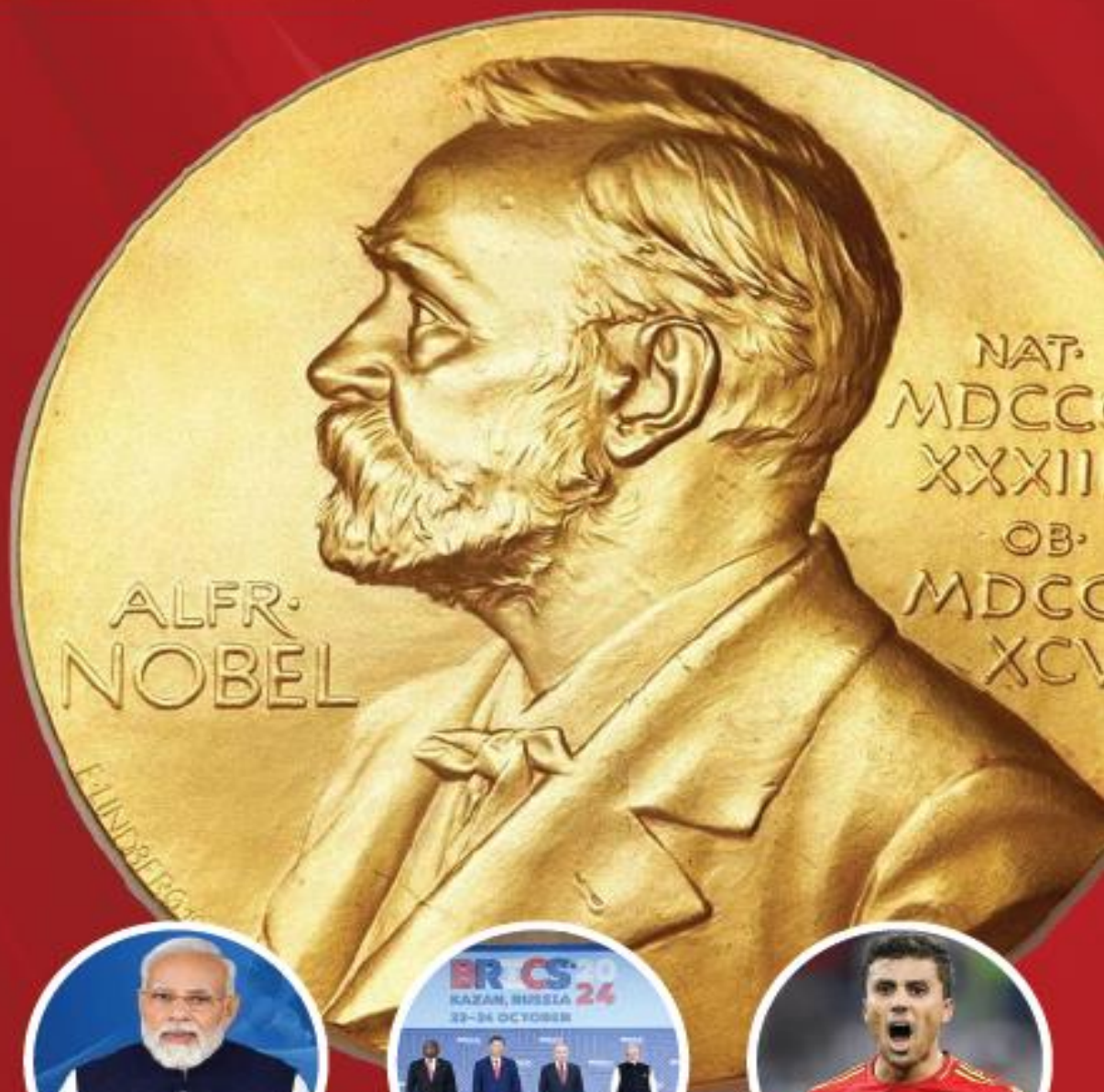


THE HINDU REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024



**CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

**MONTHLY
CAPSULE**



Contents

National News.....	3
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	23
BANKING & FINANCE	27
ECONOMY & BUSINESS	34
MoU's & AGREEMENTS	36
APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS	39
AWARDS	41
SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE.....	44
COMMITTEES & MEETINGS	49
INDEX.....	50
ACQUISITION & MERGERS.....	53
DEFENCE.....	54
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....	58
SPORTS	60
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	65
OBITUARY.....	65
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	67
ENVIRONMENT.....	69
Miscellaneous	69
Static Takeaways	70

National News

Cabinet Approvals

Union Cabinet Approved Establishment of NCoE for AVGC in Mumbai

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- It will be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Mol&B).
- NCoE AVGC-XR established as **Section 8** Company under the Companies Act, 2013 in India with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) representing the industry bodies as partners with the Government of India (GoI).

Cabinet Approvals on 3rd October 2024

On 3rd October 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following,

- Modified Productivity Linked Reward (PLR) Scheme for the major ports and dock labour Board employees/workers from 2020-21 to 2025-26.
- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) to promote sustainable agriculture and the Krishonnati Yojana (KY) with ₹1,01,321.61 crore expenditure to achieve food security for self-sufficiency.
- India to Join the International Energy Efficiency Hub by signing the Letter of Intent (LoI).
- Conferring the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages.
- Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase II comprises three corridors.
- Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for 78 days to railway employees.
- The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- Creation of a post of the Presiding Officer for the Special Tribunal (full time) at Talcher, Odisha under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957.

