

THE **HINDU** REVIEW

A P R I L 2 0 2 4

**Monthly
Capsule**

**Current
Affairs**



Contents

The Most Important Current Affairs April 2024	3
Banking and Financial Current Affairs	10
Economy Current Affairs	12
Business Current Affairs	13
International Current Affairs.....	14
National Current Affairs.....	16
States Current Affairs.....	18
Schemes and Committees	18
Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).....	19
New Appointments: International	19
Awards Current Affairs.....	21
Sports Current Affairs	23
Summits And Conferences	24
Ranks and Reports News.....	25
Important Days	25
Defence Current Affairs	26
Science and Technology	28
Books & Authors	29
Miscellaneous Current Affairs.....	29
Obituaries Current Affairs	31
Static Current Affairs.....	32
List of Dams in India State Wise	34

The Most Important Current Affairs April 2024

Hockey India Awards 2023

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

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

Huge Prize Pool

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

Honoring Past Achievements

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

Notable Awards and Winners

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

Other Award Winners:

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

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

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

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

Youngest Indian Billionaire:

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

Global Wealth and Billionaire Count

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

Countries with the Highest Number of Billionaires

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

Top 10 Billionaires in the World

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

Top 10 Indian Billionaires

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

About Forbes

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

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

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

RBI Repo Rate are as under

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

Key Decisions From April MPC:

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

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

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

World Economic Forum Announces 2024 Young Global Leaders Community

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

Indians Included in the 2024 List

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

1. Bhumi Pednekar (Art and Culture) – Bollywood actress known for films like “Dum Laga Ke Haisha”, “Toilet: Ek Prem Katha”, and “Badhaai Do”

2. Adwaita Nayar (Business) – Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
3. Arjun Bhartia (Business) – Director, Jubilant Group
4. Priya Aggarwal Hebbar (Business) – Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited
5. Sharad Vivek Sagar (Social Entrepreneurs) – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

About the Young Global Leaders Program

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

The World Economic Forum

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

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

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

India’s Declining Unicorn Creation: A Concerning Trend

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

Offshore Unicorn Creation: A Surprising Revelation

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

Global Unicorn Landscape: Insights and Trends

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

Year of AI: Transformative Innovations and Valuation Surges

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

Entrepreneurship Evolution: Global Expansion and Spinoffs

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

Top 10 Unicorns: Key Players and Value Contribution

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

105 Years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

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

Background of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

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

The Buildup to Tragedy

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

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Unfolds

On **April 13**, a peaceful gathering of thousands at **Jallianwala Bagh**, enclosed by walls with only one exit, became the site of unspeakable horror. Without warning, British troops under Dyer’s command opened fire on the unarmed crowd, trapping

them within the confines of the space. The indiscriminate shooting continued until the soldiers ran out of ammunition, leaving hundreds dead and many more wounded.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre – Consequences

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

Legacy of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

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

World Cybercrime Index Unveiled: Russia and Ukraine Top List

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

Research Methodology and Findings

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

Key Rankings and Insights

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

Implications and Limitations

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

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

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

Penalty Breakdown

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

RBI's Stance

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

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

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

Medal Tally: A Resounding Success

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

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

Guiding Force: A Dedicated Mentorship

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

A Remarkable Milestone

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

Nurturing Excellence: TIFR-HBCSE's Pivotal Role

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

Felicitation Ceremony: Celebrating Excellence

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

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

International Mother Earth Day 2024

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

The Origins of Earth Day

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

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

The Theme of Earth Day 2024: “Planet vs. Plastics”

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

The Significance of Earth Day

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

The Call to Action

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

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

National Panchayati Raj Day Observed on April 24th every year

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

The Origins of Panchayati Raj

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

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

Significance of Panchayati Raj

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

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

National Panchayati Raj Day 2024: Celebrating Achievements

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

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

Strengthening Local Governance

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

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

The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024 Announced

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

Laureus World Sportsman of the Year: Novak Djokovic

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

Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year: Aitana Bonmatí

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

Comeback of the Year: Simone Biles

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

Breakthrough of the Year: Jude Bellingham

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

Sporting Legends Gracing the Ceremony

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

Other Notable Awards

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

About the Laureus Sports Awards

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

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

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

Alok Shukla Wins Prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024

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

Winners of the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize

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

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

Protecting the Hasdeo Arand Forest

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

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

Global Recognition for Environmental Leadership

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

Previous Indian Winners

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

Grassroots Environmental Activism

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

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

Eminent Personalities Honoured with Prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award

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

10 eminent personalities to be awarded the Lacchu Maharaj award

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

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

Reviving a Celebrated Tradition

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

Honoring a Decade of Excellence

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

Celebrating Kathak Legends

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

Recognizing Artistic Brilliance

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

Honoring the Legacy of Lacchu Maharaj

The Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award is named after the legendary Kathak exponent, Lacchu Maharaj (1907-1978), who was born Baij Nath Prasad in Lucknow. He is renowned for choreographing Kathak dance sequences in iconic films like

Mahal, Mughal-e-Azam, and Pakeezah, as well as numerous ballets.

