

Weekly One Liners 12th to 18th of February 2024

Farmers Protest 2.0: Key Demands Explained

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

Guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) Law

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

Implementation of MS Swaminathan Committee Recommendations

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

Other Demands

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

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

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PM Modi's UAE Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he was warmly received by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Their cordial meeting included discussions on various fronts, signifying the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Here are the key highlights of PM Modi's visit

Warm Reception and Strategic Talks

- President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan warmly welcomed Prime Minister Modi at the airport, showcasing the strong personal rapport between the leaders.
- The two leaders engaged in wide-ranging discussions, focusing on reviewing the strategic partnership and identifying areas for further collaboration.
- Several agreements were signed during the visit, including a **Bilateral Investment Treaty** and an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, signifying a deepening of economic cooperation.

Inauguration of BAPS Mandir and Gratitude for Support

- Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude to President Al Nahyan for his support in facilitating the construction of the first Hindu stone temple in the UAE, located in Abu Dhabi.
- The inauguration of the **Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)** Mandir underscores the cultural and religious ties between India and the UAE.

Digital Initiatives and Financial Collaboration

- Modi congratulated the UAE President on the launch of the domestic card JAYWAN, which is based on India's digital RuPay credit and debit card stack.
- A transaction using the JAYWAN card was witnessed by both leaders, highlighting the advancement of financial technology and collaboration between the two countries.

Participation in World Government Summit 2024

- Prime Minister Modi's participation as a guest of honor in the World Government Summit 2024 in Dubai underscores India's global significance and commitment to multilateral cooperation.
- His keynote address at the summit reaffirms India's role in shaping discussions on global governance and development.

Frequent Engagements Highlight Strong Ties

- Modi's visit marks his seventh to the UAE since 2015, demonstrating the continuity and depth of engagement between the leadership of India and the UAE.
- With his third visit in the past eight months alone, the frequency underscores the importance both nations attach to strengthening bilateral relations.

Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Transfer Of 3 High Court Judges

The **Supreme Court collegium**, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, has recommended the transfer of **three high court judges** upon their respective requests. The decisions were made in accordance with the interests of better administration of justice and personal reasons cited by the judges.

Recommendation 1: Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya

- **Request: Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya** of the Calcutta High Court has sought a transfer to another high court due to personal reasons, as conveyed in a communication dated February 12, 2024.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has acceded to Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya's request and recommended her transfer to the High Court for the State of Telangana.

Recommendation 2: Justice Anu Sivaraman

- **Request: Justice Anu Sivaraman** has requested a transfer out of the State of Kerala.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has accepted Justice Anu Sivaraman's request and recommended her transfer to the Karnataka High Court.

Recommendation 3: Justice Sujoy Paul

- **Request: Justice Sujoy Paul** has sought a transfer because his son practices in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Resolution:** The collegium has resolved to recommend Justice Sujoy Paul's transfer to the High Court for the State of Telangana, considering the better administration of justice.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Abu Dhabi's First Hindu Stone Temple

In a historic event on February 14, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple**, marking a significant milestone in the **UAE's** cultural and religious inclusivity. The inauguration ceremony was imbued with devotional chants and witnessed the presence of spiritual leaders from the Swaminarayan sect, highlighting the temple's importance to the global Hindu community.

Global Aarti: A Spiritual Unison

A highlight of the event was the "Global Aarti," performed simultaneously at over **1,200 temples of the Swaminarayan** sect worldwide. This act of global spiritual unity was orchestrated by the **Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)**, illustrating the widespread reverence and support for the newly inaugurated temple.

A Meeting of Faiths

Prior to the inauguration, Prime Minister Modi engaged with individuals from various faiths who played a crucial role in the

temple's construction, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that underpinned the project. This interaction underscored the temple's ethos of unity and the bridging of cultural divides.

Temple Architecture: A Blend of Tradition and Technology

Located on a **27-acre site near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway**, the temple was constructed at a cost of approximately **Rs 700 crore**. It stands as a testament to ancient architectural principles derived from Hindu scriptures, the Shilpa and Sthapathya Shastras, which guide mandir design and construction. The temple's architecture harmonizes traditional methods with modern scientific techniques, incorporating over 300 high-tech sensors to monitor temperature, pressure, and seismic activity. This innovative approach allows for ongoing research and ensures the temple's safety and sustainability.

Eco-Friendly Construction

Remarkably, the temple's construction involved no metal use, with fly ash replacing a significant portion of cement in the concrete mix, thereby reducing the carbon footprint. The use of heat-resistant nano tiles and heavy glass panels merges traditional aesthetics with modern functionality, catering to the UAE's extreme temperatures and ensuring visitor comfort.

Craftsmanship and Global Collaboration

Constructed in the Nagara style of architecture, similar to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the temple required 18 lakh bricks, seven lakh man-hours, and 1.8 lakh cubic metres of Rajasthan-sourced sandstone. The intricate carvings and the marble used in the interiors, mined from Italy and carved in India, showcase the global effort and craftsmanship invested in the temple's creation.

