

# Weekly One Liners 22nd to 28th of April 2024

## International Mother Earth Day 2024

On April 22nd, the world will unite to commemorate the 54th **International Mother Earth Day**. This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the critical need to address the mounting environmental challenges threatening our planet, including **rapidly rising pollution levels, deforestation, and global warming**.

### The Origins of Earth Day

The concept of Earth Day originated in 1970, when Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin proposed a nationwide teach-in to raise awareness about **environmental degradation**. Inspired by the widespread student protests against the Vietnam War, Nelson envisioned channeling that energy into a grassroots movement to address the growing ecological crisis.

With the help of Denis Hayes, a young activist, and Pete McCloskey, a Republican Congressman, Nelson's idea gained traction, and on April 22, 1970, **20 million Americans** participated in various events across the country, marking the birth of the modern environmental movement.

### The Theme of Earth Day 2024: "Planet vs. Plastics"

This year's theme, "**Planet vs. Plastics**," aims to shed light on the detrimental effects of **plastic pollution** on human and environmental health. The proliferation of single-use plastics has led to a staggering accumulation of waste, clogging waterways, endangering marine life, and contributing to the global climate crisis.

### The Significance of Earth Day

- Raising Awareness:** Earth Day serves as a powerful platform to educate and engage people on pressing environmental issues, fostering a deeper understanding of our collective impact on the planet.
- Inspiring Action:** Beyond awareness, Earth Day encourages individuals and communities to take tangible steps towards sustainability, such as participating in cleanups, planting trees, and adopting eco-friendly practices in their daily lives.
- Building a Global Movement:** Earth Day unites people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, creating a global network of environmental advocates who collaborate, share ideas, and support one another in their efforts to protect the planet.
- Shifting Mindsets:** By celebrating Earth Day, we are reminded of our intrinsic connection to nature and the importance of respecting and preserving the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

## The Call to Action

As we approach Earth Day 2024, it is crucial that we heed the call to action and actively participate in the global efforts to safeguard our planet. Whether through individual choices, community initiatives, or advocacy for stronger environmental policies, each of us has a role to play in creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

Let us embrace the spirit of International Mother Earth Day and pledge to be responsible stewards of our planet, fostering a harmonious coexistence with nature and ensuring a thriving, resilient Earth for all.

## National Panchayati Raj Day Observed on April 24th every year

**National Panchayati Raj Day** is celebrated annually on **April 24th** to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India. This decentralized form of governance, introduced by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993**, aimed to empower **local self-governing bodies**, known as Gram Panchayats, at the village level.

### The Origins of Panchayati Raj

The concept of Panchayati Raj has its roots in ancient Indian tradition, where village councils, or Panchayats, played a crucial role in local administration. However, it was not until the late 20th century that the system was revived and granted constitutional status.

In 1957, the Balwantrai Mehta Committee was formed to study the process of **democratic decentralization** and recommend measures to revive the Panchayati Raj system. The committee's recommendations led to the establishment of a three-tier system of Panchayats at the village, block, and district levels.

### Significance of Panchayati Raj

The Panchayati Raj system aims to promote **participatory democracy** by involving citizens in decision-making processes that directly impact their communities. It empowers local bodies to plan and implement development programs tailored to their specific needs.

By decentralizing power, the Panchayati Raj system ensures that development initiatives are more inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of rural areas. It also fosters transparency and accountability by bringing governance closer to the people.

### National Panchayati Raj Day 2024: Celebrating Achievements

On **National Panchayati Raj Day 2024**, the nation will celebrate the 31st anniversary of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. While there may not be a specific theme announced, the day will be marked by events and award ceremonies recognizing the outstanding work of Panchayats across the country.

These awards serve as a way to appreciate the efforts of local self-governing bodies in improving the lives of rural households and promoting sustainable development. They also encourage best practices and inspire other Panchayats to strive for excellence.

**Strengthening Local Governance**

As India continues on its path of inclusive growth, the importance of effective local administration cannot be overstated. Panchayati Raj institutions play a crucial role in addressing challenges such as climate change, rural-urban migration, and ensuring equitable development.

On this National Panchayati Raj Day, it is essential to reflect on the successes and challenges faced by Panchayati Raj institutions and explore ways to further **strengthen** and empower them. By doing so, India can build a robust and truly participatory democracy that leaves no one behind.

**The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024 Announced**

The prestigious **2024 Laureus Sports Awards** ceremony, held in Madrid, was a grand celebration of the world's best athletes and their remarkable achievements. The event honored several sporting icons who have left an indelible mark on their respective disciplines.

**Laureus World Sportsman of the Year: Novak Djokovic**

**Novak Djokovic**, the world's top-ranked tennis player, etched his name in the annals of Laureus history by becoming the **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time**. This achievement matched Roger Federer's record for the most decorated male athlete in this category. Djokovic had previously won this coveted award in 2012, 2015, 2016, and 2019.

**Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year: Aitana Bonmatí**

In a historic moment, **Aitana Bonmatí**, a football star from Barcelona and the Spanish national team, became the first footballer to be named the **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year**. Her exceptional skills and sportsmanship on the pitch were celebrated, marking a significant milestone for the sport.

**Comeback of the Year: Simone Biles**

**Simone Biles**, the American artistic gymnast, added another accolade to her impressive collection. With 37 World and Olympic medals, she is now the most decorated gymnast in history. Her remarkable comeback and outstanding contributions to the sport were duly recognized at the awards ceremony.

**Breakthrough of the Year: Jude Bellingham**

**Jude Bellingham**, an English professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Real Madrid and the England national team, was honored for his breakthrough performances. Carlos Alcaraz, a tennis ace and a Real Madrid fan, presented the award to Bellingham, acknowledging his contributions to the sport.

**Sporting Legends Gracing the Ceremony**

The event was graced by sporting legends who presented awards to the winners. **Tom Brady**, a seven-time Super Bowl champion, and **Usain Bolt**, the sprinting GOAT, presented the awards to Djokovic and Bonmatí, respectively, adding to the event's grandeur and significance.

**Other Notable Awards**

- **Team of the Year Award:** Spain Women's Football Team
- **Action Sportsperson of the Year Award:** Arisa Trew
- **Laureus Sport for Good Award:** Fundación Rafa Nadal
- **Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award:** Diede de Groot

**About the Laureus Sports Awards**

The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual event that celebrates remarkable sporting achievements and showcases the initiatives of Laureus Sport for Good. Shortlists for various categories are created through votes from over 1,000 sports media professionals from more than 70 countries, while the International Paralympic Committee shortlists the World Athlete of the Year with a Disability.

The winners in each category are determined by votes from the Laureus World Sports Academy, a unique group of sporting legends. The event provides a platform for supporting Laureus Sport for Good by showcasing the incredible work done to transform young lives worldwide.

The 2024 Laureus Sports Awards ceremony was a fitting tribute to the world's greatest athletes and their achievements, highlighting the values of sportsmanship, perseverance, and excellence that inspire generations.

**National Affairs**

- On the auspicious occasion of **Mahaveer Jayanti**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, **Bhagwan Mahaveer**, whose teachings of **Ahimsa (Non-Violence)**, **Satya (Truthfulness)**, **Asteya (Non-Stealing)**, **Brahmacharya (Chastity)**, and **Aparigraha (Non-attachment)** have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In celebration of **Earth Day**, the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently unveiled **India's largest Climate Clock at its headquarters in New Delhi**. This initiative underscores CSIR's commitment to raising awareness about climate change and its adverse impacts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC)** is an **apex advisory body** on archival matters in India. Established in **1919**, the IHRC serves as a national forum for creators, custodians, and users of records, advising the Government of India on the **management of records** and their use for **historical research**. The IHRC is headed by the **Union Minister of Culture**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India takes a significant step in renewable energy with the inauguration of its first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the **1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri**. Spearheaded by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**, the project aims to produce green hydrogen through renewable energy sources. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's pharmaceutical exports** witnessed robust growth in the **fiscal year 2023-24, reaching \$28 billion, marking a 10% increase compared to the previous fiscal year**. Despite a 3% dip in total exports, the pharmaceutical sector demonstrated resilience and significant expansion. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** announces a significant milestone for **India's Gem and Jewellery (GJ) industry** as it receives **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)** status from the Ministry of Finance. This status, previously denied, now facilitates smoother export-import processes, reduces cargo release times, and lowers bank guarantees by 50%, aiming to enhance ease of doing business. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**States in the News**

- The **34th Seng Khihlang festival**, a revered event for adherents of the **Khasi Indigenous Faith**, recently concluded in **Wahiajer, Meghalaya**. Spanning from **April 19, 2024**, the festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The southern Indian state of **Kerala** is renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, encompassing a diverse array of **religions, landscapes, rituals, and histories**. Amidst this vibrant melting pot, one festival stands out as a true embodiment of Kerala's profound cultural heritage – the **Thrissur Pooram**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In **Manipur, Khongjom Day** is observed on **April 23** to pay homage to the brave souls who fought against the British in the Khongjom Battle during the **Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891**. This day holds great significance in the history of Manipur, as it commemorates the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives to protect their homeland. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**International Affairs**

- In a recent announcement on April 20, 2024, **North Korea revealed the testing of a new anti-aircraft Pyolji-1-2 missile and a super large strategic cruise missile Hwasal-1 Ra-3 warhead in the West Sea of Korea**. These tests, conducted on April 19, 2024, mark a significant escalation in tensions between North Korea, South Korea, and the United States. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mayako Pahichan Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board**, orchestrated the groundbreaking **first International Rainbow Tourism Conference**. This one-day event marks a significant leap forward in fostering diversity and inclusivity within Nepal's tourism industry, positioning the country as a welcoming destination for the sexual minority community in South Asia. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Indonesia's electoral commission** has officially declared **Prabowo Subianto** as the president-elect after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, currently serving as the defense minister, secured 58.6% of the votes, amounting to more than 96 million ballots, which is more than twice the number received by either of his rivals. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the recently released **2024 Special 301 Report by the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR)**, India finds itself on the Priority Watch List for **intellectual property (IP)** protection and enforcement. This decision comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding India's handling of IP security issues. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait announced the launch of the **first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait**, a significant step to deepen ties between the two nations. Initiated by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, the program will air every Sunday on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3, highlighting the bond between India and Kuwait. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, India**, and Starburst Aerospace of France have signed a significant **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** aimed at advancing innovation in aerospace, defence, and homeland security. This collaboration, aligned with the India-France Strategic Partnership, includes the creation of a 100 million euros venture capital fund and export promotion support for Indian startups. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a bid to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India, the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** have joined forces. The partnership aims to provide vocational training to marginalized communities, initially focusing on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Air India** has entered into a **codeshare partnership** with **All Nippon Airways (ANA)**, Japan's largest airline. This agreement, effective from **May 23, 2024**, will allow passengers of both airlines to **combine flights** between India and Japan using a single ticket. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**Books and Authors**

- In a remarkable literary odyssey, **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**, the Governor of Goa, has embarked on a mission to unveil the state's rich natural heritage through a series of captivating books. His latest offering, **"Heavenly Islands of Goa,"** is a testament to his dedication to preserving and promoting the state's lesser-known facets. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a copy of the book **'India's Nuclear Titans,'** edited by **Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua**. The book traces the evolution of India into a nuclear state while highlighting the pivotal roles played by renowned figures like **Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam**, among others. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- In a significant development, provisional figures released by the Ministry of Finance reveal that net direct tax collections for the **Financial Year (FY) 2023-24** have surpassed **Union Budget Estimates by a substantial margin of Rs. 1.35 lakh crore**, marking a remarkable increase of 7.40%. The provisional direct tax collections stand at Rs. 19.58 lakh crore, showcasing a robust growth of 17.70% compared to the preceding FY 2022-23. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, **banker Deepak S Parekh has resigned from his positions as chairman and non-executive director of HDFC Life Insurance**, effective April 18, 2024. Following this, **Keki Mistry**, who has been associated with the company since December 2000, has been unanimously **appointed as the new Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance**. Mistry's extensive experience and leadership within the organization make him a natural choice for this pivotal role. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking collaboration, **Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have unveiled the UPI Switch**, a cutting-edge cloud-based infrastructure designed to revolutionize the landscape of digital payments. This innovative product promises to enhance success rates by 4-5% and handle an impressive **10,000 transactions per second (TPS)**, offering businesses unprecedented efficiency and scalability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, **BharatPe has unveiled BharatPe One**, an innovative all-in-one payment device set to redefine digital transactions. This cutting-edge product integrates POS, QR, and speaker functionalities into a single device, promising unparalleled convenience for merchants and customers alike. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted **in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to function as a **Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007**. This approval, after a year-long process, marks a pivotal moment for PayU's operations in India. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In the **fiscal year 2023-24**, India experienced a significant decline in its **gems and jewellery exports by 14.94%**, amounting to **US\$32.02 billion compared to US\$37.6 billion in the previous year**. The **Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** released provisional data highlighting this downturn. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a **comprehensive master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, which will come into effect from April 24, 2024. These guidelines aim to enhance the regulatory framework for ARCs and ensure their financial stability and effectiveness in resolving distressed assets. **ARCs are required to maintain a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore**, a significant increase from the previous requirement of **Rs 100 crore set on October 11, 2022**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank's shares plummeted by 10%** following punitive measures imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which restrict the bank from onboarding new customers online and issuing fresh credit cards due to **IT system deficiencies in 2022 and 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled regulations under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to facilitate the direct listing of Indian companies on international stock exchanges. These regulations aim to streamline foreign exchange transactions and reporting procedures, offering companies greater flexibility in utilizing funds raised through overseas listings. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics** as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of **environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** assessments in India. This accreditation underscores the growing importance of independent ESG ratings in financial markets, particularly in guiding decision-making for issuers and investors towards sustainable practices. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic collaboration, **NABARD has joined forces with the RBI Innovation Hub** to revolutionize agricultural lending through digitalization. The partnership aims to streamline loan processing and enhance accessibility for farmers across India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- SBI Card has introduced three variants of its **travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES**, catering to diverse travel needs. The variants—**SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES**—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) predicts India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2024-25 to be 7.1%**. Utilizing high-frequency models, NIPFP underscores the government's fiscal consolidation efforts,