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

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **HDFC Bank**, a leading private sector lender in India, is pursuing the sale of its entire stake in **HDFC Education and Development Services**. This move comes as the bank seeks to maintain transparency and regulatory compliance while selecting a buyer through the Swiss challenge method. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the nation's central banking institution, is entering its **90th year** on **April 1st, 2024**. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is attending the event at Mumbai's **National Centre for the Performing Arts**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In March 2024, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection in India witnessed a notable surge, marking the second-highest since its inception in **July 2017**. The month's collection amounted to **Rs 1.78 lakh crore, reflecting an 11.5% increase** compared to the previous year.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) concluded FY24 on a remarkable note, achieving new milestones in transaction volume and value during March 2024. Despite a slight dip in February 2024 due to fewer days in the month and increased investment activity ahead of the financial year end, transactions worth **₹19.78 lakh crore were processed in March 2024**, marking a significant increase from the previous record of **₹18.41 lakh crore set in January 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- As of **December 2023**, India witnessed a surge in credit card usage, with the total number crossing the **100 million mark**. This trend has been steadily growing over the past few years, fueled by both strategic bank initiatives and evolving consumer spending habits, according to RBI Data([Read Complete Article](#))
- Karnataka Bank has successfully concluded a **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to raise Rs 600 crore**, adding to its planned capital raise program of **Rs 1,500 crore announced in September 2023**. This strategic move aims to enhance the bank's financial strength, fueling its growth trajectory while ensuring stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is contemplating the establishment of the **Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA)** to combat the proliferation of illegal lending apps. This initiative aims to bolster cybersecurity measures and clamp down on fraudulent activities in the digital lending sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has merged with **Fincare Small Finance Bank**, marking a significant consolidation in the banking sector. The **merger, finalized on April 1, 2024**, through an all-stock deal, strengthens AU SFB's presence in South India and enhances its customer base and distribution network. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **launched SCORES 2.0**, an upgraded version of its Complaint Redress System (SCORES), to strengthen mechanisms for addressing investor complaints. This enhanced system features automated routing, oversight by designated authorities, and streamlined processes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has granted approval to **Axis Bank** for its proposed acquisition of a stake in **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd**. This strategic move aims to bolster Max Life's growth trajectory, fortify its capital base, and enhance solvency margins. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the second half of 2023, UPI transactions in India witnessed a remarkable surge of **56% year-on-year**, outpacing the modest growth of **6% in card transactions**, according to a report by payment service provider Worldline. The report reveals that the volume of **UPI transactions soared to 65.77 billion**, marking a substantial increase from **42.09 billion** in the same period. Moreover, transaction value saw a **significant rise of 44%, reaching Rs 99.68 trillion from Rs 69.36 trillion**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has deferred the implementation of new regulations governing **exchange-traded forex derivatives to May 3**. These regulations, initially set to take effect imminently, aim to ensure participants in the market have genuine foreign-exchange exposure. However, the delay has prompted brokerages to urge clients to close out contracts, anticipating significant changes in market dynamics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on two financial institutions – **IDFC First Bank and LIC Housing Finance** – for non-compliance with various regulations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- In a significant development, provisional figures released by the Ministry of Finance reveal that net direct tax collections for the **Financial Year (FY) 2023-24** have surpassed **Union Budget Estimates by a substantial margin of Rs. 1.35 lakh crore**, marking a remarkable increase of 7.40%. The provisional direct tax collections stand at Rs. 19.58 lakh crore, showcasing a robust growth of 17.70% compared to the preceding FY 2022-23. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, **banker Deepak S Parekh has resigned from his positions as chairman and non-executive director of HDFC Life Insurance**, effective April 18, 2024. Following this, **Keki Mistry**, who has been associated with the company since December 2000, has been unanimously **appointed as the new Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance**. Mistry's extensive experience and leadership within the organization make him a natural choice for this pivotal role. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted **in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to function as a **Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007**. This approval, after a year-long process, marks a pivotal moment for PayU's operations in India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the **fiscal year 2023-24**, India experienced a significant decline in its **gems and jewellery exports by 14.94%, amounting to US\$32.02 billion compared to US\$37.6 billion in the previous year**. The **Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** released provisional data highlighting this downturn. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a **comprehensive master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, which will come into effect from April 24, 2024. These guidelines aim to enhance the regulatory framework for ARCs and ensure their financial stability and effectiveness in resolving distressed assets. **ARCs are required to maintain a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore**, a significant increase from the previous requirement of **Rs 100 crore set on October 11, 2022**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank's shares plummeted by 10%** following punitive measures imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which restrict the bank from onboarding new customers online and issuing fresh credit cards due to **IT system deficiencies in 2022 and 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled regulations under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to facilitate the direct listing of Indian companies on international stock exchanges. These regulations aim to streamline foreign exchange transactions and reporting procedures, offering companies greater flexibility in utilizing funds raised through overseas listings. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic collaboration, **NABARD has joined forces with the RBI Innovation Hub** to revolutionize agricultural lending through digitalization. The partnership aims to streamline loan processing and enhance accessibility for farmers across India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- SBI Card has introduced three variants of its **travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES**, catering to diverse travel needs. The variants—**SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES**—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed Talkcharge Technologies to halt the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or wallets. This directive follows the RBI's observation of the firm issuing wallets without proper authorization. As a result, Talkcharge must refund the balances held in these wallets to customers by May 17, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH), has achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing the Reserve Bank of India's pilot program on programmable Central Bank

Digital Currency (CBDC). This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural finance by targeting farmers for carbon credit generation. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued comprehensive guidelines outlining the voluntary transition path for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) seeking to become Universal Banks. These guidelines set specific eligibility criteria and procedural requirements for such a transition, aiming to ensure financial stability and operational effectiveness in the banking sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Economy Current Affairs

- The World Bank has revised India's GDP growth projection for FY25 to 6.6%, indicating a moderate yet steady growth trajectory. Despite the anticipated slowdown, robust economic activity in India is expected to drive growth in South Asia, outpacing other emerging market and developing economies. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- During the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announcement, Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the importance of maintaining moderate inflation to ensure economic stability. The projected CPI inflation for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) stands at 4.5%, with fluctuations across quarters. ([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 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](#))
- 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](#))

- SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assessments in India. This accreditation underscores the growing importance of independent ESG ratings in financial markets, particularly in guiding decision-making for issuers and investors towards sustainable practices. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) predicts India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2024-25 to be 7.1%. Utilizing high-frequency models, NIPFP underscores the government's fiscal consolidation efforts, emphasizing tax buoyancy and compression of revenue expenditure. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Deloitte India has revised its GDP growth forecasts for FY24 and FY25, with a significant increase in projections. The consultancy anticipates a robust GDP growth of 7.6-7.8% for FY24, up from the previous estimate of 6.9-7.2%. Looking ahead to FY25, Deloitte expects GDP to expand by 6.6%, driven by strong economic activity fueled by rising consumption expenditure. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



Business Current Affairs

- On March 26, 2024, **Savita Oil Technologies** announced a significant equity transaction via a block deal, wherein the company's promoter, Mr. Gautam N. Mehra, sold a **3% stake to SBI Mutual Fund**. This resulted in a reduction of the promoter group's stake to 59.78%. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Chhattisgarh-based **Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)**, a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has achieved the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification. This accolade positions BALCO as the inaugural Indian company to attain this certification, reflecting its commitment to sustainable practices in the aluminium value chain. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, surpasses Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, to become India's leading cargo-handling major port in the fiscal year 2023-24, handling **145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo, marking a 7.4% growth from the previous year.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Technologies and BMW Group have inked a partnership to establish an automotive software and IT development center in Chennai, Pune, and Bengaluru. With Chennai's prominence in housing IT solution hubs for auto giants like Visteon, Ford, and Renault Nissan, the focus here will be on business IT solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, PepsiCo India announces a massive investment of **₹1,266 crore to establish a cutting-edge flavour manufacturing facility in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.** Scheduled to commence operations in the first quarter of 2026, this plant marks a pivotal moment for both PepsiCo and the local economy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has achieved a significant milestone by **surpassing 10,000 MW** of renewable energy capacity in its operational portfolio. This accomplishment solidifies AGEL's position as the foremost player in India's renewable energy sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Star Health Insurance, a leading provider of **retail health insurance** in India, has collaborated with PhonePe, a prominent digital payments platform. This partnership aims to make quality health insurance accessible through PhonePe's app, offering the **Star Comprehensive Insurance Policy with monthly and annual payment options.** ([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](#))
- **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](#))
- In a groundbreaking collaboration, **Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have unveiled the UPI Switch**, a cutting-edge cloud-based infrastructure designed to revolutionize the landscape of digital payments. This innovative product promises to enhance success rates by 4-5% and handle an impressive **10,000 transactions per second (TPS)**, offering businesses unprecedented efficiency and scalability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, **BharatPe has unveiled BharatPe One**, an innovative all-in-one payment device set to redefine digital transactions. This cutting-edge product integrates POS, QR, and speaker functionalities into a single device, promising unparalleled convenience for merchants and customers alike. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala** has received approval from the government to operate as India's inaugural transshipment port. This designation is significant as it allows cargo to be transferred from large vessels to smaller ones, contributing to India's goal of becoming a manufacturing hub. Presently, a substantial portion of India's transshipment cargo is handled by ports abroad, such as those in Colombo and Singapore. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The increasing reliance of **India on Chinese industrial goods presents significant economic and security concerns, with China's share in New Delhi's imports rising from 21% to 30% over the last 15 years.** This situation demands a strategic reassessment of import strategies to foster diversified and resilient supply chains. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Hitachi Payment Services** has unveiled **new upgradable ATMs in India**, allowing banks to adapt their machines into **Cash Recycling Machines (CRMs)** as per evolving needs. Manufactured under the 'Make in India' initiative, these ATMs offer flexibility and efficiency to banks, potentially revolutionizing the Indian ATM industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector enterprise, has been granted the coveted '**Navratna**' status by the government, according to a recent filing with the stock exchanges. This prestigious designation takes the total number of **Navratna PSEs (Public Sector Enterprises)** in India to 17. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

