairman of **Tata Sons**, has been bestowed with the prestigious **PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award**. He received the award for his **outstanding philanthropic contributions**. The award ceremony took place in **Mumbai** on **March 15, 2024**.
- **Uday Bhatia** and **Manasi Gupta** from India were honored with the prestigious '**Diana Memorial Award**' on **14 March 2024**.
- **Thodur Madabusi Krishna**, a **renowned Carnatic musician**, has been chosen as the **Sangita Kalanidhi** awardee for 2024. This award, considered the **Oscar equivalent** for Carnatic music, is given away by the **Music Academy** in Chennai.
- Noted **Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma** has been selected for the prestigious **33rd Saraswati Samman** for the year 2023. He won the award for his **novel in verse 'Roudra Sathwikam'** published in 2022.
- The **Raksha Mantri Trophy** for the **Best and Second Best Command Hospitals** of the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** for the year 2022 was awarded on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi. The **Command Hospital (Southern Command), Pune** was judged as the **Best Command Hospital**, while the **Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow** was the **Second Best** for 2022.
- Dr. Uma Rele, the esteemed **Principal of Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya** in Mumbai, has been conferred with the prestigious **Maharashtra Gaurav Award**. The honour was bestowed upon her by Maharashtra Industrial Minister Uday Sawant and Minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the realm of **Indian classical dance**, particularly **Bharata Natyam**.
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has created history by becoming the first **non-Bhutanese** to receive the '**Order of the Druk Gyalpo**', **Bhutan's highest civilian award**. He received this prestigious honour from **Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** during his two-day state visit to Thimphu. The 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' is a **lifetime achievement award** and is considered the **pinnacle of Bhutan's honour system**. Only four eminent personalities have received this award since its institution.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has been honored with the prestigious **Aviation Week Laureates Award** for its remarkable achievements in the **Chandrayaan-3 mission**. **Sripriya Ranganathan**, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO.
- **Bina Agarwal** and **James Boyce** have been awarded the first "**Global Inequality Research Award**" for their significant contributions to understanding global inequalities, specifically in the areas of social and environmental inequalities. The **laureates** will be invited to receive their awards and present an overview of their work at conferences in Paris in the fall and spring of 2024. These conferences will be organized in conjunction with **Sciences Po's Social-Ecological Transitions (SET) initiative**.

- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, a global organization responsible for naming celestial objects, has bestowed a rare honour upon an Indian scientist. Professor **Jayant Murthy**, an esteemed astrophysicist, has been recognized for his remarkable contributions to the field by having an asteroid named after him – **(215884) Jayantmurthy**.
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the **2024 Abel Prize** to **Michel Talagrand** of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France. Talagrand received the prestigious prize "for his **groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis**, with outstanding applications in **mathematical physics and statistics**."
- At a glittering event recently held in **Noida**, organized by **The Times Group**, **Vijay Jain**, the **Managing Director** of **Star Estate**, was awarded the prestigious **Times Power Icon 2024 Award**. The event celebrated and honoured top industry leaders, gracing the occasion with the presence of industry leaders and celebrities, including **Cine icon Ada Sharma**, who presented the award to Vijay Jain.

Awards & Recognition of February 2024

- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.'**
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- **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.
- 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.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of July 2024

- The **International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM)** and the **Anti-Ageing Foundation (India)** hosted the **9th Annual World Congress – Longevity Revolution 2024 in New Delhi**. The event featured **advances in regenerative medicine, workshops**, keynotes from renowned scientists, and discussions on aging, aesthetics, and health.
- The **'Global India AI Summit 2024'** commences today in **New Delhi**, hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement. It will feature sessions on IndiaAI's strategic pillars, including compute capacity, datasets platform, innovation centers, and skills development. Sessions will explore topics like **'IndiaAI: Large Language Models'** and **'GPAI Convening on Global Health and AI'**.
- India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the **'Colombo Process'** at the Permanent Representative **Level Meeting in Geneva**, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation. The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment. Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.
- Laos authorities have discussed preparations for the **57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting** and related meetings, scheduled to take place in the **Laos capital Vientiane from July 21 to 27**.
- The **NATO summit**, hosted by **President Joe Biden in Washington, DC** from July 9 to 11, marks a pivotal moment for the alliance. It will include Sweden as a new member, highlighting NATO's expansion and unity amidst global challenges. Biden aims to strengthen support for Ukraine, with announcements expected to bolster military, political, and financial aid. The summit, commemorating **NATO's 75th anniversary**, underscores its role in Euro-Atlantic security and collective defense against evolving threats.
- **Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha**, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the **10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia**. The forum aims to explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.
- **India** will host the first **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit** in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in **Goa**. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector.
- **IIT Delhi and Prasar Bharati** will host the **two-day Robot Competition 'DD-Robocon' India 2024** from July 13, at **Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi**. The event will host more than **750 students** from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is set to make history as it holds its **Annual Conference** in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024. This marks the **first time** the prestigious event will be hosted in the **Asian region**, highlighting the growing importance of Asian cricket on the global stage.
- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi** successfully concluded its **Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti** on July 15, 2024, celebrating Sushruta Jayanti. The three-day event, beginning on July 13, honored Sushruta, the father of surgery, with a series of live surgical demonstrations and expert discussions.
- India is hosting the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time**, alongside the **2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in New Delhi**. From July 14 to 23, young professionals from around the world will gather to enhance their skills in heritage preservation and sustainable development. The forum, organized by the **Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India**, focuses on integrating global heritage concepts with local Indian heritage management.
- **India** is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on **civil aviation on September 11 and 12**, with representatives from **around 40 countries**, including **China and Pakistan**. The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market.





- **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, under the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**, hosted **SYNCHN 2024** on July 14th, 2024. This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation.
- A milestone event in space exploration, the **45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** commenced in **Busan, South Korea**. Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.
- The Indian team, which participated at the **35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024** achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a **GOLD medal** and three students securing **SILVER medals**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee** at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation. **PM Modi announced a \$1 million contribution to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for heritage conservation**, particularly in the Global South. He highlighted India's efforts in conserving heritage sites in countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.
- The **Indian tripartite delegation** led by Secretary (Labour & Employment), **Ms. Sumita Dawra**, participated in the **112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)** of **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** being held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** leaves for Italy to attend the **50th G7 leaders' summit**. It will be his first trip abroad after assuming charge as the Prime Minister for the third term. Modi, accompanied by a high-level delegation, will attend an outreach session on the **summit on June 14**. The session will be focused on issues relating to **artificial intelligence, energy, Africa and the Mediterranean**.
- The two day **India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference** concluded in New Delhi on June 14. Officials and experts from the **Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA Member States** including **Bangladesh, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Seychelles and Tanzania** participated in the Conference.
- **Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs**, represented India at the **Summit on Peace in Ukraine**, hosted by **Switzerland at Burgenstock on June 15-16, 2024**. India attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit but did not align itself with any communique or document that emerged. This highlights India's consistent and independent approach to achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

**Summits | Events | Festivals
(National/International) of June 2024**

- The 21st edition of the Asia Pacific premier defence meet, the **Shangri-La Dialogue or the Asian Security Summit**, concluded in **Singapore on 2 June 2024**. Held at the Shangri-La Hotel from 31 May to 2 June, the Dialogue saw participation from over a hundred delegates worldwide, discussing pressing security challenges and exploring fresh approaches.
- The **KAZA 2024 Heads of State Summit** ended in the Zambian resort town of Livingstone on May 31, with leaders of the **five member countries** agreeing to argue their case for lifting of the ban on ivory trade at the **20th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP20)** of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** due next year in Geneva, Switzerland.
- India will host the prestigious **81st International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2025**, marking its return after a **42-year hiatus**. This significant event, scheduled for June 8 to 10, will convene in Delhi, the third time the city has hosted the AGM after 1958 and 1983.
- **Analytical science** refers to the art of measurement and its interpretation. It involves improving the means of measuring the **chemical composition, structure, and morphology** of natural and man-made substances or entities and interpreting the data obtained.
- The **mid-year climate discussions in Bonn, Germany**, concluded recently with **limited progress**, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the **COP29** summit to be held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, later this year.
- At the recent **Summit on Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland**, India opted not to sign the final communique alongside several other nations. This decision stemmed from India's strategic relationship with Russia, its primary defense supplier, and Moscow's absence from the summit, which India deemed crucial for any lasting peace agreement involving Ukraine.
- The **112th International Labour Organization (ILC)** was held in **Geneva from 3-14 June 2024**. It was attended by more than **4,900 delegates – representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations**. The **113rd ILC** will be held in June 2025.
- The **64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council meeting commenced on 25th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, bringing together delegates from over **30 countries** and representatives of various international organizations. The meeting, held from 25-27 June 2024, aims to discuss issues related to the sugar industry and biofuels sectors.





- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** represent India at the annual summit of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in **Astana** next week. The summit, to be held on **July 3 and 4**, is expected to focus on the **regional security situation** and ways to **boost connectivity and trade**.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of May 2024

- India reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding Antarctica's delicate ecosystem and advancing scientific exploration in the region. The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, in collaboration with the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, is set to host the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46)** and the **26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26)** from **May 20 to 30, 2024**, in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- The **26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting** took place in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by Secretary (East) **Jaideep Mazumdar** and Permanent Secretary **Albert Chua of Singapore**. Discussions encompassed the three pillars of engagement—political-security, economic, and socio-cultural—reviewing ASEAN-India relations as outlined in the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025)**.
- The 10th World Water Forum, **themed "Water for Shared Prosperity,"** officially commenced on May 21 in Bali, Indonesia. Attendees included numerous country leaders and United Nations representatives. The forum focused on four critical topics: water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters.
- India has taken on the **chairmanship of the Colombo Process** for the first time since the forum's establishment in 2003. The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum consisting of 12 member states from South and Southeast Asia focused on the management of overseas employment and the protection of migrant workers.



Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of April 2024

- The **19th annual meeting** of the secretaries of the security councils of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member states was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from 2 to 3 April 2024. The Indian delegation was led by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**. He also met **Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the current Chairman of SCO**.
- Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** from April 16 to 18 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**. This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations.
- American President **Joe Biden hosted the inaugural trilateral summit among the United States, Japan, and the Philippines** on April 11, 2024, at the White House in Washington D.C. The meeting underscored the commitment of the United States to support its allies, Japan and the Philippines, amid escalating territorial disputes with China.
- The **16th World Future Energy Summit has commenced in Abu Dhabi**, drawing together global leaders, policymakers, and experts in sustainable energy and climate initiatives. The summit aims to foster dialogue on key issues like global climate action, renewable energy, energy security, and sustainable development.
- The devastating conflict in Sudan has plunged the nation into a profound humanitarian crisis, prompting the international community to take swift action. On April 15, 2024, the French capital, **Paris**, hosted an **International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and Neighbouring Countries**, organized in response to the United Nations' funding appeal on February 7, 2024.
- India, led by Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran**, advocated for the establishment of a region-specific ocean observation center during the **2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain**. The conference, organized by the **Spanish government and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**, aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** and foster collaboration among stakeholders.
- On Earth Day 2024, **Bhutan is spearheading the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference**. With a goal of **mobilizing \$1 billion over a decade**, the conference aims to preserve tiger habitats critical for biodiversity and supporting millions of people.





**Summits | Events | Festivals
(National/International) of March 2024**

- A five-day exchange programme for faculty members of foreign service academies within the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member states has commenced in Dhaka, marking the first of its kind.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** is hosting the **All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024** from 4th to 7th March 2024. Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains.
- The inaugural **Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024** has officially commenced in **Guwahati, Assam**, marking a significant milestone in India's industrial journey. Launched with the objective of enhancing the growth and efficiency of sectors reliant on steam boilers, this three-day event has been inaugurated by Sanjay Kishan, the state's Labour and Employment Minister.
- India is set to host the prestigious **World Telecom Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024**, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), along with the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024. These events aim to foster global collaboration, drive telecom reforms, and showcase India's technological prowess.
- The fourth edition of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum** convened in New Delhi on March 19, 2024, with a focus on enhancing interactions among SCO Member States' startups, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and nurturing young talent.
- **India and Brazil** recently held their inaugural '**2+2**' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations. The talks aimed to deepen cooperation across various sectors, emphasizing energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism.
- The Indian Army is organizing the first **Army Commanders' Conference** for the year 2024 in a **hybrid mode**. The virtual segment of the conference is scheduled for **28th March 2024**, followed by the physical mode in **New Delhi on 1st and 2nd April 2024**. The conference will be chaired by the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Manoj Pande**, and attended by senior military leadership, including Army Commanders participating virtually from their respective Command Headquarters.
- The METOC seminar '**Meghayan-24**' was conducted by the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and the Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at the Southern Naval Command on March 28, 2024. It was organized in commemoration of World Meteorological Day, with the theme '**At the Frontline of Climate Action**' set by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for 2024**.

**Summits | Events | Festivals
(National/International) of February 2024**

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.”**
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July 2024

- The **Fauna of India Checklist Portal** is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India. **India** has become the **first country** in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire **fauna**, covering **104,561 species**. The **‘Fauna of India Checklist Portal’** was launched on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata** on Sunday by **Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav**.
- **India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI)** innovations, trailing behind China, the US, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Despite India’s position, the country has shown the highest annual growth rate in GenAI patent publications, with significant potential for economic impact.
- India’s population is projected to peak at **1.7 billion in the early 2060s** before declining by **12%**, as predicted by the **United Nations’ World Population Prospects 2024** report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world’s most populous country throughout the 21st century.
- A recent study by Kantar reveals that **Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple** are ranked as the **‘most inclusive’ brands in India**. The Kantar Brand Inclusion Index 2024 highlights significant issues of discrimination and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Indian consumers.
- India should set an ambitious target of achieving **\$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030**, as stated in a recent **NITI Aayog report**. This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing. Currently, India’s electronics production totals \$101 billion, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components. The report, titled **“Electronics: Powering India’s Participation in Global Value Chains,”** also forecasts that India’s electronics exports could reach \$240 billion, with domestic value addition expected to surpass 35%.
- India has **maintained its 124th position** in the latest FIFA men’s rankings released. This comes as a small relief for the success-starved nation, which has been experiencing a downward trend in recent months.





- In a recent report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, India has made significant strides in increasing its forest area, gaining **266,000 hectares** annually from **2010 to 2020**.
- The **data on Employment and Unemployment** is collected through **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** which is conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** since 2017-18.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on June 2024

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations released **The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024**, its flagship report providing a comprehensive analysis of the global and regional status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture. It shows, for the first time in 2022, that aquaculture production exceeded fisheries.
- **Infosys**, a leading information technology company, has secured its position among the **100 most valuable brands in the world** for the third consecutive year. This recognition comes from Kantar, a prominent marketing data and analytics business, further solidifying Infosys' reputation as a global brand powerhouse.
- The **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)** has secured the **18th position** in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), marking a significant milestone for India's maritime industry. This achievement underscores the exemplary efforts of Terminal Operator M/s. Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (VCTPL) in enhancing operational efficiency and service delivery.
- Mumbai and Delhi have emerged as top performers in the global luxury real estate market, according to Knight Frank's recent report, **"Prime Global Cities Index January-March 2024"**. Both cities recorded significant increases in house prices, positioning them among the top five global cities for prime residential price growth.
- In **Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey** released on June 17, Mumbai solidifies its position as **India's most expensive city** for expatriates, climbing to **136th globally and 21st in Asia**. New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia, showcasing a notable shift in cost dynamics across Indian cities. Despite economic challenges, India remains resilient, offering affordability advantages for global talent recruitment.
- India has achieved significant milestones in its domestic aviation sector over the past decade, emerging as the **world's third-largest market for domestic airlines by April 2024**. This marks a remarkable ascent from its fifth position ten years ago, driven by robust growth and strategic developments under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership**.

- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment (FDI) to India in 2023 decreased by **43% compared to 2022**, dropping **India's rank to 15th among global FDI recipients**. This decline mirrors a global trend where overall FDI fell by 2%.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on May 2024

- In a remarkable achievement, **Emeritus**, the Indian edtech startup, has secured the coveted **top spot** in **TIME Magazine's "World's Top EdTech Companies of 2024" ranking**. Founded in 2015 by Ashwin Damera and Chaitanya Kalipatnapu, Emeritus offers courses from prestigious global universities, including the University of Cambridge, Harvard Business School, and MIT Sloan, among others.
- The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal has **urged residents to wear masks** due to the alarming increase in air pollution levels in the Kathmandu valley. According to IQAir, an organization that measures real-time pollution in 101 cities worldwide, **Kathmandu has been ranked as the most polluted city globally**.
- In a testament to India's sustained economic growth, **Mumbai and Delhi** have debuted in the **top 50 wealthiest cities** worldwide according to the **Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth**. **Mumbai** secured the **24th position** while **Delhi** claimed the **37th spot**.
- In 2023-24, India experienced positive export growth to **115 out of 238 countries/territories**, with major gains seen in key markets such as the USA, UAE, China, and the UK. However, import declined from **124 countries during this period**.
- The **22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** revealed that the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas of India decreased to **6.7% in the January-March 2024 period**. The survey offers insights into various labor force indicators, including unemployment rate, worker population ratio (WPR), and labor force participation rate (LFPR) based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.
- The **Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)** released its **2024 report**, revealing a mixed bag for Indian higher education institutions. While the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad improved its rank**, many others, including the prestigious Indian Institute of Science, experienced a decline. The report indicates that despite advancements in research output, this success isn't translating equally to higher education excellence. Furthermore, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) witnessed varied performances, with IIT Bombay notably climbing in rankings.





- The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a digital infrastructure initiative **launched in 2021**, has witnessed remarkable growth, with transactions **crossing 70 lakh in April this year**. Led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, ONDC aims to democratize digital commerce and create a level playing field for businesses of all sizes. Let's explore the key highlights and significance of ONDC through subheadings.
- India has ascended to the **39th spot in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024**, marking a significant improvement from its 54th position in 2021. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, India showcases resilience and competitiveness in various aspects of its travel and tourism industry.
- According to a recent report by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, there are more than **4000 Gangetic dolphins in the Gangetic River basin**. **Over 2000** of these dolphins are found in **Uttar Pradesh**, primarily in the Chambal River. This increase suggests that the river's pollution levels are declining, and the government's conservation efforts are proving effective.
- In the latest **Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index**, **Delhi** emerges as the **highest-ranked Indian city**, securing the **350th position** among the **world's 1000 largest cities**. However, no Indian city managed to break into the top 300. The index, encompassing cities from 163 countries, evaluates cities across five key categories: **Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance**. New York clinches the top spot, with London, San Jose, Tokyo, and Paris following suit.
- The World Bank's report, **'Water For Shared Prosperity'**, unveiled at the **10th World Water Forum**, delineates the critical role of water in fostering equitable societies amidst global water access disparities exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and climate change. It highlights the urgency of comprehensive strategies to ensure inclusive water security worldwide.
- In its latest notification, the Income Tax department has established the **Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the financial year 2024-25 at 363**. This index is crucial for taxpayers as it aids in computing long-term capital gains arising from the sale of various capital assets, including immovable property, securities, and jewellery. The CII serves as a tool to adjust for inflation, allowing taxpayers to determine gains accurately by considering the real appreciation of assets rather than gains attributed solely to inflation.
- A recent Lancet study reveals a significant rise in global life expectancy, with **an average increase of 6.2 years between 1990 and 2021**. Notably, India has seen an eight-year increase during this period. The study attributes this rise to declines in deaths from various ailments such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, stroke, and heart disease, although the gains were somewhat offset **by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020**.
- India has been identified as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders, according to the 2022 **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** report. Out of 4,064 samples collected from Indian athletes, 127 individuals tested positive for banned substances, constituting 3.26% of the sample size. This highlights a concerning trend in Indian sports and underscores the need for comprehensive measures to address doping.
- According to a report released by the think tank **'InfluenceMap'**, **just 57 companies** are responsible for **80% of the world's carbon emissions** from fossil fuels and cement over the past seven years. These 57 companies are involved in the production of oil, gas, coal, and cement in the world. The report concludes that the net zero target set under the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015 has not been achieved, and fossil fuels have not been able to have a significant impact on production.
- The World Health Organisation's (WHO) **2024 Global Hepatitis Report** reveals that **India is second only to China in the number of Hepatitis B and C infections, with 3.5 crore cases**. Hepatitis, characterized by liver inflammation, poses significant health risks and can be fatal. The report highlights that 254 million people are affected by Hepatitis B and 50 million by Hepatitis C globally.
- In a momentous achievement, **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** has secured the top position in the **QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024**, reaffirming its status as India's premier academic institution. This remarkable feat not only underscores JNU's commitment to academic excellence but also reflects India's growing prominence in the global education landscape.
- In 2023, India emerged as a frontrunner in digital services exports, surpassing China, as outlined in the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** report. The report highlights significant growth in digitally delivered services globally, with **India's exports reaching \$257 billion**, marking a 17 percent increase from the previous year. This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which registered only 4 percent each.
- India ranks among the **top twelve countries responsible for 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste**, as highlighted in the recent Plastic Overshoot Day report by Switzerland's EA Earth Action. Despite having the lowest per capita plastic waste production globally, **India is expected to generate 7.4 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste in 2024**, a figure the report deems "very high."

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on April 2024

- The northern Indian state of **Uttar Pradesh** has taken the lead in having the highest number of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified products in the country. With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of **69 GI-tagged products**, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on March 2024

- The **Airports Council International (ACI) World** recently released its rankings for the busiest airports worldwide in 2023. **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport secured the tenth position**, handling 7.22 crore passengers annually. This marks a significant progression from its 2019 ranking of 17th place, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Global Forest Watch reveals that India has experienced significant **tree cover loss since 2000, totaling 2.33 million hectares**. This loss includes both natural disturbances and human-induced factors, impacting the country's carbon balance and climate change.
- **Alia Bhatt's inclusion in TIME Magazine's '100 Most Influential People of 2024'** underscores her remarkable ascent as a global icon. Renowned director Tom Harper, lauding her as a **"truly international star,"** highlights her multifaceted talent and magnetic presence both on and off-screen.
- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)** has been honored with the **'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024'** award by Skytrax. The announcement took place during the **Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany**, on April 17. This accolade underscores the exceptional quality of service provided by the airport's staff across various fronts, as evaluated through meticulous audits and assessments.
- The **United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)** latest report, titled **"Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,"** sheds light on India's population dynamics and the persistent disparities in sexual and reproductive health.
- In its recent report titled **"Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope,"** the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** sheds light on India's demographic landscape. With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally. Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic.
- A recent study conducted by **Australian firm Compare the Market AU has revealed intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility**. According to the study, the **Indian passport ranks as the second cheapest worldwide**, with the UAE passport claiming the top spot for affordability. While the Indian passport offers a cost-effective option in terms of both acquisition cost and yearly expenses, its visa-free access is relatively limited compared to higher-priced passports.
- A recent report by the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level**. While **Karnataka and Gujarat maintain strong performances**, states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, necessitating increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization.

- Bloomberg has announced the inclusion of **India's Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds** in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices, with a phased approach over ten months starting January 31, 2025. This follows JP Morgan's similar move earlier, signaling increased foreign investment potential in Indian government securities.
- According to the latest data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-2023. India's arms imports witnessed a 4.7% increase compared to the 2014-2018 period. (Read Complete Article)
- Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled the report **"A Decade of Science – Technology Panorama for Aatmanirbhar Bharat"** at Vigyan Bhavan. Under the leadership of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, the (Office of Principal Scientific Advisor) OPISA to the Government of India, in collaboration with FAST India, has compiled a comprehensive overview of India's technological advancements over the past decade in this report.
- The **V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024** highlights India's continued descent into electoral autocracy since its downgrade in 2018. The report underscores the deterioration of democratic principles, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, media independence, and civil liberties. India's status as one of the top standalone autocracies further accentuates the gravity of its democratic decline.
- India's position on the **DHL Global Connectedness Index** has seen a notable rise, reflecting its burgeoning role in the global economy. From ranking **67th in 2022**, India has advanced to the **62nd position in 2023**, underscoring its increasing significance in the realm of globalization.
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** released its **State of the Global Climate 2023** report, revealing unprecedented levels of climate change indicators. These indicators underscore the urgent need for global action to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has released its **Global Trade Update report**, outlining the state of global trade in 2023 and projections for 2024. Despite a 3% dip in global trade to **\$31 trillion in 2023**, a rebound is expected in 2024 amid geopolitical uncertainties and logistical challenges.
- In a landmark shift, **Mumbai has overtaken Beijing as Asia's billionaire capital**, according to the latest report from the **Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute**. This monumental achievement reflects Mumbai's burgeoning economic landscape and underscores India's rising prominence in global wealth distribution.





- In the latest **Brand Finance Insurance 100, 2024 report**, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) solidifies its position as the strongest insurance brand worldwide, maintaining a stable brand value of Rs 816 billion. With a **Brand Strength Index score of 88.3 and an AAA brand** strength rating, LIC showcases its unparalleled prominence in the industry.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development (IHD)** has released the '**India Employment Report 2024**,' shedding light on the challenges faced by the Indian job market as the financial year comes to a close. **Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran** unveiled the report, which outlines significant shifts in employment patterns and trends in education levels among the unemployed, spanning two decades up to 2022.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on February 2024

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of July 2024

Name of Book	Author
Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service	S Nagesh Kumar
Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Dr I.V. Subba Rao
Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu	Sanjay Kishore
The Prisoner of Bhopal	Tim Walker
Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi	Dr. R Balasubramaniam
Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography	Piyush Pandey
Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi	Dr. R Balasubramaniam

Books & Authors of June 2024

Name of Book	Author
Source Code: My Beginnings	Bill Gates
A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank	Alpana Killawala
I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story	Sidharth Monga
Ed Finds a Home	Alia Bhatt
Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region'	Ramesh Bais

Books & Authors of May 2024

Name of Book	Author
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson
Kairos	Jenny Erpenbeck

Books & Authors of April 2024

Renowned author **Sam Pitroda** has written a new book titled '**The Idea of Democracy**', which explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States. The book launch event was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other eminent personalities from the literary industry.

Name of Book	Author
Knife	Salman Rushdie
The Idea of Democracy	Sam Pitroda
Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond	Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh





Name of Book	Author
Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career	Duvvuri Subbarao
India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda	Bhimeswara Challa
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson
Heavenly Islands of Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
India's Nuclear Titans	Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua
Heavenly Islands of Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
India's Nuclear Titans	Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua

Books & Authors of March 2024

Name of Book	Author
The Gems of Indian Art	Harish Khullar
Sagar Parikrama	Parshottam Rupala
Phool Bahadur'	Abhay K
From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond	S. Raman
Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI	Madhumita Murgia

Books & Authors of February 2024

Name of Book	Author
'Political History of Assam (1947-1971)'- Volume 1	Himanta Biswa Sarma
'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,	Sanjeev Joshi
'9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government – Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana	Jagdeep Dhankhar
Maha Swaapnikudu'	P. Vikram
Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorised & Otherwise, Recollections of a Non-Career Diplomat	S.D. Muni
Sculpted Stones: Mysteries of Mamallapuram	Ashwin Prabhu
Basic Structure and Republic	P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of July 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- In a **historic** moment for Indian cricket, the national team lifted the **T20 World Cup** trophy, ending an 11-year wait for a global title. The **nail-biting final** against South Africa saw India emerge victorious by a narrow margin of seven runs. As the team celebrated their hard-fought win, fans were stunned by an unexpected announcement from their beloved captain, **Virat Kohli**.

- In the aftermath of India's **thrilling victory** over South Africa in the T20 World Cup final, Rohit Sharma confirmed that he had donned the blue jersey for the last time in T20 internationals. The announcement sent ripples through the cricketing world, marking the end of an era for Indian T20 cricket.
- Star India all-rounder **Ravindra Jadeja** has announced his decision to **retire from T20 internationals** following **India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph**. Ravindra Jadeja has called it quits from **T20 internationals**, bowing out on a high with the **T20 World Cup 2024 trophy**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket** in India (BCCI) has announced a consolidated cash prize of **Rs. 125 crore** for the Indian **men's T20 World Cup-winning squad**. The amount is a little over three times than the combined figure that was distributed as bonus after the Men in Blue won the **2011 ODI World Cup**.





- **Jasprit Bumrah**, the hero of India's victorious **T20 World Cup** campaign, has added another accolade to his illustrious career. He was named the '**ICC Men's Player of the Month for June**', cementing his status as one of cricket's premier fast bowlers. **Smriti Mandhana**, the vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team, secured her first **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award.
- In a momentous occasion for cricket fans worldwide, **James Anderson**, the veteran English speedster, has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 41-year-old bowler's illustrious career, spanning an impressive **21 years**, came to a close at the very ground where it all began – the iconic **Lord's Cricket Ground** in London.
- **Cricketer Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot to become **India's most valued celebrity**, boasting a brand value of **\$227.9 million in 2023**. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of **\$237.7 million in 2020**, as reported by Kroll's **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023**.
- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, one of the most successful franchises in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, has announced a significant expansion of its global presence with the establishment of its third international **Super Kings Academy** in Sydney, Australia. This move not only enhances CSK's international profile but also reinforces the franchise's long-standing connection with Australian cricket.
- In a **riveting finale** of the World Championship of Legends 2024, **India Champions** clinched a memorable victory against their arch-rivals **Pakistan Champions** by five wickets. The match, held at **Edgbaston** on July 13, 2024, showcased the enduring spirit of cricket and the fierce competition between these two cricketing powerhouses.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket** in India Secretary Jay Shah on July 20 said that the **BCCI** will provide **Rs 8.5 crore** to the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** as a support for the Indian contingent.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** has now become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India, overtaking **Smriti Mandhana**.
- **Ajinkya Naik**, at 37 years old, has been elected as the youngest president in the history of the **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- Former Indian tennis stars **Leander Paes** and **Vijay Amritraj** have become the **first Asian men** to be inducted into the prestigious **International Tennis Hall of Fame**.

**Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11
Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}**

- In a thrilling finale to Euro 2024, **Spain** secured their **fourth European Championship** trophy with a nail-biting 2-1 victory over **England** at the **Olympiastadion** in Berlin. This win cements Spain's status as the most successful nation in the tournament's history and marks their third title in the last five editions.
- In a move that marks the conclusion of an illustrious international career, **Thomas Müller**, the German football icon, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of **Euro 2024**. This decision brings to a close a chapter that has spanned over a decade, leaving an indelible mark on German and world football.
- **Manolo Marquez** was appointed as the new head coach of the **Indian men's football team** by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** on **July 20**. **Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25**.

Grand Prixes

- **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **British Grand Prix 2024**. He became the first F1 driver to win on any track nine times and also extended his F1 record to 104 wins. His last came at the Saudi Arabian GP in December 2021 — the year he lost the title to Red Bull driver Verstappen.
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**.
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**. The Australian rookie led a strong McLaren one-two finish alongside the British-Belgian racer **Lando Norris**.
- **Kush Maini** achieved his **first-ever Formula 2 win** at the **Hungarian Grand Prix** after **Richard Verschoor**, the original sprint race winner, was disqualified due to a technical infringement. This victory marks **Maini's fifth podium of the season**, placing him eighth in the championship standings, just three points behind Dennis Hauger.

Hockey

- **Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh**, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he will retire from international hockey following the **Paris Olympics 2024**.

**Badminton / Boxing / Wrestling / Weightlifting
Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs
Other Sports Current Affairs**

- **Viswanathan Anand**, the former world chess champion from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He won the **Leon Masters chess championship** for the 10th time, defeating **Jaime Santos Latasa** of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1. This victory adds another jewel to Anand's crown of achievements in the world of chess.





- **India's U23 wrestling team** excelled in **Amman, Jordan**, clinching a total of **19 medals across women's wrestling**, Greco-Roman, and freestyle categories. The women wrestlers led with three gold medals, showcasing dominance in their divisions. Meenakshi, Pushpa Yadav, and Priya Malik stood out with impressive performances, securing victories by various methods including **Victory by Superiority and Victory by Fall**.
- The **Austrian Grand Prix 2024** will be remembered as a day of unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a stunning victory for **George Russell of Mercedes**. This race, held at the iconic **Red Bull Ring** in Spielberg, Austria, showcased the unpredictable nature of Formula 1 racing and the skill of drivers who can capitalize on sudden opportunities.
- A 28-member **Indian athletics team**, led by men's javelin throw defending champion **Neeraj Chopra**, will compete at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on June 04. Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the first Indian **track and field** athlete to win a medal at the Olympics, that too a **gold**. This time, the Indian javelin throw ace will have Olympic debutant Kishore Jena for company in his pet event.
- **Dhruv Sitwala** claimed his **third Asian Billiards** Title by defeating **Pankaj Advani in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. Organized by the ACBS, the championship featured various events including Men's Snooker Team, Men's Billiards, and Women's Asian Snooker.
- Indian squash players secured two titles at the recently concluded **Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024** held at the Arena Emas in **Johor, Malaysia**. The Indian team clinched victories in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles categories.
- Sports brand **PUMA India** has announced a significant partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, becoming the **Official Footwear Partner** for the Indian contingent at the **Paris Olympics 2024**. This collaboration marks a major step in supporting Indian athletes on the global stage and promoting sports excellence in the country.
- **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has announced that India will continue the tradition of having two flag bearers for the **Paris 2024 Olympics**, following the precedent set at Tokyo 2020. This decision aligns with the **International Olympic Committee's** push for gender equality in sports. **PV Sindhu**, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent. **Sharath Kamal**, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer.
- **Four-time Olympian** and **2012 Olympic bronze medalist** Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the **2024 Paris Olympics**. This decision comes after Mary Kom's resignation from the position due to health issues.

