

Weekly One Liners 14th to 20th of October 2024

Global Hunger Index 2024

The **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is a comprehensive tool that tracks and measures hunger at the global, regional, and national levels. The 2024 GHI report sheds light on hunger levels across 127 countries, with specific emphasis on India's ranking and challenges.

India's Performance in GHI 2024

- India ranks **105th out of 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2024**, placing it in the "serious" hunger category.
- India's GHI score is 27.3, indicating a severe level of hunger.

Top 10 Performers in 2024

Country	Ranking
Belarus	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Chile	3
China	4
Costa Rica	5
Croatia	6
Estonia	7
Georgia	8
Hungary	9
Kuwait	10

Worst Performers in the List

Rank	Country
121	Niger
122	Haiti
123	Dem. Rep. of the Congo
124	Madagascar
125	Chad
126	Yemen
127	Somalia

For the 2024 GHI report, data were assessed for 136 countries. Out of these, there were sufficient data to calculate 2024 GHI scores for and rank 127 countries (by way of comparison, 125 countries were ranked in the 2023 report).

India's Neighboring Countries

- 4. China
- 52. Thailand
- 56. Sri-Lanka
- 68. Nepal
- 74. Myanmar

- 77. Indonesia
- 84. Bangladesh
- 109. Pakistan
- 116. Afghanistan

5th National Water Awards 2023

The **Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR)**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, proudly announces the winners of the **5th National Water Awards (NWA), 2023**. These prestigious awards recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions across India in **water conservation and management**. With **38 winners** across **9 categories**, the awards aim to raise awareness and encourage best practices in water usage and sustainability.

Categories and Winners of 5th National Water Awards 2023

The awards were given in **9 categories**, recognizing contributions from **states, districts, village panchayats, schools, colleges, industries, water user associations, institutions, and civil society organizations**. Below is a detailed list of winners for each category.

Best State

Rank	State
1st	Odisha
2nd	Uttar Pradesh
3rd	Gujarat (Joint Winner)
3rd	Puducherry (Joint Winner)

Best District (Zone-Wise)

Zone	District	State
South	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
North-East	Dhalai	Tripura
North	Banda (Joint Winner)	Uttar Pradesh
North	Ganderbal (Joint Winner)	Jammu & Kashmir
West	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
East	Balangir	Odisha

Best Village Panchayat

Rank	Village Name	State
1st	Pullampara, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
2nd	Masulpani, Kanker	Chhattisgarh
3rd	Hampapuram, Anantapur (Joint Winner)	Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Khliehrangnah, West Jaintia Hills (Joint Winner)	Meghalaya

Best Urban Local Body

Rank	Urban Local Body	State
1st	Surat	Gujarat
2nd	Puri	Odisha
3rd	Pune	Maharashtra

Best School or College

Rank	School/College Name	State
1st	Govt. Upper Primary School, Jethwanka Bas	Rajasthan
2nd	Govt. Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, Paschim Vihar	New Delhi
3rd	Khairbani Ashram School, Baisinga	Odisha
-	BHSS, Zainakote (Special Mention)	Jammu & Kashmir

Best Industry

Rank	Industry Name	State
1st	Aravali Power Company Private Limited	Haryana
2nd	Apollo Tyres Limited	Tamil Nadu
3rd	Raymond Uco Denim Pvt Ltd	Maharashtra

Best Water User Association

Rank	Water User Association	State
1st	Pentakli Project Union of Water User Association	Maharashtra
2nd	Water User Cooperative Society	Karnataka
3rd	Parambur Big Tank Water User Association	Tamil Nadu

Best Institution (Other than School/College)

Rank	Institution Name	State
1st	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Tamil Nadu
2nd	Koner Lakshmaiah Education Foundation	Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (Joint Winner)	Tamil Nadu
3rd	Sri Tirumala Nagar Resident Welfare Association	Andhra Pradesh
-	IIT Tirupati (Special Mention)	Andhra Pradesh
-	Birla Institute of Science and Technology (Special Mention)	Rajasthan

Best Civil Society

Rank	Civil Society Name	State
1st	BAIF Development Research Foundation	Maharashtra
2nd	Yuva Mitra, Mitrangan Campus	Maharashtra
3rd	Gramin Vikas Trust	Gujarat
-	Art of Living, Vyakti Vikas Kendra India (Special Mention)	Karnataka
-	S. M. Sehgal Foundation (Special Mention)	Haryana

PM Internship Scheme

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme was launched on October 3, 2024. This ambitious initiative, implemented through an online portal, **aims to provide one crore young individuals with valuable internship opportunities over the next five years**, allowing them to immerse themselves in diverse business environments and explore various professions.

Background

- **Announced In:** Union Budget 2024-25.
- **Aim :** To provide one crore internship opportunities over five years.
- **Platform :** Implemented through an online portal.
- **Objective :** Equip youth with skills and real-world exposure across diverse sectors.
- **Pilot Project (2024-25)**
- **Target:** 1.25 lakh internships.
- **Sectors Covered:** 24 sectors, including oil, gas, energy, travel, hospitality, automotive, banking, and financial services.
- **Company Selection:** Based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure over the past three years.



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Key Highlights of the PM Internship Scheme

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age Range** : 21-24 years.
- **Candidates** : Indian nationals not employed full-time or engaged in full-time education.
- **Educational Qualifications** : High School, ITI certificates, diplomas, or bachelor's degrees (BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharma, etc.).
- **Program Duration** : 12 months.

Financial Assistance

- **Monthly Stipend**: ₹5,000 (₹500 from partner companies and ₹4,500 from the government via DBT).
- **One-time Grant**: ₹6,000 upon joining the internship.
- **Insurance Coverage**: All interns will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, with premiums paid by the government.

