



THE
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REVIEW

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Contents

The Most Important Current Affairs March 2024.....	3
Banking and Financial Current Affairs	7
Economy Current Affairs	9
Business Current Affairs.....	11
International Current Affairs.....	13
National Current Affairs.....	15
States Current Affairs.....	18
Schemes and Committees.....	21
Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).....	22
New Appointments: International	24
Sports Current Affairs	26
Summits And Conferences.....	27
Ranks and Reports News.....	28
Important Days	29
Defence Current Affairs	29
Awards News	31
Science and Technology.....	32
Books & Authors	34
Miscellaneous Current Affairs.....	34
Obituaries Current Affairs.....	35
Static Current Affairs.....	36

The Most Important Current Affairs March 2024

PM Narendra Modi Presents National Creators Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the **first-ever National Creators Award** at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event marked a significant milestone in recognizing and celebrating creators who have made impactful contributions across various domains.

Awards span 20 categories including storytelling, and social change

The National Creators Award encompasses **20 categories**, highlighting the diversity and depth of creativity across different fields. From storytelling to social change advocacy, environmental sustainability to education, and gaming among others, the awards aim to acknowledge excellence and innovation that drives positive change in society.

Several social media influencers receive awards

Among the recipients of the National Creators Award were notable social media influencers who have captivated audiences with their content and message. Prime Minister Modi presented awards to individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields, inspiring millions with their creativity and vision. Here is the list of winners:

Winner	Award
Jaya Kishori	Best Creator for Social Change
Kabita Singh (Kabita's Kitchen)	Best Creator in Food Category
Drew Hicks	Best International Creator
Kamiya Jani	Favourite Travel Creator
Ranveer Allahbadia (BeerBiceps)	Disruptor of the Year
RJ Raunac (Bauaa)	Most Creative Creator-Male
Shraddha Jain	Most Creative Creator (Female)
Aridaman	Best Micro Creator
Nishchay	Best Creator in Gaming Category
Ankit Baiyanpuria	Best Health and Fitness Creator
Naman Deshmukh	Best Creator in Education Category
Jahnvi Singh	Heritage Fashion Icon
Malhar Kalambe	Swachhta Ambassador
Gaurav Chaudhary	Best Creator in Tech Category
Maithili Thakur	Cultural Ambassador of The Year
Pankhti Pandey	Favourite Green Champion
Keerthika Govindasamy	Best Storyteller
Aman Gupta	Celebrity Creator

Triumph of Creativity at the National Creators Award

The winners, including three international creators, were selected from over 1.5 lakh nominations, highlighting the extensive reach and impact of their work. The National Creators Award serves as a testament to the power of creativity in driving positive change and inspiring millions around the world.

Oscars 2024 Announced, Check Full List of Winners

The **Oscars 2024 ceremony** took place at the **Dolby Theater in Los Angeles**, with **Jimmy Kimmel** hosting for the fourth time. The film **"Oppenheimer"** emerged as the big winner, earning 13 nominations and taking home prestigious awards, including Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Picture.

Cillian Murphy's performance in the title role of "Oppenheimer" earned him the Best Actor award, continuing his successful run after winning similar honors at other major award shows like the Golden Globes, BAFTAs, and Screen Actors Guild Awards. The film "Poor Things" also had a notable presence, winning awards in the categories of Hair and Makeup, Production Design, and Costume Design.

The Malayalam film **"Everyone is a Hero" (2023)**, which was chosen as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 2024 Academy Awards, has been eliminated from the Oscars race. Despite being the country's representative, the film did not make it to the final shortlist of nominations in that category.

Oscars 2024 Announced, Check Full List of Winners

The film "Oppenheimer" had a triumphant night at the **96th Academy Awards**, securing a remarkable seven Oscars, including some of the most prestigious categories.

Category	Winner
Best Supporting Actress	Da’Vine Joy Randolph, “The Holdovers”
Best Animated Short	“War Is Over!”
Best Animated Feature	“The Boy and the Heron”
Best Original Screenplay	“Anatomy of a Fall”
Best Adapted Screenplay	“American Fiction”
Best Makeup and Hairstyling	“Poor Things”
Best Production Design	“Poor Things”
Best Costume Design	“Poor Things”
Best International Feature	“The Zone of Interest”
Best Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., “Oppenheimer”
Best Visual Effects	“Godzilla Minus One”
Best Film Editing	“Oppenheimer”
Best Documentary (Short Subject)	“The Last Repair Shop”
Best Documentary Feature	“20 Days in Mariupol”
Best Cinematography	“Oppenheimer”
Best Short Film (Live Action)	“The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar”
Best Sound	“The Zone of Interest”
Best Score	“Oppenheimer”
Best Song	“What Was I Made For?” from “Barbie”
Best Actor	Cillian Murphy, “Oppenheimer”
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, “Oppenheimer”
Best Actress	Emma Stone, “Poor Things”
Best Picture	“Oppenheimer”

India Jumps 14 Ranks on UNDP Gender Inequality Index

According to the **Human Development Report 2023-2024** released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, India has made significant progress in bridging the gender divide. The country has improved its ranking by **14 positions** on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 compared to the previous year.

In the **GII 2022**, India ranked **108 out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437**. This marks a significant improvement from the 2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries, with a score of 0.490. Over the past decade, India’s rank in the **GII** has consistently improved, indicating steady progress towards achieving gender equality.

The Gender Inequality Index

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a composite measure that evaluates gender inequality across three dimensions:

1. Reproductive health
2. Empowerment
3. Labor market participation

It takes into account indicators such as maternal mortality ratio, adolescent birth rate, percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, population with secondary education by gender, and labour force participation by gender. A lower **GII** value indicates lower inequality between women and men.

The 2023-2024 HDR builds on the 2021-2022 Human Development Report findings, which saw the global HDI value fall for the first time—two years in a row. This report reveals that human development recovery is uneven in nature. While wealthy countries are showing signs of robust recovery, the poorest are struggling. All the member countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have surpassed their 2019 HDI level. But among least developed countries, only one in two have recovered their already low pre-crisis HDI levels.

Top-Ranked Countries

The top-ranked countries in the **GII 2022** are:

1. Denmark
2. Norway
3. Switzerland
4. Sweden
5. Netherlands

India’s Progress on Gender Inequality Index

Year	Rank	Score
2022	108	0.437
2021	122	0.490
2020	123	0.493
2019	122	0.501
2018	127	0.501

India’s commitment to accelerating economic growth and improving the quality of life for its citizens is reflected in its steady progress on the Gender Inequality Index and other human development indicators.

Human Development Index (HDI)

India’s Human Development Index (HDI) value has also increased to 0.644 in 2022, placing the country at the **134th spot out of 193 countries and territories**. This improvement comes after a drop in HDI value in 2021 and a flat trend over the past few years.

Since 1990, India has made remarkable progress in human development, with increases in life expectancy, expected years of schooling, mean years of schooling, and per-capita gross national income (GNI).

GOI Approves Electric Vehicle Policy to Boost Local Manufacturing

The **Indian government** made a landmark announcement on **March 15**, approving a comprehensive scheme aimed at positioning India as a global hub for **electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing**. This policy, designed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, seeks to entice significant investments from renowned global EV manufacturers into the Indian market. The essence of the policy is to foster innovation, attract investments, and make advanced technology accessible within the country.

Key Policy Highlights

- **Minimum Investment:** Companies are required to invest at least Rs 4,150 crore, with the policy not capping the maximum possible investment. This move is to ensure substantial financial influx into the EV sector.
- **Manufacturing Timeline:** The policy allows a three-year window for companies to establish their manufacturing facilities in India, commencing commercial production of EVs.
- **Local Sourcing:** A notable feature of this initiative is the mandate for companies to achieve a 25% localisation level by the end of the third year and 50% by the fifth year, promoting domestic industries and components.
- **Import Benefits:** To kickstart the transition, the government has permitted companies to import up to 8,000 EVs annually at a reduced customs duty of 15% on cars valued over \$35,000. This is a significant reduction from the current tariffs of 70% to 100%.
- **Incentive Caps and Conditions:** The duty waiver on imported EVs is directly linked to the company's investment or an equivalent incentive under the PLI scheme (capped at Rs 6,484 crore), whichever is lower. Furthermore, the policy outlines a limit of 40,000 EVs over five years, provided the investment hits the \$800 million mark.

Ensuring Compliance and Promoting Domestic Growth

To ensure that companies adhere to their commitments, a bank guarantee equivalent to the customs duty savings is required. This guarantee stands as a compliance measure, safeguarding the policy's objectives and ensuring that the benefits are accurately aligned with investments and local sourcing milestones.

A Leap Towards Sustainable Mobility

This policy is a strategic step towards enhancing the EV ecosystem in India, promoting the Make in India initiative, and ensuring access to cutting-edge technology. It aligns with the global shift towards sustainable transportation solutions, positioning India as a significant player in the EV manufacturing sector. Through this policy, the government aims not only to attract foreign investments but also to stimulate domestic production capabilities, fostering an environment conducive to the growth of the electric vehicle industry in India.

India's Human Development Index ranking 134 out of 193 countries

India's position in the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) for 2022 improved slightly, ranking **134 out of 193 countries with an HDI value of 0.644**. This signifies progress in various dimensions of human development, albeit with a continued need to focus on women-led development, as highlighted by the UNDP.

India's HDI Trends

Between 1990 and 2022, India experienced a significant increase in its HDI value by **48.4%, from 0.434 to 0.644**, placing it in the medium human development category. The country's HDI improvement reflects advancements in life expectancy, education, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

India's Gender Inequality Progress

India has shown progress in reducing gender inequality, ranking **108 out of 166 countries** in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022. Despite improvements, there remains a significant gender gap in the labor force participation rate, with a difference of 47.8 percentage points between women and men.

Performance of India's Neighbors

Comparatively, India's neighbors vary in their human development achievements. Sri Lanka and China are ranked higher, categorized under the High Human Development category. Nepal and Pakistan have been ranked even lower in the HDI index.

Global Inequality Trends

The global HDI is projected to reach record highs in 2023, yet inequality persists. Rich countries have achieved record levels of human development, while half of the world's poorest countries remain below their pre-crisis levels, exacerbating global inequality and stoking political polarization.

Key Country Rankings in HDI 2022

Rank	Country	HDI Value	Change from 2021
75	China	0.788	+0.003
78	Iran	0.780	+0.004
78	Sri Lanka	0.780	-0.003
87	Maldives	0.762	+0.009
125	Bhutan	0.681	+0.004
129	Bangladesh	0.670	+0.008
134	India	0.644	+0.011
146	Nepal	0.601	+0.010
164	Pakistan	0.540	+0.003
182	Afghanistan	0.462	-0.011

These rankings highlight the varying degrees of human development across countries and underscore the need for concerted efforts to address inequalities and foster inclusive development globally.

Finland Tops Happiness Rankings For 7th Year, Afghanistan Ranks Last

The **World Happiness Report** is an annual survey conducted by the United Nations. It ranks countries based on factors like **life satisfaction, GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.**

For the seventh year in a row, **Finland** has been named the **happiest country** in the world. Other **Nordic countries** like **Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden** also ranked among the top 10 happiest nations.

World's 10 Happiest Countries in 2024

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Sweden
5	Israel
6	Netherlands
7	Norway
8	Luxembourg
9	Switzerland
10	Australia

Afghanistan Remains the Unhappiest Country

At the bottom of the list is **Afghanistan**, which has been plagued by a **humanitarian crisis** since the **Taliban** regained control in 2020.

Notable Changes in Rankings

- The **United States** and **Germany** dropped out of the top 20 happiest countries for the first time, ranking 23rd and 24th, respectively.
- **Costa Rica** and **Kuwait** entered the top 20 at positions 12 and 13.
- The report noted that the happiest countries no longer include any of the world's **largest countries.**

India's Ranking and Factors Affecting Life Satisfaction

- **India** ranked **126** in the happiness index, the same as the previous year.
- Factors like **marital status, social engagement, and physical health** also influence life satisfaction among older Indians.
- **Satisfaction with living arrangements** emerges as a critical factor, reflecting the strong desire among older Indians to age in place and maintain autonomy and social bonds.

India has the second-largest older population globally, with 140 million individuals aged 60 and above, trailing only China. The report said that older Indian men, particularly those in higher age brackets, presently married, and those with an education, tend to report greater life satisfaction compared to their counterparts.

Among older Indians, factors such as dissatisfaction with living arrangements, perceived discrimination, and poor self-rated health are linked to lower life satisfaction. Education level, social caste, and contentment with living arrangements also play a significant role in life satisfaction.

Happiness Trends

- The sharpest decline in happiness since 2006-10 was observed in **Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Jordan.**
- The biggest increases in happiness were reported in the Eastern European countries of **Serbia, Bulgaria, and Latvia.**
- **Happiness inequality** increased in every region except Europe, which the report described as a "worrying trend".

Factors Contributing to Finland's Happiness

According to a happiness researcher from the University of Helsinki, some key factors contributing to Finland's happiness include:

- **Close connection to nature**
- **Healthy work-life balance**
- **Attainable understanding of success** (not solely focused on financial gain)
- **Strong welfare society**
- **Trust in state authorities**
- **Low levels of corruption**
- **Free healthcare and education**

Generational Differences in Happiness

The report found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in most regions of the world, except for:

- **North America**
- **Australia**
- **New Zealand**

In these regions, happiness among groups under 30 has dropped dramatically since 2006-10, with older generations now happier than the young.



Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)** in New Delhi. This umbrella organization aims to modernize and strengthen the **Urban Cooperative Banking Sector**, benefiting banks and customers alike. ([Read the complete article](#))
- PB Fintech's subsidiary, **Policybazaar Insurance Brokers**, has secured approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to transition from a direct insurance broker to a **composite insurance broker**. This upgrade enables Policybazaar to sell reinsurance products in addition to general and life insurance offerings, thereby enhancing insurance penetration in India. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has unveiled its latest offering, the **Smart Choice Gold Loan**, targeting aspirational customers seeking convenient and flexible loan options. This new product is designed to leverage the significant gold reserves held by Indian households, providing an easy and efficient way to meet their financial needs. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has released a report predicting that India's GDP growth for the financial year 2023-24 is likely to be **close to 8%**. This optimistic forecast comes after India recorded an impressive 8.4% growth in the December quarter, with the National Statistical Office (NSO) revising upwards the GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of the fiscal year. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the merger of **Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank**, effective from April 1. The merger is sanctioned under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stern action against **IIFL Finance** by imposing an **immediate ban** on the approval and disbursement of **gold loans**. This directive comes following a comprehensive inspection of the company's financial position as of March 31, which revealed significant supervisory concerns in its gold loan portfolio. ([Read the complete article](#))
- After reaching an all-time high in January, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in India experienced a **slight decrease in both value and volume in February**. This decline, amounting to 0.7% in value and 0.8% in volume, can be attributed to various factors including technical issues at multiple banks and the shorter duration of the month. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das recently announced the forthcoming launch of an **interoperable payment system** for internet banking, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of digital payments in India. This move addresses the current challenges faced by both customers and merchants in net banking transactions. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that **30 banks** are now participating in the **UDGAM portal**, designed for individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits/accounts. This portal, developed by the RBI, aims to provide a centralized platform for users to access information regarding unclaimed deposits across multiple banks. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Private sector life insurer **Kotak Life Insurance** made headlines with the launch of its latest offering, **Kotak G.A.I.N**. This non-linked participating product is designed to cater to individuals seeking long-term savings or a steady income stream. With its unique features and flexibility, Kotak G.A.I.N **aims to address the diverse financial needs of customers** while ensuring robust protection for their loved ones. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Bank Indonesia (BI)** have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)** has partnered with Nepal's leading payment network, **Fonepay Payment Service Ltd**, to enable cross-border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal. This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and efficiency in transactions for tourists visiting Nepal from India. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **IndusInd Bank**, in collaboration with Mastercard, introduces '**Indus PayWear**,' offering tokenised wearables for debit and credit cards. This innovative solution aims to enhance payment flexibility, convenience, and security for users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On March 11, 2024, the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** celebrated its **38th Foundation Day**, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards promoting renewable energy development in India. This special occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on IREDA's remarkable 37-year journey and its accomplishments in the field of green finance. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the merger of a financial technology company, **Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL)**, with the **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**. This strategic move aims to combine the strengths of both entities in the financial services sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has secured **\$24.5 million** from the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** for its inaugural anchored project, the **Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)**, valued at **\$120 million**. This funding marks a significant milestone in climate finance and sustainability initiatives within India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen significantly, reaching **34% as of December 2023**, up from 25% at the end of the **financial year 2017-18**. This growth has been driven by aggressive interest rate offerings and improved customer relationship management strategies adopted by private banks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move to bolster its production capacity in South India, automaker **Tata Motors** has announced plans to set up a **new manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu**. With an investment of **Rs 9,000 crore over the next five years**, the company aims to leverage the state's conducive business environment to propel its growth trajectory. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued notices to **Federal Bank and South Indian Bank**, directing them to halt the issuance of new co-branded credit cards. The two banks informed the stock exchanges about this development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have collaboratively signed a **\$181 million** loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding **Ahmedabad** city in **Gujarat**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹1.40 crore on Bank of India** for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released **draft guidelines** outlining a disclosure framework for **climate-related financial risks** applicable to various **regulated entities (REs)**. These guidelines aim to ensure transparency and better management of climate risks within the financial sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Union Government of India, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has finalized a **\$23 million loan agreement** aimed at bolstering the fintech landscape within the country. The agreement targets the enhancement of access to quality fintech education and innovation, particularly within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SANY India**, a top construction equipment manufacturer, has forged a strategic partnership with **J&K Bank** to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region. The collaboration aims to offer accessible financial solutions to customers, facilitating the acquisition of advanced machinery for infrastructure projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In an effort to advance cancer care in India, Axis Bank has pledged a significant contribution of **₹100 crore to the National Cancer Grid (NCG)**, in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre. This partnership aims to bolster research, innovation, and digital health adoption in oncology over the next five years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made its **largest gold purchase since July 2022**, acquiring 8.7 tonnes of gold. This brought the **RBI's gold holding to 812.3 tonnes**, up from 803.58 tonnes in December 2023. The central bank's move is aimed at diversifying its forex reserves and hedging against foreign currency risks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **YES Bank** has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the **Paris Olympics 2024**. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- According to **Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi**, the **insurance sector** in India has received a massive **Rs 53,900 crore as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the last **9 years** (between December 2014 and January 2024). There are currently **70 insurance companies** operating in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- RBI imposed fines on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (Rs 1.31 crore) and DCB Bank (Rs 63.6 lakh) for non-compliance with directives on 'Interest Rate on Advances'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Airtel Payments Bank**, in collaboration with **Noise and Mastercard**, introduces a pioneering solution for contactless payments through the **Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch**. This innovative wearable aims to revolutionize digital transactions, offering convenience and accessibility to urban customers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Axis Mutual Fund**, a prominent asset management firm based in Mumbai, has teamed up with **Enparadigm**, a leader in AI-driven experiential learning solutions. This collaboration aims to provide tailored learning journeys to enhance the performance and productivity of Axis MF employees across various levels. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **DBS Bank India** announced a lending commitment of **USD 250 million** for new-age start-ups, demonstrating its dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in India's thriving start-up ecosystem. With over **90,000 start-ups** and more than **100 unicorns** in India as of 2024, access to capital remains a significant challenge for these companies despite their growing resilience. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd, in collaboration with Titan Company Ltd, proudly presents the **Titan SBI Card**, an exclusive shopping credit card designed to offer unparalleled benefits to its users. With a focus on cashbacks, gift vouchers, and reward points, this card promises benefits worth over **₹2,00,000 annually**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- PolicyBazaar, a prominent player in insurance and financial services, has unveiled plans to diversify its offerings by establishing a wholly owned subsidiary named **'PB Pay Private Limited.'** This subsidiary, approved by the Board of Directors on March 20, 2024, aims to specialize in **payment aggregation services**, both domestically and internationally, subject to regulatory clearances. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, Federal Bank introduces **'Flash Pay,'** a revolutionary RuPay smart key chain facilitating contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments. This innovative solution enables users to tap and pay at metro stations and PoS terminals, ensuring swift transactions with enhanced security. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Modi government has allocated **Rs 6212.03 crore** to **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** as part of the recapitalization scheme on **March 6**. RRBs, established in 1975 and owned by the Indian government, function at the regional level across various states. They were set up with the objective of offering fundamental banking and financial services to rural regions, specifically targeting small and marginal farmers, agricultural laborers, artisans, and small entrepreneurs. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken action against **five co-operative banks** for various rule violations. These penalties are imposed based on regulatory compliance shortcomings and do not question the validity of the banks' transactions with customers. **Navsarjan Industrial Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mehsana Jilla Panchayat Karmachari Co-operative Bank, Halol Urban Co-operative Bank, Stambhadri Co-operative Urban Bank and Subramanianagar Co-operative Urban Bank.** ([Read the complete article](#))
- On March 26, 2024, the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** granted approval to **Adani Power Limited**, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, for the complete acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited. This acquisition involves the transfer of **100% equity share capital of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited to Adani Power Limited.** ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has designated three insurers as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for the year 2023-24. These insurers, namely **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and New India Assurance Co Ltd**, have retained their D-SII status from the previous year. D-SIIs are insurers of significant size and market importance whose distress or failure could disrupt the domestic financial system. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant move, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **cancelled the registration of Karvy Investor Services Ltd (KISL)** as a **merchant banker** due to a **breach of eligibility criteria.** ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a strategic move, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has successfully acquired **Sonata Finance Private Limited (Sonata)** for a total consideration of approximately **Rs. 537 crore**. This acquisition grants Kotak Mahindra Bank **full ownership** of Sonata, bolstering its presence in the microfinance sector. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Axis Bank** has announced the introduction of **digital US dollar fixed deposits (FDs)** for **NRI customers** at the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** at **GIFT City, Gujarat**. The bank has become the **first** to offer a **digital journey** for opening deposits at GIFT City. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India's foreign exchange reserves have soared to a new peak, **reaching \$642.631 billion** in the week ending March 22, marking the fifth consecutive week of increase, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Bank of India (BoI)** has disclosed the receipt of an order from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit, concerning the Assessment Year (AY) 2018-19. The order imposes a **penalty of ₹564.44 crore** on various disallowances made by the bank. ([Read the complete article](#))

Economy Current Affairs

- Moody's, the global credit rating agency, has raised its **GDP forecast for India in 2024 to 6.8%**, reflecting a positive economic outlook. This revision is based on India's position as the fastest-growing economy among G20 nations, supported by robust growth prospects and policy continuity. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In February, India's service sector sustained its growth trajectory, supported by positive demand trends. However, there was a slight moderation in growth compared to January, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropping to **60.6 from 61.8**. Despite this decline, the sector remained well above the neutral mark of 50.0, indicating a sharp rate of expansion. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Crisil Ratings predicts India's economy to expand by **6.8% in FY25**, with significant growth potential driven by domestic reforms and cyclical factors. By 2031, India aims to double its economy to \$7 trillion and achieve upper-middle-income status. ([Read the complete article](#))
- UBS anticipates a moderation in **India's real GDP growth** for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, projecting rates of 7% and 6.8%, respectively. Despite this, India is expected to maintain its position as one of the fastest-growing global economies. The report highlights the continuation of growth momentum in the first three quarters of fiscal year 2024, driven by cyclical recovery and structural improvements. ([Read the complete article](#))

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2024 reflects a **growth rate of 3.8%**, indicating a slowdown compared to December 2023. The data, released with a six-week lag, provides insights into the performance of various sectors within the industrial landscape of India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Retail inflation in February 2024 saw a decline to a **four-month low of 5.09 per cent**, remaining well within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of **6 per cent for the sixth consecutive month**. While the overall inflation figure remained relatively steady compared to January, certain items within the food basket experienced price increases. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Fitch Ratings has raised India's growth forecast for **FY25 to 7%**, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%. The upgrade is attributed to robust domestic demand and sustained growth in business and consumer confidence, following a strong **8.4% expansion in Q3FY24**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** witnessed a significant surge, marking a third consecutive increase in the week ended **March 8, 2024**. This surge propelled the reserves to reach a two-year high of **\$636.1 billion**, showing the highest weekly increase since **July 14, 2023**, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In FY 2023-24, Gross Direct Tax collections soared to **Rs. 22,27,067 crore**, marking an 18.74% increase from the previous year. Net collections rose by over 19.88%, with Advance Tax contributions hitting **Rs. 9,11,534 crore**, up 22.31%, showcasing robust economic growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a notable increase, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments soared to **\$3.47 billion in February 2024**, marking a significant rise from the \$2.82 billion recorded in February 2023, and an increase from \$2.18 billion in January 2024. This data, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), highlights a growing trend in India's financial commitments abroad. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In February 2024, the **All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Agricultural Laborers and Rural Laborers** remained stable, with figures of 1258 and 1269, respectively, based on the 1986-87=100 index. However, there were notable fluctuations observed among constituent states. Eight states saw a decline in the CPI-AL, while seven experienced a similar trend in the CPI-RL, with two states showing no change. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In **January 2024**, the index of mineral production in the mining and quarrying sector stood at **144.1**, indicating a **5.9% increase** compared to January 2023. The cumulative growth for **April-January 2023-24** over the corresponding period of the previous year is recorded at **8.3%**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **S&P Global** released its Economic Outlook **Asia-Pacific Q2 2024** report, offering insights into the region's economic

landscape. The report focuses on **GDP growth forecasts** for various economies, factors influencing growth trajectories, and expectations regarding monetary policy adjustments. ([Read the complete article](#))

- In the third quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, India's current account balance showed a deficit of **US\$ 10.5 billion, equivalent to 1.2 per cent of GDP**. This marked a decrease from **US\$ 11.4 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP)** in the previous quarter and **US\$ 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP)** in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. ([Read the complete article](#))
- S&P Global Ratings anticipates a repo rate reduction of up to **75 basis points by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** during the fiscal year 2024-25. This move aligns with projected adjustments in US policy rates, with the majority of the cuts expected in the latter **half of the financial year**. The agency also foresees similar rate adjustments in Indonesia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. Factors such as **declining inflation, a reduced fiscal deficit, and lower US policy rates** set the stage for the RBI to initiate rate cuts, possibly around June 2024 or later. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Indian government has outlined its borrowing strategy for the first half of the fiscal year 2024-25, aiming to raise **Rs 7.5 lakh crore** from the market through the issuance of various bonds, including sovereign green bonds. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Morgan Stanley has increased its **GDP growth forecast** for India for the **financial year 2024-25 (FY25) to 6.8%**, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%. This revision reflects a positive outlook on India's economic trajectory, emphasizing its strength and stability in the current cycle. The firm also revised its growth forecast for the ongoing financial year, FY24, to 7.9%. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Government e Marketplace (GeM) has witnessed a remarkable growth, doubling its Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) to **₹4-lakh crore in fiscal year 2023-24**. **CEO P K Singh** announced plans for potential expansion, including opening the portal for consumer use and enhancing its services. ([Read the complete article](#))