- In a significant development for Indian sports, **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming **2024 Paris Olympics**. This announcement marks a pivotal moment in the preparation of Indian athletes for one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.
- **Eurosport India** has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** as the brand ambassador for **MotoGP™** in India.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** on July 12, announced that it has partnered with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of **Saudi Arabia** to host the inaugural **Olympic Esports Games 2025** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Six-time Grand Slam winner and former **World No. 1** in women's doubles **Sania Mirza**, six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist **MC Mary Kom** and actor **Rannvijay Singha** have joined 'Play Sports' as brand ambassadors.

Sports Current Affairs of June 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

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- **Dinesh Karthik**, the veteran **wicketkeeper-batter**, announced his **retirement** from all forms of cricket. The writing was on the wall after his emotional farewell from the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** franchise in the recently concluded **Indian Premier League (IPL)** season.
- The ninth edition of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup** promises to be a thrilling spectacle, with the winners set to take home a **record-breaking prize money** of at least **\$2.45 million**. In addition to the championship glory, the **runners-up** will receive a substantial sum of at least **\$1.28 million**, while the losing **semi-finalists** will each earn a significant **\$787,500**. The total prize pot for the tournament stands at an impressive **\$11.25 million**, ensuring that even the teams that fail to advance beyond the Super 8s stage will be rewarded handsomely.
- The cricketing world witnessed another veteran hanging up his boots as **Kedar Jadhav**, the 39-year-old former Indian all-rounder, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Rohit Sharma**, fondly known as the "Hitman" for his ability to hit towering sixes, etched his name in the record books by becoming the first cricketer in the world to hit 600 sixes in international cricket.





- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **Gudakesh Motie** of the West Indies as the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2024**. In the women's category, **Chamari Athapaththu** of Sri Lanka has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2024**.
- According to the **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023** released by global consulting firm Kroll, cricketer **Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot as India's **most valued celebrity brand** with a brand value of **\$227.9 million**. This marks a **30% jump** from his brand value of \$176.9 million in 2022.
- **Pat Cummins**, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a hat-trick, while David Warner's unbeaten fifty guaranteed a smooth chase as Australia comfortably defeated Bangladesh in their **'Super 8s' Group 1** encounter of the **T20 World Cup**. The match, held in **Antigua** on June 21, was under the threat of rain that disrupted proceedings twice.
- **Rohit Sharma** became the first player to hit **200 sixes in T20Is** during the T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight Group 1 match against Australia at the **Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia** on June 24. Rohit struck a **41-ball 92 and hit eight sixes in the innings**, taking his overall tally to **203 maximums** in the shortest format of the game.
- **Smriti Mandhana** became the **first Indian woman** to record **two consecutive ODI hundreds** during the second ODI against **South Africa** at the **M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru** on June 19. She scripted history on June 23, after she registered the record for the most runs by an Indian woman in a bilateral **One-Day International series**.
- **Pat Cummins** made history on June 23, as he became **first player** to pick up **2 hat-tricks in T20 World Cups** during the Super 8 clash between **Australia and Afghanistan** in St. Vincent. Cummins picked up the wickets of **Rashid Khan, Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib** to achieve the feat.
- The **cricketing world** bid farewell to one of its most dynamic players as **David Warner** officially retired from international cricket. Warner's illustrious 15-year career with the **Australian national team** came to an end following Australia's elimination from the **T20 World Cup** in the Super Eight phase.
- On a remarkable Friday at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium, young Indian opener **Shafali Verma** etched her name in the annals of cricket history with a **record-breaking double century against South Africa** in the one-off Test match.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11
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- Wembley Stadium, **Real Madrid** etched their name in the history books once again by securing a record-extending **15th UEFA Champions League title**. The Spanish giants showcased their trademark resilience and clinical edge, overcoming a valiant **Borussia Dortmund** side with a **2-0 victory**.

Grand Prixes

- The **Canadian Grand Prix 2024**, also known as the **AWS GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2024**, witnessed a remarkable display of skill and determination as Dutch-Belgian racing driver **Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull** claimed his third consecutive victory at the prestigious event. The 9th round of the 2024 F1 championships, held at the iconic **Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve** in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, further solidified Verstappen's dominance on the track.
- In a thrilling display of skill and strategy, **Max Verstappen** secured victory at the **Spanish Grand Prix** on Sunday, further solidifying his position atop the **Formula 1 drivers championship**.

Other Sports Current Affairs

- **Nayana James**, an Asian Athletics Championships bronze medalist, etched her name in glory by clinching the **gold medal** in the women's **long jump** event at the **Taiwan Athletics Open 2024** held in Chinese Taipei. Braving rainy conditions at the Taipei Municipal Stadium, Nayana recorded an impressive distance of **6.43m** to secure the top spot on the podium.
- The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup, a prestigious shooting tournament, is currently underway in **Munich, Germany**, from **May 31 to June 8, 2024**. Amidst the intense competition, Indian shooter **Sarabjot Singh** has etched his name in history by claiming India's **first medal** at the event.
- The prestigious **Norway Chess Tournament** witnessed an electrifying conclusion as the reigning **World No. 1, Magnus Carlsen**, etched his name into the annals of chess history by claiming his sixth title. In a gripping final round, Carlsen outmanoeuvred the formidable **Fabiano Caruana** in an intense **Armageddon** match, solidifying his dominance on the global stage.
- Indian tennis sensation **Sumit Nagpal** has etched his name in history by winning the prestigious **Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament** in Germany. This remarkable achievement marks Nagpal's **sixth ATP Challenger title**, a feat that solidifies his position as India's top-ranked men's singles player.
- Indian strawweight **Puja Tomar** became the first ever Indian to win a bout in the UFC as she defeated **Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos** via split decision at the **UFC Louisville** on June 8. **Puja Tomar beat Rayanne Amanda dos Santos 30-27, 30-27, 29-28**.
- In a landmark decision, the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has designated India as the host country for the inaugural **FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup featuring 24 teams**, set to take place in December 2025.





- **Shruti Vora**, astride Magnanimous, has become the **first Indian rider** to win a **three-star Grand Prix event**- a historic achievement for the Indian equestrian. Shruti scored **67.761 points in the CDI-3 event in Lipica, Slovenia** from June 7-9. The Indian finished ahead of **Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco (Aachen)**, who scored 66.522. **Austria's Juliane Jerich (Quarter Girl)** completed the top 3 with a score of **66.087**.
- The **2024 FIDE U-20 World Chess Championship**, organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), witnessed a remarkable achievement as **18-year-old Divya Deshmukh** from Nagpur, India, clinched the **FIDE Under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship** title. Deshmukh's triumph marks her as the **fourth Indian woman** to win this prestigious title, following in the footsteps of chess legends **Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, and Soumya Swaminathan**.
- In a thrilling final at the **BWF Australian Open 2024** in Sydney on Sunday (16 June), **Lee Zii Jia** from **Malaysia** emerged victorious against **Naraoka Kodai** of Japan, securing his second title of the season.
- The Indian National Ultimate Frisbee team put up a valiant effort in the finals of the Asia **Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) 2024**, finishing as runners-up after a hard-fought match against the Philippines with a final score of 9-12. This marks a historic milestone for Indian Ultimate Frisbee as the national team reached the finals for the first time, demonstrating significant growth and potential on the international stage. The tournament featured 16 teams from across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Indian **javelin star Neeraj Chopra** added another feather to his cap by clinching the **gold medal** in the men's javelin throw event at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2024** in Turku, Finland. The Paavo Nurmi Games is a prestigious **World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level)** event, and Neeraj's victory further solidifies his position as a dominant force in the sport.
- **Olympic bronze medalist wrestler Bajrang Punia** has been suspended by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** for a second time for refusing to provide a urine sample during selection trials. This suspension comes after NADA revoked his previous suspension due to procedural issues. Punia's legal team plans to challenge the suspension, arguing he did not refuse to provide a sample but sought clarification on expired kits used previously.
- In a remarkable display of athletic prowess and dedication, four officers from the Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) of India achieved unprecedented success at the **43rd World Medical and Health Games in Saint-Tropez, France**. Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, Maj Anish George, Capt Stephen Sebastian, and Capt Dania James collectively secured a record-breaking 32 medals, comprising 19 golds, 9 silvers, and 4 bronzes. These achievements underscore their exceptional performance in the world's largest sporting event for health professionals.

- The **Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3 in Antalya, Turkey** concluded on June 23, 2024, with Indian archers showcasing their exceptional skills and bringing home multiple medals. 22-year-old **Dhiraj Bommadevara** emerged as a star performer for India, securing two bronze medals in recurve events.
- Indian wrestlers ended their campaign in the **Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024** with an impressive tally of **11 medals**, including **four gold, two silver, and five bronze**. The event was held in Amman, Jordan, from 22-24 June 2024. Following the U-17 competition, the U-23 championship commenced.
- After a successful **first season in Dubai**, the Global Chess League will return for another edition, this time in London. The highly anticipated second edition of Tech Mahindra Global Chess League will take place in London, England from 3rd to 12th October 2024. It will take place at Friends House in central London.

Sports Current Affairs of May 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** secured a resounding **78-run** victory over the **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** on Sunday, potentially shaping the trajectory of both teams' **2024 Indian Premier League (IPL)** campaigns. This emphatic win significantly boosted **CSK's net run rate**, propelling them to the **third position** in the league standings. Conversely, SRH suffered their second consecutive defeat, slipping to the **fourth spot**.
- The renowned Indian dairy giant **Amul** has been named the Lead Arm sponsor for the USA and South Africa cricket teams during the highly anticipated **T20 World Cup** in June.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has taken strong action against West Indies player Devon Thomas by imposing a **five-year period of ineligibility** from all cricket after he admitted to breaching multiple anti-corruption codes.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the fixtures for the highly anticipated **ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024**, set to take place from **3 to 20 October** in Bangladesh. Cricket enthusiasts worldwide are eagerly awaiting this prestigious tournament, which promises to be an action-packed spectacle of skill and sportsmanship.





- **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, continues to etch his name in the annals of T20 cricket history. In the ongoing edition of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, Chahal achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the **first Indian bowler to take 350 wickets** in the shortest format of the game.
- **Sri Lanka Cricket** has announced that the Indian milk producer **Amul** has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the **Sri Lanka Men's Team** for the duration of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**.
- In a surprising move, **Colin Munro**, the hard-hitting New Zealand top-order batsman, has announced his retirement from **international cricket** after being overlooked for the upcoming **T20 World Cup**. The decision marks the end of an era for the explosive left-hander, who etched his name as one of the most destructive T20 batters in the world.
- The **United World Wrestling (UWW)** has provisionally suspended Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** until **December 31, 2024**, following his suspension by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** for his 'refusal' to provide a urine sample.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC), the **global governing body** of cricket, has appointed the legendary Pakistani cricketer **Shahid Afridi** as the brand ambassador for the upcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This highly anticipated tournament will be co-hosted by the **West Indies** and the **United States of America** from **1st to 29th June 2024**.
- England's fast-bowling allrounder **Brydon Carse** has been handed a **three-month suspension** from all forms of cricket after being found guilty of **breaching betting regulations**. The 28-year-old placed a staggering **303 bets** on various cricket matches between **2017 and 2019**, leading to charges being brought against him.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- The 2024 Madrid Open, held in the Spanish capital from April 22 to May 5, witnessed two remarkable champions in the singles events. **Iga Swiatek** of Poland claimed her first Madrid Open title, while **Andrey Rublev** of Russia secured his second triumph in this prestigious tournament.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

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- The Spanish football giants, **Real Madrid**, have etched another remarkable achievement in their illustrious history by securing the **La Liga 2023-24 season title**. Los Blancos, as they are affectionately called by their supporters, sealed the championship after defeating Cadiz 3-0, while their closest rivals Barcelona suffered a 4-2 loss against Girona.

- In a historic move, the **United Nations General Assembly** has unanimously proclaimed **May 25** as the **World Football Day**, marking a significant milestone in the global celebration of the world's most popular sport.
- **Sunil Chhetri**, India's **most decorated footballer**, has announced his retirement from **international football**. The **FIFA World Cup Qualifier** game against **Kuwait** in **Kolkata** on **June 6** will be his last appearance for the national team.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo**, despite nearing the twilight of his career, has secured the **top spot on Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes**. His significant earnings in Saudi Arabia have propelled him to this position for the fourth time.
- In a historic moment for South American football, **Brazil** was declared the host of the **2027 Women's World Cup** at the **FIFA Congress**. The Brazilian bid triumphed over the joint bid from **Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany**, becoming the first South American country to secure the hosting rights for the prestigious tournament.
- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** has confirmed **Australia** as the hosts for the **AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026**. The continental football governing body made this announcement after the AFC Executive Committee ratified the recommendations of the AFC Women's Football Committee at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

Grand Prixes

- **Lando Norris** of **McLaren** clinched his **first-ever Grand Prix victory** in a pulsating showdown at the **Miami Grand Prix**. The young Briton's triumph sent shockwaves through the motorsport world, igniting jubilant celebrations and a deluge of admiration across social media platforms.
- **Anandana**, The Coca-Cola India Foundation, has forged its maiden alliance with Hockey India for the **National Women's Hockey League 2024**. This collaboration aims to elevate women's hockey by providing essential resources and support to players, aligning with Coca-Cola India's commitment to sports and gender equality through its **#SheTheDifference** campaign.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic and world champion in javelin throw, started his 2024 season on a strong note, securing a **second-place finish** at the **Doha Diamond League 2024**. Chopra's impressive throw of **88.36m** on his final attempt fell just **2cm short** of Czechia's **Jakub Vadlejch**, the reigning Diamond League champion and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist.
- In a display of sheer dominance, **World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen** pulled off an incredible comeback to claim victory at the 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland. Despite starting the day trailing by 2.5 points behind **GM Wei Yi**, Carlsen embarked on a remarkable 10-game winning streak, ultimately overtaking his rival and securing the championship title.





- In a showcase of electrifying motorcycle racing, **Jorge Martin** of Pramac Ducati emerged victorious in the nail-biting 2024 French MotoGP. The Spaniard fended off fierce challenges from **Marc Marquez** and **Francesco Bagnaia** to claim the top spot on the podium, extending his lead in the championship standings.
- **Max Verstappen**, the defending Formula 1 World Champion, showcased his prowess on the track by clinching a hard-fought victory at the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024**. The Dutchman held off a spirited challenge from McLaren's rising star, **Lando Norris**, to secure his third win of the season.
- **Charles Leclerc**, the **Ferrari driver**, has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first **Monegasque driver to win the Monaco Grand Prix** since **Louis Chiron** in **1931**, ending a drought of 92 years.

Hockey

Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has announced that India will host the prestigious **2025 BWF World Junior Championships** at the **National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati**. This marks a significant milestone as India will be hosting this premier badminton event for the first time since 2008, when it was held in Pune.
- The People's Republic of China has reclaimed its throne as the top badminton nation, clinching both the men's and women's titles at the prestigious **2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals** in Chengdu. This remarkable feat marks the first time since 2012 that China has conquered both the men's and women's world team championships.
- The world's third-ranked Indian badminton pair of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** etched their names in glory by winning the coveted **Thailand Open 2024** men's doubles title. In a thrilling final clash on **May 19, 2024**, the dynamic duo defeated the Chinese pair of **Chen Bo Yang** and **Liu Yi** with a scoreline of **21-15, 21-15**, in a match that lasted **46 minutes**.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

Other Sports Current Affairs

- The Indian athletes continued their impressive medal-winning spree at the **21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024**, with **Harshit Kumar** clinching a gold medal in the highly competitive Hammer throw event. His outstanding throw of 66.7 meters secured India's latest gold at the prestigious event. As the third day of the championship drew to a close, the Indian contingent had amassed a total of **18 medals**, including five from the latest round of events.

