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Important Days

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<u>4th January</u>	World Braille Day 2024	
<u>9th January</u>	NRI Day 2024 or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2024	Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on January 9, 1915, from South Africa, which gives the ninth of January its significance as NRI Day.
<u>10th January</u>	World Hindi Day 2024	The inaugural World Hindi Conference, or Vishva Hindi Sammelan, was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra, in 1975, which is when World Hindi Day first became a thing.
<u>11th January</u>	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2024	
<u>12th January</u>	National Youth Day 2024	On January 12, 1984, the Indian government declared Swami Vivekananda's birthday as National Youth Day for the first time.
<u>24th January</u>	International Day of Education 2024	The International Day of Education was declared by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 as a way to honor education and to think about how crucial learning is to progress and peace.
<u>24th January</u>	National Girl Child Day 2024	The Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India established National Girl Child Day in 2008, marking the beginning of the day's history.
<u>25th January</u>	National Voters Day 2024	The Election Commission of India (ECI), which was established in 1950, was founded on January 25.
<u>25th January</u>	National Tourism Day 2024	
<u>29th January</u>	Indian Newspaper Day	Indian Newspaper Day commemorates the birth of the first Indian Newspaper on January 29, 1780
<u>30th January</u>	Martyrs Day	
<u>2nd February</u>	World Wetlands Day	The day is celebrated to mark the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
<u>4th February</u>	World Cancer Day	World Cancer Day originated in 2000 at the first World Summit Against Cancer, which was held in Paris.





<u>6th February</u>	Safer Internet Day 2024	
<u>10th February</u>	World Pulses Day 2024	
<u>11th February</u>	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	
<u>12th February</u>	National Productivity Day	
<u>13th February</u>	World Radio Day	World Radio Day was first proposed by Spain in September 2010.
<u>13th February</u>	National Women's Day	Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary
<u>21st February</u>	International Mother Language Day 2024	UNESCO declared February 21st as International Mother Language Day in the year 1999
<u>27th February</u>	World NGO Day	
<u>28th February</u>	National Science Day	The Raman effect was discovered by the Indian scientist Sir C.V. Raman. On this day, Sir C.V. Raman got the Nobel prize for his discovery.
<u>3rd March</u>	World Wildlife Day	The 2024 theme, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".
<u>8th March</u>	International Women's Day	The International Women's Day 2024 theme is "Invest in women: Accelerate progress"
<u>14th March</u>	World Kidney Day	The theme for the 2024 campaign is 'Kidney Health For All.'
<u>20th March</u>	International Day of Happiness	
<u>22nd March</u>	World Water Day	The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place.
<u>23rd March</u>	World Meteorological Day	
<u>24th March</u>	World Tuberculosis Day	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day continues with the theme "Yes! We can end TB"
<u>5th April</u>	National Maritime Day	The 2024 World Maritime Day theme is "Navigating the future: safety first!"





<u>7th April</u>	World Health Day	The theme for World Health Day 2024 is 'My health, my right'. On April 7, 1948 the constitution of the World Health Organisation came into being.
<u>10th April</u>	World Homeopathy Day	The World Homeopathy Day tribute to the father and founder of the Homeopathy system in medicine Dr.Christian Samuel Hahnemann.
<u>18th April</u>	World Heritage Day or International Day for monuments and sites	
<u>21st April</u>	National Civil Service Day	In Vigyan Bhavan, on April 21, 2006. The first National Civil Services Day was observed.
<u>22nd April</u>	World Earth Day	The theme for World Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs Plastics
<u>24th April</u>	National Panchayati Raj Day	The day is held to remember the passing of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution on June 17, 1992, and on April 24, 1993, the law went into force.
<u>25th April</u>	World Malaria Day	
<u>26th April</u>	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme: "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity."
<u>29th April</u>	International Dance Day	The first International Day of Dance was celebrated in 1982.
<u>1st May</u>	International Labour Day	
<u>3rd May</u>	World Press Freedom Day	The Theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis".
<u>11th May</u>	National Technology Day	The first National Technology Day was observed on 11 May 1999
<u>15th May</u>	International Day of Families	The theme for International Day of Families 2024 is "Families and Climate Change."
<u>18th May</u>	International Museum Day	The theme for International Museum Day 2024 is "Museums for Education and Research"
<u>22nd May</u>	International Day For Biological Diversity 2024	This year (2024), the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity is "Be Part of the Plan."
<u>31st May</u>	World No Tobacco Day	The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2024 is "Protecting



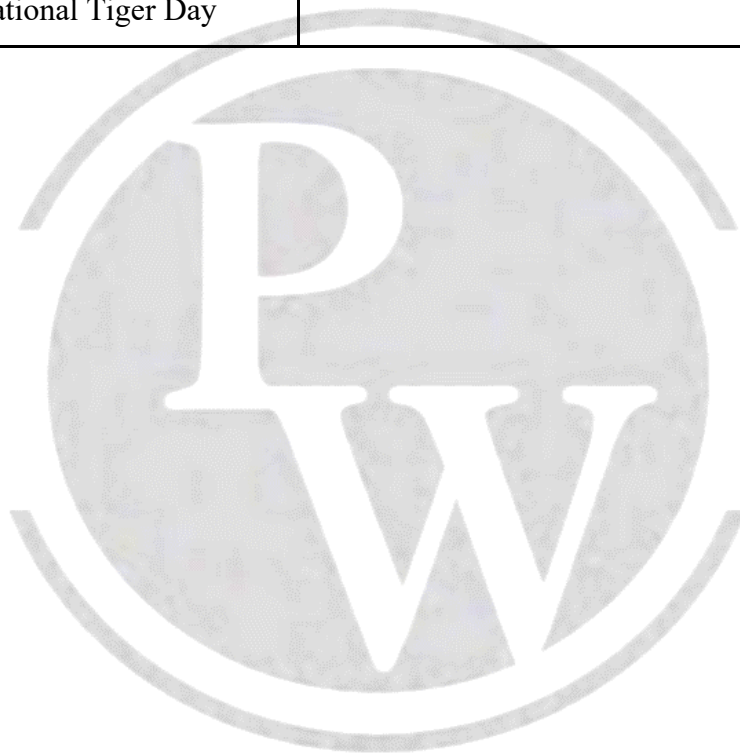


		children from tobacco industry interference"
<u>1st June</u>	World Milk Day	
<u>3rd June</u>	World Bicycle Day	The theme of World Bicycle Day 2024 is "Encouraging good health, fairness, and sustainability through cycling."
<u>5th June</u>	World Environment Day	The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973 with the theme "Only One Earth".
<u>8th June</u>	World Ocean Day	The theme for World Oceans Day 2024 is "Awaken New Depths".
<u>12th June</u>	World Day Against Child Labour	The theme for World Day Against Child Labour 2024 is – Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!
<u>17th June</u>	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	
<u>19th June</u>	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	The theme of 2024 is "Hope Through Progress: Advancing Care Globally."
<u>20th June</u>	World Refugee Day	
<u>21st June</u>	World Hydrography Day	The theme of 2024 is "Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities".
<u>21st June</u>	International Yoga Day	The 2024 theme, "Yoga for Self and Society".
<u>23rd June</u>	International Olympic Day	The theme for Olympic Day 2024 is 'Let's Move and Celebrate', aiming to inspire people worldwide to engage in daily physical activity. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympics, shared his thoughts on his social media handle
<u>30th June</u>	World Asteroid Day	
<u>1st July</u>	National Doctor's Day	National Doctor's Day 2024 in India is themed "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands."
<u>11th July</u>	World Population Day	"Leave no one behind, count everyone" is the theme for World Population Day 2024.
<u>15th July</u>	World Youth Skills Day	The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2024, "Youth Skills for Peace and Development," underscores the crucial role young people play in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.





<u>17th July</u>	World Day for International Justice	The theme for World Day for International Justice 2024 is “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”, which emphasizes the United Nations' recommendations to enhance global solidarity and restore trust in governments.
<u>26th July</u>	Kargil Vijay Divas	
<u>28th July</u>	World Nature Conservation Day	The theme for 2024 is, “Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.”
<u>28th July</u>	World Hepatitis Day	
<u>29th July</u>	International Tiger Day	





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National News

1. PM Modi inaugurated 'India's longest sea bridge' in Mumbai

- ❖ The ambitious Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) infrastructure project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 12.
- ❖ The MTHL project spanned 22 km, making it India's longest and the world's 12th longest sea bridge.
- ❖ The project featured an approximately 22 km long 6-tier (3+3-lane, 2 emergency lane) bridge that connected Shivdi in Mumbai city and Nhava on the mainland. Constructed at a cost of ₹17,843 crore, the six-lane bridge was one of the most expensive projects.
- ❖ The MTHL included interchanges at Sewri in Mumbai and at Shivaji Nagar, Jassi, and Chirle on National Highway 4B on the Navi Mumbai side.

2. VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated Startup Expo in Kathua

- ❖ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Startup Expo in Kathua.
- ❖ Twenty-five startups from Northern States showcased their products at the event. Six women entrepreneurs also participated in the expo.
- ❖ The theme of the expo was "Emerging Startup Trends in North India."
- ❖ According to Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, significant development occurred in the field of startups over the last nine years.
- ❖ The number of startups in the country had grown to over one lakh, up from about 350 in 2014.

3. India is expected to become the largest metallurgical coal importer in the world by 2026.

- ❖ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global metallurgical coal trade was projected to increase by about 2% to 353 million tonnes (MT) by 2026.

- ❖ The increase in India's metallurgical coal imports was anticipated to be driven by growing industrialization, higher steel consumption, and limited availability of coking coal.
- ❖ The IEA predicted that rising imports from other countries would offset a decline in metallurgical coal imports into China by approximately 28 MT, or 28% compared to 2023.
- ❖ The IEA also stated that imports into India were expected to rise by 16 MT (or 21%) by 2026.
- ❖ Additionally, global metallurgical coal imports were expected to have increased by about 11% year-on-year to 352 MT in 2023.

4. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated all-girls Sainik school in Mathura

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first all-girl Sainik School, Samvid Gurukulam, in Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The school is part of an initiative to establish 100 new Sainik Schools in collaboration with NGOs, private entities, and state governments.
- ❖ With around 870 students, the CBSE-affiliated school will provide training by ex-servicemen.
- ❖ The goal is to deliver quality education aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), inspired by institutions like the Royal Indian Military College (RIMC) and Royal Indian Military Schools.

5. Cabinet approves Ayodhya Airport as an International Airport and naming it as "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham"

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the designation of Ayodhya Airport as an international airport, naming it "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham."
- ❖ This upgrade aims to boost Ayodhya's economic potential and attract foreign pilgrims and tourists, highlighting its importance as a global pilgrimage site.





- ❖ The airport's name honors Maharishi Valmiki, the sage who composed the Ramayana, adding cultural significance to its identity.

6. Cabinet approves overarching scheme “PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)” of the Ministry of Earth Sciences

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" scheme by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for 2021-26, with a budget of ₹4,797 crore.
- ❖ This comprehensive scheme includes five sub-schemes: "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)," "Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)," "Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER)," "Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)," and "Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT)."

7. SVAMITVA Scheme wins Best Innovation Award for Innovation Sandbox presentation during Public Policy Dialogues–2024 at Indian School of Business, Hyderabad

- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj presented its “Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance through the SVAMITVA Scheme” at the Innovation Sandbox and won 1st Prize for its efforts.
- ❖ This recognition was awarded during the "Public Policy Dialogues" Conclave organized by the Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, from January 3rd to 5th, 2024.
- ❖ The presentation highlighted how states have digitalized land governance systems with transparency and efficiency.

8. India starts four-year term as UN Statistical Commission member

- ❖ India has begun its four-year term as a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission, having won the election in April after nearly two decades.

- ❖ This period is crucial as the 24-member body will establish new norms for national accounts, impacting India's GDP calculations.
- ❖ The UN Statistical Commission, established in 1947, is the highest global statistical body.
- ❖ India last served as a member in 2004, and the Commission's headquarters is in New York.

9. NSPAAD launches Mobile app ‘Report Fish Disease’ to monitor fish diseases

- ❖ The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) has launched the "Report Fish Disease" mobile app to monitor fish diseases nationwide.
- ❖ This app provides fish farmers with an easy and effective way to report diseases on their farms.
- ❖ The app was developed under the NSPAAD project, led by ICAR-NBFGR, with the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) as a collaborative partner.

10. PM Modi releases first instalment of PM-JANMAN to 1 lakh beneficiaries

- ❖ PM Modi released the first instalment of ₹540 crores to 1 lakh beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).
- ❖ Since its launch in November 2023, the PM-JANMAN scheme, aimed at the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), has sanctioned projects worth over ₹4,700 crore through nine ministries.

11. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches first pilot project to make jet fuel from alcohol in Pune

- ❖ Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first pilot project to produce jet fuel from alcohol in Pune.
- ❖ The project, located at Praj Udyog Group's R&D department in Pirangut Industrial Estate, aims to create sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).
- ❖ The inauguration was attended by Praj President Pramod Chaudhary, along with officials from Indian Oil and other oil companies.





12. IREDA Releases Vigilance Journal 'Pahal'

- ❖ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, launched 'Pahal,' the house journal of its Vigilance Department.
- ❖ The journal was unveiled by IREDA's Chairman & Managing Director, Shri Pradip Kumar Das, on January 25, 2024.
- ❖ IREDA, founded in 1987, is a public sector enterprise that offers financial assistance and services for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

13. Shri Amit Shah launched a book, 'A Promised Nation Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi- the Maker of New India'

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a Braille book titled "A Promised Nation: Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi - the Maker of New India," which details the life and works of PM Modi.
- ❖ Amit Shah highlighted how PM Modi has revived India's civilizational values and cultural ethos over the past decade, awakening the world to India's true essence.
- ❖ This Braille book will enable visually impaired individuals to learn about Modi's life journey and the transformation he has brought to the nation.