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Business Current Affairs

- Ecommerce giant **Flipkart** has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, **Flipkart UPI**, in partnership with **Axis Bank**. This initiative aims to provide customers with seamless payment options directly integrated into the Flipkart platform. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a prominent Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has recently joined hands with the **Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)** to bolster educational initiatives in **Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh**. Through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm, REC Foundation, REC has pledged a significant financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores for the education of approximately 75,500 children in the district. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a virtual ceremony, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received an interim dividend cheque of **₹2,441.44 crore** from LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, showcasing the insurance giant's financial strength. The event also marked the inauguration of **LIC's new international business centre at GIFT City, Gujarat**, emphasizing the company's dedication to offering top-notch insurance and financial services globally. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Tata Motors**, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has recently unveiled its **next-generation, green-fuel powered commercial vehicles to Tata Steel**. The fleet comprises Prima tractors, tippers, and the Ultra EV bus, which are powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric technologies. The flag-off ceremony took place during Tata Group's Founder's Day celebrations in Jamshedpur, officiated by Mr. N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The government of India has announced plans to sell up to **7% of its stake in NLC India**, formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corp, through an Offer for Sale (OFS). This move aims to raise between **Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,100 crore**, contributing to the government's disinvestment goals. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Accenture, a global leader in technology consulting and services, has unveiled a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing upskilling opportunities for its clients. This involves a significant **investment of \$1 billion over three years** and includes the acquisition of California-based edtech platform, Udacity. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Fly91**, a regional airline headquartered in **Goa**, has reached a significant milestone in its journey with the issuance of its **Air Operator Certificate (AOC)** by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. ([Read the complete article](#))
- State-owned **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has clinched a significant order from power giant **NTPC** to establish a **1,600 MW Singrauli thermal power project (Stage-II)**. This underscores BHEL's continued prowess in the power generation equipment sector. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC)**, the nation's premier oil firm, is set to revolutionize the motorsports industry by manufacturing fuel tailored for adrenaline-pumping **Formula One (F1) racing**. With its latest offering, 'Storm' petrol, IOC aims to expand its repertoire of niche fuels, catering to the high-performance demands of motor racing enthusiasts. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Infibeam Avenues**, India's pioneering AI-powered fintech company and the country's first listed entity in this domain, has achieved a significant milestone. On March 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted the final authorization for Infibeam Avenues to function as a **payment aggregator** under its renowned payment gateway brand, CCAvenue. This development follows the in-principle approval given in October 2022. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a **4% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA)** and Dearness Relief (DR) for central government employees and pensioners, effective from January 1. This decision aims to benefit over 10 million employees and 6.79 million pensioners, with a combined impact on the exchequer of **Rs 12,869 crore** annually. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **NLCIL** has emerged victorious in securing a **600 MW Solar Power Project** tender within the **GSECL Khavda Solar Park**, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding process. Reflecting its commitment to renewable energy initiatives, NLCIL has entrusted the project development responsibilities to NIGEL, its green energy wholly owned subsidiary. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with T-Hub, has launched the **Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)** in Hyderabad. This initiative aims to accelerate AI innovation, facilitate job creation, and foster a supportive ecosystem for AI and ML startups. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Big Bang Boom Solutions (BBBS)**, a homegrown IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) startup, clinches a major order **exceeding Rs 200 Crores** for its state-of-the-art anti-drone technology. Signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with BBBS, this **contract marks the largest under the IDEX initiative**, aimed at benefiting the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Aditya Birla Capital's** decision to merge with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Aditya Birla Finance, is poised to reshape the **NBFC** landscape in India. This strategic move not only consolidates their financial services arm but also aligns with RBI's regulations, avoiding the need for Aditya Birla Finance to go public. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL)**, a fully integrated solar company in India and a subsidiary of TPREL (Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited), has achieved a significant milestone by completing the **country's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project** in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** of India and the **Information Technology Institute (ITI) of Egypt**. This significant event took place in Cairo, Egypt. This collaboration seeks to **bridge the gap in ICT skills**, enhancing industry engagement and fostering meaningful international cooperation between India and Egypt. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Aurionpro Solutions** has clinched a significant deal with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for the license, implementation, and support of its cutting-edge cash management and transaction banking platform, **iCashpro+**. Valued at nearly **Rs 100 crore**, this prestigious contract entails phased delivery of license and implementation over **12 months**, followed by a **6-year** maintenance and support period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** opens its first overseas office in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, signaling its commitment to international expansion and stronger regional ties. High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, inaugurates NRL's liaison office in the presence of NRL managing director Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan and other dignitaries. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Industries**, India's largest private company, has announced its acquisition of **Paramount Global's** entire **13.01%** stake in **Viacom 18 Media** for **Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million)**. This significant transaction underscores Reliance's strategic positioning in the media industry, further solidifying its presence in the competitive market. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** releases the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for India. This report provides crucial information on price changes in various sectors of the economy, aiding in economic analysis and policy formulation. The WPI for February 2024, with a base year of 2011-12, reflects a 0.20% provisional annual inflation rate, driven primarily by increases in food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, machinery & equipment, and motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Adani Green Energy** announced the operationalisation of an additional **126 MW** capacity in its **300 MW** wind power project in **Gujarat**. This comes after the earlier operationalisation of **174 MW**, marking a significant milestone for the company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Max India Ltd** announced a strategic partnership between its subsidiary, **Antara Assisted Care Services Limited**, and the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)**. This collaboration aims to address the challenges faced by India's aging population by developing tailored solutions to improve their quality of life. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Startup Mahakumbh 2024**, a groundbreaking initiative led by industry giants such as ASSOCHAM, Nasscom, Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation, TIE, and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association, is set to unite over 1,000 startups, 50 unicorns, 500 incubators, and 5,000 delegates from 23 countries. This three-day event, supported by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, aims to foster innovation and collaboration across various sectors, featuring prominent figures like Amitabh Kant, Sivasubramanian Ramann, and Falguni Nayar. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Sons, aiming to alleviate its debt, plans to sell **0.65% equity in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore**. This move precedes a potential IPO, with related stocks rallying. TCS dividends, contributing 95% of FY23 revenue, highlight its strategic importance within Tata's asset portfolio. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL)** has solidified a strategic partnership with **Elephant House**, a prominent Sri Lankan beverage manufacturer. This collaboration aims to introduce, market, distribute, and sell Elephant House brand beverages throughout India, thereby augmenting RCPL's beverage offerings. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA)** has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**. This recognition was bestowed upon by the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, highlighting GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's **power landscape**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is gearing up to introduce the **BhashaNet** portal during the upcoming **Universal Acceptance (UA) Day**. This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between NIXI and the Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**, the organization behind the iconic **Amul** brand, is set to launch its fresh milk products in the United States for the first time. This expansion marks a major milestone for the brand, as it aims to cater to the **Indian diaspora and Asian population** in the US. ([Read the complete article](#))

- **PepsiCo**, the U.S. food and beverage giant, has committed to investing an additional **\$400 million** in **Vietnam**. This decision was made public during a visit by delegations from over 60 U.S. enterprises, including Suntory PepsiCo Vietnam Beverage, to Vietnam last week. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Innoviti Payments and Concerto Software** have received **payment aggregator (PA) licences** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marking significant milestones in the digital payments landscape of India. Innoviti operates the PA 'Innoviti Link', serving 2,500 online merchants, while Concerto Software's gateway 'Vegaah' joins the league of authorized PA solutions. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, has acquired a controlling **95% stake in Gopalpur Port** located in **Odisha**. The deal, valued at Rs 3,350 crore, solidifies APSEZ's position in the ports and logistics sector. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Wipro-GE Healthcare**, a prominent player in medical technology and digital solutions, is set to invest **Rs 8,000 crore** over the next five years in India. This investment aims to strengthen its manufacturing output and research and development capabilities. The company's focus is on expanding its '**Make in India for the World**' initiative, emphasizing increased localization and exports of medical equipment. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a remarkable move, two of India's richest businessmen, **Mukesh Ambani** and **Gautam Adani**, have joined forces for the first time. **Reliance Industries**, owned by Ambani, has acquired a **26% stake** in a power project owned by Adani's company in **Madhya Pradesh**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) witnessed a significant **6.7% increase** (provisional) in **February 2024** compared to the same month in 2023. This growth was driven by positive performances across various sectors, including **Coal, Natural Gas, Cement, Steel, Crude Oil, Electricity, and Refinery Products**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM)**, a unit of **Tata Motors**, has announced a strategic partnership with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** to establish a **nationwide network of 5,000 public charging stations** for electric vehicles (EVs) by the end of 2024. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **The Adani Group** has announced the start of the first phase of the world's largest single-location **copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat**. The facility, owned by Kutch Copper (a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd), will help reduce **India's dependence on copper imports** and support the **energy transition**. ([Read the complete article](#))

International Current Affairs

- **Tuvalu** has named **Feleti Teo**, the former Attorney General, as the Pacific Island nation's new prime minister. This appointment comes in the aftermath of a general election that placed the country's diplomatic affiliations, especially its ties with Taiwan, under intense scrutiny. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Dubai** witnessed an extraordinary event with the city-state's inaugural jet suit race. Organized by Gravity Industries in collaboration with the **Dubai Sports Council**, this groundbreaking competition showcased pilots equipped with jet engines on their hands and backs, resembling real-life 'Iron Men'. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, **France** has made history by becoming the **first nation globally** to anchor the right to abortion within its constitution. This decision represents a significant advancement in the protection of reproductive rights, sparking a mix of applause and criticism across different spectrums of society. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Hungary's parliament recently appointed a new president following the resignation of the previous head of state amidst a scandal involving a controversial pardon granted in a child sexual abuse case. The appointment of **Tamás Sulyok**, a former head of Hungary's Constitutional Court, sparked debate among opposition parties calling for direct presidential elections. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Sweden formally became the **32nd member of NATO** after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Panama** has officially become the **97th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. This milestone was announced by Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. Panama's accession underscores the country's commitment to embracing sustainable energy sources and marks a crucial step in the global march towards a greener future. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Consulate in Dubai** has introduced a new **insurance package** called the **Life Protection Plan (LPP)** for **Indian blue-collar workers** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This plan aims to provide **financial benefits** to the families of the workers in case of **natural or accidental deaths**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Hong Kong** has introduced a **new national security law draft**. The proposed legislation, covering treason, espionage, and external interference, signifies a significant increase in state authority in the region. This development arises amidst a wider crackdown on dissent, resulting in pro-democracy figures being imprisoned or exiled. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Asif Ali Zardari took oath as **Pakistan's 14th President** following his overwhelming victory in the presidential election. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- China recently announced a new territorial sea baseline in the northern part of the **Gulf of Tonkin**, shared with Vietnam, sparking concerns about potential impacts on existing agreements and regional stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark gathering in **Yaoundé, Cameroon**, health ministers from **11 African nations**, along with global malaria partners and stakeholders, convened to address the escalating **malaria crisis** in Africa. Despite available tools and systems, malaria cases surged globally, with Africa bearing the brunt, accounting for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths in 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The naval forces of **China, Iran, and Russia** launched a joint exercise near the **Gulf of Oman**, aimed at safeguarding regional maritime security. The "**Security Belt-2024**" exercise marks the fourth time these countries have conducted such a drill since 2019. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- President **Mahmoud Abbas** of the Palestinian Authority (PA) has appointed **Mohammad Mustafa as the new Prime Minister**. Mustafa, a U.S.-educated economist, is one of the leading Palestinian business figures with a track record of overseeing Gaza's reconstruction efforts under Hamas' rule. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Britain** has recently conducted successful test firings of its **DragonFire Laser Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW)**, showcasing its capability to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles at a remarkably low cost. A January demonstration in Scotland displayed the laser's precision in targeting and destroying aerial threats, marking a potential game-changer in air defense technology. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** clinched victory in the recent election with a commanding lead of **76.1% of the vote**, as per preliminary results. This win marks Putin's continued dominance in Russian politics, now extending his tenure to a total of 24 years in power. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move to boost its **tourism industry**, the government of Nepal has officially declared **Pokhara**, a city in the Gandaki province, as the **tourism capital** of the Himalayan nation. The declaration was made during a special ceremony held at the **Barahi Ghat** on the shores of the **Phewa Lake**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vaughan Gething**, who currently serves as the **Economic Minister of Wales**, has been elected as the new **leader of the Welsh Labour Party**. His victory marks a **historic milestone** as he becomes the **first ever Black person to lead a European country**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **New Zealand government** has announced a **ban on disposable e-cigarettes or vapes**. The move comes less than a month after the country repealed a law that aimed to phase out **tobacco smoking**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia** have forged the AUKUS partnership to bolster trilateral security and construct **nuclear-powered submarines** for the Royal Australian Navy. This landmark agreement signifies a significant advancement in defense collaboration among the three nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Simon Harris**, a prominent figure in Irish politics, has emerged as the sole candidate in the race to become Ireland's next prime minister following the unexpected departure of **Leo Varadkar**. At 37 years old, Harris is poised to become the **youngest prime minister in Ireland's history**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore** collapsed early on March 26 after a container ship collided with a pylon, resulting in the presumed death of six individuals who fell into the cold waters below. The incident has halted operations at one of the **busiest ports on the U.S. Eastern Seaboard**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- After eight years of Socialist rule in Portugal, **Luis Montenegro**, leader of the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD), has been appointed as the new prime minister. However, his minority government faces challenges due to his refusal to ally with the far-right Chega party. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Rumi Alqahtani**, a 27-year-old model and influencer from Saudi Arabia, announced on Instagram that she will be the first participant from the country in the **Miss Universe** competition. Alqahtani was born in **Riyadh** and has previously won the titles of **Miss Saudi Arabia, Miss Arab World Peace 2021, and Miss Woman (Saudi Arabia)**. This will be the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's first appearance** in the Miss Universe pageant. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Bassirou Diomaye Faye**, an anti-establishment figure, has won the **Senegalese presidential election** with **54.28 per cent** of the votes in the first round. At 44 years old, Faye is set to become **Africa's youngest elected president** and the first opponent to win in the first round since Senegal's independence from France in 1960. His victory still needs to be validated by Senegal's Constitutional Council in the next few days. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Thailand's lower house** of Parliament has passed a groundbreaking bill to **legalize same-sex marriage**, marking a significant step towards equality in Southeast Asia. The legislation, an amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code, garnered overwhelming support in the House of Representatives. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** has signed a bill that **prohibits minors under 14 from having social media accounts**. The law requires **parental permission** for 14- and 15-year-olds to create accounts on platforms like **Meta, TikTok**, and others. All social media users in Florida must **submit identification documents** to verify their ages. ([Read the complete article](#))

National Current Affairs

- Observed every year on **March 3**, World Hearing Day 2024 fall on a Sunday. The theme for this year, as designated by the World Health Organization (WHO), is **“Changing mindsets: Let’s make ear and hearing care a reality for all.”** This theme underscores the need to combat societal misconceptions and stigmatizing attitudes through heightened awareness and the dissemination of information, targeting both the general public and healthcare providers. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs, **Smriti Zubin Irani**, introduced two significant initiatives aimed at enhancing the Haj pilgrimage experience for 2024. The **Haj Suvidha App** was launched to provide essential information and access to crucial services, while the **Haj Guide-2024** was released to educate pilgrims about various aspects of the journey, with a focus on utilizing the app effectively. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, virtually inaugurated **India’s 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar**, on 4th March, 2024. The inauguration also witnessed the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Steel Sh. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Managing Director (Jindal Stainless Limited), Sh. Abhyuday Jindal, Founder, Hygenco Sh. Amit Bansal, and other officials of the Ministry of Steel. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, virtually inaugurated **three centers of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) from New Delhi**. These centers, located in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, are significant additions to CIPET’s network. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** marked the beginning of a new era in India’s nuclear energy sector by witnessing the “Core Loading” at the **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**. This event signifies the near completion of India’s first indigenous PFBR, a landmark project fully designed and constructed within the country by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), in collaboration with over 200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant stride towards bolstering cyber-security measures and enhancing citizen empowerment, the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** recently unveiled the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)** alongside the ‘**Chakshu**’ facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal. This initiative aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**, overseeing Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, dedicated **201 CNG Stations and India’s inaugural Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL** to the nation via video conferencing. The event, graced by numerous dignitaries, underscored the government’s pledge to elevate the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant development, the Indian government, following consultations with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, has revised the minimum age criterion for senior citizens to avail the postal ballot voting facility. The decision, which comes into effect immediately, raises the eligibility age from **80 to 85 years**, marking a pivotal change in the electoral process aimed at ensuring greater convenience for the nation’s elderly population. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India’s first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC)** was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar**. This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna University campus. ([Read the complete article](#))
- A new chapter in management education unfolds as the Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated the **Centre of Management Education** jointly established by IIM Mumbai and IIM Sambalpur. The inauguration took place at the NALCO Training Institute in **Angul, Odisha**, amidst the presence of **Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India’s pioneering underwater metro train service in **Kolkata**, ushering in a landmark achievement in the nation’s infrastructure and urban development. The service, which is a significant component of the **Kolkata Metro’s East-West corridor**, is designed to enhance connectivity between **Howrah and Salt Lake**, the twin cities of West Bengal’s capital. ([Read the complete article](#))

