

# Weekly One Liners 01st to 07th of July 2024

## 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)
<b>Introduction Date</b>	1973	2023
<b>Colonial Influence</b>	Retained elements from British colonial rule	Drafted to reflect post-independence and modern Indian values
<b>Language and Terminology</b>	Archaic legal language	Simplified and modernized language
<b>Structure</b>	Detailed procedural code with 484 sections	Revised structure, updated sections
<b>Arrests</b>	Procedures for arrests detailed in Sections 41-60	New provisions for digital warrants, use of technology in arrests
<b>Investigation</b>	Traditional methods of investigation	Emphasis on forensic evidence, cyber investigations
<b>Bail and Bonds</b>	Detailed provisions in Sections 436-450	Streamlined process, emphasis on bail reform
<b>Trial Procedures</b>	Detailed trial procedures	Simplified and expedited trial processes
<b>Witness Protection</b>	Limited provisions	Comprehensive witness protection programs

Aspect	Old Law (Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973)	New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)
<b>Victim Rights</b>	Basic recognition of victim rights	Enhanced victim compensation and support mechanisms
<b>Speedy Trial</b>	Emphasis on speedy trial, often delayed	Stronger provisions for ensuring speedy trial
<b>Digital Evidence</b>	Limited recognition	Comprehensive recognition and procedures for digital evidence
<b>Police Reforms</b>	Basic guidelines	Detailed guidelines on police reforms, accountability mechanisms
<b>Appeals and Revisions</b>	Detailed in Sections 372-394	Updated to include digital submission of appeals, faster processes
<b>Juvenile Procedures</b>	Governed by Juvenile Justice Act, 2015	Integrated approach with special provisions for juveniles
<b>Technology Use</b>	Limited use	Extensive use of technology in legal processes
<b>Alternative Dispute Resolution</b>	Basic provisions	Expanded focus on ADR mechanisms
<b>Preventive Measures</b>	Sections on preventive actions like Section 107, 144	Strengthened preventive measures, modern context considerations
<b>Community Policing</b>	Limited provisions	Emphasis on community policing and involvement
<b>Special Courts</b>	Provisions for special courts	Expansion and more specific guidelines for special courts
<b>Inter-State Coordination</b>	Basic guidelines	Enhanced inter-state coordination mechanisms
<b>Legal Aid</b>	Basic provisions for free legal aid	Strengthened and expanded legal aid provisions
<b>Electronic Monitoring</b>	Not covered	Provisions for electronic monitoring of offenders
<b>Public Participation</b>	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 **Bhartiya 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**

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** will replace the IPC. It will have **356 sections** instead of the earlier 511 sections, 175 sections have been changed, 8 new sections have been added and 22 sections have been repealed.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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)
<b>Introduction Date</b>	1860	2023
<b>Colonial Influence</b>	Drafted during British colonial rule	Drafted in post-independence India, reflecting modern values
<b>Language and Terminology</b>	Archaic English	Simplified and modernized language
<b>Structure</b>	511 sections	Revised structure, includes new sections
<b>Offenses against the State</b>	Sections on sedition, less emphasis on national security	Stronger focus on national security, cybercrimes, terrorism
<b>Sexual Offenses</b>	Outdated definitions, limited recognition of modern crimes	Expanded definitions, includes cyberstalking, digital harassment
<b>Gender Neutrality</b>	Certain sections gender-specific	More gender-neutral provisions
<b>Cybercrimes</b>	Minimal references	Comprehensive sections on cybercrimes
<b>Punishments</b>	Traditional forms of punishment	Updated punishments, includes alternative sentencing

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Penal Code, 1860)	New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)
<b>Restorative Justice</b>	Limited provisions	Emphasis on restorative justice and victim compensation
<b>Corruption and Bribery</b>	General provisions	Detailed provisions to address modern forms of corruption
<b>Economic Offenses</b>	Basic definitions	Expanded to include financial frauds, money laundering
<b>Defamation</b>	Criminal defamation included	Modified to align with freedom of speech considerations
<b>Adultery</b>	Criminal offense	Decriminalized
<b>Homosexuality</b>	Criminalized under Section 377	Decriminalized following the Supreme Court judgment
<b>Blasphemy</b>	Strict provisions	More balanced approach respecting freedom of religion
<b>Marital Rape</b>	Not recognized	Recognized and criminalized
<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	Traditional methods	Modernized with emphasis on technology and forensic science
<b>Juvenile Justice</b>	Separate act (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015)	Integrated approach with special provisions
<b>Reform Focus</b>	Punitive	Emphasis on rehabilitation and reform

**Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, Check Details**

The new criminal laws, the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (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 Adhiniyam**

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



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**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

**National Affairs**

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

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- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** presided over the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, presenting Gallantry Awards to distinguished servicemen and women. ([Click to read article](#))

### States in the News

- **Hul Kranti Diwas** is celebrated on **June 30** every year to mark the independence movement of 1855 led by tribal heroes **Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav**, among others. More than **50,000 tribals** from **400 villages of Jharkhand** had revolted against **British Rule**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