14. President Droupadi Murmu presented the Best Electoral Practices Awards for the year 2023 in New Delhi.

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu emphasized the crucial role of the Election Commission of India in upholding democratic diversity.
- ❖ The Election Commission is actively engaging with voters and is celebrating the 14th National Voters' Day with the theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure."
- ❖ The President also presented the Best Electoral Practices Awards for 2023 to state and district officers for exceptional work in areas like IT, security, election management, electoral rolls, and voter awareness.

15. India Launches 'Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality' at Davos World Economic Forum 2024

- ❖ India recently joined the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where the "Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality" was launched.
- ❖ Supported by the WEF and the Indian Government, the Alliance seeks to unite global best practices, encourage knowledge sharing, and attract investments in women's health, education, and enterprise.

16. Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court of India inaugurated by Prime Minister in New Delhi

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ He launched several technology initiatives, including Digital Supreme Court Reports (SCR), Digital Courts 2.0, and a new Supreme Court website.
- ❖ The Digital SCR made all 519 volumes of Supreme Court judgments since 1950, covering over 36,000 cases, available for free in electronic format.
- ❖ The Digital Courts 2.0 application provided electronic court records to district court judges, and the new website enhanced online access to Supreme Court information.

17. India nominates 'Maratha Military Landscapes' for 2024-25 UNESCO World Heritage List

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture announced that India had nominated the 'Maratha Military Landscape' for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle, comprising a total of 12 components.
- ❖ Suvarnadurg Fort was part of this historic 'Maratha Military Landscape.' This nomination represented the extraordinary fortification and military system created by the Maratha rulers, reflecting India's vibrant history.
- ❖ The twelve components included Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort,





Vijay Durg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, as well as Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

18. Indian Institute of Mass Communication declared as a deemed to be University

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Mass Communication, a prominent institution for Journalism and Mass Communication, was declared a deemed-to-be university by the Ministry of Education, based on the advice of the UGC.
- ❖ This declaration applied to IIMC in New Delhi as well as its five regional campuses in Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), Amravati (Maharashtra), Aizawl (Mizoram), Kottayam (Kerala), and Dhenkanal (Odisha).

19. CMFRI to develop lab-grown fish meat for the first time in India

- ❖ An Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute signed a pioneering agreement with a start-up to develop lab-grown fish meat.
- ❖ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi partnered with Neat Meatt Biotech, a start-up focused on cultivated meat.
- ❖ Israel leads the field in this technology, followed by Singapore, the United States, and China.

20. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has laid the foundation stone for the country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy in Hyderabad.

- ❖ Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for India's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India is setting up the museum, which will feature around one lakh ancient inscriptions from various languages and time periods.
- ❖ Last year, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the creation of the Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI), focusing on the digitization of these one lakh ancient inscriptions.

21. The 2024 theme for National Science Day, unveiled by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra

Singh, is "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat."

- ❖ Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the theme for "National Science Day 2024" as "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat" in New Delhi.
- ❖ This theme highlights the goal of fostering public appreciation for science, technology, and innovation, as well as recognizing the achievements of Indian scientists in tackling challenges with domestic technologies for overall well-being.
- ❖ National Science Day, celebrated annually on February 28, honors the discovery of the 'Raman Effect.'

22. India, Turkey, and Qatar were named Guests of Honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit in Dubai.

- ❖ India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been designated as the guests of honour for the 2024 World Governments Summit, scheduled to be held in Dubai from February 12-14.
- ❖ The summit, with the theme 'Shaping Future Governments,' will feature over 25 heads of government and state from around the world.
- ❖ The delegations from Türkiye, India, and Qatar will be led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, respectively.

23. A new portal has been launched by the Union Minister for the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.

- ❖ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala launched an updated portal for the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) and released its Radio Jingle at an event in New Delhi.
- ❖ The AHIDF is a Credit Guarantee Scheme designed to support micro, small, and medium enterprises in the livestock sector without requiring collateral.





- ❖ The government has approved the continuation of the AHIDF with a budget of approximately ₹30,000 crore for another three years, until 2025-26.

24. Gujarat's "Sudarshan Setu," the nation's longest cable-stayed bridge, was opened by Prime Minister Modi.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge, the Sudarshan Setu, in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
- ❖ On the second day of his visit to Gujarat, PM Modi cut the ceremonial ribbon for the 4.77-km-long bridge, also known as the Signature Bridge.
- ❖ Built at a cost of ₹978 crore, it connects Okha town in Devbhumi Dwarka district with Bet Dwarka island in the Gulf of Kutch.

25. Establishing the foundation for sustainable steel production, the Union Minister of Steel inaugurates India's first green hydrogen plant in the stainless steel sector.

- ❖ On March 4, 2024, Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated India's first Green Hydrogen Plant in the stainless steel sector at Jindal Stainless Limited in Hisar.
- ❖ The inauguration was attended by Secretary of the Ministry of Steel, Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited, Shri Abhyuday Jindal, Founder of Hygenco, Shri Amit Bansal, and other officials from the Ministry of Steel.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro rail service in Kolkata.

- ❖ The new metro line, known as the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section, was the country's first transportation tunnel beneath a major river.
- ❖ It passed under the River Hooghly, which separates the cities of Kolkata and Howrah.
- ❖ The Howrah metro station, part of this new line, was noted for being India's deepest metro station.

27. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

- ❖ He also addressed the gathering during the event. The National Creators Award aimed to recognize excellence and impact across various fields, including storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education, and gaming.
- ❖ The award was designed as a launchpad for leveraging creativity to drive positive change.

28. India became the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones by the end of the 2014-2024 decade.

- ❖ According to the India Cellular and Electronics Association, the sector shifted from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to achieving 97 percent self-sufficiency.
- ❖ Only three percent of the mobile phones sold in India were imported. India's mobile phone production approached ₹20 lakh crore during this decade of exceptional growth.
- ❖ The country produced 2.45 billion units of mobile phones over these ten years, slightly short of the goal of 2.5 billion units.

29. Prime Minister Modi launched the PM-SURAJ National Portal.

- ❖ He introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) portal and approved credit assistance for one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities.
- ❖ Additionally, the Prime Minister distributed Ayushman health cards and PPE kits to sewer and septic tank workers under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

30. India will host the ITU's prestigious World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA 2024) from October 15 to 24, 2024.

- ❖ India will host the ITU's prestigious World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA 2024) from October 15 to 24, 2024.





- ❖ The event will be preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS 2024) on October 14, 2024.
- ❖ The eighth edition of the IMC, co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and COAI, will take place concurrently with WTSA 2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized UN agency for information and communication technologies, conducts the WTSA every four years to plan its standardization program. Ashwini Vaishnav will also release new guidelines for the Spectrum Regulatory Sandbox and Wireless Test Zones.

31. India aims to establish its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30, allowing the operator to trade all the stored oil.

- ❖ This approach mirrors the model used by countries like Japan and South Korea, where private lessees, often major oil companies, are permitted to trade the crude.
- ❖ In the initial phase, the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) created an SPR with underground unlined rock caverns for storing 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three sites: Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes) in Andhra Pradesh, and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes) in Karnataka.

32. India Post has opened its third post office in Antarctica, inaugurating the new facility at Bharati Station.

- ❖ Nearly four decades after the establishment of the first post office in 1984 at Dakshin Gangotri, and the second in 1990 at Maitri Station, a new PIN code, MH-1718, has been assigned for mail destined for Antarctica.
- ❖ The opening of this new branch coincided with the 24th Foundation Day of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa.

33. Indian Railways is on track to achieve 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge network by the

end of the fiscal year 2023, making it the world's largest green network.

- ❖ In the 2024-25 interim budget, ₹6,500 crore were allocated for additional electrification projects.
- ❖ Since 2014, over ₹46,425 crore have been invested in electrification efforts, significantly speeding up the shift from diesel to electric locomotives.
- ❖ Currently, 61,813 route kilometers of the broad gauge network, or about 94% of the total, have been electrified.

34. The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated a two-day Homoeopathy Symposium in New Delhi on World Homoeopathy Day, April 10, 2024.

- ❖ Organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, the symposium's theme was "Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency," reflecting its relevance to the 21st century.
- ❖ The focus on research and proficiency is expected to boost the acceptance and popularity of Homoeopathy.

35. For the first time, seven members of the Shompen tribe, a particularly vulnerable group from Great Nicobar Islands, voted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the lone Lok Sabha seat.

- ❖ They cast their votes at polling station 411, named 'Shompen Hut,' and used an interpreter for assistance.
- ❖ The Shompen, with a 2011 census population of 229, also took selfies with an "I vote for sure" cut-out provided by the Election Commission of India.

36. India at World Energy Congress 2024: Power Secretary and Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands inaugurate India Pavilion

- ❖ India is showcasing its innovative technologies and power generation practices at the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam.
- ❖ The India Pavilion highlights India's commitment to environmental conservation and global energy transition.





- ❖ It features contributions from the Ministries of Power, New & Renewable Energy, Coal, and Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- ❖ The Pavilion was inaugurated on April 22, 2024, by Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Power, and Mrs. Reenat Sandhu, Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands.

37. First constitution park was inaugurated in Pune

- ❖ The Constitution Park in Pune, developed by the Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was inaugurated by Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, GOC-in-C of the Southern Command.
- ❖ The park honors the founding leaders of the Indian Constitution and symbolizes unity and commitment to its values.

International News

38. Kyrgyzstan Declared 'Snow Leopard' As National Symbol

- ❖ Kyrgyzstan has designated the snow leopard as its national symbol.
- ❖ The snow leopard represents natural wealth, cultural prosperity, and the health of the mountain ecosystem.
- ❖ The Kyrgyz government will develop a logo, explore its use in various contexts, and define its symbolic meaning.

39. China overtook Japan as the world's biggest vehicle exporter 2023

- ❖ China's leadership in electric vehicles helped it surpass Japan as the world's largest vehicle exporter last year.
- ❖ While Chinese companies like BYD have aggressively pursued EVs, Japanese firms such as Toyota and Nissan have focused more on hybrids.
- ❖ According to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Japanese vehicle exports, including cars, trucks, and buses, increased by 16 percent to 4.42 million units.

40. Malta Joins International Solar Alliance as 119th Member Country

- ❖ Malta has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 119th member.

- ❖ Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary of the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed the ISA Framework Agreement.

41. Sweden officially joins NATO, ending decades of neutrality

- ❖ Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO, ending its long-standing neutrality and non-alignment due to heightened security concerns in Europe following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ President Joe Biden congratulated Sweden on joining the alliance, noting that Russia's actions in Ukraine had strengthened, rather than divided, the alliance.

42. Panama becomes 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance

- ❖ Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming its 97th member.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, announced the news. Panama's dedication to sustainable energy was highlighted when Ambassador Yasiel Burillo presented the Instrument of Ratification to Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) Abhishek during a meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ This action affirms Panama's commitment to working with other nations under the ISA to promote solar energy for a greener future.

43. France inscribes the right to abortion in its constitution as the world marks International Women's Day

- ❖ On International Women's Day (March 8, 2024), France enshrined the right to abortion in its constitution, marking a significant advancement in women's rights.
- ❖ Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti used a historic printing press to formalize the amendment during a public ceremony at Place Vendome.
- ❖ This follows the January 2024 parliamentary approval of the amendment, making abortion a "guaranteed freedom" despite its legality since 1975.





44. Pokhara Set to be Designated as Nepal's Tourism Capital

- ❖ The government of Nepal has officially named Pokhara, in Gandaki province, as the country's tourism capital.
- ❖ The announcement was made at Barahighat near Phewa Lake, recognizing Pokhara's excellence across 20 indicators.
- ❖ During the ceremony, the Pokhara Tourism Council presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister highlighting areas for development.

45. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Rebrands as "UN Trade and Development" to Commemorate Its Anniversary

- ❖ To mark its 60th anniversary, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been rebranded as "UN Trade and Development."
- ❖ This new identity aims to strengthen its impact and advocacy for developing countries, featuring a refreshed visual design to better represent its work and values.

46. World Trade Organization Celebrates 30 Years Since the Historic Marrakesh Agreement

- ❖ The World Trade Organization (WTO) marks the 30th anniversary of the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 countries on April 15, 1994, and leading to the WTO's establishment on January 1, 1995.
- ❖ Over three decades, the WTO has played a key role in expanding global trade, aiming to improve living standards, boost employment, and promote sustainable development through trade.

47. Dubai Plans World's Largest Airport Terminal at Al Maktoum International

- ❖ Dubai has unveiled plans to construct the world's largest airport terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport, aiming to transform the aviation industry and reinforce Dubai's role as a key global transport hub.
- ❖ The project has received approval from Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

48. Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana Added to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register

- ❖ The Ramcharitmanas, Sahrdayaloka-Locana, and Panchatantra have been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, marking a major milestone for India.
- ❖ The 2024 register includes 20 items from the region, with contributions from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan. The decision was made at the MOWCAP General Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on May 7-8.

49. Venezuela Becomes 1st Country to Lose All Glaciers as Last One Downgraded to 'Ice Field'

- ❖ Venezuela has become the first country in modern history to lose all its glaciers.
- ❖ The last glacier on Pico Humboldt, once substantial, has diminished to less than 2 hectares and is now classified as an ice field.
- ❖ The country, which had six glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida mountain range, lost five by 2011.

