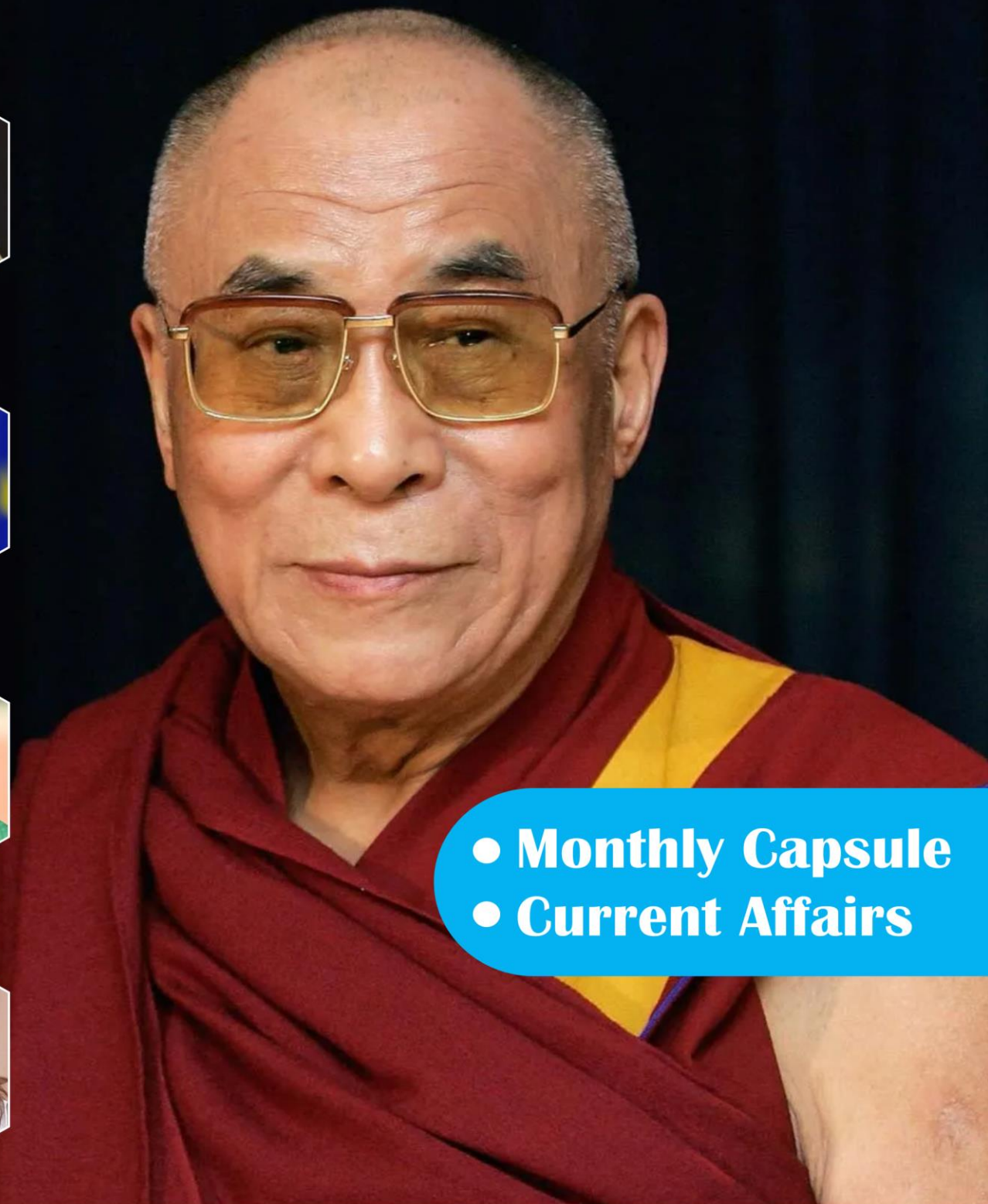


THE HINDU REVIEW

APRIL 2023



- Monthly Capsule
- Current Affairs

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The Most Important Current Affairs April 2023

Madrid Spain Masters 2023: Check the complete list of winners

Madrid Spain Masters 2023

Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, an Indonesian badminton player, emerged victorious in the Women's singles category at the Madrid Spain Masters 2023 finals. She defeated PV Sindhu from India, marking her first BWF World Tour title and her first win over **PV Sindhu** in eight matches. The tournament took place at Centro Deportivo Municipal Gallur in Madrid, Spain from March 28th to April 2nd, 2023, as part of the Spain Masters championship. The 2023 Spain Masters was the eighth event of the 2023 BWF World Tour.

The Madrid Spain Masters 2023 is a globally recognized badminton competition classified as a Super 300 event. The prize money for the tournament amounted to USD 210,000, making it a highly lucrative event. The Spanish Badminton Federation organized the tournament with the approval and regulation of the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

Winners & Runners Of Madrid Spain Masters 2023

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Kenta Nishimoto (Japan)	Kanta Tsuneyama (Japan)
Women's Singles	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Indonesia)	PV Sindhu (India)
Men's Doubles	He Ji Ting & Zhou Hao Dong (China)	Lee Fang-Chih & Lee Fang Jen (Chinese Taipei)
Women's Doubles	Liu Sheng Shu & Tan Ning (China)	Chen Fang Hui & Du Yue (China)
Mixed Doubles	Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Bøje (Denmark)	Praveen Jordan & Melati Daeva Oktavianti (Indonesia)

Forbes billionaire 2023 list: Mukesh Ambani become richest sports owner

Forbes billionaire 2023 list

Mukesh Ambani has been named the richest sports owner in the **Forbes billionaire 2023 list**, with a net worth of \$83.4 billion, surpassing Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, whose net worth is \$80.7 billion. It's interesting to note that despite a 3% fall in Reliance Industries' share value over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still increased, indicating the strength and diversity of his business interests.

Mukesh Ambani's net worth as of March 10, 2023, was \$83.4 billion, making him the world's richest sports owner, while Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, had a net worth of \$80.7 billion, making him the planet's second-wealthiest team owner. In recent years, Reliance Industries, owned by Ambani, has been expanding its presence in the sports industry, having purchased a franchise in the inaugural Women's Premier League and owning cricket teams in South Africa and the UAE. This indicates the company's continued commitment to growing its presence in the sports industry.

Here's are the the 20 richest sports team owners:

Rank	Name	Citizenship	Team	Net Worth
1	Mukesh Ambani	India	Mumbai Indians	\$83.4 Billion
2	Steve Ballmer	US	Los Angeles Clippers	\$80.7 Billion
3	Rob Walton	US	Denver Broncos	\$57.6 Billion
4	François Pinault & family	France	Stade Rennais F.C.	\$40.1 Billion
5	Mark Mateschitz	Austria	New York Red Bulls, Red Bull Racing, RB Leipzig	\$34.7 Billion

Rank	Name	Citizenship	Team	Net Worth
6	James Ratcliffe	UK	OGC Nice	\$22.9 Billion
7	Masayoshi Son	Japan	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	\$22.4 Billion
8	David Tepper	US	Carolina Panthers, Charlotte FC	\$18.5 Billion
9	Daniel Gilbert	US	Cleveland Cavaliers	\$18 Billion
10	Steve Cohen	US	New York Mets	\$17.5 Billion
11	Robert Pera	US	Memphis Grizzlies	\$15.5 Billion
12	Jerry Jones	US	Dallas Cowboys	\$13.3 Billion
13	Stanley Kroenke	US	Los Angeles Rams, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rapids, Arsenal FC	\$12.9 Billion
14	Shahid Khan	US	Jacksonville Jaguars, Fulham FC	\$12.1 Billion
15	Stephen Ross	US	Miami Dolphins	\$11.6 Billion
16	Philip Anschutz	US	Los Angeles Kings, LA Galaxy	\$10.9 Billion
17	Robert Kraft	US	New England Patriots, New England Revolution	\$10.6 Billion
18	John Malone	US	Atlanta Braves	\$9.2 Billion
19	Hasso Plattner & family	Germany	San Jose Sharks	\$8.6 Billion
20	Tilman Fertitta	US	Houston Rockets	\$8.1 Billion

Bimonthly RBI monetary policy: MPC keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.50%

The Reserve Bank of India has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the repo rate unchanged at **6.50 per cent**. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the **repo rate** unchanged at 6.50 per cent, governor **Shaktikanta Das** said, announcing the statement of monetary policy, the first in the current financial year. Economic activity remains resilient, and real GDP growth is expected to have been **7 per cent in FY 22-23**. The RBI Governor also said that the withdrawal of accommodation and that the repo rate hike has been paused only for this meeting. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **June 6-8, 2023**.

Bimonthly RBI monetary policy: RBI Rates

- Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
- Bank Rate: 6.75%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18.00%

Bimonthly RBI monetary policy: Key points

- All members of the MPC unanimously voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.
- Real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5 per cent with Q1:2023-24 at 7.8 per cent; Q2 at 6.2 per cent; Q3 at 6.1 per cent; and Q4 at 5.9 per cent
- Retail inflation is expected to moderate to 5.2 per cent in FY2023-24
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) would remain unchanged at 6.25 per cent, and the marginal standing facility, i.e., the MSF rate, and the bank rate at 6.75 per cent.
- The RBI's MPC has raised the repo rate by 250 bps in the last 11 months, from May 2022.



The Monetary Policy Committee

All members of the MPC – Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Dr. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R. Varma, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das. **Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934** provides for an empowered six-member **monetary policy** committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016. The present MPC members, as notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette of October 5, 2020.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 104th Anniversary

On April 13, 1919, the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** took place in Amritsar, Punjab, which is remembered as a tragic event and a symbol of the atrocities committed against the Indian people during the British colonial era. The massacre played a significant role in India's fight for independence, as it increased the nation's determination to achieve self-rule and break free from British subjugation.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 2023

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day 2023 marks **104 years** since the tragic incident that is seen as a turning point in Indian History. It was this that led to Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

Causes of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre- Why people's are gathered in Jallianwala Bagh?

The British military officer, General Dyer, on April 13, 1919 entered the Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar) with his troops, where people had gathered to peacefully protest against the arrest of the two nationalist leaders, **Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew**. Without so much as a warning to the people to disperse, he ordered his troops to fire at the unarmed crowd. The onslaught lasted ten minutes till their ammunition was exhausted, after which the British soldiers left. A total of 1,650 rounds were fired, and more than 500 people were killed and murdered. The exact number of casualties remains unknown. On the morning of Baisakhi, **Colonel Reginald Dyer** had announced the implementation of a curfew throughout Amritsar and a ban on all processions that even prohibited a group of 4 or more people to meet publicly. At about **12:40 PM**, Dyer received confidential information about the meeting taking place at Jallianwala Bagh that may result in riots and protests.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre- General Dyer's Orders

General Dyer had issued orders to his troops to shoot at the protesters without warning. He later defended his actions by saying that he wanted to teach the Indians a lesson and that he would have used even more force if he had more troops at his disposal. There were about **25,000 people** present there at the time of the firing. Some tried to escape while some choose to jump in the solitude well built in the premises of Jallianwala Bagh. The troops were ordered to start shooting from the most densely crowded spot to harm the maximum number of people.

Who take revenge of Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

After the tragedy, Sardar Udham Singh avenged his people by killing the British officer serving as Governor General of Punjab, Michael O'Dwyer. He was Born on December 26, 1899, Udham Singh was a member of the Ghadar Party and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). The assassination of Michael O'Dwyer, the ex-lieutenant governor of Punjab, brought him widespread notoriety. Singh carried out the murder in retaliation for the 1919 slaughter at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. The recognized martyr (born Sher Singh) was born to Tehal Singh, a manual laborer, and Narain Kaur, a housekeeper, in the vicinity of Pilbad, some 130 miles from British India's Lahore. His older brother Sadhu was two years older than him, making him the youngest. They lost both parents at an early age, both to separate mishaps.

The Memorial Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Ground

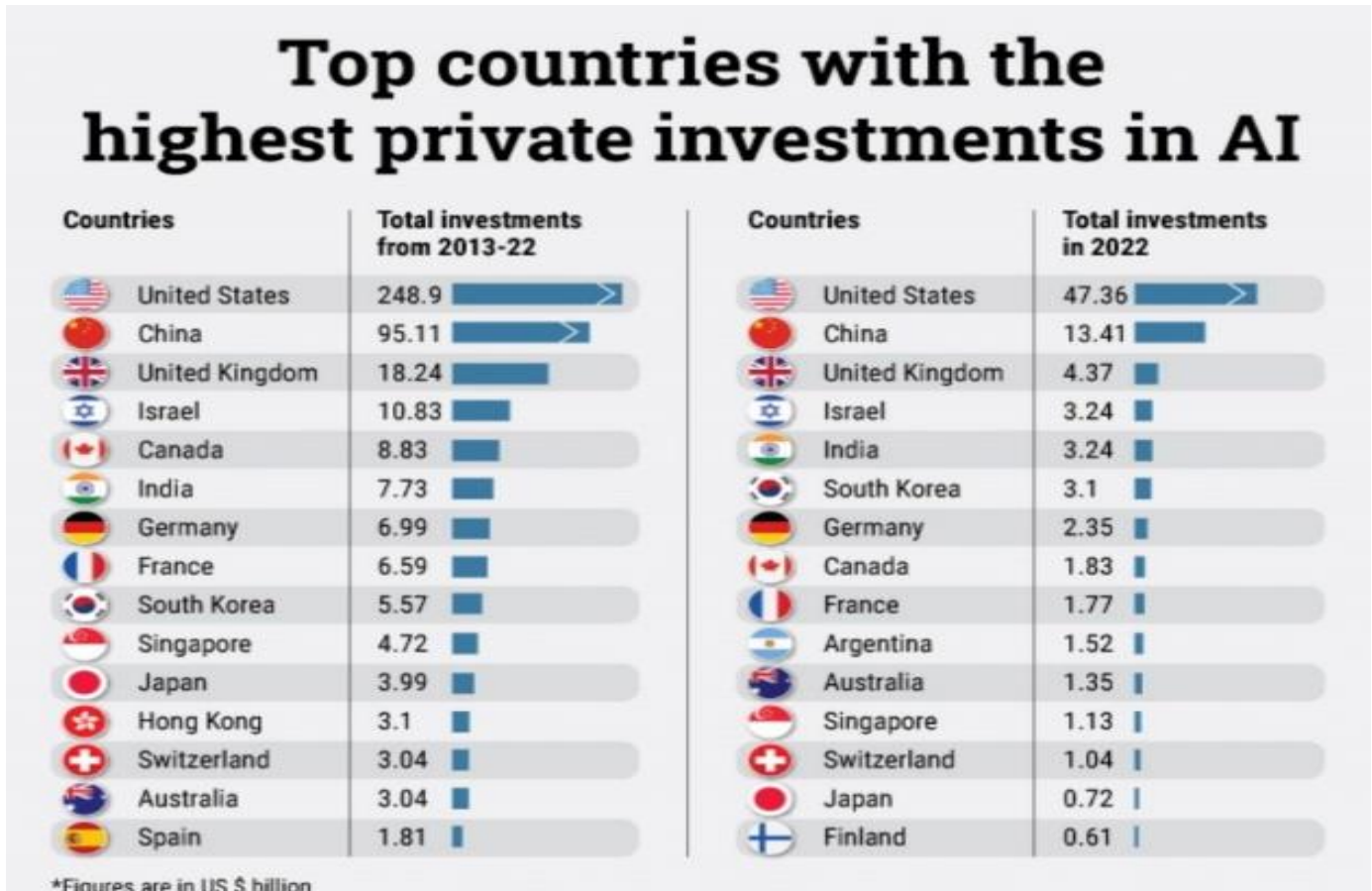
In 1951, a memorial was built at Jallianwala Bagh to commemorate the victims of the massacre. The park, which covers an area of approximately 6.5 acres, contains a museum that displays artefacts related to the incident. Every year on April 13, people gather at the park to pay their homage to the victims. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre remains a dark chapter in India's history, and its impact can still be felt today. The incident served as a catalyst for India's freedom struggle and inspired many Indians to fight for their independence.

India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investment

Stanford University's AI Index report states that **India is ranked fifth** in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022. AI startups in India received a total investment of \$3.24 billion, surpassing countries such as **South Korea, Germany, Canada, and Australia. However, India is still behind the US, China, the UK, and Israel in terms of AI investments received.**

According to the same report, AI startups in India received a cumulative funding of \$7.73 billion from 2013 to 2022, which places it sixth among the countries with the highest AI investments during that period. However, nearly 40% of this funding was received in the year 2022 alone.

The AI Index report by Stanford University revealed that 54% of the researchers working on Large Language Models (LLMs) are from American institutions. Nonetheless, for the first time, researchers from Canada, Germany, and India contributed to the development of LLMs last year.



About the Stanford University's AI Index report

The AI Index is an independent initiative at the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI), led by the AI Index Steering Committee, an interdisciplinary group of experts from across academia and industry. The annual report **tracks, collates, distills, and visualizes** data relating to artificial intelligence, enabling decision-makers to take meaningful action to advance AI responsibly and ethically with humans in mind.

The AI Index collaborates with many different organizations to track progress in artificial intelligence. These organizations include: the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University, LinkedIn, NetBase Quid, Lightcast, and McKinsey. The 2023 report also features more self-collected data and original analysis than ever before. This year's report included new analysis on foundation models, including their geopolitics and training costs, the environmental impact of AI systems, K-12 AI education, and public opinion trends in AI. The AI Index also broadened its tracking of global AI legislation from 25 countries in 2022 to 127 in 2023.

ICC Player of the Month awards for March

The ICC has revealed the winners of the **ICC** Player of the Month awards for March 2023, with **Shakib Al Hasan** from Bangladesh being named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month, while **Henriette Ishimwe** from Rwanda was selected as the ICC Women's Player of the Month. This is Shakib's second time winning the Player of the Month award, with his first win being in July 2021.

ICC Men's Player of the Month, March 2023 – Shakib Al Hasan

Shakib Al Hasan, an experienced all-rounder, has been awarded the prestigious ICC Men's Player of the Month award for March 2023 due to his outstanding performances. He beat out tough competition from Asif Khan of UAE and Kane Williamson of New Zealand. Shakib was a bright spot for Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series against England, where he emerged as the highest run-scorer and wicket-taker for the team. In Bangladesh's only victory in the series, he scored 75 runs off 71 balls and took four wickets to earn the Player of the Match award in the hosts' 50-run win.

ICC Women's Player of the Month, March 2023 – Henriette Ishimwe

ICC has announced Rwanda's Henriette Ishimwe as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2023. Ishimwe outperformed other strong contenders, including Sibona Jimmy and Ravini Oa from PNG, to clinch the award. Ishimwe, who is just 19 years old, has already played almost 50 T20Is for Rwanda and showcased her all-round skills in March. She began the Nigeria Cricket Federation Women's International Twenty20 Tournament with a splendid performance, contributing with both bat and ball against Ghana. After scoring a quick 32 off 22 balls, she took four wickets for just four runs to help Rwanda limit Ghana to 41 runs.

Harmanpreet Kaur & Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden T20I player of 2022

The Indian duo of **Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur** has added another feather to their outstanding crown after bagging the Wisden Almanack's leading cricketer in the World awards. Suryakumar won the honour of **Wisden Almanack's leading T20I** cricketer while Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to win the **Cricketer of the Year** award.