PM Internship Portal

- A **centralized online platform to manage** the internship lifecycle.
- Companies can post internship opportunities and shortlist candidates.
- Candidates can apply for up to five internships based on location, sector, and qualifications.
- Shortlisting prioritizes diversity and inclusivity, **focusing on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, and Persons with Disabilities.** ([Click here to read article](#))

Indicators and cutoffs

Dimension	Indicators	Deprivation Cutoffs
Health	Child mortality	Deprived if a child under the age of 18 years has died in the family in the five years preceding the survey.
Nutrition	Undernourishment	Deprived if any adult or child, for whom there is nutritional information, is undernourished.
Education	Years of schooling	Deprived if no household member has completed six years of schooling.
	School attendance	Deprived if no household member aged 'school entrance age + six' years or older has completed six years of schooling.
Standard of Living	Cooking fuel	Deprived if the household cooks with dung, wood, or charcoal.
	Sanitation	Deprived if the household's sanitation facility is either not improved (according to MDG guidelines), is shared with other households, or both.
	Drinking water	Deprived if the household does not have access to improved drinking water (according to MDG guidelines) or improved drinking water is more than a 30-minute walk from home.
	Electricity	Deprived if the household has no electricity.
	Housing	Deprived if at least one of the three housing materials for roof, walls, and floor are inadequate: the floor is of natural materials and/or the roof and/or walls are of natural or rudimentary materials.
	Assets	Deprived if the household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone, computer, animal cart, bicycle, motorbike, or refrigerator and does not own a car or truck.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The **2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** report highlights the alarming interconnections between violent conflict and multidimensional poverty across various nations. According to the report, approximately **1.1 billion people** live in acute multidimensional poverty, with **455 million** residing in conflict-affected regions.

Key Findings

Child Poverty: Over **half** (584 million) of the impoverished population are children under 18, indicating a severe impact on the youth, with **27.9%** of children living in poverty compared to **13.5%** of adults.

Basic Needs: Many poor individuals lack essential resources, including adequate sanitation (828 million), housing (886 million), and cooking fuel (998 million).

Nutrition: Over **637 million** people live in households with at least one undernourished individual, with South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa being significantly affected.

Global Trends

Since the inception of the MPI in **2010**, it has served as an essential tool for identifying vulnerable populations. The report reflects on the achievements and ongoing challenges in poverty reduction, emphasizing the urgent need for investment in peace to effectively address poverty.

National Affairs

- **The Central Government** has officially **revoked President's Rule** in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister. In a notification issued by President Droupadi Murmu, the revocation was enacted under the powers granted by the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, and relevant constitutional provisions. ([Click here to read article](#))
 - India has surged to **become the second-biggest supplier of restricted critical technologies** to Russia, US and European officials said, highlighting the challenge in efforts to choke off exports fueling President Vladimir Putin's war machine.
 - **India's new role**
 - India has become the **second-largest supplier of restricted technologies, such as microchips, circuits, and machine tools, to Russia, following China.** ([Click here to read article](#))
 - **The traditional Lady of Justice**, often depicted blindfolded with scales and a sword, has undergone a symbolic transformation in the Supreme Court of India. Under the guidance of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, the **newly commissioned statue sheds the blindfold and replaces the sword with the Constitution.**
- Key Changes**
- No Blindfold**
- Traditionally, Lady Justice was portrayed with a blindfold, **symbolizing impartiality and equality before the law.**
 - The new statue, however, has its eyes open, symbolizing **that justice is not blind in India**, but instead aware, conscious, and empathetic.
- The Constitution Replaces the Sword**
- **The sword, a traditional symbol of authority and punishment,** has been replaced by the Indian Constitution.
 - This emphasizes that justice is delivered in accordance with constitutional principles, not through violence or retribution.
- Retaining the Scales**
- The scales, a symbol of fairness and balance, remain in the new statue.
 - This highlights the judiciary's commitment to weighing all sides before delivering a judgment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant ruling, the **Supreme Court on October 17** upheld the constitutional validity of **Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, with a 4-1 majority, affirming the Assam Accord. The bench, led by **Chief Justice DY Chandrachud**, deemed the provision constitutional, recognizing its role in addressing illegal immigration from Bangladesh into Assam.

