

Weekly One Liners 26th February to 03rd of March 2024

Army Clinches Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Title on Final Day

The **Khelo India Winter Games 2024** concluded in Gulmarg, with the **Army emerging victorious** after a thrilling final day of competition.

Army Tops the Medal Tally

Alpine skier **Bobby Pandey's gold medal** in the parallel slalom event proved decisive, propelling Army to the top of the medal table with **10 gold medals**. This narrow margin placed them one gold ahead of **Karnataka (9 gold)** and three ahead of **Maharashtra (7 gold)**, who had led after the first round in Ladakh.

Individual Performances Shine

- **Mehak from Uttarakhand** secured gold in the women's parallel slalom.
- **Uttarakhand** finished fifth overall with three gold medals, all in skiing events.
- **Himachal Pradesh** secured fourth place with four gold medals, led by **Aanchal Thakur's double gold** performance.
- **Army** dominated the games, particularly in Gulmarg, with **nine gold medals** added to their ice hockey gold from Ladakh. Notably, **snowboarder Kulvinder Sharma and Nordic skier Padma Namgial** each bagged two individual gold medals for the team.
- **Karnataka's Thekkada Bhavani Nanjunda** emerged as the individual star, clinching a remarkable **hat-trick of gold medals** in Gulmarg, despite their reliance on ice skating success in Ladakh.

Technical Expertise and Olympian Involvement

The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** successfully managed the technical aspects of the games. Additionally, **six Olympians, including Shiva Keshavan and Arif Mohammed Khan**, actively contributed to the conduct of the event, lending their expertise and experience.

UIIC 2023-24
Assistants
50+ Total Tests
Test Series

The **Khelo India Winter Games 2024** witnessed exceptional performances and a captivating battle for the top spot. The Army's triumph, individual brilliance, and the involvement of Olympians mark a successful edition of the winter sporting event.

Gaganyaan Mission and ISRO Projects Inauguration by PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi disclosed the identities of the four pilots currently undergoing training for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. The astronauts, **Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander S Shukla**, were also awarded 'astronaut wings' by the Prime Minister. Accompanying PM Modi were Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister Muraleedharan, and ISRO Chairman S Somanath.

Astronaut Designates

- Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair
- Group Captain Ajit Krishnan
- Group Captain Angad Pratap
- Wing Commander S Shukla

About the Gaganyaan Mission

The Gaganyaan mission marks India's pioneering venture into manned space exploration, slated for launch between 2024-2025. Its objective is to deploy a crew of three individuals into a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission, culminating in a safe return to Earth via landing in Indian sea waters.

ISRO's Milestones and Progress

ISRO achieved a significant milestone in the human rating of its **CE20 cryogenic engine**, a pivotal component powering the cryogenic stage of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions. The completion of the final round of ground qualification tests on February 13, 2024, at the High Altitude Test Facility in ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, signifies a crucial advancement in India's preparations for the mission.

Inauguration of Space Infrastructure Projects

- PM Modi inaugurated three key space infrastructure projects during his visit to Kerala, including the **PSLV Integration Facility (PIF)** at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Additionally, he inaugurated the new **'Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and stage Test facility'** at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, and the **'Trisonic Wind Tunnel'** at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram.

- These projects, developed at a cost of approximately ₹1,800 crore, signify India's commitment to enhancing its space capabilities and infrastructure.

India's Position at 42 in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

The **US Chamber of Commerce** recently unveiled the **12th edition** of its **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index**, offering a comprehensive evaluation of the IP landscape across the globe. This year's index ranked 55 economies, assessing their IP frameworks' effectiveness in fostering innovation and creative industries. The United States retained its position at the pinnacle, followed closely by the United Kingdom and France, highlighting the critical role of robust IP systems in economic development.

India's Position in the Global Ranking

India secured the **42nd position out of the 55 countries evaluated**, with an overall score of 38.64 percent. This placement underscores the ongoing challenges and opportunities for India in strengthening its IP framework to bolster innovation and economic growth. Despite the static position, the inclusion of India in the analysis signifies its importance in the global IP discourse.

Global Leaders in IP Rights

The index identified the top 10 economies with the most effective IP frameworks, led by the United States with a score of 95.48 percent. The United Kingdom and France followed, demonstrating the preeminence of Western economies in the IP domain. This hierarchy of nations reflects the direct correlation between strong IP protections and economic prosperity.