- The **16th edition** of the **Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru** witnessed Kenyan runners **Peter Mwaniki** (28:15) and **Lilian Kasait** (30:56) emerging victorious in the **international elite men's and women's categories**, respectively.
- **Anandana**, The Coca-Cola India Foundation, has forged its maiden alliance with Hockey India for the **National Women's Hockey League 2024**. This collaboration aims to elevate women's hockey by providing essential resources and support to players, aligning with Coca-Cola India's commitment to sports and gender equality through its **#SheTheDifference** campaign.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic and world champion in javelin throw, started his 2024 season on a strong note, securing a **second-place finish** at the **Doha Diamond League 2024**. Chopra's impressive throw of **88.36m** on his final attempt fell just **2cm short** of Czechia's **Jakub Vadlejch**, the reigning Diamond League champion and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist.
- In a display of sheer dominance, **World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen** pulled off an incredible comeback to claim victory at the 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland. Despite starting the day trailing by 2.5 points behind **GM Wei Yi**, Carlsen embarked on a remarkable 10-game winning streak, ultimately overtaking his rival and securing the championship title.
- In a remarkable achievement, **P Shyaamnikhil** from Tamil Nadu has etched his name in the annals of Indian chess history by becoming the country's **85th Grandmaster (GM)**. The **31-year-old chess prodigy**, who embarked on his journey at the tender age of eight, finally secured the coveted **third and final GM norm** at the prestigious **2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament**.
- Indian para-athlete **Deepthi Jeevanji** etched her name in history by winning the **gold medal** in the women's **T20 400m event** at the **World Para Athletics Championships 2024**. Her stunning performance on Monday not only secured India's first gold medal at the prestigious event but also set a new **world record** time of **55.07 seconds**.
- **German tennis star Alexander Zverev** etched his name in history by winning the **Italian Open** singles title for the second time. The 25-year-old defeated the first-time Masters finalist, **Nicolas Jarry of Chile**, in straight sets, **6-4, 7-5**, to claim his eighth overall Masters title.
- The Indian boxing contingent made a remarkable impact at the 3rd Elorda Cup 2024, held in the Kazakh capital city of **Astana**. The team returned with an impressive haul of **12 medals**, including **2 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze**.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has launched the **"Let's Move India"** campaign in collaboration with the **Reliance Foundation** and the **Abhinav Bindra Foundation**. The initiative aims to celebrate the Olympians heading to the upcoming **Paris Olympics** and encourage everyone to participate in physical activity.





- The Indian gymnast, **Dipa Karmakar**, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any **Asian Championships**. Hailing from Tripura, Dipa achieved this remarkable feat in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on May 26, 2024.
- The **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)** has taken a significant step by agreeing to join the **World Boxing (WB)**, a newly established governing body formed after the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** refused to recognize the **International Boxing Association (IBA)**. This move comes amidst the ongoing **World Olympic qualifiers** in Bangkok, where the **BFI's affiliation** will be ratified by the WB executive board.

Sports Current Affairs of April 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, the legendary **wicketkeeper-batter**, has etched his name in the history books once again. During an **Indian Premier League (IPL)** match between **Delhi Capitals (DC)** and **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, Dhoni achieved a remarkable feat, becoming the first **wicketkeeper** to record **300 dismissals** in **T20 cricket**.
- **Nepal's 24-year-old all-rounder Dipendra Singh Airee** etched his name in the history books by smashing six sixes in a single over during the **ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup clash against Qatar** in Al Amerat.
- **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** took the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 by storm, crushing their opponents Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) with a record-breaking total of **287 runs for the loss of just 3 wickets**. Pat Cummins-led team had scored 277 for 3 in its second match of the ongoing edition against **Mumbai Indians** at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, breaking the then record of 263 for 5, set by RCB against the now-defunct **Pune Warriors India in 2013 in Bengaluru**.
- The **Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamshala** has become the first **BCCI-accredited venue** to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'. This new technology is set to transform the game, as future international and IPL matches will be played on this innovative track.
- In the 2024 edition of the prestigious **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack**, two exceptional talents have been crowned as

the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World, **Australian captain Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt**.

- **Rohit Sharma**, the former captain of the Mumbai Indians, etched his name in the annals of **Indian Premier League (IPL) history** by becoming only the second player to feature in 250 IPL matches. This remarkable milestone was achieved during a match against the Punjab Kings in Mullanpur, Chandigarh, further solidifying Rohit's status as an IPL legend.
- In a move to strengthen its **international presence**, 'Nandini', the dairy brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has announced its decision to **sponsor** the cricket teams of **Scotland and Ireland** for the upcoming **2024 T20 World Cup**. According to KMF's managing director, **MK Jagadish**, the teams will prominently display the 'Nandini' brand during the matches.
- **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, stands tall as the **highest wicket-taker in IPL history**. With a staggering 200 wickets in 153 matches.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend **Sana Mir** as the ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier**. Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend **Yuvraj Singh** as an ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. The announcement comes with just 36 days remaining until the highly anticipated global event for T20 cricket commences.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- The top-seeded duo of **Rohan Bopanna** from India and **Matthew Ebden** from Australia won the **Men's Doubles Title** at the **Miami Open**, a prestigious **ATP Masters** tennis tournament. In an exciting final, they defeated the second seeds **Ivan Dodig** and **Austin Krajicek** with a score of **6-7(3), 6-3, [10-6]**.
- **Novak Djokovic**, the **24-time Grand Slam champion**, continues to break records on the ATP Tour. As of this week, he begins his **419th week** as the **World No. 1**, extending his huge record. On Sunday, April 9, 2024, Djokovic will surpass **Roger Federer's record** and become the **oldest World No. 1** in ATP Rankings history at the age of **36 years and 321 days**.
- In a historic moment for **Indian tennis**, **Sumit Nagal** becomes the first Indian player to win an **ATP Masters 1000 match on clay courts**, marking a significant milestone in his career. Nagal's remarkable feat at the **Rolex Monte Carlo Masters cements his status as India's top tennis player**.





Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- In a groundbreaking announcement, Saudi Arabia's oil behemoth, **Aramco**, and the international football governing body, **FIFA**, have joined forces in a strategic **global partnership**. The deal, spanning until 2027, designates Aramco as FIFA's Major Worldwide Partner exclusively in the energy sector, encompassing sponsorship rights for marquee events including the **FIFA World Cup 2026 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027**.

Grand Prixes

- Triple world champion **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull dominated the **Japanese Grand Prix**, leading a one-two finish for his team alongside teammate Sergio Perez. Verstappen was in control throughout the race after starting from pole position, claiming his third win from the first four races of the 2024 season.
- In a display of sheer dominance, **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull Racing claimed a resounding victory at the long-awaited **Chinese Grand Prix**, extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship. The Dutchman's triumph marked the first Formula One race in China in five years, and he left no room for doubt, leading from start to finish.

Hockey

- The **Indian hockey** landscape is set to witness a groundbreaking event with the inaugural season of the **National Women's Hockey League 2024 – 2025**. Scheduled to be held in Ranchi from April 30 to May 9, this league promises to be a thrilling showcase of the country's top women's hockey talent.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs Other Sports Current Affairs

- The **Maharashtra team** emerged as the undisputed champion at the **56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24**, clinching both the **men's and women's titles**. The championship was held at Delhi's **Karnail Singh Stadium** and the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.
- In the latest **FIDE rankings** released by the **world governing body of chess**, India has a **new number 1** chess player – **Arjun Erigaisi**. With a **standard rating of 2756**, Erigaisi is **ranked ninth in the world**. This is his **debut in the top 10** of the Open standard list.

- The **IWF World Cup 2024** was held in Phuket, Thailand from **March 31 to April 11, 2024**. The event was organized by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the world governing body for men's and women's weightlifting. 25-year-old Indian weightlifter **Bindyarani Devi** competed in the women's 55kg category and won a bronze medal.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has named Sri Lankan cricketer **Kamindu Mendis** as the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2024**. Mendis' historic batting performances in the first Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet were instrumental in Sri Lanka's comfortable victory. On the women's side, **England's Maia Bouchier** has been awarded the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2024**.
- India's 19-year-old **Udit** won the silver medal in the men's 57kg category at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2024** in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. **Abhimanyou (men's 70kg) and Vicky (men's 97kg)** also won the bronze medals in their respective weight divisions to take India's tally to three medals after the opening day of the competition.
- In a display of unparalleled skill and consistency, **Rashmi Kumari** has etched her name deeper into the annals of Indian carrom history by claiming her **12th National Carrom Championship title**. The three-time World Champion overcame a tough challenge from **K Nagajothi in the women's final**, emerging victorious with a scoreline of 25-8, 14-20, 25-20.
- Lithuania's rising star in the discus throw, **Mykolas Alekna**, etched his name in the annals of athletics history. At the Oklahoma Throws Series meeting in Ramona, the 21-year-old Alekna shattered the longest-standing men's world record in track and field, hurling the discus to an incredible distance of **74.35 meters***.
- Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece** swept aside his opponent, Casper Ruud of Norway, with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 victory to win the prestigious clay-court **Monte Carlo Masters for the third time in four years**. The emotional triumph was marked by Tsitsipas' tears of joy as he sat in his chair, reflecting on his hard-fought journey to this momentous achievement.
- In a remarkable display of skill, flexibility, and unwavering determination, India's young skating sensation, **Takshvi Vaghani**, has etched her name in the record books by setting a new world record for the **lowest limbo skating over 25 metres**. On April 18, 2024, the 6-year-old prodigy from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, defied the boundaries of human agility, gliding across the 25-meter distance at a mere **16 cm (6.29 in)** above the ground.
- In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy **Dommaraju Gukesh**, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Not only that, but Gukesh is also the first teenager to win the prestigious tournament.





- In a remarkable achievement, **World No. 6 Casper Ruud** of Norway defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas** of Greece, clinching the **ATP Barcelona Open 500** singles title. The final scoreline of 7-5, 6-3 marked a significant milestone for Ruud, as he secured the **biggest trophy** of his professional career.
- Indian squash Player, **Saurav Ghosal**, the nation's premier player, has announced his retirement from professional squash. The 37-year-old's decision marks the end of an illustrious career that spanned over two decades, during which he achieved numerous milestones and brought glory to the country.

Sports Current Affairs of March 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** grandly inaugurated the **Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0** at the **Luhnu Cricket Ground** in **Bilaspur** on **March 5, 2024**. **Chief Guests** Indian cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** and Indian cricket team coach **Rahul Dravid** graced the occasion as chief guests.
- England's James Anderson claimed his 700th Test wicket by dismissing India's Kuldeep Yadav in Dharamsala on the morning of Day 3 of the final Test against India. This historic milestone makes Anderson the third bowler to reach the 700-wicket mark in Test cricket.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal**, the young Indian opener, has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for **February 2024**. In the women's category, **Annabel Sutherland** of Australia claimed the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award for February 2024.
- Mumbai** won the **Ranji Trophy 2024** after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. This was their **42nd Ranji Trophy title**, showcasing their dominance in Indian domestic cricket. Mumbai ended their **8-year drought** by winning the championship after last lifting the title in the 2015-16 season.
- Australian **wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has announced his decision to **retire from red-ball cricket** (first-class cricket).
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** organized an exhibition cricket match to promote **voter education and inclusivity**. The match was played between the **Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team** and the **Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team** on **March 16, 2024**, at **Karnail Singh Stadium** in **New Delhi**.

- Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli** has etched his name in history by becoming the **first Indian cricketer** to score **12,000 runs** in the **T20 format**. Kohli accomplished this remarkable feat during the opening match of the **2024 Indian Premier League (IPL)** between **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** and **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** at the **MA Chidambaram Stadium**.
- In a historic move, the **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** will host a **day-night Test match** between the **Australian and English women's cricket teams**. This will be the first time a **pink-ball Test** is played at the iconic venue. The **four-day match** is scheduled from **January 30 to February 2, 2025**.
- Veteran Kenyan allrounder **Collins Obuya** has announced his **retirement from cricket** following Kenya's defeat to Uganda in the **third-place play-off match** at the **African Games**.
- Sharfuddoula** has created history by becoming the first **Bangladeshi umpire** to be appointed to the **ICC Elite Panel of Umpires**. His appointment was confirmed following the **International Cricket Council's** annual review and selection process.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- Spain's women's team** secured a historic victory over **France**, winning the **first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League** with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville. The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport.

Grand Prixes

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** clinched **victory** at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, starting from **pole position**. It marked Red Bull's second consecutive **one-two finish** in the 2024 Formula One season.
- Australian Grand Prix, **Carlos Sainz** of **Ferrari** emerged victorious, marking a remarkable comeback just **two weeks after undergoing appendicitis surgery**. The race was filled with drama, including the **first retirement** in two years for **Red Bull's reigning world champion Max Verstappen**.

Hockey

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has appointed former Indian men's hockey team captain and goalkeeper **PR Sreejesh** and Chile's **Camila Caram** as **co-chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee**. This announcement was made by the FIH on March 27, 2024.





Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- **B. Sai Praneeth**, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport.
- Indian badminton stars **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** have won the BWF French Open men's doubles title, defeating **Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan** in the final.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

Other Sports Current Affairs

- The **10th edition of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** concluded with **Puneri Paltan** emerging as champions for the first time, after a closely contested final against **Haryana Steelers**. The final score read 28-25 in favor of Puneri Paltan, with the match taking place on March 1. Pankaj Mohite shone brightly for Paltan, scoring nine raid points, including a crucial super raid that proved to be a game-changer.
- The scenic town of Shimla has become the centre stage for the first-ever **Asian River Rafting Championships**, officially opened on March 4th, 2024, by Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**.
- **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated the **5th ONGC Para Games**, praising para-athletes for their unwavering determination. The event took place at **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi** with the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and senior officials from Oil & Gas PSUs.
- In the final of the **Indian Wells ATP tournament** on Sunday, **Carlos Alcaraz** of Spain defeated **Daniil Medvedev** of Russia in straight sets, with a score of **7-6 (7/5), 6-1**.
- In the women's **long jump** event at the 3rd **Indian Open Jumps Competition**, **Nayana James** from Kerala recorded a **personal best mark of 6.67m** to secure the **gold medal**.
- **Ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal** will be the **Indian team's flagbearer** for the upcoming **Paris 2024 Olympics**. The announcement was made by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- Indian **star paddler G. Sathiyam** has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the **first-ever Indian** to win a **men's singles trophy** at a **WTT Feeder Series** event. This historic moment took place in **Beirut, Lebanon**, where Sathiyam triumphed over his compatriot **Manav Thakkar** with a **3-1 (6-11 11-7 11-7 11-4)** victory in the final of the **WTT Feeder Beirut 2024**.
- **Haryana** clinched the **team titles** in both the boy's and girls categories with an impressive combined haul of **19 medals** at the **Boxing Sub Junior National Championship**. Haryana showcased its dominance by finishing on top in both categories. The tournament witnessed the participation of **612 boxers**, including **337 boys** and **275 girls**.

- Indian paddler **Sreeja Akula** clinched the **women's singles title** at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon. The **world no. 47** Indian came from behind to secure a **6-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-9** victory over the lower-ranked **Sarah D Nutte** of Luxembourg in the final.
- **IIT Madras** is set to host the prestigious '**6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament**' on March 30 and 31, 2024. The tournament, sanctioned by the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)**, will draw the participation of esteemed players from across the globe, including Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters.

Sports Current Affairs of February 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- **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.
- **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.
- **Etihad 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.
- **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.
- **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**.





- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- **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.

- 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.

Important Terms associated: tennis

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

Hockey

- 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.





Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- **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**.

Other Sports Current Affairs

- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.

- **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.
- Grand Master **Wei Yi** emerged triumphant in the highly anticipated **2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament**, showcasing his exceptional skill and tactical prowess.
- 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.
- The iconic **Jungfrau**, 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**.
- 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.
- 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 Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has suspended hammer thrower Rachna Kumari for 12 years for a second anti-doping rule violation.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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**.





- 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.
- **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.