Cabinet Approvals on 9th October 2024

On 9th October 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, has approved the following proposals for,

- Development of the world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) by **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** (MoPSW) at Lothal, Gujarat, to be executed in two phases.
- Construction of **2,280 km of roads** in Rajasthan and Punjab, with an investment of **Rs 4,406 crore**.
- Continuation of the universal supply of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) under various Central Government schemes, including **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**, from July **2024 to December 2028**, at a cost of **Rs 17,082 crore**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** approved deals for the purchase of **31 MQ-9B** High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics of the United States of America (USA), and indigenous construction of two **Nuclear Attack Submarines (SSN)**.

Cabinet Approvals on 16th October 2024

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved various schemes and projects on **16th October 2024**.

The Cabinet has approved,

- The additional instalment of **3%** of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to Pensioners.
- The **Varanasi-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya multi-tracking project** of the Ministry of Railways with an estimated cost of Rs 2642 crore.
- Rs. 35,000 crores allotted for the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan (**PM-AASHA**) schemes to support farmers and control price volatility.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated **Rabi Crops** for Marketing Season 2025-26.

MSP for all Rabi crops for Marketing Season 2025-26

S. No.	Crops	MSP RMS 2025-26 (Rs. per quintal)	Increase in MSP
			(Absolute)
			(Rs. Per quintal)
1	Wheat	2425	150
2	Barley	1980	130
3	Gram	5650	210
4	Lentil (Masur)	6700	275
5	Rapeseed & Mustard	5950	300
6	Safflower	5940	140

Parliament News

Supreme Court of India upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act as Valid Law

- The Supreme Court of India (SCI) upheld the constitutionality of Section 6A of the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, with a majority of **4:1**. As per it, Section 6A does not violate Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which pertain to citizenship rights established at the Constitution's commencement in 1950.
- Section 6A addresses migrants from erstwhile **East Pakistan (Present Bangladesh)**, specifically those who entered Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 24, 1971.

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) Extension Center Inauguration:** Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the NSTI extension center at the Andhra Medical Tech Zone (AMTZ) campus in Visakhapatnam. This initiative aims to address skill gaps in the state, contributing to better workforce development.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Kaziranga National Park Recognized as Butterfly Hub:** Kaziranga National Park, home to the iconic one-horned rhinoceros, has been recognized as India's second-largest butterfly diversity hub, after Namdapha National Park. With 446 butterfly species, this park is now a vital biodiversity hotspot.
- **Namdapha National Park and Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary Declared as ESZ:** The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has designated Namdapha National Park and Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ). This decision aims to protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of these areas.

Assam

- **Nijut Moina Scheme:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the disbursement of monthly financial assistance under the Nijut Moina scheme to combat child marriage. This initiative seeks to empower young girls and support their education and well-being.
- **Revitalizing Wetlands Project:** The Assam government announced a project to revitalize 129 beels (wetlands), spanning 3,800 hectares. The initiative focuses on flood mitigation, fish production, groundwater recharge, and erosion control.
- **Renewable Energy Investment:** Assam has secured a USD 434.25 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build a 500 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Karbi Anglong district.
- **Co-Districts Initiative:** Assam has launched Co-Districts, a decentralized administrative initiative aimed at bringing governance closer to citizens' homes. The state has operationalized 21 Co-Districts for more effective local administration.

Bihar

- **Kaimur Tiger Reserve:** The central government has given in-principle approval to establish Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district, following a proposal from the state government to develop Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Development Projects:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated development projects worth Rs 7,160 crore, including 2,615 panchayat government buildings across blocks in the state and a new panchayat resource center in Sonapur, Saran district.

Gujarat

- **Command and Control Centre:** Ahmedabad Police is setting up a state-of-the-art Command and Control Centre to enhance public safety with advanced technologies for better crime control and operational efficiency.
- **Prime Minister's Visit:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth over ₹284 crore in Narmada district, which includes the iconic Statue of Unity.

Haryana

- **New Chief Minister:** Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister for the second time, leading BJP to a third consecutive term. He announced the free dialysis scheme for chronic kidney patients in government hospitals.
- **Sub-quotas for Dalits:** Haryana became the first state to implement sub-quotas for Dalits by subclassifying the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in line with the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling to improve the representation of marginalized communities.
- **International Gita Mahotsav:** The International Gita Mahotsav will take place from November 28 to December 15, 2024, in Kurukshetra, Haryana, celebrating Indian heritage, spirituality, and culture.

Himachal Pradesh

- **'Sankalp' Anti-Drug Initiative:** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Sankalp' initiative on October 6, 2024, aimed at combating drug trafficking and addiction.
- **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park Certification:** The Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in Kangra became the first zoo in India to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) on October 30.

Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand Cabinet Boosts Women's Honorarium and Key Initiatives:** - Women's monthly honorarium under **Maiyaan Samman Yojana** raised from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500. - The increase is a response to BJP's **Gogo Didi Yojana**, which offers ₹2,100 to women.

Karnataka

- **Indian Gaming Convention (IGC):** Shri Priyank Kharge, Karnataka's Minister for IT and Biotechnology, highlighted the state's ambition to become the gaming and animation capital of Asia during the second edition of the IGC. IGC 2024 Theme: "India—the Next Superpower in Gaming," highlighting India's growth potential in gaming.
- **'Shiksha Copilot' AI for Teachers:** Karnataka introduced 'Shiksha Copilot', an AI-powered digital assistant to help teachers with lesson planning and improving student learning outcomes. The initiative is a collaboration between the Sikshana Foundation and Microsoft Research India.
- On **Valmiki Jayanti**, Karnataka Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** announced that all **Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools** in the state, along with **Raichur University**, will be named after **Maharishi Valmiki**. The government also introduced **welfare initiatives** such as **hostel facilities** for marginalized communities in every **hobli** and budget allocations through **SCSP** (Scheduled Castes Sub Plan) and **TSP** (Tribal Sub Plan) policies.