### International Affairs

- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Books and Authors

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** released **three books** on the life and journey of former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu via video conferencing on June 30. "**Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service**", "**Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** as 13th Vice-President of India" and "**Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu**". ([Click to read article](#))
- In the world of **celebrity biographies**, a new addition stands out for its raw honesty and inspiring narrative. "**Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography**" by journalist **Piyush Pandey** offers readers an intimate look into the life of one of India's most respected actors. ([Click to read article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- Union Bank of India has launched "**Union Premier**" branches tailored for high-value customers in rural and **semi-urban (RUSU) markets**. These branches are designed to offer personalized banking services and a comprehensive range of products under one roof. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. This revision, based on recommendations by a Group of select State Finance Secretaries and considering recent expenditure data, aims to help States and UTs manage temporary mismatches in their cash flow. ([Click to read article](#))

- 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, electrolyzers, 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. The platform is expected to go live by 2026 and will interlink domestic **fast payment systems (FPS)** of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and India. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. The card, powered by **Visa**, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students as well as their parents to manage education related expenses abroad such as **admission fees, course-related fees** and other day-to-day expenses including **travel, dining and groceries**, among others. ([Click to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))



**RBI GRADE-B**  
Phase-I & Phase-II  
2024  
Test Series

## Appointments/Resignations

- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **Justice Sheel Nagu** has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court**, following a notification by the Centre. ([Click to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Smt. Charulatha S Kar** as **Executive Director (ED)**, effective from July 1, 2024. ([Click to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read article](#))

### Defence News

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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 Vachiraprakan 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

- **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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- The **'Global IndiaAI 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'**. ([Click to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))

### Sports News

- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

**SEBI GRADE- A**  
Assistant Manager (General)  
Phase-I  
25+ Total Tests  
Test Series

### Schemes and Committees News

- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- In India, **National Doctor's Day** is observed on **July 1st** every year. In 2024, this special day falls on a **Monday**. **National Doctor's Day** is an annual celebration that recognizes the invaluable contributions of medical professionals to our society. As we approach the 2024 observance, it's important to reflect on the significance of this day and the impact doctors have on our lives. ([Click to read article](#))
- **GST Day** is observed on **July 1** each year. The upcoming celebration in 2024 will mark the **seventh anniversary** of the GST system in India. This comprehensive indirect tax was introduced to simplify the complex web of taxes previously levied by central and state governments. ([Click to read article](#))
- **CA Day** is observed on **July 1st** every year. In 2024, it will fall on a **Monday**, marking the **76th anniversary** of the founding of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**. ([Click to read article](#))
- In India, **National Doctor's Day** is observed on **July 1st** every year. In 2024, this special day falls on a **Monday**. **National Doctor's Day** is an annual celebration that recognizes the invaluable contributions of medical professionals to our society. As we approach the 2024 observance, it's important to reflect on the significance of this day and the impact doctors have on our lives. ([Click to read article](#))
- Sports play a vital role in our lives. For some, it's a fun activity, while for others, it's a career. **World Sports Journalists Day** is celebrated every year on **July 2** to honour those who bring sports stories to life – the **sports journalists**. ([Click to read article](#))
- Every year on July 2, people around the world celebrate **World UFO Day**. This special day is all about learning more about **Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)** and thinking about the possibility of **life beyond Earth**. In 2024, World UFO Day falls on a Tuesday, giving us another chance to look up at the sky and wonder about what might be out there. ([Click to read article](#))

- On Monday, the **Sivagiri Matha Atheetha Athmiya Sangham** in Varkala marked an important day in their calendar. They observed the **20th death anniversary**, also known as the **Samadhi Day**, of **Swamy Saswathikananda**. This event brings together followers and admirers of the Swamy to remember his life and teachings. ([Click to read article](#))
- **International Plastic Bag Free Day** is celebrated on **July 3** every year. This special day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of **plastic bags** on our environment. It encourages people to stop using plastic bags and find eco-friendly alternatives. ([Click to read article](#))
- On July 6, 2024, cooperatives worldwide will celebrate the **International Day of Cooperatives** under the theme **“Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All.”** This special day highlights the crucial role cooperatives play in creating a sustainable future and advancing the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ([Click to read article](#))
- World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on **July 6**. In 2024, it falls on a Saturday.
- **World Zoonoses Day** is an important annual observance that aims to raise awareness about **zoonotic diseases** – infections that can spread from animals to humans. As we approach World Zoonoses Day 2024, it’s crucial to understand the significance of this day and how we can contribute to preventing these potentially dangerous diseases. ([Click to read article](#))

### Obituaries News

- 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 Mafatal**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- 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)**. ([Click to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read article](#))

### Static Takeaways

- Capital of Japan: Tokyo
- Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen (¥)
- National Medical Commission Formation: 25 September 2020;
- National Medical Commission Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- National Medical Commission Head: Dr. BN Gangadhar.
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi;
- Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog of India: Suman Bery;
- NITI Aayog Founded: 1 January 2015.
- UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) Established: May 19, 1894
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) Founder: Lala Lajpat Rai
- Press Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Press Council of India Founder: Parliament of India;
- Press Council of India Founded: 4 July 1966, India.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is chairman of the council .
- All India Football Federation President: Kalyan Chaubey;
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937;
- All India Football Federation HQ: Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007–);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam’s Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary

- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India(SBI) Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India(SBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India(SBI) Established in – 1955
- State Bank of India(SBI) Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishr

