

Weekly One Liners 01st to 07th of April 2024

Hockey India Awards 2023

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

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

Huge Prize Pool

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

Honoring Past Achievements

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

Notable Awards and Winners

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

Other Award Winners:

- **P.R. Sreejesh** (Goalkeeper of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Harmanpreet Singh** (Defender of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Hardik Singh** (Midfielder of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Abhishek** (Forward of the Year) – ₹5 lakhs
- **Deepika Soreng** (Women's U-21 Player of the Year) – ₹10 lakhs

- **Araijeet Singh Hundal** (Men's U-21 Player of the Year) – ₹10 lakhs
- **Salima Tete** (Player of the Year, Women) – ₹25 lakhs
- **Ashok Kumar** (Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award) – ₹30 lakhs

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

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

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

Youngest Indian Billionaire:

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

Global Wealth and Billionaire Count

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

Countries with the Highest Number of Billionaires

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

Top 10 Billionaires in the World

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

Top 10 Indian Billionaires

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

About Forbes

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

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

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

RBI Repo Rate are as under

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

Key Decisions From April MPC:

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

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

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

World Economic Forum Announces 2024 Young Global Leaders Community

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

Indians Included in the 2024 List

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

1. **Bhumi Pednekar (Art and Culture)** – Bollywood actress known for films like “Dum Laga Ke Haisha”, “Toilet: Ek Prem Katha”, and “Badhaai Do”
2. **Adwaita Nayar (Business)** – Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
3. **Arjun Bhartia (Business)** – Director, Jubilant Group
4. **Priya Aggarwal Hebbar (Business)** – Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited
5. **Sharad Vivek Sagar (Social Entrepreneurs)** – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

About the Young Global Leaders Program

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

The World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum is an international non-profit organization headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. It was established in 1971 by Klaus Schwab with the goal of promoting public-private cooperation to address global issues.

The WEF is known for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, as well as its research and reports, such as the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, and Energy Transition Index.