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- In a significant development, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the **'NITI For States' platform** by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. This platform, serving as a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, is designed to bolster policy formulation and promote good governance across states. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India, as a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), has recently implemented stringent measures to regulate the possession and trade of exotic pets. **The Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024**, issued by the Union environment ministry on February 28, aim to enforce the provisions of the Convention and ensure the protection of endangered wildlife. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has unveiled his ambitious plan to make **India a prime wedding destination**, aiming to boost tourism and retain revenue within the country. His recent address at a rally in Jammu and Kashmir highlighted this mission, emphasizing the potential of hosting weddings in diverse locales across India. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Arjun Munda, unveiled the **Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre** at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. This initiative aims to empower farmers nationwide by providing them with essential information, services, and facilities. ([Read the complete article](#))
- On the occasion of the **134th Foundation Day of the National Archives** of India, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal, will inaugurate a digital exhibition titled **"Subhash Abhinandan"** in New Delhi on March 11th. Organized by the National Archives of India, the exhibition commemorates the life of Subhash Chandra Bose, featuring 16 sections covering key aspects from his birth to the present day. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will organize **Poshan Pakhwada** nationwide from **March 9 to March 23, 2024**. This 15-day celebration aims to spread awareness about **nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated projects worth Rs 118 crore 72 lakh** in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. These projects are under the **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** scheme and the **Prasad** scheme. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the Viksit Bharat North East programme in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on March 09, 2024, virtually dedicated the **Sela Tunnel** project to the nation. Constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the tunnel is situated on the road from **Tezpur, Assam, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh's** West Kameng district. The project, valued at **Rs 825 crore**, aims to provide all-weather connectivity and bolster the Armed Forces' readiness in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **125-foot bronze statue** of the legendary Ahom general, **Lachit Borphukan**, at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district. This event marks a significant tribute to Borphukan's valor and leadership in the history of Assam. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- At the end of the decade from **2014 to 2024**, India has emerged as the world's **second-largest producer of mobile phones**. This achievement marks a significant transition for the country's electronics manufacturing sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Gurgaon stretch of the **Dwarka Expressway** alongside Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** and Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**. The inspection of the expressway was conducted on foot, showcasing its significance for transportation infrastructure. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the commencement of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** facilities in **41 villages** and various development projects in **178 villages** under the **'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan'**. The initiative aims to uplift the infrastructure and living standards in rural areas of Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology and Railways, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, unveiled **India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router in Bengaluru**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** made headlines by inaugurating **15 significant airport projects**, marking an unprecedented infrastructural addition in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh. This extensive initiative, almost valued at **₹10,000 crore**, encompasses a blend of new airports, expanded terminals, foundation stones for future airports, and other ancillary facilities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** celebrated its **19th Foundation Day** at the **Jacaranda Hall, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi**. To mark this special occasion, the Commission invited children from different parts of the country to acknowledge their efforts and participation in the Commission's Pariksha Parv campaign. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram to inaugurate **Kochrab Ashram** and launch the **Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial**. This significant event commemorated Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and contributions to India's freedom struggle. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the inaugural **automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)**. The ceremony, conducted via video conferencing, signifies a pivotal advancement in the execution of the Prime Minister's flagship Gati Shakti programme. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, responsible for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, inaugurated **India's first FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram**. Named the **"Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics,"** this pioneering initiative aims to catalyze an ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, inaugurated the **"National Speed Breeding Crop Facility"** at **NABI** (National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute), Mohali. This initiative aligns with PM Modi's vision of increasing farmers' income and promoting Agri StartUps. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for **Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare**, spearheaded the inauguration of a credit assistance program aimed at bolstering **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** across India. The program, initiated through a collaboration between **SIDBI** and **PMBI**, underscores the government's commitment to enhancing accessibility and affordability of medicines, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **'Sanjeevani'** for the underprivileged. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three semiconductor projects virtually, with a combined investment of approximately **Rs 1.25 Lakh Crore**. These projects signify a significant step towards bolstering India's semiconductor industry. The three facilities include a semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat, an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam, and another OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Yoga Mahotsav-2024** marked the **100-day** countdown to the 10th edition of the **International Day of Yoga (IDY)** on **June 21st, 2024**, at **Vigyan Bhawan**. This year, the event focused on the theme "Yoga for Women Empowerment," reflecting the **Ministry of Ayush's** commitment to promote global health and peace through yoga, particularly emphasizing women's well-being. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Singh Thakur**, inaugurated **PB-SHABD**, a news sharing service, alongside the revamped websites of **DD News** and **Akashvani News**, and an updated News on Air mobile app at the **National Media Centre**, New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri unveiled **'Ethanol 100'**, an automotive fuel aimed at reducing emissions and promoting sustainability. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to increase ethanol blending in petrol, with significant strides already made in enhancing availability and infrastructure across select states. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's first integrated oil palm processing unit, operated by **3F Oil Palm**, marking a significant stride in the nation's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils. Situated in **Arunachal Pradesh's Roing**, this project aligns with Mission Palm Oil under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Ahead of announcing the dates for the upcoming **Lok Sabha elections**, **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** introduced a new mobile application called **'Know Your Candidate' (KYC)**. This app will enable voters to find out if any electoral candidate in their constituency has any criminal records. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital** in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, **Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen**. This restaurant is being hailed as the **first Ayurvedic Kitchen in India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Pashupati Kumar Paras**, former Union minister and president of the **Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP)**, resigned from the Union Cabinet following his party's exclusion from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In response, President **Droupadi Murmu** accepted his resignation and appointed **Kiren Rijiju** with an additional charge as the **Minister of Food Processing Industries**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary of India's Department of Telecommunications, led a significant delegation to Geneva for strategic meetings at the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Headquarters from March 18-20. The aim was to enhance collaboration and explore innovative initiatives in telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **GoodEnough Energy** has announced that it will start operations at **India's first battery energy storage gigafactory** in the northern region of **Jammu and Kashmir** by **October 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Haiti is facing a severe **crisis** due to escalating **gang violence**. Armed **gangs** have launched **attacks** in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince, prompting India to launch **Operation Indravati** to **evacuate** its nationals to the Dominican Republic. Similarly, the **US** has airlifted more than 15 Americans to Santo Domingo. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a determined effort to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in the electoral process, the **Election Commission has introduced the Saksham App**. This initiative aims to address the needs of **voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities (PWDs) with a 40 percent benchmark disability**, allowing them to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Tshering Tobgay** jointly inaugurated a modern hospital in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu. The **Gyalsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuk Mother and Child Hospital** is a shining example of the strong **development cooperation** between India and Bhutan. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India aims to replace its minimum wage system with a living wage framework by 2025, seeking assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO) for technical support in creating and implementing this transition. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is keeping a close watch on the election process through the **cVIGIL app**. The app allows citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct** and **election expenditures** by capturing photos and videos. **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** said that cVIGIL empowers citizens to report violations, with assured action within **100 minutes**. ([Read the complete article](#))

States Current Affairs

- Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named **'Ocean Grace'** and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) on March 2, 2024. The Ocean Grace is the first Make-in-India **ASTDS Tug** developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The MMU is part of the port's commitment to corporate social responsibility. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Chapchar Kut**, the grandest festival in **Mizoram**, resonated throughout the state with vibrant traditional customs and jubilant festivities. Thousands of attendees converged upon the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city, filling it to its capacity. The event featured a rich display of Mizo community traditions and culture, highlighted by traditional songs and captivating cultural dance performances, making it a day-long celebration to remember. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called **"Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)."** This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has achieved a milestone by becoming the **first state in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards**. This accomplishment underscores the state government's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of every citizen. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu** has announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The announcement comes as part of the Congress party's pre-election promises, marking a pivotal step towards fulfilling its commitments to the electorate. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu unveiled the "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna," a scheme designed to provide financial support to women aged between 18 to 60 years. Under this scheme, eligible women will receive a **monthly stipend of ₹1,500**, amounting to an annual expenditure of ₹800 crore. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Bengaluru**, famously known as the Garden City, is poised to become the epicenter of cutting-edge advancements in the horticulture sector. The **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** is gearing up to host the three-day **National Horticultural Fair 2024** at its Hessarghatta premises, situated on the outskirts of Bengaluru. ([Read the complete article](#))
- South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine**, located in **Chhattisgarh**, is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine recently received environmental clearance to enhance its production capacity to 70 million tons per annum, up from the existing 52.5 million tons. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Kerala school** has introduced **Iris**, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology. Developed in collaboration with **Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited**, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible. ([Read the complete article](#))



- **Kerala**, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of **Cspace**, India's maiden government-backed **Over-The-Top (OTT) platform**. The much-anticipated unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Under the directions and guidance of Hon'ble **Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami**, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, 5th March. This pivotal agreement took place between **CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun**, and **UCOST** under the aegis of the "Adarsh Champawat" mission. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the region. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh government**, led by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, has announced a complete waiver of electricity bills for private tube wells owned by farmers, effective from April 1, 2023. This decision, announced, aims to alleviate the financial burden on the state's farmers, enhancing their agricultural productivity and overall well-being. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Karnataka state government**, in a strategic alliance with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state. This collaboration formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29, aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a significant step in integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** on March 6 took the priority corridor of the **Agra Metro**, for an inaugural ride after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the project earlier in the day. The **6 km long priority corridor** connects the iconic **Taj Mahal's eastern gate to the Mankameshwar Temple station**, providing a vital transportation link for tourists and commuters alike. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL)** has received the first set of six train coaches for its upcoming **driverless metro line**, called the **Yellow Line**. This 18.8 km-long line, connecting **RV Road and Bommasandra**, will be the first in India to have a **driverless train** system. ([Read the complete article](#))
- At the **4th Semicon India FutureDesign Roadshow in Kerala**, Union Minister Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar lauded the remarkable progress of India's semiconductor industry under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized the transformative role of technology and semiconductor engineering in shaping India's future. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Bichom**, carved out of West and East Kameng, has been declared the **27th district of Arunachal Pradesh**. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **3-day National Dairy Mela** and Agricultural Exhibition at Chaibasa in Jharkhand was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda. Organized by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, this event marks the first of its kind in Jharkhand, aimed at fostering the comprehensive development of livestock and agriculture in tribal areas. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The state of **Maharashtra** has announced its fourth **women's policy**, which aims to promote the **holistic development** of women. Aditi Tatkare, the **Women and Child Development Minister**, unveiled this policy on the eve of **Women's Day** during the golden jubilee year of the Women's Economic Development Corporation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Chief Minister of Assam, **Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma**, performed the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for a **50 MW Solar Project in Sonitpur district**. The project, being developed by **SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL)**, holds promise for bolstering Assam's renewable energy sector and contributing to sustainable development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Tamil Nadu government** has launched the '**Neengal Nalama**' (**Are you fine?**) scheme, a **beneficiary outreach program** aimed at reviewing the implementation of **flagship schemes** and addressing the **grievances of the public**. The initiative was kickstarted by Minister of Rural Development I. Periyasamy, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, other ministers, senior officials, and district collectors reaching out to beneficiaries across the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nayab Singh Saini**, an **influential leader** from the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** community, has been appointed as the new **Chief Minister of Haryana**. The decision was announced by the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** on Tuesday afternoon, shortly after **Manohar Lal Khattar**, the outgoing Chief Minister and his entire cabinet stepped down. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** on Tuesday, **March 12, 2024**, announced that the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)**, whose rules were notified by the **Union Home Ministry** on **March 11**, will not be implemented in the state. The decision comes amid growing concerns that the CAA goes against **minorities** and **Sri Lankan Tamils** living in camps in Tamil Nadu. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Geological Survey of India**, State Unit: Andhra Pradesh, unveiled a representative **Stratigraphic Column** of the Cuddapah Supergroup in Vajrakarur Diamond Processing Camp, Anantapur district, **Andhra Pradesh**. The ceremony took place on 10th March 2024 and was attended by prominent dignitaries including Shri Ch Venkateswara Rao, ADG & HoD, GSI, Southern Region, and Shri S. N. Mahapatro, Deputy Director General, SU: Andhra Pradesh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- For the first time, the district of **Simdega** in Jharkhand is hosting the **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela**, a national-level **agricultural science fair**. The event, organized by the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa (New Delhi)**, is being held at the **Albert Ekka Stadium** from **March 10th to 12th**, marking a significant stride towards realizing the vision of a **prosperous farmer community**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Odisha government** led by **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** has announced an additional **10 days of casual leave for women** working in various government departments. This decision aims to recognize the multitude of responsibilities women shoulder and provide them with greater flexibility to strike a better work-life balance. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Maharashtra** government has taken a historic step by securing approval from the **Jammu and Kashmir** administration to acquire **2.5 acres of land in Ichgam, near Srinagar airport**, for the construction of **Maharashtra Bhawan**. This initiative symbolizes a proactive approach towards fostering cultural and touristic ties between the two regions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Rajasthan government has decided to distribute **free seeds of millets** and coarse grains to the state's farmers. This move aims to **boost millet production** in the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu** dominates the illegal trade in shark body parts, comprising nearly 65% of seizures between January 2010 and December 2022, as per a recent analysis by **TRAFFIC and WWF-India**. This alarming trend poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, with **Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra** also contributing to this illicit trade. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has announced its decision to **rename Ahmednagar district** as '**Ahilya Nagar**'. The renaming is in honor of the **18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the Governor of **Telangana**, has **resigned** from her position on Monday, March 18, 2024. According to sources, she is likely to **contest the Lok Sabha elections** from the state of **Tamil Nadu**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated India's first **indoor athletics stadium** and **indoor aquatic centre** at the **Kalinga stadium** in **Bhubaneswar**. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new **indoor diving centre** in the stadium complex. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Election Commission** has launched a special campaign in **Himachal Pradesh** to boost voter turnout in **414 polling stations** with less than **60% voting** during the last **Lok Sabha polls**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan** has been given the **additional responsibility** as the **in-charge governor of Telangana**. This comes after **Tamilisai Soundararajan** resigned from her constitutional post as the **Telangana Governor**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The city of **Begusarai in Bihar** is the **most polluted city in the world**, according to the **World Air Quality Report 2023** released by **IQAir**, a Switzerland-based organization. The report states that out of the **top 100 most polluted places globally, 83 are from India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh police force** is set to adopt the advanced **Trinetra app 2.0**, a **cutting-edge digital platform** that promises to revolutionize **crime prevention and investigation** in the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu** is set to witness a historic event as one of its space startups, **Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited**, prepares to launch its first rocket, **Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD)**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**. This launch marks several significant milestones in India's space exploration journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bihar Diwas 2024**, celebrated on **22nd March 2024 in India**, holds immense historical and cultural significance for the state of Bihar. It commemorates the **founding of Bihar as a separate state in 1912**, marking its separation from the **Bengal Presidency**. The inception of **Bihar Diwas dates back to 2010**, when the state government initiated the celebrations to honor **Bihar's 112th statehood anniversary**. Since then, Bihar Diwas has evolved into a vibrant occasion, reflecting the essence of Bihar's rich heritage and traditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Researchers have made an exciting discovery off the coast of **Kollam in Kerala**. They have found a new species of **deep-sea isopod**, which is a tiny crustacean that feeds on fish. This new species belongs to the genus **Brucethoa** and was found living inside the **gill cavity** of a fish called the **Spinyjaw greeneye**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is conducting excavations at two **mounds in Nachne village**, located in the **Panna district of Madhya Pradesh**. The goal of these excavations is to uncover what could potentially be the **oldest temple in India**. ([Read the complete article](#))

- The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench has declared the **UP Board of Madarsa Education Act of 2004** as **unconstitutional**. The court ruled that the act violated the principle of **secularism**, as well as several articles of the Constitution, including **Articles 14, 21, and 21-A**. Additionally, the court found that the act also contravened **Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act of 1956**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh boasts of being the state with the most districts in India, totaling 75 districts divided into 18 divisions. Additionally, it **comprises 822 development blocks, 17 municipal corporations, and 351 tehsils**. The

easternmost district is Ballia, while Saharanpur is the northernmost, Sonbhadra the southernmost, and Shamli the westernmost district. In this article, we will get to know about the **village of "Choti Kashi" in Uttar Pradesh**. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, **Praful Pansheriya**, launched the online learning platform **Shiksha Reform** in **Surat**. The event was attended by noted educationist **Deepak Rajguru**, trustees, principals, **Kimmo Nikkanen** from Finland's **Kajaani University of Applied Sciences**, and educationist **Antti Isovita**. ([Read the complete article](#))

Schemes and Committees

- Telangana Chief Minister **A Revanth Reddy** has announced the launch of the **Indiramma Housing Scheme** starting March 11. The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society. ([Read the complete article](#))
- During **DefConnect 2024** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme**. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Champai Soren** has launched a pioneering initiative, the **'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme)**. This scheme, a first in India, aims to support and encourage widows to embark on a new journey of companionship by providing a financial incentive of Rs 2 lakh to those who choose to remarry. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry, and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, launched the **'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway)** of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone in India's journey to becoming a developed nation, 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047, with agriculture as its foundational pillar. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024)**. This scheme, spearheaded by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, aims to invigorate industrial **development in the North East Region**, fostering economic growth and job creation. ([Read the complete article](#))

- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious **IndiaAI mission**, allocating a substantial budget of **Rs. 10,371.92 crore**. This initiative aligns with the vision of bolstering AI innovation within India and leveraging AI for the nation's advancement. The mission aims to establish a robust AI ecosystem through a strategic public-private partnership approach. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **NAMASTE Scheme**, a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, aims to eliminate manual engagement of sanitation workers in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning operations. Implemented by the **NSKFD** for three years, the scheme prioritizes the safety and well-being of workers with a budget of 349.73 crores. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **'Mahtari Vandan Yojana'** in Chhattisgarh from Kashi, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to women in the state. PM Modi disbursed the first installment of Rs 1,000 to 70,12,417 women in Chhattisgarh. The state government has allocated Rs 655.57 crore for this purpose. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, introduces the **Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme** to enhance industry capabilities and align with global standards. Its approval follows a thorough review by the Scheme Steering Committee, considering the revised Schedule-M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rule, 1945. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ)** national portal during an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The portal signifies the government's commitment to extending credit support and empowering **one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- NITI Aayog launched the **'Vocal for Local'** initiative under its **Aspirational Blocks Programme** on March 13, 2024. This initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship, ultimately fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Ministry of Heavy Industries**, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, introduces the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024)**. This scheme aims to expedite the uptake of **electric vehicles (EVs)** within the country, fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly transportation ecosystem while bolstering the EV manufacturing sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the launch of the **bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme**. The scheme aims to raise deposits that will be **used to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors**, fostering India's transition to a green and sustainable economy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, has inaugurated a unique talent hunt

- event called **KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) in Chandigarh**. This nationwide programme, under the Khelo India mission, aims to identify talented athletes between the ages of 9 and 18 years, currently enrolled in schools across the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the **PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In response to the urgent need to protect the endangered **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** population from extinction caused by collisions with high-powered power cables in **Gujarat and Rajasthan**, the Supreme Court of India has taken decisive action. A bench led by **Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra** has appointed an expert committee to address this critical issue while balancing conservation efforts with renewable energy goals. ([Read the complete article](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- In a recent development, **India and Nepal** have bolstered their financial cooperation, with a focus on digital payments. This initiative aims to streamline cross-border transactions and enhance convenience for citizens of both nations. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta have joined forces to establish **Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs)** in strategically important schools. This collaboration aims to democratize access to future technologies and foster innovation among students. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **India** aims to enhance its strategic partnership with **South Korea** by expanding cooperation into new and critical areas, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced during the **10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul**. Co-chairing the meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yul, Jaishankar highlighted the comprehensive and productive discussions held on various aspects, including defence, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. ([Read the complete article](#))
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This collaboration aims to establish the **"NPCI-IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE)**

- for Deep Tech Research & Development"** to drive innovation in the fintech sector. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Airbus**, a prominent name in the aviation industry, has announced a significant partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai)** to deliver high-quality aviation training to professionals. This collaboration marks a crucial step towards enhancing industry-ready skills among aspiring and working individuals in the aviation sector. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Sports**, has introduced significant reforms in the recruitment, promotion, and incentive mechanisms for athletes. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and turning sports into a lucrative career option. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising **Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein** have signed a **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**. This modern and ambitious agreement marks India's first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with four developed nations in Europe, offering significant economic opportunities and promoting free trade and economic integration. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- NTPC and its renewable energy arm NGEL signed non-binding MoUs with **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL)** in Jaipur. These agreements represent a significant stride towards improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the **Chhabra Thermal Power Plant**. The focus lies on exploring avenues for integrating supercritical units into the current infrastructure to modernize and enhance power generation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has entered a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Prasar Bharati**, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, and the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On March 12, 2024, a significant milestone in the diplomatic and economic relations between **India** and the **Dominican Republic** was achieved as the Protocol for the establishment of the **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Grain commerce platform **Arya.ag** has collaborated with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** to extend financial assistance to farmers, agro-processors, and micro-enterprises. This partnership aims to facilitate over **₹200 crore** in warehouse receipt financing in the current fiscal year, enhancing financial inclusion in the agricultural ecosystem. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India and Singapore** have solidified their cooperation in the realm of **law and dispute resolution** through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law **Mr. Edwin Tong SC** and India's Minister for Law and Justice **Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal**. This agreement aims to bolster collaboration in areas such as international commercial dispute resolution. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** is collaborating with the **Council of Architecture (COA)** to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** in public spaces and buildings. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in architectural practices and aims to raise awareness about designing environments that accommodate the needs of PwDs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards promoting innovation and advancing the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector, the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and **Europol** have entered into a significant **Working Arrangement** aimed at combating crime and fostering cooperation between the two agencies. This collaborative effort underscores the necessity of global partnerships in addressing modern-day challenges posed by transnational crime networks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tech Mahindra** and **IBM** have joined forces to inaugurate a **Synergy Lounge** in **Singapore**, aimed at accelerating digital adoption for enterprises across the **Asia-Pacific region**. This collaboration seeks to leverage next-gen technologies to drive innovation and offer unique solutions to various industries. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- State-owned power giant **NTPC** has finalized an agreement with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to obtain foreign currency loans totaling **USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or approximately Rs 1,650 crore)**. This financing arrangement signifies a significant step in NTPC's endeavor to augment its renewable energy initiatives. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Parliamentary Delegation**, led by **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh**, held a bilateral meeting with their **Armenian counterparts** on the sidelines of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** event in **Geneva, Switzerland**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)** and **ABRASAT, the Brazilian Satellite Communications Association**, have joined forces to propel advancements in the space sector. This strategic partnership aims to foster collaboration and drive innovative ventures and technological cooperation between India and Brazil. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant move poised to reshape **India's Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) industry**, the Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (**IIM Mumbai**) partners with **Starburst**, a prominent **European Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) accelerator**. This collaboration aims to bolster the ASD startup ecosystem in India, leveraging the resources and expertise of both entities. ([Read the complete article](#))



New Appointments: International

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)**, one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion **Neeraj Chopra**. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.' This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The world of archaeology mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished figures, Padmashree **Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma**, who passed away at the age of 90 at his residence in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Sharma's career was marked by significant contributions to Indian archaeology, including his pivotal role in the excavation of the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Bihar government** made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer **Brajesh Mehrotra** as the new chief secretary of the state. This appointment underscores the government's commitment to efficient governance and administrative excellence. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Sub-Inspector **Suman Kumari** has etched her name in history as the first woman sniper of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**. Her recent completion of an eight-week intensive sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore not only showcases her exceptional abilities but also her pioneering spirit. Suman achieved the prestigious 'instructor grade', a testament to her proficiency and expertise. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Alok Rungta has been appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance**, effective April 1st, pending regulatory approvals. He will succeed Bruce De Broize, who currently holds the position until March 31st. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Slice**, the popular mango-flavored drink, has recently announced the appointment of acclaimed actress **Nayanthara** as its latest brand ambassador. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **German** technology giant **SAP** has made a significant leadership change in the **Indian Subcontinent** region. **Manish Prasad** has been appointed as the new **president and managing director** for the region, succeeding **Kulmeet Bawa**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Rajendra Prasad Goyal**, Director (Finance) of **NHPC**, has recently assumed the additional charge of **Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited**, a premier hydropower company in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India. This transition marks a significant moment in the company's leadership, bringing Goyal's extensive experience and expertise to the forefront. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Devendra Jhajharia**, a two-time Paralympic gold medalist, has been elected as the new **President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)**. He succeeds another renowned para-athlete, Deepa Malik. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **AS Rajeev** was appointed as **Vigilance Commissioner** in the **Central Vigilance Commission** by the Honourable President of India on 9th February 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kishor Makwana** has assumed the charge of **Chairman** of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** in New Delhi. Shri Luv Kush Kumar has also taken charge as a **Member** of the NCSC. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Justice **Satyendra Kumar Singh** was appointed as the new **Lokayukta** (anti-corruption ombudsman) of **Madhya Pradesh**. He took the **oath of office** on Sunday night, with the ceremony being administered by **Governor Mangubhai Patel** at Raj Bhavan. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)** has appointed **Mr. Deepak Ballani** as its new **Director General**. With over 25 years of extensive experience in public policy, government affairs, and organizational management, Mr. Ballani brings a wealth of expertise to this pivotal role. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Sanjay Kumar Singh** is poised to step into the role of **Director (Projects)** at **NHPC Limited**, following a commendation by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on March 12. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**-led three-member committee has appointed **Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** as new **Election Commissioners**. This decision was conveyed to the media by Congress leader **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** after the committee's meeting on March 14, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **B Sairam** has been appointed as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)**. NCL is the **Singrauli-based flagship Subsidiary of Coal India Limited**. Sairam has assumed the charge for this post. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Retired bureaucrat **Navneet Kumar Sehgal** has been appointed as the new **chairperson** of the **Prasar Bharati Board**. The position had been **vacant for four years** after **A Surya Prakash** retired in **February 2020** after turning **70**, the upper age limit for the post. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has appointed **Jaideep Hansraj**, the current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as the **Group President – One Kotak**, effective from **April 1, 2024**. This move signifies a strategic shift towards optimizing the Group's financial conglomerate model and enhancing customer offerings through collaborative efforts across subsidiaries. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Senior bureaucrat **Rahul Singh** has been appointed as the **chairperson** of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, as part of a **senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle** effected by the **Centre**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Poonawalla Fincorp**, a notable NBFC, has chosen **Arvind Kapil**, a seasoned retail banking expert from HDFC Bank, as its new **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**. Kapil will commence his five-year term on June 24, 2024, succeeding **Abhay Bhutada**, who opted for early retirement. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vinay Kumar**, an **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch**, has been named as the **next Ambassador of India to Russia**. Kumar is currently serving as the **Ambassador of India to Myanmar**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Leading **FMCG company P&G India** has announced the appointment of **Kumar Venkatasubramanian** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective from **May 1, 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Election Commission of India has made a significant decision regarding the leadership of the West Bengal police force. **Vivek Sahay** has been replaced by **Sanjay Mukherjee as the new Director General of Police (DGP)** for the state of West Bengal. This decision comes amidst a series of changes in key positions within the state administration, particularly in light of past incidents and the upcoming elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has elected **M V Rao**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the **Central Bank of India**, as its new **Chairman**. The decision was taken during the IBA's managing committee meeting. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Naveen Jindal**, Chairman of **Jindal Steel and Power**, has been unanimously elected as the **President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA)** by the apex committee, which is the governing body of the ISA. He took charge on Thursday, succeeding **Dilip Oommen**, CEO of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Microsoft** named British AI pioneer **Mustafa Suleyman** as the head of its **AI division**. Suleyman, who co-founded **Google's DeepMind**, will now report directly to Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ashwani Kumar**, Partner at Victor Forgings in Jalandhar, has been **unanimously elected** as the new **President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mariam Mammen Mathew**, CEO of Manorama Online, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA)** for a two-year term starting April 1, 2024. She succeeds **Tanmay Maheshwari**, Managing Director of Amar Ujala. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB)** has appointed **Govind Dholakia**, a **Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat**, as its new **chairman**. This appointment comes a day after the previous chairman, **Vallabhbai Patel (Lakhani)**, resigned from his position. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Senior Indian diplomat **Abhay Thakur** has been appointed as the country's next **ambassador** or top **envoy** to **Myanmar**. This was announced by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** on **March 26**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Eveready Industries India (EIIL)**, a leading battery brand, has announced a partnership with **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic gold medalist and World no. 1 in men's javelin throw, as its new **brand ambassador**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Hansha Mishra**, an officer of the **Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)** from the **2010 batch**, has been appointed as **Director** in the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, Delhi. Her appointment comes after she was recommended for central deputation by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi** has taken oath as the new judicial member of the **Lokpal** (ombudsman) on **27 March 2024**. The oath was administered by **Justice AM Khanwilkar**, the Chairman of the **Lokpal of India**. **Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava** and senior officers from CBI and Enforcement Directorate were present. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Sadanand Vasant Date**, a distinguished 1990-batch **IPS officer from Maharashtra cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Director General of the NIA**. **Piyush Anand**, a 1991-batch **IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre**, has been entrusted with the responsibility of heading the **NDRF**. **Rajeev Kumar**, an accomplished **IPS officer from the Rajasthan cadre**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the BPR&D**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant development, the central government has approved the appointment of **Nidhu Saxena** as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of the **Bank of Maharashtra**. This appointment will be effective for a period of **three years** starting from **27 March 2024**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Kamal Kishore of India** as the new **Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction**. He will lead the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani** was administered the oath of office as an **Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** in Srinagar. ([Read the complete article](#))