Overview of the news:

- The year 2022 in T20Is was almost like a net session for Suryakumar. Wherever he went, he amassed runs for fun: a total of 1164 of them at a stunning strike rate of 187.43. This included 68 sixes, something no T20I batter has ever done in a calendar year. His two centuries and nine half-tons — including three in the 2022 T20 World Cup alone — helped India win 28 of their 40 games last year. His standout knock in 2022 of the 55-ball 117 at Nottingham, his maiden T20 hundred.
- As for Harman, she is one of the five Cricketers of the Year announced in the 2023 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. A well-deserved honour for the champion of Indian women's cricket in 2022, having led the Women in Blue to a 3-0 ODI series win on English soil, the first since 1999, and a Silver medal finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. She piled on 754 ODI runs, including an unbeaten 143 in the England ODIs and 524 T20I runs — spoke for itself as she continues to make history and rewrite it with her talent and commitment to the sport.

Asha Bhosle to receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar

Asha Bhosle, the renowned singer, will be honored with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award**, which was established by the Mangeshkar family and trust in memory of Lata Mangeshkar. The award ceremony will take place on April 24, which is the anniversary of their father's death. Asha Bhosle, who is Lata Mangeshkar's younger sister, will be the recipient of the award.

The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar is an annual award given to someone who has made a significant contribution to the nation, its people, and society. The award was first presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Other Awardee's

According to the press note issued by the Mangeshkar family, veteran ghazal singer **Pankaj Udhas** will receive the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar for contribution to Indian music; Gauri Theaters of **Prashant Damle** fan foundation for Best Drama of the Year ("Niyam Va Ati Lagu"); **Sadguru Seva Sangh** Trust for yeoman Social Service; **Granthali Prakashan** with the Vagvilasini Puraskar for contribution to literature; actor-director **Prasad Oak** with the Vishesh Puraskar for contribution to cinema and and drama; and actor **Vidya Balan** with the Vishesh Puraskar for contribution to cinema.

New York City tops the list of world's wealthiest cities 2023

According to a recent report by London-based consultancy Henley & Partners, New York City has been ranked as the world's wealthiest city in 2023. The second and third spots were claimed by **Tokyo** in Japan and Silicon Valley's Bay Area, respectively. Notably, **Mumbai** made it to the 21st spot while **Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Hyderabad** were also mentioned in the report.

India and World's wealthiest cities 2023:

The rankings were based on the number of resident millionaires (rounded off to the nearest 100) as of December 31, 2022. Interestingly, the **top 10 cities** were dominated by those in the United States and China, with no European city featuring in the list, except for London.

According to the report, **Bengaluru** has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing cities in the Asia Pacific region. The city is commonly referred to as the "**Garden City**" and the "**Silicon Valley of India**" due to its thriving technology sector.

World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023:

Henley & Partners compiled the **World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023**, covering 97 cities worldwide. The report utilized data from wealth intelligence firm New World Wealth, which tracks the financial activities of high-net-worth individuals holding designations like Founder, Chairperson, CEO, and Director. The report also took into account the number of expensive homes in each city, as stated on the Henley & Partners website.

Here are the top 15 cities ranked in the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023, along with the number of high-net-worth individuals:

1. New York City, United States - 340,000
2. Tokyo, Japan - 290,300
3. The Bay Area, United States - 285,000
4. London, United Kingdom - 258,000
5. Singapore, Singapore - 240,100
6. Los Angeles, United States - 205,400
7. Hong Kong, SAR China - 129,500
8. Beijing, China - 128,200
9. Shanghai, China - 127,200
10. Sydney, Australia - 126,900
11. Chicago, United States - 124,000
12. Toronto, Canada - 105,200
13. Frankfurt, Germany - 102,200
14. Zurich, Switzerland - 99,300
15. Houston, United States - 98,500

In terms of Indian cities, **Mumbai ranked 21st** with 59,400 high-net-worth individuals, while **Delhi ranked 36**, Bengaluru is at 60, Kolkata is at 63, and Hyderabad is at 65.

India Ranks Fourth in Global Military Expenditure: SIPRI Report

Released by: - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

The theme of the report: - Military Spending across the Globe

Major Findings

a) Global - According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, global military expenditure has reached a new record high of **\$2240 billion**, increasing by **3.7%** in real terms in **2022**. Europe witnessed its most substantial year-on-year increase in military spending in at least 30 years. The United States, China, and Russia, which are the three largest military spenders, contributed 56% of the total global military expenditure in 2022. These findings were released by SIPRI in its latest report on global military spending.

b) India specific - India's military expenditure in 2022 amounted to **\$81.4 billion**, which is the **fourth-highest** in the world. This represents a **6%** increase compared to the previous year's spending.

Highlights of Report: -

1) Top 5 ranks:-

1. United States
2. China
3. Russia
4. India
5. Saudi Arabia

Parameters of ranking: - Budgetary spending on Defence

India's rank: - 4th

India's rank in the previous year:- 3rd due to substantial increases in Russian spending.

Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years

After a 64-year wait, members of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation** personally presented the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award to the **Dalai Lama** at his residence. The award was the first international recognition given to the spiritual leader for his exceptional leadership of the Tibetan community's courageous fight in safeguarding their sacred religion, which serves as the foundation of their culture and way of life. The award was given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.

Susanna B Afan, the President of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, along with Foundation Trustee Emily A Abrera, had the honor of meeting with the Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, in person to present the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award, 64 years after it was awarded to him.

The office of the Tibetan spiritual leader has reported that his elder brother, Gyalo Thonden, had accepted the Magsaysay Award on behalf of the Dalai Lama in Manila, Philippines, in August 1959. Following his exile from Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama has resided in India.

Who is Dalai Lama?

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and is regarded as one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhism. The title "Dalai Lama" is a combination of the Mongolian word "dalai," meaning ocean, and the Tibetan word "lama," meaning guru, teacher, or mentor. The Dalai Lama is believed to be the reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, the bodhisattva of compassion, and is responsible for leading the Tibetan people in spiritual and secular matters.

The current and 14th Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso, who was born in Tibet in 1935. He was recognized as the Dalai Lama at the age of two and was enthroned in 1950. In 1959, he fled Tibet following a failed uprising against Chinese rule and has since been living in exile in India. The Dalai Lama is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and has been a vocal advocate for nonviolence, human rights, and religious harmony throughout his life. He is widely respected and admired for his teachings, wisdom, and compassion, and has followers all over the world.

About the Ramon Magsaysay Award

The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals and organizations in Asia who demonstrate exceptional courage, integrity, and service to their communities. Established in 1957, the award was named after the late Philippine President **Ramon Magsaysay**, who was known for his honest leadership and dedication to public service. The award is often referred to as the "**Nobel Prize of Asia**" and is administered by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, based in Manila, Philippines.

The award is given in six categories, namely **government service, public service, community leadership, journalism, creative arts, and peace and international understanding**. Recipients of the award receive a certificate, a medal, and a cash prize.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award has recognized individuals and organizations from various fields, including social work, education, the arts, and science, among others. The award has become one of the most prestigious honors in Asia and has helped raise awareness of the significant contributions of individuals and organizations in promoting social justice, human rights, and democratic values in the region.

List of Indian recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Award:

Name	Year of Award	Category
Vinoba Bhave	1958	Community Leadership
Jayaprakash Narayan	1965	Public Service
Mother Teresa	1962	Peace and International Understanding
Satyajit Ray	1992	Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts
M.S. Swaminathan	1986	Public Service
Arvind Kejriwal	2006	Emergent Leadership
Shanta Sinha	2003	Community Leadership
Rajendra Singh	2001	Community Leadership
Kulandei Francis	2012	Community Leadership
Bezwada Wilson	2016	Emergent Leadership
Ravish Kumar	2019	Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts

Note: This list includes only individuals who were born in India or have Indian nationality.

India Climbs 6 Spots to 38th in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023

According to the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, India's rank in the 7th edition of the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023** has improved by 6 positions, and it now stands at 38th among 139 countries. The ministry further stated that India has shown significant progress in 4 out of 6 **LPI indicators**.

India's Performance in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023: Key Points

- The government claimed in an official statement that India's improved logistics infrastructure is evidence of the country's global standing.
- They attribute this development to their concentrated effort on reforming logistics infrastructure.
- The government also mentioned that the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**, launched in October 2021, is responsible for this update.
- The plan aims to address the evolving requirements of logistics due to factors such as e-commerce, urbanization, energy preferences, and the need to establish sturdy supply chains.
- Additionally, the Ministry stated that India's ranking was improved due to the implementation of the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)**, which provides guidance for States or UTs in developing logistics policies.
- The NLP focuses on promoting energy-efficient transportation modes and the use of greener fuels to minimize carbon emissions.
- Moreover, the **Commerce Ministry** mentioned that the government invested in trade-related infrastructure, including both soft and hard infrastructure, to connect port gateways on both coasts to economic zones in the hinterland.

Logistics Data Bank project by NICDC

The Ministry stated that the **Logistics Data Bank** project by **NICDC**, which involves the use of **RFID** tags on containers and has been implemented in the Western region of India since 2016, and expanded to a Pan India level in 2020, has resulted in significant improvements in cross-border trade facilitation.

Additionally, the project fosters competition among ports by offering data on performance benchmarking, congestion, dwell time, speed, and transit time analysis, according to the Ministry. The Ministry also recognized that initiatives such as Sagarmala and Bharatmala have been instrumental in enhancing India's logistics efficiency.

68th Filmfare Awards 2023 Announced: Check The Complete List Of Winners

On April 27, 2023, the **68th edition of the Hyundai Filmfare Awards** took place at the **Jio World Conventional Centre** in Mumbai. This year's ceremony was co-hosted by Salman Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Maniesh Paul, marking Salman Khan's first time as a host for the event. The awards were presented in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourism. The award ceremony was a platform for many up-and-coming artists to achieve their dreams of receiving the prestigious Black Lady trophy.

Here's a list of winners of the Filmfare Awards 2023:

Category	Winner
Best Film	Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Film (Critics')	Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor (Critics')	Sanjay Mishra for Vadh
Best Actress (Critics')	Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do and Tabu for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Anil Kapoor for Jug Jugg Jeeyo
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Sheeba Chaddha for Badhaai Do
Best Music Album	Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
Best Dialogue	Prakash Kapadia and Utkarshini Vashishtha for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Screenplay	Akshat Ghildial, Suman Adhikary and Harshavardhan Kulkarni for Badhaai Do
Best Story	Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary for Badhaai Do
Best Debut (Male)	Ankush Gedam for Jhund
Best Debut (Female)	Andrea Kevichusa for Anek
Best Debut Director	Jaspal Singh Sandhu and Rajeev Barnwal for Vadh
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prem Chopra
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Kavita Seth for Rangisari from Jug Jugg Jeeyo
RD Burman Award for Upcoming Music Talent	Jahnvi Shrimankar for Dholida from Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best VFX	DNEG and Redefine for Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
Best Editing	Ninad Khanolkar for An Action Hero
Best Costume Design	Sheetal Sharma for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Sound Design	Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee for Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
Best Background Score	Sanchit Balhara and Ankit Balhara for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Choreography	Kruti Mahesh for Dholida from Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Cinematography	Sudeep Chatterjee for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Action	Parvez Shaikh for Vikram Vedha

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

India Post Payments Bank launches WhatsApp Banking Services

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched its WhatsApp Banking Services in New Delhi, allowing customers to conveniently access banking services on their mobile phones. The new WhatsApp Banking channel will enable customers to connect with the bank on WhatsApp and access a range of services, including requesting doorstep services, finding the nearest Post Office, and more. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI releases data on India's International Investment Position for the end of December 2022

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has shared details on **India's International Investment Position (IIP)** at the end of December 2022. According to the data, non-residents' net claims in India dropped by US\$ 12.0 billion between October and December 2022, settling at US\$ 374.5 billion by the end of December 2022. The increase in **India's foreign liabilities** was mainly driven by trade credits and loans. Additionally, reserve assets made up 64.3% of India's international financial assets as of December 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune

State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has opened its first dedicated branch for startups in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey. Asheesh Pandey, Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra, was present in the inaugural ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Fino Payments Bank and Rajasthan Royals ties up for Digital Banking Partner

Fino Payments Bank has renewed its association with **Rajasthan Royals (RR)** for the season 16 of IPL. Fino Bank will be RR's official Digital Banking Partner. The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the Digital Payments Partner. The newly launched FinoPay digital savings account is expected to get more traction through this engagement. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI appoints Neeraj Nigam as executive director

On April 3, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that **Neeraj Nigam** has been appointed as the new executive director (ED). Nigam was previously the regional director of the Bhopal office of the bank, and will now assume his new role as ED. The RBI made this announcement through a press release. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DBS Bank India Launches digiPortfolio

DBS Bank India has introduced a new investment solution called '**digiPortfolio**,' which is now available on the bank's digibank platform. The platform uses technology and human expertise to curate a set of investment options customized by **Morningstar**, which aligns with the risk preferences of different investors. The platform provides an easy-to-use, one-stop solution for investors to put money into ready-made baskets of **mutual funds**. DBS Bank India is among the first banks in India to offer this digital solution, aiming to redefine the customer experience by using advanced technologies like data and AI. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Public Sector Banks Transfer Rs 35,012 Crore Unclaimed Deposits To RBI

Several **public sector banks** in India have transferred a total of **Rs 35,012 crore (\$4.7 billion)** in unclaimed deposits to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The move comes as part of an effort to reduce the amount of unclaimed funds held by banks and ensure that the money is put to productive use. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's Economic Growth to Slow Down to 6.4% in 2023-24: ADB Report

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has projected a **moderate economic growth** rate for **India** due to various factors such as a **global slowdown, tight monetary conditions, and elevated oil prices**. According to the latest ADB outlook, India's economic growth rate is expected to reach **6.4% in 2023-24 from 6.8% in FY23**, while the growth forecast for the current year has been revised downwards to 6.4% from 7.2% earlier projected. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI Penalises Mahindra Finance, Indian Bank Over Disclosure Of Interest Rates To Borrowers

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that it has imposed penalties on **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd, Indian Bank, and Muthoot Money Limited** for non-compliance with regulatory norms. Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd has been fined Rs 6.77 crore for failing to comply with norms related to the disclosure of interest rates to borrowers at the time of loan sanction. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI to launch centralised portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications

RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "**PRAVAAH**" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AutHorisation) aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes. The portal will display the timeframes for deciding on applications and approvals, leading to greater effectiveness in regulatory processes and making it easier for regulated entities to do business with RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has revealed plans to introduce new variants of current accounts and savings accounts in the fiscal year 2023-24, as it seeks to reduce the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of ₹50,000 and another with a balance of ₹50 lakh. It also plans to introduce a new savings account called "**Parivar**" (**family**) **account**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI issues norms for acceptance of green deposits by banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released comprehensive instructions for banks and **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** regarding the acceptance of 'green deposits'. These deposits can be utilized for financing ventures such as renewable energy, green transport, and green buildings. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a framework to encourage Regulated Entities (REs) to offer green deposits to customers, protect depositors' interests, aid customers in achieving their sustainability objectives, address greenwashing concerns, and boost credit flow to green activities/projects. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Canara Bank And NPCI Launch Cross-Border Bill Payment Service For Indians In Oman

Canara Bank and **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)** have collaborated to launch a service that allows Indians residing in **Oman** to make payments for their bills in India. **Canara Bank** has achieved a significant feat by becoming India's first public sector bank to provide inbound cross-border bill payment services through **BBPS**. This breakthrough means that Indians residing in Oman can now conveniently and securely pay bills for services in their home country with ease. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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SBI reintroduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender by assets, has announced the re-introduction of its retail term deposit scheme, **Amrit Kalash**. The scheme offers a special tenor of 400 days and provides an interest rate of 7.6% for **senior citizens** and 7.1% for others. This deposit scheme had previously been launched by SBI on February 15, 2023, and was valid till March 31, 2023. The reintroduction of this scheme provides customers with another opportunity to avail themselves of the attractive interest rates offered by SBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))

What is Rupee Vostro Account system?

The **Rupee Vostro Account** system is a financial arrangement that enables **foreign banks** to conduct transactions in Indian rupees with domestic banks. The term "vostro" is derived from the Latin phrase "in nostro vostro," which translates to "in our account, in your account." In this context, the domestic bank is referred to as the "vostro" bank, and the foreign bank is the "nostro" bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))

City Union Bank launches India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication Banking App

City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has introduced a new feature that allows customers to use **voice biometric authentication** when logging into the bank's mobile banking app, aimed at improving security. The bank plans to extend this feature to net banking users as well, and the development process is currently underway. The voice biometric login option will join other existing authentication methods such as User ID/PIN, face ID, and fingerprint authentication, giving customers multiple choices. CUB has stated that customers can select the authentication method that best suits their needs and preferences. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's RBI Open To Softening Stance On Deal With European Regulators

India's central bank is reportedly willing to ease its stance on **signing an agreement** with **European regulators** on market infrastructure, provided the latter drop their demand to scrutinize and penalize Indian intermediaries like the **Clearing Corp of India (CCIL)**. The **RBI** and European banks held a meeting in March, which marked the beginning of lengthy discussions about the de-recognition of CCIL by foreign regulators. **Credit Suisse, BNP Paribas, Societe Generale, and Deutsche Bank**, which operate in India, will be the most affected by the outcome of the negotiations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sebi introduces ASBA-like facility for secondary market trading in India

Sebi, India's main securities market regulator, has always prioritized empowering investors and promoting fair practices in the country's securities market. One of its latest initiatives that have gained significant attention is the **Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)** facility for **secondary market trading**. ASBA is a **payment mechanism** that allows investors to block their funds in their savings accounts instead of transferring the money to the broker's account during **IPO** subscriptions. This ensures the safety of investor funds and streamlines the process of applying for shares in an IPO, with a reduction in the time taken for refunds and providing greater liquidity to investors. ([Click here to read the article](#))

HDFC Bank appoints Kaizad Bharucha as deputy managing director

HDFC Bank has recently appointed two senior executives and their appointments have been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Kaizad Bharucha** has been appointed as Deputy Managing Director while **Bhavesh Zaveri** has been appointed as Executive Director for a three-year term starting from April 19, 2023. The bank has shared this information through a regulatory filing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI allows AU Small Finance Bank to deal with foreign exchange

AU Small Finance Bank has announced that it has been granted permission by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to act as an authorized dealer in **foreign exchange**. The bank has received a license to operate as an Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999. As a result, the bank will be able to deal in foreign exchange going forward, provided it adheres to all relevant regulations. This announcement was made by the bank in a SEBI filing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SBI seeks \$500 million through issuance of dollar bonds

According to the sources, the biggest financial institution in the country, **State Bank of India (SBI)** is anticipated to begin discussions with investment banks next week regarding a proposed offering. The size of the offering may be increased based on investor interest. The offering is expected to be arranged by banks from **Europe, Japan, and the United States**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Canara Bank has partnered with Reserve Bank of India innovation hub

Canara Bank, in partnership with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, has introduced a new customer-friendly service called "**Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H**," which is aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction. These are self-declaration forms that individuals submit to the bank to avoid the deduction of TDS on interest income, provided their income is below the basic exemption limit. These forms, namely Form 15G (for individuals and HUFs) and Form 15H (for senior citizens), require PAN information to be furnished. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI harmonises provisioning norms for urban cooperative banks

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it has unified the provisioning norms for standard assets across all categories of **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)**. In December 2020, the RBI had classified UCBs into four tiers, namely tier 1, 2, 3, and 4, for regulatory purposes. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI imposes Rs 44 lakh penalty on 4 co-op banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has levied penalties of Rs 44 lakhs on four **cooperative banks** for violating various norms. The penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers, the RBI said. These banks are Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Janata Sahakari Bank, Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Neobank Jupiter secures NBFC licence

Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling the company to provide credit from its own resources. According to Jitendra Gupta, the founder of Amica Financial Technologies Ltd., which operates Jupiter, the company will appoint a professional chief executive officer to manage the NBFC operations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Economy Current Affairs