Kerala

- **Disaster Preparedness Post-Wayanad Floods:** After devastating floods in July 2024, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences approved the installation of an X-band radar in Kerala's Wayanad district to improve disaster preparedness.
- **Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024:** The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution urging the central government to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, expressing concerns over its potential impact on the autonomy of Waqf boards.
- **Citizen Sentinel App:** Kerala launched the 'Citizen Sentinel' mobile app to involve citizens in road safety enforcement.
- **Pavana Chitra:** Dr. Jitendra Singh, has inaugurated **Pavana Chitra**, India's first self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility, located at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.
- **Kerala's Motor Vehicle Department (MVD)** has launched the Citizen Sentinel mobile application, empowering citizens to actively participate in ensuring road safety.

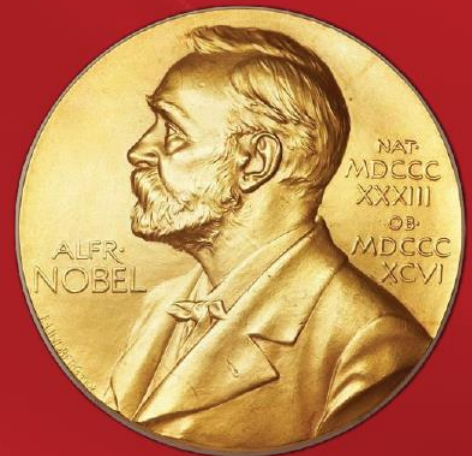
Adda247

THE HINDU REVIEW PDF MONTHLY

" SHARE YOUR VALUABLE FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE!! "

• CURRENT AFFAIRS

• MONTHLY CAPSULE



Maharashtra

- **Desi Cows Given Special Status:** Maharashtra became the first state to grant 'Rajyamata-Gomata' status to desi cows, recognizing their cultural and economic significance.
- **Renaming of Skills University:** The Maharashtra government announced the renaming of the Maharashtra State Skills Development University to 'Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University' in honor of the late industrialist Ratan Tata.

Manipur

- **'Mera Hou Chongba' Festival:** Despite ongoing ethnic tensions, Manipur celebrated the "Mera Hou Chongba" festival, a cultural event aimed at reinforcing community bonds and celebrating the state's indigenous heritage.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Pink Alarms for Women's Safety:** Madhya Pradesh installed 'pink alarms' at government-run hospitals and medical colleges in Datia as part of efforts to ensure the safety of female staff in healthcare settings.

Nagaland

- **Hornbill Festival 25th Anniversary:** The 25th Hornbill Festival will be celebrated from December 1 to 10, 2024, marking its silver jubilee at the Heritage Village, Kisama, Nagaland.

Odisha

- **Increase in Casual Leave for Women:** The Odisha government increased the casual leave entitlement for women employees by 12 days, bringing the total to 27 days annually compared to 15 days for male employees.
- Odisha is set to host the **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** from January 8th to 10th next year in its capital city, Bhubaneswar.
- Cyclone Dana Hit Odisha and West Bengal. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Dana's name was suggested by **Qatar**.

Rajasthan

- **Zero-Waste Village Initiative:** Aandhi, a village in Rajasthan, is progressing towards becoming a zero-waste model by using green technologies to manage various waste forms, including food, agricultural, and wastewater.

Telangana

- **'Telangana Darshini' Program:** The state launched the 'Telangana Darshini' Program, offering free educational trips to historical and tourist sites for government school students.
- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) Telangana Chapter:** Telangana launched the first state chapter of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform to support women-led businesses.
- **Caste-Based Headcount:** Telangana became the third state to conduct a caste-based household survey to ensure equitable resource distribution among marginalized communities.
- **Indo-Turkey Friendship Association Inauguration:** The Indo-Turkey Friendship Association was inaugurated in Hyderabad to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Turkey.

Tamil Nadu

- **Driverless Train Trial Run:** Chennai is set to trial its first three-coach driverless train as part of the Phase II project of Chennai Metro, a significant move to modernize public transportation.

Uttarakhand

- **Writer's Village Inauguration:** India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun to provide a creative environment for writers. This aims to make Dehradun a cultural hub for literary talent.
- **Renaming of Rural Development Schemes:** The Uttarakhand government renamed the Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project (REAP) to 'Gramothan Yojana' and the Rural Business Incubator (RBI) Scheme to 'CM Udyamshala Yojana' to simplify and boost rural entrepreneurship.
- **Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas :** The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasas across the state.
- India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand, by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**, alongside **Uttarakhand Governor Gurmeet Singh** and **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami**. The initiative, conceptualized by former CM **Nishank**, aims to provide a tranquil space for writers to create, featuring **Lekhan Kutir (writing cottages)**, **Sanjeevani Vatika (healing garden)**, **Nakshatra & Navgrah Vatika (astrological gardens)**, a **library, art gallery, yoga/meditation centre**, and a **museum**. The event also marked the release of **Nishank's book, Ram in the Himalayas**. Over **65 countries** participated, with **40 international attendees**, showcasing the village as a hub for cultural exchange. The event coincided with the **Sparsh Himalaya Mahotsav-2024**.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Mahakumbh 2025 Logo & App:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a multi-colored logo and an app for Mahakumbh 2025, highlighting Prayagraj as a significant cultural and religious destination.