- Assam Accord and Section 6A
Section 6A, introduced in 1985 following the Assam Accord, grants citizenship to those who entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and allows others who arrived by March 24, 1971, to register after a 10-year waiting period. Those who entered after this cut-off are subject to detection and deportation.
- Majority Verdict vs Dissent
Chief Justice Chandrachud, along with **Justices Surya Kant, MM Sundresh, and Manoj Misra**, upheld the legislative competence of Parliament, recognizing the Accord as a political solution to the issue of illegal immigration. Justice Pardiwala, in dissent, argued that Section 6A violated Article 29(1), citing concerns over the ethnic composition of the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant policy shift, the Indian Railways has announced a reduction in the **Advance Reservation Period (ARP)** for long-distance train bookings from **120 days to 60 days**, effective November 1, 2024. This decision aims to enhance passenger convenience by reducing the blocking of funds for ticket bookings made months in advance, especially during peak travel seasons like festivals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to tackle the rising tide of online scams and cyber frauds, the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, Sh. Sanjay Jaju, delivered the keynote address at the launch of the **"Scam se Bacho"** campaign in New Delhi. This initiative, **developed by Meta in collaboration with key government ministries.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **'Karmayogi Saptah' National Learning Week (NLW)** aimed at enhancing the individual and organizational capacity of civil servants. This initiative, **part of the broader 'Mission Karmayogi' launched in September 2020**, seeks to foster a future-ready civil service that embodies Indian values while maintaining a global outlook.
- Objective of NLW
 - The NLW aims to **reinvigorate commitment to learning and development among civil servants.**
 - It promotes the **"One Government" ethos**, aligning participants with national goals and emphasizing the importance of lifelong learning. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- After devastating floods and landslides claimed over 200 lives in Kerala's Wayanad district in July 2024, the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences** took a crucial step to bolster disaster preparedness by approving the installation of an **X-band radar** in the region. The torrential rains, which triggered a massive landslide in the valley above Punchirimattom near the Mundakkai area, led to catastrophic debris flows, intensifying the destruction. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Maharashtra Government Renames Skills University After Ratan Tata. In a significant tribute to the late industrialist Ratan Tata, the Maharashtra government announced on October 14, 2024, that the Maharashtra State Skills Development University will be renamed the **“Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University.”** This decision honors Tata’s substantial contributions to education, skill development, and social causes across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Telangana becomes the third state** to initiate a caste-based headcount, following **Andhra Pradesh and Bihar**. The Telangana government has initiated the process of a comprehensive household caste survey in the state aimed at targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities. The caste survey aims to **promote targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities, ensuring justice for weaker sections like OBCs, SCs, STs, and other marginalized groups.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the second edition of the **Indian Gaming Convention (IGC)**, Shri Priyank Kharge, Karnataka’s Minister of Information Technology and Biotechnology, expressed the state’s ambition to lead the gaming and animation industry. Kharge stated, “Karnataka has all that is **needed to ensure that we become the gaming and animation capital of not only this country but also of Asia.**” “India—the Next Superpower in Gaming” emphasizes India’s growth trajectory to becoming a global leader in gaming. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Omar Abdullah**, a prominent leader of the **Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC)**, has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political transition in the region.
- Abdullah took the oath of office in a ceremony administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. His ascension to the position comes after the National Conference emerged victorious in the recent elections, albeit without the direct involvement of the Congress party, which has chosen to provide external support instead. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution** urging the BJP-led central government to **withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024**, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August and subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The state’s lawmakers expressed concerns over the bill, asserting that it could undermine the autonomy of Waqf boards and the management of Waqf properties. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To address the **immediate skill gaps in Andhra Pradesh**, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, Government of India, **inaugurated a new National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) extension center at the Andhra Medical Tech Zone (AMTZ) campus in Visakhapatnam.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Assam government** has launched an ambitious project aimed at revitalizing 129 beels (wetlands), covering an area of 3,800 hectares, to mitigate flooding and boost fish production in the state. These wetlands **serve as essential water and fishery resources**, offering vital hydrological regulation services, including flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, river flow regulation, and erosion control. ([Click hereto read article](#))
- **Nayab Singh Saini** was sworn in as **Haryana’s Chief Minister** for the second time, marking BJP’s third consecutive term in power in the state. **Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered** the oath at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, and NDA leaders. Saini’s council of 13 ministers also took the oath. Saini, a Dalit leader from Kurukshetra, led the BJP to victory in the October 5 Assembly elections, **securing 48 seats in the 90-member house.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kaziranga National Park**, renowned for its iconic **one-horned rhinoceros**, has now gained recognition as India’s second-largest butterfly diversity hub. Following Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh, Kaziranga is home to an impressive 446 butterfly species. This newfound distinction highlights the park’s rich biodiversity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **“Mera Hou Chongba” festival was celebrated in Manipur** amidst ongoing ethnic tensions **between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.** This annual festival serves as a significant cultural event aimed at reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among the indigenous communities of the state, highlighting the rich cultural tapestry of Manipur.
- The festival took place on the **15th Lunar day of Mera Month**, at **Sana Konung and Kangla Utra in Imphal, the state capital.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the occasion of **Valmiki Jayanti**, Karnataka Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** announced that all Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools in the state and Raichur University will be named **after Maharishi Valmiki.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to strengthen bilateral ties, the **Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association (ITFA)** was inaugurated in Hyderabad on October 16, 2024. The initiative seeks to enhance cooperation in key areas such as economy and trade, culture and tourism, science and technology, and education between India and Turkiye. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, has inaugurated Pavana Chitra, **India’s first self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility**, located at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a significant move, **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** has fulfilled his first poll promise by announcing that all government hospitals in the state will **provide free dialysis to chronic kidney patients**. This decision was made during his inaugural cabinet meeting after the BJP's return to power for a third consecutive term, where Saini emphasized the people's mandate against Congress' narrative during the elections. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- **Nicaragua** has officially severed **diplomatic relations with Israel**, a move announced by **Vice President Rosario Murillo** following a congressional resolution. This decision aligns with **Nicaragua's** leftist government, led by **President Daniel Ortega**, which has condemned Israel's actions in the ongoing Gaza conflict and labeled its government as **"fascist and genocidal."** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **United States** has announced it will send the advanced **THAAD missile defence system** to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries. The deployment underscores the **US's "ironclad commitment"** to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region.
- What is THAAD?
THAAD stands for **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense**, a cutting-edge **anti-ballistic missile defense system** developed by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**. The system is designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles in their final, or **terminal phase**, making it a critical asset for defending against missile threats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Tensions between India and Canada have escalated significantly, particularly following the murder of Sikh separatist **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** in June 2023. This incident triggered a series of diplomatic retaliations, including the expulsion of Indian diplomats by Canada and subsequent expulsions by India. The conflict has deep roots, dating back to controversies involving **Sikh separatism** and criticisms exchanged over various issues, including farmer protests in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** recently addressed the **149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** held from **October 13 to 17, 2024**, at the IPU headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**. During his address, Birla emphasized the critical need for **multilateralism** in today's world, advocating for dialogue and cooperation among parliaments in the realms of **science, technology, and innovation** for the common good. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has introduced significant **changes to its criteria for placing countries on its grey list**, aiming to relieve the burden on least developed countries (LDCs) while targeting nations that pose greater risks to the international financial system.
- **FATF's Revised Criteria**
 - The changes prioritize active reviews of countries that meet specific risk criteria, focusing on **FATF Members**.
 - **Countries on the World Bank's High-Income Countries list** (excluding those with only two or fewer banks in the financial sector).
 - **Countries with financial sector assets above USD 10 billion**.
 - Least developed countries **will not be prioritized unless they pose significant risks related to money laundering or terrorist financing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has fulfilled a significant commitment made during the third **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III) Summit** by sending its first consignment of **12 Haemo-Dialysis machines to Papua New Guinea (PNG)**. Also in response to rising tensions and ongoing conflict in southern Lebanon, India has dispatched the first tranche of a **33-ton consignment of medical supplies as part of a humanitarian effort to support Lebanon**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (**UMEB**) has **proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrassas across the state**. This initiative aims to enhance the educational curriculum and support the academic growth of students. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India and Mauritania** have taken a significant step towards enhancing their bilateral relations by signing **four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** during Indian President **Droupadi Murmu's visit** to the North African country. This visit, a historic moment in Indo-African diplomacy, marked the first time an Indian president set foot in **Mauritania**, as part of President Murmu's three-nation tour, which also includes **Algeria and Malawi**.
- During the visit, **four MoUs** were signed between India and Mauritania, aiming to enhance collaboration in multiple areas. These MoUs focused on:
 1. **Training of Diplomats** - Establishing a framework for capacity-building and exchange of knowledge between the foreign services of both countries.
 2. **Cultural Exchange** - Fostering mutual understanding and appreciation through cultural programs, exhibitions, and artist exchanges.
 3. **Visa Exemption** - Offering visa exemptions for diplomatic and official passport holders to facilitate smooth diplomatic engagements.