A Landmark of Hindu Faith in the Gulf

The temple's establishment, supported by the land donated by the UAE government, marks a new era for the Hindu community in the Gulf region. It joins three other Hindu temples in Dubai but stands out for its size and traditional stone architecture, symbolizing a significant cultural and religious landmark.

Prime Minister Modi's UAE Visit

This visit, Prime Minister Modi's seventh to the UAE since 2015 and his third in the last eight months underscores the deepening ties between India and the UAE. The inauguration of the temple during this visit highlights the mutual respect and acknowledgement of cultural and religious diversity between the two nations.

The Abu Dhabi Hindu temple not only serves as a place of worship but also as a beacon of cultural harmony, architectural innovation, and environmental consciousness. It signifies the growing inclusivity within the UAE and strengthens the bond between India and the Emirates, promising a future of shared values and mutual respect.

National Affairs

- NITI Aayog, under the leadership of CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, is spearheading an ambitious initiative to drive economic transformation in four key cities – **Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, and Vizag**. This initiative aims to propel India towards becoming a developed economy by 2047. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Culture** takes a momentous stride towards cultural enrichment with the inauguration of the **Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi** in Hyderabad, known as the **Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra**. This initiative aims to foster the diverse cultural heritage of South India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move towards growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated development projects in **Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh**, focusing on uplifting the tribal population. These projects, with an estimated worth of about Rs 7300 crores, aim to bolster various sectors, including water supply, education, road infrastructure, and more. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region, G. Kishan Reddy, revealed that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the upcoming **fourth terminal at Cherlapally, Telangana** towards the end of the month or in the first week of March. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo inaugurated the 2nd edition of the **SARAS Aajeevika Mela**, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM). Accompanied by dignitaries including Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Indu Kanwal Chib, Dulloo emphasized the event's role in showcasing the resilience and creativity of rural women entrepreneurs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After 42 years of its existence, the **Palace on Wheels** luxury train is set to embark on a new route, delving into the sacred Indian cities of **Ayodhya, Kashi, and Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh. This significant alteration in its itinerary marks a departure from its traditional destinations, promising passengers a unique spiritual experience. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Rail Coach Factory (RCF) aims to roll out the first prototype of the Vande Metro coach by April. The Vande Metro is designed on the concept of India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train, Vande Bharat, catering to intercity passengers covering distances of up to 250 km. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Five years ago**, on February day, India faced one of its darkest moments in recent history. **The Pulwama attack**, a horrific act of terrorism, shook the nation to its core, leaving an indelible scar on the heart of every Indian. A suicide bomber, driving an explosives-laden