emphasizing tax buoyancy and compression of revenue expenditure. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala** has received approval from the government to operate as India's inaugural transshipment port. This designation is significant as it allows cargo to be transferred from large vessels to smaller ones, contributing to India's goal of becoming a manufacturing hub. Presently, a substantial portion of India's transshipment cargo is handled by ports abroad, such as those in Colombo and Singapore. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed Talkcharge Technologies to halt the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or wallets**. This directive follows the RBI's observation of the firm issuing wallets without proper authorization. As a result, Talkcharge must refund the balances held in these wallets to customers by May 17, 2024. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH)**, has achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing the Reserve Bank of India's pilot program on programmable **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**. This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural finance by targeting farmers for carbon credit generation. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- In a strategic move to enhance its brand presence and awareness in the Indian market, French carmaker **Citroen** has engaged cricketing legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador. The Stellantis Group company, which is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market, aims to find a firm footing and strengthen its brand identity through this association. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The United Nations Secretary-General, **António Guterres**, has appointed **Gita Sabharwal** of India as the new **UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia**. Sabharwal assumed her post on Monday, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a historic move, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor **Naima Khatoun** as the first woman **Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**, breaking a century-old glass ceiling. The appointment, seen as part of the BJP government's outreach to Muslim women, comes days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended candidates for the positions of Managing Director (MD) at State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Bank. **Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been proposed for SBI MD, while Asheesh Pandey has been recommended for Indian Bank MD.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Axis Bank's board has approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO for another three years**, effective January 2025, subject to RBI approval. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the re-appointment of **T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term**, effective from May 3, 2024. Sankar, a seasoned central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the RBI, was initially appointed as Deputy Governor on May 3, 2021, for a three-year period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)** has completed the process mandated by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**, the global governing body for the sport. As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an **Athletes Commission** to address the grievances of wrestlers. Subsequently, the newly elected members unanimously chose **Narsingh Yadav as the Chairman of the Athletes Commission.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL)**, a leading provider of agri-solutions, has announced a significant leadership transition. **Arun Alagappan**, the former Executive Vice Chairman, has been appointed and re-designated as the **Executive Chairman** of the company. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Defence News

- The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, '**Poorvi Leher**,' along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India has emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023**, allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia. This significant investment underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, particularly along the **China border post the Ladakh standoff in 2020.** ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a move to honour the **courageous Indian soldiers** who fought valiantly in the **First and Second World Wars**, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an **annual multi-faith event** at the town's **India Gate memorial** this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these **warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent.** ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- **Pavuluri Subba Rao**, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of **Ananth Technologies**, has been conferred with the prestigious '**Aryabhata Award**' by the **Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)**. This honour recognizes Rao's "**tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.**" ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mohammed Salem** is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the **World Press Photo of the Year award.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the esteemed KISS Humanitarian Award 2021** at a ceremony held at his Mumbai residence. The award, initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, recognizes individuals and organizations epitomizing humanitarian efforts globally. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). The **KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award**, while the **Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award.** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a prestigious ceremony held at Mumbai's **Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih**, actor **Randeep Hooda** was bestowed with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to **Indian cinema** and his recent film "**Swatantrya Veer Savarkar**". ([Read Complete Article](#))