Top 10 Economies for IP Rights

1. United States (95.48%)
2. United Kingdom (94.12%)
3. France (93.12%)
4. Germany (92.46%)
5. Sweden (92.12%)
6. Japan (91.26%)
7. Netherlands (91.24%)
8. Ireland (89.38%)
9. Spain (86.44%)
10. Switzerland (85.98%)

Trends and Observations

The report highlighted several key trends, including the advancement of 20 economies in their overall IP scores. Notably, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Nigeria emerged as the top gainers, reflecting their concerted efforts to invest in policy-driven innovation. This improvement among various countries signals a positive trend towards strengthening global IP policies.

Conversely, the index also revealed stagnation in 27 economies, including India, where no significant progress was noted. Furthermore, eight countries, such as Ecuador, experienced a decline in their rankings due to inadequate enforcement mechanisms against IP infringements.

Implications for Global IP Policy

The findings from the index suggest a plateau in progress among the top-ranked economies, calling for renewed leadership from the United States and the European Union in IP policy. The report advocates for multilateral organizations to reassert their commitment to global IP standards, cautioning against counterproductive measures like IP waivers that could undermine the IP framework's integrity.

National Affairs

- After the success of the 'International Purple Fest, 2024' held in Goa from 8th to 13th January, 2024, the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD)** under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is set to host a day-long celebration of inclusivity at **Amrit Udyaan** in the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 26th February, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated **two institutes** of the Union Ministry of Ayush, marking a significant step forward in the promotion of healthcare across the nation. The inauguration ceremony, held virtually, saw the unveiling of the '**Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy**' (CRIYN) in Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled '**NISARG GRAM**' in Pune, Maharashtra. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** introduced the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024** on 21-2-2024, altering the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022. These amendments, effective immediately, address significant changes regarding the use of donor gametes and consent agreements in surrogacy arrangements. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, revealed plans for a new office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in **Chandigarh**. This move aims to support filmmakers in the region by making the process of obtaining film certification more convenient. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the **110th episode** of '**Mann Ki Baat**', Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates the remarkable contributions of women across India. With Women's Day around the corner, he highlights the inspiring journey of women

like **Sunita Devi**, affectionately known as “Drone Didi,” who are breaking barriers and transforming lives. From mastering drone technology to revolutionizing agriculture in villages, women are scripting a new narrative of empowerment and progress. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant stride towards bolstering India’s healthcare infrastructure and services, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated **Five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to the nation**. The AIIMS facilities located in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh) mark a pivotal moment in the country’s journey towards enhancing tertiary healthcare access and quality. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Union IT Minister, recently met with Shanker Trivedi, senior vice president at NVIDIA, at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The discussion centered around India’s evolving Digital Public Infrastructure and examined potential collaborative efforts in the field of Sovereign AI. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government has announced the initiation of the ‘**Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye**’ campaign in higher educational institutions nationwide starting from February 27, 2024. This campaign aims to foster active participation among the youth in the electoral process, emphasizing the significance of voting for the betterment of the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The pilot project for the ‘**World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector**’, expansion of PACS, and digital transformation aim to enhance food security, economic development, and governance, benefiting millions of farmers. The ceremony, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marks a significant step towards enhancing food security, economic development, and governance within the cooperative domain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** is set to confer the esteemed title of ‘**Global Jain Peace Ambassador**’ upon **Acharya Lokesh Muni**. The ceremony, scheduled to take place in Karnataka, will be organized by the Jain pilgrim center, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra, in Hubli Varur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has announced the launch of the **SWAYAM Plus** platform, operated by **IIT-Madras**. This initiative aims to provide industry-relevant courses to enhance the employability of learners, including working professionals. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The central government, under Section 3 of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, has declared two factions of the **Muslim Conference in Jammu & Kashmir** as unlawful associations. This measure aims to combat terrorism and preserve national security. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** made the announcement via a statement on social media platform **X**, highlighting the government’s dedication to dismantling terror networks and safeguarding the nation’s integrity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, along with Gujarat Chief Minister **Shri Bhupendra Patel** and other dignitaries, inaugurated the ‘**Swaminarayan Institute of Medical Science and Research**’ at the Shri Swaminarayan Vishwamangal Gurukul in **Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. This significant development marks a pivotal moment in the advancement of medical education and healthcare services in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** with its headquarters based in India. This landmark decision comes with a one-time budgetary support of Rs. 150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated **India’s inaugural hydrogen fuel cell ferry**, a product of indigenous development and construction built by Cochin Shipyard. Participating from Thoothukudi, he launched the inland waterway vessel, which is part of the **Harit Nauka initiative**—a pilot project aimed at showcasing the technology for the maritime sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized the **Poshan Utsav at The Oberoi on 29th February 2024**. The event aimed to promote good nutrition behavior and highlighted India’s ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