vehicle, targeted a convoy of **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** personnel in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, claiming the lives of 40 brave soldiers. These soldiers were either returning from leave or heading to deployment areas, unaware of the tragedy that lay in wait. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- India is engaged in discussions with ministers from member countries of the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** regarding its application to attain full membership in the **Paris-based organization**, comprising **31 nations**. These talks acknowledge India's strategic significance in addressing global energy and climate challenges, as highlighted during the IEA's 2024 ministerial meeting held in Paris. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On February 14th, 2024, a vehicle dedicated to NMBA was launched at the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DAIC)** in Delhi. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. This vehicle served as a platform for conducting NMBA awareness activities across Delhi-NCR, amplifying the reach and impact of the initiative. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Supreme Court** ruled the **electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional**, citing it as arbitrary and violative of **Article 14** of the Constitution. This verdict came following a batch of pleas challenging the legality of the scheme, which allowed for anonymous funding to political parties. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the **National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT)**, is hosting the Future Skills Summit in Guwahati. The event, inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, aims to convene young Indians, thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, educators, and technology enthusiasts to strategize on catalyzing future-ready talent for India and the world. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **Ruchira Kamboj**, recently chaired the **62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development**, marking a notable moment in international cooperation on social development issues. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated the **Jyotisar Anubhav Kendra**, a museum and interpretation center inspired by the epic Mahabharata, from Rewari. While the project is still under completion, the opening of two out of its five planned galleries marks a promising start. This initiative, with an investment of approximately Rs 240 crore, is set to enhance the cultural and spiritual tourism landscape of Kurukshetra, Haryana. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to unveil a colossal **125-foot statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan in Lahdoigarh, Holongapar, Jorhat**. This announcement was made by the Assam Chief Minister in a recent statement, highlighting a series of significant events planned for the first week of March this year, aimed at honoring the state's rich history and cultural heritage. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** has cemented its position as the **third-largest digitalized nation in the world**, trailing only behind the technological powerhouses of the **United States of America (USA) and China**. This significant finding is part of the **"State of India's Digital Economy Report, 2024,"** unveiled by the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**, a renowned Delhi-based think tank. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Odisha** has taken a significant step towards conservation by declaring the **Gupteswar forest in Koraput district** as its **fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**. This declaration marks a pivotal moment in the state's environmental conservation efforts, joining the ranks of Mandasaru, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan, which have previously been recognized for their unique biodiversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The NTR Stadium in Hyderabad hosts the 36th edition of the National Book Fair. Organized by the Hyderabad Book Fair Society, the event kicked off on February 9. The book fair runs until February 19. Drawing bibliophiles (People who love and collect books) from all corners of the city, the fair is a highly anticipated annual event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Assam**, the state government has officially declared **kaji nemu (Citrus limon)**, a variety of lemon unique to the region, as the **'State Fruit'**. The announcement was made by State Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, following a Cabinet meeting on February 12, underscoring the fruit's cultural, traditional, and nutritional significance to the state and its people. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is set to launch its **first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** from **Uttarakhand**, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare and aviation sectors. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced this groundbreaking initiative, highlighting its importance in providing rapid medical assistance to those in need. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Sandeep Kaur**, Director of the Women's Welfare Department, has declared substantial increments in grants under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. This follows Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive to raise the grant from **Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per beneficiary** annually starting this April. ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** responded to queries from the opposition, emphasizing the importance of stability and sustainability in driving infrastructure and industrial development in Uttar Pradesh. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by the state government, including the establishment of the **Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA)** between Kanpur and Jhansi, a significant development after 46 years. CM Yogi underscored the strategic importance of semiconductors in advancing industrial growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move aimed at providing relief to beneficiaries of social security schemes in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced a significant increase in monthly pension amounts under the **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)**. Rs 500 increase for each category, effective from February. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Tamil Nadu Assembly** made a significant political statement by unanimously adopting two resolutions that challenge the Union government's proposals on **'One Nation, One Election'** and the **post-2026 delimitation process**. This move underscores the state's firm stance on maintaining its democratic principles and the autonomy of its electoral processes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards environmental conservation, **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** inaugurated the **'Van Mitra' scheme** and its accompanying portal. This innovative initiative is designed to foster community engagement in afforestation efforts, specifically targeting non-forest areas across the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Rajasthan's Karauli district** has emerged as a new focal point for mineral exploration after the Mines Department announced the discovery of substantial iron ore deposits. This find, located near Hindon, spans approximately **1,888 hectares** and is poised to significantly impact the state's industrial landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The World Bank has approved a new project aimed at supporting the state of Sikkim in India. The project focuses on training, upskilling, and providing jobs for **300,500 women and youth** in high-growth and priority sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the **Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute (BSCCRI)** in Bhubaneswar. This state-of-the-art facility, established in collaboration with the Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Bengaluru, represents a leap forward in making high-quality cancer treatment accessible and affordable to patients. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- G Kishan Reddy and Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone for the **Komuravelli Railway Station in Siddipet District, Telangana**. The station aims to improve transportation to the renowned Komuravelli Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, attracting millions of devotees annually. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Former Prime Minister **Alexander Stubb** secured victory in **Finland's presidential runoff** against ex-Foreign Minister **Pekka Haavisto**. This win places Stubb in charge of navigating Finland's foreign and security policies, particularly significant given Finland's recent NATO membership following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **China** has officially opened the **Qinling Station in Antarctica**. This significant development marks a new chapter in China's scientific exploration and research in the Antarctic region, underscoring its commitment to contributing to global understanding of this remote and pristine environment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has officially declared a **state of "national emergency"** following a significant oil spill in the eastern Caribbean. The spill, originating from an overturned vessel near Tobago, has led to widespread environmental damage along the coastline, prompting concerns about the impact on the nation's economy, particularly its tourism sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Saudi Arabia** is preparing to introduce its **first luxury train**, named the **Dream of the Desert**. It will be the first luxury train in the Middle East, offering travelers a journey through Saudi Arabia. With its promise of luxury and cultural immersion, this new venture is positioned to become a classic in its own right. Reservations for the train's first ride will open by late 2024, before its planned launch in 2025. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Official data reveals that **Germany** has surpassed **Japan** as the **world's third-largest economy**, primarily due to a significant depreciation in the yen compared to the stability of the euro. Japan's economy, despite growing 1.9% last year, contracted in the fourth quarter, leading to its relegation to the fourth position. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Prabowo Subianto** emerges victorious in Indonesia's Presidential race, securing nearly 60% of the votes in the first round. His military background and alignment with **President Joko Widodo's** policies propel him to a clear-cut victory, sparking positive reactions in Indonesian markets. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **US House of Representatives** has overwhelmingly passed the **Quad bill** aimed at enhancing cooperation between the **US, Australia, India, and Japan**. The bill mandates the establishment of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to bolster joint efforts in various domains. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Greece has made history by legalizing same-sex marriage and granting **equal parental rights to same-sex couples**, marking a significant shift in the country's societal and legal landscape. Despite facing opposition from the **Orthodox Church**, lawmakers passed the bill, making Greece the first Orthodox Christian nation to embrace such progressive legislation. ([Read Complete Article](#))