4. **Foreign Office Consultations** – Enhancing regular consultations between the foreign offices of both nations to ensure continuous dialogue on bilateral and international issues.
- India's relationship with Mauritania has witnessed steady growth over the past few years. The two countries held their **first Foreign Office Consultations in Nouakchott on 21 March 2024**, further underlining the importance both nations place on diplomatic dialogue. In terms of trade, the bilateral relationship has been gradually expanding. In the financial year **2022-23**, the total bilateral trade stood at **\$378.24 million**, with **India's exports** to Mauritania amounting to **\$146.57 million** and **imports** at **\$231.68 million**.
- The Geopolitical and Economic Importance of Mauritania
Mauritania, an Islamic republic located along the **Atlantic Ocean** in Northwest Africa, is a strategically important country that acts as a transitional zone between **Arab North Africa** and the **sub-Saharan African** region. It is a member of the **Maghreb** region, which includes countries like **Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia**.
- Although Mauritania is one of the poorer nations in Africa, largely desert-bound and with a significant **nomadic population**, it holds substantial reserves of natural resources, including **iron ore, copper, gypsum**, and some **oil resources**. The country's economic potential, particularly in mining and energy, presents opportunities for foreign investment, including from India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India and Colombia** have signed an **Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement** on October 15, 2024, to enhance collaboration in the film industries of both nations. This agreement, signed by **Dr. L. Murugan, India's Minister of State** for Information & Broadcasting, and **Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia**, marks a significant step in deepening cultural ties and cooperation across various sectors. The partnership aims to pool creative and technical resources, enabling filmmakers from both countries to collaborate on film projects, thereby expanding their markets and promoting goodwill. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India and Germany are set to sign a pact next week to facilitate the **movement of workers and recognize skills between the two countries**. Through the agreement, skilled professionals here can be easily absorbed by German industry, sources familiar with the development. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the **14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** to receive this prestigious classification from the Government of India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A recent survey by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** highlights a **remarkable increase in the average monthly income** of rural households, which rose by 57.6% over the past five years. The second 'All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22' reports that the average **monthly income grew from ₹8,059 in 2016-17 to ₹12,698 in 2021-22**, indicating a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.5%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) increased to **1.84% in September 2024**, up from **1.31% in August**, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This surge was primarily due to a spike in vegetable prices, with onion, potato, and tomato costs rising by **78.8%, 78.1%, and 74.5%, respectively**. The food price inflation rose to 11.53% from 3.11% in August, marking a two-year high. Despite deceleration in other categories such as fuel and manufactured products, food price inflation led the overall increase. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has introduced a new 400-day term deposit scheme known as the '**bob Utsav Deposit Scheme**', aimed at offering higher interest rates to various categories of depositors during the festive season. This scheme not only provides competitive interest rates for general depositors but also caters specifically to senior and super senior citizens, making it a beneficial investment option for a wide range of customers.
- **Key Features of the 'bob Utsav Deposit Scheme'**
Launched as a limited-period offer, the 'bob Utsav Deposit Scheme' is designed to capitalize on the current interest rate cycle, offering competitive rates for a specific 400-day term. The scheme is applicable to fixed deposits below ₹3 crore and presents a lucrative opportunity for both individual depositors and those looking for systematic savings options. The interest rates offered under this scheme vary based on the category of the depositor:

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- General Citizens: The scheme provides an interest rate of 7.30%.
- Senior Citizens (aged 60 and above): Eligible for a higher interest rate of 7.80%.
- Super Senior Citizens (aged 80 and above): Benefiting from the highest interest rate in the category, 7.90%.
- Non-Callable Deposits: Offering interest rates as high as 7.95%, making it an attractive option for customers who do not require premature withdrawal. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Navi, a fintech company co-founded by Sachin Bansal**, has made significant strides in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) landscape, emerging as **India's fifth-largest ecosystem player**. In September, the company achieved remarkable transaction volumes, **processing 120.41 million transactions valued at Rs 6,549.1 crore**.
- This growth underscores Navi's expanding presence in the highly competitive UPI market, which is dominated by major players like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **HDFC Bank** has officially opened its **first branch in Singapore** as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October 15, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a **3% hike in the dearness allowance (DA)** for central government employees and pensioners, bringing the total **DA to 53% of the basic pay**. This increase is aimed at compensating employees against rising prices and is effective from July 1, 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has barred four **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**, including **Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv**, from sanctioning and disbursing loans starting October 21, 2024. The ban affects Navi Finserv, Asirvad Microfinance, Arohan Financial Services, and DMI Finance, which were found guilty of charging exorbitant interest rates and failing to comply with regulatory pricing policies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Global index provider FTSE Russell** has announced that India's sovereign bonds will be included in its Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (**EMGBI**) starting September 2025. This follows similar inclusions by JP Morgan and Bloomberg Index Services, which could potentially attract billions of dollars into India's local bond market.
- Additionally, **South Korean government bonds** are set to be added to the **FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI) in November 2025** after spending two years on the watch list. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Jio Payments Bank**, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has successfully obtained a mutual fund distribution license from the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**. This Category 1 Execution-only Platform (EOP) license enables Jio Payments Bank to distribute the direct plans of various mutual fund schemes, marking a significant step in its expansion within the financial services sector. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Recently, **Noel Tata** was appointed chairman of this **philanthropic arm, following the death of his half-brother, Ratan Tata**. Noel Tata, aged 67, has been named chairman of **Tata Trusts**, succeeding **Ratan Tata, who passed away recently**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government has appointed **L Satya Srinivas**, currently serving as **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of Commerce**, as the additional CEO of the Government e Marketplace (GeM). This decision follows the recent appointment of the **previous CEO, P K Singh**, as secretary of the renewable energy ministry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Manoj Kumar Dubey**, a 1993-batch Indian Railway Accounts Service officer, was **appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)**. IRFC is a miniratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **S. Paramesh** officially took charge as the **Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard** at its headquarters in **New Delhi**. His appointment comes following the tragic demise of his predecessor, **DG Rakesh Pal**, last month. Paramesh, who had been **officiating as the Director General**, was formally appointed by the government a day prior. Upon assuming office, he was honored with a **ceremonial guard of honour**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant development in the Indian banking sector, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed **Partha Pratim Sengupta** as the **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bandhan Bank** for a period of three years. Sengupta's appointment comes in the wake of the resignation of **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**, the founder MD and CEO of the bank, who recently stepped down from the post. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's first official visit to India following his election last year, which was marked by an "India out" policy, senior diplomat **Aishath Azeema is set to take over as the Maldives' ambassador to India**, replacing Ibrahim Shaheeb. This move signals the island nation's intent to restore and strengthen ties with one of its closest bilateral partners. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Amit Kumar has been selected by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) for the role of **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL)**, a **Schedule 'B' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)**. Currently serving as the Executive Director and Asset Manager at ONGC, Kumar was chosen from seven candidates. His appointment awaits necessary clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rashmika Mandanna**, the popular film actor, has been appointed as the **national brand ambassador** of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (**I4C**). This initiative, launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, aims to combat the rising threats of **cyber crimes** across the nation. Mandanna's appointment comes in the wake of her personal experience with a **deepfake video** incident, underscoring the urgent need for public awareness regarding cyber safety. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, following the recommendation by current CJI DY Chandrachud in a letter to the **Union law ministry**. Justice Khanna, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will take over the position after **Justice Chandrachud's retirement on November 10, 2024**.
- Justice Khanna will serve as the CJI for a **six-month period before retiring on May 13, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Akash Tripathi**, a 1998-batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** and President/Chief Executive Officer (P&CEO) of the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Senior IPS officer **Praveen Vashista** has been appointed as the new **Special Secretary for Internal Security**. This key appointment underscores the government's focus on strengthening internal security in the country.

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Appointment

- Praveen Vashista, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the Special Secretary for Internal Security.
- The announcement highlights his experience and leadership in handling internal security matters. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Acko** has appointed **Sandip Goenka as the CEO** of its newly launched life insurance division, **ACKO Life**. As a founding member of the division, Sandip has been pivotal in establishing the D2C life insurance business. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- On October 15, 2024, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a new **Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station** of the Indian Navy at **Damagundam Reserve Forest, Vikarabad, Telangana**. Covering 2,900 acres and costing Rs 3,200 crore, this facility aims to enhance the Navy's communication capabilities, facilitating secure and reliable long-distance transmission essential for effective command and control in complex maritime environments. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the **launch of the first ship, 'Samarthak,'** under the **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** project at **L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai**. The vessel was launched by Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, and the ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff**. This launch reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenous shipbuilding, aligning with the Government of India's vision for **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** and **'Make in India.'** ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Army is set to embark on a **month-long series of commemorative events from October 17 to November 14, 2024**, to honor the brave soldiers who fought valiantly in the Battle of Walong during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This year **marks the 62nd Walong Day**, celebrating the courage and sacrifice of those who **defended India's eastern front**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted the coastal security exercise **'Sagar Kavach'** on October 16-17, covering **Gujarat, Daman & Diu**, as well as **Goa and Maharashtra**. The exercise aimed to enhance coastal and maritime security, improve coordination among agencies, and test existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in response to potential threats such as infiltration and smuggling.
- **Objective:** The primary aim of Sagar Kavach is to enhance maritime and coastal security preparedness, validate existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and ensure coordinated response to various maritime threats. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **2024 Nobel laureates** in the economic sciences are **Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson** - have demonstrated the **importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity. Societies with a poor rule of law and institutions that exploit the population do not generate growth or change for the better.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bollywood actress and **environmental activist Dia Mirza** has been appointed as a **jury member** for the **All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) 2024**, scheduled from November 22 to December 8. The festival will showcase 72 films, including 38 India premieres, focusing on critical environmental issues like climate change and wildlife conservation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. S. Somanath**, Chairman of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, has been honored with the prestigious **International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award**. This accolade was awarded in recognition of the remarkable success of **Chandrayaan-3**, India's lunar mission that made history with its soft landing on the Moon's South Pole. The award ceremony took place in **Milan, Italy**, and marked a significant milestone in India's growing prominence in space exploration.
- The **IAF World Space Award** is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of space science and exploration. It recognizes **outstanding contributions** to the advancement of space technology and exploration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Abu Dhabi has been recognized as the richest city globally regarding sovereign wealth funds**, boasting an impressive \$1.7 trillion in capital. This significant achievement highlights the city's financial prowess and strategic investments.
- **Other Major Cities**
Following Abu Dhabi, other prominent cities include Oslo. Other notable cities in this ranking are Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh, and Hong Kong. Collectively, these six cities manage approximately two-thirds of the total assets held by sovereign wealth funds worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu**, on her three-nation tour, received an **Honorary Doctorate in Political Science** from **Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers** on October 14. Expressing her gratitude, she stated, "It is indeed a humbling experience for me to be honoured with the Honorary Doctorate. This is an honour for my country more than for me as an individual." ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nikita Porwal** from Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the winner of the **Femina Miss India 2024** title. This prestigious event took place at **Famous Studios in**