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**Summits and Conferences News**

- **India, led by Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran**, advocated for the establishment of a region-specific ocean observation center during the **2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain**. The conference, organized by the **Spanish government and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**, aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** and foster collaboration among stakeholders. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On Earth Day 2024, **Bhutan is spearheading the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference**. **With a goal of mobilizing \$1 billion over a decade**, the conference aims to preserve tiger habitats critical for biodiversity and supporting millions of people. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**Ranks and Reports**

- In its recent report titled **"Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope,"** the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** sheds light on India's demographic landscape. With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally. Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent study conducted by **Australian firm Compare the Market AU has revealed intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility**. According to the study, the **Indian passport ranks as the second cheapest worldwide**, with the UAE passport claiming the top spot for affordability. While the Indian passport offers a cost-effective option in terms of both acquisition cost and yearly expenses, its visa-free access is relatively limited compared to higher-priced passports. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A recent report by the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level**. While **Karnataka and Gujarat maintain strong performances**, states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, necessitating increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization. ([Read Complete Article](#))

**Sports News**

- In a display of sheer dominance, **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull Racing claimed a resounding victory at the long-awaited **Chinese Grand Prix**, extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship. The Dutchman's triumph marked the first Formula One race in China in five years, and he left no room for doubt, leading from start to finish. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy **Dommaraju Gukesh**, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Not only that, but Gukesh is also the first teenager to win the prestigious tournament. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move to strengthen its **international presence**, 'Nandini', the dairy brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has announced its decision to **sponsor** the cricket teams of **Scotland and Ireland** for the upcoming **2024 T20 World Cup**. According to KMF's managing director, **MK Jagadish**, the teams will prominently display the 'Nandini' brand during the matches. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, **World No. 6 Casper Ruud** of Norway defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas** of Greece, clinching the **ATP Barcelona Open 500** singles title. The final scoreline of 7-5, 6-3 marked a significant milestone for Ruud, as he secured the **biggest trophy** of his professional career. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, stands tall as the **highest wicket-taker in IPL history**. With a staggering 200 wickets in 153 matches. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian squash Player, **Saurav Ghosal**, the nation's premier player, has announced his retirement from professional squash. The 37-year-old's decision marks the end of an illustrious career that spanned over two decades, during which he achieved numerous milestones and brought glory to the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Legendary sprinter **Usain Bolt** has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from **June 1 to 29**. The Jamaican icon, known as the fastest man alive, brings his passion for cricket and global appeal to ignite the tournament and propel the sport into new territories. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking announcement, Saudi Arabia's oil behemoth, **Aramco**, and the **international football governing body, FIFA, have joined forces in a strategic global partnership**. The deal, spanning until 2027, designates Aramco as FIFA's Major Worldwide Partner exclusively in the energy sector, encompassing sponsorship rights for marquee events **including the FIFA World Cup 2026 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend **Sana Mir** as the ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier**. Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend **Yuvraj Singh** as an ambassador for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. The announcement comes with just 36 days remaining until the highly anticipated global event for T20 cricket commences. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the **clouded tiger cat (Leopardus pardinoides)**, this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Microsoft Research Asia's AI team has introduced VASA-1**, an innovative AI application showcased in a **recent paper on arXiv**. VASA-1 converts still images into animated representations with synchronized speech or song, exhibiting realistic facial expressions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Himalayan Mountains, known as the "Third Pole" for their vast glaciers**, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Jio, the telecom leader in India**, has outpaced China Mobile to become the **world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption**. With a **subscriber base of 481.8 million, including 108 million on its True5G Standalone network**, Jio's dominance underscores its position in the global telecom market. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **NASA recently launched a groundbreaking space mission from New Zealand**, deploying the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket**. This innovative spacecraft utilizes solar energy for propulsion, marking a significant leap in space exploration technology. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Phi-3-mini marks a significant milestone in AI innovation**, offering unparalleled performance and efficiency. **Microsoft's latest small language model (SLM)** has surpassed benchmarks, demonstrating superiority over models of similar and larger sizes. Leveraged by prominent entities like India's ITC, Phi-3-mini showcases Microsoft's commitment to delivering cutting-edge AI solutions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the latest advancement of China's space program, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a **three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft**. The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Important Days News