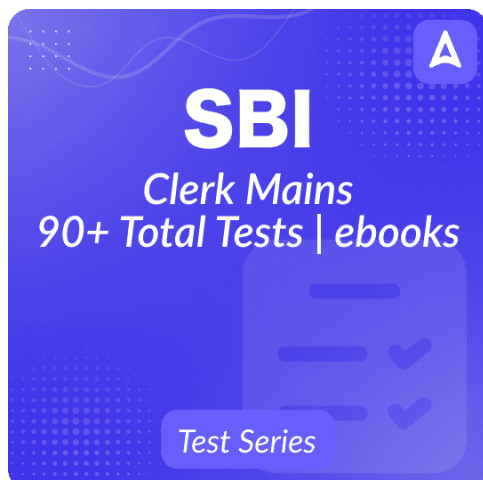
Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Aiming to significantly broaden the accessibility of football within the school setting for students, the **Ministry of Education** has embarked on a transformative initiative in partnership with the **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**. This initiative involves the distribution of 11 lakh footballs across the country in a phased manner, benefitting more than 1.5 lakh schools. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a development for indigenous manufacturing and innovation, **Prama India** has forged a partnership with the Government of India's **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**. This collaboration, facilitated through a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement, focuses on the production, marketing, and support of Thermal Cameras. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Multiple memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were exchanged between **India** and the **United Arab Emirates** during a significant diplomatic event, signifying a deepening of ties and cooperation between the two nations. An MoU on interlinking the instant payment platforms – **UPI (India) and AANI (UAE)** – was among the key agreements exchanged. This move aims to facilitate seamless cross-border transactions, enhancing financial connectivity between India and the UAE. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India and Colombia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation. The agreement aims to foster **digital transformation** through the sharing of India's open-sourced Digital Public Infrastructures (DPis), particularly focusing on India Stack Solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)**, renowned as the **world's first airport fully powered by solar energy**, has embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** to establish a Green Hydrogen plant within its premises. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