Mumbai, marking the 60th edition of India's iconic beauty pageant.

- The Competition and Ceremony
The **Femina Miss India** contest featured 30 talented contestants who were state winners representing all **29 states** and one from the **Union Territories**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Aditi Anand**, a 25-year-old graduate from **Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)**, has been named the winner of the prestigious Emerging Illustrator category at the **V&A Illustration Awards**. Her artwork, **Marigolds**, is set in India and highlights the theme of **child labor and lost childhoods**. The V&A Illustration Awards, which are held biennially and Aditi's success further solidifies ARU's strong reputation in the field of illustration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a heartwarming tribute to the legacy of legendary singer and actor **Kishore Kumar**, the renowned filmmaker **Rajkumar Hirani** was conferred with the prestigious **National Kishore Kumar Award** for the year 2023. This award, instituted by the **Madhya Pradesh Government's Department of Culture**, celebrates artists who have significantly contributed to Indian cinema in various fields, much like Kishore Kumar himself. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On September 19, 2024, in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, **Mohanji**, a **global humanitarian leader**, received a special recognition for **his worldwide contributions at the 9th Conscious Companies Awards event**. This prestigious annual event honors ethical and visionary leaders whose work fosters conscious leadership, aligns people, profit, and purpose, and promotes a better, more sustainable world. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Chiratae Ventures**, a prominent **Indian venture capital fund**, has recognized three influential leaders with the **2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards**. **Narayana Murthy, the Founder of Infosys**, received the **India Lifetime Achievement Award** for his groundbreaking contributions to the tech industry. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **India Digital Agri Conference 2024**, co-organized by the **Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)** and **IIT Ropar TIF - AWaDH in New Delhi**, marked a significant milestone in revolutionizing Indian agriculture. The event focused on leveraging digital technologies like AI, IoT, drones, and data analytics to address challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable resource management. By modernizing farming practices, enhancing productivity, and fostering cross-sector collaboration, the conference laid the foundation for **India's leadership in Agri-tech**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first-ever telecom** standards conference organized by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in India, alongside the eighth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) in New Delhi. This event marks a significant milestone for India as it hosts the **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)** for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting India's growing role in the global telecom landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region**, inaugurated the International 6G Symposium alongside the **ITU-WTSA24 and IMC 24 events**. He emphasized the transformative potential of 6G technology in driving economic growth and innovation, stating that the shift towards software-centric approaches offers a significant opportunity for India, which boasts a large pool of engineering and software talent. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NITI Aayog** is gearing up to host the **Second International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024 on October 17-18, 2024**, at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. This two-day event is a significant part of India's Methanol Economy Programme, initiated in 2016 in collaboration with the Methanol Institute, USA.
- The seminar will bring together global experts, industry leaders, and policymakers to discuss the future of methanol as a low-carbon fuel and its role in the world energy transition. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On its 31st Foundation Day, the National Human Rights Commission (**NHRC**) organized a day-long national conference on the **"Rights of Older Persons" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. During the keynote address, Acting Chairperson Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani emphasized the invaluable role of elders as the architects of the nation's history, keepers of cultural heritage, and foundational pillars of families.
- Conference Overview
 - NHRC's 31st Foundation Day conference focused on the **"Rights of Older Persons."**
 - The event aimed to address the **growing challenges faced by the elderly population in India**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released its 2024 Living Planet Report**, revealing a stark and alarming decline in global wildlife populations. According to the report, the average size of monitored wildlife populations has **plummeted by 73% since 1970**, underscoring the urgent need for concerted efforts to address biodiversity loss. This assessment, **based on nearly 35,000 wildlife populations and 5,495 species across various ecosystems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- The Indian men's table tennis team won a **bronze medal** at the **2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships** in **Astana, Kazakhstan**. This achievement marks their **third consecutive bronze** in this event. The women's doubles duo, **Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee**, became the **first all-Indian pair** to win a medal at the Asian Championships, also securing **bronze**. They reached the semi-finals but lost to Japan's **Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara**. Overall, India concluded the championships with **three bronze medals**, including the women's team's **first medal since 1972**. Individual performances saw early exits for former Commonwealth champion **Manika Batra** and veteran **Sharath Kamal**. India's total medal tally at the Asian Championships now stands at **eight bronze medals**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant achievement for Indian shooting sports, the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** announced that India will host the **ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025**. **ISSF President Luciano Rossi** made this declaration during a press conference in New Delhi, where he praised India's contributions to the sport and its increasing global prominence. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has revealed the **Players of the Month for September 2024**, honoring **Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis** and **England's Tammy Beaumont** for their outstanding performances in international cricket. Both players have earned this prestigious recognition for the **second time**, reflecting their consistency and dominance on the global cricketing stage. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's star drag-flicker and captain, **Harmanpreet Singh**, emerged as the most expensive player in the Hockey India League auction on Day 1. Soorma Hockey Club secured the services of the Indian captain for a whopping **Rs 78 lakh**, marking the highest bid on the first day of the auction, held on Sunday. A total of **54 players**, including **18 international stars**, went under the hammer as eight franchises vied to strengthen their squads with top talents from India and abroad. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a thrilling showdown at the **Shanghai Masters**, world number one **Jannik Sinner** emerged victorious over **Novak Djokovic**, clinching the title with a scoreline of **7-6 (7/4), 6-3**. The match, held on Sunday, marked a significant moment in Sinner's burgeoning career, as he not only secured his first Shanghai Masters title but also denied Djokovic the opportunity to achieve his **100th career singles title**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's Akhil Sheoran** clinched the **bronze medal** in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the **ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi**. In a high-pressure moment, Sheoran displayed remarkable composure and precision, making a decisive shot in the final round to finish third with a score of 452.6. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a historic recognition, former **Indian cricketer Neetu David**, along with **England's Alastair Cook** and **South Africa's AB de Villiers**, has been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's shooting contingent made a strong mark at the ISSF World Cup Final with **Vivaan Kapoor securing a silver medal in the men's trap event** and **Anant Jeet Singh Naruka claiming a bronze in the men's skeet competition**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sourav Ganguly**, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the **Director of Cricket for JSW Sports**. In this role, Ganguly will oversee all cricketing operations for the organization. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a remarkable display of resilience and skill, **Virat Kohli crossed the prestigious 9000 Test runs milestone** during India's first Test against New Zealand at the **M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Cricket, one of the most popular sports globally, is set to make a comeback at the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28)**, pending approval by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**. This inclusion marks the sport's second appearance at the Olympic Games, following its debut in **Paris 1900**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi** showcased brilliant form to secure the **WR Chess Masters** title after defeating France's Maxime **Vachier-Lagrave in an Armageddon game**, following two draws in Classical chess. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**, launched on **October 13, 2021**, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks three years of transformative achievements in India's infrastructure landscape. The initiative has significantly improved project execution by integrating data from over **44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories**, leading to reduced logistics costs and enhanced service delivery. As of now, over **200 major infrastructure** projects have been assessed, focusing on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation. ([Click here to read article](#))