India's unemployment rate rises to 3-month high of 7.8% in March 2023

India's unemployment rate has risen to a three-month high of 7.8% in March 2023, according to the latest data released by the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**. This marks an increase from the **7.2% unemployment rate** recorded in February and represents a setback for the country's efforts to revive its economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Click here to read the article](#))

GST Revenue Collection Increases 13% To Rs 1.60 Lakh Crore In March 2023

The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** revenue collection for March 2023 has increased by 13% to Rs **1.60 lakh crore**, according to data released by the **Ministry of Finance**. This marks the third consecutive month of increase in GST collections and is a positive sign for **India's economy**, which has been grappling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India GDP Growth Likely To Moderate To 6.3% In FY24: World Bank

According to a recent report by the **World Bank**, **India's GDP growth** is predicted to slow down on April 1 to **6.3% from 6.6%** in the fiscal year 2024. This decline is attributed to a reduction in consumption due to decreased income levels. However, experts believe that India's high level of services exports, which reached a new peak in the last quarter of 2021, will help to protect the economy from external risks since the global economy is slowing down and is expected to have a negative impact on the country's merchandise exports. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India will be third largest economy by 2027-28: Piyush Goyal

In a recent address to the Indian diaspora community in France, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced that India is set to become the **third-largest economy** in the world by 2027. Currently the fifth-largest economy, India has been experiencing an average annual growth rate of around 7% over the last decade, driven by factors such as a growing middle class and a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mauritius Down; Norway, Singapore Gain As FPI Destinations In FY23: Report

Data provided by the National Securities Depository indicates that in the fiscal year 2022-23, overseas capital flows into **Indian capital markets** originating from **Mauritius** experienced the sharpest decline, while **Norway and Singapore** gained popularity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IMF Cuts India's FY24 GDP Forecast To 5.9%

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24, lowering it by 20 basis points to 5.9 percent. This latest forecast is slightly below the Reserve Bank of India's projection of 6.4 percent. Despite the downward revision, India is still projected to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gold Imports Dip 30% To \$31.8 Billion In April–February 2023

India's gold imports have declined by about 30% to \$31.8 billion during April-February 2023, compared to the same period in the previous year, according to data from the country's commerce ministry. The decline in gold imports is attributed to several factors, including high customs duty and global economic uncertainties. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Asian Development Bank Commits Rs 150 Crore To Tata Power Delhi Distribution

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced its plans to invest in non-convertible debentures valued at Rs 150 crore in **Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL)**. The investment aims to improve Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements. Additionally, ADB has also approved a grant of USD 2 million to assist in the acquisition and integration of a pilot **battery energy storage system (BESS)**. The Manila-based funding institution issued a statement confirming the developments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SEBI Unveils New Logo On Its Foundation Day

On the occasion of **Sebi Foundation Day**, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled its new logo at a ceremony held in Mumbai. The **new logo** represents SEBI's commitment to facilitating economic growth through capital formation, while also incorporating the power of technology and data into policy-making. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Retail Inflation Moderates To 5.66% In March From 6.44% In February

India's Annual Retail Inflation for March Eases Below Central Bank's Tolerance Level for the First Time in 2023. According to the NSO data, India's annual retail inflation for March eased to 5.66% from 6.44% in February. This is a positive development for the economy, as it indicates that inflationary pressures may be easing. The **central bank's upper tolerance** level for inflation is 6%, so the current rate is below this level, which is a welcome change. ([Click here to read the article](#))

HDFC Bank Signs \$300 Million Credit Agreement With Export-Import Bank Of Korea

HDFC Bank, the leading private sector bank in India, has signed a **Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement** with the **Export-Import Bank of Korea**, with a total value of **US \$300 million**. The signing ceremony took place in **GIFT City, Gujarat**, and aims to help HDFC Bank raise foreign currency funds, which will be used to support Korea-related businesses. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Net direct tax collections at Rs 16.6 lakh crore in 2022-23, up 160% from 2013-14

The **Finance Ministry** has released time series data indicating a significant increase in **net direct tax collections**, which rose by 160% to reach Rs 16,61,428 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 6,38,596 crore in 2013-14. **Gross direct tax collections** also saw a massive increase of 173% to Rs 19,68,780 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 7,21,604 crore in 2013-14. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Wholesale inflation continues downtrend, moderates to 1.34% in March

India's wholesale-price based inflation eased in March 2023, as input prices continued to moderate. According to government data released on Monday, 17 April 2023. The annual **wholesale price inflation (WPI)** was recorded at 1.34% year-on-year, which is a significant decrease from the previous month's reading of 3.85%. The figure is also lower than the Reuters poll estimate of 1.87%, indicating that the Indian economy is showing signs of stability. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India to challenge WTO panel ruling on ICT import duties at appellate body

India is set to appeal against the recent ruling by the **World Trade Organization's (WTO)** trade dispute settlement panel, which found that the country's import dues on certain information and technology products are inconsistent with global trade norms. The dispute was filed by the **European Union, Japan, and Taiwan**, which argued that the import duties imposed by India on certain informational and technology products violated **WTO rules**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CBIC likely to introduce new system of publishing daily currency exchange rates

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** is reportedly set to replace the existing fortnightly notification system for currency exchange rates with a daily publishing system on the integrated customs portal. The move is expected to capture daily fluctuations in exchange rates, enabling importers and exporters to calculate customs duties with greater precision. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Economy Would Expand Near By 6% This Fiscal Year, IMF Forecasts

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has predicted that India will be the world's fastest-growing economy, despite facing significant challenges such as financial turbulence, inflationary pressures, the impact of the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**, and the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the IMF's flagship World Economic Outlook report released on April 11th, the Indian economy is forecast to grow by **5.9%** in the current fiscal year. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Business Current Affairs

UPI Processes 8.7 Bln Transactions In March, Highest Ever Since Inception

The Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**), India's flagship digital payment platform, set a new record at the end of the fiscal year **2022-23**. In March 2023, the UPI processed a historic high of **8.7 billion** transactions, worth Rs 14.05 trillion. This achievement marks yet another milestone for the UPI since its inception. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Is Set To Hire RS Sodhi For Reliance Retail

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire **RS Sodhi**, the former MD of the **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**, which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul. Sodhi will be joining Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), led by Isha Ambani, to assist the company in expanding its grocery business in India, with a specific focus on fruits and vegetables. In addition to this, Sodhi will also be responsible for strengthening the company's presence in consumer brands. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PhonePe Launches E-Commerce App Pincode On ONDC Network

Walmart-backed Indian fintech decacorn **PhonePe** has recently launched **Pincode**, a new consumer-facing app aimed at strengthening its e-commerce initiatives. The app will be integrated into India's **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** framework. This move comes three months after Flipkart completed the full ownership separation of PhonePe. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Gaming Start-Ups Leading The Industry With AWS

AWS India's Head of Start-up Ecosystem, **Amitabh Nagpal**, has acknowledged that **gaming** has become one of the most popular forms of **entertainment** today. Indian start-ups are leading the rapid growth of the **gaming industry** in India, utilizing **cloud technologies** to build and operate high-performance games across all categories. AWS offers Indian gaming start-ups the services and solutions necessary to develop successful games. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Adani Power Ltd Opened A New Power Plant In Jharkhand That Will Supply Electricity To Bangladesh

Adani Power Ltd, one of India's leading private sector power generation companies, recently opened a new power plant in **Jharkhand, India**. This state-of-the-art power plant has a capacity of 1,600 MW and is expected to supply electricity to **Bangladesh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Solar Energy Corporation Of India Gets 'Miniratna Category-I' Status

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has granted **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** status to the state-owned **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)**, according to a statement. SECI, which was established in 2011, is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aimed at fulfilling India's international commitments. SECI has played a Central role in the rapid increase of RE generation capacity in the country and has contributed towards the nation's climate commitments, carbon emission reduction strategies and sustainable energy transition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's Unemployment Rate Rose To 7.45% In Feb: CMIE

India's employment rate has shown a marginal improvement in the March quarter, with an increase of 0.3% from the previous quarter, according to the latest data released by the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**. In March 2023, India's employment rate rose to 36.9%, up from 36.6% in December 2022, while the number of unemployed individuals decreased by nearly two million, underscoring the fact that many people were able to obtain jobs. ([Click here to read the article](#))

MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world'

According to a recent report by **Brand Finance**, a U.K.-based brand valuation consultancy, **MRF Ltd.** has been ranked as the second-strongest tyre brand in the world. The report evaluated various parameters, and MRF scored high on most of them, including being the second fastest-growing tyre brand globally. With a score of 83.2 out of 100, MRF received a AAA- brand rating. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards

India's International Aviation Safety Assessment rating has been reaffirmed as Category One, indicating that the country satisfies global standards for aviation safety oversight. The **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the domains of aircraft operations, airworthiness, and personnel licensing, following which India was granted Category One status. ([Click here to read the article](#))

US emerges as India's biggest trading partner in FY23 at \$128.55 bn; China at second position

According to provisional data from the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between **India and the United States** has risen by 7.65% to reach \$128.55 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, making the United States India's largest trading partner. This represents an increase from \$119.5 billion in the previous year and \$80.51 billion in 2020-21, indicating a growing economic relationship between the two countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports

According to recent figures released by the **Indian Ministry of Commerce**, the **UAE** remains the second most significant export destination for India. The **US** and **UAE** held onto their first and second positions, respectively, during the financial year 2022-23. The ministry's figures, released two weeks into the new fiscal year, indicate a six percent increase in **India's overall exports of goods** and services during the financial year that concluded last month. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tata Steel To Set Up A Pilot Plant For Methanol

Tata Steel plans to set up a 10-tonnes-per-day pilot plant at its **Kalinganagar facility** in Odisha to produce **methanol** using blast furnace flue gases. The success of this pilot plant could pave the way for significant methanol production in India. The project aims to explore the possibility of combining carbon dioxide from steel mill blast furnaces with hydrogen from electrolyzers to produce methanol. This will enable Tata Steel to test the feasibility of this process and potentially pave the way for a more sustainable approach to methanol production in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited now a Navratana

The state-owned railway company **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)** was in focus as the Indian Government upgraded its status to a '**Navratna**' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a '**Miniratna**' category. The decision to upgrade RVNL was approved by the Finance Minister and is set to take effect from April 26, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NPCI Bharat BillPay launches NOCS platform to process ONDC transactions

The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) subsidiary, NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL), has launched the NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions made on the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network**. This platform will serve as the foundation for the ONDC network and enable secure and timely transfer of funds to network participants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Reliance General becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in tie-up with YES Bank

Reliance General Insurance has made history by becoming the first general insurance company to accept the Reserve Bank of India's **(RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹)** for premium payments. The insurer has partnered with YES Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in digital mode using the bank's e-rupee platform. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Current Affairs

Britain, EU Reach Agreement On Northern Ireland Post-Brexit Trade

In a significant development for **post-Brexit Britain**, the UK has reached its largest trade deal yet. The country is set to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which covers a market of around 500 million people with a combined GDP of £9tn. ([Click here to read the article](#))

'MF Hydra': World's First Liquid Hydrogen-Powered Ferry Gets Operational

Norwegian company **Norled** has successfully launched the world's first **ferry** that runs on liquid hydrogen. The vessel, called **MF Hydra**, is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells. It underwent sea trials for two weeks after initial testing at Hjelmeland quay earlier this year. The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has given final approval for the ferry to operate. This milestone achievement is a significant step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime industry, as hydrogen fuel cells produce only clean water as a byproduct. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Georgia Assembly passes resolution condemning Hinduphobia

Georgia Assembly has passed a resolution that condemns **Hinduphobia** and **anti-Hindu bigotry**, making it the first state in America to take such legislative action. The resolution highlights that Hinduism is a diverse religion with over **1.2 billion adherents** worldwide, and it **promotes values of acceptance, mutual respect, and peace**. The resolution recognizes the contributions of the American-Hindu community in various fields, such as science, medicine, engineering, and hospitality. Additionally, the resolution acknowledges the **contributions of yoga, meditation, ayurveda, music, and art, which have enriched American culture**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

After ChatGPT, Italy Plans To Ban English Language

In a startling move, the **Italian government** has announced that it plans to ban the **English language** and impose heavy fines on individuals and organizations that continue to use it. The announcement comes just weeks after the ban on **ChatGPT**, a language model developed by OpenAI. The decision has been met with widespread criticism and has raised questions about Italy's commitment to international cooperation and its position in the global economy. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China Renames 11 Places in Arunachal Pradesh

China's Civil Affairs Ministry published a list of standardized names for 11 locations in **Arunachal Pradesh**, referring to it as "**Zangnan**," the southern region of Tibet, and using Chinese, Tibetan, and pinyin characters. This move is seen as an attempt by China to stake a claim on the Indian state, in line with their regulations on geographical names. ([Click here to read the article](#))

OPEC Members Announce Cut In Oil Production Exceeding One Million Barrels Month

In a sudden announcement, **OPEC members**, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria, have declared voluntary **oil production cuts** of more than one million barrels per day from May to December. They have stated that this is a preventive action to support the stability of the oil market. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi invited to France for Bastille Day parade

Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been invited to France for the **Bastille Day parade**, which is scheduled for July 14th. The invitation was extended by French President **Emmanuel Macron**, who expressed his desire to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China's Yuan Replaces Dollar As Most Traded Currency In Russia.

In recent years, there has been a shift in the global currency landscape, with **China's yuan** steadily gaining ground against the **US dollar**. This trend is reflected in **Russia**, where the yuan has now overtaken the dollar as the **most traded currency**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Israel Launches New Ofek-13 Spy Satellite Into Orbit

On April 5th, 2023, **Israel** successfully launched a new spy satellite, named **Ofek-13**, into orbit. The satellite, **Ofek-13**, launched from the **Palmachim Airbase** in central Israel, is intended to provide advanced intelligence capabilities to the Israeli military and intelligence agencies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

New Zealand's Kim Cotton Becomes First Female Umpire To Officiate Men's T20I Match

On April 5th, during the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, **Kim Cotton** became the first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two full-member teams, making history. Cotton has previously worked as an on-field and TV umpire in 54 women's T20Is and 24 women's ODIs, as well as officiating at the women's T20 and ODI World Cups from 2018 to 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Global Trade Expected To Grow 1.7% In 2023: WTO

Despite ongoing concerns over the war in Ukraine, high inflation, and financial uncertainty, the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** has raised its projection for global trade growth in 2023 from 1% to 1.7%. This updated outlook indicates that the **global economy** is expected to recover faster than previously anticipated. However, the risks associated with these persistent issues remain, and could still impact the growth trajectory of the global trade landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Parisians Vote To Ban E-Scooters In Hotly Debated Referendum

Parisians have voted to **ban rental electric scooters** from the streets of the city, with **89%** of voters in favor of the **proposed ban**. The referendum was held on Sunday, but only **7% of eligible voters turned out**. The ban will come into effect on September 1, 2023, when the contract allowing three companies to operate around 15,000 e-scooters in Paris comes to an end. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chinese Company Space Pioneer Successfully Launches Tianlong-2 Rocket Into Orbit

Chinese company **Space Pioneer** has achieved a **historic milestone** in space exploration, launching its **Tianlong-2 rocket** into orbit from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in **Inner Mongolia** on April 2. This marks the **first time a liquid-fueled rocket** has been launched into orbit by a **Chinese aerospace firm**, and the first time a **startup has successfully reached orbit on its initial attempt**. The **Tianlong-2 rocket**, also known as "**Sky Dragon-2**," has enabled Beijing Tianbing Technology to launch a **small satellite named "Love Space Science"** to a polar orbit around Earth. The satellite will test its remote sensing capabilities from this sun-synchronous orbit. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Gives \$2 Million To African Union Transition Mission In Somalia

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, reaffirmed India's commitment to peace and stability in **Somalia and the Horn of Africa** by handing over a contribution of USD 2 million to the United Nations Trust Fund. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Exploring The Uncharted Waters: International Seabed Authority And Ocean Mining

The vast expanse of the ocean floor, covering over **70%** of the earth's surface, remains **largely unexplored and underutilized**. The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** was established in **1994** to govern and regulate the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources found in international waters beyond the jurisdiction of its 167 member countries' **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)**. The **ISA headquarters** is located in **Jamaica**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

EAMS Jaishankar Launches 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' In Uganda

During his three-day visit to **Uganda's Kampala**, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the '**Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project**' in **Varanasi**. He commended the Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda for their efforts to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the oldest inhabited city in the world. Uganda has been selected to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the period of 2022 to 2025 on behalf of Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China records world's first human death from H3N8 bird flu

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** reported that a woman from **Guangdong**, a southern province of **China**, has died from a rare strain of **bird flu** that is not commonly found in humans. Although three people have been confirmed to have been infected with the **H3N8** subtype of avian influenza, this strain does not seem to transmit from person to person. The deceased woman was 56 years old. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ghana Becomes First Country To Approve Oxford Malaria Vaccine For Children

Ghana has made history by becoming the first country to approve a highly effective **malaria vaccine** developed by scientists at the **University of Oxford** in the UK. The vaccine, called **R21/Matrix-M**, has exceeded the **World Health Organization's** target of 75% efficacy, making it a significant milestone in the fight against malaria. ([Click here to read the article](#))

New York City Appoints First-Ever 'Rat Czar'

Kathleen Corradi has been appointed by **NYC Mayor Eric Adams** to tackle the city's severe rodent issue. She has been designated as the city's inaugural "**rat czar**" and given the responsibility of minimizing the rat population and creating a cleaner and more hospitable environment for residents. In addition, the Adams administration is dedicating \$3.5 million to the Harlem Rat Mitigation Zone, a new initiative to expedite rat control measures throughout Harlem. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Turkey's First Aircraft Carrier To Host World's First Mainly Unmanned Air Wing

The **Turkish Navy** has received the **TCG Anadolu**, its **first aircraft carrier**, which is expected to house the **world's first air wing** made primarily of **unmanned aircraft**. Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** said the vessel would host many manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, with the **TB3** from the **Bayraktar** family being the latest prototype tested on the carrier's flight deck. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Philippines And US Launch Largest Joint Military Exercises To Counter China

The **Philippines** and the **United States** have launched their **largest-ever joint military exercises**, called **Balikatan**, involving nearly **18,000 troops** to counter **China's** growing assertiveness in the region. The annual drills, which include a

live-fire exercise in the **South China Sea**, are being held for the first time under **President Ferdinand Marcos**, who seeks to strengthen ties with the **US**. The maneuvers include military helicopters landing on the Philippine island of **Luzon** and the retaking of an island by amphibious forces. ([Click here to read the article](#))

S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique

Dr Jaishankar inaugurated the **Buzi Bridge virtually**, which is a part of the **132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project**. The bridge has been constructed by India and is a symbol of the solidarity and friendship between India and Mozambique. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Nepal becomes founding member of International Big Cats Alliance

Nepal has become a founding member of the **International Big Cats Alliance**. During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter mentioning Nepal will be associated with the alliance as a founding member to Indian Minister for Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Syria becomes world's largest 'narco-state': Report

According to reports, **Syria** has now become the **world's largest narco-state**, with the majority of its foreign currency earnings coming from the **production and export of Captagon**, a highly addictive amphetamine commonly referred to as "poor man's coke". In line with the definition provided by Collins Dictionary, Syria can be classified as a narco-state as the illegal trade of narcotics, specifically Captagon, forms a significant portion of its economy, accounting for over 90 percent of the country's foreign currency earnings. ([Click here to read the article](#))