50. Spain Becomes 99th Member Of International Solar Alliance

- ❖ Spain has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 99th member.
- ❖ The Instrument of Ratification was presented by Ambassador José María Ridao Domínguez to Joint Secretary Abhishek Singh in New Delhi.
- ❖ The ISA was launched jointly by India and France at COP21 in Paris.

51. Russia to Construct Central Asia's First Nuclear Power Plant in Uzbekistan

- ❖ Russia will construct the first nuclear power plant in Central Asia, located in Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev announced this during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ Russia will invest \$400 million in a \$500 million joint fund for the projects in Uzbekistan.





State News

52. Jammu and Kashmir becomes first Union Territory to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has become the first Union Territory to implement the Prime Minister (PM) Vishwakarma Yojana.
- ❖ This scheme, launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), aims to empower and support artisans with collateral-free credit, skill training, modern tools, and market access.
- ❖ It includes certificates and ID cards for recognition, along with basic and advanced training, a daily stipend, and a free toolkit worth ₹15,000.

53. Himachal Pradesh Government Notifies Granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status to Hatti Community

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh (HP) government has granted Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to the Hatti community in Sirmour district's Transgiri area.
- ❖ This move follows protests from the Hatti community over the delay in implementing the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Act, 2023.
- ❖ The Act, passed by Parliament and notified by the President on August 4, 2023, officially recognizes the community as ST.

54. West Bengal Secures Geographical Indication (GI) Tags for Sundarban Honey, Black Nunia Rice, Tangail, Gorod & Kadiyal Sarees

- ❖ West Bengal has received Geographical Indication (GI) tags for five products: Sundarban honey, Black Nunia rice, Tangail sarees, Gorod sarees, and Kadiyal sarees.
- ❖ The GI tags have been added to the national portal. Sundarban honey, collected by the 'Mauli' community from the Sundarban forest and processed by the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited (WBFDC) under the brand "Mouban," is among the newly recognized products.

55. National Youth Festival at Nashik in Maharashtra

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra, and address the nation's youth.
- ❖ National Youth Day, honoring Swami Vivekananda's ideals, will feature road safety awareness events across major cities and 750 district headquarters.
- ❖ This year's festival theme is "MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth."

56. Mayurbhanj's Red Ant Chutney in Odisha Secures Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- ❖ The Similipal kai chutney, prepared with red weaver ants by tribal communities in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, has been granted a geographical identity tag.
- ❖ The Mayurbhanj Kai Society Ltd submitted the application in 2020 for registration under Class 30 of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

57. India's Longest Sea Bridge To Be Inaugurated By PM Modi

- ❖ The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge, is scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Named after the late BJP leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the bridge spans 21.8 km and features six lanes.
- ❖ Built at a cost of ₹18,000 crore, it connects Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava Sheva in Uran taluka, Raigad district.

58. Maharashtra Pench Tiger Reserve becomes India's first Dark Sky Park

- ❖ The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth in Asia.
- ❖ This status is intended to protect the night sky from light pollution, making it an ideal location for astronomy enthusiasts.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) underscores the importance of





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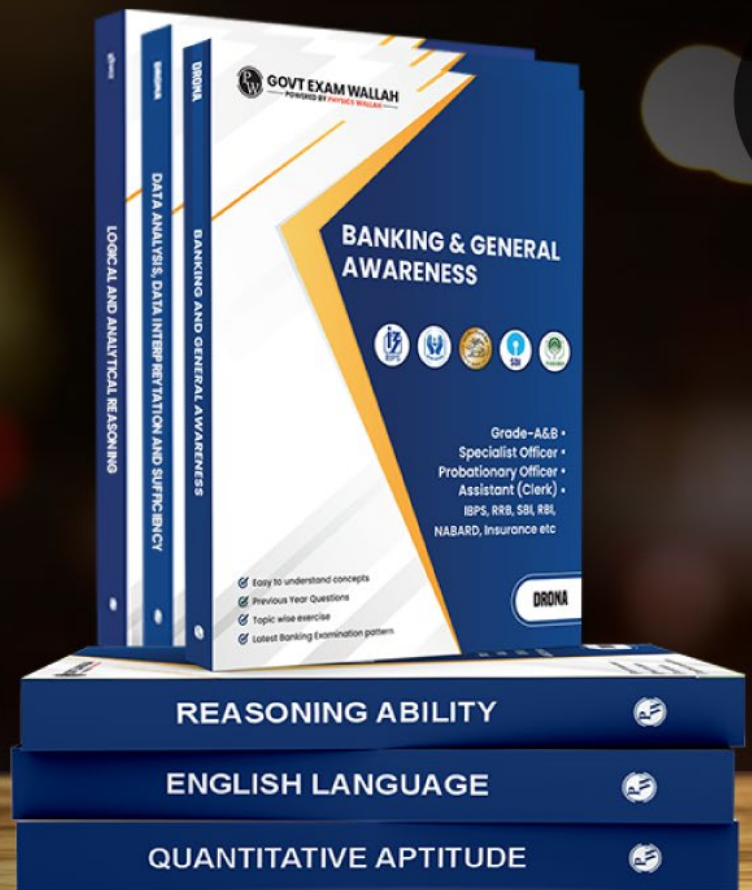
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preserving the night sky as a valuable natural, cultural, and historical resource.

- ❖ The IUCN also stresses the need to maintain natural darkness for conservation, ecological integrity in protected areas, and community well-being, according to Prabhu Nath Shukla, Deputy Director of PTR Maharashtra.

59. Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan unveiled 125-ft statue of Ambedkar in Vijayawada

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled a 125-foot statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Swaraj Maidan.
- ❖ The statue, with a total height of 206 feet including its 81-foot pedestal, was constructed at an estimated cost of ₹404 crore.
- ❖ Named the 'Statue of Social Justice,' it will also lead to the renaming of Swaraj Maidan in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- ❖ The state government has described it as the tallest non-religious statue project in India.

60. 'Gole Mela' Festival at Jagannath Temple, Udhampur, J&K

- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, the 'Gole Mela' festival took place at the Jagannath temple in Udhampur, with many devotees participating.
- ❖ The festival, held twice annually, marks the beginning of longer days and shorter nights.
- ❖ There are two ancient Jagannath temples in India: one in Puri, Odisha, and the other in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir.

61. Uttarakhand Assembly passes UCC Bill; becomes India's 1st state to implement Uniform Civil Code

- ❖ The Uttarakhand state Assembly has enacted the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, making it the first state in post-independence India to implement a UCC.

62. Chhattisgarh BJP Government Introduced Mahatari Vandan Yojana, a Monthly Cash Assistance Scheme - Mahatari Vandan Yojana for Married Women

- ❖ The BJP government in Chhattisgarh launched the Mahatari Vandan Yojana on March 1,

offering ₹12,000 annually to married women in monthly ₹1,000 installments.

- ❖ The scheme aims to enhance women's health, nutrition, empowerment, and economic self-reliance.

63. Maharashtra Government to Launch 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana'

- ❖ The Maharashtra Government introduced the 'Mukhyamantri Vayoshri Yojana' to benefit around 15 lakh seniors with disabilities.
- ❖ Eligible individuals over 65 received ₹3,000, and the scheme, costing about ₹480 crore, was implemented across all districts in Maharashtra.

64. Assam Designates 'Kaji Nemu' Lemon as Official 'State Fruit' to Promote Local Agriculture

- ❖ The Assam government declared 'Kaji Nemu' (Citrus Lemon) as the state fruit.
- ❖ During a Cabinet meeting, 'Kaji Nemu' was approved as the state fruit, highlighting its cultural, traditional, and nutritional importance to the state and its people.
- ❖ The fruit had been recognized with a Geographical Indication (GI) label and was known for its distinctive scent and medicinal properties.

65. Arunachal Pradesh Attains 100% Saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' Scheme, Emerges as 1st State in Northeast India under Jal Jeevan Mission

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh achieved 100% saturation in the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- ❖ It became the first state in the northeast and the 10th in the country to reach complete saturation under the central government-sponsored scheme.
- ❖ The Central government had allocated ₹396,541.22 lakh, while the State government contributed ₹45,551.18 lakh to provide clean and safe piped water to every household in Arunachal Pradesh.

66. Odisha Government Introduces 'Swayam' Scheme, Offering Interest-Free Loans to Youth





- ❖ Odisha Agriculture Minister Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain announced the implementation of the 'Swayam' scheme during a recent cabinet meeting.
- ❖ The scheme aimed to promote self-employment among youth in Odisha by offering interest-free loans of up to ₹1 lakh to eligible individuals in both rural and urban areas.
- ❖ It targeted 1 lakh eligible rural and urban youth aged between 18 and 35 years.

67. Burhanpur, Central India's 'Banana City,' Prepares for Annual Banana Festival

- ❖ The banana city of central India, Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh (MP), organized its annual Banana Festival.
- ❖ The two-day festival was held in collaboration with the district administration and various departments under the one-district one-product programme (ODOP).
- ❖ It served as a platform to showcase Burhanpur's agricultural prowess, inviting companies, experts, and scientists from across the nation to explore investment opportunities in the region.

68. Union Education Minister inaugurates 211 PM SHRI schools in Chhattisgarh

- ❖ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai, inaugurated 211 PM SHRI schools in Raipur.

Regarding PM SHRI:

- ❖ The PM SHRI School was a centrally sponsored scheme initiated by the Government of India.
- ❖ The Cabinet had approved the PM SHRI scheme on September 7, 2022.
- ❖ The aim was to establish over 14,500 PM SHRI Schools, managed by the Central Government, State/UT Governments, local bodies, and also by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).

69. Medaram Jatara, India's Largest Tribal Festival Begins In Telangana

- ❖ Sammakka Saralamma Jathara, also known as Medaram Jathara, was a tribal festival dedicated

to honoring the goddesses in the southern state of Telangana.

- ❖ Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (including Rural Water Supply), Women & Child Welfare, Dansari Anasuya Seethakka, had inaugurated the tribal dance performances in Medaram village.
- ❖ The "Samakka Saralamma Jatara" was expected to attract a record turnout of about 15 million tribals from across the country, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.

70. Madhya Pradesh Launches 'Bagless School' Initiative to Alleviate Student Stress

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government had announced a 'bag less school' day once a week for students in classes 1 to 12, starting from the 2024-25 academic session.
- ❖ This decision applied to all government and private schools in the state.
- ❖ To ease the burden on students, the state government issued a notice specifying the maximum permissible weight of school bags for different classes.

71. Uttar Pradesh Becomes First State to Issue 5 Crore Ayushman Cards under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (UP) became the first state in India to issue 50 million Ayushman cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- ❖ The UP government distributed a total of 50,017,920 Ayushman cards, benefiting 74,382,304 people across the state.

72. Kerala Set to Introduce India's First Government-Owned OTT Platform, CSpace

- ❖ Kerala's Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated CSpace, India's first government-supported OTT platform, at the Kairali Theatre.
- ❖ The platform is designed to provide a combination of informative and entertaining content for the general public.





- ❖ The CSpace app will be available for download on the Play Store and App Store starting March 7, 2024.

73. Kerala Declares Man-Animal Conflict as State-Specific Disaster

- ❖ Kerala became the first state to declare man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster due to increasing animal attack fatalities.
- ❖ Previously, Odisha declared snakebites a disaster in 2015, and Kerala declared Covid a disaster in 2020.

74. Ahmednagar Officially Renamed as 'Ahilyanagar' in Maharashtra

- ❖ The Maharashtra Cabinet approved renaming Ahmednagar district to 'Ahilyanagar' after Queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- ❖ Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had announced this decision in May on her 298th birth anniversary.

75. Uttarakhand Initiates 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Scheme to Tackle Forest Fires

- ❖ The Uttarakhand government launched the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to combat forest fires, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami kicking it off in Rudrapur district.
- ❖ The initiative seeks to engage cooperatives, Yuva Mangal Dal, and Van Panchayat in the effort.

Business News

76. Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal launches e-commerce start-up OppDoor

- ❖ Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has introduced a new B2B e-commerce startup called OppDoor.
- ❖ This platform is designed to assist emerging e-commerce brands in their global expansion efforts.
- ❖ OppDoor functions as a managed services platform that offers comprehensive Amazon services, specifically aimed at expanding private label brands across various international markets.

- ❖ The startup operates under a Singapore-based entity previously known as Three State Ventures, which has now been rebranded as OppDoor.
- ❖ Bansal's venture fund also goes by the name Three State Ventures.

77. Ola founder's Krutrim becomes India's first AI unicorn

- ❖ Krutrim, an AI startup founded by Bhavish Aggarwal, the creator of Ola, announced that it has raised funding that values the company at \$1 billion.
- ❖ Established last year, Krutrim is now the fastest Indian startup to reach unicorn status and the first AI startup from India to achieve this milestone.
- ❖ The \$50 million initial funding round was led by Matrix Partners India, which has previously supported Aggarwal's other ventures, Ola and Ola Electric.
- ❖ Krutrim, whose name means "artificial" in Sanskrit, is developing a large language model trained in both local Indian languages and English.

78. IREDA granted 'Navratna' status

- ❖ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has been granted 'navratna' status by the government, as per a stock exchange filing.
- ❖ This designation raises the total number of navratna public sector enterprises (PSEs) to 17.
- ❖ Navratna PSEs are authorized to invest up to ₹1,000 crore.
- ❖ IREDA, a Non-Banking Financial Institution, focuses on promoting and providing financial support for projects related to new and renewable energy sources.