SBI
Clerk Mains
90+ Total Tests | ebooks
Test Series

- The **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**, Ministry of Power, is gearing up to host the **fourth edition** of **'Lineman Diwas'** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024. This annual celebration is dedicated to honoring the tireless dedication and service of linemen and ground maintenance staff who play a crucial role in electricity distribution across India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for **multiple development projects worth Rs 7,200 crore in Arambagh, Hooghly, West Bengal**. The developmental projects are associated with sectors like rail, ports, oil pipeline, LPG supply and wastewater treatment. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, marked a significant moment in the nation's journey towards self-sufficiency by dedicating the **Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant at Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand**. This inauguration stands as a testament to the government's commitment to fostering an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Tripura Chief Minister, Dr. Manik Saha**, marked a pivotal moment in the state's development with the inauguration of the **Jagannath Dighi Waterfront Development Project** in Udaipur. This significant endeavor reflects the government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and promoting tourism in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the Telangana government has opted to discontinue the much-touted **Hyderabad Pharma City project**, citing legal complexities, farmer protests, and environmental concerns. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttarakhand government** will introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property. In the upcoming budget session, they intend to present the **Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill**, aiming to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Chief Minister Prof Dr Manik Saha** inaugurated the **2nd State Level Shehri Samridhi Utsav** organized by Tripura Urban Livelihood Mission at Children's Park, Agartala. The event aimed at fostering urban livelihood opportunities and empowering women in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, is set to unveil a groundbreaking innovation in timekeeping with the world's first **Vedic Clock**. This meticulously crafted timepiece, housed on an **85-foot tower at the city's Jantar Mantar**, will be officially inaugurated on **March 1st, 2024**, by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in a virtual ceremony. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Nagaland government**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, has unveiled an initiative aimed at alleviating financial hardships caused by the untimely demise of a family's primary earner. This scheme, presented as part of the state's budget, marks a step towards ensuring the welfare and security of its citizens. The Chief Minister's **Universal Life Insurance Scheme** is funded by the state government. This initiative follows in the footsteps of the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, demonstrating an approach to citizen welfare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Telangana state government** has issued a directive for the adoption of the **One Time Scheme (OTS)** across all urban local bodies (ULBs), including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). This initiative is geared towards alleviating the financial strain faced by property owners who are grappling with mounting arrears interest on property tax payments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- **Haryana** Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the **"Savera" program**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer in women. Developed in collaboration with the Medanta Foundation and the Health Department, Savera leverages the **unique ability of visually impaired women** to conduct breast cancer screenings. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Recently, the **Central University of Bihar (CUSB)** achieved a significant milestone as the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** granted it **Category-1 status**. This accomplishment holds particular significance in a state where state universities encounter accreditation challenges and academic performance issues. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for India's defense sector, the Adani Group has inaugurated the **Ammunition & Missiles Complex in Kanpur**, Uttar Pradesh. This complex, owned by Adani Defence, marks the first phase of the state's defense corridor and is dedicated to the brave warriors of the Balakot strike. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially laid the foundation stone for **Sikkim's inaugural railway station in Rangpo**, marking a significant moment in the state's history. The station's design, deeply rooted in local culture, heritage, and architecture, reflects Sikkim's rich traditions and the majestic Himalayan landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The unveiling of a **21-foot statue of Maharana Pratap** at the Begum Bazar Maharana Pratap Chowk marked a significant moment for **Hyderabad**. This statue, the largest of its kind in the city, serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of the revered Rajput warrior, encapsulating his spirit for generations to come. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Nagaland legislative assembly** has unanimously adopted a resolution against the central government's decision to fence the **Indo-Myanmar border** and suspend the **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** agreement with **Myanmar**. This resolution reflects the concerns of the Naga people regarding the disruption of historical, social, tribal, and economic ties caused by these measures. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated **Project ODISERV** in **Sambalpur, Odisha**, marking a significant step towards **preparing young graduates for employment opportunities in the financial services sector**. This initiative is poised to empower the youth, enhance their employability, and fulfill their career aspirations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Vietnam has set forth an ambitious national hydrogen strategy, aiming to become a significant player in the global hydrogen market. With targets ranging from **100,000 to 500,000 tons** of clean hydrogen production annually by 2030, escalating to **10-20 million tons by 2050**, the strategy seeks to leverage both green and blue hydrogen production methods. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET)** has announced the introduction of a five-year multiple-entry visa aimed at enhancing travel between India and the UAE. This initiative comes in response to the significant increase in Indian visitors to Dubai, with India being the top source market for tourists in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Less than two years after being demoted to the **Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "gray list,"** the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been swiftly removed, signaling significant progress in the country's efforts to combat illicit financial activities. The Paris-based watchdog acknowledged the UAE's strengthened anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures, leading to the country's exit from increased monitoring. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Maryam Nawaz**, the daughter of Pakistan's former Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif** and a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, has achieved a

significant political milestone by becoming the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab province. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Algeria** celebrated the grand opening of what has been acclaimed as **"Africa's largest mosque"** and the third-largest mosque in the world. **President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** presided over the ceremony, officially revealing the Great Mosque of Algiers as the world's third-largest mosque. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **New Zealand government** plans to revoke a pioneering law scheduled for implementation in July. This law, considered the toughest globally, aimed to ban tobacco sales to individuals born after January 1, 2009, while also reducing nicotine content and slashing tobacco retailers by over 90%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In 2023, **South Korea** experienced a further decline in its already **record-low fertility rate**, exacerbating concerns about population decline. Political promises aim to tackle the crisis, but similar trends in Japan and China underscore the complex challenges of reversing declining birth rates. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Peru** has declared a **health emergency** in response to the escalating cases of **dengue fever** across the nation. Health Minister **Cesar Vasquez** announced on Monday that over **31,000** cases of dengue have been reported within the first eight weeks of **2024**, resulting in **32** fatalities. The emergency declaration will encompass **20 out of Peru's 25 regions**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ghana's parliament** has approved a controversial **anti-LGBTQ bill**, the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, which awaits presidential assent. This legislation has sparked debate and condemnation due to its stringent measures against **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning** (or queer) LGBTQ individuals. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a collaborative effort between the **US Consulate and the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce**, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), the first-ever **US-India Cyber Security Initiative** has been launched. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Mauritius Prime Minister **Pravind Jugnauth** jointly inaugurated significant infrastructure projects in **Agalega Island**, marking a milestone in bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius. The inauguration ceremony, conducted virtually, included the unveiling of an airstrip and the St James Jetty, along with six other projects financed by India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)** signed an MoU to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan. The collaboration aims to bring financial services to 3.5 Lakhs+ beneficiaries including SHG women, farmers, and youth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move toward modernization, the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the Ministry of **Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has partnered with the **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to digitize the **Urban Frame Survey (UFS)** using advanced Geo ICT tools and techniques through the **Bhuvan Platform**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India and Nicaragua** have forged a significant partnership in the field of pharmaceutical regulation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Pharmacopoeia recognition**. This milestone agreement marks Nicaragua as the first nation in the Spanish-speaking world to recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia, showcasing the growing global recognition of India's pharmaceutical standards. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- At the Mobile World Congress 2024 in Barcelona, **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, supported by the Government of India, and **Qualcomm Technologies** have forged a strategic collaboration to advance Atmanirbhar Bharat and drive innovation within India's telecom sector. This partnership aims to empower local developers, startups, academia, and industry partners through technological expertise and support. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

Governor Shri **P. S. Sreedharan Pillai** unveiled his latest literary contribution, "**Basic Structure and Republic**," marking his 212th publication. The ceremony was adorned by the gracious presence of His Gracious H. G. Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanacherry, Kerala, and Shri. Subhash Shirodkar, Minister for Water Resource Development, Co-Operation, and Provedoria, highlighting the significance of the occasion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and wife of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, celebrated the launch of her debut book "**Swallowing the Sun**" in **Mumbai**. The novel, set during the time of independence, draws inspiration from Puri's parents and her roots in Maharashtra, aiming to illuminate themes of women empowerment and cultural heritage. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

In a significant celebration of sports and culture, Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** released the coffee table book titled '**FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023**'. The book, a publication by Sportstar, the esteemed sports magazine of The Hindu Group, encapsulates the essence and excitement of the 15th FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup held in 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **HDFC Bank** has secured approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for the divestment of a **90% stake in HDFC Credila**, its education loan subsidiary. This decision follows RBI's directive to HDFC to reduce its stake in Credila to below 10% within two years post the HDFC Bank merger in April 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** has released findings from the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** conducted from August 2022 to July 2023. This survey aimed to assess the **Household Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)** across various demographics, spanning rural and urban sectors, states, union territories, and socio-economic groups. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, the Founder and CEO of Paytm, has resigned from his role as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of **Paytm Payments Bank**. This move comes amidst a restructuring of the bank's board in response to regulatory concerns and a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to wind down operations by March 15. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Gautam Adani's** conglomerate inaugurated two defense facilities in northern India, representing an investment of **30 billion rupees (\$362 million)**. These facilities, established by Adani Defence & Aerospace, signify India's drive towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is promoting financial literacy among young adults through their annual **Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign, held from February 26 to March 1, 2024**. This year's theme, "**Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart**," with emphasis on "Saving and Power of Compounding", "Banking Essentials for Students" and "Digital and Cyber Hygiene" which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **KPDCL (Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited)** has extended its amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme allows consumers to clear outstanding electricity dues in easy installments without late payment surcharges. Disconnected connections can be restored by paying only the principal amount. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation** have launched a bold initiative, **Vantara (Star of the Forest)**, dedicated to the rescue, treatment, care, and rehabilitation of animals in need. This ambitious program, spearheaded by **Anant Ambani**, aims to create a national and international impact on animal welfare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Amazon Pay**, the fintech arm of Amazon India, has secured a **payment aggregator license** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), joining a select group of authorized organizations in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has unveiled a significant merger deal with **Viacom18 Media and The Walt Disney Company**, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV) that will integrate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India. This strategic move is poised to reshape the landscape of the Indian entertainment and sports industry. RIL commits to investing **Rs 11,500 crore (approximately US\$ 1.4 billion)** into the JV to support its growth strategy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dvara Money**, a leading fintech company, has announced a strategic partnership with **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB)**. This collaboration aims to harness the technological capabilities of Jana SFB and the innovative Spark Money platform by Dvara Money to set new standards in digital banking services. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India's GDP for the third quarter** of FY24 experienced a significant acceleration, reaching **8.4% year-on-year growth**, as reported by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on February 29. This growth surpassed analysts' predictions, who had anticipated a figure below 7%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In January 2024, the **Combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** demonstrated a notable increase of 3.6 percent (provisional) compared to January 2023. This index reflects the collective performance of critical sectors including **Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, and Steel**. These industries collectively constitute 40.27 percent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), highlighting their significant contribution to the industrial landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a revised regulatory framework for the **Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS)**, effective April 1, 2024. This overhaul aims to streamline bill payments, foster wider participation, and bolster consumer protection measures in light of evolving payment landscape dynamics. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, **Pralhad Joshi**, announced the launch of the **National Coal Logistics Plan and Policy, 2023** on February 29. The policy aims to enhance railway utilization in coal transportation to over 87 percent by FY 2029-30, anticipating a surge in coal consumption from 980 million tons to 1.5 billion tons by 2030. Key objectives include cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced efficiency in coal logistics. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)** partners with **Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO)** to develop **Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra**. The agreement underscores commitment to green energy initiatives and supports India's energy transition goals. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection witnessed a significant surge of 12.5% year-on-year, reaching **Rs 1.68 lakh crore** in February, as stated by the government. This figure marks a notable increase from the Rs 1.50 lakh crore collected during the corresponding period last year. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's manufacturing sector continued its expansion in February, as indicated by the HSBC **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reaching 56.9**, marking its highest level in five months. This data, released on March 1st, surpassed the initial estimate of 56.7 announced on February 22nd. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

BANK PRIME
3000+ TESTS

For All Banking & Insurance
Exams with eBooks

Test Series

- India's forex reserves experienced a notable increase, rising by **\$2.975 billion to reach \$619.072 billion** for the week ending February 23, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This surge follows a previous week where reserves had slightly decreased by \$1.132 billion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** has levied a penalty of **₹5.49 crore on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** for violations of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**. The penalties are attributed to the bank's involvement in facilitating illegal activities, including online gambling, and mishandling of funds generated from such operations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has achieved a major milestone in clean energy by commissioning its **first domestically manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant in Hazira, Gujarat**. This marks the entry of L&T Electrolysers Limited into domestic electrolyser manufacturing, showcasing the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Geeta Batra**, a distinguished Indian economist, has been appointed as the Director of the **Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)** of the **World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. This appointment marks a significant milestone, as Batra becomes the first woman from a developing country to assume this prestigious role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, former Supreme Court judge Justice **Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Lokpal**, the anti-corruption ombudsman of India. His appointment comes after a distinguished career in the judiciary, retiring from the apex court in July 2022. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **World Gold Council (WGC)**, representing global gold miners, has named **Sachin Jain** as its new **CEO for India**, effective from March. Jain's extensive experience, particularly in the jewellery market and strategic leadership, positions him well for this crucial role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **PayU Payments Private Ltd**, a prominent fintech arm of the global consumer internet group Prosus, has announced the appointment of **Renu Sud Karnad** as the chairperson and independent director. The addition of Karnad, a distinguished director at HDFC Bank, underscores PayU's commitment to leveraging experienced leadership to navigate the evolving fintech landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Ravindra Kumar**, the newly appointed **Director-Operations at NTPC Ltd**, brings over three decades of rich experience and expertise in the power sector. From his early days as a graduate engineer trainee to his recent leadership roles, Kumar's journey exemplifies a commitment to excellence and innovation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the **Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)**, marking a significant development in India's security apparatus. Chaudhary, currently serving as the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will now shoulder the additional responsibility of leading the NSG, commonly referred to as the "black cats". ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move to bolster the security of India's parliamentary complex, IPS officer **Anurag Agarwal** has been appointed as the **new head of Parliament security**. This decision comes at a crucial juncture, following recent security breaches that have underscored the need for stringent protective measures within one of the nation's most critical infrastructures. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a significant step by appointing **S. Ravindran** as the part-time chairman of **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB)**, marking a new chapter in the bank's leadership. This appointment, effective from February 29, extends till August 2, 2026, and comes at a pivotal moment for TMB as it navigates the challenges and opportunities of the financial sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- The **5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian'** commenced today at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India. The exercise, scheduled to run from February 25th to March 9th, 2024, brings together the **Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)** for a focused training program aimed at enhancing interoperability and fostering closer military cooperation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) missile system**. This innovative system leverages repurposed **Russian R-27 air-to-air missiles**, transforming them into a potent surface-to-air defense solution. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, **Steadfast Defender 2024**, in late January 2024. This large-scale operation, conducted against the backdrop of the ongoing

Russia-Ukraine conflict, serves as a potent symbol of NATO's collective military might and unwavering commitment to the security of its member states. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful flight tests of the **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** missile on February 28th and 29th, 2024. The tests, carried out from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha, demonstrated the system's capability to intercept and destroy high-speed unmanned aerial targets under various interception scenarios. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Exercise Samudra Laksamana**, a significant bilateral maritime exercise between **India and Malaysia**, is currently underway from February 28 to March 2, 2024, off the coast of Visakhapatnam. This exercise marks the third edition of the collaboration, featuring the Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and the Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir. It is designed to foster stronger ties and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- In a world propelled by technological advancements, quantum computing emerges as a frontier of innovation. At its forefront stands **Dr. Aditi Sen De**, a distinguished physicist from the Harish Chandra Research Institute in Prayagraj. Recently honored with the **2023 GD Birla Award** for Scientific Excellence, Dr. De's groundbreaking contributions to quantum technologies mark a significant milestone in scientific research. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, has achieved a remarkable feat by clinching the **top position in three categories** at the esteemed **14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards**. The event, held on February 21, 2024, at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, witnessed C-DOT's groundbreaking innovations being recognized and celebrated. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The recipient of this year's **Romain Rolland Book Prize** is **Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee** for his remarkable translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's "**Le Divan de Staline**" into Bengali, titled "**Staliner Divan.**" Published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir, Kolkata, Chatterjee's translation stood out for its linguistic prowess and fidelity to the original text. This marks the second time that a Bengali translation has been honoured with this prestigious award. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Chairman and founder of Bharti Enterprises, has been conferred with an honorary **Knighthood by Britain's King Charles III**. He becomes the first Indian citizen to receive this prestigious honour, recognized for his contributions to UK-India business relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **Vimarsh 2023 5G Hackathon**, a collaborative effort between **Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE) India** under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), aimed to revolutionize Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) operations. This initiative sought to explore groundbreaking solutions and promote innovation within the law enforcement domain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Bharat Tex 2024**, the largest textile event in India, emphasizing its focus on sustainability, circularity, and economic growth. The event witnessed participation from over 3000 exhibitors and traders from 100 countries, showcasing India's rich textile heritage and modern innovations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- NITI Aayog CEO **B V R Subrahmanyam** highlights key findings from the latest NSSO consumer expenditure survey, revealing a significant reduction in poverty levels to **below 5% in India**. He emphasizes the growing prosperity evident in both rural and urban areas, as indicated by the substantial increase in per capita monthly household expenditure. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's weightage in the **MSCI Global Standard (Emerging Markets) index** has reached a **historic high of 18.2%** following MSCI's February review. This surge, **nearly doubling since November 2020**, is attributed to various factors such as standardized foreign ownership limits, sustained domestic equity rally, and relative underperformance of other emerging markets, particularly China. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Shri Bhupender Yadav, in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India, unveiled the **fifth cycle of leopard population estimation in India**. The report sheds light on the status and trends of leopard populations across various landscapes amidst escalating threats. India's leopard population is estimated at **13,874**, showcasing stability compared to the previous estimate. However, this represents only 70% of leopard habitat, with the Himalayas and semi-arid regions not sampled. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** etched his name in cricketing history, surpassing legendary leg-spinner **Anil Kumble** to become the **leading wicket-taker in Test matches played on Indian soil**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has demonstrated unwavering support for Armed Forces personnel who excelled in the **19th Asian Games** and **4th Asian Para Games**, held in Hangzhou, China, during September-October 2023. In a landmark move, the Ministry of Defence has announced a **Financial Incentive Scheme to reward the Medal Winners**, aiming to foster Recognition and Motivation among these athletes as they prepare for the Paris Olympics Games 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton**, the dynamic **Namibian batter**, etched his name in cricketing history by scoring the **fastest T20 International (T20I) century** in a blistering innings against Nepal. Loftie-Eaton's extraordinary feat occurred during the first T20I of the Tri-Nation series on Tuesday, February 27, leaving fans and pundits in awe of his remarkable display of power-hitting. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Veteran fast bowler **Neil Wagner** has called time on his international cricketing career, bringing an end to a distinguished 12-year Test match journey with the Black Caps. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Juventus midfielder **Paul Pogba** has been handed a **four-year suspension from football due to doping allegations**. The former Manchester United star tested positive for testosterone, leading to his provisional suspension in September. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- After discussions within the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) regarding the need for **uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms**, the government has taken action by establishing an expert committee. Headed by Finance Secretary **T V Somanathan**, this committee aims to streamline and finalize uniform KYC norms across various sectors. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- For the first time, an international collaboration of researchers has successfully demonstrated the **laser cooling of Positronium**, a short-lived hydrogen-like atom that provides an ideal testing ground for bound-state quantum electrodynamics.

- In the recently published paper in the **Physical Review Letters**, the AEGIS team has described the laser cooling of Positronium atoms achieved from ~380 Kelvin (106.85 degrees Celsius) to ~170 Kelvin (minus 103.15 degrees Celsius), using a 70-nanosecond pulsed alexandrite-based laser system. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his address at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in Thiruvananthapuram, declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035. This initiative aims to facilitate advanced exploration of the universe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu**. This marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration endeavors, promising to revolutionize the nation's satellite launch capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** and Prof. **Thillai Rajan A** of IIT Madras inaugurated the '**Investor Information and Analytics Platform**,' developed by **CREST**. This platform serves as a centralized hub for startups to access investors, government schemes, and other crucial components of the startup ecosystem. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking initiative, researchers at the **Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST)**, an autonomous institute affiliated with the **Department of Science and Technology**, have successfully converted banana pseudo stems—commonly regarded as agricultural waste—into an environmentally friendly wound dressing material. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Google** has taken a significant step to bolster the fight against online misinformation by announcing its support for **Shakti**, a consortium of news publishers and fact-checkers. This initiative is aimed at the early detection of online misinformation, including deepfakes, and establishing a common repository for news publishers to effectively tackle such challenges. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **February 27th**, the world comes together to celebrate **World NGO Day**, a day dedicated to recognizing and honouring the invaluable contributions of **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **National Science Day** is celebrated annually on **28th February** in India to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist **Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman**. The theme for National Science Day 2024 is '**Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat**', emphasizing the importance of promoting scientific, technological, and innovation skills. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Celebrated annually on **March 1, World Seagrass Day** is a vital global observance aimed at highlighting the importance of seagrass in marine ecosystems. Established by the United Nations General Assembly on May 22, 2022, following Sri Lanka's resolution, the day underscores the urgent need for seagrass conservation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **March 1** marks **Zero Discrimination Day**, a day dedicated to advocating for the right of every individual to live a life free from discrimination and prejudice. This global observance, initiated by UNAIDS, aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination and the importance of promoting equality, compassion, and respect for all. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **World Wildlife Day**, celebrated annually on **March 3**, serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to protect and preserve the world's fauna and flora. In 2024, this day draws particular attention to the role of digital innovation in wildlife conservation, underlining the theme "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation." This occasion is not only a celebration but a global call to action, urging individuals, communities, and governments worldwide to engage in practices that contribute to the sustainability of our planet's biodiversity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of **acclaimed director Kumar Shahani**, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The music world mourns the passing of legendary ghazal singer **Pankaj Udhas**, who died at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Raja Venkatappa Naik**, a revered figure in Surapur's political landscape in Karnataka and a dedicated Congress MLA, bid farewell on February 25, leaving behind a rich political legacy. His demise, at the age of 66, marked a poignant moment for Surapur and Karnataka's political fraternity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Shafiqur Rahman Barq**, a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party and MP representing Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, breathed his last at a private hospital in Moradabad at the

age of 94. Reportedly, he succumbed to a kidney infection after being in a weakened and unwell state for some time. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Brian Mulroney**, the former Canadian Prime Minister known for his transformative policies and complex legacy, has died at the age of 84. His passing marks the end of an era in Canadian politics and prompts reflections on his significant contributions and controversies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** has commissioned **India's largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS)** in **Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- After 45 years, the **Shahpur-Kandi barrage's** completion is a major milestone, **stopping Ravi River's water flow into Pakistan**. This will greatly impact Kathua and Samba districts in Jammu and Kashmir, benefiting over 32,000 hectares of land with irrigation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the umbrella of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) are poised to make a significant mark at the upcoming **4-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu**. This endeavor aims to spotlight the rich tapestry of art forms and cultural heritage of the region while highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has identified and named a new species of marine head-shield sea slug discovered along the West Bengal and Odisha coasts. Named **Melanochlamys droupadi**, this distinctive species bears a ruby red spot and has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other sea slugs. Named after the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, **Melanochlamys droupadi** was confirmed through morphological, anatomical, and molecular examinations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

- DRDO Date founded: 1958
- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO;
- Ghana Capital: Accra;
- Ghana Currency: Ghanaian Cedi;
- Ghana President: Nana Akufo-Addo.
- Zoological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata;
- Zoological Survey of India Founded: 1 July 1916;
- Zoological Survey of India Director: Dr. Dhriti Banerjee;

- Zoological Survey of India Founder: Government of India.
- Nicaragua Capital: Managua;
- Nicaragua Currency: Nicaraguan Córdoba;
- Nicaragua President: Daniel Ortega;
- Nicaragua Continent: North America.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- NATO Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.
- World Gold Council CEO: David Tait;
- World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky;
- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;
- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das, IAS (retd.);
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

NICL AO
Generalists
Pre & Mains
100+ Total Tests

Test Series

UIIC 2024
Administrative Officer
Generalist
50+ Total Tests

Test Series