WTO rules India violated global trade rules in IT dispute

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** has found that **India** has **breached global trading** regulations in a dispute over import duties on IT products with the **European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan**. The WTO panel's report recommended that India should modify the measures to conform with its obligations. The dispute began in 2019 when the EU objected to India's introduction of import duties of between **7.5% and 20%** on various IT products, including mobile phones, integrated circuits, and components, stating that the tariffs exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan also lodged similar complaints that year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China's Local Government Financing Vehicles Face Debt Crisis

China has yet to experience a full-blown **financial crisis** despite being one of the most indebted countries in the world. While there have been close calls, such as the **government seizing a regional bank in 2019** to prevent a run on deposits and a wave of **real estate developer defaults** last year, the fear of these events has diminished. Beijing's tightening of regulations on **unregulated local banks** and aggressive home builders has contributed to making China a safer place for investors. However, there is still a looming issue with borrowing from **local government financing vehicles (LGFVs)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Cuba's Parliament Ratifies President Díaz-Canel For New Term... Read more at:

Cuba's National Assembly has confirmed **President Miguel Díaz-Canel** for a new five-year term, as the country grapples with a severe economic crisis. The decision to maintain continuity in leadership was made by more than 400 representatives who were elected in March and took office on Wednesday, 19 April. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to open first overseas office in Abu Dhabi

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has recently signed an agreement to create its first Interim Operational Hub in **Abu Dhabi Global Market**, marking its initial foray into establishing an overseas office. AIIB is a multilateral development bank that focuses on financing infrastructure projects that prioritize sustainability. As the host country for COP28 later this year, the **UAE** has emphasized the importance of climate finance, a key concern for nations as they strive to increase their efforts and commitments towards climate action. ([Click here to read the article](#))

British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab Resigns Following Bullying Investigation

Dominic Raab, the **British Deputy Prime Minister**, has resigned after an independent investigation found that he acted in an **intimidating** manner toward colleagues. The **48-page report by lawyer Adam Tolley** investigated more than a dozen complaints about Raab's behavior, with **Tolley concluding that Raab did act in an intimidating way** with colleagues in two of the three sets of complaints against him. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kenya's Kiptum Wins London Marathon in 2nd Fastest Time

Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old Kenyan athlete, collapsed to the ground after achieving victory in the London Marathon and posting the second-best time in history for the distance. Kiptum broke the course record with an impressive time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds, falling short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record by only 16 seconds. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mongolia refinery to be built by India by 2025

Mongolia will have its first oil refinery up and running by 2025. The first phase of the **\$1.2 billion Indian soft loan-funded Mongol Oil Refinery** will be finished by the end of the year. Given that **Russia** is the only source of energy imports for Mongolia, the development has strategic ramifications. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India and Ukraine Chamber of Commerce to be set up

An **India-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce** will be established in the upcoming months in an effort to strengthen commercial ties. The Chamber will work to increase opportunities for investment and cooperation in industries including infrastructure and power with the help of the **Ukrainian government**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Udai Tambar, Indian-origin CEO on racial justice advisory board

Udai Tambar, an Indian-origin CEO working on youth development services in the **United States**, have been selected to serve as members of **New York City's** newly formed racial justice advisory board. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Belgium firm to launch biodiesel project in Ayodhya soon

The city of **Ayodhya** has been chosen for a two-year pilot project aimed at producing **biodiesel from waste**. Belgium-based company **Vito** is expected to launch the project in Ayodhya soon. The company, which focuses on clean technology and sustainable development, has already started working on the project, according to officials. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Zimbabwe to introduce gold-backed digital currency

To combat the falling value of the Zimbabwean currency, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced plans to introduce a **gold-backed digital currency**. The digital gold tokens will be a form of electronic money, backed by gold held at the RBZ. This will enable holders of small amounts of **Zimbabwean dollars** to exchange their money for tokens and protect themselves against exchange rate fluctuations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shahabuddin Chuppu takes oath as Bangladesh's 22nd president

Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the **22nd president of Bangladesh**, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Japan's health ministry approves first abortion pill in its history

A panel in **Japan's health ministry** has approved the country's **first abortion pill**, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available. The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the **MeFeego Pack**, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. ([Click here to read the article](#))

US State Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday

Senator Nikil Saval tweeted that the state of **Pennsylvania** in the **United States** has declared Diwali, the Hindu festival, as a national holiday. The legislation to make Diwali an official state holiday was introduced by State **Senators Greg Rothman** and **Nikil Saval** in February of this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Pakistan becomes largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** Annual Report 2022 revealed that **Pakistan** received loans of \$5.58 billion, making it the largest recipient of ADB-funded programs/projects in the year 2022. Out of the total lending, Pakistan received concessional funding of \$2.67 billion from the bank, highlighting the dire economic situation in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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National Current Affairs

Drugs for rare diseases get customs duty relief

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Vande Bharat Express** train service between Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi. The train will cover a distance of 701 kilometres in 7 hours and 30 minutes and will operate on all days except Saturday. It will stop at Veerangana Laxmibai Jhansi, Gwalior, and Agra. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PNGRB Amends Regulation To Allow Unified Tariff For Natural Gas Pipelines

The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has introduced amendments to the PNGRB (Determination of Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff) regulations to include regulations related to a unified tariff for natural gas pipelines, with a vision of "**One Nation, One Grid and One Tariff.**" ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi Inaugurated CBI's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Prime Minister, Shri **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Central Bureau of Investigation was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 1st April 1963. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Union Minister Sonowal Launches 'SAGAR-SETU' Mobile App Of National Logistics Portal Marine

The Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal**, introduced the "**Sagar Setu**" mobile application for the National Logistics Portal Marine. The "Sagar Setu" mobile app by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways offers a login module, service catalogue, Letter of Credit, bank guarantee, certification, and track & trace features. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rajya Sabha Passes Competition Amendment Bill, 2023

The **Rajya Sabha** approved the **Competition Amendment Bill, 2023**, aimed at modernizing the two-decade-old anti-trust law to align with changes in the economy. The Competition Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to modify the **Competition Act, 2002**, which authorizes the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** to prevent practices that adversely impact competition and consumer interests. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Develops Country-Level Model For Estimating TB Cases

India has developed a **country-level mathematical model** that estimates the prevalence of **tuberculosis (TB)** cases in the country. The model allows for TB incidence and mortality estimate data to be available by March each year, months before the **World Health Organization (WHO)** releases its annual estimates in October. The model, which draws from data such as an individual's infection and disease status, healthcare utilization, and treatment outcomes, was presented at the **36th Stop TB Partnership Board meeting in Varanasi.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Become World's Second-Largest Solar Manufacturer By 2026

India has been making significant strides toward **renewable energy** in recent years, with a focus on **solar energy**. The country has set ambitious targets to increase its solar energy capacity and has been taking various steps to achieve them. In line with this, India is expected to become the **world's second-largest solar manufacturer** by 2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Elected As Member Of UN Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs

India has recently been elected as a member of the **United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs** and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint **UN Program**, signaling the country's increasing presence in the international arena. The decision was made during a vote held at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on April 6, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Slams OIC For Its 'Anti-India' Agenda

India has strongly criticized the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** for its "anti-India" agenda, accusing the organization of meddling in **India's internal affairs** and promoting extremism. In a statement issued on April 4, 2023, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its "strong protest" against the OIC's statement, which it called "unwarranted and factually incorrect." ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amit Shah Unveils 54-Foot-Tall Statue Of Lord Hanuman At Gujarat Temple

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 54-foot-tall statue of **Lord Hanuman** at a temple in **Gujarat, India**. The statue, made of bronze, was installed at the **Hanuman temple** in Shah's hometown, Naranpura, in Ahmedabad. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi Flags Off Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express

During his visit to Telangana, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express**. The Secunderabad Railway Station is also set to undergo a major redevelopment, which will include a new iconic building and world-class amenities, at a cost of Rs 720 crore. The new station will have a double-level roof plaza with all passenger facilities in one place, as well as multimodal connectivity to make it easier for passengers to transfer between rail and other modes of transport. The Prime Minister's Office stated that the new station will provide a seamless and convenient experience for passengers. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India, Bangladesh, Japan To Hold Connectivity Meet In Tripura

Bangladesh, India, and Japan are set to hold a connectivity event in **Tripura**, India on April 11-12. The event is aimed at exploring connectivity initiatives and leveraging the commercial potential of the region. **The Asian Confluence**, a think tank from Northeast India, will organize the event in collaboration with India's Ministry of External Affairs. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam will represent Bangladesh, while India's deputy foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador to India will also attend. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Nepal Becomes Founding Member Of International Big Cats Alliance

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)** during his visit to Karnataka on April 9, 2022. The IBCA aims to conserve **seven species of big cats**, including tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, and clouded leopards. ([Click here to read the article](#))

President Of India Takes A Historic Sortie In A Sukhoi 30 MKI Fighter Aircraft

As part of her three-day official visit to the northeastern state, President **Draupadi Murmu** boarded a **Sukhoi 30 MKI** fighter jet for a flight from the strategic **Tezpur Airforce station** in **Assam**. It is noteworthy that the previous instance of a President flying in a Sukhoi was in 2009, when India's 12th President, **Pratibha Devi Singh Patil**, took a similar flight. Upon her arrival at the Tezpur Air Force Station, President Murmu was welcomed with a **Guard of Honour**.

Election Commission Grants National Party Status To Aam Aadmi Party

In a significant development, the **Election Commission** has granted national party status to the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**. The party's recognition as a **national party** is based on its electoral performance in four states- Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.

Amit Shah Launches Vibrant Village Program At Kibithu Border Village In Arunachal Pradesh

On April 7, 2023, India's Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **Vibrant Village program** at Kibithu, a border village in Arunachal Pradesh. This program aims to bring about the overall development of rural areas and transform them into self-sufficient and prosperous communities. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Releases First Edition Of Dogri Version Of Indian Constitution

On April 10, 2023, India released the first edition of the **Dogri version of the Indian Constitution**. The release of this version is a significant step towards promoting linguistic diversity and preserving the cultural heritage of the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amit Shah To Confer 'Maharashtra Bhushan' On Appasaheb Dharmadhikari

Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, is scheduled to present the '**Maharashtra Bhushan**' Award to **Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari**, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, on April 16 for his notable work as a social worker and reformer. The award ceremony will take place at the Corporate Park in the Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai, and a large event is being planned for it, as announced by Shinde after a high-level preparation meeting held in Raigad. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's First 3D-Printed Post Office To Come Up In Bengaluru

According to recent news reports, a **3D-printed post office** is being built in **Bengaluru, India**, which will be the first of its kind in the country. Residents of Cambridge Layout are reportedly pleased with this development. The cost of constructing this post office is estimated to be **30 to 40 percent** lower than that of a traditional building, and it is expected to be completed within 30 days. The 1100 square feet post office will cost around Rs 23 lakh to construct. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi Flags Off Rajasthan's First Vande Bharat Express Train

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express** train via video conferencing, which is the **15th such train** in the country. The prime minister emphasized that the Vande Bharat Express symbolizes development, modernity, self-reliance, and stability, enriching the spirit of 'India First, Always First'. He also mentioned that the train will greatly benefit Rajasthan's tourism industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Parshottam Rupala Inaugurates 29 Mobile Veterinary Units And Call Centres

On April 14th, 2023, Shri **Parshottam Rupala**, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched two significant initiatives: the **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)** and the Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project, which is funded by the World Bank. The launch event will take place at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi and will be held under the National One Health Mission. ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train Tour On Ambedkar Circuit Flagged Off From New Delhi

On the occasion of the 132nd birth anniversary of social reformer **BR Ambedkar**, a special tourist train has been launched from New Delhi that will take passengers to various cities associated with him across the country. The train, named **Bharat Gaurav**, will tour the **Ambedkar Circuit** and was flagged off by Union Minister of Tourism **G Kishan Reddy** and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar from the Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. The tour, which will last for seven nights and eight days, will cover important sites in Maharashtra and Bihar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

'Vande Metro' To Be Rolled Out By December 2023, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that the Union government plans to introduce 'Vande Metro' by December 2023. This announcement comes after the successful launch of the **Vande Bharat Express**, which is a semi-high-speed train operating in several parts of the country. The upcoming metro network is expected to connect major cities and provide a cost-effective mode of transportation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India opens its 16th Visa application center in Kushtia

The **16th Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC)** in Bangladesh was inaugurated by High Commissioner **Pranya Verma** in **Kushtia town**. The opening ceremony was attended by Mahbubul Alam Hanif, a Member of Parliament from Kushtia-3. The IVAC is expected to provide more convenience and accessibility to the residents of Kushtia and nearby areas who need to apply for visas to travel to India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-born academic named in task force to expand US-India univ partnerships

Neeli Bendapudi, an academic of Indian origin, has been selected as one of the five co-chairs of an **Association of American Universities (AAU)** task force that aims to enhance research and academic collaborations among higher education institutions in the United States and India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Geothermal Energy and India-China Dispute

Geothermal energy is a valuable **renewable resource** that has been harnessed to meet the electricity demands of several countries, including **Iceland, El Salvador, New Zealand, Kenya, and the Philippines**. Unlike non-renewable energy sources, such as fossil fuels, geothermal energy is sustainable and does not deplete over time. It is a reliable source of power that has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Jyotiraditya Scindia to inaugurate India Steel 2023 in Mumbai

India Steel 2023 will be inaugurated at the Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai, with Union Minister of Steel **Jyotiraditya Scindia** presiding over the event. The Union Ministry of Steel, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and FICCI, is organizing India Steel 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL'

Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **YUVA PORTAL** in New Delhi, which aims to connect and identify potential young Start-Ups. The minister also introduced the **One Week - One Lab programme** during the event. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Approves National Quantum Mission

The Union Cabinet approved the **National Quantum Mission**, aimed at propelling India into a leading position in the **quantum technology** sector and promoting economic growth through its development. The mission seeks to expedite progress in the field and cement India's position as a major player in the industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Central Government notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023

The Central government has recently issued the **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**, which are designed to comply with the guidelines set by the Supreme Court in a writ petition involving the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** and the People for Elimination of Stray Troubles. The Supreme Court had issued several orders emphasizing that the relocation of dogs was not permissible. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mann Ki Baat 100th episode: Rs 100 coin to be released on the occasion

The Ministry of Finance has issued an official notification stating that a new **Rs 100 coin** will be minted by the Central Government to commemorate the **100th edition** of the radio programme, **Mann Ki Baat**, with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The notification specifies that the One Hundred Rupees denomination coin will only be minted at the Mint and issued under the authority of the Central Government on the occasion of the 100th Episode of Mann Ki Baat. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NHAI to Develop 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables Across India by FY 2025

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has announced plans to develop an integrated network of around **10,000 kilometers of optic fiber cables (OFC)** infrastructure across India by the **fiscal year 2025**. The project will be implemented by NHAI's special purpose vehicle, **National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML)**, which will create utility corridors along the national highways to develop the OFC infrastructure. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ministry of Health plans to launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide

The **Union Health Ministry** and the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** have made a noteworthy and inventive decision to urge states and Union Territories to establish 100 food streets in 100 districts throughout the country. This pilot project is intended to serve as a model for other streets to follow and promote hygienic and safe food practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Union Minister Sonowal inaugurates the technology arm of Shipping Ministry in TN

Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, who inaugurated the **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC)** at the Discovery Campus of IIT-Madras. The centre will enable Make In India tech solutions for the sector and propel overall growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

G20 Park: Delhi's Waste-to-Wonder Concept Aligns with PM's Vision for a Sustainable Future

India has put forward a proposal to construct a **G20 park in Delhi** that will serve as a representation of global unity on the path of development. According to sources, PM Modi has been closely monitoring the park's concept development. The park, which will be located at the **Shanti Path and Ring Road junction**, will be based on the theme of "**One Earth, One Family, One Future.**" ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Pavilion At Global Education & Training Exhibition Inaugurated At Dubai

The '**Study in India Pavilion**' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in **Dubai** was inaugurated by the Consul General of India in Dubai, Dr. Aman Puri on April, 26, 2023. Organized by the Services Export Promotion Council with the support of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the India Pavilion at **GETEX 2023** is being held from 26-28 April 2023 at Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE. The pavilion, spanning over 200 sqm, features more than 30 universities and edtech stakeholders of Indian higher education. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Medical Devices Policy Approved By Union Cabinet

The Indian Government has taken steps for **National Medical Devices Policy** to implement the **PLI Scheme** for medical devices and establish 4 Medical Devices Parks in **Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu** and **Uttar Pradesh**. At present, 26 projects worth Rs 1206 crore have been approved under the scheme, with an investment of Rs 714 crore realized. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi inaugurates 'NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute'

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute**' in Silvassa town, located in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The institute has been developed under the Ministry of Health and is spread over a lush green campus of 14.48 acres built at a cost of ₹203 crore. Here are five things to know about this new medical college. ([Click here to read the article](#))

3 new conservation reserves declared in Rajasthan

The **Rajasthan** government's recent declaration of three areas as **conservation reserves** has brought a ray of hope for wildlife conservation efforts and ecotourism in the state. **As the state government declared three areas — Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara** — as conservation reserves. The new reserves are expected to protect rare and endangered species and provide a safe haven for migratory birds. ([Click here to read the article](#))



States Current Affairs

In A First, Eravikulam National Park Gets A Fernarium

Eravikulam National Park in Munnar, Kerala, which is home to the Nilgiri tahr, now features a new attraction: a fernarium located within the park. This is the first instance of a fern collection being established in the hill station, according to officials. The fern park is located close to the orchidarium and will be accessible to the public starting from April 20th. The Eravikulam National Park is known for its diverse range of flora and fauna, and the introduction of the fernarium is a step towards educating visitors about the park's biodiversity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bandipur Completes 50 Years As A Project Tiger Reserve

Bandipur National Park, located in the southern Indian state of **Karnataka**, recently completed 50 years as a **Project Tiger Reserve**. The park, which spans an area of over 874 square kilometers, is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including tigers, elephants, Indian bison, and several species of birds and reptiles. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kerala Tops GI Tag List In FY 2022-23

According to data shared by the GI Registry, **Kerala** has secured the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in FY23. Several products from Kerala, including Attappady Aattukombu Avara (beans), Attappady Thuvara (red gram), Onattukara Ellu (sesame), Kanthloor Vattavada Veluthuli (garlic), and Kodungallur Pottuvellari (snap melon) have been recognized with the GI tag. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tripura Becomes Best Performer In Northeast In E-Procurement, Receives Award

Tripura's recent award as the best-performing state in the **North Eastern region for e-Procurement** is a significant achievement for the state. The award was presented at a National Workshop on e-Procurement organized by the Union Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology in March 2023, held at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tamil Nadu Govt's 'TN REACH' Initiative To Use 80+ Unused Helipads Soon

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (Tidco) has developed a mechanism called **Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters (TN REACH)**, which aims to utilize over 80 unused helipads across the state to provide intercity and town connectivity. This would be possible by leveraging the National Civil Aviation Policy and the Helicopter Policy of the Government of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation And Breeding Center In Uttar Pradesh

The **world's first** conservation and breeding center for the **critically endangered Asian king vulture** is set to open in **Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district**. The center, named **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC)**, is spread over **1.5 hectares** and is designed to maintain a sustainable population of the species by **breeding** king vultures in captivity and releasing them into the wild. The JCBC, worth approximately **Rs 15 crore**, features multiple aviaries, including breeding and holding aviaries, nursery aviaries for juveniles, hospital and recovery aviaries, a food processing center, and an incubation center. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sarnbanada Sonowal Flags Off International Yoga Mahotsav In Dibrugarh

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister for AYUSH, inaugurated the International Yoga Mahotsav at the **Dibrugarh University** Playground to mark the upcoming **International Day of Yoga 2023**, which is just 75 days away. ([Click here to read the article](#))