79. India received the highest FDI from Singapore in 2023-24; Mauritius second biggest investor

- ❖ In 2023-24, Singapore was the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for India, despite a 3.5% overall decline in global capital inflows due to economic uncertainties.





- ❖ FDI from Singapore fell by 31.55% to \$11.77 billion, but it remained the top contributor, a position it has held since 2018-19.
- ❖ Mauritius saw its FDI drop to \$7.97 billion, while the United States became the third-largest investor with \$4.99 billion.
- ❖ Other notable investors included the Netherlands, Japan, the UAE, the UK, Cyprus, Germany, and the Cayman Islands.

80. Visakhapatnam Port Leads in Marine Products Shipments

- ❖ In FY24, Visakhapatnam Port topped the list of Indian ports for marine product shipments, managing 314,199 tonnes with a value of ₹17,983.99 crore (\$2,194 million).

81. Recommendations of the 53rd GST Council Meeting

- ❖ At the 53rd GST Council meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, the following GST rate changes were announced:
- ❖ A 5% IGST will now be uniformly applied to imports of aircraft parts, components, testing equipment, tools, and toolkits, regardless of their HS classification, to boost MRO activities under specific conditions.
- ❖ All milk cans made of steel, iron, or aluminum will be taxed at 12% GST, regardless of their intended use.
- ❖ The GST rate on cartons, boxes, and cases made of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paperboard will be reduced from 18% to 12%.

Banking and Economy

82. RBI Prolongs Payments Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme By 2 Years Till December 2025

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to extend the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) for an additional two years, until December 31, 2025.
- ❖ Launched in 2021 for an initial three-year term (with a possible two-year extension), the scheme aims to boost payment acceptance infrastructure across India.

- ❖ It covers the deployment of physical Point of Sale (PoS) terminals and Quick Response (QR) codes in tier-3 to tier-6 cities, as well as in the North Eastern states and Union Territories, including Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

83. RBI Designates SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

- ❖ Starting April 1, 2025, the State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank, both classified as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs), were required to set aside more capital for their loans due to their growing balance sheets.
- ❖ The central bank had increased the additional Common Equity Tier (CET) 1 requirement for SBI (from bucket 3 to bucket 4) and HDFC Bank (from bucket 1 to bucket 2) to 0.80% (up from 0.60% until March 2025) and 0.40% (up from 0.20%), respectively, as a percentage of their Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs).
- ❖ The additional CET 1 requirement for ICICI Bank remained at 0.20%.
- ❖ SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank continued to be identified as D-SIBs. Within the Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 11.5% for banks, the CET-1 stood at 5.5%.

84. Indian Overseas Bank Introduces Savings Account Portability online scheme

- ❖ Public sector bank Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) introduced the 'Savings Account Portability Online' scheme to simplify the process of transferring savings accounts for customers who moved to different locations.
- ❖ For individuals who had to relocate due to career changes, educational pursuits, or other life transitions, the scheme helped avoid the cumbersome process of moving their bank accounts.

85. Small Finance Banks Launch "Small Banks: Empowering Big Dreams" Initiative

- ❖ While each small finance bank (SFB) had its own tagline to attract customers, they also shared a common tagline—"Small Banks:





Empowering Big Dreams”—to showcase the success of their business model to all stakeholders.

- ❖ Uma Shankar Paliwal, CEO of the Association of Small Finance Banks of India (ASFBI), noted that over the previous seven years, SFBs had demonstrated their effectiveness in meeting the financial needs of marginalized sections of society, which was the purpose for which they were established by the RBI.

86. Fino Payments Bank applies for SFB license after board's agreement

- ❖ During the quarter ended December 31, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India has received one application under the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector dated December 05, 2019 from Fino Payments Bank Limited.
- ❖ Conversion Guidelines for Payments Banks : According to the guidelines, payments banks were allowed to apply for a conversion into SFB post five years of operations along with meeting other guidelines mandated by the RBI.
- ❖ Minimum Capital Requirements : The bank must also have a minimum paid-up voting equity capital or net worth of Rs 200 crore.

87. RBI 'ban' on Paytm Payments Bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India had instructed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) to immediately stop onboarding new clients, based on its authority under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ❖ Following the RBI's circular from August 2023, no deposits, credit transactions, top-ups, or withdrawals were permitted in any customer accounts, prepaid cards, wallets, FASTags, or NCMC cards after February 29, 2024.
- ❖ The RBI had also ordered the payments bank subsidiary of Paytm to cease accepting new deposits in its accounts and popular wallets starting in March.

88. AU Small Finance Bank names former RBI Deputy Guv HR Khan as part-time chairman

- ❖ AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) announced the appointment of Harun Rasid Khan, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as part-time chairman.
- ❖ Raj Vikash Verma completed his tenure on January 29, 2024, and ceased to be part-time chairman and independent director of the bank immediately.
- ❖ Harun Rasid Khan, who was an Independent Director (Non-Executive), assumed the position of Part-Time Chairman of the Bank from January 30, 2024, until the end of his first tenure as Independent Director, which was set to end on December 27, 2024.

89. Karnataka Bank Unveils 'Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank' Campaign to Commemorate Centennial Anniversary

- ❖ Karnataka Bank launched its centenary campaign, 'Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank,' to commemorate its 100 years of service in banking.
- ❖ The campaign, executed jointly by Havas Media India and Havas Worldwide India, highlighted the bank's capacity to adapt to changing times while maintaining its core values.
- ❖ Its goal was to enhance brand awareness, deepen customer connections, and attract new patrons to join its historic legacy.

90. SIDBI Introduces 'Prabhaav' - An Impact Study of the Fund of Funds for Startups

- ❖ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) unveiled the impact assessment report of the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), known as Prabhaav.
- ❖ Shri S. Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI, and Shri S. P. Singh, Chief General Manager of Venture Finance, presented the report to Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance; Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS, Secretary of DPIIT; and Shri Sanjiv, IRS, Joint Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.





- ❖ By November 30, 129 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) had been sanctioned under the FFS across various segments.
- ❖ The scheme had catalyzed investments totaling approximately 4 times the drawn amount, with ₹17,534 crore invested in 938 unique startups.

91. RBI Grants Final Approval for Amazon Pay to Operate as Payment Aggregator

- ❖ Amazon Pay, the financial technology division of e-commerce giant Amazon, secured the esteemed payment aggregator (PA) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marking a significant milestone in its operations.
- ❖ The regulatory approval allowed the payments platform to function as a payment aggregator, enabling it to facilitate e-commerce transactions through its application.
- ❖ The fintech firm joined a list of companies that the central bank had authorized to operate as payment aggregators (PA) in 2023.

92. Securities and Exchange Board of India's T+0 Settlement Plan to Begin on Optional Basis by March 28, Says Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had planned to implement a T+0 (same day) settlement cycle for the cash segment from March 28 on an optional basis, with instantaneous settlement scheduled to be effective from March 2025.
- ❖ T+0 would have meant settlements on the same day, while instant settlement would ensure trades were settled immediately.
- ❖ At that time, the Indian market operated on a T+1 (trade-plus-one-day) settlement cycle, whereas most global markets settled trades on a T+2 basis.

93. LIC, GIC Re, New India Remain Designated Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2023-24, Confirms IRDAI

- ❖ The public sector insurance companies – Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and the New India Assurance Company continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically

Important Insurers (D-SIIs) by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

94. Zimbabwe Introduces New Gold-Backed Currency: ZiG

- ❖ Zimbabwe has launched a new gold-backed currency called ZiG, short for "Zimbabwe Gold", to stabilize its economy.
- ❖ This introduction marks the latest attempt by Zimbabwe to bring stability to its economy, which has faced significant challenges over the past 25 years.

95. HDFC Bank Becomes First Private Lender to Establish Branch on Kavaratti Island

- ❖ HDFC Bank, the largest private sector lender, has opened a branch on Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep.
- ❖ This marks the bank's first entry into the Lakshadweep region as a private sector bank.
- ❖ HDFC Bank aims to cater to the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses across the island, reflecting its commitment to reaching customers wherever they are.
- ❖ The inauguration ceremony was graced by Captain Lovekesh Thakur, Commanding Officer of the Indian Navy, K P Muthukoya, a notable local resident, and various bank officials.

96. State Bank of India Becomes Inaugural Bank to Join International Bullion Exchange as Trading and Clearing Member

- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI), a public sector lender, has become the inaugural trading-cum-clearing member (TCM) at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), which is the nation's first bullion exchange located in GIFT City Gandhinagar.
- ❖ This designation allows SBI's IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) to engage in trading on the IIBX platform.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has recently authorized IBUs to serve as trading members and trading and clearing members at the IIBX as





special category clients (SCCs) for importing gold via the exchange.

- ❖ SBI's involvement is anticipated to enhance trading activity in gold and silver at the IIBX.

97. India 'sees' its 3rd unicorn of 2024 in logistics services platform Porter

- ❖ The logistics services platform Porter, which is homegrown, has probably achieved unicorn status (a valuation of \$1 billion or more) in India for 2024 following a recent internal funding round.
- ❖ This round featured prominent individual investors purchasing shares from the company's employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) pool, pushing its valuation to \$1 billion.
- ❖ Prior to Porter, India welcomed two unicorns in 2024—Ola's Krutrim AI and fintech company Perfios—despite a global economic slowdown.

98. Bank of Maharashtra Leads PSU Lenders in Business Growth for FY24

- ❖ State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) achieved the highest growth rate in total business and deposit mobilization among public sector banks last fiscal year, during a period when many banks struggled to reach double-digit growth.
- ❖ Based in Pune, BoM saw a 15.94% increase in its domestic total business in FY24, surpassing the 13.12% growth reported by State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender.
- ❖ However, SBI's total business, including deposits and advances, was approximately 16.7 times greater at Rs 79,52,784 crore compared to BoM's Rs 4,74,411 crore.
- ❖ Additionally, BoM led in deposit mobilization growth with a 15.66% increase in FY24.

99. Reserve Bank of India Launches PRAVAAH Portal, Retail Direct App, and FinTech Repository for GSecs

- ❖ The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, introduced 3 significant initiatives, namely the PRAVAAH portal, the retail direct mobile app, and a fintech repository.

100. Reserve Bank of India Cancels 1st-Ever 10-Year Green Bond Auction

- ❖ For the first time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the auction of 10-year green bonds due to traders' reluctance to pay the greenium.
- ❖ This move underscores the difficulties in pricing and trading green bonds.
- ❖ Greenium refers to the premium investors are willing to pay for green bonds due to their positive sustainability impact, which results in a lower yield compared to other securities.
- ❖ These bonds are intended to fund environmentally sustainable projects.

101. Reserve Bank of India Annual Report: Nearly 80% of Digital Transactions Conducted via UPI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) annual report reveals that nearly 80% of digital payments in India were made through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the financial year 2024 (FY24).
- ❖ UPI's share of total digital payments grew from 73.4% in FY23 to 79.7% in FY24. In comparison, UPI's share was 36.8% in FY20.
- ❖ The volume of digital transactions in FY24 reached 164.4 billion, marking a 44% increase from the 113.9 billion transactions recorded in FY23.

102. Securities and Exchange Board of India Honoured with 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' Award by The Asian Banker

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been honored with the 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award for the Asia Pacific region by The Asian Banker.
- ❖ This accolade recognizes SEBI's work in improving the regulatory framework for India's securities markets.
- ❖ SEBI's Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney accepted the award at a ceremony in Hong Kong.
- ❖ Notably, in 2021, India began implementing the T+1 settlement system in phases, which was fully operational by January 2023.





103. Reserve Bank of India Announces Launch of 3rd Global Hackathon – HaRBInger 2024

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is hosting its third global hackathon, titled 'HaRBInger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation'.
- ❖ This year's hackathon will address two main themes: 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly'.
- ❖ The first two editions took place in 2022 and 2023. The inaugural edition, "HARBINGER 2021 - Innovation for Transformation", focused on 'Smarter Digital Payments', while the second edition, "HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation", launched on February 14, 2023, concentrated on 'Inclusive Digital Services'.

104. Reserve Bank of India Receives Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024 from London-based Central Banking

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has won the Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024 from Central Banking, London, for enhancing its risk culture and introducing a new enterprise-wide risk management (ERM) framework.
- ❖ Executive Director Shri Manoranjan Mishra accepted the award. Implementing the ERM framework was notably challenging due to the RBI's large workforce of over 12,000 employees.

105. Reserve Bank of India Introduces SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the Government of India's approval, has introduced a revised currency swap framework for SAARC countries for 2024-2027.
- ❖ This includes a new INR Swap Window offering various concessions, with a total support corpus of ₹250 billion.
- ❖ SAARC comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Award and Honour

106. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023.
- ❖ Odisha Mining Corporate Limited won in the 'Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility' category, while Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, was recognized for nurturing young talent.
- ❖ The awards will be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 9th of this month.
- ❖ The award honors organizations and individuals for their contributions to sports promotion and development.

107. Delhi and Bengaluru jointly clinch 'Best Airport' award

- ❖ Bangalore and Delhi airports have jointly received the Best Airport award at the 4th Wings India Awards in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- ❖ The award was presented by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia at a ceremony held in Hyderabad.

108. The tableau presented by the Ministry of Culture has won the first prize at the Republic Day Parade of 2024.

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture's tableau won first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024.
- ❖ Combining tradition with innovation, the tableau impressed audiences with its masterful use of the anamorphic technique and a vibrant portrayal of Bharat's cultural heritage, often celebrated as the mother of democracy.