- **BC Sakhis Empower Women:** Rural women in Uttar Pradesh, known as BC Sakhis, have facilitated Rs 27,000 crore in financial transactions over the past four and a half years, significantly contributing to financial inclusion.
- **Deepotsav 2024 in Ayodhya:** Uttar Pradesh set two Guinness World Records by illuminating the banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas during the Deepotsav 2024 celebrations.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** recently unveiled a series of welfare schemes for **police personnel**, including a **70% increase in uniform allowance** for all police staff and a **25% increase in housing allowance** for constables living in barracks. Additionally, **₹10 crore** has been allocated for **police sports**, covering training, diet, and other expenses, with a total of **₹115 crore** earmarked for sports development. Furthermore, a **₹1,380 crore** corpus fund has been set up for the **maintenance of police housing** and administrative buildings, demonstrating the state's commitment to improving the welfare and infrastructure of its police force.

October Month Launches & Inaugurations:

PM Modi Launches IFSC Single Window System Developed by DEV IT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Single Window IT (SWIT)** platform, developed by **Dev Information Technology Limited (DEV IT)**, under the guidance of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**. The event took place in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

MoPSW Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Cruise Bharat Mission

- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) launched the **Cruise Bharat Mission (CBM)** at **Mumbai port**, Maharashtra, aimed at boosting India's cruise tourism. The mission's ambitious goal is to increase cruise passenger traffic from **4.6 lakh in 2024 to 50 lakh by 2047** and double the volume of cruise calls from **254 in 2024 to 500 by 2030 and 1,100 by 2047**.

FCI Launches ANNA DARPAN

- The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, under the Department of Food & Public Distribution, launched a **digital transformation initiative** to modernize its supply chain system. The new **Anna Darpan** system integrates **microservices-based supply chain management** to enhance efficiency.

Nitin Gadkari Unveils Rs 100 Commemorative Coin

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) unveiled a **Rs 100 commemorative coin** marking the **Birth Centenary of HH Mataji Nirmala Devi Ji** at the **National Museum, New Delhi**. The coin symbolizes her teachings, focusing on **inner peace and universal love**.

Ultraviolette Launches 6th UV Space Station in Visakhapatnam

- **Ultraviolette Automotive Pvt. Ltd.**, based in **Bengaluru**, inaugurated its **6th Ultraviolette (UV) space station** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, to expand its **electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem**. This station will offer services like charging, maintenance, and community space for EV users.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates 8th India Water Week in New Delhi

- The **8th India Water Week (IWW 2024)** was held from **17th to 20th September 2024** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. Organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, the theme was **"Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management"**. Key highlights include:
 1. **Woman Water Warriors** like **Ujiaro Bai** from Madhya Pradesh and **Lakemen Nongkhlaw** from Meghalaya honored for grassroots water conservation.
 2. **BlueVerse India** showcased **water-efficient vehicle washing solutions**.
 3. **India-EU partnership** for sustainable water management at the **6th EU-India Water Forum**.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone & Inaugurates Development Projects in Hazaribag, Jharkhand

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)**, a development program with an outlay of **Rs 79,156 crores** from **Hazaribagh, Jharkhand**. He also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for multiple welfare projects for tribal communities, including the **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)** worth over **Rs 1,360 crore**. Over 5 crore tribals in 549 districts across 30 states and Union Territories. Budget: Rs 24000 Crore.

ANRF Launches PMECRG & MAHA-EV Mission

The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** launched two major initiatives:

1. **Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG)** to promote young researchers.
2. **Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas – Electric Vehicle (MAHA-EV) Mission**. The launch occurred during the first **Governing Board (GB)** meeting on **September 10, 2024**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan Launches Various Schemes in MP

On **8th October 2024**, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched several schemes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) aimed at improving rural infrastructure. Key initiatives included:

1. **500 km of newly paved roads** under PMGSY.
2. **Awas Sakhi mobile app** for PMAY beneficiaries.
3. **Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs)** to enhance skill development.

India's First Memorial for Unsung Heroes of Military Intelligence

- The Indian Army inaugurated **Satark Park**, India's first memorial dedicated to the **Military Intelligence** personnel who lost their lives in service. Located in **Pune**, it is inspired by the motto "**Sada Satark**" (always alert).

Maharashtra Launches India's First State-Level Cyber Command Center

- The **Maharashtra State Cyber Department**, in collaboration with **L&T Technology Services Limited**, launched India's first **state-level Cyber Command and Control Center (CCC)** in **Navi Mumbai**. The center integrates advanced technologies like **AI, blockchain**, and over **50 cybersecurity tools** to combat cybercrime efficiently.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launches District Master Plan under PM Gati Shakti

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** launched the **District Master Plan (DMP)** for 27 **aspirational districts** under the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)** on **13th October 2024**. The DMP expanded to cover **750 districts** across India in the next 18 months.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Announces Establishment of Thematic Hubs for National Quantum Mission

- On **30th September 2024**, **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced the establishment of **4 Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)** and **14 Technical Groups** for the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**. This initiative aims to foster innovation and collaboration across 17 states and 2 Union Territories.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Unveils BSNL's New Logo & Services

- On **October 8, 2024**, **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** unveiled the new **BSNL logo** and launched **7 customer-centric services** to improve connectivity and enhance customer experience across India.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Launches eShram – One Stop Solution for Unorganised Workers

- On **October 1, 2024**, **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the **eShram** portal to provide unorganised workers with easy access to government social security schemes. The portal enables workers aged **16-59 years** to register and benefit from various welfare programs.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Development Projects in Maharashtra

On **9th October 2024**, **PM Modi** laid the foundation stone for development projects in **Maharashtra** worth over **Rs 7,600 crore**. Key projects include:

1. Upgradation of **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur**.
2. A new **Integrated Terminal Building at Shirdi Airport**.
3. The inauguration of the **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)** in **Mumbai** under a **PPP model**.

PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Modern Gaushala with Bio-CNG Plant

- On **October 2, 2024**, **PM Modi** inaugurated the **Lal Tipara Gaushala** in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**. This modern **Gaushala** features a **Bio-CNG Plant** for sustainable energy generation from cow dung.

DAE Inaugurates MACE Observatory in Ladakh

- On **October 4, 2024**, the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** inaugurated the **MACE Observatory** at **Hanle, Ladakh**. This **Cherenkov telescope** is the **largest in Asia** and the **highest in the world** at over **4,300 meters** above sea level.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers

- On **October 4, 2024**, **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated India's first **Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers** at **Jejuri, Pune, Maharashtra**. This facility will produce **Polylactic Acid (PLA) bioplastic** using **indigenous technology**.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Projects in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

On **October 9, 2024**, **PM Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple development projects in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, including:

- **Rs 6,100 crore airport projects**.
- The **RJ Sankara Eye Hospital** for eye care.
- **Redevelopment of Varanasi Sports Complex** under **Khelo India** and the **Smart City Mission**.
- **PM Modi Inaugurates ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024**

On **15th October 2024**, **PM Modi** inaugurated the **ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. This was the **first time** India hosted WTSA, marking an important milestone in **global telecommunications cooperation**.

PM Modi Inaugurates GAIL's First CBG Plant in Jharkhand

- PM Modi inaugurates GAIL's first CBG plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024.
- Plant Capacity: 150 TPD feedstock, 5 TPD production.
- Investment: ₹26 crore.
- Environmental Impact: Reduces ~4,950 tonnes CO2 emissions annually, replaces 2,171,052 SCM of natural gas per year.
- Foreign Exchange Savings: USD 840,093.
- Job Creation: 35 direct, 105 indirect jobs.
- Dignitaries: Minister Sanjay Seth, GAIL executives.
- Focus on renewable energy, waste management, and environmental sustainability.
- Supports government vision for cleaner environment and energy security.

Important Festival

Ustad Allauddin Khan Festival celebrated in Maihar, MP

- **Ustad Allauddin Khan Festival** (also known as Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroh) celebrated in **Maihar, Madhya Pradesh (MP)** is dedicated to the legendary musician Ustad Allauddin Khan. 2024 is the **Golden Jubilee year** of this music festival.

Miscellaneous National News

National Health Accounts Estimates Released by MoHFW:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) released the 8th and 9th editions of the National Health Accounts (NHA) for India for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- The Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) has decreased from 64.2% (2013-14) to 39.4% (2021-22), marking a positive trend.
- The Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as a percentage of GDP increased from 1.13% in 2014-15 to 1.84% in 2021-22.

PM Modi Launches Rs. 11,200 Crore Projects in Maharashtra:

- On 29th September 2024, PM Modi virtually launched various projects worth Rs. 11,200 crore, including the Pune Metro section and Solapur Airport.

Light Assam Products Get GI Tag:

- Eight products from Assam, including "Jou Gwran" and "Maibra Jou Bidwi," have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Nabard have 144 GI Tags
- APEDA have 229 GI Tags.

Interest Rate on Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for Q3FY25:

- The Ministry of Finance has announced that interest rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q3 FY25 (1st October to 31st December 2024) will remain unchanged.

Key Rates Overview:

- **Sukanya Samridhi Scheme:** 8.2%
- **Kisan Vikas Patra:** 7.5% (matures in 115 months)
- **Public Provident Fund (PPF):** 7.1%
- **National Savings Certificate (NSC):** 7.7%
- **Post Office Savings Deposit:** 4%
- **Monthly Income Scheme:** 7.4%

The interest rates are reviewed quarterly and primarily apply to accounts opened during the specified periods, reflecting **consistency** in the government's approach to small savings schemes.

Interest rates for various small savings schemes for the specified periods

Scheme	Rate of Interest (01.04.24 to 30.06.24)	Rate of Interest (01.07.24 to 30.09.24)	Compounding Frequency
Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)	8.20%	8.20%	Paid Quarterly
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%	7.10%	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme (SSA)	8.20%	8.20%	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.50% (matures in 115 months)	7.50% (matures in 115 months)	Annually
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.70%	7.70%	Annually

The rates for SCSS, KVP, and NSC are applicable only for newly opened accounts during the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.09.2024.

BEL to Form JV with Israel Aerospace Industries:

- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has been approved to set up a joint venture with Israel Aerospace Industries, with BEL holding a 40% stake.

CSIRT-POWER Facility Inaugurated by MoP:

- The Ministry of Power launched the Computer Security Incident Response Team for the power sector to safeguard against cyber threats.

MoHFW Increases Monthly Nutrition Support for TB Patients:

- The monthly nutritional support for TB patients has been doubled from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 under the Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana.

DoT and TSPs Launch System to Curb Fraudulent Calls:

- The Department of Telecommunications, in collaboration with Telecom Service Providers, launched a two-tiered system to combat telecom fraud and scams.

RLI-Chennai Receives 'Uttam' Accreditation:

- The Regional Labour Institute in Chennai was accredited as 'Uttam' by the Capacity Building Commission for civil service training.