International Current Affairs

- Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on **women's rights**. The appointment of **Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil** has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Romania and Bulgaria have taken a significant step in their integration with the **European Union by partially joining the Schengen travel zone**. While travelers arriving by air or sea now enjoy ID-check-free access, land border checks persist due to opposition from Austria. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on **March 29th, 2024**. The event served as a platform to assess the accomplishments and insights gained from the year-long celebration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Katchatheevu, an Indian island** with a tumultuous past, has been a focal point of contention between **India and Sri Lanka since its cession in 1974**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the country's **first female Prime Minister**. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of **worsening violence** in the mineral-rich **eastern region** bordering Rwanda. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On **April 1, 2024**, Germany became the largest **European Union (EU)** nation to **legalize recreational cannabis use**, despite facing opposition from politicians and medical associations. Under the new law, **adults over 18** are now permitted to carry up to **25 grams of dried cannabis** and cultivate up to **three marijuana plants** at home. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Scientists in South Korea have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an "**artificial sun**" nuclear fusion reactor. During tests conducted between December 2023 and February 2024, they generated **plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius** for a duration of **48 seconds**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, 69**, has commenced his third term as the leader of the nation, extending his tenure until 2030. Amidst battling economic challenges, **Sisi vows to prioritize national interests and fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for a modern, democratic state**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A research center in **Romania has revealed the world's most potent laser**, based on the groundbreaking inventions of **Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland**. The laser, operated by the French company Thales, promises revolutionary applications across sectors from healthcare to space exploration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi**, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa. **President Emmerson Mnangagwa** cited an "**El Nino-induced drought**" causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over **80% of the country**. This drought, exacerbated by climate change, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is marking its **75th anniversary this year**. The alliance, founded in 1949, will hold a special event in Brussels, Belgium to commemorate this milestone. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- In a recent announcement on April 20, 2024, **North Korea revealed the testing of a new anti-aircraft Pyoljji-1-2 missile and a super large strategic cruise missile Hwasal-1 Ra-3 warhead in the West Sea of Korea**. These tests, conducted on April 19, 2024, mark a significant escalation in tensions between North Korea, South Korea, and the United States. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mayako Pahichan Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board**, orchestrated the groundbreaking **first International Rainbow Tourism Conference**. This one-day event marks a significant leap forward in fostering diversity and inclusivity within Nepal's tourism industry, positioning the country as a welcoming destination for the sexual minority community in South Asia. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indonesia's electoral commission** has officially declared **Prabowo Subianto** as the president-elect after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, currently serving as the defense minister,

- secured 58.6% of the votes, amounting to more than 96 million ballots, which is more than twice the number received by either of his rivals. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the recently released **2024 Special 301 Report by the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR)**, India finds itself on the Priority Watch List for **intellectual property (IP)** protection and enforcement. This decision comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding India's handling of IP security issues. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** has introduced a **new kamikaze drone resembling Russia's Lancet drone**. This drone, yet to be named publicly, is designed for targeted attacks, akin to those witnessed in the Ukraine conflict. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Iraq's parliament recently passed a stringent law criminalizing same-sex relationships**, imposing a **maximum 15-year prison sentence**. The legislation, titled the Law on Combating Prostitution and Homosexuality, reflects a concerning trend of increased scrutiny and persecution of LGBT individuals in Iraq. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Humza Yousaf, Scotland's first Muslim First Minister** and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), has announced his resignation amid political turmoil. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Sri Lanka, amidst a financial crisis stemming from a severe shortage of dollars, has taken a significant step by partially lifting import restrictions. This move aims to rejuvenate the economy, which has been struggling since March 2020. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Dubai is embarking on an ambitious endeavor to construct the **world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport**, boasting an unprecedented capacity to accommodate 260 million passengers annually, with 400 terminal gates and five parallel runways. **Spearheaded by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, the project signifies Dubai's commitment to innovation and global connectivity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

IFSCA 2024
 Assistant Manager (Grade-A)
 General Stream Phase-I
 25 Total Tests

Test Series

National Current Affairs

- The **Indian government** has taken proactive steps to address carbon emissions in the steel industry by establishing a task force to investigate the potential use of biochar. With the steel sector contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, this initiative aims to reduce carbon intensity and promote **sustainability in steel manufacturing processes**. Given its potential significance in reducing carbon emissions within the steel industry, the formation of the 14th Task Force on 'Use of Biochar and Other Relevant Products in Steel Making' was endorsed by the ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government aimed to raise funds through the sale of stakes in state-run companies in the **fiscal year 2023/24**. However, the achieved amount of **165 billion rupees** fell short of the internal target by about **9%**, reaching **\$1.98 billion**. This setback is attributed to the forthcoming general elections, causing a shift in focus away from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's privatization agenda. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On March 29, 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was honoured with the '**Merchant Navy Flag**', pinned on his lapel by Secretary **T.K. Ramachandran** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. This marked the beginning of the **National Maritime Week** celebrations, which span from **March 29 to April 5**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Amidst the growing buzz around **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, the trailer and song launch event for India's first Hindi film on this subject, "**IRAH**," took place in Mumbai. The movie boasts an impressive cast, including **Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandary** in prominent roles. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's engineering exports soared by **15.9% year over year in February 2024**, marking the third consecutive month of growth and reaching a **record high of \$9.94 billion for the fiscal year 2023–2024**. Notably, this growth surpassed December 2023 figures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One **FASTag**' norm, which aims to prevent the use of a single **FASTag** for multiple vehicles or linking multiple **FASTags** to a particular vehicle. This new norm has come into effect from **April 1, 2024**. NHAI had previously extended the compliance deadline to the end of March, considering the issues faced by **Paytm FASTag** users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare** introduces the **myCGHS app for iOS**, delivering enhanced healthcare accessibility and digital experiences to **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** beneficiaries. **Launched on April 3rd, 2024**, the app prioritizes user safety with robust security measures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India aims to bolster its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**, launched India's first **home-grown gene therapy** for cancer at **IIT Bombay** on April 4, 2024. This groundbreaking treatment, called '**CAR-T cell therapy**', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, former **Prime Minister of India**, retire from the **Rajya Sabha**, marking the end of his **three-decade-long tenure** in the **Upper House**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is embarking on establishing its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30. This initiative aims to allow the operator the liberty to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as **Japan and South Korea**. India's current SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with plans to expand this approach with new SPR projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In line with its ambitions for a sustainable energy future, India aims to ramp up its nuclear power production significantly, targeting a capacity of **1 lakh MW by 2047**. This objective, outlined in a report titled '**Synchronising Energy Transitions Towards Possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and Clean Energy for All**,' highlights the nation's commitment to expanding its nuclear energy sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In response to requests from friendly nations including **Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Bhutan**, the Indian government has granted approval for the export of onions. India, a significant **global exporter of onions**, had enforced a **ban on onion exports in December 2023**, leading to soaring prices in these nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India aims to halt **urea imports by the end of 2025** by boosting domestic production and promoting alternative fertilizers. This is in response to the nation's significant reliance on imports, which currently satisfy around 30% of its annual urea demand. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to make history as the **first Indian Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi to grace the cover of Newsweek**. In a comprehensive interview, PM Modi discussed a spectrum of topics, including China, economic reforms, the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Quad alliance, and the role of democracy in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a gesture of solidarity and support, **India has donated 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations in Nepal**, bolstering infrastructure in the crucial sectors of health and education. **Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava**, officiated the handover ceremony alongside Finance Minister Barshaman Pun. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards advancing India's rail infrastructure, the country is gearing up to launch an indigenous **bullet train** capable of reaching speeds exceeding **250 kilometres per hour (km/h)**. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize high-speed rail travel in India, showcasing the nation's engineering prowess and commitment to cutting-edge technology. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a move to simplify and streamline the process of students' transition from one school to another, the School Education Department in the state has made the use of **Permanent Education Number (PEN)** mandatory from the academic year 2024-25. PEN is a unique identification number assigned to every student by the Union Ministry of Education, through the **UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus)** portal, which covers more than 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On the auspicious occasion of **Mahaveer Jayanti**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, **Bhagwan Mahaveer**, whose teachings of **Ahimsa (Non-Violence)**, **Satya (Truthfulness)**, **Asteya (Non-Stealing)**, **Brahmacharya (Chastity)**, and **Aparigraha (Non-attachment)** have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In celebration of **Earth Day**, the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently unveiled **India's largest Climate Clock at its headquarters in New Delhi**. This initiative underscores CSIR's commitment to raising awareness about climate change and its adverse impacts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC)** is an **apex advisory body** on archival matters in India. Established in **1919**, the IHRC serves as a national forum for creators, custodians, and users of records, advising the Government of India on the **management of records** and their use for **historical research**. The IHRC is headed by the **Union Minister of Culture**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India takes a significant step in renewable energy with the inauguration of its first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the **1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS)** in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri. Spearheaded by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**, the project aims to produce green hydrogen through renewable energy sources. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's pharmaceutical exports** witnessed robust growth in the fiscal year 2023-24, reaching **\$28 billion**, marking a **10% increase compared to the previous fiscal year**. Despite a 3% dip in total exports, the pharmaceutical sector demonstrated resilience and significant expansion. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** announces a significant milestone for **India's Gem and Jewellery (GJ)** industry as it receives **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)** status from the Ministry of Finance. This status, previously denied, now facilitates smoother export-import processes, reduces cargo release times, and lowers bank guarantees by 50%, aiming to enhance ease of doing business. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Invest India predicts that India's ecommerce sector will skyrocket to **\$325 billion by 2030**, with rural India driving much of the growth. This surge is fueled by factors such as increased internet penetration, affordable internet services, and a rising number of smartphone users. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