National Affairs

- The **Indian government** has taken proactive steps to address carbon emissions in the steel industry by establishing a task force to investigate the potential use of biochar. With the steel sector contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, this initiative aims to reduce carbon intensity and promote **sustainability in steel manufacturing processes**. Given its potential significance in reducing carbon emissions within the steel industry, the formation of the 14th Task Force on 'Use of Biochar and Other Relevant Products in Steel Making' was endorsed by the ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government aimed to raise funds through the sale of stakes in state-run companies in the **fiscal year 2023/24**. However, the achieved amount of **165 billion rupees** fell short of the internal target by about **9%**, reaching **\$1.98 billion**. This setback is attributed to the forthcoming general elections, causing a shift in focus away from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's privatization agenda. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On March 29, 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was honoured with the '**Merchant Navy Flag**', pinned on his lapel by Secretary **T.K. Ramachandran** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. This marked the beginning of the **National Maritime Week** celebrations, which span from **March 29 to April 5**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Amidst the growing buzz around **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, the trailer and song launch event for India's first Hindi film on this subject, "**IRAH**," took place in Mumbai. The movie boasts an impressive cast, including **Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandarry** in prominent roles. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's engineering exports soared by **15.9% year over year in February 2024**, marking the third consecutive month of growth and reaching a **record high of \$9.94 billion for the fiscal year 2023–2024**. Notably, this growth surpassed December 2023 figures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One **FASTag**' norm, which aims to prevent the use of a single **FASTag** for multiple vehicles or linking multiple **FASTags** to a particular vehicle. This new norm has come into effect from **April 1, 2024**. NHAI had previously extended the compliance deadline to the end of March, considering the issues faced by **Paytm FASTag** users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare** introduces the **myCGHS app for iOS**, delivering enhanced healthcare accessibility and digital experiences to **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** beneficiaries. **Launched on April 3rd, 2024**, the app prioritizes user safety with robust security measures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India aims to bolster its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**, launched India's first **home-grown gene therapy** for cancer at **IIT Bombay** on April 4, 2024. This groundbreaking treatment, called '**CAR-T cell therapy**', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. **Manmohan Singh**, former **Prime Minister of India**, retire from the **Rajya Sabha**, marking the end of his **three-decade-long tenure** in the **Upper House**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India is embarking on establishing its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30. This initiative aims to allow the operator the liberty to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as **Japan and South Korea**. India's current SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with plans to expand this approach with new SPR projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In line with its ambitions for a sustainable energy future, India aims to ramp up its nuclear power production significantly, targeting a capacity of **1 lakh MW by 2047**. This objective, outlined in a report titled '**Synchronising Energy Transitions Towards Possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and Clean Energy for All**,' highlights the nation's commitment to expanding its nuclear energy sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In response to requests from friendly nations including **Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Bhutan**, the Indian government has granted approval for the export of onions. India, a significant **global exporter of onions**, had enforced a **ban on onion exports in December 2023**, leading to soaring prices in these nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India aims to halt **urea imports by the end of 2025** by boosting domestic production and promoting alternative fertilizers. This is in response to the nation's significant reliance on imports, which currently satisfy around 30% of its annual urea demand. ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- Tamil Nadu Governor **R.N. Ravi** inaugurated the **Param Vir Chakra garden** and **Aikyam exhibition** at the Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram. Ravi was accompanied by **Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar**, **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)**, General Officer Commanding (Dakshin Bharat area), and **V.Shankar**, chairman of the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Trust. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on **women's rights**. The appointment of **Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil** has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Romania and Bulgaria have taken a significant step in their integration with the **European Union by partially joining the Schengen travel zone**. While travelers arriving by air or sea now enjoy ID-check-free access, land border checks persist due to opposition from Austria. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on **March 29th, 2024**. The event served as a platform to assess the accomplishments and insights gained from the year-long celebration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Katchatheevu, an Indian island** with a tumultuous past, has been a focal point of contention between **India and Sri Lanka since its cession in 1974**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the country's **first female Prime Minister**. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of **worsening violence** in the mineral-rich **eastern region** bordering Rwanda. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On **April 1, 2024**, Germany became the largest **European Union (EU)** nation to **legalize recreational cannabis use**, despite facing opposition from politicians and medical associations. Under the new law, **adults over 18** are now permitted to carry up to **25 grams of dried cannabis** and cultivate up to **three marijuana plants** at home. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Scientists in South Korea have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an **"artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor**. During tests conducted between December 2023 and February 2024, they generated **plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius** for a duration of **48 seconds**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, 69**, has commenced his third term as the leader of the nation, extending his tenure until 2030. Amidst battling economic challenges, **Sisi vows to prioritize national interests and fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for a modern, democratic state**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A research center in **Romania has revealed the world's most potent laser**, based on the groundbreaking inventions of **Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland**. The laser, operated by the French company Thales, promises revolutionary applications across sectors from healthcare to space exploration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi**, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa. **President Emmerson Mnangagwa** cited an **"El Nino-induced drought"** causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over **80% of the country**. This drought, exacerbated by climate change, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is marking its **75th anniversary this year**. The alliance, founded in 1949, will hold a special event in Brussels, Belgium to commemorate this milestone. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The Indian and Nepalese governments, along with scholars from both countries, have collaborated to advance **Sanskrit research and education**. This partnership aims to strengthen bilateral relations and preserve the cultural heritage shared by **India and Nepal**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** has collaborated with Panasonic Energy to establish a joint venture aimed at producing lithium-ion cells in India. This strategic partnership comes in response to the anticipated surge in demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage solutions within the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- SJVN, formerly **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam**, has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)** aimed at revolutionizing tunneling project performance through the integration of advanced geological models. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- HDFC Bank, a leading private sector lender in India, is pursuing the sale of its entire stake in **HDFC Education and Development Services**. This move comes as the bank seeks to maintain transparency and regulatory compliance while selecting a buyer through the Swiss challenge method. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the nation's **central banking institution**, is entering its **90th year on April 1st, 2024**. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is attending the event at Mumbai's **National Centre for the Performing Arts**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On March 26, 2024, **Savita Oil Technologies** announced a significant equity transaction via a block deal, wherein the company's promoter, Mr. Gautam N. Mehra, sold a **3% stake to SBI Mutual Fund**. This resulted in a reduction of the promoter group's stake to 59.78%. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In March 2024, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection in India witnessed a notable surge, marking the second-highest since its inception in **July 2017**. The month's collection amounted to **Rs 1.78 lakh crore, reflecting an 11.5% increase** compared to the previous year.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) concluded FY24 on a remarkable note, achieving new milestones in transaction volume and value during March 2024. Despite a slight dip in February 2024 due to fewer days in the month and increased investment activity ahead of the financial year end, transactions worth **₹19.78 lakh crore were processed in March 2024**, marking a significant increase from the previous record of **₹18.41 lakh crore set in January 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- As of **December 2023**, India witnessed a surge in credit card usage, with the total number crossing the **100 million mark**. This trend has been steadily growing over the past few years, fueled by both strategic bank initiatives and evolving consumer spending habits, according to RBI Data([Read Complete Article](#))
- Chhattisgarh-based **Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)**, a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has achieved the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification. This accolade positions BALCO as the inaugural Indian company to attain this certification, reflecting its commitment to sustainable practices in the aluminium value chain. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Karnataka Bank has successfully concluded a **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to raise Rs 600 crore**, adding to its planned capital raise program of **Rs 1,500 crore announced in September 2023**. This strategic move aims to enhance the bank's financial strength, fueling its growth trajectory while ensuring stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is contemplating the establishment of the **Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA)** to combat the proliferation of illegal lending apps. This initiative aims to bolster cybersecurity measures and clamp down on fraudulent activities in the digital lending sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, surpasses Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, to become India's leading cargo-handling major port in the fiscal year 2023-24, handling **145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo, marking a 7.4% growth from the previous year**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- AU Small Finance Bank has merged with Fincare Small Finance Bank, marking a significant consolidation in the banking sector. The **merger, finalized on April 1, 2024**, through an all-stock deal, strengthens AU SFB's presence in South India and enhances its customer base and distribution network. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Technologies and BMW Group have inked a partnership to establish an automotive software and IT development center in Chennai, Pune, and Bengaluru. With Chennai's prominence in housing IT solution hubs for auto giants like Visteon, Ford, and Renault Nissan, the focus here will be on business IT solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, PepsiCo India announces a massive investment of **₹1,266 crore to establish a cutting-edge flavour manufacturing facility in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**. Scheduled to commence operations in the first quarter of 2026, this plant marks a pivotal moment for both PepsiCo and the local economy. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SCORES 2.0**, an upgraded version of its Complaint Redress System (SCORES), to strengthen mechanisms for addressing investor complaints. This enhanced system features automated routing, oversight by designated authorities, and streamlined processes. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The World Bank has revised **India's GDP growth projection for FY25 to 6.6%**, indicating a moderate yet steady growth trajectory. Despite the anticipated slowdown, robust economic activity in India is expected to drive growth in South Asia, outpacing other emerging market and developing economies. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has achieved a significant milestone by **surpassing 10,000 MW** of renewable energy capacity in its operational portfolio. This accomplishment solidifies AGEL's position as the foremost player in India's renewable energy sector. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has granted approval to Axis Bank for its proposed acquisition of a stake in **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** This strategic move aims to bolster Max Life's growth trajectory, fortify its capital base, and enhance solvency margins. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Star Health Insurance, a leading provider of **retail health insurance** in India, has collaborated with PhonePe, a prominent digital payments platform. This partnership aims to make quality health insurance accessible through PhonePe's app, offering the **Star Comprehensive Insurance Policy with monthly and annual payment options.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the second half of 2023, UPI transactions in India witnessed a remarkable surge of 56% year-on-year, outpacing the modest growth of 6% in card transactions, according to a report by payment service provider Worldline. The report reveals that the volume of **UPI transactions soared to 65.77 billion**, marking a substantial increase from **42.09 billion** in the same period. Moreover, transaction value saw a **significant rise of 44%**, reaching **Rs 99.68 trillion** from **Rs 69.36 trillion.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has deferred the implementation of new regulations governing **exchange-traded forex derivatives to May 3.** These regulations, initially set to take effect imminently, aim to ensure participants in the market have genuine foreign-exchange exposure. However, the delay has prompted brokerages to urge clients to close out contracts, anticipating significant changes in market dynamics. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on two financial institutions – **IDFC First Bank and LIC Housing Finance** – for non-compliance with various regulations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- During the **RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** announcement, Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the importance of maintaining moderate inflation to ensure economic stability. The projected **CPI inflation for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) stands at 4.5%**, with fluctuations across quarters. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA)** has appointed a new team of **office-bearers** for the term of **2024-2025**, according to a statement released. **Moushumi Basu**, a professor at the **School of International Studies**, has been appointed as the next **JNUTA president.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Joyshree Das Verma** has taken over as the **41st National President** of the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** for the year **2024-25.** FLO is the **oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber** of South East Asia. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Axis Capital** has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO).** His appointment is waiting for final approval. Mehra will be overseeing both the **investment banking and institutional equities** businesses at Axis Capital. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ms Sheyphali B. Sharan** has assumed charge as the **Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau**, upon the **superannuation (retirement)** of **Shri Manish Desai.** Ms. Sharan is an officer of the **1990 batch of Indian Information Service.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent **industry chamber**, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President.** Nayar has replaced **Ajay Singh**, the Co-Founder of **SpiceJet** airline, whose tenure has ended. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps** on **April 1, 2024.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Santosh Kumar Jha**, an **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS)** officer of the 1992 batch, will assume the role of **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL)** on **April 1, 2024.** ([Read Complete Article](#))