WHO Declares India Trachoma-Free:

- India has been declared free of Trachoma as a public health problem by WHO, making it the third country in the South-East Asia Region to achieve this milestone.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd Upgraded to 'Maharatna' Status:

- HAL has been upgraded to 'Maharatna' status, enhancing its operational autonomy.

MP Approves Ratapani WLS as 8th Tiger Reserve:

- Madhya Pradesh has approved the declaration of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary as its 8th Tiger Reserve.

Launch of 'Humsafar Policy' by MoRTH:

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the 'Humsafar Policy' to improve services at Wayside Amenities along National Highways.

DPIIT Issues Guidelines on Greenwashing:

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) introduced guidelines to prevent and regulate greenwashing, ensuring environmental claims are not misleading.

MoE Announces AI Centres of Excellence:

- The Ministry of Education launched three AI Centres of Excellence focusing on Healthcare, Agriculture, and Sustainable Cities, with an investment of Rs 990 crore.

IndiaAI Mission Selects 8 Responsible AI Projects:

- Eight AI projects were selected to enhance Safe and Trusted AI development in alignment with the government's vision for inclusive growth.

CBDT Eases TDS/TCS Credit Claims for Salaried Employees:

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) amended income tax rules to ease TDS and TCS credit claims for salaried employees.

MNRE Approves Green Hydrogen Pilot Projects for Steel Sector:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has approved three pilot projects under the National Green Hydrogen Mission to utilize green hydrogen in steel production.

Kotak Brands Mumbai's BKC Metro Station:

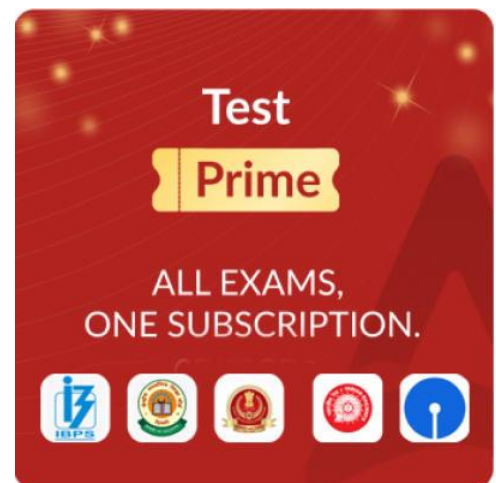
- Kotak Mahindra Group has branded Mumbai's BKC Metro station as 'Kotak Bandra-Kurla Complex Metro Station'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Releases INDIAB Survey Data:

- The Minister of Science & Technology released data from the world's largest survey on Diabetes, conducted by ICMR and MDRF.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Approves CGM Posts in Nationalized Banks:

- The Finance Minister approved the creation of Chief General Manager (CGM) posts in five nationalized banks as part of a restructuring plan.



13,822 Jan Aushadhi Kendras Established Nationwide Category

- As of September 2024, the government has established 13,822 Jan Aushadhi Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), with a record sales achievement of ₹200 crore in September 2024, marking a 42% increase from the previous year. Over the past 10 years, medicines worth ₹6,100 crore have been sold, saving citizens an estimated ₹30,000 crore. With a growth of 31.20% in sales, the target is to expand to 25,000 Kendras nationwide. Medicines are priced 50% or lower than branded alternatives, with some being up to 80-90% cheaper. About 10 lakh people purchase medicines daily from these centers, which aim to provide affordable, quality medicines, promote generics, and reduce consumer costs, under the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).

BharatGen: India's First Government-Funded Multimodal AI Initiative

- The **BharatGen Initiative**, inaugurated on **September 30, 2024**, in New Delhi, is India's first government-funded multimodal AI initiative aimed at enhancing public service delivery and citizen engagement through generative AI in language, speech, and computer vision. Led by **IIT Bombay** under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, it involves collaboration with **IIT Bombay**, **IIIT Hyderabad**, **IIM Indore**, and **TIH Foundation for IoT and IOE**. The initiative focuses on developing **multilingual, multimodal AI models** with the **Bhartiya Dataset** and an **open-source platform**, prioritizing **data sovereignty** and the use of India-centric datasets for diverse **Indian languages**. BharatGen emphasizes AI as a public good, fostering **social equity** and **cultural preservation**, while supporting the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by reducing reliance on foreign technologies. It aims to develop **data-efficient AI models** that require minimal data, particularly for languages with limited digital representation. With a roadmap extending until **July 2026**, the initiative will drive AI model development, experimentation, and scaling AI adoption across India.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Banjara Virasat Museum in Maharashtra

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Banjara Virasat Museum** in **Pohardevi, Washim, Maharashtra** in October 2024, celebrating the rich heritage of the Banjara community. The museum, a 4-story structure with 13 galleries, showcases the community's legacy and cultural significance, including portraits of prominent leaders and key movements. During the inauguration, PM Modi paid floral tributes to **Sant Sevalal Maharaj** and **Sant Ramrao Maharaj**, spiritual leaders of the community. Additionally, he launched **₹23,300 crore** worth of agricultural and animal husbandry initiatives for Maharashtra, further contributing to the region's development.

India Launches 'Study in India' Campaign at UAE Education Show

- Introduced at the 20th International Education Show in Sharjah, aiming to attract global students to Indian universities. India hosts the world's second-largest higher education sector, featuring globally acclaimed institutions like IISc, IITs, NITs, and IIMs. Showcases participation from 100+ universities across 20+ countries, reflecting India's active role in global education.