States Current Affairs

- Tamil Nadu Governor **R.N. Ravi** inaugurated the **Param Vir Chakra garden** and **Aikyam exhibition** at the Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram. Ravi was accompanied by **Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar**, **Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM)**, General Officer Commanding (Dakshin Bharat area), and **V.Shankar**, chairman of the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Trust. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- The **34th Seng Khihlang festival**, a revered event for adherents of the **Khasi Indigenous Faith**, recently concluded in **Wahiajer, Meghalaya**. Spanning from **April 19, 2024**, the festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The southern Indian state of **Kerala** is renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, encompassing a diverse array of **religions, landscapes, rituals, and histories**. Amidst this vibrant melting pot, one festival stands out as a true embodiment of Kerala's profound cultural heritage – the **Thrissur Pooram**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In **Manipur, Khongjom Day** is observed on **April 23** to pay homage to the brave souls who fought against the British in the **Khongjom Battle** during the **Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891**. This day holds great significance in the history of Manipur, as it commemorates the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives to protect their homeland. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **government of Tamil Nadu** has launched a three-day survey of the **Nilgiri Tahr**, the state's iconic animal. This initiative aims to better understand and conserve this **endangered species** that faces numerous challenges, including **habitat loss** and **poaching**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees

- The **Indian government has launched CDP-SURAKSHA**, a groundbreaking digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the **Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**. This initiative comes amidst the significant contribution of the horticulture sector to **India's agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)**, with consistent growth in crop production over the years. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- At the 42nd **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** annual meet, **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** announced India's pledge to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030. This commitment aligns with global efforts to ensure the sustainability of space exploration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the landmark **Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India Case 2023**, the **Special Marriage Act of 1954** was challenged for its exclusion of same-sex marriages, citing a violation of Article 14 of the fundamental rights. Despite the Act allowing marriages between individuals of different religions, it did not extend this provision to same-sex couples. The committee, chaired by Union Home Secretary **Rajiv Gauba**, comprises six members including secretaries from key ministries. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Union rural development ministry announced the revision of wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** on **March 27**, following clearance from the Election Commission amidst the ongoing Lok Sabha polls and the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in force. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Delhi High Court** has appointed former judge **Najmi Waziri** to lead a committee focused on safeguarding the forests in the national capital. This decision follows concerns about various government departments not fully cooperating with efforts to protect these vital natural resources. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bilquis Mir**, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the **first woman from India** to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- The Indian and Nepalese governments, along with scholars from both countries, have collaborated to advance **Sanskrit research and education**. This partnership aims to strengthen bilateral relations and preserve the cultural heritage shared by **India and Nepal**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** has collaborated with Panasonic Energy to establish a joint venture aimed at producing lithium-ion cells in India. This strategic partnership comes in response to the anticipated surge in demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage solutions within the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- SJVN, formerly **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam**, has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)** aimed at revolutionizing tunneling project performance through the integration of advanced geological models. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait announced the launch of the **first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait**, a significant step to deepen ties between the two nations. Initiated by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, the program will air every Sunday on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3, highlighting the bond between India and Kuwait. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, India**, and Starburst Aerospace of France have signed a significant **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** aimed at advancing innovation in aerospace, defence, and homeland security. This collaboration, aligned with the India-France Strategic Partnership, includes the creation of a 100 million euros venture capital fund and export promotion support for Indian startups. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a bid to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India, the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** have joined forces. The partnership aims to provide vocational training to marginalized communities, initially focusing on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Air India** has entered into a **codeshare partnership** with **All Nippon Airways (ANA)**, Japan's largest airline. This agreement, effective from **May 23, 2024**, will allow passengers of both airlines to **combine flights** between India and Japan using a single ticket. ([Read Complete Article](#))

New Appointments: International

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA)** has appointed a new team of **office-bearers** for the term of **2024-2025**, according to a statement released. **Moushumi Basu**, a professor at the **School of International Studies**, has been appointed as the next **JNUTA president**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Joyshree Das Verma** has taken over as the **41st National President** of the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** for the year **2024-25**. FLO is the **oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber** of South East Asia. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Axis Capital** has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. His appointment is waiting for final approval. Mehra will be overseeing both the **investment banking and institutional equities** businesses at Axis Capital. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ms Sheyphali B. Sharan** has assumed charge as the **Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau**, upon the **superannuation (retirement)** of **Shri Manish Desai**. Ms. Sharan is an officer of the **1990 batch of Indian Information Service**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent industry chamber, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President**. Nayar has replaced **Ajay Singh**, the Co-Founder of **SpiceJet** airline, whose tenure has ended. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps** on **April 1, 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Santosh Kumar Jha**, an **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS)** officer of the 1992 batch, will assume the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) on April 1, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Sandeep Jain**, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of **IIT-Kanpur**, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** for the year 2024-25. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has roped in popular actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The 39-year-old actor features in the ECI's campaign video that urges youngsters to vote in the upcoming elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Group's global **trading and distribution arm, Tata International**, has announced the **appointment of Rajeev Singhal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)**. Singhal's appointment to the **new position is effective from April 1, 2024**. He **succeeds Anand Sen**, who **superannuated (retired)** on **March 31, 2024**, as per a statement by Tata International. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The World Bank Group** has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel. This panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)**, the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors. In the elections held, Dr. **Meenesh Shah** was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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](#))

SEBI GRADE- A
 Assistant Manager (General)
 Phase-I Paper-1
 20+ Total Tests
 Test Series