- **Arnab Banerjee**, the **Managing Director & CEO** of **CEAT Ltd.**, has been elected as the new **Chairman** of the **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)**. ATMA is the national industry body representing the **automotive tyre sector** in India. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Microsoft** has named **Pavan Davuluri** as the new head of its combined **Windows** and **Surface** teams. This move

comes after the previous leader, **Panos Panay**, left for **Amazon** last year. ([Read the complete article](#))

- **Girija Subramanian**, the current Chairperson and MD of **Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC)**, has been selected as the next CMD of **New India Assurance**. **Bhupesh Sushil Rahul**, a General Manager at AIC, has been chosen as the new CMD of **United India Insurance**. ([Read the complete article](#))

Sports Current Affairs

- The **10th edition of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** concluded with **Puneri Paltan** emerging as champions for the first time, after a closely contested final against **Haryana Steelers**. The final score read 28-25 in favor of Puneri Paltan, with the match taking place on March 1. Pankaj Mohite shone brightly for Paltan, scoring nine raid points, including a crucial super raid that proved to be a game-changer. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The scenic town of Shimla has become the centre stage for the first-ever **Asian River Rafting Championships**, officially opened on March 4th, 2024, by Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **B. Sai Praneeth**, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Spain's women's team** secured a historic victory over **France**, winning the **first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League** with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville. The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** grandly inaugurated the **Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0** at the **Luhnu Cricket Ground** in **Bilaspur** on **March 5, 2024**. **Chief Guests** Indian cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** and Indian cricket team coach **Rahul Dravid** graced the occasion as chief guests. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated the **5th ONGC Para Games**, praising para-athletes for their unwavering determination. The event took place at **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi** with the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and senior officials from Oil & Gas PSUs. ([Read the complete article](#))
- England's **James Anderson** claimed his **700th Test wicket** by dismissing India's **Kuldeep Yadav** in **Dharamsala** on the morning of **Day 3** of the final Test against India. This historic milestone makes Anderson the **third bowler** to reach the 700-wicket mark in Test cricket. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Indian badminton stars **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** have won the BWF French Open men's doubles title, defeating **Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan** in the final. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Yashasvi Jaiswal**, the young Indian opener, has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2024**. In the women's category, **Annabel Sutherland** of Australia claimed the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award for February 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mumbai** won the **Ranji Trophy 2024** after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. This was their **42nd Ranji Trophy title**, showcasing their dominance in Indian domestic cricket. Mumbai ended their **8-year drought** by winning the championship after last lifting the title in the 2015-16 season. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** clinched **victory** at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, starting from **pole position**. It marked Red Bull's second consecutive **one-two finish** in the 2024 Formula One season. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024** highlights India's continued descent into electoral autocracy since its downgrade in 2018. The report underscores the deterioration of democratic principles, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, media independence, and civil liberties. India's status as one of the top standalone autocracies further accentuates the gravity of its democratic decline. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Australian **wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has announced his decision to **retire from red-ball cricket** (first-class cricket). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** organized an exhibition cricket match to promote **voter education and inclusivity**. The match was played between the **Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team** and the **Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team** on **March 16, 2024**, at **Karnail Singh Stadium** in **New Delhi**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the final of the **Indian Wells ATP tournament** on Sunday, **Carlos Alcaraz** of Spain defeated **Daniil Medvedev** of Russia in straight sets, with a score of **7-6 (7/5), 6-1**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In the women's **long jump** event at the 3rd **Indian Open Jumps Competition**, **Nayana James** from Kerala recorded a **personal best mark** of **6.67m** to secure the **gold medal**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal** will be the **Indian team's flagbearer** for the upcoming **Paris 2024 Olympics**. The announcement was made by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian **star paddler G. Sathiyam** has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the **first-ever Indian** to win a **men's singles trophy** at a **WTT Feeder Series** event. This historic moment took place in **Beirut, Lebanon**, where Sathiyam triumphed over his compatriot **Manav Thakkar** with a **3-1 (6-11 11-7 11-7 11-4)** victory in the final of the **WTT Feeder Beirut 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Australian Grand Prix, **Carlos Sainz** of **Ferrari** emerged victorious, marking a remarkable comeback just **two weeks after undergoing appendicitis surgery**. The race was filled with drama, including the **first retirement** in two years for **Red Bull's reigning world champion Max Verstappen**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli** has etched his name in history by becoming the **first Indian cricketer** to score **12,000 runs** in the **T20 format**. Kohli accomplished this remarkable feat during the opening match of the **2024 Indian Premier League (IPL)** between **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** and **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** at the **MA Chidambaram Stadium**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a historic move, the **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** will host a **day-night Test match** between the **Australian and English women's cricket teams**. This will be the first time a **pink-ball Test** is played at the iconic venue. The **four-day match** is scheduled from **January 30 to February 2, 2025**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Haryana** clinched the **team titles** in both the boy's and girls categories with an impressive combined haul of **19 medals** at the **Boxing Sub Junior National Championship**. Haryana showcased its dominance by finishing on top in both categories. The tournament witnessed the participation of **612 boxers**, including **337 boys** and **275 girls**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** team created history by posting a mammoth **277/3** against the **Mumbai Indians (MI)** in their **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024** match in Hyderabad. This score surpassed the previous **highest total in the IPL** of 263 runs, set by the **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** against Pune Warriors India in 2013. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Indian paddler **Sreeja Akula** clinched the **women's singles title** at the **WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024** in Beirut, Lebanon. The **world no. 47** Indian came from behind to secure a **6-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-9** victory over the lower-ranked **Sarah D Nutte** of Luxembourg in the final. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Veteran Kenyan allrounder **Collins Obuya** has announced his **retirement from cricket** following Kenya's defeat to Uganda in the **third-place play-off match** at the **African Games**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has appointed former Indian men's hockey team captain and goalkeeper **PR Sreejesh** and Chile's **Camila Caram** as **co-chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee**. This announcement was made by the FIH on March 27, 2024. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **IIT Madras** is set to host the prestigious '**6th Shastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament**' on March 30 and 31, 2024. The tournament, sanctioned by the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)**, will draw the participation of esteemed players from across the globe, including Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Sharfuddoula** has created history by becoming the first **Bangladeshi umpire** to be appointed to the **ICC Elite Panel of Umpires**. His appointment was confirmed following the **International Cricket Council's** annual review and selection process. ([Read the complete article](#))

Summits And Conferences

- A five-day exchange programme for faculty members of foreign service academies within the Bay of **Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** member states has commenced in Dhaka, marking the first of its kind. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** is hosting the **All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024** from 4th to 7th March 2024. Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The inaugural **Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024** has officially commenced in **Guwahati, Assam**, marking a significant milestone in India's industrial journey. Launched with the objective of enhancing the growth and efficiency of sectors reliant on steam boilers, this three-day event has been inaugurated by Sanjay Kishan, the state's Labour and Employment Minister. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India is set to host the prestigious **World Telecom Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024**, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), along with the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024**. These events aim to foster global collaboration, drive telecom reforms, and showcase India's technological prowess. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The fourth edition of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum** convened in New Delhi on March 19, 2024, with a focus on enhancing interactions among SCO Member States' startups, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and nurturing young talent. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India and Brazil** recently held their inaugural '**2+2**' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations. The talks aimed to deepen cooperation across various sectors, emphasizing energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army is organizing the first **Army Commanders' Conference** for the year 2024 in a **hybrid mode**. The virtual segment of the conference is scheduled for **28th March 2024**, followed by the physical mode in **New Delhi** on **1st and 2nd April 2024**. The conference will be chaired by the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Manoj Pande**, and attended by senior military leadership, including Army Commanders participating virtually from their respective Command Headquarters. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The METOC seminar '**Meghayan-24**' was conducted by the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and the Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at the Southern Naval Command on March 28, 2024. It was organized in commemoration of World Meteorological Day, with the theme '**At the Frontline of Climate Action**' set by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for 2024**. ([Read the complete article](#))

Ranks and Reports News

- Bloomberg has announced the inclusion of **India's Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds** in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices, with a phased approach over ten months starting January 31, 2025. This follows JP Morgan's similar move earlier, signaling increased foreign investment potential in Indian government securities. ([Read the complete article](#))
- According to the latest data from the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, **India** was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-2023. India's arms imports witnessed a **4.7% increase** compared to the 2014-2018 period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** unveiled the report "**A Decade of Science – Technology Panorama for Aatmanirbhar Bharat**" at Vigyan Bhavan. Under the leadership of **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, the (Office of Principal Scientific Advisor) OPSA to the Government of India, in collaboration with **FAST India**, has compiled a comprehensive overview of India's technological advancements over the past decade in this report. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's position on the **DHL Global Connectedness Index** has seen a notable rise, reflecting its burgeoning role in the global economy. From ranking **67th in 2022**, India has advanced to the **62nd position in 2023**, underscoring its increasing significance in the realm of globalization. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** released its **State of the Global Climate 2023** report, revealing unprecedented levels of climate change indicators. These indicators underscore the urgent need for global action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has released its **Global Trade Update report**, outlining the state of global trade in 2023 and projections for 2024. Despite a 3% dip in global trade to **\$31 trillion in 2023**, a rebound is expected in 2024 amid geopolitical uncertainties and logistical challenges. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark shift, **Mumbai has overtaken Beijing as Asia's billionaire capital**, according to the latest report from the **Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute**. This monumental achievement reflects Mumbai's burgeoning economic landscape and underscores India's rising prominence in global wealth distribution. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In the latest **Brand Finance Insurance 100, 2024 report**, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) solidifies its position as the strongest insurance brand worldwide, maintaining a stable brand value of Rs 816 billion. With a **Brand Strength Index score of 88.3** and an **AAA brand strength rating**, LIC showcases its unparalleled prominence in the industry. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** in collaboration with the **Institute of Human Development (IHD)** has released the '**India Employment Report 2024**,' shedding light on the challenges faced by the Indian job market as the financial year comes to a close. **Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran** unveiled the report, which outlines significant shifts in employment patterns and trends in education levels among the unemployed, spanning two decades up to 2022. ([Read the complete article](#))

Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
March 4	National Safety Day
March 5	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
7th March	Jan Aushadhi Diwas
March 8th	International Women’s Day Theme: Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CISF Raising Day International Day of Women Judges Theme: Women in Justice, women for justice
11 March	World Plumbing Day
14th March	World Kidney Day Theme: Kidney Health for All – Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice
March 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Action for Rivers Pi Day
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day
March 16th	National Vaccination Day
March 18th	Ordnance Factories Day
March 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Happiness World Sparrow Day World Oral Health Day
21st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Theme: A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent World Forestry Day Theme: Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.”
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day
March 22	World Water Day Theme: Water for Peace
March 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day Shaheed Diwas, or Martyr’s Day
March 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Tuberculosis (TB) Day International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
March 27	World Theatre Day
March 28th	World Piano Day 2024
March 29th	Good Friday
March 30th	International Day of Zero Waste

Defence Current Affairs

- The **Indian Navy** is set to inaugurate a new naval base, **INS Jatayu, on Minicoy Island**, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands. Scheduled for March 6, the commissioning ceremony will be graced by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, underscoring the importance of this development. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the **MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi**. This induction marks a crucial juncture in India’s defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities. The

Seahawks squadron will be designated as **INAS 334**, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the new **Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC), Goa** on March 5, 2024. The modern edifice, named the ‘**Chola**’, pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought. ([Read the complete article](#))

- The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, **INS Jatayu**, at **Minicoy island of Lakshadweep**. This strategic move aims to enhance the Navy's capabilities and reach in the vital Indian Ocean region, reinforcing its efforts in anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called '**Bharat-Shakti**' at **Asia's largest field firing range** located in **Jaisalmer** district of Rajasthan. **PM Modi's Likely Visit** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** may visit **Pokhran** on **March 12, 2024**, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The arrival of the US Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of '**Sea Defenders-2024**,' a joint exercise between the **United States Coast Guard (USCG)** and the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology**. This new capability allows the weapon system to deliver **multiple nuclear warheads** against different targets spread across hundreds of kilometers, further enhancing India's **strategic deterrence capability**. The test, codenamed "**Mission Divyastra**" (divine weapon), propels India into an exclusive league of countries that possess the capability to deploy **MIRV missile systems**, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Coinciding with International Women's Day and the 40th anniversary of INAS 318, the Andaman & Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its **first-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission**. This landmark event underscores the commitment to gender equality and recognizes the indispensable role of women in national defense. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** recently took part in a major maritime exercise called **Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24)**. This exercise was held in **Port Victoria, Seychelles** from **26 February to 08 March 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On 13th March 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the **Indian Navy's** shipbuilding program with the launch of '**Agray**' and '**Akshay**', the **5th and 6th ships of the 08 x ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project**. These ships are being built by M/S Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards gender equality and inclusivity, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has emerged as a frontrunner among central paramilitary forces in **terms of female representation**. This achievement marks a notable departure from the traditional male-dominated landscape within such organizations. With women now constituting a remarkable **10 percent of its personnel**, the RPF has set a new benchmark in gender diversity within central paramilitary forces. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated **headquarters** building. The newly constructed **Nausena Bhawan** located at **Delhi Cantonment** was formally **inaugurated** by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **March 15th, 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the **Tenth edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** between the **Indian Army** and **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**. The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from **18-27 March 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A joint military exercise called **Tiger Triumph-24** between **India** and the **United States** started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the **Eastern Seaboard** (East Coast) of India. The main purpose of this exercise is to improve **cooperation** between the two countries' armed forces for **humanitarian assistance and disaster relief** operations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized **technology unit** called **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)** to research and evaluate **next-generation communication technologies**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian defence industry** is expanding its reach to the **Caribbean** region. The **Guyana Defence Force (GDF)** plans to purchase two aircraft from **India** with a loan of **\$23.27 million** from the **Export-Import Bank of India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has raised its **first squadron**, the **451 Aviation Squadron**, to operate the newly acquired **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters**. The squadron was formally established on **March 15** at **Jodhpur**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Navy is all set to participate in the second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT-2024)**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from **21-29 March 2024**. The Indian Naval Ships **INS Tir** and **INS Sujata** will represent India in this trilateral exercise. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful landing of **Pushpak**, **India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**, during the RLV-LEX-02 landing experiment at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga on March 22, 2024. This accomplishment marks a continuation of ISRO's success in space exploration and technology advancement. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In response to escalating tensions along the northern borders with **China**, the **Indian Army** has initiated significant enhancements to its air defence capabilities. Central to this strategic maneuver is the deployment of cutting-edge **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS)**, developed domestically in collaboration between the **Defence Research and Development**

Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics. ([Read the complete article](#))

- The second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise, IMT TRILAT 24**, concluded successfully in **Nacala, Mozambique** on March 28th, 2024. This week-long exercise aimed to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability among the navies of **India, Mozambique, and Tanzania.** ([Read the complete article](#))

Awards News

- **Dr. Pradeep Mahajan**, the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre, along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024.** ([Read the complete article](#))
- On the occasion of the **48th Foundation Day** of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has been honored with the **Award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24.** This prestigious accolade signifies the Ministry's outstanding contribution and commitment to financial excellence. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Legendary golfer **Tiger Woods** has been selected to receive the **Bob Jones Award**, the highest honour bestowed by the **United States Golf Association (USGA).** This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Yatin Bhaskar Duggal**, a promising talent from Haryana, has emerged triumphant as the winner of the esteemed **National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024.** The announcement came during the conclusive session held in New Delhi, where Duggal was awarded the first prize for his exceptional performance. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Sahitya Akademi**, the esteemed National Academy of Letters in India, is marking its **70th anniversary** this year, and in honor of this milestone, the annual '**Sahityotsav**' has transformed into the world's largest literary festival. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Renowned filmmaker **Zoya Akhtar** and British Indian chef **Asma Khan** were honored at the annual '**India-UK Achievers**' awards in London. The event celebrated Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's contributions to culinary arts. ([Read the complete article](#))
- India has been awarded the prestigious '**Measles and Rubella Champion**' Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership. This award recognizes India's **exemplary efforts** in preventing measles and rubella diseases. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Delhi Airport has once again asserted its dominance in the aviation sector by securing the prestigious title of '**Best Airport**' in the Asia-Pacific region for the sixth consecutive year. This accolade, bestowed by the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards**, reaffirms Delhi Airport's commitment to excellence and leadership in providing top-notch services to passengers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Riken Yamamoto**, a Japanese architect from Yokohama, has been named the winner of the **2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize**, widely regarded as the highest honour in the field of architecture. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Praemium Erasmianum Foundation** has awarded the **Erasmus Prize 2024** to the Indian writer **Amitav Ghosh.** He receives this prestigious honour for his **passionate contribution** to the theme "imagining the unthinkable," in which he explores the **unprecedented global crisis of climate change** through his literary works. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mr. Srinivasan Swamy**, currently serving as the chairman and managing director of RK Swamy Ltd, was honored at the 45th IAA World Congress in Penang, Malaysia. Governor Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak presented him with the esteemed **IAA Golden Compass Award**, recognizing his significant contributions to the global marketing, advertising, and media industries. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- President **Droupadi Murmu** was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius. This prestigious honor demonstrates the depth of bilateral ties between India and Mauritius. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The prestigious **Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024** for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year has been given **jointly** to two remarkable journalists: Greeshma Kuthar – Independent Journalist and Ritika Chopra – Indian Express.
- **Ratan Tata**, former chairman of **Tata Sons**, has been bestowed with the prestigious **PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award.** He received the award for his **outstanding philanthropic contributions.** The award ceremony took place in **Mumbai** on **March 15, 2024.** ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Uday Bhatia** and **Manasi Gupta** from India were honored with the prestigious **‘Diana Memorial Award’** on **14 March 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Thodur Madabusi Krishna, a **renowned Carnatic musician**, has been chosen as the **Sangita Kalanidhi** awardee for 2024. This award, considered the **Oscar equivalent** for Carnatic music, is given away by the **Music Academy** in Chennai. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noted **Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma** has been selected for the prestigious **33rd Saraswati Samman** for the year 2023. He won the award for his **novel in verse ‘Roudra Sathwikam’** published in 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Raksha Mantri Trophy** for the **Best and Second Best Command Hospitals** of the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** for the year 2022 was awarded on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi. The **Command Hospital (Southern Command), Pune** was judged as the **Best Command Hospital**, while the **Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow** was the **Second Best** for 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Uma Rele, the esteemed **Principal of Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya** in Mumbai, has been conferred with the prestigious **Maharashtra Gaurav Award**. The honour was bestowed upon her by Maharashtra Industrial Minister Uday Sawant and Minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the realm of **Indian classical dance**, particularly **Bharata Natyam**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has created history by becoming the first **non-Bhutanese** to receive the **‘Order of the Druk Gyalpo’**, **Bhutan’s highest civilian award**. He received this prestigious honour from **Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** during his two-day state visit to Thimphu. The ‘Order of the Druk Gyalpo’ is a **lifetime achievement award** and is considered the **pinnacle of Bhutan’s honour system**. Only four eminent personalities have received this award since its institution. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has been honored with the prestigious **Aviation Week Laureates Award** for its remarkable achievements in the **Chandrayaan-3 mission**. **Sripriya Ranganathan**, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bina Agarwal and James Boyce** have been awarded the first **“Global Inequality Research Award”** for their significant contributions to understanding global inequalities, specifically in the areas of social and environmental inequalities. The **laureates** will be invited to receive their awards and present an overview of their work at conferences in Paris in the fall and spring of 2024. These conferences will be organized in conjunction with **Sciences Po’s Social-Ecological Transitions (SET) initiative**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, a global organization responsible for naming celestial objects, has bestowed a rare honour upon an Indian scientist. Professor **Jayant Murthy**, an esteemed astrophysicist, has been recognized for his remarkable contributions to the field by having an asteroid named after him – **(215884) Jayantmurthy**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the **2024 Abel Prize** to **Michel Talagrand** of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France. Talagrand received the prestigious prize “for his **groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis**, with outstanding applications in **mathematical physics and statistics**.” ([Read the complete article](#))
- At a glittering event recently held in **Noida**, organized by **The Times Group**, **Vijay Jain**, the **Managing Director of Star Estate**, was awarded the prestigious **Times Power Icon 2024 Award**. The event celebrated and honoured top industry leaders, gracing the occasion with the presence of industry leaders and celebrities, including **Cine icon Ada Sharma**, who presented the award to Vijay Jain. ([Read the complete article](#))

Science and Technology

- Google’s DeepMind team introduces **“Genie,”** a groundbreaking AI platform poised to transform the gaming industry and creative endeavors. This innovative project signifies a fusion of cutting-edge technology and imaginative potential, offering the capability to craft interactive **2D video games from single image prompts or text descriptions**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Iran’s venture** into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the **“Pars 1” satellite**, facilitated by **Russia** from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the **International Astronomical Union** have identified three new moons in the outer reaches of our solar system. These celestial bodies, with **two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus**, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe. ([Read the complete article](#))

- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pioneering technical center in Ahmedabad, representing a significant advancement in India's space sector. Established by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**, this center aims to revolutionize private sector involvement in space technology development and testing. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **MethaneSAT**, a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**, heralds a new era in environmental monitoring. Designed to address the elusive yet critical issue of methane emissions, MethaneSAT promises to **revolutionize how policymakers and industries tackle greenhouse gas pollution**. With its advanced technology and global reach, MethaneSAT aims to **independently verify industry reports and pinpoint methane hotspots**, thereby empowering stakeholders to take decisive action. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala**, Union Minister Rajeesh Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, articulated India's potential as a global semiconductor hub. Chandrasekhar emphasized the imperative of designing chips and IPs for diverse industries, outlining a roadmap for entrepreneurs in Trivandrum and Kerala to lead the innovation drive. ([Read the complete article](#))
- ISRO chief **S Somnath** informed at the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS 2024) that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing to launch the **next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4**. This mission will include **five spacecraft modules**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian government**, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new **\$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission**. This initiative aims to create an **all-Indian AI ecosystem** from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Researchers have made an exciting discovery – a previously unknown **scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs** in Thailand's **Kaeng Krachan National Park**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development)** and **IIT Delhi** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on **geospatial technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for rural development**. The partnership aims to leverage technology to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of rural development initiatives. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address rural challenges through technological solutions, setting a precedent for effective collaboration between academia and government. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Google** has partnered with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections. Through Google Search and YouTube videos, voters will be able to access critical details on how to register and vote, as well as information about candidates. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SpaceX's** Starship rocket, aimed at **lunar missions** and beyond, faced another setback as it disintegrated during its **third test flight**. Despite achieving several engineering milestones, the failure highlights challenges in its development. The Starship, consisting of the cruise vessel atop the Super Heavy rocket booster, launched from Starbase near Boca Chica Village, Texas. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **IIT Delhi** recently announced a collaboration with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, a significant step in applied research. This partnership, emphasized in an official statement from IIT Delhi, reflects IAI's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India, **aiming to promote innovation and technological advancement** through joint projects, training initiatives, and research consultancy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In October of this year, **NASA** will embark on its **Europa Clipper mission**, aiming to explore **Jupiter's moon Europa** in search of signs of life. Scientists are particularly interested in a potential salty lake hidden beneath its icy crust. As part of this mission, NASA plans to send a unique message to Europa, symbolizing human curiosity and creativity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Researchers have uncovered a monumental discovery on **Mars**—a colossal volcano named **Noctis Volcano**. Standing at an impressive **29,600 feet** tall and stretching approximately **450 kilometers** in width, this massive volcano lies just south of Mars' equator within the **Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus** region. The finding, made possible by data from a suite of missions including NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the ESA's Mars Express, unveils a hidden geological marvel. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- With the **Lok Sabha elections** approaching in India, Meta unveils its strategy to tackle the growing threat of **AI-generated fake content** that could influence the electoral process. In response to concerns raised by the Election Commission of India regarding the **spread of misinformation**, Meta announces its comprehensive plan to safeguard the integrity of the elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** has developed **SAKHI**, a revolutionary app aimed at aiding astronauts during the **Gaganyaan space flight mission**. SAKHI, or Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction, offers indispensable support across various critical aspects of the mission. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The European Space Agency's **Gaia space telescope** has made a groundbreaking discovery, uncovering two ancient streams of stars named **Shiva and Shakti**. Led by **Khyati Malhan** of the **Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA)** in **Germany**, this revelation significantly enhances our understanding of the **Milky Way's** origins. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G)** has transferred a **first-of-its-kind vaccine technology** to **BioMed Pvt. Ltd.**, a company specializing in vaccine manufacturing. This revolutionary technology involves a **recombinant vector vaccine** specifically designed to combat the **classical swine fever virus** in **pigs and wild boars**. It fills a significant gap in India's vaccine landscape. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will conduct the **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024** program during **April and May**. ISRO is inviting **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from educational institutes, universities, and colleges within India offering **UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology** to host START-2024. ([Read the complete article](#))

Books & Authors

- The launch of "**The Gems of Indian Art**", a comprehensive documentation of **Harish Khullar's** extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art. This near-300-page book was unveiled by Ministers **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, **Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal**, and **Shri S.P.S. Baghel**, marking a pivotal moment in India's art scene. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, release a book and video titled "**Sagar Parikrama**" at the Engineering Association in Rajkot, Gujarat. The event graced by the presence of the Union Minister for States of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan**, **Dr. L. Murugan**, and other dignitaries. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Dibrugarh University International Literary Festival** held on 19-21 March 2024 witnessed the launch of a remarkable literary work – the English translation of the first Magahi novel, '**Phool Bahadur**'. The translation was done by **Abhay K**, a renowned writer from **Nalanda, Bihar**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- S. Raman's autobiography, "**From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond**," offers a **first-person account** of his remarkable journey from a **clerk at SBI** to becoming the **Chairman and Managing Director of Canara Bank** and a **full-time Member of SEBI**. The book explores the **intricate dance between personal integrity, professional challenges, and systemic issues in the financial world**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction has announced its shortlist of six books, including "**Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI**" by Indian-British journalist and commentator **Madhumita Murgia**. The book explores the **impact of artificial intelligence** on human society. ([Read the complete article](#))

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- A groundbreaking archaeological discovery has been made in Chettimedu Pathur village, approximately 77 kilometres from **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. Researchers from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the **University of Madras** have unearthed a child burial site dating back to the Neolithic period, around 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE, offering new insights into ancient burial rites and cultural practices in the region. ([Read the complete article](#))
- Researchers in **Ecuador's rainforest** have uncovered a new species of anaconda, **Eunectes Akiyama**, which split from its closest relatives 10 million years ago. Despite their genetic distinction, these anacondas are visually identical to the previously known species, **Eunectes murinus**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** commemorated its **174th Foundation Day on March 4th, 2024**, with zeal and enthusiasm resonating across all its offices nationwide. The event was a grand affair, with celebrations held in Kolkata, the Central Headquarters of GSI, and the Southern Region's headquarters in Hyderabad. ([Read the complete article](#))
- In a significant nod to India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry, the **Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi**, more widely known as **Silver Filigree**, has recently been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. This recognition, sought by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places Cuttack's Silver Filigree on the map as a unique and protected form of art. ([Read the complete article](#))
- President Droupadi Murmu **nominated** author and philanthropist **Sudha Murty** to the **Rajya Sabha**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this and congratulated Sudha Murty, saying her contribution to diverse fields has been "immense and inspiring". ([Read the complete article](#))