- **World Book and Copyright Day** is a special day celebrated every year on **April 23rd**. The main purpose of this day is to promote reading, books, and copyright. On this day, events and activities happening all around the world to honour books and the people who create them – authors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **April 24th**, the world observes the **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace**. This significant occasion seeks to reaffirm the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, particularly the commitment to resolving disputes among nations through **peaceful means**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year, from **April 24 to 30**, the world celebrates **World Immunization Week**. This global campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and its role in protecting individuals, communities, and populations against preventable diseases. Vaccination campaigns have been instrumental in eradicating smallpox and nearly defeating polio, showcasing humanity's remarkable achievements in the field of immunization. The theme for World Immunization Week 2024 is **"Humanly Possible: Immunization for All."** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **April 25**, **World Malaria Day** is observed to raise awareness about the prevention, treatment, and control of malaria, a life-threatening disease caused by mosquito bites. Malaria is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions, but it is preventable with proper precautions and measures. The theme for World Malaria Day 2024, **"Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world,"** aligns with the World Health Day theme, **"My Health, My Right."** ([Read Complete Article](#))



- Every year on the **fourth Thursday of April**, the world celebrates **International Girls in ICT Day**. This important occasion aims to highlight the significance of girls and young women in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and encourage them to pursue education and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This year, International Girls in ICT Day falls on **April 25**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **April 25**, the world celebrates **International Delegate's Day**, recognizing the crucial role of delegates who represent their countries at the United Nations (UN). Without these dedicated individuals, the UN would not exist. This day honours the delegates' commitment to the spirit of multilateralism and their efforts to work together under the UN to solve global problems. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year, on **April 26th**, we observe the **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day**. This day is dedicated to remembering the victims of the **Chernobyl nuclear disaster** and raising awareness about this catastrophic event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Intellectual Property Day** is celebrated annually on **April 26th** by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. This day is dedicated to promoting the role of **intellectual property (IP)** in stimulating **innovation and creativity**. The official theme for **World Intellectual Property Day 2024** is '**IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity**'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is an annual international campaign observed on **April 28th** to promote safe and healthy working conditions for all workers. This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of occupational safety and health and to honour those who have suffered injuries, illnesses, or lost their lives due to work-related accidents or diseases. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **World Veterinary Day (WVD)** is an annual global celebration that honours the invaluable contributions of veterinarians to society. Observed on the **last Saturday of April**, this day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role veterinarians play in maintaining the health and welfare of animals and humans alike. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- The world lost **Sudhir Kakar**, a renowned **writer, cultural critic**, and the "Father of Indian Psychology," who passed away at the age of 85. Kakar's life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of **psychoanalysis in India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The world of Yakshagana, a traditional theatre form of Karnataka, has lost a towering figure. **Subrahmanya Dhareshwar**, a senior and well-known Yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (background singer), passed away in Bengaluru. He was 66 years old. ([Read Complete Article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- **Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed three remarkable sites**, each offering distinct insights into the region's ancient history. Among these discoveries are over 200 megalithic monuments nestled within dense forests, an exceptional Iron Age megalithic site displaying unique architectural styles, and two rock art sites revealing ancient artistic expressions. These findings not only illuminate Telangana's past but also emphasize the necessity for continued exploration and preservation endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Lakshmana Tirtha River, renowned for its scenic beauty in the Kodagu District of Karnataka, has succumbed to severe drought and intense heat**. Originating from the forests in Kutta, it extends about 180 km before merging into the Cauvery River. However, this year, the river has dried up entirely, exacerbating the water crisis in the region. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On a momentous occasion, members of the **Shompen tribe**, one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), exercised their democratic right for the **first time** by casting votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections. This significant event marks a milestone for the indigenous community residing in the dense tropical rainforests of the **Great Nicobar island**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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**Static Takeaways**

- World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Intellectual Property Organization Founded: 14 July 1967;
- World Intellectual Property Organization Head: Daren Tang; Director General.
- ADB Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- ADB Founded: 19 December 1966;
- President of the ADB and the Chairperson of ADB's Board of Directors: Masatsugu Asakawa.
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–);
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994, Mumbai;
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- UGC Founded: November 1956;
- UGC HQ: Delhi.
- 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.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- 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.
- International Narcotics Control Board Headquarters: Vienna International Centre (Vienna, Austria);
- International Narcotics Control Board President: Jallal Toufiq;
- International Narcotics Control Board Founded: 1968.
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble;
- Russia Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin;
- Russia President of Russia: Vladimir Putin.