**SEBI GRADE A
2024**
General Stream
Phase I + Phase II

Starts: 29 Mar | 6 am - 10 pm

- **Sandeep Jain**, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of **IIT-Kanpur**, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** for the year 2024-25. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has roped in popular actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The 39-year-old actor features in the ECI's campaign video that urges youngsters to vote in the upcoming elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Group's global **trading and distribution arm, Tata International**, has announced the **appointment of Rajeev Singhal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)**. Singhal's appointment to the **new position is effective from April 1, 2024**. He **succeeds Anand Sen**, who **superannuated (retired) on March 31, 2024**, as per a statement by Tata International. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The World Bank Group** has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel. This panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)**, the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors. In the elections held, Dr. **Meenesh Shah** was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that India's defence exports surged to a record **Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24**, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year. This achievement is attributed to the concerted efforts of both the private sector and **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, supported by policy reforms and initiatives aimed at facilitating ease of doing business. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has commenced a project in Junput village, West Bengal, to establish a test centre for the country's weapon systems. This initiative aims to address the saturation of testing activities at **Odisha's Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR)** by providing an additional operational area. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called '**Agni-Prime**'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Army Medical Corps (AMC)** celebrated its **260th Raising Day on 03rd April 2024**. Raised in the year 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication, and sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of '**Sarve Santu Niramaya**' meaning 'let all be free from disease'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has commenced the induction of the indigenous **Akashteer system**, marking a significant advancement in its air defence capabilities. This automated air defence control and reporting system, developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, aims to integrate the army's air defence units for enhanced operational efficiency. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is showcasing its might and capability to carry out **high-octane operations** during the upcoming '**Gagan Shakti-2024**' exercise "in a realistic environment" from **April 1-10**. The exercise involves **all air force bases and assets** scattered across the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Highlighting the importance of "**collaboration and interoperability**" among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister **Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon** said the trilateral exercise '**Dosti**' will unite the troika to address "**shared maritime security concerns** through collaboration." ([Read Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Professor Meena Charanda**, Principal of **Kalindi College, Delhi University**, has been awarded the prestigious '**International Culture Award**' for the year 2024. Prof. Charanda received this honour in recognition of her remarkable work in the field of **education and social service**. The award ceremony took place on **March 30, 2024**, at the **India International Center**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vineet Jain**, the managing director of the **Times Group**, received the prestigious **Exchange4Media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023** for his significant contributions to **Indian television news**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the **SKOCH ESG Award 2024** in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category. The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. Executive Director of REC Limited, Shri T.S.C. Bosh, received the award in New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Kommuri was felicitated with the Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) title at the **National Fame Awards 2024**, held at The Club in Mumbai. The chief guest of the ceremony was Dia Mirza. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SJVN Limited**, a leading public sector undertaking, has been honored with two prestigious awards at the **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024**. The awards were given by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in recognition of SJVN's remarkable contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR). ([Read Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **19th annual meeting** of the secretaries of the security councils of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member states was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from 2 to 3 April 2024. The Indian delegation was led by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**. He also met **Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, the current Chairman of SCO. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** from April 16 to 18 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**. This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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Ranks and Reports