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of July 2024

- **Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin** have designated India as a partner nation in their **human spaceflight initiative**, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity. The program offers six seats aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, taking participants on an 11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.
- A **Google employee** recently created the **"world's first AI dress"** and it has astonished many on the internet. **Christina Ernst**, a **software engineer** at the tech giant and the **Founder of SheBuildsRobots.org**, a platform which aims to educate girls on building robots, shared a clip of her creation which has robotic snakes attached to it to detect faces.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on June 2, announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed its **halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point** on July 2. This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the **second halo orbit**.
- **Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket** successfully blasted off for the **first time**, restoring the continent's independent access to space after a series of setbacks. Initially delayed for an hour by a small problem, the rocket lifted off from Kourou, French Guiana, releasing satellites into orbit. This launch marked a significant milestone for European space efforts, which had suffered from delays and loss of independent launch capabilities.
- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has **launched MeDeViS (Medical Devices Information System)**, an online platform designed to be the first global open access clearing house for information on medical devices. It aims to support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata** on July 10, 2024. This initiative aims to foster technological solutions for shipyard challenges and promote innovation through Indian start-ups.

- In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song **"The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" to Venus**, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space. The transmission was made possible through **NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN)**, from their **Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California**. Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination.
- **Elon Musk** said on July 16, said that he would move the **headquarters of two of his businesses**, the social media platform X and the **rocket manufacturer SpaceX**, to Texas, escalating an increasingly contentious **fight with California**.
- NASA has achieved a significant milestone with the discovery of **six new exoplanets**: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. This brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life.
- In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, **OpenAI**, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, has announced the development of an **AI-powered search engine** called **SearchGPT**.

Science & Technology of June 2024

- As part of the **Artemis program**, which intends to bring humans back to the lunar surface, **NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA)** are working together to create a **common time system** for the moon. The project aims to meet the requirement for a common timekeeping system to manage missions from various nations and private organizations.
- **Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang** revealed the company's groundbreaking next-generation AI chip platform, Rubin, set for a 2026 release. The Rubin family, comprising GPUs, CPUs, and networking processors, promises to revolutionize AI capabilities. Notably, Nvidia plans an aggressive shift to annual releases, aiming to keep pace with AI advancements and maintain its market dominance.





- Boeing and NASA are gearing up for the highly anticipated launch of the **Starliner spacecraft's first crewed flight test**, scheduled for **June 5 from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida**. This historic event marks a significant milestone in space exploration, with veteran NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams aboard the spacecraft.
- ISRO, through its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has introduced the **PraVaHa software**, a **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)** tool aimed at facilitating aerodynamic design and analysis for aerospace vehicles.
- A group of teachers and students at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad**, directed by **Prof. Sudheer Siddapureddy and Ameer Mulla**, with funding from the **TiHAN Foundation, IIT Hyderabad (NMICPS, Indian government)**, has created a **drone for fire rescue assistance**.
- **Volvo Cars** announces the debut of the **world's first EV battery passport**, which meticulously documents the lineage of **raw materials, components, recycled content, and carbon footprint** for its forthcoming **flagship EX90 SUV**, ahead of the EU rules. Volvo owners can access a simplified version of the passport using a **QR code on the inside of the driver's door**.
- **Nvidia's** remarkable rally to record highs on Wednesday saw the artificial intelligence chipmaker's valuation soar past the \$3 trillion mark, eclipsing Apple and securing its position as the **world's second most valuable company**. This significant shift marks a departure from Silicon Valley's traditional dominance by Apple, particularly since the launch of the iPhone in 2007.
- **Peru and Slovakia** on May 30, signed **NASA's Artemis Accords**, making them the latest in a rapid number of countries to join the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space. Both countries signed the accords at **NASA's Washington headquarters**, but in separate ceremonies with **Peru** the first to add its name to the accords on May 30 followed by **Slovakia**. **Peru** became **41st** and **Slovakia 42nd** countries to do so.
- **Space agency ISRO** has announced a **joint Indo-French infrared earth observation satellite mission, TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment)**, to **monitor surface temperature and water management around the world**.
- Scientists have discovered a new **species of great ape** which lived **11 million years ago** and only ever grew to the size of a human toddler, making it the smallest known to science. The now-extinct ape species, which has been named **Burionius manfredschmidi**, was uncovered at the **Hammerschmiede fossil site in Bavaria**.
- NASA reassured the public that there was no emergency on the **International Space Station (ISS)** after a medical drill was mistakenly broadcasted, causing alarm on social media. The simulation involved a crew member in distress but was not related to any real situation. NASA clarified that the incident was a training exercise and not an actual emergency.
- **Wipro** has announced the launch of its **Lab45 AI platform**, designed to leverage generative AI (GenAI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning technologies to enhance efficiencies and transform business functions across industries.
- **'Lal', 'Mursan' and 'Hilsa'**. These are the names given to **three craters on the surface of Mars** recently discovered by **Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, that hint at the red planet's wet past. Lal has been named after legendary cosmic ray physicist from Varanasi, the late **Professor Devendra Lal**. The other two have been named after **Mursan town in UP's Hathras district**, and **Hilsa town in Nalanda district of Bihar**.
- A **woman-led start-up** has successfully developed an **AI-based tool** that creates a **"robust and multi-faceted authentication system"** by combining facial recognition with gait analysis. This innovative solution marks a **"significant advancement"** in **biometric authentication technology**, offering **"enhanced accuracy and reliability"**.
- **Egypt and Bahrain** have joined **China** as international partners to develop and deliver scientific instruments for the **Chang'e-7 mission**. The Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA), Bahrain's National Space Science Agency, and the Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics, and Physics signed a cooperation agreement to jointly develop a **hyperspectral camera** as part of the goal of developing and delivering scientific instruments for the **Chang'e-7 mission**.
- Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup, has successfully completed its maiden mission with the **Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites**. These satellites have securely deorbited after completing **15,000 orbits around Earth**. Launched aboard **ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022**, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company.
- **Nvidia**, the startup at the centre of the **artificial intelligence boom**, has become the world's most valuable company, knocking **Microsoft off** the top spot. Nvidia's market capitalisation hit **\$3.335 trillion** on June 18, as shares of the chipmaker rose by **3.5 percent to \$135.58**.
- **SpaceX** has launched NASA's final satellite for the **NOAA program**, enhancing continuous weather monitoring across the **Western Hemisphere**. This launch improves the **US ability to monitor solar flares from eight-hour intervals to every 30 minutes**.





Science & Technology of May 2024

- In a collaborative effort between the **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP)** of Kamrup Election District and the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**, a groundbreaking 3D-printed dummy ballot unit has been unveiled. The initiative aims to enhance voter awareness and engagement, particularly among new voters and senior citizens, by providing a practical experience of the voting process.
- Indian-origin astronaut **Sunita Williams**, alongside colleague **Butch Wilmore**, is embarking on her third space mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. This mission marks the inaugural crewed flight of the Starliner spacecraft, designed to test its systems from launch to landing.
- In a groundbreaking discovery detailed in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, researchers have revealed the **Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay** as the deepest known blue hole on Earth, descending to a staggering depth of 1,380 feet. Surpassing the previous record-holder, the **Sansha Yongle Blue Hole, by 480 feet**, this abyss presents a tantalizing opportunity for scientific exploration and the potential discovery of new marine life.
- **Setu**, a leading Indian **fintech** company and part of the **Pine Labs Group**, has unveiled **Sesame**, India's first **Large Language Model (LLM)** specifically designed for the **banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI)** sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm **Sarvam AI**, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.
- ISRO, through the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** with support from other launch vehicle centers, is advancing the development of a semi-cryogenic propulsion system. This system aims to enhance the payload capacity of **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)** and future launch vehicles by utilizing a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine powered by a combination of **liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene**.
- NASA has unveiled its ambitious plan to construct the **first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track)**, designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon. This innovative system aims to provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient transportation essential for the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base, aligning with NASA's Moon to Mars initiative and mission concepts like the **Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2)**.
- **NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** have decided to operate an instrument on the **X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM)** satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half, despite encountering an issue affecting one of its instruments. This decision showcases the agencies' determination to push forward with this groundbreaking X-ray astronomy mission.
- Highlighting the historical importance and modern relevance of millets, **Google Arts & Culture**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**, presents an engaging digital exhibition titled **"Millets: Seeds of Change."** This exhibition delves into the journey of millets, showcasing their evolution from ancient staples to contemporary superfoods, and emphasizes their nutritional value, role in climate resilience, and potential to address global food security challenges.
- In a move that underscores its commitment to **artificial intelligence (AI)** and cloud computing, tech giant **Microsoft Corp.** has announced plans to invest a staggering **€4 billion** (approximately **\$4.3 billion**) in building **cloud and AI infrastructure in France**. This latest investment highlights the company's continued focus on advancing its AI capabilities and expanding its cloud services globally.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is gearing up for a landmark mission that aims to land a **rover and helicopter on Mars**. This historic endeavor, named **Mangalyaan-2**, seeks to place India alongside the US and China as a significant player in interplanetary exploration. The project was unveiled during a presentation at the Space Application Centre on National Technology Day.
- Indian expatriate **Gopi Thotakura** joined the ranks of space explorers as the first **Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere**. The NS-25 mission, part of **Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program**, saw **Thotakura** and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.
- Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, **Noise**, has announced the acquisition of the **AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat**. This strategic move is part of Noise's broader strategy to **advance innovation in smart rings**, particularly its flagship wearable, the **Luna Ring**.
- Microsoft has introduced a new category of personal computers, **'Copilot+ PCs'**, featuring advanced AI capabilities to compete with Alphabet and Apple. These devices, developed in collaboration with **Acer and ASUSTeK Computer**, aim to perform AI tasks locally without relying on cloud data centers. The launch event took place at Microsoft's Redmond, Washington campus on May 20, with sales starting on June 18 at a base price of \$1,000.
- Direct geological evidence of recent volcanic activity on Venus has been confirmed for the second time, thanks to archival data from **NASA's Magellan mission**. Scientists in Italy have detected surface changes indicating new rock formations from lava flows linked to volcanic eruptions that occurred while the spacecraft was in orbit.





- In a landmark achievement for sustainable space exploration, **Wipro 3D and ISRO** have jointly developed and successfully tested a **3D-printed rocket engine for India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**. The engine, designed for the fourth stage (PS4), marks a significant advancement in additive manufacturing technology within India's space program.

Science & Technology of April 2024

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, tech giants Microsoft and OpenAI have revealed plans to construct an unprecedented artificial intelligence supercomputer known as **"Stargate."** This ambitious endeavor, estimated to cost a staggering \$100 billion, represents a significant leap forward in **AI infrastructure and capabilities**.
- Meta, the parent company of **Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram**, has extended its third-party fact-checking initiative in India by partnering with the **Press Trust of India (PTI)**. This collaboration establishes PTI as a dedicated fact-checking unit within its editorial department, enabling the identification, review, and rating of misinformation across Meta platforms.
- **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)**, in collaboration with Satellogic, has successfully launched India's inaugural private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, **TSAT-1A**. This significant milestone marks a new era in India's space endeavors, offering enhanced surveillance capabilities to the country.
- GUJCOST has been appointed as the **Nodal Centre for ISRO's START programme**, aimed at nurturing aspiring scientists and engineers in the field of space science and technology. The programme, conceptualized by ISRO, provides an introductory online platform covering various areas of space science research.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Chandrayaan-3 mission team** has been awarded the **2024 John L. "Jack" Swigert, Jr. Award** for Space Exploration by the **US-based Space Foundation**. This prestigious award is given to recognize the remarkable achievements of a space agency, company, or consortium in the realm of space exploration and discovery.
- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IIT Jodhpur)** have unveiled a groundbreaking nano-sensor designed to swiftly detect Cytokines, vital proteins regulating various cellular functions. This innovation aims to combat the high mortality rates resulting from delayed diagnoses and the absence of early warnings in disease progression.
- In a joint announcement, **President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** revealed that Japanese astronauts will join future **NASA lunar missions as part of**

the Artemis program. This move is seen as a strategic effort to strengthen economic and defense ties between the United States and Japan.

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **chief S Somanath** has revealed that the upcoming phase of the **Chandrayaan project** is in progress, aiming to advance India's lunar exploration efforts. He indicated that Chandrayaan-4 marks the initial stride towards India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the **moon by 2040**.
- Since its inception in 2001, **SPACE India** has been on a mission to integrate **Astronomy and Space Science** into school curricula nationwide, inspiring over 1.5 million students across 1,000 schools. The organization has been instrumental in demystifying rocket science and making space education accessible to all.
- In a significant step towards enhancing India's naval capabilities, the Department of Defence (R&D) and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE)** at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala.
- **European astronomers** have made a groundbreaking discovery – the largest **stellar black hole** in our **Milky Way galaxy**. Named **'BH-3'**, this celestial behemoth has a staggering mass **33 times greater than our Sun** and is located a mere **2,000 light-years away from Earth**.
- **Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg** has announced the launch of the company's advanced AI assistant, **Meta AI, powered by the state-of-the-art language model Llama 3**. The new AI offering is designed to enhance the user experience across Meta's popular apps, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger, while also being available on a dedicated website, meta.ai.

Science & Technology of March 2024

- Google's DeepMind team introduces **"Genie,"** a groundbreaking AI platform poised to transform the gaming industry and creative endeavors. This innovative project signifies a fusion of cutting-edge technology and imaginative potential, offering the capability to craft interactive **2D video games from single image prompts or text descriptions**.
- **Iran's venture** into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the **"Pars 1" satellite**, facilitated by **Russia** from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations.





- In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the **International Astronomical Union** have identified three new moons in the outer reaches of our solar system. These celestial bodies, with **two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus**, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe.
- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pioneering technical center in Ahmedabad, representing a significant advancement in India's space sector. Established by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**, this center aims to revolutionize private sector involvement in space technology development and testing.
- **MethaneSAT**, a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**, heralds a new era in environmental monitoring. Designed to address the elusive yet critical issue of methane emissions, MethaneSAT promises to **revolutionize how policymakers and industries tackle greenhouse gas pollution**. With its advanced technology and global reach, MethaneSAT aims to **independently verify industry reports and pinpoint methane hotspots**, thereby empowering stakeholders to take decisive action.
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala**, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, articulated India's potential as a global semiconductor hub. Chandrasekhar emphasized the imperative of designing chips and IPs for diverse industries, outlining a roadmap for entrepreneurs in Trivandrum and Kerala to lead the innovation drive.
- ISRO chief **S Somnath** informed at the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS 2024) that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing to launch the **next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4**. This mission will include **five spacecraft modules**.
- The **Indian government**, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new **\$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission**. This initiative aims to create an **all-Indian AI ecosystem** from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI.
- Researchers have made an exciting discovery – a previously unknown **scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs** in Thailand's **Kaeng Krachan National Park**.
- **MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development)** and **IIT Delhi** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on **geospatial technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for rural development**. The partnership aims to leverage technology to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of rural development initiatives. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address rural challenges through technological solutions, setting a precedent for effective collaboration between academia and government.
- **Google** has partnered with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections. Through Google Search and YouTube videos, voters will be able to access critical details on how to register and vote, as well as information about candidates.
- **SpaceX's** Starship rocket, aimed at **lunar missions** and beyond, faced another setback as it disintegrated during its **third test flight**. Despite achieving several engineering milestones, the failure highlights challenges in its development. **The Starship**, consisting of the cruise vessel atop the **Super Heavy rocket** booster, launched from **Starbase** near **Boca Chica Village, Texas**.
- **IIT Delhi** recently announced a collaboration with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, a significant step in applied research. This partnership, emphasized in an official statement from IIT Delhi, reflects IAI's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India, **aiming to promote innovation and technological advancement** through joint projects, training initiatives, and research consultancy.
- In October of this year, **NASA** will embark on its **Europa Clipper mission**, aiming to explore **Jupiter's moon Europa** in search of signs of life. Scientists are particularly interested in a potential salty lake hidden beneath its icy crust. As part of this mission, NASA plans to send a unique message to Europa, symbolizing human curiosity and creativity.
- Researchers have uncovered a monumental discovery on **Mars**—a colossal volcano named **Noctis Volcano**. Standing at an impressive **29,600 feet** tall and stretching approximately **450 kilometers** in width, this massive volcano lies just south of Mars' equator within the **Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus** region. The finding, made possible by data from a suite of missions including NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the ESA's Mars Express, unveils a hidden geological marvel.
- With the **Lok Sabha elections** approaching in India, Meta unveils its strategy to tackle the growing threat of **AI-generated fake content** that could influence the electoral process. In response to concerns raised by the Election Commission of India regarding the **spread of misinformation**, Meta announces its comprehensive plan to safeguard the integrity of the elections.
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** has developed **SAKHI**, a revolutionary app aimed at aiding astronauts during the **Gaganyaan space flight mission**. SAKHI, or Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction, offers indispensable support across various critical aspects of the mission.