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- In a significant move, the **Hemant Soren cabinet in Jharkhand** has increased the monthly honorarium for women under the **Maiyaan Samman Yojana** from **₹1,000 to ₹2,500**. This decision is seen as a response to the **BJP's Gogo Didi Yojana**, which promises **₹2,100 per month** to women as outlined in their election manifesto. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **ShakthiSAT Mission: Empowering 12,000 Girls in Space Technology** Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has launched the **ShakthiSAT** mission, aiming to **train 12,000 girls aged 14-18 from 108 countries** in space technology, targeting a satellite launch under ISRO's **Chandrayaan-4** mission in 2026. A prototype presentation will be made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year or early next year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant step towards positioning India as a **global leader in biotechnology and sustainable solutions**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, inaugurated **India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers at Jejuri** in Pune in October 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has partnered with Meta to introduce an AI-powered assistant for the **Skill India Digital (SID)** Portal and establish **five Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) across India. The AI assistant, built on Meta's open-source Llama model, aims to streamline learning experiences and improve skill development outcomes for Indian youth. Sarvam AI, the technical partner, will pilot the chatbot over six months, offering 24/7 support via WhatsApp in English, Hindi, and Hinglish, enhancing accessibility for learners. Skill India Mission: Key Points ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the establishment of three **Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-COEs)** focused on health, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These centres, located at **AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Kanpur**, will promote research, innovation, and economic development while addressing public welfare. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft** has embarked on a monumental journey to explore **Europa, one of Jupiter's moons that is believed to harbor a vast subsurface ocean beneath its icy shell**. The mission, which launched on October 14, 2024, aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, marks the beginning of an exciting scientific quest to determine whether this distant ocean world could support life. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- The **International Day of Rural Women** is celebrated annually on **October 15**, recognizing the critical role rural women play in the advancement of agriculture, rural development, and poverty eradication. In 2024, the theme for this significant day is **“Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future: Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.”** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM)**, observed every October, is a global campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer, its symptoms, and the importance of early detection. In the U.S., **October 13** is recognized as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day, focusing on stage four breast cancer. The 2024 campaign theme, **“No one should face breast cancer alone,”** highlights the importance of peer support for patients and survivors, many of whom experience feelings of isolation during their cancer journey. ([Click here to read article](#))
- World Standards Day, observed on October 14, celebrates the significant contributions of individuals and organizations in creating and implementing international standards that ensure safety, quality, and efficiency across industries. These standards are essential for facilitating global trade, economic development, and enhancing quality of life. The 2024 theme, **“Advancing Health Equity through Standards,”** highlights the crucial role standards play in addressing global challenges like digital transformation and climate change, while promoting health equity and improving access to healthcare worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Food Day**, observed annually on **October 16th**, serves as a global call to action in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The 2024 celebration of World Food Day revolves around the theme **“Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future.”** This powerful message emphasizes the fundamental human right to adequate nutrition and underscores the critical role food plays in shaping our present and future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Every year on **October 15**, **World Students’ Day** is observed to honor the life and contributions of **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**, a visionary leader, educator, and former President of India. Known as the **“Missile Man of India,”** Dr. Kalam is celebrated for his work in **science, technology, and education**, and his deep affection for students and the youth of the nation. The day marks **Dr. Kalam’s birthday** and serves as a reminder of his enduring legacy in inspiring young minds toward innovation and academic excellence. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is a significant global observance held annually on **October 17th**, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms. This

day encourages collective efforts toward a more just, inclusive, and equitable world, with a particular focus on the plight of those living in extreme poverty.