- The recent book release event for '**Maha Swaapnikudu (A Great Visionary)**' marks a significant moment in the political discourse of India, celebrating the illustrious career of former Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**. Authored by journalist **P. Vikram** and published by **NRI Koduri Venkat**, this book was unveiled by former Supreme Court judge V. Gopala Gowda, shining a spotlight on Naidu's remarkable journey in Indian politics. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's flagship instant payment system, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), along with RuPay card services, is set to be launched in **Sri Lanka and Mauritius** on February 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth will oversee the launch, marking a significant milestone in digital financial integration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paytm E-commerce has undergone a significant transformation, renaming itself as **Pai Platforms**. Alongside this rebranding, it has acquired **Bitsila**, a prominent seller platform operating within the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- During a meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**, it was decided to increase the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits to **8.25%** for the fiscal year 2023-24. This marks a three-year high for the interest rate on EPF deposits. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In January 2024, **India's retail inflation** reached a three-month low of 5.1%, while the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** exhibited a growth of 3.8% in December 2023, showcasing a favorable trend in both sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, is exploring transitioning its payments service into a **third-party payment app (TPAP)** to ensure uninterrupted access to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for its customers. Talks have begun with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the governing body overseeing the UPI ecosystem in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of **₹20-lakh crore**. This marks the first instance of any company achieving this valuation on the Indian bourses. The surge in market value is attributed to various factors including robust performance across its business segments and favorable market conditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed **Visa and Mastercard** to cease card-based commercial payments by businesses, citing concerns over **Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance**. This directive extends to transactions made by both small and large enterprises, with a focus on ensuring adherence to regulatory norms. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has augmented its shareholding in **SBI Cards & Payments Services Limited** from 4.99% to 5.02% of the paid-up capital through open market purchases. This acquisition, completed on February 9, 2024, marks LIC's increased ownership in the non-banking financial company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** recorded a notable moderation, reaching a three-month low of 0.27% in January. This decline was attributed to reduced prices in both food articles and manufacturing products, as per data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. Notably, this marks the third consecutive month of positive territory for wholesale inflation after experiencing deflation for a significant part of the previous fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's services trade surplus** reached an unprecedented \$44.9 billion in the October-December quarter of FY24, marking a 16% year-on-year increase. This surge in surplus, amidst challenging global conditions, is anticipated to alleviate the current account deficit (CAD) for the period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **South Indian Bank** has clinched the esteemed title of Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the **19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations**. The bank's remarkable achievements were acknowledged with a total of six prestigious awards, including three wins, one runner-up position, and two special mentions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant collaboration with Nepal Rastra Bank, aiming to integrate the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and the **National Payments Interface (NPI)** of Nepal. This integration seeks to streamline cross-border remittances between the two countries, facilitating instant and cost-effective fund transfers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Fintech giant **PayU** has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to introduce a groundbreaking feature called '**Credit Lines on UPI for merchants**'. This integration, available within the PayU application, facilitates digital payments through pre-sanctioned credit lines, enhancing financial flexibility for both merchants and consumers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Group and Uber** are in talks to form a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing traffic volumes and engagement on Tata's digital platform, **Tata Neu**. Despite Tata Neu's positioning as a 'super app,' it has encountered challenges such as stagnant user growth and low engagement. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **National Coal Index** (Provisional) has shown a significant **decline of 4.75% in December 2023** at 155.44 points compared to December 2022, where it was at 163.19 points. This notable decrease indicates sufficient availability of coal in the market to meet the growing demands. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, led by Adar Poonawalla, has recently secured the prestigious title of **India's most valuable unlisted company**, boasting a valuation of Rs 1.92 lakh crore, as per the esteemed **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list**. This achievement highlights SII's crucial role not only in driving innovation in healthcare but also in shaping the nation's economic trajectory. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, **Tata Steel** recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP)**. This partnership signifies a strategic alignment between industry and academia to explore avenues for mutual growth and development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a triumphant display of technological prowess, **City Union Bank**, under the stewardship of Dr. N Kamakodi, claimed an impressive **seven awards at the 19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations in 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has released the impact assessment report of the **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**, a pivotal element of the Start Up India Action Plan initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2016. Conducted by **CRISIL**, a leading analytics company in India, the report, titled "**Prabhaav**," underscores the transformative influence of the FFS scheme on the Indian startup ecosystem. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a convenient self-subscribing journey for its customers to enrol under the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** schemes digitally, eliminating the need to visit a branch or Customer Service Point. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has rolled out a new insurance product named '**Amritbaal**'. This announcement, made, introduces a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan specifically tailored for the younger demographic. Here's a detailed look at what 'Amritbaal' offers and how it stands to benefit its policyholders. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, a pivotal organization in the field of Chartered Accountancy in India, announced a significant leadership transition. In a recent meeting, the Council of ICAI elected CA. **Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** as the President and CA. **Charanjot Singh Nanda** as the Vice-President for the term 2024-25, starting from February 12, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), **Mr Sanjay Kumar Jain**, an accomplished **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer** of the 1990 batch, has assumed the pivotal role of Chairman & Managing Director. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move that marks the beginning of a new chapter for **SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS)**, the investment banking arm of State Bank of India (SBI), **Virendra Bansal** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Boeing, the American aerospace giant**, has made a significant move to enhance its operations and propel its growth strategy in India by appointing **Nikhil Joshi** as the managing director of **Boeing Defense India (BDI)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **Nand Kishore Yadav** has been elected as the **Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly**. This election marks a pivotal moment in Bihar's political landscape, with Yadav bringing a wealth of experience to the prestigious position. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nawaf Salam** was elected president of the **ICJ in The Hague**, succeeding US Judge Joan Donoghue. This significant milestone marks him as the first Lebanese and second Arab to hold this prestigious position for a three-year term. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral **R. Hari Kumar** visit was the inauguration of a state-of-the-art **Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh**. This advanced radar system is a game-changer for naval aviation, providing highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to aircraft, particularly under low visibility conditions such as heavy rain and fog. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India has announced the **replacement of military personnel** operating aviation platforms in the Maldives with competent Indian technical personnel. This decision comes after negotiations between Indian and Maldivian authorities, with the latter expressing a clear demand for the withdrawal of Indian troops. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a memorable event at **TonsBridge School in Dehradun**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Uttarakhand's Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled a statue of General Bipin Rawat, who was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This ceremony was not just about remembering a great leader but also about inspiring the future generations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has achieved a significant milestone on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**, recording procurement worth **₹1 lakh crore** since the portal's inception in 2016. This achievement underscores MoD's commitment to optimizing public spending in the defense sector through efficient procurement practices on GeM. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh**, has approved various capital acquisition proposals amounting to **Rs 84,560 crore** on February 16, 2024. These approvals emphasize the procurement of equipment from Indian vendors to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **12th edition** of the **MILAN naval exercise** is poised to set sail in the strategic port city of Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, marking a significant gathering of naval forces from over 50 countries. This year's theme, "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future," underscores the exercise's commitment to enhancing global maritime security through cooperation and strategic dialogue. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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Awards and Recognitions

- The government of India has recently unveiled the prestigious **'National Creators Award'**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable contributions of new-age influencers and creators in shaping India's digital landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The field of space exploration and technology in India witnessed a momentous occasion as the **IEEE Kerala Section** announced the recipient of the prestigious **K.P.P. Nambiar Award**. This year, the accolade was bestowed upon **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath**, a figure synonymous with innovation and leadership in space technology. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noida, a city in the National Capital Region, has garnered recognition for its efforts in water conservation and management. **The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation**, under the Union Water Ministry, has honored Noida with the title of **"Water Warrior" city**. This recognition comes as a testament to the city's measures in waste water treatment and reuse for various purposes, particularly irrigation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** was honoured with the **9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024**, held in the **United Arab Emirates**. This accolade is a testament to India's innovative use of artificial intelligence in enhancing government services, specifically under the 'AI-Powered Government Services' category. The award, established by the UAE government, acknowledges the creative and innovative technological solutions implemented by government entities worldwide. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Havildar Varinder Singh**, a member of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army, has been honored with the prestigious **Vishisht Seva Medal** for his remarkable contribution to military technology. President Droupadi Murmu bestowed this accolade upon him in recognition of his outstanding efforts in developing a groundbreaking piece of equipment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Film Awards**, one of India's most prestigious film award ceremonies, is set to see significant changes in its 70th iteration in 2022. Previously known as the **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film**, this category will now be simply referred to as the **"Best Debut Film of a Director."** The award category previously known as the **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration** has undergone not just a name change but also a broadening of its scope. It will now be known as the **"Best Feature**

Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values," effectively merging the aspects of national integration, social issues, and environmental conservation into a single category. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is organizing the **67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM)** in Lucknow from February 12th to 16th, 2024. This esteemed event, entrusted to the RPF by the Central Coordinating Committee of AIPDM, aims to foster excellence and collaboration among police officers, enhancing internal security through scientific crime detection and investigation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The 7th Indian Ocean Conference recently convened in Perth, Australia, drawing together leaders, ministers, and officials from Indian Ocean rim countries. Organized by India Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the conference aimed to address diverse issues under the theme **"Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean."** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- At the **World Government Summit 2024**, Dubai has unveiled groundbreaking agreements to introduce the world's inaugural air taxi service, setting a new standard in urban transportation. This initiative, centered around the innovative **Joby Aviation S4 aircraft**, promises to revolutionize Dubai's cityscape with its electric-powered, environmentally friendly design. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released by the National Statistical Office indicates a continued improvement in India's urban labour markets. The **urban jobless rate** for Q3FY24 dropped to **6.5%**, showcasing a marginal decrease from the previous quarter and marking a significant decline from the peak observed during the Covid-affected period in FY22. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards environmental conservation and sustainable land management, **NITI Aayog**, the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, launched the **Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and portal**. This groundbreaking initiative aims to transform India's underutilized wastelands into productive agroforestry zones, leveraging state-of-the-art remote sensing and **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies** for a comprehensive analysis at both state and district levels. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- **Australia U19** win the **U19 World Cup 2024 Final** by 79 runs. With the massive win over India, Australia has secured its fourth World Cup title in U-19 cricket. Australia added to their triumphs in **2002, 2010, and 2020**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** have officially announced the appointment of **Katrina Kaif** as their brand ambassador for the upcoming **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season**. This partnership marks a significant milestone for the five-time IPL champions, signalling a new chapter in their illustrious journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Nagal's journey began in 2023 when he played as a player ranked 506 in the world and qualified for the ATP Chennai Open Challenger. Despite setbacks, including a hip injury in 2021, Nagal persisted and continued to pursue his dream. His success in Chennai Challenger last year marked the beginning of his resurgence after surgery. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In an event that has cast a shadow over the world of athletics, **Kelvin Kiptum**, the men's marathon world record holder, and his coach, Gervais Hakizimana, met with a tragic end in a traffic accident on the night of February 12, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the winners of the **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month for January 2024**. West Indies' Shamar Joseph and Ireland's Amy Hunter have been bestowed with this honour, marking their remarkable contributions to their respective teams in the past month. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Gandhinagar Premier League (GPL) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The event, graced by the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel among other dignitaries, marks a pivotal step towards enhancing grassroots cricket and fostering local talent across the nation. **Hardik Pandya**, an India all-rounder, was spotted with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Gandhinagar Premier League's launch. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** handed over the **Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary**, the host city for the **45th edition of the Chess Olympiad**. The ceremony, held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, was not just a formal handover but also a celebration of chess as an intellectual sport deeply rooted in India's heritage. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has suspended hammer thrower Rachna Kumari for 12 years for a second anti-doping rule violation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Taghi Askar**, a 100-year-old diver from the Islamic Republic of Iran, made waves at the **Diving World Championships in Doha** as he wiped away tears of gratitude and emotion for the overwhelming support he received. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indian football**, the national team has fallen **15 places to the 117th position** in the latest FIFA rankings, registering its lowest position in the past seven years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** has etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the second Indian bowler to take **500 wickets in Test matches**. This milestone was reached during the second day of the third Test between India and England in Rajkot, marking a significant achievement in Ashwin's already storied career. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- UK-based club cricketer **Rizwan Javed** has been handed a severe ban from all cricketing activities for a period of **17 ½ years**. This decision comes in the wake of his involvement in several breaches of the **Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code** for Participants. The ramifications of his actions highlight the stringent measures taken to uphold the integrity of the sport. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The government is preparing to extend the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme to **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** and **Anganwadi workers/helpers**. This initiative aims to provide free health coverage to these essential healthcare workers, aligning with the broader goals of the **AB-PMJAY scheme**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 Feb, 2024, the **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**, New Delhi, witnessed the launch of the **"Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal**. Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, initiated this significant step towards addressing gender disparity in science and technology fields. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Hon'ble Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, Shri S. Krishnan, inaugurated the groundbreaking SWASTHA project and the state-of-the-art ISO 5 and 6 Clean Room Facilities at IIT Guwahati's Centre for Nanotechnology on 9th February 2024. Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Officiating Director, IIT Guwahati, and other dignitaries were also present at the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the National Conference on **APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card** in New Delhi. This conference aimed to emphasize the importance of the APAAR ID as a universally recognized document for students across the nation. Pradhan highlighted the significance of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) and their proliferation, both globally and within India, with 19 established DPIs in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards the welfare of laborers and street vendors in **Rajasthan**, Finance Minister Diya Kumari presented the state's budget on February 8, 2024, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal. This budget marks the presentation of the financial budget in Rajasthan after nearly 22 years. Notably, it includes special announcements for the youth, farmers, women, and the elderly. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, unveiled the realigned **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) scheme** and introduced a **Radio Jingle** for AHIDF in New Delhi. The Minister highlighted the significance of the scheme, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasized its realignment and extension for another three years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **16th Finance Commission (FC)** convened its inaugural session with **Arvind Panagariya** at the helm to deliberate upon its **Terms of Reference (ToR)**. The commission aims to engage in comprehensive analytical endeavors and leverage expertise from prominent research institutions and think tanks specializing in fiscal federal relations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduces the **'Sangam: Digital Twin'** initiative, calling upon industry leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, and innovators to join hands in reshaping infrastructure planning and design through cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Food Processing **Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras** inaugurated **"SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024,"** stressing the importance of such events in promoting networking, sharing knowledge, and aiding startups in accessing government schemes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- MSME Minister **Narayan Rane** launched a special scheme for informal micro enterprises (IMEs), exempted from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. This scheme **enables IMEs to access collateral-free loans**

up to Rs 20 lakh under the government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The scheme, titled **'Special Provision for Informal Micro Enterprises under Credit Guarantee Scheme,'** aims to provide credit support to micro or nano enterprises. It seeks to moderate the credit risk perception associated with lending to IMEs, as stated by the MSME Ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **The Epic Foundation** has recently unveiled the **Milkyway tablet**, heralding a new era of **'designed in India'** technology tailored for the educational needs of school children. Ajai Chowdhry, the Chairman of Epic Foundation, emphasized that the Milkyway tablet is the first product designed from the ground up in India to be fully repairable and upgradable, setting a benchmark for sustainability and innovation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Professor **Karan Nathwani** from IIT-Jammu has created a groundbreaking anti-drone system that relies on **sound technology**. This innovative approach ensures affordability and user-friendliness. Unlike conventional methods using visual or radar technology, Nathwani's system identifies drones accurately by analyzing their distinct acoustic signatures. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **February 13th**, the world unites to celebrate **World Radio Day**, a day that marks the enduring significance of radio as a medium of communication. The theme for World Radio Day 2024, **"Radio: A Century Informing, Entertaining and Educating,"** celebrates the historical evolution of radio and its profound impact on society. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 12th**, the world observes the **International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism (PVE Day)**. This crucial day serves as a platform to **raise awareness** about the dangers of violent extremism and **promote international cooperation** in tackling this complex issue. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Unani Day is celebrated annually on February 11**, marking the birth anniversary of **Hakim Ajmal Khan**, a renowned Unani practitioner and visionary who made significant contributions to the field of Unani medicine. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **February 13, 2024 marks the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu**, a distinguished figure in India's struggle for independence and a celebrated poet known as the "Nightingale of India." This day is also recognized as the **National Women's Day** as she played a pivotal role in advocating for **women's rights**. Born into a Bengali family in **Hyderabad in 1879**, Sarojini Naidu's contributions to **Indian politics, literature, and women's rights** are remembered and celebrated across the nation. As the first Governor of the United Provinces and a prominent poet, Naidu's contributions have left an indelible mark on India's history. Let us delve into the life and legacy of this remarkable woman. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year, India marks **February 12 as National Productivity Day**, launching the beginning of the Indian Productivity Week, which lasts until **February 18**. This annual observance is not just a celebration but a pivotal reminder of the country's commitment to enhancing productivity across all sectors. The National Productivity Day 2024 stands out with its forward-looking theme, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Productivity Engine for Economic Growth," spotlighting the transformative role of AI in boosting economic development and productivity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **International Epilepsy Day**, observed on the **2nd Monday of February each year**, is a pivotal event in the global healthcare calendar that aims to unite individuals affected by epilepsy. The theme for International Epilepsy Day 2024, "**Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey**", emphasizes the importance of recognizing and celebrating personal achievements amidst the challenges posed by epilepsy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 14**, while many celebrate love and affection, the medical and health advocacy communities band together to observe a day of significant importance – **Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Basant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja**, is a vibrant and spiritually significant festival celebrated in several states of India. This auspicious day is dedicated to honoring Goddess Saraswati, the divine embodiment of knowledge, education, and information. In **2024**, the festival is set to grace us on **February 14**, symbolizing the onset of spring and the beginning of preparations for the colorful festival of Holi. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 15th**, the world comes together to observe **International Childhood Cancer Day**, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges and struggles faced by children and adolescents battling cancer. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Hippo Day** is celebrated on **15 February** every year to raise awareness about the plight of hippos, which are one of the most endangered large mammals on the planet. Today, the hippo population is estimated to be between 115,000 and 130,000, with the decline being attributed to poaching, loss of access to fresh water, mechanised farming, and urbanisation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Anthropology Day**, celebrated on the **third Thursday of February each year**, marks a significant occasion dedicated to the field of anthropology. This day, falling on **February 15 2024**, aims to shed light on the comprehensive study of human behavior, biology, and the intricate dynamics of human societies. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The United Nations' Global Tourism Resilience Day**, celebrated for the first time on **February 17, 2023**, marks a significant step towards acknowledging and enhancing the resilience of the tourism industry. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- Art world lost one of its most distinctive voices when **Ramachandran** passed away. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The literary world mourns the loss of **Usha Kiran Khan**, a distinguished writer and **Padma Shri awardee**, who passed away at the age of 78 after a brief illness in a private hospital on Sunday. Her demise has left an indelible void in the realm of Hindi and Maithili literature, marking the end of an era of profound storytelling and cultural enrichment. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dattajirao Gaekwad**, the **nation's oldest Test cricketer**, passed away recently at the age of 95. Gaekwad, a name synonymous with resilience, elegance, and sportsmanship, leaves behind a legacy that is etched in the annals of Indian cricket history. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Chef Imtiaz Qureshi**, who passed away at the age of 93. The Padma Shri awardee, often hailed as a "culinary genius," was instrumental in bringing the ancient dum pukht cooking technique back to the forefront of Indian cuisine. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kavita Chaudhary**, a veteran actor and creative force best known for her groundbreaking role in the television show "**Udaan**" and as the iconic Lalitaji in Surf commercials. Chaudhary passed away at the age of 67 due to cardiac arrest in Amritsar, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Sindhu Ganapathy's** appointment as the **first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of Southern Railway** marks a significant milestone in the journey towards inclusivity and acceptance in the Indian workforce. At the age of 37, Ms. Ganapathy has not only broken barriers but also set a precedent for the transgender community's representation in prestigious government positions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous commemoration of the **200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** delivered a profound address via video message at the birthplace of the revered **Swami, Tankara in Morbi, Gujarat**. The event, organized by the Arya Samaj, stands as a testament to Swami Ji's enduring contributions to Indian spirituality and societal reform. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nepal** is a tapestry of cultures and traditions, each contributing to the rich mosaic of its heritage. Among these, the **Tamang community** holds a significant place, celebrating their identity and history through the vibrant festival of **Sonam Losar**. Sonam Losar, the New Year according to the Tamang calendar, is not just a festivity but a profound expression of the community's culture, spirituality, and ancestral bonds. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a development announced by India's Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, the nation is set to embark on testing (Global navigation satellite system) **GNSS-based toll collection** on the **Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway**. This move underscores the government's commitment to leveraging technologies to modernize infrastructure and improve transportation systems. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham;
- UAE Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum;
- UAE President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IRCTC Founder: Ministry of Railways;
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999.
- SBICAPS Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBICAPS Parent organization: State Bank of India;
- SBICAPS Founded: August 1986.
- American Anthropological Association Founder: Franz Boas;

- American Anthropological Association Founded: 1902;
- American Anthropological Association headquarters: Arlington, Hopewell, Virginia, United States;
- American Anthropological Association President: Ramona Perez.
- Current President of FIFA is Gianni Infantino;
- The Headquarters of FIFA is located in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida;
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Yen;
- Tripura Capital: Agartala;
- Tripura Governor: Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya;
- Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha.
- International Basketball Federation Founded: 18 June 1932;
- International Basketball Federation Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland;
- International Basketball Federation President: Hamane Niang.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States;
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer: Satya Nadella.
- Swimming Federation of India Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat;
- Swimming Federation of India Affiliation: World Aquatics;
- Swimming Federation of India Founded: 1948;
- Swimming Federation of India Membership: 30 State/UT associations;
- Swimming Federation of India CEO: Virendra Nanavati.
- Capital of Ireland: Dublin
- Currency of Ireland: Irish Pound, Euro
- Prime Minister of Ireland: Leo Varadkar

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