T.N. Governor Ravi Grants Assent To Bill Banning Online Gambling'

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has given his assent to a bill that bans online gambling games and regulates them. The bill had been passed by the Tamil Nadu government for the second time on March 23, 2023. With the Governor's approval, the Chief Minister informed the Assembly that the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill has been cleared, and a gazette notification is expected to follow. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Himachal Pradesh Launched Sanjeevani Project

The economy of Himachal Pradesh is predominantly reliant on agriculture and animal husbandry. The rural households in the state consider livestock care as a crucial aspect, given the livestock population of approximately 4.41 million. The state government has initiated a project named **Sanjeevani** to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Maharashtra: Savarkar's Birth Anniversary To Be Celebrated As 'Swatanrya Veer Gaurav Din'

The Chief Minister of **Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde**, has declared that May 28, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, will be celebrated as '**Swatanrya Veer Gaurav Din**', and several events will be organized to promote the ideas of Swatantra Veer Savarkar on this day. The state government will commemorate the occasion by conducting various programs to spread the message of Swatantra Veer Savarkar. The announcement was made by the Chief Minister, who stated that the state will celebrate the birth anniversary of Swatanrya Veer Savarkar as 'Swatanrya Veer Gaurav Din' and conduct a range of events to promote his ideology. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Greenfield International Airport In Bhogapuram: Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony On May 3

The foundation stone for the **Greenfield International Airport** in **Bhogapuram** is set to be laid on May 3 by **Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**. The airport, spanning **2,200 acres**, will soon commence construction, with the completion of the land acquisition process. Minister for Industries and Information Technology Gudivada Amarnath confirmed that the works are likely to be finished within **24-30 months**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

MP's Gond Painting Of Acquires GI Tag

The well-known **Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh** has been granted the coveted **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, which safeguards and acknowledges the work of tribal artists and requires approval from a committee for non-tribal artists to use the art. A GI tag is a symbol used on items that are exclusively produced in a specific geographical region and have characteristics or a reputation that are associated with that location. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kolkata Metro Becomes India's First Metro Train To Run Under River

Kolkata Metro has achieved a significant milestone as it became the first metro rail in India to complete an under-river journey. The metro rakes passed through an underwater tunnel beneath the **Hooghly river**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train Tour On Ambedkar Circuit Flagged Off From New Delhi

The Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao, unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of **BR Ambedkar** in **Hyderabad** to commemorate the **132nd birth anniversary** of the renowned Indian Constitution architect. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi Launches Railway Projects, Methanol Plant In Assam

During his day-long tour to Guwahati, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled several railway projects across the Northeast region, while also inaugurating a methanol plant and laying the foundation stone for a bridge over the Brahmaputra river. Modi conducted the virtual inauguration of five railway works, along with other projects, from the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium. Modi also virtually commissioned a methanol plant in Namrup, Dibrugarh, constructed by Assam Petrochemicals Ltd (APL) with a capacity of 500 tonnes per day (TPD), and an investment of Rs 1,709 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bihu performance in Guwahati creates Guinness World Record

Assam made a historic achievement by entering the **Guinness Book of World Records** with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' at a single venue. The performers, comprising both dancers and drummers, participated in the event at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati as part of the State Government's initiative to set a new world record in the Guinness Book. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Arunachal Pradesh CM inaugurates Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang

The Chief Minister of **Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu**, inaugurated the newly renovated **Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa)** at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district. The Gonpa has great historical significance for the well-being of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general. The 11-12th century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse, but it has now been renovated, and all the necessary rituals and blessings have been performed to restore it to its former glory. During a special public function for Buddhist followers held at Gyangkhar village after the inauguration, the Chief Minister felicitated top-ranked monks and dignitaries. ([Click here to read the article](#))

In a first, Kerala adopts Water Budget to tackle problem of summer water shortage

An abundance of rivers, streams, backwaters and a good amount of rainfall contribute to the lush greenery in **Kerala**, many parts of which yet face acute water scarcity when it comes to the summers. And this has led to the state adopting a Water Budget — the first of its kind in the country. The details of the first phase of the **Water Budget** in the state covering 94 grama panchayats in 15 block panchayats were unveiled by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mangrove Pitta bird found in Odisha

In a first-ever census of its kind in the country, forest officials in Odisha's Bhitarkanika have sighted 179 mangrove pitta birds, which are known for their exotic and vibrant colours. These beautiful birds are found exclusively in the mangrove forest areas of Bhitarkanika in Odisha and Sundarban in West Bengal. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**), the species has been assessed and classified as "**Near Threatened**". ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tamil Nadu's Cumbum grapes get GI tag

The famous **Cumbum Panneer Thratchai or Cumbum grapes** from Tamil Nadu have recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Cumbum valley in Tamil Nadu is popularly known as the 'Grapes City of South India' and is known for cultivating the Panneer Thratchai or Muscat Hamburg variety, which constitutes around 85% of the grape-growing regions in Tamil Nadu. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Thawe Festival organised in Bihar

The Department of Tourism and the Department of **Art and Culture** jointly organized the **Thawe Festival** on April 15th and 16th in **Gopalganj, Bihar**. The festival aimed to promote tourism in Gopalganj and attract visitors to the **Thawe Durga Temple**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Nagaland gets approval from NMC for setting up its first medical college

In a significant development, the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has granted approval for the establishment of the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, which will become the first medical college in the northeastern state since it gained statehood 60 years ago in 1963. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched 'Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme'

Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K. Sangma** announced that a multipurpose **indoor stadium** is currently under construction in **Shillong**, which is set to become the largest of its kind in the **northeastern region**. The Chief Minister also revealed that the stadium will offer state-of-the-art facilities for various disciplines, including basketball, squash, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and many more. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Maha Govt has announces a 4% reservation for Divyang employees in promotions

The Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions. This reservation will apply to cadres where the recruitment through direct service is less than **75%**. The state cabinet has also decided to pay all outstanding dues for non-teaching staff serving in non-agricultural universities as per the Seventh Pay Commission. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govt depts

The government of **Uttar Pradesh**, led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has launched an ambitious plan to promote the adoption of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in the state. As part of this initiative, the government has set a target to convert all vehicles used by government departments into EVs by 2030, in a phased manner. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tamil Nadu assembly passes Bill allowing 12-hour work days, DMK allies

The passage of the **Factories (Amendment) Act 2023** in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which provides for flexible work hours for employees in factories, is reportedly facing opposition from political parties, including **DMK allies**. The Act's provisions to extend the mandatory working hours from 8 hours to 12 hours have been the main point of contention for the opposition, with concerns raised about worker welfare, safety, and work-life balance. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kerala launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' to revive sports culture

The **Kerala government** initiated a project aimed at reinvigorating the sports culture in the state by establishing high-quality playgrounds in every panchayat. The **'One Panchayat, One Playground'** project was launched by Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, at Kallikkad. During the inauguration, he emphasized the significance of a strong sports culture in fostering a robust and contented community. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Khongjom Day in Manipur in 2023

Khongjom Day was commemorated at Khongjom in Thoubal district of **Manipur** to honour the soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War. Manipur's Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** and Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey were among those who paid their respects to the heroes at the event, held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies

Himachal Pradesh has made history by becoming the first Indian state to establish a **DNA database** specifically for unidentified bodies. This groundbreaking initiative commenced in April 2022, and the database currently contains 150 DNA samples of unknown individuals, according to recent news reports. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi to flag off India's first Water Metro in Kochi

During his two-day visit to Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's first-ever **water metro** that connects 10 islands surrounding Kochi using battery-operated **electric hybrid boats**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

BRO puts up signboard describing Mana as 'First Indian Village'

Mana village in Uttarakhand, which was previously recognized as the last Indian village, will now be acknowledged as the "first Indian village." The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has installed a signboard at the entrance of the border village to declare Mana's updated status. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gujarat celebrates 20 years of PM Modi's Swagat Initiative

Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has declared the last week of April as "**Swagat Saptah**" in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (**SWAGAT**) initiative, which was launched by Narendra Modi during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2003. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bengaluru is all set to witness Zero Shadow Day today across the city

Bengaluru, India's technological hub, is poised to witness a unique celestial event known as "**Zero Shadow Day**," according to the **Astronomical Society of India (ASI)**. During this event, any vertical objects in the city will not cast any shadows, due to the sun's position directly overhead. The phenomenon is expected to occur at around 12:17 PM and will last for a brief period. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Medical Devices Policy Approved By Union Cabinet

The tourism department of the **Goa government** is set to hold the '**Heritage Festival 2023**' from April 28 to 30 at Saligao village in North Goa. The festival aims to promote cultural tourism in the state by showcasing its traditions, culture, and arts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes/Committees Current Affairs

Rural Development Ministry Introduces Captive Employer Scheme For Rural Youth

The Union Minister for Rural Development, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, has launched an innovative **Captive Employer** initiative under the **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** in New Delhi. This program aims to train **rural poor youth** and provide employment opportunities through **19 captive employers** who will offer training in different sectors, including hospitality, textiles, retail, and telecommunications. More than **31,000 rural youth** are expected to receive training and employment opportunities through this scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM SVANidhi Scheme: Loans To Minority Street Vendors Remain Low

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha that under the **PM SVANidhi scheme**, **42.7 lakh loans** worth **₹5,152.37 crore** have been disbursed to **street vendors**. Shockingly, only **9.3%** of these loans were granted to **hawkers** from minority communities, **totaling 3.98 lakh loans**. To assist street vendors in overcoming the economic difficulties caused by the pandemic, the government launched the **PM SVANidhi** micro-credit scheme in 2020. This initiative provides collateral-free loans of **₹10,000, with 7% interest subsidy, and subsequent loans of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Central Advisory Council under the Real Estate

The **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** has created a **committee** to tackle the problem of incomplete **real estate projects**. The committee, consisting of **14 members** and chaired by **Amitabh Kant**, will focus on stalled legacy projects and make recommendations on how to complete them. The committee was formed in response to a recommendation made by the **Central Advisory Council under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Govt Forms Committee To Enhance Pension Benefits

The **Indian government** has formed a **committee** to explore ways of enhancing the **pension benefits** of government employees under the **National Pension System (NPS)**. The committee will be headed by the **finance secretary** and consists of **three other members: the secretaries of the Department of Personnel and Training, the special secretary in the Department of Expenditure, and the Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Govt Approves Kirit Parikh Panel Recommendations On Natural Gas Pricing

The government implemented changes to the pricing model of **domestic natural gas** in accordance with the **Kirit Parikh committee's** recommendations on gas pricing. The new pricing system will announce prices monthly and link them to **10%** of the international price of the **Indian crude basket**. As a result, prices for **piped natural gas (PNG)** and compressed natural gas (**CNG**) used by households, auto fuel, and various industries are expected to decrease by 10%. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ministry Of Culture Promotes Indian Folk Arts And Culture Abroad Through Global Engagement Scheme

The **Ministry of Culture** in India is dedicated to promoting **Indian Folk Arts and Culture** abroad through various initiatives. The **Global Engagement Scheme** is one such initiative that organizes Festivals of India in other countries to showcase the country's rich culture, including folk art, exhibitions, dance, music, theatre, film, food festivals, and yoga events. This scheme also highlights the diverse culture of North-East India to the world. The ministry provides grant-in-aid to **Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies** to organize programs and activities that promote the country's culture across the world. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Recap Of The United Nations 2023 Water Conference: Actions Taken And Challenges Faced

Recently, the **United Nations 2023 Water Conference** was held in New York. The United Nations 2023 Water Conference was held after a 46-year gap, coinciding with the review of the implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028). ([Click here to read the article](#))

MUDRA Loan Scheme Towards Financial Inclusion Sanctioned 41 Crore Loans

The **Ministry of Finance** announced that the **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** has sanctioned **41 crore** loans amounting to **₹23.2-lakh-crore in the past eight years**. The scheme has shown significant success in promoting entrepreneurship, with 68% of accounts under the scheme belonging to women entrepreneurs and 51% belonging to entrepreneurs from SC/ST and OBC categories. This data highlights that the availability of easy credit to budding entrepreneurs has led to innovation and a sustained increase in per capita income. The PMMY scheme aims to provide loans of up to ₹10 lakh to small entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses. The announcement demonstrates the success of the government's initiative in promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Sees Record ₹50,000 Crore Surge In Balance

The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** scheme has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year ending March 31, 2023. The basic bank accounts under the scheme have registered a record surge of **₹50,000 crores**, with the **total balance reaching ₹1.99 lakh crore**, an increase from **₹1.49-lakh crore** in the previous financial year. Additionally, there has been an addition of **5 crore** new accounts under the scheme, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to **48.65 crores**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tribal Affairs Minister launched Marketing, Logistics Development for PTP-NER scheme

Arjun Munda, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, will launch the Marketing and Logistics Development for **Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme** in Manipur. This scheme has been designed to benefit the Scheduled Tribes residing in the North-Eastern Region by enhancing procurement, logistics, and marketing efficiency of tribal products. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Namami Gange: 8 Projects Worth Rs 638 Crores Approved

The Executive Committee of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** chaired by Director General G Asok Kumar, approved eight projects worth approximately Rs 638 crore. The focus of these projects is to reduce pollution in **River Hindon**, which is a tributary of River Yamuna. As part of the comprehensive '**Hindon Rejuvenation Plan**', four projects costing Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district. These projects aim to prevent the flow of contaminated water into the **Krishni River**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Govt launches 'Sangathan se Samridhi' scheme to bring marginalised rural women into SHGs network

The '**Sangathan Se Samridhi**' campaign was launched by Rural Development Minister **Giriraj Singh**, with the aim of empowering marginalized rural households. The campaign seeks to achieve this objective by ensuring that all eligible rural women are included in **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**. During the launch event, the Minister stated that the government's goal is to expand the coverage of SHGs to include 10 crore women, up from the current nine crore.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches SATHI Portal & Mobile App

The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has unveiled a new online platform and mobile application called SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory) to address the issues of seed production, quality identification, and certification. The platform has been developed under the Uttam Beej - **Samridh Kisan scheme**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rural housing under flagship scheme rises 25% in FY23

In the financial year of 2022-23, India has constructed **5.28 million** houses as part of the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)**, a rural housing initiative, which represents a 25% increase from the previous year. The country aims to build 5.73 million houses under this program to achieve the overall goal of constructing 29.5 million houses, thereby fulfilling the objective of providing "housing for all" by the end of the financial year 2023-24. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Karnataka bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana

During a national conference in Chhattisgarh, **Karnataka** was recognized as the leading state in implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme**. The award was accepted by Shivayogi Kalasad, the Secretary to the government, Department of Agriculture. As per officials from the agriculture department, a sum of Rs. 687.4 crore has been settled for 5.66 lakh farmers, who had pending claims since 2018. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UDAN 5.0 launched by Civil Aviation Ministry to further enhance connectivity

UDAN 5.0, The Regional Connectivity Scheme, also known as **UDAN**, has entered its fifth stage, with the goal of improving connectivity to the nation's rural and regional communities. The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** on April 21 began the process of accepting airline proposals for a number of routes under this fifth round of bidding for its regional connectivity scheme **UDAN**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT-Madras Scholar's Suicide: 5-Member Committee To Probe Incident

Sachin Kumar Jain, a research scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, died by suicide, which has prompted the institute to form an inquiry committee to investigate the matter. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), IOA forms a two-member Ad Hoc committee

The **Indian Olympic Association** has announced that a two-member ad-hoc committee consisting of **Bhupender Singh Bajwa**, an IOA executive council member, and Suma Shirur, an accomplished IOA sportsperson, will oversee the **Wrestling Federation of India's** office. Ahead of the WFI's election, a retired **High Court Judge** will also be appointed to the Ad-Hoc Committee to ensure impartial and transparent voting. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

India And Romania Sign First Defence Cooperation Agreement

Romania's deputy defence minister, **Simona Cojocaru**, recently met with India's defence secretary, **Giridhar Aramane**, in New Delhi, during which the two countries signed their first **Defence Cooperation Agreement**. Cojocaru emphasised the significance of the pact, saying that it would provide the basis for expanding their military relationship and offering opportunities to work together in various fields. She also noted that Romania and India had already collaborated in a multinational environment, such as **UN** missions, and highlighted their joint contribution to enhancing stability and strengthening peace and security. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT-Bombay And UIDAI Join Hands To Develop Touchless Biometric System

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-Bombay)** to develop a touchless biometric capture system that is easy to use and accessible from anywhere. The collaboration involves joint research between the two organizations to create a mobile fingerprint capture system and a liveness model that is integrated with the capture system. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT-Kanpur Partners With Defence PSU To Focus On Innovation

The **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)** at **IIT Kanpur** has entered into a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** agreement with **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited**. **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited** is one of the seven new **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** that were created by converting the **Ordnance Factory Board** into fully government-owned enterprises. The agreement was signed in the presence of dignitaries from **IIT Kanpur, SIIC, and Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AW&EIL)** at the **Ordnance Factory Kanpur**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CPN-Maoist Centre Chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda Set To Become New Nepal PM

Nepal and India are preparing to sign an agreement to allow **cross-border digital** payments through **e-wallets**, a move that is expected to boost **trade and tourism** between the two countries by eliminating **currency exchange** issues. The accord, expected to be signed during **Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's** visit to India, will allow Indian tourists in Nepal to make digital payments through Indian e-wallets like **BharatPe, PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Cipla Inks Licensing Pact With Novartis For Diabetes Drug

Cipla, a prominent Indian pharmaceutical company, announced that it has entered into a licensing agreement with **Novartis Pharma AG (Switzerland)** to produce and market the **Galvus range**, which is used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, effective from **January 1, 2026**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Singapore Becomes First Country To Ratify Mega Free Trade Agreement 'RCEP'

The potential signing of a **free trade agreement** between **India and the European Union** is seen as a positive step towards promoting economic ties between the two regions. The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has emphasized the benefits of such an agreement, which could serve as a catalyst for enhancing the India-EU relationship. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Army and Tezpur University sign MoU on Chinese language training for army personnel

On 19th April 2023, the **Indian Army** and **Tezpur University** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for providing **Chinese language training** to the Indian Army personnel. The duration of the course will be 16 weeks, and it will be conducted at Tezpur University. The signing of the MoU was done by HQ 4 Corps on behalf of the Indian Army and the registrar of Tezpur University in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Prof SN Singh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Cummins, Tata Motors sign deal to produce clean tech products in India

Global power technology company, **Cummins Inc**, has entered into a definitive agreement with **Tata Motors Ltd** to manufacture a range of low-to-zero-emissions technology products in **India**. The two companies have established a new business entity, TCPL Green Energy Solutions Private Ltd (GES), a wholly-owned subsidiary under the existing joint venture, **Tata Cummins Private Limited (TCPL)** in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

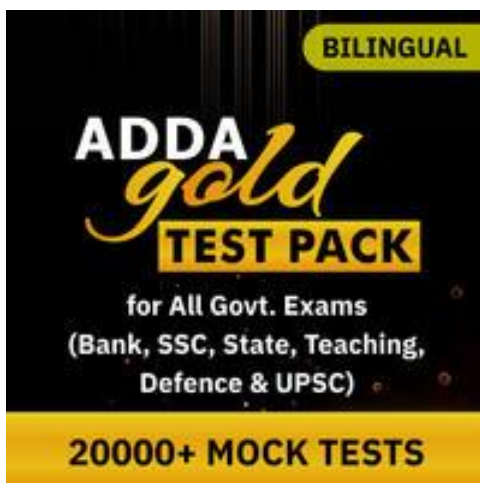
Arya.ag announces partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to drive farmers' financial inclusion