- The theme for the **2024 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is **“Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment: Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies.”** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Anaesthesia Day** is celebrated annually on **October 16** to highlight the vital role of anaesthesia in modern medicine. It commemorates the first successful public demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia in 1846 and recognizes the contributions of anesthesiologists worldwide. The day serves as a reminder of how anaesthesia has transformed medical care by making surgeries painless, enhancing patient safety, and improving outcomes. The theme for **World Anaesthesia Day 2024** is **“Workforce Well Being.”** ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Abhidhamma Divas** celebrates on **17th October**, this rich philosophical tradition. It highlights the relevance of Abhidhamma teachings in guiding mental and ethical discipline, while also emphasizing India’s significant role in preserving and promoting the **Buddhist legacy** to the world. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On October 16, 2024, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, commemorated the 40th Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG), praising the bravery and dedication of its personnel. The **NSG was established on October 16, 1984**, in the aftermath of **Operation Blue Star**, aimed at eliminating Sikh extremists from the Golden Temple of Amritsar. The operation underscored the need for a dedicated force to handle terrorism. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Statistics Day** is an international celebration held every five years to highlight the significance of statistics in shaping societies, improving lives, and driving informed decision-making. In 2024, the global community will come together on **October 20th** to commemorate this special day. The first World Statistics Day was celebrated on **October 20, 2010**, following a resolution adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Indranand Singh Jha**, a celebrated former radio presenter and compere of **Akashvani Darbhanga**, passed away at the **age of 77** in his ancestral village, **Chanaur, Darbhanga**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Renowned Marathi actor **Atul Parchure** passed away **on Monday at the age of 57**, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Known for his remarkable versatility across theater, cinema, and television, Parchure’s **legacy** is celebrated not only for his performances but also for his indomitable spirit and positive outlook on life.

Miscellaneous News

- **The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. Founded on this very day in 1925, also known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to Conquer Mt. Shishapangma
Arjun Vajpai, the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest, has once again made India proud by accomplishing another historic feat. On October 9, 2024, Arjun Vajpai stood atop Mt. **Shishapangma**, completing his 8th successful summit of a peak over 8,000 meters. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, former cricketer **Ajay Jadeja has been officially declared the heir to the throne of Jamnagar by his uncle**, the Maharaja Shatrughn Jadeja. At the age of 53, Ajay Jadeja is set to take on the title of the new Jamsaheb, the titular head of the historic princely state of Jamnagar, marking a significant moment in both his life and the legacy of the Jadeja family. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** inaugurated the revamped **eMigrate V2.0 web portal and mobile app in Delhi**, aiming to enhance safe and legal migration for Indian citizens. This initiative underscores the Indian government's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of workers abroad while facilitating their mobility and welfare. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **State-owned Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** has been awarded a contract worth **₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** to design, manufacture, and commission **India's first indigenously built bullet trains**. This project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey, as it will feature two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars, with a **test speed of 280 km/h** and an **operational speed of 250 km/h**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The World Health Organization **secured \$1 billion in pledges** during a fundraising event in Berlin, marking a significant initiative to reform its funding model and enhance its ability to address global health emergencies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its **fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy**, making it the first coal company to do so. This **216th AMRIT pharmacy**, located at SECL's Health Centre in Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, will provide generic and life-saving medicines

at highly subsidized rates, benefiting SECL employees, the general public, and underserved tribal and rural communities. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Kaksar Bridge was renamed **Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu** to honor the sacrifice of **Capt. Amit Bhardwaj during the Kargil War**. The event, attended by prominent military and civil officials, including **CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun** and **Major General K. Mahesh, SM**, celebrated Bhardwaj's bravery and dedication to his nation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the evening of **October 17, 2024**, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** made a significant announcement: **Yahya Sinwar**, the head of Hamas in Gaza, was killed during a targeted ground operation in **Rafah**, located in southern Gaza. Sinwar, one of the most feared and influential leaders of Hamas, was among three high-ranking Hamas militants killed during this mission. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Founded: 16 October 1945;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General: Dr. Qu Dongyu.
- Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha;
- Inter-Parliamentary Union is located in Geneva, Switzerland;
- Colombia Capital: Bogotá
- Colombia Currency: Peso
- Colombia President: Gustavo Petro
- United Nations Statistical Commission Chair: Gabriella Vukovich, Hungary
- United Nations Statistical Commission Founded: 1947
- United Nations Statistical Commission HQ: New York, United States.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice.
- World Wide Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland
- World Wide Fund President: Adil Najam
- World Wide Fund Founders: Prince Philip · See more
- World Wide Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland
- World Wide Fund Director General: Kirsten Schuijt
- Indian Chamber of food and agriculture Chairman: Dr. MJ Khan Chairman.
- Indian Chamber of food and agriculture Headquarters: New Delhi

- Indian Chamber of food and agriculture Established: 2015
 - International Astronautical Federation Founded: 1951
 - International Astronautical Federation Founder: Eugen Sänger
 - International Astronautical Federation President: Clayton Mowry.
 - Digital India Corporation Founded: 2013
 - Digital India Corporation Founder: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Digital India Corporation Managing Director & CEO: Akash Tripathi
 - AI Assets Holding Limited Chairman & Managing Director: Amit Kumar
 - AI Assets Holding Limited HQ: New Delhi
- AI Assets Holding Limited Established: 2018