- **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](#))
- In a strategic move to enhance its brand presence and awareness in the Indian market, French carmaker **Citroen** has engaged cricketering legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador. The Stellantis Group company, which is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market, aims to find a firm footing and strengthen its brand identity through this association. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The United Nations Secretary-General, **António Guterres**, has appointed **Gita Sabharwal** of India as the new **UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia**. Sabharwal assumed her post on Monday, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a historic move, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor **Naima Khatoun** as the first woman **Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**, breaking a century-old glass ceiling. The appointment, seen as part of the BJP government's outreach to Muslim women, comes days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended candidates for the positions of Managing Director (MD) at State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Bank. **Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh** has been proposed for SBI MD, while **Asheesh Pandey** has been recommended for Indian Bank MD. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Axis Bank's board** has approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry** as Managing Director & CEO for **another three years**, effective January 2025, subject to RBI approval. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the re-appointment of **T. Rabi Sankar** as **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a one-year term, effective from May 3, 2024. Sankar, a seasoned central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the RBI, was initially appointed as Deputy Governor on May 3, 2021, for a three-year period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)** has completed the process mandated by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**, the global governing body for the sport. As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an **Athletes Commission** to address the grievances of wrestlers. Subsequently, the newly elected members unanimously chose **Narsingh Yadav** as the **Chairman of the Athletes Commission**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL)**, a leading provider of agri-solutions, has announced a significant leadership transition. **Arun Alagappan**, the former Executive Vice Chairman, has been appointed and re-designated as the **Executive Chairman** of the company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has welcomed a new addition to its leadership team. **Sunil Kumar Yadav**, an officer from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), has been appointed as the **Director** of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, the **Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)** has announced the appointment of **Krishna Ella**, co-founder and executive chairman of **Bharat Biotech**, as its new **president** for the next two years, effective April 2024. Ella will take over the presidency from **Adar C. Poonawala**, who held the position from 2019 to March 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sarvadanand Barnwal**, an **Indian Statistical Service (ISS)** officer of the **2010 batch**, has been appointed as **Director** in the **Department of Land Resources**. The appointment was made on **Friday, April 26, 2024**, through an order issued by the **Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Awards Current Affairs

- **Professor Meena Charanda**, Principal of **Kalindi College, Delhi University**, has been awarded the prestigious '**International Culture Award**' for the year 2024. Prof. Charanda received this honour in recognition of her remarkable work in the field of **education and social service**. The award ceremony took place on **March 30, 2024**, at the **India International Center**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vineet Jain**, the managing director of the **Times Group**, received the prestigious **Exchange4Media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023** for his significant contributions to **Indian television news**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the **SKOCH ESG Award 2024** in the '**Renewable Energy Financing**' category. The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. Executive Director of REC Limited, **Shri T.S.C. Bosh**, received the award in New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Dr. Kommuri was felicitated with the Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) title at the **National Fame Awards 2024**, held at The Club in Mumbai. The chief guest of the ceremony was Dia Mirza. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SJVN Limited**, a leading public sector undertaking, has been honored with two prestigious awards at the **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024**. The awards were given by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in recognition of SJVN's remarkable contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- **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](#))
- **Pavuluri Subba Rao**, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of **Ananth Technologies**, has been conferred with the prestigious **'Aryabhata Award'** by the **Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)**. This honour recognizes Rao's "tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India." ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mohammed Salem** is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the **World Press Photo of the Year award**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the esteemed KISS Humanitarian Award 2021** at a ceremony held at his Mumbai residence. The award, initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, recognizes individuals and organizations epitomizing humanitarian efforts globally. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). The **KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award**, while the **Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a prestigious ceremony held at Mumbai's **Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih**, actor **Randeep Hooda** was bestowed with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to **Indian cinema** and his recent film "**Swatantrya Veer Savarkar**". ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Gina Justus**, an English High School teacher at the Sharjah Girls Branch in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been named the regional winner for the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region** at the prestigious **2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**. This achievement celebrates her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity work. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sana**, the **AI-powered news anchor** developed by the **India Today Group**, has achieved remarkable success at the prestigious **International News Media Association (INMA) Global Media Awards** held in London. This groundbreaking AI innovation has captured two coveted awards, solidifying its position as a **trailblazer** in the field of AI-driven journalism. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) honored K.V. Kamath**, Chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development and Chairman of Jio Financial Services Ltd., with an honorary doctorate at a special convocation on April 29, 2024. The ceremony

celebrated Kamath's exceptional leadership in banking, finance, and sustainable development, recognizing his significant contributions to India's financial sector and global impact. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Sports Current Affairs

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, the legendary wicketkeeper-batter, has etched his name in the history books once again. During an **Indian Premier League (IPL)** match between **Delhi Capitals (DC)** and **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, Dhoni achieved a remarkable feat, becoming the first wicketkeeper to record **300 dismissals** in **T20 cricket**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The top-seeded duo of **Rohan Bopanna** from India and **Matthew Ebden** from Australia won the **Men's Doubles Title** at the **Miami Open**, a prestigious **ATP Masters** tennis tournament. In an exciting final, they defeated the second seeds **Ivan Dodig** and **Austin Krajicek** with a score of **6-7(3), 6-3, [10-6]**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Novak Djokovic**, the **24-time Grand Slam champion**, continues to break records on the ATP Tour. As of this week, he begins his **419th week** as the **World No. 1**, extending his huge record. On Sunday, April 9, 2024, Djokovic will surpass **Roger Federer's record** and become the **oldest World No. 1** in ATP Rankings history at the age of **36 years and 321 days**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Maharashtra team** emerged as the undisputed champion at the **56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24**, clinching both the **men's and women's titles**. The championship was held at Delhi's **Karnail Singh Stadium** and the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the latest **FIDE rankings** released by the **world governing body of chess**, India has a **new number 1** chess player – **Arjun Erigaisi**. With a **standard rating of 2756**, Erigaisi is **ranked ninth in the world**. This is his **debut in the top 10** of the Open standard list. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **IWF World Cup 2024** was held in Phuket, Thailand from **March 31 to April 11, 2024**. The event was organized by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the world governing body for men's and women's weightlifting. 25-year-old Indian weightlifter **Bindyarani Devi** competed in the women's 55kg category and won a bronze medal. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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. **Abhimanyu (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](#))
- In a display of sheer dominance, **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull Racing claimed a resounding victory at the long-awaited **Chinese Grand Prix**, extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship. The Dutchman's triumph marked the first Formula One race in China in five years, and he left no room for doubt, leading from start to finish. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy **Dommaraju Gukesh**, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Not only that, but Gukesh is also the first teenager to win the prestigious tournament. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move to strengthen its **international presence**, 'Nandini', the dairy brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has announced its decision to **sponsor** the cricket teams of **Scotland** and **Ireland** for the upcoming **2024 T20 World Cup**. According to KMF's managing director, **MK Jagadish**, the teams will prominently display the 'Nandini' brand during the matches. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a remarkable achievement, **World No. 6 Casper Ruud** of Norway defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas** of Greece, clinching the **ATP Barcelona Open 500** singles title. The final scoreline of 7-5, 6-3 marked a significant milestone for Ruud, as he secured the **biggest trophy** of his professional career. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, stands tall as the **highest wicket-taker in IPL history**. With a staggering 200 wickets in 153 matches. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian squash Player, **Saurav Ghosal**, the nation's premier player, has announced his retirement from professional squash. The 37-year-old's decision marks the end of an illustrious career that spanned over two decades, during which he achieved numerous milestones and brought glory to the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Legendary sprinter **Usain Bolt** has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from **June 1 to 29**. The Jamaican icon, known as the fastest man alive, brings his passion for cricket and global appeal to ignite the tournament and propel the sport into new territories. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking announcement, Saudi Arabia's oil behemoth, **Aramco**, and the **international football governing body, FIFA**, have joined forces in a **strategic global partnership**. The deal, spanning until 2027, designates Aramco as FIFA's Major Worldwide Partner exclusively in the energy sector, encompassing sponsorship rights for marquee events **including the FIFA World Cup 2026 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend **Sana Mir** as the ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier**. Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend **Yuvraj Singh** as an ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. The announcement comes with just 36 days remaining until the highly anticipated global event for T20 cricket commences. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian athletes continued their impressive medal-winning spree at the **21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024**, with **Harshit Kumar** clinching a gold medal in the highly competitive Hammer throw event. His outstanding throw of 66.7 meters secured India's latest gold at the prestigious event. As the third day of the championship drew to a close, the Indian contingent had amassed a total of **18 medals**, including five from the latest round of events. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** secured a resounding **78-run** victory over the **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** on Sunday, potentially shaping the trajectory of both teams' **2024 Indian Premier League (IPL)** campaigns. This emphatic win significantly boosted **CSK's net run rate**, propelling them to the **third position** in the league standings. Conversely, SRH suffered their second consecutive defeat, slipping to the **fourth spot**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Summits And Conferences