- The northern Indian state of **Uttar Pradesh** has taken the lead in having the highest number of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified products in the country. With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of **69 GI-tagged products**, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent Lancet study reveals a significant rise in global life expectancy, with **an average increase of 6.2 years between 1990 and 2021**. Notably, India has seen an eight-year increase during this period. The study attributes this rise to declines in deaths from various ailments such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, stroke, and heart disease, although the gains were somewhat offset **by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, the legendary **wicketkeeper-batter**, has etched his name in the history books once again. During an **Indian Premier League (IPL)** match between **Delhi Capitals (DC)** and **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, Dhoni achieved a remarkable feat, becoming the first **wicketkeeper** to record **300 dismissals** in **T20 cricket**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The top-seeded duo of **Rohan Bopanna** from India and **Matthew Ebden** from Australia won the **Men's Doubles Title** at the **Miami Open**, a prestigious **ATP Masters** tennis tournament. In an exciting final, they defeated the second seeds **Ivan Dodig** and **Austin Krajcek** with a score of **6-7(3), 6-3, [10-6]**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Novak Djokovic**, the **24-time Grand Slam champion**, continues to break records on the ATP Tour. As of this week, he begins his **419th week** as the **World No. 1**, extending his huge record. On Sunday, April 9, 2024, Djokovic will surpass **Roger Federer's record** and become the **oldest World No. 1** in ATP Rankings history at the age of **36 years and 321 days**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Maharashtra team** emerged as the undisputed champion at the **56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24**, clinching both the **men's and women's titles**. The championship was held at Delhi's **Karnail Singh Stadium** and the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the latest **FIDE rankings** released by the **world governing body of chess**, India has a **new number 1 chess player** – **Arjun Erigaisi**. With a **standard rating of 2756**, Erigaisi is **ranked ninth in the world**. This is his **debut in the top 10** of the Open standard list. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **IWF World Cup 2024** was held in Phuket, Thailand from **March 31 to April 11, 2024**. The event was organized by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the world governing body for men's and women's weightlifting. 25-year-old Indian weightlifter **Bindyarani Devi** competed in the women's 55kg category and won a bronze medal. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The Union rural development ministry announced the revision of wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on March 27**, following clearance from the Election Commission amidst the ongoing Lok Sabha polls and the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in force. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Delhi High Court** has appointed former judge **Najmi Waziri** to lead a committee focused on safeguarding the forests in the national capital. This decision follows concerns about various government departments not fully cooperating with efforts to protect these vital natural resources. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bilquis Mir**, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the **first woman from India** to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, tech giants Microsoft and OpenAI have revealed plans to construct an unprecedented artificial intelligence supercomputer known as "**Stargate**." This ambitious endeavor, estimated to cost a staggering \$100 billion, represents a significant leap forward in **AI infrastructure and capabilities**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Meta, the parent company of **Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram**, has extended its third-party fact-checking initiative in India by partnering with the **Press Trust of India (PTI)**. This collaboration establishes PTI as a dedicated fact-checking unit within its editorial department, enabling the identification, review, and rating of misinformation across Meta platforms. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- **Utkal Diwas**, also known as **Odisha Day** or **Utkala Dibasa**, is a significant annual **celebration** held in the Indian state of **Odisha**. It is **observed on 1st April** every year to commemorate the **formation of the state of Odisha** on April 1, 1936. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Autism Awareness Day** is on April 2nd every year. It aims to raise awareness and support for people with autism. The **theme** for 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices." A report says around **18 million** people in India have autism. Between 1-1.5% of children aged 2-9 years old are diagnosed with autism. **Boys** are more commonly affected than girls. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian government has declared April 1 to April 7 as **Prevention of Blindness Week**. This week aims to create **awareness** about the importance of taking care of our eyes and getting regular **eye examinations** to prevent eye diseases like **age-related macular degeneration**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The United Nations Observes **International Mine Awareness Day** on 4th April. International Mine Awareness Day is a **day dedicated to raising awareness** about the **serious impact of landmines** and other **explosive remnants of war** on civilians. It also aims to promote the **protection of persons with disabilities** in conflict and peacebuilding settings. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- '**International Conscience Day**' is celebrated every year on **5 April**. This day is celebrated to remind people to introspect, follow their conscience and do the right thing. The theme for the International Day of Conscience in 2024 is '**Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience**'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Maritime Day** is observed annually on **April 5** in India. It is a day dedicated to recognizing the importance of the maritime sector in the country's international trade and economic growth. The theme for National Maritime Day 2024 is "**Navigating the future: safety first!**" ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **April 6th**, the world celebrates the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)**. This day is dedicated to recognizing the positive impact that sports and physical activity can have on people's lives and communities around the globe. The global theme for IDSDP 2024 is "**Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies**". ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Handmade Day** is an annual celebration held on the **first Saturday of April, which this year falls on April 6, 2024**. This day is dedicated to honoring, appreciating, and recognizing the skilled individuals who create handmade goods. The theme for National Handmade Day 2024 is '**Buy a Handmade Product**'. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **National Library Day** is celebrated every year on **April 6th**. On this day, people come together to celebrate the important role that libraries and librarians play in our society. It's a day to reflect on the importance of reading and making books accessible and affordable for everyone. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- Barbara Rush, a **Golden Globe-winning actress**, embarked on her journey in the entertainment industry in the 1950s. Her breakthrough role came in 1954 with the science-fiction film "**It Came from Outer Space**," which earned her the **Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Juan Vicente Pérez** was a man from Venezuela who lived a very, very long life. He was born on **May 27, 1909**, in a town called El Cobre. This means he was alive for 114 years. Now that Pérez has passed away, the title of "world's oldest man" is expected to go to a 112-year-old man from Japan named Gisaburo Sonobe. But this needs to be confirmed by Sonobe's family first. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Veteran Tamil actor **Visheshwara Rao** passed away on April 2 at the age of 64. He died due to complications from cancer, which he had been battling for the last few years. Rao was undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital in Chennai when he breathed his last. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The products are **Matabari pera prasad, Rignai pachara textiles and Risa**. With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Perched atop the picturesque **Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu**, the iconic **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)** recently commemorated a remarkable milestone – its **125th anniversary** of studying the celestial body that sustains life on Earth, the Sun. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant milestone for agricultural recognition, the **indigenous wheat variety** from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as **Kathiya Gehu**, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This is the **first farm produce** from Uttar Pradesh to receive this honor. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **The Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa**, has become the **14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system**. This biometric-enabled system uses facial recognition technology to automate the entry and verification of passengers at various airport checkpoints, making the travel experience more seamless and convenient. The Digi Yatra system is already operational in 13 other Indian airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, among others. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative project involving researchers from Kerala University and various other institutions, a significant archaeological excavation has revealed a **5,200-year-old Harappan settlement at Padta Bet, near Khatiya village in Kachchh district, Gujarat**. Led by assistant professors **Abhayan G.S. and Rajesh S.V. from Kerala University's Department of Archaeology**, the expedition uncovered crucial evidence shedding light on the cultural formation of Early Harappan settlements in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing banking convenience, J&K Bank has teamed up with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch a **Virtual ATM (VATM) facility**. This innovative service enables cardless cash withdrawals for customers through local retailers, particularly benefiting areas like **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh where accessibility to traditional ATMs may be limited**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Chief of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das;
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar;
- Odisha Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik.
- Congo Capital: Kinshasa;
- Congo Official language: French;
- Congo Currency: Congolese Franc.
- President of the Democratic Republic of Congo: Felix Tshisekedi
- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar.
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999;
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.

- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States;
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Founders: United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, India, France, Iran;
- United Nations Secretary general: António Guterres.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France
- UNESCO Founders: India, United States, France, Mexico, China, Brazil, MORE
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General)
- UNESCO Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- WHO Head: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Indian School of Business Founded: 2001
- Indian School of Business Chairperson: Harish Manwani
- Indian School of Business Dean: Madan Pillutla
- Indian School of Business Campus: Urban, 260 acres (105.2 ha)
- Indian School of Business Founders: Rajat Gupta, anil kumar
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;
- European Union Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.
- Rajasthan Capital: Jaipur;
- Rajasthan Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot;
- Rajasthan Governor: Kalraj Mishra.
- Chairperson, Co-founder & COO of MobiKwik: Upasana Taku