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of **North India's first Government Homeopathic College** in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, J&K. The project, funded centrally at Rs 80 crore, reflects a significant stride in healthcare and education infrastructure development in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Majuli**, the largest river island in the world, has received **two prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags** from the Indian government for its traditional crafts – **Majuli mask making and Majuli manuscript painting**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Sea6 Energy, a **pioneer in the Blue Economy**, has launched the world's first large-scale **mechanized tropical seaweed farm** off the coast of Lombok, Indonesia. The **one-square-kilometer seaweed farm** is a significant milestone in establishing the scalability of **sustainable tropical seaweed cultivation** for various industrial applications. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Excavation sites worldwide yield artifacts and fossils crucial for understanding history. In **Nuremberg, Germany**, construction laborers stumbled upon an astonishing find while building a house: a vast number of human skeletons, indicating the presence of what may be **Europe's largest cemetery**. Nearly a thousand skeletons have been unearthed so far, with estimates suggesting the total could surpass **1500**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has certified nearly **100 jails** across the nation as **'Eat Right Campus,'** a part of its broader Eat Right India movement. This initiative aims to ensure safe, healthy, and sustainable food practices within various institutional settings, including correctional facilities. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The beautiful **Dal Lake in Kashmir** witnessed an exciting event on March 18. **Formula-4 car racing** was held for the first time in the region. The sleek racing cars raced along the Boulevard road near the lake, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The Zabarwan Hills provided a stunning backdrop for the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking medical achievement, surgeons from **Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston** have performed the first **pig-to-human kidney transplant**. A **62-year-old man with end-stage renal disease** received a new kidney from a **genetically modified pig**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Chipko Movement** originated in the **Uttarakhand** region of the Himalayas in early 1973. The name "Chipko" means "to hug" in Hindi, referring to the practice of **embracing trees** to protect them from being cut down. The Chipko movement, which began in Uttarakhand, a state in the Himalayas, in early 1973, marks its 50th anniversary. ([Read the complete article](#))
- A **900-year-old Kannada inscription** dating back to the **Kalyana Chalukya dynasty** has been discovered in a state of utter neglect at **Gangapuram**, a temple town in **Jadcherla mandal, Mahabubnagar district**. The rare inscription was found lying uncared for on a tank bund near the **Chowdamma temple**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- The world's first-ever temple designed in the iconic **Om shape** has been inaugurated in the village of Jadan, **Pali district of Rajasthan**. This architectural masterpiece, spanning across **250 acres**, is not only expected to attract tourists but will also boast an impressive visual presence visible from space. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Allu Arjun**, the popular **Telugu actor**, has achieved a new milestone in his career. He has been honoured with a **wax statue** at the renowned **Madame Tussauds Museum** in **Dubai**. ([Read the complete article](#))

Obituaries Current Affairs

- **Kapildev Prasad**, a renowned artisan and Padma awardee for his contributions to the handloom industry and the revival of Bababuti sarees, passed away in Basavanbigha village, Bihar Sharif. His demise has left the local community and handloom enthusiasts mourning the loss of a true pioneer. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Paul Alexander**, who spent much of his life in an iron lung after contracting polio as a child, has passed away at the age of 78. Despite being paralyzed from the neck down, Alexander's resilience and determination led him to become an inspirational figure, achieving milestones that defied his physical limitations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas**, the former Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy (**1990-1993**), breathed his last peacefully at the age of 90 on March 15 morning, at the Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Telangana. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Sadi Mohammad, a **legendary Rabindra Sangeet singer**, has passed away at the age of **70**. His death has cast a **grim shadow** in the cultural sphere of the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The former member of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** and prominent **Buddhist Monk of Ladakh**, popularly known as **Lama Lobzang**, passed away this morning at his residence in **New Delhi**. He was **94** years old. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Lakshmi Narayanan Seshu**, a beloved figure in the Tamil entertainment industry, breathed his last on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at a private hospital in Chennai. The versatile actor, affectionately known as **Lollu Sabha Seshu**, was 60 years old at the time of his unfortunate demise. ([Read the complete article](#))

- **Louis Gossett Jr.**, the first **Black man** to win the **Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor**, has sadly passed away at the age of 87. His cousin, Neal L Gossett, confirmed his demise on **March 29**, stating that he died at a rehabilitation center in **Santa Monica, California**. ([Read the complete article](#))
- **Daniel Kahneman**, a psychologist who never studied economics but pioneered the field of **behavioural economics**, has passed away at the age of 90. Despite not having formal training in economics, Kahneman's groundbreaking work exploring the **psychology of decision-making** earned him the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** in 2002. ([Read the complete article](#))



Static Current Affairs

- DRDO founded: 1958;
- DRDO Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi;
- DRDO Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO.
- Central Vigilance Commission Founded: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission HQ: New Delhi.
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes Founded: 19 February 2004.
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- World Plumbing Council HQ: Zurich, Switzerland;
- World Plumbing Council Founded: October 2009;
- World Plumbing Council Head: Dave Viola.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch);
- Madhya Pradesh Bird: Indian paradise flycatcher;
- Madhya Pradesh Flower: White lily;
- Madhya Pradesh Formation: 26 January 1950.
- Jharkhand Chief minister: Champai Soren;
- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi;
- Jharkhand Founded: 15 November 2000;
- Jharkhand Bird: Koel;
- Jharkhand Flower: Palash.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Founded: 2007;
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Chairman: Priyank Kanoongo.
- Managing Director & CEO of Maruti Suzuki India Limited: Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar;
- Odisha Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik;
- Odisha Bird: Indian roller;
- Odisha Flower: Asoka;
- Odisha Governor: Raghubar Das.
- North East Small Finance Bank Ltd (Head Office) in Hatigaon, Guwahati;
- North East Small Finance Bank Ltd MD & CEO: Satish Kumar Kalra;
- North East Small Finance Bank Ltd Established: October 17, 2017.
- Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) HQ: New Delhi;
- Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) Established: 1932.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin;
- Google Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.;
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–);
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States.
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria
- Seychelles President: Wavel Ramkalawan
- Seychelles Currency: Seychelles Rupee
- Election Commissioner of India HQ: Delhi
- Election Commissioner of India Established: 25th January 1950.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- WHO Head: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founders: United States, Brazil, Mexico, France, United Kingdom;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948.
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Official language: Persian;
- Iran President: Ebrahim Raisi.

- Tuvalu Capital: Funafuti;
- Tuvalu Continent: Oceania;
- Tuvalu Official languages: Tuvaluan, English;
- Tuvalu Currencies: Australian Dollar, Tuvaluan dollar.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO: Ashok Vaswani (1 Jan 2024–);
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founder: Uday Kotak;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founded: 21 November 1985;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara;
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Geological Survey of India Founded: 4 March 1851
- Geological Survey of India Founder: Thomas Oldham
- Geological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Geological Survey of India Formed: 4 March 1851; 172 years ago
- Geological Survey of India Government agency executive: Shri Janardan Prasad
- Geological Survey of India Parent Government agency: Ministry of Mines
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- Bihar Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar;
- Bihar Bird: House sparrow;
- Bihar Flower: Marigold;
- Bihar Formation: 22 March 1912.
- International Astronomical Union President: Debra Elmegreen;
- International Astronomical Union Headquarters: Paris, France;
- International Astronomical Union Founded: 28 July 1919;
- International Astronomical Union General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti.
- BSF Founder: Khusro Faramurz Rustamji;
- BSF Founded: 1 December 1965;
- BSF Director General: Nitin Agarwal, IPS.
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- Himachal Pradesh Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);
- Himachal Pradesh Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu;
- Himachal Pradesh Bird: Western tragopan;
- Himachal Pradesh Districts: 12;
- Himachal Pradesh Flower: Pink rhododendron;
- Himachal Pradesh High Court: Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi;
- 25th Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar;
- Election Commission of India Founded: 25 January 1950.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Population: 3.46 crores (2018);
- Kerala Districts: 14;
- Kerala Fish: Green chromide;
- Kerala Flower: Golden shower tree.
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Fish: Green chromide;
- Kerala Flower: Golden shower tree.
- Airbus Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury;
- Airbus Headquarters: Leiden, Netherlands;
- Airbus Founded: 10 July 2000.
- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi;
- Jharkhand Chief minister: Champai Soren;
- Jharkhand Founded: 15 November 2000;
- Jharkhand Bird: Koel;
- Jharkhand Flower: Palash.
- World Economic Forum Chairperson: Børge Brende;
- World Economic Forum Founder: Klaus Schwab;
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland;
- World Economic Forum President: Børge Brende;
- World Economic Forum Founded: 24 January 1971.
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham;
- UAE Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.
- IPS, DG CISF: Nina Singh;
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;

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- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime Minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee;
- Nepal Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- President of Nepal: Mr Ram Chandra Paudel.
- Reliance Industries Owner: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani;
- Reliance Industries President: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founded: 1957, Maharashtra;
- Reliance Industries Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Chairperson: Satya Nadella (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).
- SBM Bank India Founded: 1st December 2018;
- SBM Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, India.
- NSDC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NSDC Founded: 31 July 2008;
- NSDC CEO: Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Bird: Indian paradise flycatcher;
- Madhya Pradesh Flower: White lily;
- Madhya Pradesh Formation: 26 January 1950;
- Madhya Pradesh CM: Mohan Yadav;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel.
- 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.
- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;
- Bhutan King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck;
- Bhutan Currencies: Bhutanese Ngultrum, Indian Rupee;
- Bhutan Official language: Dzongkha.
- Amul Founders: Verghese Kurien, Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel;
- Amul Headquarters: Anand;
- Amul Founded: 14 December 1946;
- Chairman of Amul: Shamalbhai B Patel.
- ISRO Founder: Vikram Sarabhai;
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969;
- ISRO Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath.
- International Astronomical Union President: Debra Elmegreen;
- International Astronomical Union Headquarters: Paris, France;
- International Astronomical Union Founded: 28 July 1919;
- International Astronomical Union General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti.
- Archaeological Survey of India Director General: Yadubir Singh Rawat;
- Archaeological Survey of India Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Archaeological Survey of India Established: 1861.
- Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh
- Saudi Arabia King: Salman of Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal
- Senegal Capital: Dakar
- Senegal President: Macky Sall
- Senegal Currency: West African CFA franc
- Senegal Official language: French

Bharat Ratna Winners List from 1954 to 2024

Bharat Ratna Award Recipients	Year
MS Swaminathan (Father of Green Revolution)	Bharat Ratna Winners 2024
Chaudhary Charan Singh (Former Prime Minister of India)	Bharat Ratna Winners 2024
PV Narasimha Rao (Former Prime Minister of India)	Bharat Ratna Winners 2024
Lal Krishna Advani (Former Minister of Home Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister of India)	Bharat Ratna Winners 2024
Karpoori Thakur (Former Chief Minister) - Bihar	Bharat Ratna Winners 2024
Award not announced	Bharat Ratna Winners 2023
Award not announced	Bharat Ratna Winners 2021
Award not announced	Bharat Ratna Winners 2020
Nanaji Deshmukh (social activist) - Maharashtra	Bharat Ratna Winners 2019
Bhupen Hazarika (playback singer, lyricist, musician, poet, and film-maker) - Assam	
Pranab Mukherjee (politician) - West Bengal	
Atal Bihari Vajpayee (politician) - Madhya Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Award List 2015
Madan Mohan Malaviya (Scholar and educational reformer) - Uttar Pradesh	
Sachin Tendulkar (cricketer) - Maharashtra	Bharat Ratna Winners List 2014
CNR Rao (chemist and professor) - Karnataka	
Bhimsen Joshi (Hindustani classical vocalist) - Karnataka	Bharat Ratna Winners 2009
Bismillah Khan (Hindustani classical shehnai player) - Uttar Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Award List 2001
Lata Mangeshkar (playback singer) - Maharashtra	
Ravi Shankar (sitar player) - Uttar Pradesh	
Gopinath Bordoloi (Independence activist) - Assam	Bharat Ratna Winners List 1999
Amartya Sen (economist) - West Bengal	
Jayaprakash Narayan (Independence activist, social reformer) - Bihar	
Chidambaram Subramaniam (Independence activist) - Tamil Nadu	Bharat Ratna Winners 1998
MS Subbulakshmi (Carnatic classical vocalist) - Tamil Nadu	
A P J Abdul Kalam (Aerospace and defence scientist) - Tamil Nadu	Bharat Ratna Award List 1997
Aruna Asaf Ali (Independence activist) - West Bengal	
Gulzarilal Nanda (Independence activist) - Punjab	
Satyajit Ray (Filmmaker) - West Bengal	Bharat Ratna Winners 1992
JRD Tata (Industrialist) - Maharashtra	
Abdul Kalam Azad (Independence activist) - West Bengal	
Morarji Desai (Independence activist) - Gujarat	Bharat Ratna Winners List 1991
Sadar Vallabhbhai Patel (Independence activist) - Gujarat	
Rajiv Gandhi (politician) - Uttar Pradesh	
Nelson Mandela (anti-apartheid activist) - South Africa	Bharat Ratna Winners 1990
B R Ambedkar (Social reformer) - Maharashtra	

Bharat Ratna Award Recipients	Year
M G Ramachandran (actor turned politician) - Tamil Nadu	Bharat Ratna Winners 1988
Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Independence activist) - Pakistan	Bharat Ratna Award List 1987
Vinoba Bhave (Independence activist, social reformer) - Maharashtra	Bharat Ratna Winners List 1983
Mother Teresa (Catholic nun) - West Bengal	Bharat Ratna Award List 1980
K Kamaraj (politician) - Tamil Nadu	Bharat Ratna winners 1976
V V Giri (Independence activist) - Odisha	Bharat Ratna Award List 1975
Indira Gandhi (politician) - Uttar Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Award List 1971
Lal Bahadur Shastri (Independence activist) - Uttar Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Winners List 1966
Pandurang Vaman Kane (Indologist and Sanskrit scholar) - Maharashtra	Bharat Ratna Winners 1963
Zakir Husain (Independence activist and education philosopher) - Andhra Pradesh	
Rajendra Prasad (Independence activist, lawyer, statesman, and scholar) - Bihar	Bharat Ratna Award List 1962
Purushottam Das Tandon (Independence activist) - Uttar Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Winners 1961
Bidhan Chandra Roy (physician, political leader, philanthropist, educationist, and social worker) - West Bengal	
Dhondo Keshav Karve (Social reformer and educator) - Maharashtra	Bharat Ratna Winners List 1958
Govind Ballabh Pant (Independence activist) - Uttarakhand	Bharat Ratna Award List 1957
Jawahar Lal Nehru (Independence activist and author) - Uttar Pradesh	Bharat Ratna Winners 1955
M Visvesvaraya (Civil engineer, statesman, and Diwan of Mysore) - Karnataka	
Bhagwan Das (Independence activist, philosopher, and educationist) - Uttar Pradesh	
CV Raman (physicist) - Tamil Nadu	Bharat Ratna Award List 1954
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (philosopher and politician) - Tamil Nadu	
C Rajagopalachari (statesman, writer, lawyer, and independence activist) - Tamil Nadu	

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