Shivalik Small Finance Bank has announced a strategic partnership with **Arya.ag**, a grain commerce platform, to provide financing to small farmers against warehouse receipts. The collaboration will enable Arya.ag to further its mission of driving financial inclusion for farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK

During the India-UK Science & Innovation Council meeting, chaired by Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** and attended by UK Minister **George Freeman**, it was announced that the two countries will collaborate to establish the **India-UK "NET Zero" Innovation Virtual Centre**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1	Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS)	Sanjay Jasjit Singh

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
1	President of the Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan	Dr. Sheenu Jhawar	Dr. Ravi Modani
2	President of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)	Sudha Shivkumar	
3	Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.	Kenichi Umeda	Satoshi Uchida
4	President, CEO & Managing Director of Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India	Tsutsumu Otani	Atsushi Ogata
5	President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)	Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	Raninder Singh
6	Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association	Anshuman Singhania	
7	Chief Investment Officer of LIC	Ratnakar Patnaik	PR Mishra
8.	CEO & MD	Dr. Randhir Thakur	
9.	New York's first Black chief judge	Rowan Wilson	
10.	JioCinema (Brand ambassador)	Rohit Sharma	
11.	Chairman of National Technical Research Organisation	Arun Sinha	
12.	HSBC India	Virat Kohli	
13.	Star Sports	Rishab Pant	
14.	Bharat Dynamics Limited	A Madhavarao	
15.	CMD of BEML Limited	Shantanu Roy	
16.	Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank	Shreekant M Bhandiwad	
17.	Chairperson of Nasscom	Anant Maheshwari	Krishnan Ramanujam
18.	President of Cycling Federation of India (CFI)	Pankaj Singh	
19.	CEO of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies	Hari Hara Mishra	
13.	Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India	Siddhartha Mohanty	

Ranks and Reports

India Justice Report 2022: Karnataka Tops Among 18 Large States

According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the state of **Karnataka** has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized states with populations over one crore. The report considers several parameters such as police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid to assess the overall performance of each state. The state of **Tamil Nadu** has secured the second position in the rankings, while **Telangana** has secured the third position. The State of Gujarat has got the fourth position and Andhra Pradesh is at slot five as per the report which was released on April 4 in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

5 Indian-Origin Women Feature In '100 Most Influential Women In US Finance' List

Barron's prestigious annual '100 Most Influential Women in US Finance' list includes five Indian-origin women executives who have attained prominent positions in the financial services industry and have played a role in shaping its future. These women are **Anu Aiyengar from J.P. Morgan, Rupal J. Bhansali from Ariel Investments, Sonal Desai from Franklin Templeton, Meena Flynn from Goldman Sachs, and Savita Subramanian from Bank of America**. The fourth annual version of the list, released last month, recognized these women and 95 others for their accomplishments and influence in the US finance industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shah Rukh Khan Tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll

Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan**, who is basking in the glory of the success of the blockbuster 'Pathaan', has proved he is the ultimate king. The actor won the **2023 TIME100 Reader Poll**, beating the likes of royal-couple **Prince Harry and Meghan Markle**, Argentinian player Lionel Messi, and Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg. It is the readers of the magazine who voted for the world-renowned personalities they believe deserve a spot on TIME's annual list of the most influential people. Securing the lead position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list, SRK bagged over 1.2 million votes. The American publication said that the actor bagged 4 per cent of votes in the poll. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Project Tiger: India's Tiger Population Was 3,167 In 2022

According to the latest tiger census data released by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the **tiger population in India has reached 3,167 in 2022**, which is a significant increase compared to the previous census figures of 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, and 2,967 in 2018. During the inauguration of the commemoration of 50 years of '**Project Tiger**', the Prime Minister also launched the 'International Big Cat Alliance' that aims to protect and conserve seven major big cats worldwide, including tigers and lions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mumbai among 19 cities with the best public transport in the world

Berlin in Germany has been named the city with the most exceptional public transport system globally, according to a survey conducted by **Time Out**, a London-based media outlet that specializes in the hospitality industry and identifies itself as a global brand committed to urban life. Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, came in second place. Mumbai, the top-ranked Indian city, secured the 19th spot in the rankings. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Power Minister R K Singh launched the State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22 report

The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) for 2021-22 indicates that **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana** are the top-performing states, with a score of over 60 points on various parameters used to evaluate state-level energy efficiency initiatives. Union Power Minister R K Singh launched the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy Wealthiest CM In India: ADR Report

A recent report by Tibet Press highlights that, according to the Freedom in the **World Index for 2023** published by international watchdog Freedom House, Tibet is the country with the least freedom in the world. The report, titled "**Freedom in the World 2023 Report**," was released by Freedom House on March 9 and identified Tibet, South Sudan, and Syria as the "least-free countries" in the world. ([Click here to read the article](#))

World's 'Most Criminal Countries' Ranking: India Behind US, UK At 77 Spot

World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by **Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10), respectively**. India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country. The USA was at 55th number and the UK at 65th rank, according to the World of Statistics. Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NSE Indices Launches India's First-Ever REITs And InvITs Index

NSE Indices Limited introduced the **Nifty REITs & InvITs Index**, the first of its kind in India, designed to monitor the performance of publicly listed and traded Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) at the **National Stock Exchange**, whether listed or unlisted but authorized to trade. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy Wealthiest CM In India: ADR Report

According to a report by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, out of the 28 state chief ministers and two union territories, 29 of them are millionaires in India. **Jagan Mohan Reddy** from Andhra Pradesh is the richest among them with assets worth ₹510 crore, while **Mamata Banerjee**, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has the lowest assets worth around ₹15 lakh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shah Rukh Khan tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll

Shah Rukh Khan and 'RRR' director **SS Rajamouli** are included in Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023, becoming the only two Indians on the list. Both SRK and Rajamouli's last big screen ventures, Pathaan and RRR, earned over Rs 1000 crore worldwide. The esteemed list by Time magazine includes the likes of US President Joe Biden, King Charles, billionaire CEO Elon Musk, Bella Hadid, and Beyonce, among others. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India surpasses China to become world's most populous nation: UN

India has surpassed **China** to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, according to the latest United Nations data. With the latest statistics, China now has a population of 142.57 crores, becoming the second most populous country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions in 2022: Report

According to a report by payment services firm **Worldline India**, **Chennai** has become one of the leading cities for **digital payment transactions** in 2022 in the country. As per the report, the capital city has made 14.3 million transactions with a total value of USD 35.5 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))

MGNREGA: Rajasthan tops in persondays generation for 4th year

For the fourth year in a row, **Rajasthan** topped the country in terms of persondays generation under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**. In 2022-23, Rajasthan generated 35.61 crore persondays at a total cost of Rs 10,175 crore under the scheme. Rajasthan is followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore), Andhra Pradesh (23.96 crore) and Bihar (23.69 crore) in terms of persondays generation, according to MGNREGA MIS report. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Global Unicorn Index 2023: India Emerges as Third-Largest Hub with 68 Unicorns

India has solidified its position as the **third-largest hub** for **startup unicorns**, with a total of **68 companies** valued at over \$1 billion, according to **The Hurun Research Institute's Global Unicorn Index 2023**. Edtech giant **BYJU'S** leads the way in India with a valuation of **\$22 billion**, followed by food delivery and quick commerce startup **Swiggy and fantasy sports platform Dream11**, both worth **\$8 billion**. While no Indian startups were included in the list of top 10 global startups, logistics unicorn **Delhivery** secured the **14th spot** on the list of top IPOs last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India jumps 6 places on World Bank's Logistic Performance Index, ranks 38

India has made a significant leap on the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index**, moving up six places to 38th out of 139 countries in the 2023 ranking. This improvement is the result of the country's substantial investments in both hard and soft infrastructure, as well as technology. In 2018, India was ranked 44th on the index, and its current position marks a considerable improvement from its 54th rank in 2014. ([Click here to read the article](#))

First-ever waterbody census: West Bengal tops list among states, Sikkim at the bottom

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has released the first-ever Census of Water Bodies, which has revealed that **West Bengal** has the highest number of water bodies in India, while **Sikkim** has the lowest. This census has been conducted in convergence with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census under the Irrigation Census scheme launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. ([Click here to read the article](#))

ITC Overtakes Infosys to become India's Sixth Most Valuable Company

ITC, one of India's largest **FMCG conglomerates**, has surpassed **IT** major Infosys to become the country's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges. With a market **capitalization of Rs 5.11 lakh crore**, ITC overtook Infosys on Monday after overtaking HDFC Ltd on Friday. This achievement comes after ITC's share price rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023, making it the best performer in the benchmark Nifty50. Meanwhile, Infosys shares have fallen by 20% in 2023, wiping off Rs 1.80 lakh crore of investors' fortunes, following its March quarter earnings below street estimates. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports Current Affairs

Russian superstar Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023

Russian tennis star **Daniil Medvedev** claimed his fourth title of the year by defeating **Jannik Sinner** in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023. Medvedev, who was once the top-ranked player in the world, has now won 24 out of his last 25 matches, including his latest victory at the prestigious Miami Open. ([Click here to read the article](#))

F1 Race Results: Max Verstappen Wins Wild Australian GP

Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has claimed his first Australian Grand Prix 2023. Seven-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton**, who drove superbly in his Mercedes, finished second, while Aston Martin's **Fernando Alonso** filled third spot on the podium. Verstappen had appeared to be coasting to victory with an eight-second lead when debris from Kevin Magnussen's Haas forced the second of three red flags issued in the race with three laps remaining. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Men, Women Bag 4th Asian Kho Kho Titles

India emerged as the winners in **both men's and women's categories** at the **4th Asian Kho Kho Championships** held in Tamulpur, located in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of north-central Assam's Baksa district. In the finals, the Indian men's team beat Nepal by a margin of 6 points and an inning, while the Indian women's team outscored their Nepalese opponents by 33 points and an inning. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Commonwealth Champion Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu Faces 4-Year Ban By NADA

Sanjita Chanu, a weightlifter from India who has won the **Commonwealth Games twice**, has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India after she tested positive for banned drugs. The testing took place during the National Games held in Gujarat in September-October 2022, and the results showed the presence of drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid prohibited by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Dhoni, Yuvraj Inducted With The MCC Honorary Life Membership

MS Dhoni, the former captain of the Indian cricket team who led the team to victories in the **T20 and ODI World Cups and the 2013 Champions Trophy**, along with **Yuvraj Singh**, the Player of the Tournament in the 2011 ODI World Cup, have been named among the five Indians to be awarded honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Peru Removed As Host Of 2023 FIFA Under-17 World Cup

FIFA announced that it had withdrawn **Peru's** hosting rights to the **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023™**. The decision was made following extensive discussions between FIFA and the **Peruvian Football Federation (FPF)**. The reasons for the withdrawal of Peru's hosting rights were not immediately clear, but FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Aleksander Ceferin Re-Elected UEFA President Unopposed Until 2027

At the Ordinary Congress of European Soccer's governing body held in Lisbon, **Aleksander Ceferin** was re-elected as the **UEFA president unopposed**. The Slovenian, who was first elected as UEFA's seventh president in 2016, will serve another four-year term until 2027. Ceferin succeeded Michel Platini in 2016 after the latter was banned from football administration due to ethics violations and lost his appeal against the ban, leading to his resignation from UEFA. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Brazilian Dante Akira Uwai Wins Medal Design Competition For Gangwon 2024

Brazilian artist **Dante Akira Uwai** has won the **Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024** medal design competition. After six weeks and over 3,000 submissions to the International Olympic Committee competition, Akira Uwai's creation - 'A Sparkling Future' - was chosen by a panel of judges including Olympian Laurene Ross, former winner Zakea Page, IOC Young Reporters, Young Leaders, and Gangwon 2024 Youth Supporters. ([Click here to read the article](#))

FIFA Rankings: India's Football Team Rises To 101

According to the latest **FIFA rankings**, the **Indian men's football team** has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at **101**. The team's upward movement in the rankings can be attributed to their recent wins against **Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan** during the Tri-nation tournament, which helped them secure 8.57 rating points. The victories were achieved in matches held last month in Imphal, with scores of 1-0 and 2-0 against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, respectively. The current ranking chart is the first of the year, with the previous one being published on December 22. ([Click here to read the article](#))

David Warner Becomes Fastest To Score 6000 Runs In IPL

During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain **David Warner** became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**. He is now the third player to achieve this feat after Virat Kohli from Royal Challengers Bangalore and Shikhar Dhawan, captain of Punjab Kings. It took Warner 165 innings to reach this milestone, while Kohli and Dhawan achieved it in 188 and 199 innings respectively. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh Wins Title At World Chess Armageddon Asia Oceania Event

In the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh**, who is a teenager, pulled off a major upset by defeating former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final. Gukesh emerged as the winner in a thrilling summit clash that was full of ups and downs. The first game of the match ended in a draw after Gukesh employed a perpetual check strategy. However, he managed to win the following game, securing the championship. Both Gukesh and Abdusattorov have qualified for Armageddon's Grand Finale in September. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Asian Wrestling Championships 2023: Aman Sehrawat wins India's 1st Gold Medal

Aman Sehrawat, a freestyle wrestler, won India's 1st gold medal, under the men's 57kg freestyle category, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023. 36th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from 9 April to 14 April 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kagiso Rabada becomes the fastest player to take 100 wickets in IPL

During a match between **Punjab Kings** and **Gujarat Titans** at IS Bindra Stadium, **Kagiso Rabada** achieved a significant milestone by taking his **100th wicket in the Indian Premier League (IPL)**. He became the fastest bowler to reach this milestone in terms of matches played, completing it in his 64th IPL match. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kenya double as Chebet, Obiri dominate Boston Marathon

Evans Chebet of Kenya crosses the finish line and takes first place in the professional Men's Division during the 127th Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts. **Evans Chebet** and **Hellen Obiri** stormed to victory in the men's and women's races at the Boston Marathon to complete a third straight Kenyan double in the 127th edition of the long distance-running showpiece. Chebet finished in a time of 2hr 5min 54sec, with Tanzania's Gabriel Geay second in 2:06:04, and Chebet's training partner and fellow Kenyan Benson Kipruto third in 2:06:04. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Odisha's Bhubaneswar to host 2023 Intercontinental Cup in June

Four-team **Intercontinental Football Cup** will be held in Bhubaneswar from June 9 to 18. This will be the third edition of the tournament with the previous two being held in Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad (2019). Host India will be joined by Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu in the tournament. The Indian men's national team had previously never played against Mongolia and Vanuatu. Against Lebanon, the hosts hold a record of playing six matches. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gary Ballance Retires from All Forms of Cricket

Gary Ballance, a left-handed batsman, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He initially made his debut for Zimbabwe and played for them under a two-year contract. He later went on to play for England and appeared in 23 Test matches. Additionally, he played one Test, one T20I, and five ODIs for Zimbabwe, during which he scored five Test hundreds, including a score of 137 against the West Indies. However, his career took a downturn after 2017, and he was also accused of using racist language against his teammate Azeem Rafiq, which was deemed as 'institutional racism' in the Yorkshire County. In an attempt to revive his career, Ballance moved to Zimbabwe. ([Click here to read the article](#))

FIFA: Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 World Cup host

FIFA has selected **Argentina** to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia. This decision was made after Indonesia's football association cancelled the draw scheduled to take place in Bali due to the governor's refusal to host Israel's team. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara named gates unveiled at iconic SCG

Master blaster **Sachin Tendulkar** has turned 50 this year on 24 April and to honour him the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground** in Australia has unveiled a set of gates named after him. Along with him, the SCG also added the name of another cricketing legend **Brian Lara**, who will be sharing the honour with Sachin Tendulkar. The gates were unveiled to mark Tendulkar's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of Lara's 277 at the SCG, in which he scored a century in the test played in January 1993. With this new honour, both the legends will join the league of great **Donald Bradman, Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday

In honor of **Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday**, the West Stand at the renowned Sharjah cricket stadium has been renamed as the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.' A special ceremony was held on Monday to commemorate the occasion, which coincided not only with the batting icon's birthday but also with the 25th anniversary of his remarkable performance of scoring back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998, known as the 'Desert Storm,' in front of a packed stadium. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM to inaugurate national games in Oct: Goa CM

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **National Games in Goa** in October 2023. The announcement was made after a meeting between Sawant, State Sports Minister Govind Gaude, and Indian Olympic Association chairperson PT Usha to review preparations for the event. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits And Conferences

G20 EMPOWER 2nd Meeting: Accelerating Women's Economic Empowerment

The **G20 EMPOWER Alliance** is dedicated to accelerating **women's leadership and empowerment** in the private sector. This initiative is critical not only for **social justice** but also for **economic growth**, given that the G20 represents more than **80% of the world's GDP, 75% of international trade, and 60% of the world's population**. With its strategic position in the global economy, the G20 has enormous potential to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT Kanpur To Host Youth20 Consultation On Global Concerns

IIT Kanpur, one of India's premier institutes of technology, will host the **Youth20 Consultation** under the **G20 Presidency** of India from April 5th-6th, 2023. The event will bring together over **1200 youth** delegates from India and abroad to discuss innovative solutions to pressing global concerns. During the Y20 Consultation at **IIT Kanpur**, **two of the five core** themes will be discussed: **"Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, & 21st Century Skills"** and **"Health, Well-being & Sports: Agenda for Youth"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kaziranga Becomes India's First National Park With Satellite Phones

On April 7, 2023, The **Gaj Utsav-2023** was inaugurated at the **Kaziranga National Park** by the President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**. During her speech, she highlighted the significant bond between nature and humanity, which is regarded as sacred. India has always identified itself with a culture of respecting nature. Our country has a unique connection between nature and culture, where both have been intertwined and nourishing each other. Elephants have been held in high esteem in our tradition, and are considered a symbol of prosperity. As the National Heritage Animal of India, safeguarding elephants is an essential element of our national duty to conserve our national heritage. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India to chair Commonwealth group on reform of financial architecture

During the **Commonwealth Finance Ministers High-Level Working Group Meeting** held in Washington D.C., finance ministers from several Commonwealth nations have urged for a comprehensive overhaul of the **global financial architecture** to improve the availability of development financing for countries that are vulnerable. Representatives of Russian and Indian businesses met at the India-Russia Business Dialogue 2023 in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-Russia Business Dialogue 2023

On April 17th, the inaugural session of the **"India-Russia Business Dialogue"** 2023 took place in New Delhi, and it was attended by External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Russian Deputy Prime Minister **Denis Manturov**.