109. Padma Awards 2024: India's second-highest civilian honour

- ❖ The Union government has announced the Padma Awards 2024, the nation's second-highest civilian honors.
- ❖ These prestigious awards, granted by the Government of India, celebrate exceptional contributions across various fields.
- ❖ They are awarded in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (for distinguished



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service of higher order), and Padma Shri (for distinguished service).

- ❖ The awards recognize achievements in any field or discipline involving public service and are given based on recommendations from the Padma Awards Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister each year.

110. Former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur to be awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously

- ❖ Rashtrapati Bhavan has announced that prominent socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur will be posthumously honored with the Bharat Ratna.
- ❖ He will be the 49th recipient of this highest civilian award and the 15th to receive it posthumously.
- ❖ The announcement comes a day before his 100th birth anniversary.

111. Names of 'Indira' and 'Nargis' Dropped From National Film Awards

- ❖ The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director' and the 'Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration' have been renamed following recommendations from the Committee for Rationalisation of Film Awards.
- ❖ The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director' will now simply be called the 'Best Debut Film of a Director', with the prize money increased to Rs 3 lakh.
- ❖ Additionally, this award will be combined with the 'Best Film on Social Issues' and 'Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation', with each now offering Rs 2 lakh to both the director and producer.
- ❖ The Dadasaheb Phalke Award's prize has also been raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

112. Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain Bag Best Global Music Album Grammy Awards for 'This Moment'

- ❖ Renowned Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band, Shakti, won a prestigious Grammy Award in the

Best Global Music Album category for their latest album, *This Moment*.

- ❖ Additionally, Zakir Hussain earned another Grammy in the Best Global Music Performance category for his work on *Pashto*, alongside Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia.
- ❖ The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 are taking place at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

113. Shashi Tharoor conferred France's highest civilian honour

- ❖ Shashi Tharoor has been awarded France's highest civilian honor, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.
- ❖ Although he received the award in August 2022, the formal presentation occurred on February 20, 2024.
- ❖ Tharoor, who currently serves as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, was previously recognized by the World Economic Forum as a "Global Leader of Tomorrow."

114. Indira Gandhi, Nargis Dutt's names dropped from National Film Awards categories

- ❖ The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has removed the names of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and late actor Nargis Dutt from the National Film Awards.
- ❖ The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director' will now be known as the 'Best Debut Film of a Director'.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi's name was associated with the award starting in 1980, during the 28th National Film Awards.
- ❖ Additionally, the 'Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration' will be renamed the 'Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values'.
- ❖ These awards, first presented in 1954 by the Government of India, aim to honor films made across India and promote Indian art and culture.

115. Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024





- ❖ Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana secured the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival 2024, while Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan won the second and third prizes, respectively.
- ❖ Eighty-seven State-level winners gathered in New Delhi for the finals of the Youth Parliament.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla highlighted the crucial role of youth in India's journey towards becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, emphasizing their innovative thinking, creativity, and work ethic. He underscored India's potential to lead globally.

116. Oscars 2024: The complete list of winners at the 96th Academy Awards

- ❖ The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, was held on March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles.
- ❖ The event saw the presentation of Academy Awards in 23 categories, celebrating films released in 2023.

117. T M Krishna conferred the Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- ❖ Renowned Carnatic vocalist and Magsaysay award recipient T.M. Krishna has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Music Academy for 2024.
- ❖ N. Murali, President of the Music Academy, informed Mr. Krishna of the honor while he was performing with his wife Sangeetha and students at the St. Thyagaraja memorial in Thiruvaiyaru.
- ❖ The Sangita Kala Acharya awards will be given to mridangam player Parasala Ravi (V. Raveendran Nair) and vocalist Geetha Raja.

118. Renowned Poet Prabha Varma Selected For Saraswati Samman For The Year 2023

- ❖ Esteemed poet Prabha Varma has been awarded the Saraswati Samman for 2023 for his contributions to Malayalam literature.

- ❖ He received the honor for his poetry collection *Roudra Sathwikam* and for his overall literary work from 2013 to 2022. *Roudra Sathwikam*, a significant Malayalam poetic work by Varma, was published in 2022.

119. IndiGo awarded 'Airline of the year' at Air Transport Awards 2024

- ❖ Budget airline IndiGo was honored as the 'Airline of the Year' at the Air Transport Awards 2024, held in Athens, Greece.
- ❖ Recently, IndiGo achieved a milestone as India's first carrier to operate 2,000 daily flights and transport 100 million passengers in a year.
- ❖ The 2024 Air Transport Awards, organized in collaboration with Hermes – Air Transport Organisation and ATN – Air Transport News, celebrate achievements in the aviation sector.
- ❖ Winners are selected based on votes from Air Transport News readers and a panel of international aviation experts.

120. Michel Talagrand awarded the 2024 Abel Prize

- ❖ The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has chosen Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris to receive the Abel Prize for 2024.
- ❖ Talagrand is recognized for his contributions to probability theory and stochastic processes.
- ❖ The Abel Prize, established in 2003 and modeled after the Nobel Prizes—which do not include a category for mathematics—honors outstanding achievements in mathematics.

121. Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- ❖ Palestinian journalists covering the Gaza conflict have been awarded the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, as recommended by an international jury of media professionals.
- ❖ The ongoing Gaza conflict has severely impacted journalists, with UNESCO condemning the deaths of 26 journalists and





media workers since October 7, 2023, based on reports from its international NGO partners.

122. Chhattisgarh Activist Alok Shukla to Receive Goldman Prize for Leading Hasdeo Arand Movement

- ❖ Alok Shukla, convener of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA), is set to receive the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize, often referred to as the Green Nobel.
- ❖ He is recognized for his efforts to safeguard Hasdeo Arand, one of India's largest continuous forest areas, covering 170,000 hectares and containing 23 coal blocks.
- ❖ Shukla spearheaded a successful community campaign that protected 445,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests from 21 proposed coal mines in Chhattisgarh.

123. Pulitzer 2024 winners announced

- ❖ The Pulitzer Prizes, overseen by Columbia University in New York, attracted significant attention this year (2024) amidst student protests against the Gaza conflict.
- ❖ The Pulitzer board awarded honors recognizing outstanding journalism and literary achievements.
- ❖ This year's winners include The New York Times and ProPublica, as well as authors such as Jayne Anne Phillips and Jonathan Eig.

124. Assam's Purnima Devi Barman Receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

- ❖ Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, received the prestigious Whitley Gold Award, worth GBP 1,00,000, from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) at an awards ceremony held by the Royal Geographical Society in London.
- ❖ This award recognizes grassroots conservation leaders from around the globe.
- ❖ Dr. Barman was honored for her dedicated efforts in conserving the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat.
- ❖ Additionally, the Whitley Awards acknowledged six other grassroots conservationists from Guyana, Papua New

Guinea, Bhutan, Cameroon, Nepal, and Brazil for their innovative, locally-driven solutions to the global biodiversity and climate challenges.

125. India to host 'Bharat Parv' at 77th Cannes Film Festival

- ❖ India is set to host a 'Bharat Parv' at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, offering a platform for eminent dignitaries and delegates from around the world to explore the diverse creative opportunities in the country.
- ❖ This will mark the first time India hosts a "Bharat Parv" at the Cannes Film Festival, engaging with international film celebrities, filmmakers, directors, producers, buyers, and sales agents.
- ❖ During the event, the official poster and trailer for the 55th India International Film Festival, scheduled to take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, will also be unveiled.

126. Pawan Sindhi Honoured With Global Pride Of Sindhi Award 2024

- ❖ Pawan Sindhi was honored with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 during a ceremony attended by distinguished saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus.
- ❖ The event recognized Mr. Sindhi's exceptional contributions to society and his dedication to serving humanity.
- ❖ The Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 is a fitting recognition of Pawan Sindhi's significant efforts to make a positive difference in society.

127. NIMHANS Receives WHO Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion 2024

- ❖ The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, India's leading mental health institution, has been awarded the prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ This award recognizes the outstanding contributions made by individuals, institutions, and organizations to the field of health promotion. Vinod Ganatra Receives Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award





- ❖ Vinod Ganatra, a renowned children's filmmaker from India, has been honored with South Africa's esteemed 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' for his significant contributions to children's cinema.
- ❖ He received this award at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival, becoming the first Indian to be bestowed with this distinguished honor.

Appointment and Resignations

128. HDFC Bank Board Grants 3-Year Extension to Atanu Chakraborty as Chairman

- ❖ HDFC Bank, the country's largest private sector lender, has approved a three-year extension for Atanu Chakraborty as non-executive chairman.
- ❖ The board has recommended his reappointment as part-time non-executive chairman and independent director of the bank to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a second term, spanning from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027.

129. Power Grid Appoints Ravindra Kumar Tyagi as New Managing Director

- ❖ Ravindra Kumar Tyagi has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID).
- ❖ Prior to this, he was serving as Director (Operations) of the company.

130. Former Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya was appointed as head of the 16th Finance Commission

- ❖ Arvind Panagariya, the former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, has been appointed as the head of the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been designated as the commission's secretary.
- ❖ The chairman and other members of the 16th Finance Commission will serve from the date they assume office until the submission of the report or October 31, 2025, whichever comes first.
- ❖ The commission's report, which will cover a five-year period starting from April 1, 2026, is expected to be submitted by October 31, 2025.

131. Senior IAS officer Vikas Sheel appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank

- ❖ The government has appointed senior bureaucrat Vikas Sheel as the Executive Director (ED) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ His appointment as ED of ADB is for a three-year term, starting from the date he assumes office.
- ❖ Sheel, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Chhattisgarh cadre, is currently serving as Additional Secretary and Mission Director for the Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

132. Canara Bank's Chief General Manager, P Santhosh, appointed as MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, Natarajan Sundar resigns as MD

- ❖ P Santhosh, Chief General Manager at Canara Bank, has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).
- ❖ Natarajan Sundar, the former MD and CEO of NARCL, has stepped down from his position.
- ❖ Natarajan Sundar is the second senior executive in NARCL's top management to resign before completing their tenure.
- ❖ In August 2023, Karnam Sekar, the chairman of NARCL, also resigned before the end of his term without providing a reason.

133. Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi Assumes Role as the New Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

- ❖ Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has assumed the position of Vice Chief of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ He succeeds Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, who has taken over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

134. Senthil Pandian C to be India's next ambassador to WTO

- ❖ India has recently appointed Senthil Pandian C as its Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO), representing a notable





advancement in the country's global trade representation.

- ❖ Senthil Pandian C, a seasoned diplomat with a strong track record, is set to assume his role at a critical juncture as international trade dynamics are rapidly changing.

135. Raghuram Iyer appointed as Chief Executive Officer by Indian Olympic Association

- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed Raghuram Iyer, former official of the Indian Premier League team Rajasthan Royals, as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a year after the position was initially due to be filled and following repeated reminders from the IOC.
- ❖ Iyer's appointment comes after a thorough selection process conducted by the nomination committee.
- ❖ Prior to Iyer's appointment, Kalyan Chaubey, joint secretary and president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), had been performing the duties of the CEO.

136. Nadia Calviño Becomes the First Female President of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

- ❖ Nadia Calviño has taken on the role of President of the European Investment Bank (EIB).
- ❖ She succeeds Werner Hoyer, who had served as president since 2012.
- ❖ As the 8th president of the European Union (EU) bank, Calviño is both the first woman and the first Spaniard to lead the institution.

137. Indra Mani Pandey Assumes Role as Secretary General of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

- ❖ Indra Mani Pandey, a seasoned diplomat and a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has assumed the role of Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- ❖ Pandey is the 4th Secretary General of BIMSTEC and will serve at its secretariat in Dhaka.

- ❖ He succeeds Tenzin Lekfel of Bhutan and will hold the position for a three-year term.

138. Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed chief of Sashastra Seema Bal

- ❖ Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed as the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- ❖ Chaudhary, a 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, currently serves as the Special Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as DG of SSB, with a term extending until November 30, 2025, the date of his retirement.
- ❖ The SSB is responsible for guarding India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- ❖ The position had been vacant since Rashmi Shukla's repatriation to her cadre state of Maharashtra earlier this month. Shukla is now the Director General of Police (DGP) for Maharashtra.

139. PepsiCo India appoints Jagrut Kotecha as new CEO

- ❖ PepsiCo India has announced a leadership change, appointing Jagrut Kotecha as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Kotecha, who is currently the Chief Commercial Officer for PepsiCo Africa, Middle-East, and South Africa (AMESA), will take on this role.
- ❖ This appointment follows the transition of the previous CEO, Ahmed El Sheikh, who has been assigned to oversee PepsiCo's Middle East operations after a seven-year tenure with the India team.
- ❖ Eugene Willemsen, CEO of PepsiCo (Africa, Middle East & South Asia), emphasized the significance of India in PepsiCo's global strategy.
- ❖ For the financial year ending March 31, 2023, PepsiCo India Holdings reported a 28.47% increase in consolidated revenue, reaching Rs 8,127.07 crore.
- ❖ Kotecha has been with PepsiCo since 1994.





140. Anil Kumar Lohati appointed as new TRAI chairman

- ❖ The government has appointed Anil Kumar Lohati, the former chairman and chief executive officer of the Railway Board, as the new chairperson of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).
- ❖ The position had been vacant since the end of the two-year term of former chairman PD Vaghela in September of the previous year.
- ❖ Meenakshi Gupta, a Trai member, served as the interim chairperson in the meantime.
- ❖ Other candidates considered for the role included former power secretary Sanjiv Sahai, former Department of Telecommunications (DoT) technology member A K Tiwari, and former Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney.