- The **19th annual meeting** of the secretaries of the security councils of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member states was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from 2 to 3 April 2024. The Indian delegation was led by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**. He also met **Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, the current **Chairman of SCO**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** from April 16 to 18 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**. This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India**, led by **Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran**, advocated for the establishment of a region-specific ocean observation center during the **2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain**. The conference, organized by the **Spanish government and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**, aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** and foster collaboration among stakeholders. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On Earth Day 2024, **Bhutan** is spearheading the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference**. With a goal of **mobilizing \$1 billion over a decade**, the conference aims to preserve tiger habitats critical for biodiversity and supporting millions of people. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Ranks and Reports News

- The northern Indian state of **Uttar Pradesh** has taken the lead in having the highest number of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified products in the country. With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of **69 GI-tagged products**, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent Lancet study reveals a significant rise in global life expectancy, with an **average increase of 6.2 years between 1990 and 2021**. Notably, India has seen an eight-year increase during this period. The study attributes this rise to declines in deaths from various ailments such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, stroke, and heart disease, although the gains were somewhat offset **by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- In its recent report titled **"Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope,"** the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** sheds light on India's demographic landscape. With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally. Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent study conducted by **Australian firm Compare the Market AU** has revealed **intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility**. According to the study, the **Indian passport ranks as the second cheapest worldwide**, with the UAE passport claiming the top spot for affordability. While the Indian passport offers a cost-effective option in terms of both acquisition cost and yearly expenses, its visa-free access is relatively limited compared to higher-priced passports. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent report by the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** and **Ember** evaluates the **progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level**. While **Karnataka and Gujarat maintain strong performances**, states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, necessitating increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
1st April	Odisha Day or Utkala Dibasa
April 2nd	World Autism Awareness Day Theme: Empowering Autistic Voices.
April 1 to April 7	Prevention of Blindness Week
4th April	International Mine Awareness Day
5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Conscience Day Theme: Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience National Maritime Day Theme: Navigating the future: safety first!
April 6th	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace Theme: Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

Date	Day & Theme
April 6	National Handmade Day Theme: Buy a Handmade Product'
April 6	National Library Day
April 7th	World Health Day Theme: My Health, My Right
April 10th	World Homeopathy Day Theme: Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family
April 11th	National Safe Motherhood Day
April 11	World Parkinson's Day
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight
April 14th	World Chagas Disease Day
April 13th	International Turban Day
April 14	World Quantum Day
April 15th	World Art Day Theme: A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art
April 17th	World Hemophilia Day Theme: Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders
April 18	World Heritage Day Theme: Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter
April 19th	World Liver Day
April 21st	National Civil Service Day
April 23rd	World Book and Copyright Day
April 24th	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
April 24 to 30	World Immunization Week Theme: Humanly Possible: Immunization for All
April 25	World Malaria Day Theme: Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world
April 25	International Girls in ICT Day
April 25	International Delegate's Day
April 26th	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
April 26th	World Intellectual Property Day Theme: 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity
April 27th	World Veterinary Day
April 28th	World Day for Safety and Health at Work
April 29th	International Dance Day
April 30th	International Jazz Day
April 30th	Ayushman Bharat Diwas

Defence Current Affairs

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is showcasing its might and capability to carry out **high-octane operations** during the upcoming 'Gagan Shakti-2024' exercise "in a realistic environment" from **April 1-10**. The exercise involves **all air force bases and assets** scattered across the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Highlighting the importance of "**collaboration and interoperability**" among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister **Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon** said the trilateral exercise 'Dosti' will unite the troika to address "**shared maritime security concerns** through collaboration." ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that India's defence exports surged to a record **Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24**, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year. This achievement is attributed to the concerted efforts of both the private sector and **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, supported by policy reforms and initiatives aimed at facilitating ease of doing business. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has commenced a project in Junput village, West Bengal, to establish a test centre for the country's weapon systems. This initiative aims to address the saturation of testing activities at **Odisha's Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR)** by providing an additional operational area. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Army Medical Corps (AMC)** celebrated its **260th Raising Day on 03rd April 2024**. Raised in the year 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication, and sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' meaning 'let all be free from disease'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has commenced the induction of the indigenous **Akashteer system**, marking a significant advancement in its air defence capabilities. This automated air defence control and reporting system, developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, aims to integrate the army's air defence units for enhanced operational efficiency. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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](#))
- The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, '**Poorvi Leher,**' along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India has emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023**, allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia. This significant investment underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, particularly along the **China border post the Ladakh standoff in 2020.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move to honour the **courageous Indian soldiers** who fought valiantly in the **First and Second World Wars**, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an **annual multi-faith event** at the town's **India Gate memorial** this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these **warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Indian Navy have bolstered their combat capabilities with the induction of the Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missile, previously utilized by the Israeli Air Force in operations against Iranian targets. The missile, known as the **High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2** within the Indian Air Force, offers a striking range of up to 250 kilometers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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Science and Technology

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, tech giants Microsoft and OpenAI have revealed plans to construct an unprecedented artificial intelligence supercomputer known as “Stargate.” This ambitious endeavor, estimated to cost a staggering \$100 billion, represents a significant leap forward in **AI infrastructure and capabilities**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Meta, the parent company of **Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram**, has extended its third-party fact-checking initiative in India by partnering with the **Press Trust of India (PTI)**. This collaboration establishes PTI as a dedicated fact-checking unit within its editorial department, enabling the identification, review, and rating of misinformation across Meta platforms. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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](#))
- Since its inception in 2001, **SPACE India** has been on a mission to integrate **Astronomy and Space Science** into school curricula nationwide, inspiring over 1.5 million students across 1,000 schools. The organization has been instrumental in demystifying rocket science and making space education accessible to all. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards enhancing India’s naval capabilities, the Department of Defence (R&D) and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE)** at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **European astronomers** have made a groundbreaking discovery – the largest **stellar black hole** in our **Milky Way galaxy**. Named ‘**BH-3**’, this celestial behemoth has a staggering mass **33 times greater than our Sun** and is located a mere **2,000 light-years** away from Earth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg** has announced the launch of the company’s advanced AI assistant, **Meta AI**, powered by the state-of-the-art language model **Llama 3**. The new AI offering is designed to enhance the user experience across Meta’s popular apps, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger, while also being available on a dedicated website, meta.ai. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the **clouded tiger cat (Leopardus pardinoides)**, this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region’s rich biodiversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Microsoft Research Asia’s AI team** has introduced **VASA-1**, an innovative AI application showcased in a **recent paper on arXiv**. VASA-1 converts still images into animated representations with synchronized speech or song, exhibiting realistic facial expressions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Himalayan Mountains, known as the “Third Pole” for their vast glaciers**, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Reliance Jio, the telecom leader in India**, has outpaced China Mobile to become the **world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption**. With a **subscriber base of 481.8 million, including 108 million on its True5G Standalone network**, Jio's dominance underscores its position in the global telecom market. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **NASA recently launched a groundbreaking space mission from New Zealand**, deploying the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket**. This innovative spacecraft utilizes solar energy for propulsion, marking a significant leap in space exploration technology. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Phi-3-mini marks a significant milestone in AI innovation**, offering unparalleled performance and efficiency. **Microsoft's latest small language model (SLM)** has surpassed benchmarks, demonstrating superiority over models of similar and larger sizes. Leveraged by prominent entities like India's ITC, Phi-3-mini showcases Microsoft's commitment to delivering cutting-edge AI solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the latest advancement of China's space program, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a **three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft**. The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative effort between the **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP)** of Kamrup Election District and the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**, a groundbreaking 3D-printed dummy ballot unit has been unveiled. The initiative aims to enhance voter awareness and engagement, particularly among new voters and senior citizens, by providing a practical experience of the voting process. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Books & Authors