India's Textiles Sector Targets \$350 Billion by 2030

- Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Export Growth:** 11% year-on-year increase in August 2024.
- Sector Target:** Textile sector aims for \$350 billion by 2030.
- Value Chain Strength:** Robust end-to-end value chain capability.
- Raw Material Base:** Strong availability of raw materials.
- Export Footprint:** Large and expanding international market reach.
- Domestic Market Expansion:** Growing domestic demand supports sector.
- PM MITRA Parks:** Rs. 90,000 crore investment, 7 parks, 1 lakh direct, 2 lakh indirect jobs.
- PLI Scheme:** Rs. 28,000 crore for MMF Apparel and Technical Textiles, creating 2.5 lakh jobs.
- National Technical Textiles Mission:** Supports startups, geotextiles, agro, and protective textiles research.
- PM MITRA Park Foundation:** PM Modi inaugurated world-class infrastructure in Amaravati, Maharashtra.

Supreme Court's Justice Statue Removes Blindfold

- Why in the News?** Supreme Court's Lady of Justice statue undergoes symbolic transformation.
- Blindfold Removed:** Signifies justice as aware, conscious, empathetic.
- Sword Replaced by Constitution:** Highlights justice based on constitutional principles.
- Scales Retained:** Represents fairness and balance in judiciary.
- Purpose of Change:** Shift from colonial symbolism to modern justice rooted in equality.

- **Establishment:** Supreme Court founded on January 28, 1950, in New Delhi.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Articles 124-147, Part V of the Constitution.
- **Judge Count:** Adjustable by Parliament.

NITI Aayog to Host International Methanol Seminar

- **Why in the News?** NITI Aayog host the Second International Methanol Seminar and Expo on October 17-18, 2024.
- **Location:** Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- **Focus Areas:** Methanol as low-carbon fuel, energy transition, and green shipping.
- **Methanol Economy Programme:** Launched in 2016 by NITI Aayog with the Methanol Institute, USA.
- **Government Support:** Initiatives for coal-to-methanol conversion, DME production, diesel engine methanol blending, and methanol for cooking and heating.
- **Key Partner:** Methanol Institute, USA.
- **Industry Participation:** Kirloskar, Ashok Leyland, BHEL, NTPC.
- **About NITI Aayog:** Replaced the Planning Commission in 2015, promotes cooperative federalism and governance efficiency.
- **NITI Aayog Composition:** Chairperson (Prime Minister), Vice-Chairperson, CEO, Governing Council of Chief Ministers, and Regional Council.

India's Linguistic Heritage Celebrated at Pravasi Parichay 2024 in Riyadh

- **2024 Pravasi Parichay** event inaugurated by **Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia**.
- Held at the **Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh**.
- Theme: "**Classical Languages of India**", showcasing **India's linguistic diversity**.
- **Indian diaspora** presented a play covering **11 classical languages: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Odia, Pali, Prakrit, Sanskrit**.
- **Cultural celebration** for the Indian diaspora in **Saudi Arabia**, organized with **diaspora associations** and **Ministry of External Affairs' Diaspora Engagement Division**.
- Held between **October-November 2023**.
- **Languages added in Oct 2024: Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali** (initially: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia).
- Focus on **antiquity, literary heritage, knowledge texts, and distinctness** of classical languages.
- **Education Ministry** initiatives: **awards, Centres of Excellence, and UGC Chairs** in universities.

PM Man Ki Baat October

- **Unity, Heritage, and Self-Reliance:** The Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat emphasized India's unity, cultural heritage, self-reliance, and technological advancements.
- **Visit to Ulihatu:** PM Modi recalled his visit to Ulihatu, honoring Bhagwan Birsa Munda's legacy linked to India's freedom struggle.
- **Legacy of Unity:** Highlighting Sardar Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the PM noted their contributions to India's unity in diversity.
- **Global Celebration of Indian Icons:** Mahatma Gandhi's and Swami Vivekananda's anniversaries resonated globally, emphasizing truth and spirituality.
- **Animation & Gaming Boom:** PM Modi praised India's thriving animation and gaming industry, encouraging youth to leverage creativity and digital opportunities.
- **Self-Reliant India Mission:** Atmanirbhar Bharat achievements include local manufacturing, defense exports, lunar landing, and Asia's largest Imaging Telescope in Ladakh.
- **Cyber Security Awareness:** PM Modi discussed steps to prevent digital frauds and highlighted resources like the cyber helpline (1930) and cybercrime.gov.in.
- **Cultural Heritage Preservation:** The PM celebrated efforts to keep Indian cultural traditions alive, from Telangana's Cherial Art to Dogra culture's Sarangi performances.
- **Global Cultural Influence:** Indian art and classical dance reach places like Yakutsk, Russia, and Peru, promoting India's heritage abroad.
- **Fit India Movement:** Fitness initiatives, including Fit India School Hours and Run for Unity, support national wellness and unity.
- **National Unity Day:** On October 31, coinciding with Deepawali, the PM encouraged participation in the Run for Unity to celebrate national unity and fitness.

Centre Appoints 29 Joint Secretaries

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

- **Praveen Kumar Rai** (IDAS): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the MHA.
- **Rakesh Kumar Pandey** (IDAS): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the MHA.
- **Rajesh Gupta** (IRSEE): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the MHA, bringing engineering expertise.
- **Raj Kumar** (IA&AS, 1999 batch): Appointed as Director (Finance) in the CRPF, serving a five-year tenure under MHA.

Economic and Cooperative Sectors

- **Deepak Agarwal** (IAS, Uttar Pradesh cadre, 2000 batch): Appointed as Managing Director (Joint Secretary level) at NAFED.
- **Premjit Lal**: Appointed as Executive Director at India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

Administrative and Personnel Management

- **Chauhan Sarita Chand** (IAS): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances.
- **P Bala Kiran** (IAS): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training.