141. Sudhir Sekhri Takes Over As The New Chairman Of Aepec

- ❖ Shri Sudhir Sekhri, a veteran in the apparel industry, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).
- ❖ With over forty years of experience in readymade garment manufacturing, Sekhri is currently the Managing Partner of Trendsetter International.
- ❖ He expressed his commitment to achieving the target of 40 billion USD in RMG exports by 2030, stating that he will take all necessary steps to reach this goal.

142. Sultan Ibrahim Officially Assumes Role as Malaysia's 17th King

- ❖ Sultan Ibrahim Officially Assumes Role as Malaysia's 17th King
- ❖ Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, a wealthy figure from Johor, has been inaugurated as Malaysia's 17th king.
- ❖ He succeeds Al-Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who will return to lead his home state of Pahang after completing his five-year term as king.

143. IRS Officer Narendra Kumar Yadav Named Brand Ambassador for Fit India Movement

- ❖ Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Narendra Kumar Yadav, currently serving as Additional Director of Goods and Service Tax (GST), has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for The Fit India Movement, a flagship initiative by the Government of India.
- ❖ As one of the youngest IRS officers, Yadav is the first civil servant to be selected as the brand ambassador for the Fit India Movement.

144. National Payments Corporation of India Names Ajay Kumar Choudhary as Non-Executive Chairman of Board

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary as the non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a three-year term beginning February 8, 2024.
- ❖ Choudhary will succeed Biswamohan Mahapatra, who has served as non-executive chairman since 2018.

145. Olzhas Bektenov Assumes Role as Kazakhstan's Prime Minister

- ❖ Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has issued a decree appointing Olzhas Bektenov as the new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.
- ❖ At 43 years old, Bektenov succeeds Alikhan Smailov and becomes the youngest Prime Minister in the history of Kazakhstan.

146. Pradeep Kumar Sinha Appointed as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank

- ❖ Pradeep Kumar Sinha is poised to become the Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank, succeeding G. C. Chaturvedi, whose term is ending. Sinha's appointment will begin on July 1, 2024, or upon approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), whichever is later, ensuring a seamless leadership transition.
- ❖ He will hold this position until February 16, 2029, addressing the vacancy left by Chaturvedi's retirement and emphasizing long-term leadership stability.





147. India-born Economist Geeta Batra Appointed as World Bank's Global Environment Facility's First Female Director

- ❖ Geeta Batra, a prominent economist from New Delhi, India, has been appointed as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- ❖ She is the first woman from a developing country to achieve this role.
- ❖ Her nomination was unanimously approved during the 66th GEF Council Meeting held in Washington on February 9, 2024.
- ❖ Batra currently holds the position of Chief Evaluator and Deputy Director for Evaluation at the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office, which is associated with the World Bank.

148. President Murmu appoints former SC judge Justice AM Khanwilkar as Chairperson of Lokpal

- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge A M Khanwilkar has been appointed as the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, nearly two years after the position became vacant.
- ❖ The Lokpal has been operating without a regular chief since Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose's term ended on May 27, 2022.
- ❖ Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, a judicial member of the Lokpal, has been serving as the acting chairperson in the interim.

149. Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma steps down from Paytm Payments Bank board

- ❖ Vijay Shekhar Sharma, CEO of Paytm and a nominee of One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), has stepped down from his roles as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL).
- ❖ His resignation has enabled a restructuring of the PPBL board and its composition.

150. Shehbaz Sharif was sworn in as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan

- ❖ Shehbaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has been re-elected as Pakistan's 24th Prime Minister by the

National Assembly, under Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

- ❖ At 72, Sharif returns for a second term after previously serving from April 2022 to August 2023.
- ❖ He was the consensus choice of both PML-N and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

151. Former Life Insurance Corporation Chief MR Kumar Appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Bank of India

- ❖ Bank of India (BoI) has appointed MR Kumar, former chairman of LIC, as its non-executive chairman.
- ❖ Rajiv Mishra has been named as an executive director.
- ❖ Kumar, who led LIC from 2019 to March 2023, also chaired the Council of Insurance Ombudsman.

152. Nayab Singh Saini Sworn in as Haryana Chief Minister from Bharatiya Janata Party; 5 Others Take Oath as Ministers

- ❖ Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana BJP chief and OBC leader, has been sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Haryana, replacing Manohar Lal Khattar.
- ❖ His new cabinet includes MLAs Kanwar Pal Gujjar, Jai Parkash Dalal, Moolchand Sharma, Banwari Lal, and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh.
- ❖ The oath-taking ceremony was held at Raj Bhavan, with Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administering the oaths.

153. Kishor Makwana Takes Office as Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- ❖ Shri Kishor Makwana has taken over as Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and Shri Luv Kush Kumar has assumed the role of Member.
- ❖ Makwana previously served as a joint spokesperson for the Gujarat BJP.

154. Shri AS Rajeev appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commissioner





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- ❖ Shri AS Rajeev has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) by the President of India, with his appointment taking effect from February 9, 2024.
- ❖ He was sworn in on March 11, 2024.
- ❖ Rajeev is a career banker with over 38 years of experience across Syndicate Bank, Indian Bank, Vijaya Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra.

155. Rajendra Prasad Goyal Takes on Additional Responsibility as Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC

- ❖ Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance) at NHPC, has taken on the additional role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited.
- ❖ Goyal joined NHPC on November 18, 1988, and is also a member of the Executive Board of SCOPE, New Delhi.

156. Anita Sudhir Pai and Neeta Mukerji Appointed as Independent Directors at Fino Payments Bank

- ❖ Fino Payments Bank has appointed Anita Sudhir Pai and Neeta Mukerji as Independent Directors, increasing the number of women on its board to three.
- ❖ Deena Mehta is already an Independent Director, making one-third of the board women out of eight members.

157. Naveen Jindal Assumes Presidency of the Indian Steel Association

- ❖ Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, has been elected President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA), succeeding Dilip Oommen.
- ❖ Jindal will shape policies and strategies for the Indian steel industry.

158. Senior IPS Officer Sadanand Vasant Date Appointed As Director General Of National Investigation Agency

- ❖ Sadanand Vasant Date, a 1990-batch IPS officer and Chief of Maharashtra ATS, has been appointed Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

- ❖ His tenure will extend up to December 31, 2026, succeeding Dinkar Gupta.

159. Judith Suminwa Tuluka Becomes Democratic Republic of Congo's 1st Female Prime Minister

- ❖ Judith Suminwa Tuluka has been appointed as Congo's first female Prime Minister by President Felix Tshisekedi, succeeding Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde.
- ❖ An economist and former UNDP official, Tuluka assumes office amid rising violence in eastern Congo.

160. Senior IPS Officer Anurag Kumar Appointed as Joint Director of Central Bureau of Investigation

- ❖ Anurag Kumar, a senior IPS officer from the 2004 batch, has been appointed Joint Director at the CBI, effective until February 24, 2027.
- ❖ He currently serves in the Bureau of Police Research and Development and is from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

161. National Investment & Infrastructure Fund appoints rajiv dhar as 1st chief investment officer

- ❖ Rajiv Dhar will be appointed Chief Investment Officer (CIO) at India's National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- ❖ This new role will involve serving as a voting member on the investment committee and valuation panel, aiming to strengthen investment decisions and oversight.

162. Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff

- ❖ Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff, effective April 30, 2024.
- ❖ He will succeed Admiral R Hari Kumar, who retires on the same day.

163. Keki Mistry becomes chairman of HDFC board

- ❖ HDFC Life Insurance has appointed Keki Mistry as the new chairman of the board, effective immediately, pending approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).





164. Reserve Bank of India's Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar Granted 1-Year Extension

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of T Rabi Sankar's term as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for one year, from May 3, 2024, to May 2025.
- ❖ He was initially appointed in May 2021 for a three-year term.

165. Subodh Kumar (IAS) Appointed as Director in Ministry of Ayush

- ❖ Subodh Kumar, a 2010-batch IAS officer from Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Ayush.
- ❖ His tenure, starting from the order issued by the DoPT, will last until October 8, 2024, or until further notice.
- ❖ He was previously on 'Compulsory wait' in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

166. RBI Approves Appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as Managing Director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- ❖ Sanjeev Nautiyal has been appointed as MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank by the RBI, with a three-year term starting July 1, 2024.
- ❖ He will join the bank as President during the interim before officially taking over.
- ❖ Nautiyal, who is currently an independent director at LIC, will succeed Ittira Davis.

167. Bhushan Singh (IRTS) Appointed as Secretary of the National Jute Board

- ❖ The Central Government has approved the appointment of Bhushan Singh Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) as Secretary (at Director level) of National Jute Board, Kolkata under the Ministry of Textiles

168. Rushabh Gandhi Appointed as New MD & CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance

- ❖ Rushabh Gandhi has been approved as MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance for a five-year term starting July 1, 2024, pending IRDAI approval.

- ❖ He will succeed R M Vishakha, who retires on June 30, 2024.
- ❖ Gandhi is currently the deputy CEO of the insurer.

169. Jyoti Vij was appointed as the new director general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

- ❖ Jyoti Vij has been appointed as the new Director General of FICCI, succeeding Shailesh Pathak, who resigned for personal reasons.
- ❖ Vij brings over 30 years of experience from leading Indian industry chambers.

170. Sudhakararao Papa going to be the next Director (Enterprise) of BSNL

- ❖ Sudhakararao Papa will be the next Director (Enterprise) at BSNL, as recommended by the PESB panel.
- ❖ Currently serving as Chief General Manager of Chennai Telecom District Circle, he will join the Board of Directors and report to the CMD.

171. Dhanlaxmi Bank appoints Ajith Kumar KK as MD and CEO

- ❖ Dhanlaxmi Bank has appointed Ajith Kumar KK as Managing Director (MD) effective June 20, 2024.
- ❖ His appointment is for a three-year term, subject to RBI approval.

172. Government Appoints Atul Kumar Chaudhary as Secretary of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

- ❖ Atul Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), succeeding V Raghunandan.
- ❖ Chaudhary will oversee guidelines and policies, including those related to unsolicited calls and the new Broadcasting Policy.

173. Bharat Electronics Names Manoj Jain as New Managing Director and Chairman

- ❖ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has named Manoj Jain as its new Chairman and Managing Director.





Science and Technology

174. Pakistan conducts successful flight test of indigenously developed rocket system Fatah-II

- ❖ Pakistan has successfully tested its domestically developed Fatah-II rocket system.
- ❖ The Fatah-II is a guided multi-launch rocket system with a precision range of up to 400 kilometers.

175. India's ISRO to use Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket to launch GSAT-20 satellite

- ❖ For the first time, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will use a SpaceX rocket to launch a communication satellite.
- ❖ ISRO will deploy its GSAT-20 heavy communications satellite on a Falcon-9 rocket in mid-2024.
- ❖ This marks India's inaugural collaboration with Elon Musk's SpaceX, as Musk seeks to broaden his business ventures in India.

176. Taiwan's first lunar mission set to launch in 2024

- ❖ Taiwan will undertake its first lunar mission in 2024, representing a major achievement in its space exploration.
- ❖ On January 29, National Central University announced the mission, highlighting the collaboration between academia and the space industry.
- ❖ The Deep Space Radiation Probe (DSRP), created by the university's faculty and students, will play a key role in this mission.

177. ISRO to Send India's female robot Astronaut 'Vyommitra' to Space Ahead of Gaganyaan Mission

- ❖ The woman robot astronaut "Vyommitra" is set to travel to space before India's "Gaganyaan" mission, which will be the country's first manned spaceflight.
- ❖ The uncrewed Vyommitra mission is planned for the third quarter of this year, with the manned Gaganyaan mission slated for 2025.
- ❖ The name "Vyommitra" combines the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (Space) and "Mitra" (Friend).

178. Google Renames Its Artificial Intelligence Chatbot to Gemini in a Bid to Compete with ChatGPT

- ❖ Google has rebranded its chatbot Bard as Gemini, positioning it as an advanced AI tool available globally.
- ❖ The Gemini Pro 1.0 model is now accessible in over 230 countries and territories, supporting more than 40 languages.
- ❖ Additionally, Gemini Advanced is part of the new Google One AI Premium Plan, which costs \$19.99 per month and includes a two-month free trial.
- ❖ A dedicated mobile app for Gemini and Gemini Advanced has also been launched to improve user experience on mobile devices.

179. Japan to Introduce World's 1st Wooden Satellite in Efforts to Tackle Space Debris

- ❖ Japan and the United States are set to launch the world's first wooden satellite, the LingoSat probe, to address space debris.
- ❖ Made from magnolia wood for its stability and crack resistance, this innovative satellite design reflects a collaboration between Japanese and American scientists.
- ❖ The project highlights international cooperation in space exploration and efforts toward environmental sustainability.

180. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Announces India's Own Space Station by 2035

- ❖ During his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's goal to establish its own space station by 2035.
- ❖ He highlighted the country's progress in space technology, noting the substantial rise in satellite launches over the past decade.
- ❖ PM Modi also emphasized that India's achievements in space are nurturing a scientific mindset among the youth.

181. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Unveils 4 Astronaut-Designates for Gaganyaan Mission





- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the names of the four astronauts training for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan.
- ❖ The astronauts are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (47), Angad Pratap (41), Ajit Krishnan (41), and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla (38), all from the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ They will be following in the footsteps of Rakesh Sharma, the only Indian to have traveled to space in 1984 aboard a Russian spacecraft, as well as Indian-Americans Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams, who flew on NASA missions.