- The European Space Agency's **Gaia space telescope** has made a groundbreaking discovery, uncovering two ancient streams of stars named **Shiva and Shakti**. Led by **Khyati Malhan** of the **Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA)** in **Germany**, this revelation significantly enhances our understanding of the **Milky Way's** origins.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G)** has transferred a **first-of-its-kind vaccine technology** to **BioMed Pvt. Ltd.**, a company specializing in vaccine manufacturing. This revolutionary technology involves a **recombinant vector vaccine** specifically designed to combat the **classical swine fever virus** in **pigs** and **wild boars**. It fills a significant gap in India's vaccine landscape.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will conduct the **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024** program during **April and May**. ISRO is inviting **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from educational institutes, universities, and colleges within India offering **UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology** to host START-2024.

Science & Technology of February 2024

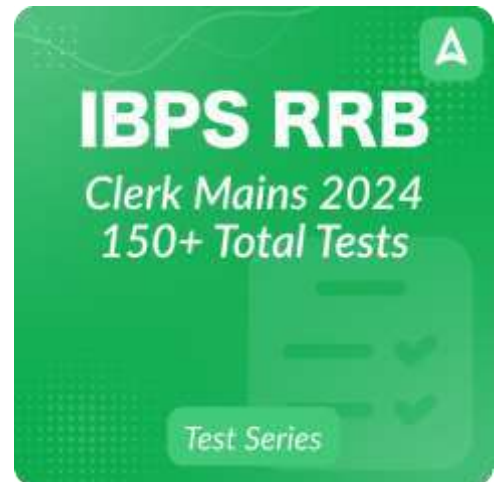
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that it has successfully executed all experiments within the **Payload Orbital Experiment for Microgravity (POEM-3)** mission, which was launched as part of the **PSLV-C58** mission.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.





- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) introduces the “**Young Scientist Programme**” “**YUva Vlgyani 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.





Schemes/ Apps

Schemes/ Apps of July 2024

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has introduced the **eSankhyiki portal** to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience. This initiative aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.
- **Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy**, inaugurated the **NIRMAN portal in New Delhi**, aligning with **PM Modi's "Mission Karmayogi."** This CSR initiative by Coal India Limited aims to aid meritorious youth from its operational districts who cleared the UPSC Preliminary exams in 2024.
- In a significant move to accelerate the development of India's most challenging regions, **NITI Aayog** is set to launch the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' on July 4, 2024. This ambitious **3-month campaign** aims to achieve saturation in key indicators across **112 Aspirational Districts** and **500 Aspirational Blocks**, marking a new chapter in India's journey towards inclusive growth.
- In a landmark event for India's cultural diplomacy, the nation is set to host the **46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** from July 21-31, 2024. This prestigious gathering will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi, bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.
- The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and **TransUnion CIBIL** have launched **SEHER**, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India. SEHER aims to provide financial literacy content and business skills, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has constituted a three-member judicial commission to investigate the stampede that occurred during a Satsang in Hathras on 3 July 2024, resulting in 121 fatalities. Uttar Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel** issued the notification for this commission.
- India, a vibrant center of artistic expression, has a rich history of public art reflecting its cultural and spiritual diversity. **Project PARI (Public Art of India)**, initiated by the Ministry of Culture and executed by **Lalit Kala Akademi** and the **National Gallery of Modern Art**, seeks to blend India's millennia-old artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques.
- The government has designated the **Ministry of Minority Affairs as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee**, taking over from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. This change includes new rules and the nomination of officers from various ministries to the committee.
- The Government of India is set to launch the '**Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises**' (AgriSURE) to support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**, as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in agriculture and allied sectors. This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a **Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- The second regional event of the '**Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman**' campaign, under the aegis of **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)**, is scheduled to take place in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on the 16th of July 2024**. This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic. The campaign aims to promote understanding of the Constitution and raise awareness about legal rights.
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is set to unveil a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the landscape of agricultural and animal husbandry research in India. The '**One Scientist-One Product**' programme, scheduled for launch on July 16, marks a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to advancing agricultural science and technology.
- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** announced the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' for boys in the state after announcing the '**Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana**' for girls. The latter aims to provide **monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to eligible women**. Speaking in **Maharashtra's Pandharpur** on the occasion of **Ashadhi Ekadashi**, Shinde reportedly said the state government does not differentiate between boys and girls and that the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' scheme will solve the **unemployment issue**.
- Under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, India has marked a significant achievement in the global coal mining sector. The **Gevra and Kumdanda coal mines**, operated by **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions among the world's largest coal mines. These mines, located in **Chhattisgarh's Korba district**, have been recognized as the **2nd and 4th largest coal mines globally by WorldAtlas.com**, producing over 100 million tons of coal annually and contributing about 10% to India's total coal production.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker** sets up the **Business Advisory Committee** for the new session. The Committee includes members such as **Sudip Bandhyopadhyay, Gaurav Gogoi, Dayanidhi Maran, PP Chaudhary, and Anurag Thakur, among others**.





- The **Gujarat state government** launched the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024**. The Gujarat state government introduced the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024** to provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers.
- **The Centre has introduced a revised Model Skill Loan Scheme, designed to provide financial support for skill development courses to the nation's youth.**

Schemes/ Apps of June 2024

- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted its **Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee**, in accordance with the **Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment regulations of 2013**. The reconstitution, initiated by the **Chief Justice of India, appoints Justice Hima Kohli as the Chairperson**, alongside Justice BV Nagarathna as a Member and Dr. Sukhda Pritam as the Member Secretary.
- In response to the dynamic growth of Indian securities markets, **SEBI** has established a committee, **chaired by Usha Thorat**, former Deputy Governor of the RBI, to assess and propose enhancements to the ownership and economic framework of clearing corporations.
- On **June 5**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'** campaign to commemorate the World Environment Day. He planted a **Peepal tree** sapling at **Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi**. He was accompanied by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** and **Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken a significant step towards enhancing pensioner services by forging partnerships with four prominent banks. These Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aim to establish **SPARSH service centers**, leveraging the System for Pension Administration (**RAKSHA**), across 1,128 branches nationwide. SPARSH, a web-based system, facilitates streamlined pension processing and direct crediting to defense pensioners' bank accounts.
- **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan** lead the chart of **1.16 lakh farmers** who have voluntarily given up the benefits of the annual **Rs 6,000 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)** scheme across the country **from June 2023 to May 2024**. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had introduced a module in the **PM-Kisan mobile app** and website last year which enables farmers to voluntarily exit the scheme.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has slapped a **fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals** for allegedly operating a **'pump and dump' scheme in scrip of Svarnini Trade Udyog**. The markets regulator has also debarred them from the securities market and ordered disgorgement of **Rs 92.37 lakh with 12 per cent annual interest**.

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, has said that the decision of **3 crore additional rural and urban houses** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** underscores the government's commitment to addressing the **housing needs** of our nation and ensuring that every citizen leads a better quality of life.
- The Assam government has taken a commendable step towards promoting girl education and addressing the issue of child marriage in the state. On June 12, 2024, Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the launch of the **Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM)** scheme, which was approved by the Assam government cabinet.
- On June 18, 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups as **Krishi Sakhis** in Varanasi. This initiative aims to enhance the skills of rural women in agriculture, recognizing their vital role in this sector.
- **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare**, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the **National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024**, on June 24. He was joined by **Smt. Anupriya Patel** and **Shri Jadhav Patraprao Ganpatrao**, Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare. The dignitaries also released IEC materials like **logo, posters, radio spots and audio visuals** for the campaign and distributed oral rehydration salts (**ORS**) and **zinc tablets** to children on the occasion.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh on June 24**, launched **"One Week One Theme" (OWOT)** campaign showcasing recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology.
- **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** said the centre of **'Bharatiya Gyan Parampara'** will be opened in every PM College of Excellence and necessary arrangements will be made in this regard. The PM College of Excellence is going to get **started from July 1** in all the **55 districts of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the **Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB)** initiative under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, running from **July 1 to August 31, 2024**. This initiative aims to bolster Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in tackling heightened cleanliness and health challenges during the monsoon season. It aligns with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's **'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign'**, emphasizing comprehensive interventions and inter-departmental collaboration.
- In a recent report **American multi-national investment bank** and financial company **Morgan Stanley** has all praise for **PM Gati Shakti scheme**. The report highlights **increased and more targeted investments**, suggesting a continued emphasis on infrastructure spending in India's future.





Schemes/ Apps of May 2024

- **India is embarking on Mission ISHAN**, aimed at consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur. This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers.
- In a concerted effort to combat the rising threat of fraudulent SMS, the **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)**, in collaboration with the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, has launched the Sanchar Saathi Initiative. This initiative aims to tackle the proliferation of deceptive messages targeting unsuspecting mobile users. Notably, the government has identified and blocked eight SMS headers frequently exploited by cybercriminals.
- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** has launched the **Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)** initiative to promote research and innovation in the field of ayurveda. This initiative aims to provide an opportunity for collaborative research between **CCRAS and the ayurveda drug industry**.

Schemes/ Apps of April 2024

- The Union rural development ministry announced the revision of wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on March 27**, following clearance from the Election Commission amidst the ongoing Lok Sabha polls and the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in force.
- The **Delhi High Court** has appointed former judge **Najmi Waziri** to lead a committee focused on safeguarding the forests in the national capital. This decision follows concerns about various government departments not fully cooperating with efforts to protect these vital natural resources.
- **Bilquis Mir**, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the **first woman from India** to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration.
- In FY24, small business loans under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** witnessed a record surge, crossing the **₹5 lakh crore milestone**, as per recent government data. Disbursements totaled **₹5.20 lakh crore**, a significant increase from ₹4.40 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year. Notably, nearly 70% of the beneficiaries of these loans are women.

- **NTPC Limited**, India's largest power company, is set to unveil a new version of its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, the **Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM)**. This program aligns with the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child)** campaign launched by the Government of India.
- The **Indian government has launched CDP-SURAKSHA**, a groundbreaking digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the **Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**. This initiative comes amidst the significant contribution of the horticulture sector to **India's agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)**, with consistent growth in crop production over the years.
- At the 42nd **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** annual meet, **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** announced India's pledge to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030. This commitment aligns with global efforts to ensure the sustainability of space exploration.
- In the landmark **Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India Case 2023**, the **Special Marriage Act of 1954** was challenged for its exclusion of same-sex marriages, citing a violation of Article 14 of the fundamental rights. Despite the Act allowing marriages between individuals of different religions, it did not extend this provision to same-sex couples. The committee, chaired by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, comprises six members including secretaries from key ministries.
- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the **clouded tiger cat (Leopardus pardinoides)**, this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity.
- **Microsoft Research Asia's AI team has introduced VASA-1**, an innovative AI application showcased in a **recent paper on arXiv**. VASA-1 converts still images into animated representations with synchronized speech or song, exhibiting realistic facial expressions.
- **The Himalayan Mountains, known as the "Third Pole" for their vast glaciers**, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks.
- **Reliance Jio, the telecom leader in India**, has outpaced China Mobile to become the **world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption**. With a **subscriber base of 481.8 million, including 108 million on its True5G Standalone network**, Jio's dominance underscores its position in the global telecom market.





- **NASA recently launched a groundbreaking space mission from New Zealand**, deploying the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket**. This innovative spacecraft utilizes solar energy for propulsion, marking a significant leap in space exploration technology.
- **Phi-3-mini marks a significant milestone in AI innovation**, offering unparalleled performance and efficiency. **Microsoft's latest small language model (SLM)** has surpassed benchmarks, demonstrating superiority over models of similar and larger sizes. Leveraged by prominent entities like India's ITC, Phi-3-mini showcases Microsoft's commitment to delivering cutting-edge AI solutions.
- In the latest advancement of China's space program, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a **three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft**. The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors.

Schemes/ Apps of March 2024

- Telangana Chief Minister **A Revanth Reddy** has announced the launch of the **Indiramma Housing Scheme** starting March 11. The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society.
- During **DefConnect 2024** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme**. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.
- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Champai Soren** has launched a pioneering initiative, the **'Vidhwa Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme)**. This scheme, a first in India, aims to support and encourage widows to embark on a new journey of companionship by providing a financial incentive of Rs 2 lakh to those who choose to remarry.
- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry, and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, launched the **'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway)** of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone in India's journey to becoming a developed nation, 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047, with agriculture as its foundational pillar.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024)**. This scheme, spearheaded by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, aims to invigorate industrial **development in the North East Region**, fostering economic growth and job creation.

- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious **IndiaAI mission**, allocating a substantial budget of **Rs. 10,371.92 crore**. This initiative aligns with the vision of bolstering AI innovation within India and leveraging AI for the nation's advancement. The mission aims to establish a robust AI ecosystem through a strategic public-private partnership approach.
- The **NAMASTE Scheme**, a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, aims to eliminate manual engagement of sanitation workers in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning operations. Implemented by the **NSKFDC** for three years, the scheme prioritizes the safety and well-being of workers with a budget of 349.73 crores.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **'Mahtari Vandan Yojana'** in Chhattisgarh from Kashi, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to women in the state. PM Modi disbursed the first installment of **Rs 1,000 to 70,12,417 women** in Chhattisgarh. The state government has allocated **Rs 655.57 crore** for this purpose.
- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, introduces the **Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme** to enhance industry capabilities and align with global standards. Its approval follows a thorough review by the Scheme Steering Committee, considering the revised Schedule-M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rule, 1945.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ)** national portal during an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The portal signifies the government's commitment to extending credit support and empowering **one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities**.
- **NITI Aayog** launched the **'Vocal for Local'** initiative under its **Aspirational Blocks Programme** on March 13, 2024. This initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship, ultimately fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth.
- **The Ministry of Heavy Industries**, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, introduces the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024)**. This scheme aims to expedite the uptake of **electric vehicles (EVs)** within the country, fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly transportation ecosystem while bolstering the EV manufacturing sector.
- **Bank of Baroda**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the launch of the **bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme**. The scheme aims to raise deposits that will be **used to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors**, fostering India's transition to a green and sustainable economy.





- The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri **Anurag Singh Thakur**, has inaugurated a unique talent hunt event called **KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) in Chandigarh**. This nationwide programme, under the Khelo India mission, aims to identify talented athletes between the ages of 9 and 18 years, currently enrolled in schools across the country.
- The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the **PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020.
- In response to the urgent need to protect the endangered **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** population from extinction caused by collisions with high-powered power cables in **Gujarat and Rajasthan**, the Supreme Court of India has taken decisive action. A bench led by **Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra** has appointed an expert committee to address this critical issue while balancing conservation efforts with renewable energy goals.

Schemes/ Apps of February 2024

- 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).
- 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 Kalaingar Karunanidhi, the **'Kalaingar Sports Kit' initiative** is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state.
- **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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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).
- 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.

Committees in News

Committees in News of February 2024

- 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.