G7 Ministers' Meeting: Climate, Energy, and Environment Highlights

The recent **G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy, and Environment** in **Sapporo, Japan** focused on how advanced economies can make a significant impact on addressing the climate crisis. As these economies have a major contribution to the problem, their timely actions are crucial. The meeting aimed to tackle key issues such as steering the global agenda on climate action and proposing solutions for the same. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-Thailand Defence Dialogue: Strengthening Bilateral Engagements

The **Special Secretary** of India's Ministry of Defence, **Smt Nivedita Shukla Verma**, has been invited by the **Government of Thailand** to visit Bangkok on April 20-21, 2023. During her visit, she will co-chair the **8th meeting of the India-Thailand Defence Dialogue with General Nuchit Sribunsong, the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence of Thailand's Ministry of Defence**. The meeting aims to **review the defence cooperation** between India and Thailand and explore new initiatives to strengthen bilateral engagements. The two co-chairs will also discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest. The Special Secretary will also call on General Sanitchanog Sangkachantra, the Permanent Secretary for Defence of the Ministry of Defence, Thailand. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue Explores Collaboration in Regulation and Sustainable Finance

The **India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue's** second meeting took place in **London** with the aim of discussing the possibility of cooperation in financial regulation between the two countries. During the financial markets dialogue between India and the UK, there was a **primary focus on six themes**, which included **banking, payments, insurance, capital markets, asset management, and sustainable finance**. Delegates from India and the UK shared their views on the respective areas of responsibility and identified emerging areas for collaboration, including knowledge exchange on regulatory frameworks for pension funds and the development of ecosystems for **Social Stock Exchange**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India, Iran and Armenia forms new trilateral to deepen regional relations

The first trilateral consultations between the Foreign Affairs Ministry of **India, Armenia, and Iran** took place in Yerevan. **Mnatsakan Safaryan**, the deputy foreign minister of Armenia, **Seyed Rasoul Mousavi**, the assistant of the foreign minister of Iran, and **JP Singh**, the joint secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, led their respective delegations at the meeting. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Australia To Host Third In-Person Quad Summit

The upcoming **Quad Summit** in Sydney is set to mark a significant milestone in the growing cooperation between the four democracies of the **Indo-Pacific region**. The Quad, comprising the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, has been seeking to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, with a focus on maritime security, infrastructure development, and economic integration. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM inaugurates 6th Edition of One Earth One Health

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and addressed the **One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India – 2023** conference at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi via video conferencing. The conference was attended by health ministers from across the world, as well as delegates from West Asia, SAARC, ASEAN, and African regions. In his address, PM Modi emphasized the importance of holistic healthcare and a healthy ecosystem for human well-being. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SCO Summit: India will host Summit in New Delhi on July 3-4

India will host the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit** in New Delhi On July 3–4, which will be **Russian President Vladimir Putin's** first visit to the country since the conflict in Ukraine. The agenda for the Summit, which is anticipated to centre on counter-terror, Afghan stability, inclusive connectivity efforts including **Chabahar Port & INSTC**, aside from India's extensive outreach to Eurasia, will be finalised at the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting next week in Goa on May 4-5. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Jaden Pariat Becomes First Indian to Finish on Podium in British F4 Championship

Jaden Pariat, a young Indian racing talent representing Argenti Motorsport, has demonstrated his exceptional skills by securing a podium position in the opening round of the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park. He has become the second Indian racer to achieve an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car, following Kush Maini's feat in 2017. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards & Recognition

Ukrainian President Decorated With Poland's Top Award

The highest decoration of Poland, the Order of the White Eagle, was presented to Ukraine's President **Volodymyr Zelensky** by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, during a meeting between the two leaders at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian-American Physician Dr. Nitya Abraham Honoured With Young Urologist Of The Year Award

An Indian-American physician and professor **Dr. Nitya Abraham** has been honoured with the **Young Urologist of the Year Award** conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA). **Dr. Abraham** is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency programme. ([Click here to read the article](#))

C.R. Rao Wins International Prize In Statistics 2023

The 2023 International Prize in Statistics, which is regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in statistics, has been awarded to **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao**, an Indian-American statistician. The prize, established in 2016, is presented once every two years to an individual or team that has made significant contributions to science, technology, and human welfare through the use of statistics. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bharat Biotech Wins Award At World Vaccine Congress 2023...

At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, **Bharat Biotech** was awarded the **Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

INS Vikrant Gets Back Its 'Original' 1961 Bell

The INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was presented with a special gift in the form of its original bell from the first carrier of the same name commissioned in **1961**. The bell was given by Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, who recently retired as the Vice Chief of Navy Staff, to the commanding officer of INS Vikrant on March 22. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Nilesh Sambare Honoured With The 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' Award

Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was recently honored with the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" award at the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023". The conference was organized by the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State". Nilesh Sambre received the award for his noteworthy achievements in the industry sector and his dedicated work in remote areas like Palghar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kumar Mangalam Birla Received AIMA's 'Business Leader Of The Decade' Award'

At the 13th Managing India Awards ceremony hosted by the All India Management Association (AIMA), **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, was presented with the '**Business Leader of the Decade Award**' for his contributions to the Indian industry in the last ten years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ministry of Panchayati Raj celebrates National Panchayat Awards Week

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is celebrating **National Panchayat Awards Week from 17th to 21st April, 2023**, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) 2.0, leading up to National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April, 2023. In order to commemorate this occasion in a meaningful manner and to align with the AKAM 2.0 guidelines of taking a "whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government" approach, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has developed a series of Thematic Conferences centered around the theme "**Panchayaton ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav**" to increase the reach of AKAM 2.0 and positively impact the lives of all Indians. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Raj Subramaniam honoured with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

Raj Subramaniam, the CEO of FedEx, a renowned global transportation company, and an Indian-American, was recently honored with the distinguished **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award**. This award is the highest civilian recognition bestowed by India upon individuals of Indian descent and Indian diaspora. Due to travel restrictions, Subramaniam, aged 55, received the award from Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US, at a ceremony held at India House on Saturday instead of receiving it in India earlier this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

Utsa Patnaik, a well-known economist of both national and international acclaim, has been chosen for the prestigious **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023**. The award is presented annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, with outstanding social scientists being recognized by a national-level jury from the nominations received. The recipient of the award will receive a citation and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh at a ceremony to be held in Chennai, the date of which will be announced by the Trust soon. In 2022, the award was presented to the Indian economist, Prabhat Patnaik. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Angela Merkel receives Germany's highest honor

Former Chancellor **Angela Merkel** received **Germany's highest Order of Merit**. The Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. All three former leaders belong to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sonam Wangchuk conferred with Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

Sonam Wangchuk, a distinguished engineer, innovator, educationist, and sustainable development reformist, has been honored with the prestigious **Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**. The award has been initiated by **Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK)**, a leading company in diamond crafting and exports, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF). Wangchuk is the Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Breast surgeon Dr Raghu Ram honour with Telugu Association of London award

Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti, a renowned surgeon, has been awarded the lifetime achievement award by the **Telugu Association of London**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Alessandra Korap from Amazon wins Goldman Environment Prize

Alessandra Korap, an indigenous Mundurucu woman from the Brazilian Amazon, has been recognized with a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize, an esteemed award that acknowledges the efforts of six activists from six continents who work at the grassroots level to safeguard the environment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shakira Receives Billboard's Inaugural Latin Woman of the Year Award

Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer, will be recognized with the prestigious '**Latin Women of the Year**' award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard. With her exceptional music contributions spanning over three decades, Shakira has been titled as the '**Queen of Latin Music**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PGCIL wins Global Gold Award for CSR work

The **Green Organization** has awarded **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL)**, a Maharatna CPSU of Ministry of Power, Government of India, with the Global Gold Award for their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** work. The recognition was given at the Green World Awards 2023 function held in Miami, USA. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Neeli Bendapudi receives Immigrant Achievement Award 2023

Neeli Bendapudi, the current president of Penn State University, is set to receive the **Immigrant Achievement Award** for her significant contributions to higher education in the **United States**. The award recognizes immigrants who have made significant contributions to their communities and professions, and Bendapudi's innovative leadership and extensive career in academia have earned her this prestigious recognition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

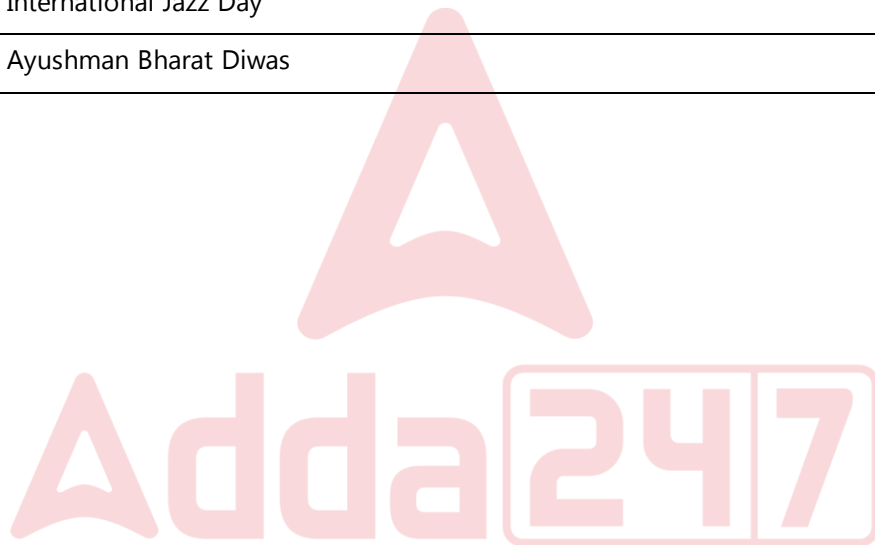


Important Days

Drugs for rare diseases get customs duty relief

Date	Day & Theme
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day & "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."
1-7 April	Prevention of Blindness Week
4 April	International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action & "Mine Action Cannot Wait"
5 April	International Conscience Day
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) & "Scoring for People and the Planet."
7 April	World Health Day & "Health For All"
10 April	World Homeopathy Day & One Health, One Family
11 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Safe Motherhood Day Jyotirao Phule Jayanti
12 April	The International Day of Human Space Flight
14 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambedkar Jayanti World Chagas Disease Day & Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care
15 April	World Art Day
16 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Voice Day Save the Elephant Day
17 April	World Hemophilia Day 2023
18th April	World Heritage Day
19 April	World Liver Day Theme: Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone
20 th April	Chinese Language Day Theme "Chinese Wisdom for a Green World"
21 st April	National Civil Service Day Theme: Viksit Bharat
21 st April	World Creativity and Innovation Day
22 nd April	International Mother Earth Day
22 nd April	Earth Day
23 rd April	World Book and Copyright Day Theme of the day: 'Indigenous Languages.'
24 th April	The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
April 24 th to April 30 th	World Immunization Week Theme of the Week: "The Big Catch-Up"
24 th April	World Day for Laboratory Animals

Date	Day & Theme
25 April	World Malaria Day Theme: Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
25 April	International Delegate's Day
26 April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day Theme: Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity
27 April (Fourth Thursday of April)	International Girls in ICT Day Theme: Digital Skills for Life
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023 Theme: A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work
29 th April	World Dance Day
29 th April	World Veterinary Day Theme: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession
30 th April	International Jazz Day
30 th April	Ayushman Bharat Diwas



Defence Current Affairs

10th Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX-2023 Begins

The 10th annual **SLINEX-2023** bilateral maritime exercise between **India and Sri Lanka** has commenced in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**. The exercise is divided into two phases, the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase, each lasting three days. The Indian Navy is represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri, while the Sri Lanka Navy is represented by SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura. ([Click here to read the article](#))

US And Indian Air Force To Engage In 'Cope India' Fighter Training Exercise

Next week, **India's Sukhoi-30s**, which are made in **Russia**, will participate in an exercise named '**Cope India**' that involves dogfighting with **American F-15 Strike Eagle fighter jets**. The exercise was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is taking place after a four-year gap. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Andaman & Nicobar Command Conducts Large Scale Joint Military Exercise 'KAVACH'

On **April 5, 2023**, the Andaman & Nicobar command, which is India's sole tri-services unit, held a collaborative **military drill** named **Exercise 'KAVACH.'** The soldiers performed multiple exercises such as amphibious landing, air landing operations, heliborne operations, and swift insertion of special forces commandos. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Rafale To Participate In French Military Exercise With NATO Allies

The Indian Air Force's Rafale fighter jets will be participating in a military exercise in France that involves thousands of **NATO troops**. The jets are expected to arrive in France in mid-April to participate in Orion 23, a large-scale war game that includes multiple dimensions, such as ground troops, warships, aircraft carriers, and combat aircraft. The exercise, which began in February and is scheduled to end in early May, is aimed at enhancing military cooperation and interoperability among participating nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Greek-Indian Air Forces To Conduct Massive Joint Exercise Over Mediterranean Sea

The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise will be conducted as part of the annual **Greek exercise Iniochos 23**, led by the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense. The training is scheduled to begin on April 18th and will conclude on April 28th. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UK and India Discuss Technical Cooperation on Maritime Electric Propulsion Systems

The **UK and India** are discussing the sharing of technical expertise and experience on **maritime electric propulsion systems** to meet the future requirements of Indian warships. **Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Chief of the Defence Staff of the UK**, stated that both nations are exploring increased cooperation in logistics, technology, and information sharing, and are also in talks regarding a training pact that would enable their armed forces to share common ethos and basis. During his three-day visit to India, the top UK military officer met with top Indian military officials to discuss these issues, amidst a series of high-level military interactions between the two nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Wing Commander Deepika Misra is first IAF woman officer to receive gallantry award

Wing Commander Deepika Misra has made history as the first female Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal. She was awarded the Vayu Seva Medal for gallantry by the President of India on Independence Day in the previous year, and recently received the award from the Air Chief Marshal of the Indian Air Force at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

2023 Locked Shields cyber-defense exercise held in Tallinn by NATO

Over 3000 participants from 38 countries - including, **the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** Allies and partners – participated in the 2023 edition of the annual exercise **“Locked Shields,”** hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia). “Locked Shields” is the world’s largest cyber defence exercise. It started on 18 April 2023 and involved protecting computer systems from real-time attacks and simulating tactical and strategic decisions in critical situations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Operation Kaveri launched to evacuate Indians from Sudan

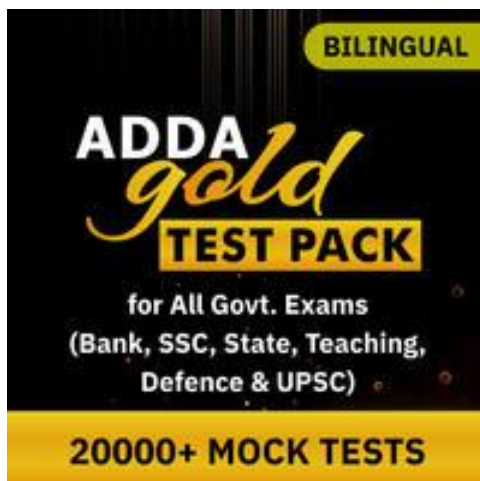
India initiated **Operation Kaveri** to evacuate its citizens from the unrest-stricken **Sudan**. As per External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar's** tweet, the operation is currently in progress, and roughly 500 Indians have already arrived at Port Sudan.

([Click here to read the article](#))

"AJEYA WARRIOR - 2023" An Indo-UK Joint Military Exercise

The 7th edition of the joint military exercise **"AJEYA WARRIOR-23"** is currently underway at Salisbury Plains in the United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023. This biennial training event with the **United Kingdom** alternates between the United Kingdom and India, and the last edition was held in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand** in October 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Science and Technology

ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle Mission RLV LEX

ISRO has accomplished the **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)** at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in **Chitradurga, Karnataka**. A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force carried the RLV as an underslung load and flew it to an altitude of 4.5 km. Once the predetermined pillbox parameters were reached, the RLV was autonomously released mid-air, 4.6 km downrange. The RLV then successfully executed approach and landing maneuvers using the Integrated Navigation, Guidance & control system and autonomously landed on the ATR air strip. This achievement marks the successful autonomous landing of a space vehicle by ISRO. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Closest Black Hole To Earth Discovered In Our Cosmic Backyard: A New Era Begins

Scientists have made a noteworthy discovery in astronomy by identifying the nearest **black hole to our planet**, which is located nearby in space. This remarkable discovery presents new prospects for studying these mysterious entities and comprehending their impact on the structure of the cosmos. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Astronaut Christina Koch Returns To Earth After Record Stay In Space

After a 50-year break, **NASA** has announced the names of the four astronauts who will be taking humans back to the **Artemis II Moon Mission**. For the first time, a woman astronaut, **Christina Koch**, and a black astronaut, **Victor Glover**, will be part of a lunar mission. The team, along with **Reid Wiseman and Jeremy Hansen**, will orbit the Moon in a capsule in late 2022 or early 2025. While they will not land on the Moon, their mission will prepare the way for a future crew to make a touchdown. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Skyroot Aerospace Test-Fires Advanced Fully 3D-Printed Cryogenic Engine

Skyroot Aerospace, a startup based in Hyderabad, India, has successfully test-fired an advanced, **fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine**, marking a significant milestone in the country's indigenous space technology development. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian Space Policy 2023

The Union Government of India has recently approved the **Indian Space Policy 2023**, which aims to enhance the role of the **Department of Space** and boost the activities of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. This policy is a significant step towards strengthening **India's space sector** and achieving self-reliance in space technology. ([Click here to read the article](#))

KSINC Launches India's First Solar-Powered Tourist Boat

Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) has launched a **solar-powered** tourist boat called **Sooryamshu** that can produce **27 KW of energy**. The boat also comes equipped with generators, which will help power passenger lift systems and air-conditioners. The solar panels will provide about 75% of the vessel's energy needs, while the rest will be met by the generators. The **boat was built in Sri Lanka for Rs. 3.95 crores**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NASA's High-Resolution Air Quality Control Instrument Launches

NASA's Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) instrument has successfully launched, marking a significant step forward in the monitoring of major air pollutants. The instrument will provide unprecedented resolution, allowing scientists to observe air quality from space with accuracy down to just four square miles. The **TEMPO mission** aims to revolutionize the way air quality is monitored, helping to improve life on Earth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

WhatsApp Launches 'Stay Safe' Campaign To Educate On Online Safety

WhatsApp has initiated a safety campaign called '**Stay Safe with WhatsApp**' aimed at educating users about the product features that can assist them in maintaining their online safety and improving their messaging experience. ([Click here to read the article](#))

European Space Agency's Juice mission launches to search for life on Jupiter's moons

The **European Space Agency (ESA)** launched the **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer mission (Juice)** on Friday, 14 April, at 8:14 a.m. ET using an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. **Juice** aims to explore **Jupiter** and three of its largest moons. Following a successful separation from the Ariane 5 rocket, the ESA received a signal from Juice about an hour after launch, confirming that communication between the vehicle and Earth-based mission control is established. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Elon Musk sets low expectations before first SpaceX launch of Starship, most powerful rocket ever built

SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk, is preparing to conduct an unprecedented test flight of its groundbreaking **Starship**, which is currently the most powerful rocket in existence. Ahead of the launch, Elon Musk has set modest expectations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad

The inauguration of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) took place at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad, making it the largest facility of its kind in the country. DRDO Chairman, Dr Samir V Kamat, inaugurated the facility at the IIT-Hyderabad campus in Telangana, and stated that the centre will take on futuristic projects for long-term research needed by DRDO. He also highlighted that the DIA-CoE IITH is the largest among all 15 CoEs in the country, and the DRDO team will collaborate with IIT-H to identify target projects in each domain and execute them within a period of 3-5 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT-I Collaborates With NASA To Develop Low Cost Camera Setu

IIT Indore, in partnership with **NASA-Caltech** and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup that can capture multispectral images of four chemical species in a flame using a single DSLR camera. Previously, capturing such images required a complicated system with four cameras, but this new setup can simultaneously capture multiple spectral three-dimensional images of four chemical species in a flame using only one DSLR camera. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Elon Musk plans to launch "TruthGPT" AI platform to compete with Microsoft

Elon Musk announced his plan to launch an AI platform called "**TruthGPT**" to compete with **Microsoft** and **Google's** current offerings. In an interview with **Fox News Channel's Tucker Carlson**, Musk criticized Microsoft-backed OpenAI for "**training the AI to lie**" and accused Larry Page, co-founder of Google, of not taking AI safety seriously. Musk plans to launch an AI that seeks maximum truth and understands the nature of the universe, which he believes is the best path to safety. Musk, OpenAI, and Page have yet to respond to Reuters' requests for comment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NASA's Lucy mission captures first views of Jupiter Trojan asteroids