Name of Book	Author
Knife	Salman Rushdie
The Idea of Democracy	Sam Pitroda
Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond	Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh
Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career	Duvvuri Subbarao
India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda	Bhimeswara Challa
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson
Heavenly Islands of Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
India's Nuclear Titans	Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The products are **Matabari pera prasad, Rignai pachara textiles and Risa**. With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Perched atop the picturesque **Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu**, the iconic **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)** recently commemorated a remarkable milestone – its **125th anniversary** of studying the celestial body that sustains life on Earth, the Sun. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant milestone for agricultural recognition, the **indigenous wheat variety** from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as **Kathiya Gehu**, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This is the **first farm produce** from Uttar Pradesh to receive this honor. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa**, has become the **14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system**. This biometric-enabled system uses facial recognition technology to automate the entry and verification of passengers at various airport checkpoints, making the travel experience more seamless and convenient. The Digi Yatra system is already operational in 13 other Indian airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, among others. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative project involving researchers from Kerala University and various other institutions, a significant archaeological excavation has revealed a **5,200-year-old Harappan settlement at Padta Bet, near Khatiya village in Kachchh district, Gujarat**. Led by **assistant professors Abhayan G.S. and Rajesh S.V. from Kerala University's Department of Archaeology**, the expedition uncovered crucial evidence shedding light on the cultural formation of Early Harappan settlements in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing banking convenience, J&K Bank has teamed up with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch a **Virtual ATM (VATM)** facility. This innovative service enables cardless cash withdrawals for customers through local retailers, particularly benefiting areas like **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh where accessibility to traditional ATMs may be limited.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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](#))
- **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](#))
- **Comet Pons-Brooks**, currently orbiting near Jupiter, is captivating astronomers and stargazers alike as it approaches its closest point to the Sun on April 21, 2024. Its increasing brightness and elongating tail make it a spectacle in the night sky, visible even to the naked eye. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant ruling, the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act.** Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds. Parray had been held since May based on allegations of being associated with terrorist groups, but the court found the detention illegal and ordered his immediate release. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, two iconic products from the historic city of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, have been granted the coveted **Geographical Indication (GI)** status. On April 16, 2024, the GI Registry Office based in Chennai announced that the **Tiranga Barfi** of Varanasi and the **Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft** have been included in the prestigious GI category. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking event that blurs the lines between reality and artificial intelligence, the world is set to witness the first-ever beauty pageant exclusively for **AI-generated models and influencers.** Dubbed **"Miss AI,"** this unique contest will pit these virtual creations against each other, judging them on their online presence, aesthetics, and the technical prowess behind their creation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed three remarkable sites**, each offering distinct insights into the region's ancient history. Among these discoveries are over 200 megalithic monuments nestled within dense forests, an exceptional Iron Age megalithic site displaying unique architectural styles, and two rock art sites revealing ancient artistic expressions. These findings not only illuminate Telangana's past but also emphasize the necessity for continued exploration and preservation endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Lakshmana Tirtha River, renowned for its scenic beauty in the Kodagu District of Karnataka, has succumbed to severe drought and intense heat.** Originating from the forests in Kutta, it extends about 180 km before merging into the Cauvery River. However, this year, the river has dried up entirely, exacerbating the water crisis in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On a momentous occasion, members of the **Shompen tribe**, one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), exercised their democratic right for the **first time** by casting votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections. This significant event marks a milestone for the indigenous community residing in the dense tropical rainforests of the **Great Nicobar island.** ([Read Complete Article](#))



Obituaries Current Affairs

- Barbara Rush, a **Golden Globe-winning actress**, embarked on her journey in the entertainment industry in the 1950s. Her breakthrough role came in 1954 with the science-fiction film **"It Came from Outer Space,"** which earned her the **Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Juan Vicente Pérez** was a man from Venezuela who lived a very, very long life. He was born on **May 27, 1909**, in a town called El Cobre. This means he was alive for 114 years. Now that Pérez has passed away, the title of "world's oldest man" is expected to go to a 112-year-old man from Japan named Gisaburo Sonobe. But this needs to be confirmed by Sonobe's family first. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Veteran Tamil actor **Visheshwara Rao** passed away on April 2 at the age of 64. He died due to complications from cancer, which he had been battling for the last few years. Rao was undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital in Chennai when he breathed his last. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **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](#))
- The Australian cricketing community has lost a true icon with the passing of former Cricket Australia (CA) chair, **Jack Clarke**, at the age of 70 in Adelaide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The cricket world is in mourning as it bids farewell to one of its most revered figures, **Derek Underwood**, who has passed away at the age of 78. Underwood, a legendary spinner who represented England for over 15 years, was a true icon of the game, leaving an indelible mark on the sport with his exceptional skill and unwavering dedication. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **K.G. Jayan**, a towering figure in Carnatic music and Malayalam cinema, passed away, at his residence in Thripunitura, Kerala. He was 90 years old. The legendary musician had been battling various age-related ailments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Squadron Leader **Dalip Singh Majithia**, the oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, passed away at the age of 103. Majithia's life was a testament to a lifetime of service, adventure, and a deep love for aviation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The cricketing world mourns the loss of a legendary figure as **Raman Subba Row**, the former England Test batsman, has passed away at the age of 92. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the sorrowful news, paying tribute to England's oldest living men's Test cricketer at the time of his demise. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The world lost **Sudhir Kakar**, a renowned **writer, cultural critic**, and the "Father of Indian Psychology," who passed away at the age of 85. Kakar's life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of **psychoanalysis in India.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The world of Yakshagana, a traditional theatre form of Karnataka, has lost a towering figure. **Subrahmanya Dhareshwar**, a senior and well-known Yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (background singer), passed away in Bengaluru. He was 66 years old. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Static Current Affairs

