

Weekly One Liners 08th to 14h of April 2024

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.



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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.

National Affairs

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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.** ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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**. This surge in optimism is attributed to households' positive sentiments regarding the general economic situation, employment prospects, and discretionary spending. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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%. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. HDB Financial, a non-deposit-taking lender, is expected to command a valuation ranging from \$9 billion to \$12 billion during its IPO, contingent on prevailing market conditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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.’ ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- 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**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Health Day** is celebrated every year on **April 7th**, the founding date of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. In 2024, the theme for World Health Day is **"My Health, My Right"**, focusing on the fundamental human right to access quality healthcare, education, and information. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Homeopathy Day** is observed on **April 10th** every year. The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is **"Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family."** Homeopathy is a form of alternative medicine that believes in the power of tiny homeopathic substances to cure the symptoms of a condition. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Safe Motherhood Day**, observed annually on **April 11th**, is a crucial occasion to highlight the importance of maternal health and well-being. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the need to prioritize the care and support for mothers, ensuring a safe and healthy journey through pregnancy and childbirth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Day of Human Space Flight is commemorated every year on **April 12** to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind. The **United Nations General Assembly, on April 7, 2011**, passed a resolution to establish the International Day of Human Space Flight on a particular day every year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Parkinson's Day** is observed annually on **April 11** to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that affects millions of people worldwide. This day serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by individuals living with Parkinson's, as well as their caregivers and families. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **The World Health Organization (WHO)** observes **World Chagas Disease Day every April 14th** to raise awareness about the neglected tropical disease that affects millions of people, especially in Latin America. The 72nd World Health Assembly dedicated this day to the disease in 2019. In 2024, the theme for World Chagas Disease Day is **"Tackling Chagas disease: detect early and care for life"**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** took to social media to announce the demise of former legspinner **Jack Alabaster**, who passed away. night 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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- **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. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

- ADB Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- ADB Founded: 19 December 1966;
- President of the ADB and the Chairperson of ADB’s Board of Directors: Masatsugu Asakawa.
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–);
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994, Mumbai;
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- UGC Founded: November 1956;
- UGC HQ: Delhi.
- DRDO Date founded: 1958
- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO;
- Ghana Capital: Accra;
- Ghana Currency: Ghanaian Cedi;
- Ghana President: Nana Akufo-Addo.
- Zoological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata;
- Zoological Survey of India Founded: 1 July 1916;
- Zoological Survey of India Director: Dr. Dhriti Banerjee;
- Zoological Survey of India Founder: Government of India.
- Nicaragua Capital: Managua;
- Nicaragua Currency: Nicaraguan Córdoba;
- Nicaragua President: Daniel Ortega;
- Nicaragua Continent: North America.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- NATO Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.
- World Gold Council CEO: David Tait;
- World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky;
- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;

- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das, IAS (retd.);
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime Minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee;
- Nepal Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- President of Nepal: Mr Ram Chandra Paudel.
- Reliance Industries Owner: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani;
- Reliance Industries President: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founded: 1957, Maharashtra;
- Reliance Industries Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Chairperson: Satya Nadella (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).
- SBM Bank India Founded: 1st December 2018;
- SBM Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, India.
- NSDC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NSDC Founded: 31 July 2008;
- NSDC CEO: Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Bird: Indian paradise flycatcher;
- Madhya Pradesh Flower: White lily;
- Madhya Pradesh Formation: 26 January 1950;
- Madhya Pradesh CM: Mohan Yadav;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel.
- International Narcotics Control Board Headquarters: Vienna International Centre (Vienna, Austria);
- International Narcotics Control Board President: Jallal Toufiq;
- International Narcotics Control Board Founded: 1968.
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble;
- Russia Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin;
- Russia President of Russia: Vladimir Putin.