NASA's **Lucy mission** is on a **12-year journey** to observe **nine Jupiter Trojans** and **two main belt asteroids**, making it the first-ever mission to visit them. Despite being more than **330 million miles (530 million kilometers)** away from the spacecraft, Lucy was able to capture **views of four Jupiter Trojan asteroids** recently. The asteroids are relatively small in size, but Lucy used its highest resolution imager, **L' LORRI**, to take the images, which will help the team choose exposure times for close-up observations of the targets. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kenya Launched Its First Operational Earth Observation Satellite "Taifa-1"

Kenya's first operational Earth observation satellite, "**Taifa-1**," was successfully launched into space on April 15th, 2023, using a rocket from **Elon Musk's** rocket company, SpaceX. The launch took place from Vandenberg Base in California. The rocket also carried 50 payloads from different countries, including Turkey, under SpaceX's rideshare program. ([Click here to read the article](#))

ISRO to launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite on April 22

ISRO, the **Indian Space Research Organisation**, is gearing up for its upcoming commercial mission, which is set to launch a Singaporean Earth Observation satellite called **TeLEOS-2**. The launch is scheduled for April 22 and will take place on board ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), marking the 55th mission for the rocket. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China launched Fengyun-3 satellite

China has achieved a significant milestone on April 16, 2023, by successfully launching the **Fengyun-3** meteorological satellite. The satellite was launched using the **Chang Zheng-4B carrier** rocket from the **Jiuquan Cosmodrome**, located in Gansu Province. The Fengyun-3 satellite has been primarily designed to monitor and provide crucial information on severe weather conditions, including heavy rainfall that can result in natural calamities like landslides and floods. This successful mission marked the **471st launch** for the Chang Zheng rocket family, cementing their reputation as one of the most reliable and consistent rocket families globally. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Apple's First Store In India Opens In Mumbai

Apple opened its first official store in **Mumbai, India**. Located at the Jio World Drive mall in the **Bandra Kurla Complex area**, the store is the first of the two outlets Apple to open in India. Apple CEO Tim Cook threw open the gates to the 28,000 sq ft store. An Apple store is aimed at providing a top-notch experience to customers by functioning as a one-stop destination for product sales, services and accessories. These stores are also architectural marvels, adding to an unrivalled customer experience. ([Click here to read the article](#))

ISRO's PSLV-C55 successfully deployed 2 Singapore satellites into orbit

TeLEOS-2 and **Lumelite-4**, two Singaporean satellites, were successfully launched into orbit by the dependable Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) while seven other payloads attached to the **PS4 upper stage** were used for experiments, according to the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT-Kanpur launches cybersecurity skilling programme

IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme with support from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Scientists protest the NCERT's decision to eliminate Darwin's theory of evolution

Darwin's theory of evolution: More than 1800 scientists, educators, and scientific enthusiasts in India have criticized the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** for their decision to eliminate Darwin's theory of evolution from science textbooks for classes 9 and 10. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NASA Successfully Extracts Oxygen from Lunar Soil Simulant

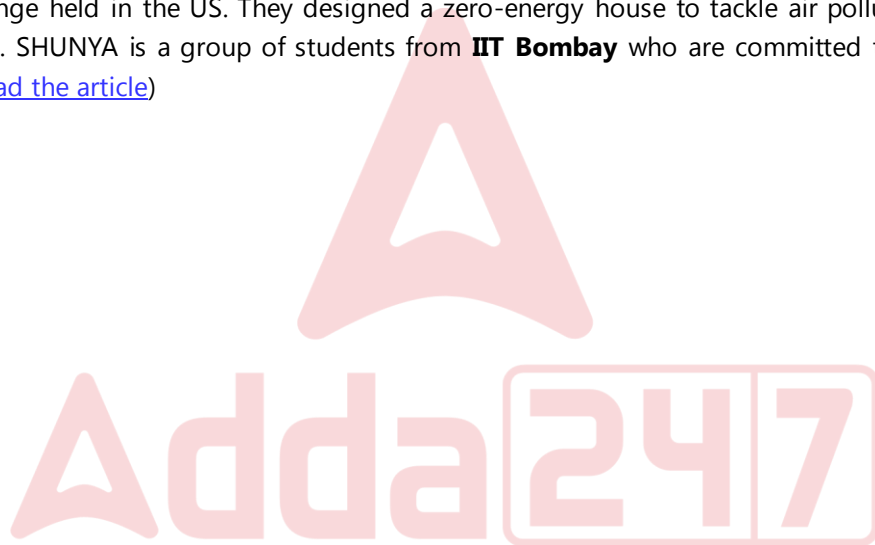
NASA scientists have successfully extracted **oxygen** from simulated lunar soil in a vacuum environment, which could pave the way for future human colonies on the **Moon**. The ability to extract oxygen from lunar soil is crucial for providing breathable air for astronauts and can also be used as propellant for transportation and space exploration. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Emirates introduces first robotic check-in assistant in the world

Sara, the world's first robotic check-in assistant, has been unveiled by **Dubai-based airline Emirates**. Sara is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store which recently opened in Dubai's financial district. The robot uses facial recognition technology to match customer's faces with scanned passports, check them in, and guide them to the luggage drop area. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IIT Bombay's SHUNYA Takes Second Place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the US

The **SHUNYA** team from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** earned the second position in the Solar Decathlon Build Challenge held in the US. They designed a zero-energy house to tackle air pollution issues in Mumbai's hot and humid climate. SHUNYA is a group of students from **IIT Bombay** who are committed to creating a sustainable future. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Books & Authors

A Book Titled "Courting India: England, Mughal India And The Origins Of Empire" By Nandini Das

"**Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire**" is a book written by **Nandini Das**, a professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool. The book explores the complex relationship between England and Mughal India in the early modern period, focusing on the cultural and literary exchanges that took place between these two worlds. ([Click here to read the article](#))

A New Book Titled "Gandhi: Siyasat Aur Sampradaiykta" Written By Piyush Babele

A new book in Hindi titled **Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta ('Gandhi: Politics and Communalism')** written by journalist-turned-author **Piyush Babele**, who currently heads the Madhya Pradesh Congress' media department. He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar' s book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources, and claims to "contextualise the developments leading up to India' s Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition" . ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Great Bank Robbery NPAs, Scams And The Future Of Regulation

Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash has co-authored a new book titled "**The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation**" which discusses 11 scams that have rocked India since its Independence(1947). The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SBI Launches Its Coffee Table Book "The Banker To Every Indian"

State Bank of India (SBI) headquartered in Mumbai (Maharashtra) announced the launch of its coffee table book titled "**The Banker to Every Indian**" which celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and the 200-year history of SBI, which was established in 1955. The coffee table book details the Bank' s history ever since independence. ([Click here to read the article](#))

A new book titled 'Sachin@50'- Celebrating A Maestro by Boria Majumdar

Boria Majumdar, a renowned sports historian and popular TV show host, unveiled a new book called '**Sachin@50 - Celebrating A Maestro**' on the occasion of legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday**. The book has been conceptually designed and curated by Majumdar, with a special back cover note written by Gulzar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tennis legend Jaidip Mukerjea launches his autobiography "Crosscourt"

Jaidip Mukerjea, a renowned tennis player, launched his autobiography titled "**Crosscourt**" in the presence of prominent Indian tennis players such as Ramesh Krishnan and Somdev Devvarman. The book chronicles Mukerjea's journey and provides insight into his life as a successful tennis player. "Crosscourt" is not just about tennis but also covers various aspects of his personal life, including his triumphs, disappointments, relationships, and behind-the-scenes moments. Mukerjea's wife, Sharmin, played a crucial role in encouraging and assisting him in writing the book. According to her, the book is a collection of memories that will captivate readers beyond just the sport of tennis. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amitav Ghosh's new non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' to release in July 2023

HarperCollins' Fourth Estate will publish a book titled "**Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories**" by **Amitav Ghosh**. The book is a combination of a memoir, a travelogue, and a deep dive into the economic and cultural history of opium. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih'

At the end of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangam' event, the Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi**, revealed a book called '**Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Prashasti**,' authored by Somnath Sanskrit University. The Sangam celebrates the cultural and historical bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, as many people migrated from the Saurashtra region to Tamil Nadu several centuries ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches 'Reflections'

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, launched a book called "**Reflections**" in Mumbai. The author of the book is **Narayanan Vaghul**, a well-known banker, and it provides a detailed account of his experiences in the financial landscape of India over several decades. Sitharaman praised Vaghul for his leadership qualities and extensive experience in banking, as well as his contributions to mentoring leaders ([Click here to read the article](#))



Miscellaneous Current Affairs

Anjali Sharma Conquer Mount Kilimanjaro In Africa, Wearing Luanchari

Anjali Sharma has made her state and country proud by successfully scaling the peak of **Mount Kilimanjaro in South Africa** while wearing a traditional Gaddi dress (Luanchadi). She is the first Indian woman to achieve this feat while wearing the Gaddi costume, and she aims to promote Gaddi culture on mountain peaks. Anjali had previously conquered a peak of 5289 meters at the age of 15 and also climbed Hanuman Tibba and Pahar Deo, both over 6001 meters in height. The Gaddi dress, or Luanchadi, is a traditional costume from the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banarasi Paan, Three Other Varanasi-Based Goods Receive GI Tag

On April 3, 2022, the **Benarasi Paan**, which was featured in Amitabh Bachchan's famous song "Khaike Paan Benaras Wala," was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This means that these products have unique qualities specific to their respective regions. The Benarasi Paan, known for its distinct taste and unique blend of ingredients, has been awarded the GI tag along with three other Varanasi-based products: **Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), and Adamchini Rice**. The expert Rajnikant, who is a Padma Awardee in GI, has confirmed the designation of these products. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj Rice Variety Gets GI Tag

Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj, an aromatic rice variety, has been granted a geographical indication (GI) tag by the **Geographical Indication Registry**. This will provide the brand with a unique identity and open up a wide market for it. Efforts have been made by authorities in Chhattisgarh for a long time to obtain the GI tag for Nagri Dubraj. The Indira Gandhi Agricultural University played a vital role in obtaining the rights, as it maintained regular communication with the relevant authorities. Additionally, the rice is produced by a self-help group of women. ([Click here to read the article](#))

103rd Birth Anniversary Of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar On April 7...

Pandit Ravi Shankar, a world-famous sitar player and composer, is widely recognized as one of the most important figures in promoting Indian music around the world. On April 7, his **103rd birth anniversary** is being celebrated. He gained immense popularity among Western audiences for Indian classical music by collaborating with musicians from various parts of the world. His contribution to music was acknowledged by the Indian government, which awarded him the **Bharat Ratna**, the country's highest civilian award, in 1999. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bihar's Aromatic 'Marcha Rice' Gets GI Tag

The Mircha rice variety from **West Champaran district of Bihar** has recently been granted the GI tag. The grains of this rice are similar in size and shape to black pepper, which is why it is called **Mircha or Marcha rice**. The rice has a distinct aroma, and its grains and flakes are known for their palatability. The rice is also famous for its ability to produce aromatic chura (rice flakes). When cooked, the rice is fluffy, non-sticky, and sweet with a pleasant aroma resembling that of popcorn. The application for the GI tag was submitted by the Marcha Dhan Utpadak Pragatisheel Samuh, a registered organization of paddy cultivators. ([Click here to read the article](#))

J&K LG Manoj Sinha Inaugurates Tulip Garden In Jammu

Manoj Sinha, the lieutenant governor, has opened a **Tulip Garden** in the Jammu region at **Sanasar's Ramban Hill Resort**. The garden spans five acres (40 Kanals) and is part of a ₹6.91 crore initiative. It is an expansion of the existing Tulip Garden, which was established on four kanals of land two years ago. The new garden is situated between the proposed golf course and the current lake. ([Click here to read the article](#))

196th Birth Anniversary Of Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

Jyotirao Phule Jayanti is an annual observance in India, celebrated on **April 11th** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule. Jyotirao Phule was a prominent social reformer, philosopher, and writer who played a crucial role in women's education and the upliftment of the oppressed castes in India during the British rule. He was born on April 11, 1827, in Maharashtra, and his contributions to the Indian society and culture are celebrated on this day. Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was born on April 11, 1827, in Satara, Maharashtra, and this year marks his 196th birth anniversary. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UP's Suhelwa Sanctuary Records First Photographic Proof Of Tigers

According to a recent census report on tigers in the country, **Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary** has been identified as a new area where photographic evidence of tigers has been captured for the first time. The sanctuary was established in 1988 and is located in **Shravasti, Balrampur, and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh**. It spans across 452 sq km and is positioned on the border of India and Nepal. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's First Semi-High Speed Regional Rail Service Named 'RAPIDX'

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as '**RAPIDX**'. These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR). The name 'RAPIDX' has been selected because it is simple to read and pronounce in different languages. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NHAI Enables FASTag Based Payments At Forest Entry Points

The authorities of the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, which spans across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and the NHAI's subsidiary, Indian Highways Management Company, signed an agreement aimed at streamlining the entry process for vehicles into the forest area. According to a statement from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) will enable the implementation of a **FASTag-based payment system** at **forest entry points**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Heatwave

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has announced that several states in the country, including **Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Delhi-NCR**, are currently experiencing **heatwave** conditions. According to the IMD, these conditions are likely to persist for the next few days. The weather agency has also predicted that **Punjab and Haryana** may experience a rise in temperatures over the next two days, with the situation expected to improve thereafter. ([Click here to read the article](#))

History behind Same Sex Marriage

Marriage, a common cultural relationship, has traditionally been recognized only between individuals of different genders, despite the use of **gender-neutral terminology** in most marriage laws. While society is slowly becoming more **accepting of same-sex marriages**, there are still many **constitutional bans** on such marriages in various states, leading to the denial of legal and financial rights that are granted to married couples.

Fit India Champion Arjun Vajpai Summits Mt. Annapurna

Fit India Champion, **Arjun Vajpai** has achieved a significant feat by becoming the first Indian man to reach the summit of Mt. Annapurna 1. This mountain, located in Nepal, is the tenth highest peak in the world, standing at an elevation of 8,091 metres (26,545 ft) above sea level. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries Current Affairs

Drugs for rare diseases get customs duty relief

S.NO.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
Politician (National-International)		
1	Jagarnath Mahto	Politician
2	Parkash Singh Badal	former Chief Minister of Punjab and leader of the Akali Dal
3	Trilochan Kanungo	prominent economist and a long-standing member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party
4	Chandan Ram Dass	Uttarakhand minister
'Singer/Musician (National-International)		
Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)		
1	Jalabala Vaidya	Theatre Artist
2	Uttara Baokar	Actor
3	Allu Ramesh	Telugu actor and comedian
4	Mamukkoya	Popular Malayalam actor
Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)		
1	Salim Durani	Indian cricketer
Others (National-International)		
1	Keshub Mahindra	Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra and India's oldest billionaire
2	Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury	public health activist and veteran fighter of the Liberation War
3	Tarek Fatah	Pakistani-Canadian journalist



Static Current Affairs

Important Takeaways

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950;
- Indian Navy headquarters: New Delhi.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath;
- ISRO foundation Date: 15th August, 1969;
- ISRO Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- United Nations Mine Action Service Headquarters: United Nations Headquarters; New York, USA;
- United Nations Mine Action Service Founded: October 1997;
- United Nations Mine Action Service Head: Ilene Cohn.
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States;
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson.
- Bank of Maharashtra CEO: A. S. Rajeev (2 Dec 2018–)
- Bank of Maharashtra Headquarters: Pune
- Bank of Maharashtra Founders: D. K. Sathe, V. G. Kale
- Bank of Maharashtra Founded: 16 September 1935.
- Fino Payments Bank Founded: 4 April 2017;
- Fino Payments Bank Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai;
- Fino Payments Bank MD & CEO: Rishi Gupta.
- Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963;
- Central Bureau of Investigation Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Central Bureau of Investigation Director General: Subodh Kumar Jaiswal.
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- WHO Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- Bharat Biotech Founders: Krishna Ella, Suchitra Ella;
- Bharat Biotech Date founded: 1996.
- Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India: Dr. Saurabh Garg;
- Unique Identification Authority of India Founded: 28 January 2009, India;
- Unique Identification Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Greece Capital: Athens;
- Greece Continent: Europe;
- Greece Government: Unitary parliamentary republic;
- Greece Prime minister: Kyriakos Mitsotakis.
- Life Insurance Corporation Founded: 1 September 1956;
- Life Insurance Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Chairperson of Life Insurance Corporation: Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950;
- Indian Navy headquarters: New Delhi.
- Mozambique Capital: Maputo;
- Mozambique Currency: Mozambican metical;
- Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi.
- MRF Ltd Founder: K. M. Mammen Mappillai;

- MRF Ltd Founded: 1946, Chennai;
- MRF Ltd Headquarters: Chennai.
- International Council on Monuments and Sites Founded: 1965
- International Council on Monuments and Sites President: Teresa Patriciao
- International Council on Monuments and Sites headquarters in Paris.
- Karnataka Bank Founded: 18 February 1924;
- Karnataka Bank CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S (15 Apr 2017–);
- Karnataka Bank Headquarters: Mangaluru.
- Arunachal Pradesh Governor: Dr B. D. Mishra;
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM): Pema Khandu;
- Arunachal Pradesh National Parks: Mouling National park, Namdapha National Park;
- Arunachal Pradesh Wildlife Sanctuaries: Talle Wildlife Sanctuary, Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka;
- Bangladesh Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina;
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi Taka.
- DRDO founded: 1958;
- DRDO Agency executive: Dr Sameer V Kamath, Chairman;
- DRDO Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi.
- City Union Bank Limited Headquarters: Kumbakonam;
- City Union Bank Limited CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi (1 May 2011–);
- City Union Bank Limited Founded: 1904.
- UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- World Veterinary Association President: Rafael Laguens;
- World Veterinary Association Founded: 1863;
- World Veterinary Association HQ: Brussels, Belgium.
- Mongolia capital: Ulaanbaatar
- Mongolia Prime Minister: Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene
- Mongolia currency: Tugrik
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das;
- RBI HQ: Mumbai.
- Nasscom Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani;
- Nasscom Founded: 1 March 1988;
- Nasscom President: Debjani Ghosh;
- Nasscom Type of business: Non-governmental trade association;
- Nasscom Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Founders: United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Italy;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium;
- NATO Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919;
- International Labour Organization Director-general: Gilbert Houngbo;
- International Labour Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Theatre Institute Headquarters: Paris, France
- International Theatre Institute Founded: 1948

Important banking reforms and acts in India:

Act/Reform	Year	Key Provisions
Nationalization of Banks	1969	14 commercial banks were nationalized with deposits of over 50 crores.
Lead Bank Scheme	1969	The RBI identified one bank in each district as the "Lead Bank" for coordination of efforts to expand banking in rural areas.
Bank Nationalization (2nd phase)	1980	6 more banks were nationalized.
The Banking Regulation Act	1949	Provided a framework for regulation and supervision of commercial banking in India.
The Reserve Bank of India Act	1934	Established the Reserve Bank of India and vested it with the responsibility to regulate the monetary policy of the country.
The Foreign Exchange Management Act	1999	Regulates foreign exchange transactions and trade in India.
The Negotiable Instruments Act	1881	Provides legal framework for checks, promissory notes and bills of exchange.
The Prevention of Money Laundering Act	2002	Prohibits money laundering and provides for confiscation of property derived from money laundering.
The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act	2002	Enables banks and financial institutions to recover bad debts without going through a lengthy legal process.
The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act	2005	Established a framework for credit information companies to operate in India.
The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code	2016	Provides a time-bound and efficient resolution process for insolvency cases in India.
The Goods and Services Tax (GST)	2017	Introduced a unified tax system for goods and services in India.