Important Days

Important Days of July 2024

Date	Day & Theme
July 1	National Doctor's Day
July 1	GST Day
July 1	CA Day
July 2	World Sports Journalists Day
July 2	World UFO Day
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day
July 6	International Day of Cooperatives Theme: Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All."
July 6	World Zoonoses Day
July 7th	World Kiswahili Language Day
July 11th	World Population Day Theme:
July 11	International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica
July 12	Malala Day
12 July	International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms
July 15th	World Youth Skills Day
July 17	World Day for International Justice
July 18th	Nelson Mandela International Day
July 20th	International Chess Day
July 20th	International Moon Day
July 22	National Mango Day
July 22	World Brain Day
July 23	National Broadcasting Day in India
July 24	National Income Tax Day
July 25	World Drowning Prevention Day
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas
July 28th	World Hepatitis Day





Important Days of June 2024

Date	Day & Theme
June 2	International Sex Workers' Day,
June 3	World Bicycle Day
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5th	World Environment Day Theme: 'Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience'
June 6th	UN Russian Language Day
June 7th	World Food Safety Day Theme: Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected
June 8	World Oceans Day Theme: Awaken New Depths
9th June	International Archives Day
June 9th	World Accreditation Day
June 11	International Day of Play
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour Theme: Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour
June 13th	International Albinism Awareness Day theme: 10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress
	International Year of Quantum Science and Technology
June 14	World Blood Donor Day Theme: 20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!
June 15th	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 15th	Global Wind Day'
June 16th	International Day of Family Remittances
June 17th	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought Theme: United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future
June 18th	International Day for Countering Hate Speech
June 18th	Sustainable Gastronomy Day
19 June	World Sickle Cell Day Theme: Hope through progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally
June 20th	World Refugee Day
June 21st	International Yoga Day Theme: Yoga for Self and Society
June 21st	World Music Day
June 21st	World Hydrography Day
June 22nd	World Rainforest Day Theme: Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests."
June 23rd	International Widows' Day
June 23rd	United Nations Public Service Day
June 23rd	International Olympic Day Theme: Let's Move and Celebrate
June 24th	International Day of Women in Diplomacy
June 26th	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
June 26th	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
June 27	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day Theme: Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises
June 27	International Pineapple Day
June 28	National Insurance Awareness Day
June 29	International Day of the Tropics
June 29th	National Statistics Day
June 30th	International Day of Parliamentarism




Important Days of May 2024

Date	Day & Theme
May 1st	International Labour Day
May 2nd	World Tuna Day
May 3rd	World Press Freedom Day & Theme: A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
April 4th	International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
May 5th	Portuguese language Day
May 7	World Asthma Day Theme "Asthma Education Empowers"
May 8th	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Theme: Keeping Humanity Alive
May 8th	World Thalassaemia Day Theme: Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All"
May 10	International Day of Argania
11 May	World Migratory Bird Day Theme: "Insects".
11 May	National Technology Day
12 May	International Nurses Day
12 May	International Day of Plant Health
May 15th	International Day of Families Theme: 'Families & Climate Change: International Year Of The Family + 30'
16 May	International Day of Living Together in Peace
May 16th	International Day of Light Theme: Light in Our Lives
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day Theme: Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
May 18th	International Museum Day Theme: Museums for Education and Research
May 20	World Bee Day
May 21	International Tea Day
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity
May 23	World Turtle Day
May 24	International Day of the Markhor
May 25	World Football Day
May 25 to May 31	International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
May 28th	World Hunger Day Theme: Thriving Mothers, Thriving World
May 29th	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
May 30th	International Potato Day
May 30	Hindi Journalism Day
31st May	World No Tobacco Day





Important Days of April 2024

Date	Day & Theme
1st April	Odisha Day or Utkala Dibasa
April 2nd	World Autism Awareness Day Theme: Empowering Autistic Voices.
April 1 to April 7	Prevention of Blindness Week
4th April	International Mine Awareness Day
5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Conscience Day Theme: Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience National Maritime Day Theme: Navigating the future: safety first!
April 6th	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace Theme: Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies
April 6	National Handmade Day Theme: Buy a Handmade Product'
April 6	National Library Day
April 7th	World Health Day Theme: My Health, My Right
April 10th	World Homeopathy Day Theme: Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family
April 11th	National Safe Motherhood Day
April 11	World Parkinson's Day
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight
April 14th	World Chagas Disease Day
April 13th	International Turban Day
April 14	World Quantum Day
April 15th	World Art Day Theme: A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art
April 17th	World Hemophilia Day Theme: Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders
April 18	World Heritage Day Theme: Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter
April 19th	World Liver Day
April 21st	National Civil Service Day
April 23rd	World Book and Copyright Day
April 24th	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
April 24 to 30	World Immunization Week Theme: Humanly Possible: Immunization for All
April 25	World Malaria Day Theme: Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world
April 25	International Girls in ICT Day
April 25	International Delegate's Day
April 26th	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
April 26th	World Intellectual Property Day Theme: 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity
April 27th	World Veterinary Day
April 28th	World Day for Safety and Health at Work
April 29th	International Dance Day
April 30th	International Jazz Day
April 30th	Ayushman Bharat Diwas





Important Days of March 2024

Date	Day & Theme
March 4	National Safety Day
March 5	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
7th March	Jan Aushadhi Diwas
March 8th	International Women's Day Theme: Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CISF Raising Day International Day of Women Judges Theme: Women in Justice, women for justice
11 March	World Plumbing Day
14th March	World Kidney Day Theme: Kidney Health for All – Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice
March 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Action for Rivers Pi Day
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day
March 16th	National Vaccination Day
March 18th	Ordnance Factories Day
March 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Happiness World Sparrow Day World Oral Health Day
21st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Theme: A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent World Forestry Day Theme: Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World."
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day
March 22	World Water Day Theme: Water for Peace
March 23rd	World Meteorological Day Shaheed Diwas, or Martyr's Day
March 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Tuberculosis (TB) Day International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
March 27	World Theatre Day
March 28th	World Piano Day 2024
March 29th	Good Friday
March 30th	International Day of Zero Waste

Important Days of February 2024

Date	Day & Theme
February 1st	Indian Coast Guard Day
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wetlands Day Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day
February 1st to 7th	World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)
February 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Cancer Day Theme: "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care," International Day of Human Fraternity
February 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation Safer Internet Day Theme: "Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online,"





Date	Day & Theme
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"> International Day of the Arabian Leopard World Pulses Day Theme: Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People
February 11th	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
February 11	World Unani Day
February 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism National Productivity Day
February 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Radio Day National Women's Day
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"> International Childhood Cancer Day World Hippo Day World Anthropology Day
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',

Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of July 2024

- Former India midfielder **Bhupinder Singh Rawat**, who played in the **1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia** died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. A speedy winger of the 1960s and 1970s, Rawat played for India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia. Domestically, he played for **Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade and Mafatlal**.
- Robert Towne**, the acclaimed screenwriter whose work shaped the landscape of American cinema in the 1970s and beyond, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2023, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89 years old.
- Veteran actor **Smriti Biswas** died on July 3 at the **age of 100**. The actor, best known for her work in **Bengali, Hindi, and**

Marathi films, breathed her last at her house in **Nashik** due to age-related illness. Social media too is flooded with condolence posts for **Smriti Biswas** with many sharing pictures of the actor from her various films.

- Jon Landau**, the Oscar-winning producer known for his collaborations with director James Cameron on blockbuster films like Titanic and the Avatar series, has died at the age of 63.
- Aparna Vastarey**, a cherished **Kannada actress** and the familiar voice behind Namma Metro's announcements, has **passed away at the age of 57**. She succumbed to lung cancer on July 11, with her husband breaking the news to her fans via social media. He disclosed that Aparna was in the advanced **fourth stage of cancer** at the time of her death.





- The stationery industry in India lost a pioneer with the passing of **Subhash Dandekar**, the founder of the iconic brand **Camlin**. At the age of 86, Dandekar left behind a legacy that transformed the landscape of stationery and art supplies in the country. His vision and leadership not only built a household name but also contributed significantly to India's industrial and social development.
- **Kamala Pujari**, the renowned **Padma Shri** awardee and pioneering organic farmer, **passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments**.
- On July 23, 2024, the world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. **C.T. Kurien**, a distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments.
- Vasai-based **Catholic priest Father Francis D'Britto**, writer and environmentalist, who translated the Bible into Marathi, passed away on July 25, 2024, after prolonged illness.
- **Hamzah Haz**, the **vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004**, has died. He was aged 84. Hamzah, who served under President Megawati Soekarnoputri.
- **World Hepatitis Day**, observed annually on **July 28th**, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that cause inflammation of the liver and can lead to severe liver disease and cancer.

Obituaries (National/International) of June 2024

- The world of wildlife conservation has lost a **pioneering figure** with the passing of **A.J.T. Johnsingh**, a renowned **wildlife field biologist and conservationist**, in Bengaluru at the age of 78.
- **Retired astronaut William Anders**, one of the first three humans to orbit the moon, who captured the **"Earthrise" photo** during **NASA's Apollo 8 mission**, died on June 7 when the **small plane**, he was piloting, **crashed in Washington state**.
- **Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima** and **nine other people**, including his wife, were killed as the **plane** they were onboard **crashed** in the **Chikangawa mountain range**, said President **Lazarus Chakwera**. The aircraft carrying Chilima, who was being seen as the **presidential candidate** in next year's **general elections** in Malawi, went **missing**.
- **Mumbai Cricket Association president Amol Kale** has passed away due to cardiac arrest in **New York**. Kale had travelled to United States and watched the **India vs Pakistan match** live from the **Nassau County International Cricket Stadium** along with MCA secretary **Ajinkya Naik** and apex council member **Suraj Samat** on June 9.

- The Indian classical music fraternity mourns the loss of the illustrious **Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath**, who breathed his last on June 11, 2024, at the age of 91. The veteran musician, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mysuru for a fracture, passed away.
- Veteran sports journalist **Harpal Singh Bedi**, who covered several highs and lows of Indian sports in a career spanning over four decades, served as the **national Olympic contingent's press attache** in 2012 and charmed the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth, died after prolonged illness in New Delhi on June 15.
- The state of **Odisha** mourns the loss of **Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare**, the former **Governor** of the state, who passed away on **June 15** at the age of **95**.
- The **Canadian actor Donald Sutherland**, star of films including **The Hunger Games** and **Don't Look Now**, has died at 88 after a long illness.
- **Frank Duckworth**, the English statistician who co-invented the **Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS)** method for determining cricket match results under rain-affected conditions, **died at 84** on June 21. The DLS method, **introduced in 1997**, is widely used in **international cricket** and was formally **adopted by the ICC in 2001**.

Obituaries (National/International) of May 2024

- **Vinay Vir**, a **renowned journalist**, publisher, and editor of the Daily Hindi Milap, passed away on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, at the age of 72. He was a champion for the **Hindi language** in South India and a respected figure in the journalism community.
- Renowned playback singer **Uma Ramanan**, who predominantly sang in Tamil, passed away at the age of 72 in Chennai. The veteran singer, known for her melodious voice and extensive repertoire, has left an indelible mark on the Indian music industry.
- **Paul Auster**, the renowned American novelist and filmmaker, has passed away at the age of 77. The prolific writer, best known for his acclaimed work "The New York Trilogy," died on Tuesday at his home in Brooklyn, New York, due to complications from lung cancer.
- The entertainment industry mourns the loss of **Bernard Hill**, the esteemed British actor whose remarkable talent graced the silver screen in some of the most iconic films of our time. At the age of 79, the **Manchester-born** thespian has taken his final bow, leaving behind a **legacy** that will continue to inspire generations of actors.
- **Frank Shrontz**, who led Boeing as its **Chief Executive Officer** for a decade from 1986 to 1996, has passed away at the age of 92. Shrontz died on May 3, according to the Seattle Mariners baseball team where he was an ownership partner.





- In a significant recognition of Gujarat's rich cultural heritage, the traditional artisans of '**Kutch Ajrakh**' have been bestowed with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI)** certificate by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM). This remarkable achievement celebrates the intricate textile craft that has been deeply rooted in the vibrant region of Kutch for centuries.
- Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, the renowned **Urdu litterateur** and **academician**, popularly known by his pseudonym **Salam Bin Razzaq**, passed away on Tuesday at his residence in Navi Mumbai after a prolonged illness, as informed by a family friend.
- Renowned filmmaker from Kerala **Sangeeth Sivan** passed away at the age of 61. He had films like 'Vyooham,' 'Daddy,' 'Gandharvam,' and the 'Yodha'. Apart from this, he also made 10 Hindi movies like 'Kya Kool Hai Hum' and 'Apna Sapna Money Money'.
- The literary world mourns the loss of **Surjit Patar**, a renowned Punjabi poet, writer, and **Padma Shri** recipient, who passed away in Ludhiana, Punjab, at the age of 79.
- The literary world mourns the loss of **Alice Munro**, the **Nobel Prize-winning author** renowned for her masterful crafting of **short stories**. Munro, who passed away on **May 13** at the age of 92, left an indelible mark with her **taut** and **acutely observed** narratives, which captured the essence of human nature with remarkable clarity.
- The Indian political landscape mourns the loss of a **pioneering figure**, Kamla Beniwal, who breathed her last on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the age of 97. Beniwal, a **veteran Congress leader** and former governor of Gujarat, Tripura, and Mizoram, left an indelible mark on the nation's political arena with her **unwavering commitment** and **decades-long service**.
- **Malti Joshi**, a revered figure in the literary world and recipient of the prestigious **Padma Shri award**, passed away at the **age of 90 after a battle with cancer**. Her legacy as a prolific writer and storyteller leaves an indelible mark on Hindi and Marathi literature.
- The ongoing conflict in Gaza has claimed the life of **Colonel (Retd.) Waibhav Anil Kale**, a former Indian Army officer who was serving as a staff member of the **United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS)** in the region. The tragic incident occurred on May 13, 2024, when Kale's vehicle came under attack in **Rafah, Gaza**, marking the first international casualty since the latest escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas.
- The Indian banking industry mourns the loss of a legendary figure, **N Vaghul**, who passed away on Saturday in Chennai at the age of 88. Vaghul, a **former chairman of ICICI Bank**, left an indelible mark on the financial sector with his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence.

- **Mohammad Mokhber**, born on June 26, 1955, in Dezful, Iran, is a prominent figure in Iranian politics. He holds two doctoral degrees, one in international law and another in management, along with a master's degree in management.
- **Richard M. Sherman**, one half of the renowned Sherman Brothers duo, who crafted some of Disney's most **iconic** and **memorable songs**, has passed away at the age of 95. Sherman, along with his late brother Robert, left an indelible mark on millions of childhoods through their award-winning compositions for films like "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book," and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang."

Obituaries (National/International) of April 2024

- Barbara Rush, a **Golden Globe-winning actress**, embarked on her journey in the entertainment industry in the 1950s. Her breakthrough role came in 1954 with the science-fiction film "**It Came from Outer Space**," which earned her the **Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer**.
- **Juan Vicente Pérez** was a man from Venezuela who lived a very, very long life. He was born on **May 27, 1909**, in a town called El Cobre. This means he was alive for 114 years. Now that Pérez has passed away, the title of "world's oldest man" is expected to go to a 112-year-old man from Japan named Gisaburo Sonobe. But this needs to be confirmed by Sonobe's family first.
- Veteran Tamil actor **Visheshwara Rao** passed away on April 2 at the age of 64. He died due to complications from cancer, which he had been battling for the last few years. Rao was undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital in Chennai when he breathed his last.
- **Gangu Ramsay**, the second-eldest son of FU Ramsay, passed away in Mumbai. He was 83 years old. Gangu Ramsay was a renowned cinematographer and filmmaker who was part of the iconic Ramsay Brothers banner. He contributed to over 50 iconic films under their production house.
- The Tamil Nadu political landscape lost a significant figure with the passing of **R.M. Veerappan**, one of the most trusted lieutenants of the late Chief Minister **M.G. Ramachandran (MGR)**, on April 9th. Veerappan, fondly known as RMV, was a powerful minister in MGR's cabinet during the 1980s and remained a close associate of the matinee-icon-turned-politician.
- **British physicist Peter Higgs** died at the age of 94. Peter Higgs gained fame for the discovery of '**Higgs-Boson Particle**' i.e. '**God Particle**'. Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013 for this groundbreaking discovery, which helped explain how the universe was created after the Big Bang. Higgs showed how bosons hold the universe together, a crucial understanding in the field of physics.





- **O.J. Simpson**, the former NFL star who was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend in a televised trial that gripped the nation, has died of cancer, according to his family. He was 76.
- **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** took to social media to announce the demise of former legspinner **Jack Alabaster**, who passed away at the age of 93 in Cromwell, United Kingdom. NZC expressed deep sorrow over the loss, describing Alabaster as a “champion of Southland and @OtagoCricket” who played 21 Tests for New Zealand from 1955 to 1972, taking 49 wickets at an average of 38.02.
- The Australian cricketing community has lost a true icon with the passing of former Cricket Australia (CA) chair, **Jack Clarke**, at the age of 70 in Adelaide.
- The cricket world is in mourning as it bids farewell to one of its most revered figures, **Derek Underwood**, who has passed away at the age of 78. Underwood, a legendary spinner who represented England for over 15 years, was a true icon of the game, leaving an indelible mark on the sport with his exceptional skill and unwavering dedication.
- **K.G. Jayan**, a towering figure in Carnatic music and Malayalam cinema, passed away, at his residence in Thripunitura, Kerala. He was 90 years old. The legendary musician had been battling various age-related ailments.
- **ajithia**, the oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, passed away at the age of 103. Majithia’s life was a testament to a lifetime of service, adventure, and a deep love for aviation.
- The cricketing world mourns the loss of a legendary figure as **Raman Subba Row**, the former England Test batsman, has passed away at the age of 92. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the sorrowful news, paying tribute to England’s oldest living men’s Test cricketer at the time of his demise.
- The world lost **Sudhir Kakar**, a renowned **writer, cultural critic**, and the “Father of Indian Psychology,” who passed away at the age of 85. Kakar’s life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of **psychoanalysis in India**.
- The world of Yakshagana, a traditional theatre form of Karnataka, has lost a towering figure. **Subrahmanya Dhareshwar**, a senior and well-known Yakshagana ‘bhagavatha’ (background singer), passed away in Bengaluru. He was 66 years old.