182. European Union parliament adopts world's first rules to govern Artificial Intelligence

- ❖ The European Parliament has approved the world's first regulations for artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The regulations target risks related to AI applications, including biometric authentication, facial recognition, and high-risk areas like healthcare and deepfakes.
- ❖ High-risk systems are defined as those potentially harming health, safety, fundamental rights, the environment, democracy, or the rule of law.
- ❖ Violations of the AI Act could lead to fines of up to 35 million euros (\$38 million) or 7% of a company's global revenue.

183. Indian Entrepreneur Gopi Thotakura to Be 1st Indian Tourist in Space on Blue Origin's NS-25 Mission

- ❖ Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and pilot, will be the first Indian space tourist on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission, founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos.
- ❖ Chosen as one of the six crew members, Thotakura is set to be the second Indian to travel to space, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission.

184. NASA Unveils Probe to Explore Jupiter's Icy Moon in Search of Extraterrestrial Life

- ❖ U.S. space scientists have introduced NASA's interplanetary probe, designed to explore one of

Jupiter's icy moons in the search for extraterrestrial life.

- ❖ The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) will be Europe's first dedicated robotic mission to Jupiter.

185. China Launches 3 Astronauts to Space Station, Aims for Moon Landing by 2030

- ❖ China has launched a three-member crew to its Tiangong space station as part of its goal to send astronauts to the moon by 2030.
- ❖ The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft, dubbed the "Divine vessel," took off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on a Long March 2-F rocket.
- ❖ This crew will replace the Shenzhou-17 team, which has been at the Tiangong space station since October 2023.

186. China Launches Chang'e-6, the World's 1st Mission to Collect Moon Samples

- ❖ China has launched the Chang'e-6 lunar probe using the Long March-5 Y8 rocket from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan Province.
- ❖ The mission's goal is to collect samples from the far side of the moon, marking a historic first.
- ❖ This is part of China's broader space program, which includes plans for a crewed lunar mission by 2030.
- ❖ The Chang'e-6 mission will target the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the moon's far side.

187. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Prepares to Launch PREFIRE Mission to Study Earth's Polar Regions

- ❖ NASA is preparing to launch its Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment (PREFIRE), which will deploy two small climate satellites to study the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
- ❖ The first satellite, "Ready, Aim, PREFIRE," is set for launch on May 22, 2024, followed by the second, "PREFIRE and ICE," shortly after.
- ❖ The PREFIRE mission aims to measure the heat radiated from Earth's polar regions into space and its effect on global climate by assessing





how efficiently far-infrared heat is emitted by snow, sea ice, and clouds.

- ❖ This mission is a joint effort between NASA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory managing the project and providing the spectrometers, while Blue Canyon Technologies constructed the CubeSats.

188. IIT Madras Startup Agnikul Cosmos Launches World's First Rocket Featuring Fully 3D-Printed Engine

- ❖ IIT Madras startup Agnikul Cosmos has achieved a milestone by launching the world's first rocket with a single-piece 3D-printed engine.
- ❖ The rocket, named Agnibaan SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator), is also India's first launch to use a semicryogenic engine, developed and manufactured entirely in India.
- ❖ The launch took place from 'Dhanush,' India's first privately developed launchpad, located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Defence News

189. India, France, and United Arab Emirate Collaborate in Joint Mega Air Exercise "Desert Knight" Over Arabian Sea

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) held Exercise Desert Knight with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force.
- ❖ The exercise took place in Indian Flight Information Regions (FIR) and involved IAF aircraft operating from multiple bases in India, with activities conducted over the Arabian Sea.

190. India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' commences in Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' began at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Running from January 22 to February 3, the exercise features collaborative training between the special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan.

191. 5th edition of the India-Japan joint exercise 'Dharma Guardian' kicks off in Rajasthan

- ❖ The 5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force has started at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Running from February 25 to March 9, 2024, this annual exercise alternates between India and Japan.

192. India-Malaysia Conduct Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'

- ❖ The 3rd edition of the bilateral exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy will be held from February 28 to March 2, 2024, at and off Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The exercise aims to strengthen ties and improve interoperability between the two navies.

193. Indian Army Contingent Sets Off to Seychelles for Joint Military Drill 'Exercise Lamitiye – 2024

- ❖ An Indian Army contingent has left for Seychelles to take part in the 10th edition of the Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with the Seychelles Defence Forces.
- ❖ Scheduled from March 18 to 27, 2024, the exercise aims to improve interoperability in sub-conventional operations in semi-urban settings, in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter on Peacekeeping Operations.

194. Indian Army Commemorates 40th Anniversary of 'Operation Meghdoot' on Siachen Glacier

- ❖ The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated the 40th anniversary of Operation Meghdoot (Cloud Messenger), which commenced on April 13, 1984.

195. Indian Navy Conducts Poorvi Lehar Exercise on East Coast

- ❖ The Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL) on the East Coast, under the supervision of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.





- ❖ The exercise aimed to validate procedures and evaluate the Navy's readiness to address maritime security challenges in the region.

196. India and France Set to Conduct 7th Edition of Exercise 'Shakti' from May 13-26, 2024

- ❖ The 7th edition of the India-France Joint Military Exercise "Shakti" is set to take place from May 13 to 26, 2024, at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The exercise aims to boost the joint military capabilities of India and France for Multi-Domain Operations in sub-conventional scenarios and foster interoperability, camaraderie, and cooperation between their armed forces.

197. Indian Air Force Contingent Arrives in Alaska for Multinational Exercise Red Flag 24

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed a contingent including eight Rafale fighter jets, a C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft, and an IL-78 air-refueler to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, USA, for Red Flag 24.
- ❖ The exercise will take place from May 30 to June 14, 2024, over an area of around 77,000 square miles.

Ranking and Indexes

198. Bangladesh Drops to 10th Most Corrupt Nation in Transparency International's 2023 Index

- ❖ In the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023 by Transparency International, Bangladesh has dropped two positions, now ranking as the 10th most corrupt country globally.
- ❖ This marks the country's worst performance in the past decade. Transparency International Bangladesh's executive director announced these findings at a press conference in Dhaka.
- ❖ Denmark leads as the least corrupt country with a score of 90, followed by Finland with 87 and New Zealand with 85. Somalia is at the bottom of the list, being the most corrupt with a score of 11.

199. India has been ranked at the 38th position out of 139 countries in the Logistics Performance Index Report 2023: World Bank.

- ❖ In the World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report (2023): Connecting to Compete 2023', India is ranked 38th out of 139 countries.
- ❖ This represents an improvement of six positions from its 2018 ranking of 44 and a rise of sixteen positions from 54 in 2014.

200. RIL tops the list of most valuable Indian companies

- ❖ In 2023, Reliance Industries (RIL) led the list of the most valuable Indian companies with a market capitalization of Rs 15.6 trillion, maintaining its top position for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was second, with a market cap of Rs 12.4 trillion, and HDFC Bank ranked third with a market cap of Rs 11.3 trillion.

201. India slips in world's most powerful passports ranking, France tops list

- ❖ India has dropped to the 85th position on the Henley Passport Index.
- ❖ Earlier in January, India had reached the 80th spot when the 2024 rankings were released.
- ❖ The Henley Passport Index is updated every month.
- ❖ Six countries continue to share the top spot in the 2024 Henley Passport Index, providing their citizens with visa-free access to a record number of destinations.

202. India is 3rd largest digitalised country among G20 nations

- ❖ The State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024, published by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), ranks India as the third most digitalized country globally, following the United States and China.
- ❖ Despite this, India ranks 12th in digitalization among G20 countries at the individual user level.





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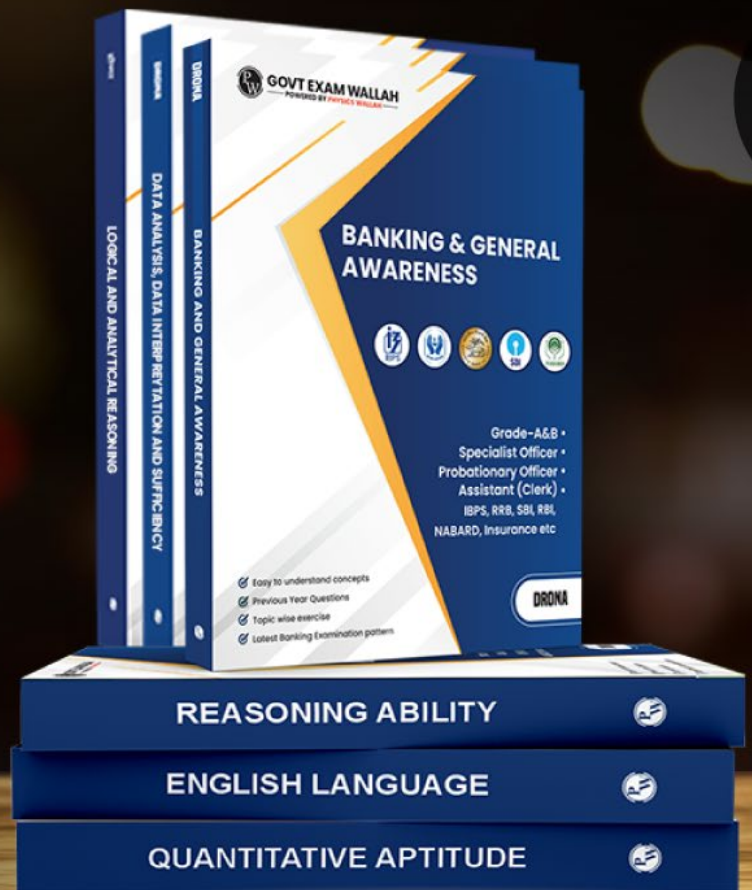
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- ❖ The report uses the 'CHIPS' framework to evaluate countries, scoring them on five pillars: connect, harness, innovate, protect, and sustain.

203. New Delhi Ranked World's Most Polluted Capital City For 4th Consecutive Year Since 2018

- ❖ New Delhi has been ranked as the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth year in a row, starting from 2018.
- ❖ The Air Quality Report 2023 by Swiss organization IQAir revealed that Delhi's PM2.5 levels increased from 89.1 micrograms per cubic meter in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic meter in 2023.
- ❖ Begusarai in Bihar has been identified as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.
- ❖ With an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic meter, India has the third worst air quality globally, following Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ❖ The report estimated that over one billion people in India are exposed to PM2.5 levels that exceed the World Health Organization's recommended annual limit of 5 micrograms per cubic meter.

204. Finland ranked the world's happiest country for seventh year

- ❖ India was positioned 126th out of 143 countries in the global happiness index, which highlighted that older age is linked to greater life satisfaction in the world's most populous nation.
- ❖ Finland was named the happiest country in the world according to the World Happiness Report 2024, maintaining its top ranking for the seventh consecutive year.
- ❖ The other countries in the top 10 are Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Australia.
- ❖ India ranks 126th on the list, trailing behind nations like Libya, Iraq, Palestine, and Niger, as reported on the UN's International Day of Happiness.

205. India ranks number 10 in cybercrime

- ❖ New research surveying global cybercrime experts has placed India 10th in cybercrime

rankings, with advance fee fraud being the most prevalent type.

- ❖ An international team has developed a 'World Cyber Crime Index' that ranks nearly 100 countries.
- ❖ The index highlights major hotspots for various cybercrime categories, such as ransomware, credit card theft, and scams.

206. IIT Bombay Ranks 45th In QS World University Rankings For Engineering & Technology

- ❖ IIT Bombay is ranked 45th in Engineering and Technology, with an overall score of 79.1 out of 100, according to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject for 2024.
- ❖ The institute is listed in 4 out of 5 broad subject areas: Engineering & Technology, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Management, and Arts and Humanities.
- ❖ IIT Bombay has advanced two places in the Engineering and Technology category compared to its 2023 ranking.

207. India ranks below Pakistan at 159 among 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index: 'Unofficial state of emergency'

- ❖ India is ranked 159th out of 180 countries in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international non-profit organization.
- ❖ This is an improvement from its 161st position in the 2023 index.
- ❖ Pakistan is ranked seven spots higher than India, at 152nd, up from 150th in 2023.
- ❖ Norway is at the top of the ranking, followed by Denmark in second place, and Sweden in third.

208. India Climbs To 39th Position In World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index

- ❖ India has moved up to the 39th position in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, with the US leading the list.
- ❖ India holds the top rank in South Asia among lower-middle-income economies.





- ❖ Previously, India was ranked 54th in the 2021 index.
- ❖ India achieved a score of 4.25 on the overall index, where 1 represents the worst and 7 the best.

209. Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: At 350, Delhi highest ranked Indian city

- ❖ Delhi is ranked 350th in Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, which assesses the world's 1,000 largest cities on various criteria, including economics and human capital.
- ❖ The index includes several other Indian cities, such as Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Chennai, but none of them made it into the Top 300.
- ❖ Delhi is the highest-ranked Indian city on the list.

210. Gautam Adani reclaims Asia's richest person tag from Mukesh Ambani, net worth surges to \$111 billion

- ❖ In a notable turn of events, Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, has reclaimed the title of Asia's richest person, surpassing Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries.
- ❖ This achievement comes after a significant increase in the stock prices of Adani's various companies.
- ❖ According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Adani's net worth is now \$111 billion, making him the 11th richest person globally.
- ❖ In contrast, Ambani's wealth of \$109 billion places him at 12th in the world rankings.

211. India is 129th on the Global Gender Gap index

- ❖ India dropped two positions on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, now standing at 129th, with Iceland maintaining the top spot.
- ❖ In South Asia, India is ranked fifth, behind Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, while Pakistan is at the bottom.
- ❖ Globally, Sudan is ranked last out of 146 countries on the index, with Pakistan falling three places to 145th.