- Chief of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das;
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- Congo Capital: Kinshasa;
- Congo Official language: French;
- Congo Currency: Congolese Franc.
- President of the Democratic Republic of Congo: Felix Tshisekedi
- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar.
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999;
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States;
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Founders: United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, India, France, Iran;
- United Nations Secretary general: António Guterres.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France
- UNESCO Founders: India, United States, France, Mexico, China, Brazil, MORE
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General)
- UNESCO Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- WHO Head: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Indian School of Business Founded: 2001
- Indian School of Business Chairperson: Harish Manwani
- Indian School of Business Dean: Madan Pillutla
- Indian School of Business Campus: Urban, 260 acres (105.2 ha)
- Indian School of Business Founders: Rajat Gupta, anil kumar
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;
- European Union Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.
- Chairperson, Co-founder & COO of MobiKwik: Upasana Taku
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Chief of the Air Staff of India: Vivek Ram Chaudhari;
- IAF Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan.
- DRDO founded: 1958;
- DRDO Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi;
- DRDO Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO.
- CBI Founded: 1 April 1963;
- CBI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman & CEO of Foxconn: Young Liu
- Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in: 1983
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Shri Bhupender Yadav
- Oracle Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States;
- Oracle Founders: Larry Ellison, Bob Miner, Ed Oates;
- Oracle CEO: Safra Catz (18 Sept 2014–).
- Minister for Animal Husbandry in Madhya Pradesh: Ms. Kusum Mehendale
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India: Ajay Kumar Sood
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India: Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited: Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Chairperson of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet: Narendra Modi;
- Israel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Currency: New Israeli Shekel (NIS).
- Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board: AK Jain
- Chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights : Priyank Kanoongo
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- Minister of Minority Affairs: Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani.
- Intel CEO: Patrick P. Gelsinger (15 Feb 2021–);
- Intel Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- Intel Chairperson: Omar Ishrak.
- World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Intellectual Property Organization Founded: 14 July 1967;
- World Intellectual Property Organization Head: Daren Tang; Director General.
- ADB Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- ADB Founded: 19 December 1966;
- President of the ADB and the Chairperson of ADB's Board of Directors: Masatsugu Asakawa.
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- Haryana Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.
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- 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.

List of Dams in India State Wise

List of Dams in India State Wise		
State	List of Dams/Reservoirs in India	River
Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunasagar Dam	Krishna
	Somasila Dam	Penna
	Nizamsagar Dam	Manjira
	Srisaillam	Krishna
	Kalyani Dam	Swarnamukhi
	Veligallu Dam	Papagni
	Ramagundam	Godavari
	Singur dam	Manjira
	Jalaput Dam	Godavari
	Tatipudi Reservoir	Gosthani
	Gandipalem Reservoir	Pillaperu
Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	Dibang
	Ranganadi	Ranganadi
Bihar	Nagi Dam	Nagi River
Chhattisgarh	Dudhawa dam	Mahanadi
	Minimata Bango (Hasdeo)	Hasdeo
	Gangreal Dam (R.S. Sagar)	Mahanadi
	Kutaghat	Kharang
Gujarat	Sardar Sarovar Dam	Narmada
	Ukai Dam	Tapi
	Dantiwada	West Banas
	Kandana	Mahi
	Kamleshwar	Hiran
	Dharoi	Sabarmathi
	Dholidhaja	Bhogavo
	Karjan dam	Karjan
Himachal Pradesh	Chamera Dam	Ravi
	Maharana Pratap Sagar Dam	Beas
	Pandoh Dam	Beas
	Bhakra Nangal Dam	Sutlej
	NathpaJakhri Dam	Sutlej
	Koldam	Sutlej
	Kishau	Tons
	Pong Dam	Beas
	Gobind Sagar Reservoir	Sutlej
Maharana Pratap Sagar Reservoir	Pong Dam Lake	

List of Dams in India State Wise		
State	List of Dams/Reservoirs in India	River
Jammu and Kashmir	Salal Dam	Chenab
	Uri Dam	Jhelum
	Baglihar Dam	Chenab
	Cholal Dam	Cholal Choe
	Chutak Hydroelectric Plant	Suru
	Nimoo Bazgo Hydroelectric Plant	Indus
Jharkhand	Konar Dam	Konar
	Tenughat	Damodar
	Maithon	Barakar
	Panchet	Damodar
	Chandil	Subarnarekha
Karnataka	Lakhya	Lakya
	Almatti	Krishna
	Bhadra	Bhadra
	Hemavathi	Hemavathi
	Hidkal	Ghataprabha
	Malaprabha	Malaprabha
	Linganamakki	Sharavathi
	Supa	Kalinadi (Kali) River
	Tunga Bhadra	Thunga Bhadra
	Kadra	Kalinadi
	Krishnaraja Sagar	Kaveri
	Basava Sagar Dam(Narayanpur)	Krishna
	Kodasalli Dam	Kali
	Ghataprabha Reservoir	Ghataprabha
	Hemavathi Reservoir	Hemavathi
Kerala	Malampuzha	Malampuzha
	Idukki Arch Dam	Periyar
	Kulamavu	Kaliyar
	Cheruthoni	Periyar river
	Idamalayar	Edamalayar/ Periyar
	Kakki	Kakki
	Mullaiperiyar	Periyar
	Neyyar Dam	Neyyar
	Parambikulam	Parambikulam
	Banasura Sagar	Kabini
	Walayar	Walayar
Ladakh	Dumkar Hydroelectric Dam	Indus

List of Dams in India State Wise		
State	List of Dams/Reservoirs in India	River
Madhya Pradesh	Bargi	Narmada
	Bansagar	Son
	Indira Sagar Dam	Narmada
	Gandhi Sagar Dam	Chambal
	Madikheda Dam	Sindh River
	Omkareshwar	Narmada
	Tawa	Tawa
	Rajghat	Betwa
Maharashtra	Koyna	Koyna
	Bhatsa	Bhatsa& Chorna River
	Isapur Dam	Penganga
	Jayakwadi (Paithan)	Godavari
	Totladoh	Pench
	Warna	Warna
	Ujjani (Bhima)	Bhima
	Yeldari	Purna
	Mulshi	Mula
	Panshet	Ambi
	Girna	Girna and Godavari River
	Radhanagiri	Bhogawati
	Khadakwasla	Mutha
	Vaitarna	Vaitarna
Odisha	Indravati	Indravati
	Mandira	Sankh
	Hirakud	Mahanadi
	Muran	Muran
	Rengali	Brahmni
	Kapur	Kapur
	Upper Kolab	Kolab
	Podagada	Podagada
	Balimela Reservoir	Sileru
Punjab	Siswan Dam	Siswan
	Ranjit Sagar (Thein) Dam	Ranjit Sagar (Thein)
	Bakhra Nangal Dam	Bakhra Nangal
	Damsal Dam	Damsal
Rajasthan	Jawahar Sagar	Chambal
	Bisalpur	Banas
	Jawai	Jawai/ Luni
	Mahai Bajaj Sagar Dam	Mahi
	Rana Pratap Sagar Dam	Chambal

List of Dams in India State Wise		
State	List of Dams/Reservoirs in India	River
Tamilnadu	Mettur Dam	Cauveri
	BhavaniSagar	Bhavani
	Aliyar	Aliyar
	Amaravathi	Amaravathi
	Sholaiyar	Sholaiyar
	Vaigai	Vaigai
	Chittar	Chittar
	Pechiparai	Kodayar
	Manimuthar	Manimuthar
	ShoolagiriChinnar Reservoir	Chinnar
	Kullursandai Reservoir	Arjuna Nadi
Telangana	Perunchani	Paralayyar
	Ramagundam	Godavari
	Manair	Manair
	Dindi Reservoir	Krishna
	NizamSagar	Manjira
	Singur	Manjira
	Somasila	Pennar
	SriramSagar	Godavari
Uttar Pradesh	Srisaillam	Krishna
	Dhanraul	Ghaghar
	Parichha	Betwa
	Rihand	Rihand
	Rajghat	Betwa
	GovindBallabh Pant Sagar Dam	Rihand
Uttarakhand	Matatila	Betwa
	Tehri	Bhagirathi
	Dhauliganga	Dhauliganga
	Lakhwar	Yamuna
	Jamrani	Gola
	Koteswar	Bhagirathi
West Bengal	Ramganga	Ramganga
	Kangasabati	Kangasabati, Kumari
	Panchet Dam	Damodar
	Durgapur Barrage	Damodar
West Bengal	Farakka barrage	Gang