Obituaries (National/International) of March 2024

- **Kapildev Prasad**, a renowned artisan and Padma awardee for his contributions to the handloom industry and the revival of Bababuti sarees, passed away in Basavanbigha village, Bihar Sharif. His demise has left the local community and handloom enthusiasts mourning the loss of a true pioneer.

- **Paul Alexander**, who spent much of his life in an iron lung after contracting polio as a child, has passed away at the age of 78. Despite being paralyzed from the neck down, Alexander’s resilience and determination led him to become an inspirational figure, achieving milestones that defied his physical limitations.
- **Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas**, the former Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy (1990-1993), breathed his last peacefully at the age of 90 on March 15 morning, at the Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Telangana.
- Sadi Mohammad, a **legendary Rabindra Sangeet singer**, has passed away at the age of 70. His death has cast a **grim shadow** in the cultural sphere of the country.
- The former member of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** and prominent **Buddhist Monk of Ladakh**, popularly known as **Lama Lobzang**, passed away this morning at his residence in **New Delhi**. He was 94 years old.
- **Lakshmi Narayanan Seshu**, a beloved figure in the Tamil entertainment industry, breathed his last on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at a private hospital in Chennai. The versatile actor, affectionately known as **Lollu Sabha Seshu**, was 60 years old at the time of his unfortunate demise.
- **Louis Gossett Jr.**, the first **Black man** to win the **Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor**, has sadly passed away at the age of 87. His cousin, Neal L Gossett, confirmed his demise on **March 29**, stating that he died at a rehabilitation center in **Santa Monica, California**.
- **Daniel Kahneman**, a psychologist who never studied economics but pioneered the field of **behavioural economics**, has passed away at the age of 90. Despite not having formal training in economics, Kahneman’s groundbreaking work exploring the **psychology of decision-making** earned him the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** in 2002.

Obituaries (National/International) of February

2024

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- Art world lost one of its most distinctive voices when **Ramachandran** passed away.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Renowned constitutional jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate **Fali S Nariman** passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of **acclaimed director Kumar Shahani**, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata.
- The music world mourns the passing of legendary ghazal singer **Pankaj Udhas**, who died at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness.
- **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.

- **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.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of June 2024

- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced the launch of a new **MA programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies** for the academic session **2024-2025**. The course will begin in July 2024 and will be offered through **open and distance learning (ODL)**.
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bajaj Auto's new bike, Freedom**, the world's first CNG motorcycle. He praised it as **"eco-friendly"** and **"sustainable,"** highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.
- The ambitious project to build the **"world's largest Ramayan temple"** has entered its second phase of construction in **East Champaran district** of Bihar. The **Viraat Ramayan Mandir**, as it is known, promises to be a monumental structure that will surpass the size of the recently constructed Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, drawing inspiration from various architectural marvels across Asia.
- International mountaineer **Nitish Singh** left for **Mount Kinabalu**, the highest peak in Malaysia, when the rain subsided. He conquered it at 5:30 am on July 9 and hoisted the **tricolor** there. International mountaineer Nitish Singh, a resident of Gorakhpur, UP, has created a new record by hoisting the tricolor on **Kinabalu**, the highest peak of **Malaysia**.

- **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police**. Despite facing rejection and discrimination from coaching centers, Kashyap persevered and cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams.
- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest and largest urban tunnel** project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. This Rs. 16,600 crore project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.
- **Ratings agency ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to **AAA/Stable** from **AA+/Stable**. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to **AAA/Stable**. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by **Rs 7.10 or 0.47%**.
- **Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom) has inaugurated a **centre of excellence** on **"Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G"** at **IITM Research Park, Chennai**. This is a **sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India** and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. **Shri Sanjeev Kumar Bidwai**, Sp DGT, **Tamil Nadu** was among those present at the occasion.





- The **Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as **India's 43rd entry**. Announced on July 26, 2024, during the **46th session** of the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, this makes the Moidams the first cultural property from Northeast India to receive this honor. The nomination was submitted on July 4, 2024, and underscores the global recognition of Assam's unique cultural heritage.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of July 2024

- **Congress nominee** and Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter **Priyanka Jarkiholi** has won from Chikkodi, defeating incumbent MP and BJP leader **Annasaheb Jolle**. Priyanka Jarkiholi from **Chikkodi** became the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an **unreserved seat in Karnataka** since Independence. In fact, the BJP has won all the seats in Mumbai Karnataka, except Chikkodi.
- **Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum** has decided to return a **16th-century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India**, following a formal request from the Indian government. The 60cm-tall statue, believed to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, was acquired by the museum in 1967 from Sotheby's auction house. The decision comes after an independent researcher alerted the museum to the statue's origins, prompting the museum to notify the Indian High Commission.
- The **Indian Railways** completed a successful trial of an **electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi**, crossing the **world's highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge**.
- Aiming to enable passengers to drop in their luggage, collect tags and print boarding passes to complete check-in in less time, the **Delhi International Airport Ltd** launched a **self-service mechanism** on 17 June.
- According to the Union Ministry of Education, the Union Territory of Ladakh has achieved full functional literacy under the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**. Ladakh now boasts over 97 percent literacy. **Lieutenant Governor Dr. B.D Mishra** shared this milestone on June 25, 2024, at a function in **Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra (SSK)**, Leh.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of May 2024

- Bajaj Auto, led by **Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj**, is all set to introduce a groundbreaking innovation in the world of motorcycles. Amidst soaring petrol prices, the company is gearing up to launch the **world's first CNG-powered motorcycle on June 18, 2024**. This move aims to provide consumers with a cost-effective alternative for daily commuting, promising lower running costs compared to traditional petrol-powered bikes.

- **Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2024**, also known as **Rabindra Jayanti**, falls on **May 8th** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**. Born on May 7, 1861, in Kolkata to Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi, Tagore's influence extends far beyond his birthplace, resonating across literature, music, and art worldwide.
- **Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540**, according to the Julian calendar, the transition to the Gregorian calendar shifted his birthdate to May 19, 1540. However, the modern celebration aligns with the Hindu calendar.
- The **National Archives of India (NAI)** has acquired a **priceless collection** of private papers and original correspondences belonging to the late **Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai**, a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle and nation-building efforts. This acquisition ensures the preservation of a significant part of our nation's history and the legacy of a remarkable leader.
- Renowned **Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa** has achieved a historic feat by conquering Mount Everest for the 29th time. At 54 years old, Kami reached the 8,849-meter summit at 7:25 am local time on Sunday, leading a group of climbers organized by Seven Summit Treks.
- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history as the first airport in India to achieve the prestigious recognition of **zero waste to landfill (ZWL)**. This commendation comes from the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC)** Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, confirming the airport's commitment to environmentally responsible practices.
- A low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into **Cyclone Remal**, reaching **Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal** coasts as a severe cyclonic storm. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts the cyclone's progression, predicting it to become a severe cyclonic storm by **May 25 morning** and **make landfall between Sagar island in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh by May 26 evening**.
- **Jyoti Ratre**, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has etched her name in history by becoming the **oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest**. Ratre's triumphant ascent to the summit of the world's highest peak comes precisely six years after **Sangeeta Bahl**, at the age of 53, earned the title of 'India's oldest woman to climb Mount Everest' on May 19, 2018.
- In a remarkable feat, Indian mountaineer **Satyadeep Gupta** has etched his name in history by becoming the **first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse** twice in a single season. Additionally, he is the **first Indian** to traverse the two peaks in an astonishing **11 hours and 15 minutes**.





- In a remarkable display of spelling prowess, **Bruhat Soma**, a 12-year-old **Indian-American** seventh-grader from Florida, has emerged victorious at the prestigious **Scripps National Spelling Bee**. Maintaining the dominance of the small ethnic community in this prestigious competition, Bruhat correctly spelled **29 words** in the tiebreaker round, earning him more than **\$50,000** in cash and other prizes.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of April 2024

- Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The products are **Matabari Pera Prasad, Rignai Pachara Textiles and Risa**. With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products.
- Perched atop the picturesque **Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu**, the iconic **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)** recently commemorated a remarkable milestone – its **125th anniversary** of studying the celestial body that sustains life on Earth, the Sun.
- In a significant milestone for agricultural recognition, the **indigenous wheat variety** from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as **Kathiya Gehu**, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This is the **first farm produce** from Uttar Pradesh to receive this honor.
- **The Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa**, has become the **14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system**. This biometric-enabled system uses facial recognition technology to automate the entry and verification of passengers at various airport checkpoints, making the travel experience more seamless and convenient. The Digi Yatra system is already operational in 13 other Indian airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, among others.
- In a collaborative project involving researchers from Kerala University and various other institutions, a significant archaeological excavation has revealed a **5,200-year-old Harappan settlement at Padta Bet, near Khatiya village in Kachchh district, Gujarat**. Led by assistant professors **Abhayan G.S. and Rajesh S.V. from Kerala University's Department of Archaeology**, the expedition uncovered crucial evidence shedding light on the cultural formation of Early Harappan settlements in the region.
- In a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing banking convenience, J&K Bank has teamed up with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch a **Virtual ATM (VATM) facility**. This innovative service enables cardless cash withdrawals for customers through local retailers, particularly benefiting areas like **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh where accessibility to traditional ATMs may be limited**.

- **Guinness World Records (GWR)** has shared a video of the world's oldest living man, 111-year-old **John Alfred Tinniswood, from England**. In the video, Tinniswood reveals what he believes is the secret to his exceptional longevity and also offers a piece of advice for others.
- The **'Yoga Mahotsav' was held in Pune, Maharashtra**, to mark the 75-day countdown to the **International Day of Yoga**. Organized by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and the National Institute of Naturopathy, Ministry of Ayush**, the event witnessed the overwhelming participation of thousands of people. The participants engaged in the practice of the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) starting at 6.00 AM on April 7th, showcasing the growing popularity of Yoga.
- **Gangaur** is an important festival celebrated throughout Rajasthan, commemorating the union of **Lord Shiva (Gan) and Goddess Parvati (Gauri)**. The term **"Gan"** refers to **Lord Shiva, while "Gauri" or "Gaur"** represents Goddess Parvati, Shiva's heavenly consort. Gangaur symbolizes the happiness and auspiciousness of marriage, making it a significant celebration for the people of Rajasthan.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)** is organizing the festival **'Shakti – A Festival of Music and Dance'** from **April 9 to 17, 2024**. The festival is celebrated in seven different Shaktipeeths (sacred sites) across the country. The event is being organized under the Kala Pravah series to revive the temple traditions in the country during the auspicious Navratri period.
- **Comet Pons-Brooks**, currently orbiting near Jupiter, is captivating astronomers and stargazers alike as it approaches its closest point to the Sun on April 21, 2024. Its increasing brightness and elongating tail make it a spectacle in the night sky, visible even to the naked eye.
- In a significant ruling, the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act**. Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds. Parray had been held since May based on allegations of being associated with terrorist groups, but the court found the detention illegal and ordered his immediate release.
- In a significant development, two iconic products from the historic city of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, have been granted the coveted **Geographical Indication (GI) status**. On April 16, 2024, the GI Registry Office based in Chennai announced that the **Tiranga Barfi** of Varanasi and the **Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft** have been included in the prestigious GI category.
- In a groundbreaking event that blurs the lines between reality and artificial intelligence, the world is set to witness the first-ever beauty pageant exclusively for **AI-generated models and influencers**. Dubbed **"Miss AI,"** this unique contest will pit these virtual creations against each other, judging them on their online presence, aesthetics, and the technical prowess behind their creation.





- **Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed three remarkable sites**, each offering distinct insights into the region's ancient history. Among these discoveries are over 200 megalithic monuments nestled within dense forests, an exceptional Iron Age megalithic site displaying unique architectural styles, and two rock art sites revealing ancient artistic expressions. These findings not only illuminate Telangana's past but also emphasize the necessity for continued exploration and preservation endeavors.
- The **Lakshmana Tirtha River, renowned for its scenic beauty in the Kodagu District of Karnataka, has succumbed to severe drought and intense heat**. Originating from the forests in Kutta, it extends about 180 km before merging into the Cauvery River. However, this year, the river has dried up entirely, exacerbating the water crisis in the region.
- On a momentous occasion, members of the **Shompen tribe**, one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), exercised their democratic right for the **first time** by casting votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections. This significant event marks a milestone for the indigenous community residing in the dense tropical rainforests of the **Great Nicobar island**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of March 2024

- A groundbreaking archaeological discovery has been made in Chettimedu Pathur village, approximately 77 kilometres from **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. Researchers from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the **University of Madras** have unearthed a child burial site dating back to the Neolithic period, around 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE, offering new insights into ancient burial rites and cultural practices in the region.
- Researchers in **Ecuador's rainforest** have uncovered a new species of anaconda, **Eunectes Akiyama**, which split from its closest relatives 10 million years ago. Despite their genetic distinction, these anacondas are visually identical to the previously known species, **Eunectes murinus**.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** commemorated its **174th Foundation Day on March 4th, 2024**, with zeal and enthusiasm resonating across all its offices nationwide. The event was a grand affair, with celebrations held in Kolkata, the Central Headquarters of GSI, and the Southern Region's headquarters in Hyderabad.
- In a significant nod to India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry, the **Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi**, more widely known as **Silver Filigree**, has recently been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. This recognition, sought by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation

Limited and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places Cuttack's Silver Filigree on the map as a unique and protected form of art.

- President Droupadi Murmu **nominated** author and philanthropist **Sudha Murty** to the **Rajya Sabha**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this and congratulated Sudha Murty, saying her contribution to diverse fields has been "immense and inspiring".
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of **North India's first Government Homeopathic College** in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, J&K. The project, funded centrally at Rs 80 crore, reflects a significant stride in healthcare and education infrastructure development in the region.
- **Majuli**, the largest river island in the world, has received **two prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags** from the Indian government for its traditional crafts – **Majuli mask making and Majuli manuscript painting**.
- Sea6 Energy, a **pioneer in the Blue Economy**, has launched the world's first large-scale **mechanized tropical seaweed farm** off the coast of Lombok, Indonesia. The **one-square-kilometre seaweed farm** is a significant milestone in establishing the scalability of **sustainable tropical seaweed cultivation** for various industrial applications.
- Excavation sites worldwide yield artifacts and fossils crucial for understanding history. In **Nuremberg, Germany**, construction labourers stumbled upon an astonishing find while building a house: a vast number of human skeletons, indicating the presence of what may be **Europe's largest cemetery**. Nearly a thousand skeletons have been unearthed so far, with estimates suggesting the total could surpass **1500**.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has certified nearly **100 jails** across the nation as '**Eat Right Campus**,' a part of its broader Eat Right India movement. This initiative aims to ensure safe, healthy, and sustainable food practices within various institutional settings, including correctional facilities.
- The beautiful **Dal Lake in Kashmir** witnessed an exciting event on March 18. **Formula-4 car racing** was held for the first time in the region. The sleek racing cars raced along the Boulevard road near the lake, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The Zabarwan Hills provided a stunning backdrop for the event.
- In a groundbreaking medical achievement, surgeons from **Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston** have performed the first **pig-to-human kidney transplant**. A **62-year-old man with end-stage renal disease** received a new kidney from a **genetically modified pig**.





- The **Chipko Movement** originated in the **Uttarakhand** region of the Himalayas in early 1973. The name “Chipko” means “to hug” in Hindi, referring to the practice of **embracing trees** to protect them from being cut down. The Chipko movement, which began in Uttarakhand, a state in the Himalayas, in early 1973, marks its 50th anniversary.
- A **900-year-old Kannada inscription** dating back to the **Kalyana Chalukya dynasty** has been discovered in a state of utter neglect at **Gangapuram**, a temple town in **Jadcherla mandal, Mahabubnagar district**. The rare inscription was found lying uncared for on a tank bund near the **Chowdamma temple**.
- The world’s first-ever temple designed in the iconic **Om shape** has been inaugurated in the village of Jadan, **Pali district of Rajasthan**. This architectural masterpiece, spanning across **250 acres**, is not only expected to attract tourists but will also boast an impressive visual presence visible from space.
- **Allu Arjun**, the popular **Telugu actor**, has achieved a new milestone in his career. He has been honoured with a **wax statue** at the renowned **Madame Tussauds Museum** in **Dubai**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of February 2024

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.





- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- The **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** has commissioned **India’s largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS)** in **Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh**.