212. Sweden leads, while India ranks 63rd on the Global Energy Transition Index according to the World Economic Forum (WEF)

- ❖ According to the Global Energy Transition Index 2024 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India has advanced to 63rd place out of 120 countries surveyed.
- ❖ This represents a three-rank improvement from its 67th position in 2023. The index offers insights into each country's progress towards sustainable and equitable energy systems.
- ❖ India's rise in the rankings highlights its continued efforts and initiatives to improve energy security, sustainability, and equity.

Sports News

213. India on top of medals table in Asian Shooting Championship in Jakarta with 07 Gold, 06 Silver, and 06 Bronze medals

- ❖ In women's shooting, Rhythm Sangwan won the Bronze medal in the 25-meter Pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ This achievement secured the 16th Paris Olympic quota for the Indian shooting team.
- ❖ It also marks the sixth Paris quota in pistol events for India and the second in the women's 25m Pistol category.
- ❖ Rhythm concluded the tournament with an outstanding performance, earning a total of five medals: 1 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze.

214. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become India's number-one Chess player

- ❖ Indian chess prodigy Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren at the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.
- ❖ This victory made Praggnanandhaa only the second Indian, after Vishwanathan Anand, to defeat a reigning champion.
- ❖ He also surpassed Anand to become India's new top chess player based on live ratings.

215. With 127 medals, Maharashtra leads the Khelo India Games medal tally followed by Haryana.





- ❖ In the Khelo India games, Maharashtra leads the medal tally with a total of 127 medals: 44 gold, 39 silver, and 44 bronze. Haryana follows with 94 medals: 33 gold, 19 silver, and 42 bronze. Tamil Nadu is third with 82 medals: 29 gold, 19 silver, and 34 bronze.
- ❖ In the boys' football semi-finals, Meghalaya defeated Jharkhand 5-3, while Punjab won against Odisha 1-0.
- ❖ In the girls' Kho Kho semi-finals, Odisha beat Delhi 27-18, and Maharashtra overcame Gujarat 27-16. In the boys' Kho Kho, Maharashtra defeated Karnataka 29-23, and Delhi won against Gujarat 43-28.
- ❖ In shooting, all the medalists in the Skeet boys' category were from Punjab: Gurfateh Singh Sandhu won gold, Zorawar Singh Bedi took silver, and Harazeez Singh Alwa received bronze.
- ❖ For Skeet girls, Devyani Rathore and Yashaswi Rathore from Rajasthan won gold and silver, respectively, while Venkat Lakshmi Lekhu from Tripura earned the bronze medal.

216. Rohan Bopanna, the oldest Grand Slam winner clinched the Australia Open 2024:

- ❖ India's tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden won the Grand Slam title at the Australian Open 2024 by defeating Italy's Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the men's doubles final at Melbourne Park.
- ❖ At 43 years old, Rohan Bopanna, who recently became World No. 1 in the ATP men's doubles rankings, is now the oldest Grand Slam winner.
- ❖ This victory at the Australian Open is the duo's first major triumph, following their loss in the US Open final last year.

217. 2026 FIFA World Cup final to be played in New Jersey

- ❖ The 2026 World Cup final will be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 19. The tournament will open at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City on June 11.
- ❖ Out of 104 matches, 78 will be in the U.S., with 13 each in Mexico and Canada.

218. India clinched the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship by defeating Bangladesh in the final in Dhaka.

- ❖ India won the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship, defeating Bangladesh in the final after a penalty shootout, which was decided by a toss. The match ended 1-1 with Sibani Devi scoring for India and Sagorika equalizing for Bangladesh.
- ❖ At the Khelo India Games, Jain University topped the swimming events with 7 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals. The University of Kerala followed with 5 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze, while Adamas University placed third with 6 medals.
- ❖ In the Khelo India University Games 2023 shooting events, Jasmeen Kaur from Punjab University won gold in the Women's 10-meter Air Rifle, Devanshi Katara from the University of Rajasthan took silver, and Kajal Kumari from Manipal University earned bronze.

219. India bags 14 medals, including nine Golds at Archery Asia Cup 2024 in Baghdad, Iraq

- ❖ India ended the Archery Asia Cup 2024 in Baghdad with 14 medals: nine gold, four silver, and one bronze.
- ❖ Deepika Kumari won gold in the women's individual recurve category by defeating Simranjeet Kaur 6-2.
- ❖ In the men's recurve final, Dhiraj Bommadevara triumphed over Tarundeep Rai 7-3.

220. Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth announces retirement from international badminton

- ❖ Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth, 31, has retired from international badminton due to persistent injuries since the Tokyo Olympics.

221. Khelo India athletes now eligible for government jobs

- ❖ Khelo India athletes are now eligible for government jobs following updates to the eligibility criteria by the Department of Personnel and Training and the Sports Ministry.
- ❖ Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur announced that medalists from Youth,





University, Para, and Winter Khelo India Games can now apply for government positions.

222. India is ranked first in all three formats and first in the ICC Test rankings.

- ❖ India defeated England in Dharamsala to win the five-match series 4-1, and Rohit Sharma's team has reached the top of the ICC Test rankings, surpassing Australia.
- ❖ India, already leading the World Test Championship standings, now tops the ICC rankings in all three formats.
- ❖ Rohit's team will remain at the top regardless of the outcome of the ongoing second Test between New Zealand and Australia in Christchurch.

223. Mary Kom was named Chef De Mission for the Paris Olympics

- ❖ Six-time women's boxing World Champion Mary Kom has been named Chef de Mission for the Indian team at the Paris Olympics, while veteran table tennis player and CWG champion Sharath Kamal will be the flag bearer.
- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association highlighted Kamal's role in symbolizing the unity and spirit of the contingent.

224. Sreejesh and Camila Caram were appointed as co-chairs in the FIH Athletes Committee

- ❖ Former Indian men's hockey captain PR Sreejesh and Camila Caram of Chile have been appointed co-chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee.
- ❖ Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey welcomed Sreejesh's appointment.

225. Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for 2023

- ❖ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named Player of the Year for 2023 at the Hockey India awards.
- ❖ The federation also announced the revival of the Hockey India League (HIL) in January 2025 with a prize pool of ₹7.56 crores.

- ❖ Hardik, who was also the FIH Player of the Year, received the Balbir Singh Sr. Trophy and a cash prize of ₹25 lakhs.

226. Bindyarani Devi bags bronze medal in weightlifting World Cup

- ❖ Commonwealth Games medalist Bindyarani Devi won bronze in the women's 55kg event at the IWF World Cup, lifting a total of 196kg (83kg+113kg).
- ❖ Competing in a non-Olympic weight class, her performance was below her 2022 CWG silver effort of 203kg.

227. India to Organize BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2025 in Guwahati

- ❖ India will host the 2025 BWF World Junior Championships at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati, marking the first time since 2008 that the event will be held in India.
- ❖ The last hosting was in Pune. Exact dates for the championships will be announced later.

228. Dharamshala Cricket Stadium gets India's first 'hybrid pitch'

- ❖ India's first hybrid pitch was unveiled at the HPCA stadium in Dharamshala.
- ❖ The SISGrass hybrid pitch aims to improve the quality of cricket played on Indian pitches. SISGrass provides hybrid and synthetic pitches for various organizations, including international venues and local clubs.

229. Table Tennis, Manika Batra Becomes First Indian Woman To Break Into Top 25 Of World Women's Singles Rankings

- ❖ Manika Batra became the first Indian woman to reach the top 25 in the world women's singles table tennis rankings, achieving a career-high ranking of 24 after the Saudi Smash.
- ❖ She matched G. Sathyan's record for the highest singles ranking by an Indian.
- ❖ Batra won three medals at the 2015 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in both individual and team events, and was honored





with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2020.

230. Brazil Declared Host Of 2027 Women's World Cup At FIFA Congress

- ❖ Brazil was chosen to host the 2027 Women's World Cup, becoming the first South American country to do so, beating the joint bid from Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany.
- ❖ The decision was made by an open vote at the 74th FIFA Congress in Thailand. Brazil previously hosted the men's World Cups in 1950 and 2014.
- ❖ This will be the first Women's World Cup in South America, with Spain as the reigning champion.
- ❖ FIFA President: Gianni Infantino.

231. P Shyaamnikhil becomes India's 85th Grandmaster

- ❖ P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th Grandmaster after earning his third and final GM norm at the Dubai Police Masters chess tournament, ending a 12-year wait.
- ❖ The 31-year-old, who started chess at eight, achieved the required 2500 ELO rating and two GM norms in 2012 but waited 12 years for the third.

232. Dipa Karmakar becomes the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal at the Asian Championships

- ❖ Dipa Karmakar won the gold medal in the vault event at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Tashkent, becoming the first Indian gymnast to win the continental title.
- ❖ The 30-year-old scored 13.566 in both attempts during the final, finishing ahead of North Koreans Kim Son Hyang and Jo Kyong Byol.

233. IOC launches 'Let's move India' campaign with Reliance Foundation and Abhinav Bindra

- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC), in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, launched the "Let's Move India" campaign to rally public

support for Indian Olympians preparing for the Paris Olympics.

- ❖ Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and IOC Athletes' Commission member, is a key part of this initiative.

234. Indian Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta Becomes First Person To Scale Mt. Everest And Mt. Lhotse Twice In One Season

- ❖ Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta made history by becoming the first person to scale both Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse twice in a single season and the first Indian to do so within 11 hours and 15 minutes.
- ❖ He first conquered Mt Lhotse, followed by Mt Everest at 12:45 am.

235. ISSF World Cup 2024 Munich: India's Sarabjot Singh wins gold medal in 10m air pistol

- ❖ Indian shooter Sarabjot Singh won India's first medal at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, claiming gold in the men's 10-meter air pistol event with a score of 242.7 points.
- ❖ Shuaihang Bu of China took silver, while Germany's Robin Walter won bronze.

236. India to Host 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- ❖ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that India will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025, featuring 24 teams for the first time.
- ❖ The host city will be revealed later, as announced by FIH President Tayyab Ikram.

237. World Athletics Championships 2023: Neeraj Chopra becomes the first-ever Indian world champion to win gold

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the gold in men's javelin at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest with an 88.17-meter throw, becoming the first Indian to secure gold at the senior world championships.

238. Travis Head Becomes World No. 1 in ICC T20I Men's Batting Rankings





- ❖ Australian opener Travis Head has claimed the No. 1 spot in the ICC T20I Men's Batting Rankings, moving up four places after his outstanding performance in the 2024 T20 World Cup, surpassing India's Suryakumar Yadav, the former top-ranked batter.

Obituaries

239. India's oldest sloth bear in captivity passed away in Bhopal zoo

- ❖ Bablu, India's oldest sloth bear in captivity, passed away at 36 due to multi-organ failure at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal.
- ❖ Rescued from a street performer in Rajasthan, Bablu had been at the park since 2006.

240. Former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Manohar Joshi Passed away

- ❖ Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi, aged 86, passed away in Mumbai.
- ❖ Born on December 2, 1937, in Raigad district, Joshi was the first Chief Minister from the undivided Shiv Sena, serving from 1995 to 1999.

241. Renowned Physicist Peter Higgs, Pioneer of the 'God Particle' Discovery, Passed away

- ❖ British physicist Peter Higgs, who won the Nobel Prize in 2013 for his theoretical discovery explaining the origin of mass in the universe, has died at 94.
- ❖ Born on May 29, 1929, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, Higgs was a theoretical physicist and professor at the University of Edinburgh.

242. Father of Indian psychoanalysis Sudhir Kakar Passed away

- ❖ Sudhir Kakar, India's leading psychoanalyst known for his insights into Indian psychology, passed away at 85.
- ❖ Kakar was also a novelist and author specializing in cultural psychology and the psychology of religion.

243. Former Union Minister Sreenivasa Prasad Passes Away

- ❖ V. Srinivas Prasad, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament and former Union Minister, has passed away at the age of 76 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ Born on August 6, 1947, in Ashokapuram, Mysore, then part of the Kingdom of Mysore, Prasad initially ran for Assembly elections as an independent candidate in 1974.
- ❖ He joined the Janata Party in 1976 before switching to the Congress in 1979.

244. Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi, Known as 'Bihar's Bhamashah', Passes Away

- ❖ Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has passed away in New Delhi at the age of 72.
- ❖ Born on January 5, 1952, in Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar from 2005 to 2013 and then again from 2017 to 2020.

245. Former Gujarat Governor and Longtime Congress Leader Kamla Beniwal Passed away

- ❖ Veteran Congress leader and former Governor of Gujarat, Kamla Beniwal, has passed away at the age of 97.
- ❖ Born on January 12, 1927, in Gorir, Jhunjhunu district, Rajputana Agency, British India, she joined the Indian National Congress at the age of 15 and was an active participant in the Quit India Movement.
- ❖ In 1954, at the age of 27, she became Rajasthan's first woman minister.

246. Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro Passed away

- ❖ Alice Munro, the first Canadian author to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, has passed away at the age of 92 in Ontario.
- ❖ Born on July 10, 1931, in Ontario, Munro was praised by the Nobel Committee as a "master of contemporary short stories."

247. Former Indian Fast Bowler David Johnson Passed away





- ❖ Former Indian pacer David Johnson tragically passed away at the age of 52 after falling from the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - ❖ Hailing from Arasikere in Hassan district, Karnataka, Johnson was renowned for his fast bowling skills.
 - ❖
- ❖ His talent was notably showcased during the 1995-96 Ranji Trophy season with an impressive bowling spell of 10 for 152 against Kerala.
 - ❖ Johnson's final competitive appearance was in the Karnataka Premier League in 2015.



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