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

- **Bhavna Saxena** (IPS, Andhra Pradesh cadre, 1996 batch): Appointed as CEO of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Petroleum, Commerce, and Corporate Affairs

- **Anjan Kumar Mishra** (IOFS, 1998 batch): Appointed as Secretary of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Kesang Yangzom Sherpa** (IRS, Income Tax cadre, 1995 batch): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- **Balamurugan D**: Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Environmental and Agricultural Roles

- **Rajat Agarwal**: Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- **Ved Prakash Mishra**: Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- **Rama Shankar Sinha**: Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

Development in the North Eastern Region

- **Niraj Kumar** (CSS): Appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
Swachh Bharat Mission	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	<p>Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 Overview</p> <p>Date and Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date: October 2, 2024 (Gandhi Jayanti) ○ Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi <p>Key Inaugurations:</p> <p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate and lay the foundation for projects worth over Rs 9,600 crore related to sanitation and cleanliness, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 6,800 crore for urban water and sewage systems under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0. • Rs 1,550 crore for water quality and waste management in Ganga basin areas under the National Mission for Clean Ganga. • Rs 1,332 crore for 15 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant projects under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<p>Achievements of the Swachh Bharat Mission</p> <p>Decade of Progress: The event commemorate 10 years of sanitation improvement in India, showcasing the achievements of the Swachh Bharat Mission.</p> <p>Nationwide Participation: The theme ‘Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata’ has engaged over 17 crore participants in 19.70 lakh programs.</p> <p>Transformations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5 lakh Cleanliness Target Units • Nearly 1 lakh Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs, benefiting 30 lakh Safai Mitras. • Over 45 lakh trees planted under the ‘Ek Ped Maa ke Naam’ campaign.
Cruise Bharat Mission	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: October 1, 2024 • Location: Mumbai Port • Objective: Enhance India’s potential as a global hub for cruise tourism, targeting a doubling of cruise passenger traffic by 2029. <p>Key Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ocean and harbor cruises ○ River and inland cruises ○ Island cruises <p>Phased Implementation of the Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct studies and master planning. ○ Form cruise alliances with neighboring countries. ○ Modernize existing cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations. • Phase 2 (October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations. ○ Activate high-potential cruise locations and circuits. • Phase 3 (April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2029): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrate all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent. ○ Ensure maturity of the cruise ecosystem and continue infrastructure development. <p>Key Performance Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Cruise Passengers: Increase from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1 million by Phase 3. • Sea Cruise Calls: Increase from 125 to 500. • River Cruise Passengers: Grow from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1.5 million by Phase 3. • International Cruise Terminals: Expand from 2 in Phase 1 to 10 by Phase 3. • River Cruise Terminals: Increase from 50 to 100. <p>Expected Impact and Employment Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipates a 400% increase in passenger footfall in cruises since 2014. • Projected rise in cruise passengers from 460,000 in 2024 to 5 million by 2047. • Expected increase in cruise calls from 254 in 2024 to 500 by 2030 and 1,100 by 2047. • Initiative aims to create 400,000 jobs in the cruise sector during this period.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
<p>Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)</p>	<p>Ministry of Tribal Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: October 2, 2024 (Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary) • Location: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand • Total Outlay: ₹79,156 crores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Government Contribution: ₹56,333 crores ○ State Government Contribution: ₹22,823 crores <p>Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions by 17 line ministries. • Goal: Ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities. <p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target: Approximately 63,843 villages benefiting over 5 crore tribal people across 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs. <p>Planning and Goals</p> <p>Mission Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing Enabling Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pucca houses for eligible ST households with access to water and electricity (PMAY Gramin, Jal Jeevan Mission, RDSS). ○ Improve village infrastructure with all-weather road connectivity (PMGSY), mobile connectivity (Bharat Net), and health and education infrastructure. 2. Promotion of Economic Empowerment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skill development and entrepreneurship support through training programs (Skill India Mission, JSS). ○ Marketing support via Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (TMMC) and support for FRA Patta holders in agriculture and animal husbandry. 3. Universalization of Access to Good Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in schools and higher education and provide affordable quality education (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan). ○ Establish tribal hostels in schools at district/block levels. 4. Healthy Lives and Dignified Ageing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced access to quality health facilities and improvement of health indicators (IMR, MMR, immunization) through Mobile Medical Units. <p>Supporting Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping: Tribal villages will be mapped on the PM Gati Shakti Portal for identifying gaps. • Monitoring: Physical and financial progress will be tracked, with best-performing districts receiving awards. <p>Supported Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Schemes: Based on tribal area needs and stakeholder discussions, innovative schemes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribal Home Stay ○ Infrastructure improvements for Government Residential Schools and Hostels ○ Sustainable Livelihood for Forest Right Holders (FRA) ○ Advanced facilities for Sickle Cell Disease diagnosis ○ Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
<p>National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare</p>	<p>National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval Date: Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. • Aim: To boost domestic oilseed production and achieve self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in edible oils. <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Target: Increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31. • Self-Reliance Goal: Achieve self-reliance in oilseed production within 7 years. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import Dependency: India currently imports 57% of its edible oil demand. • Previous Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched NMEO-OP (Oil Palm) in 2021 with an outlay of ₹11,040 crores. ○ Increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) for oilseeds. ○ Continued Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for price support. ○ Imposed 20% import duty on edible oils to protect domestic producers. <p>Implementation Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: 2024-25 to 2030-31. • Financial Outlay: ₹10,103 crores.
<p>National Anubhav Awards Scheme</p>	<p>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions</p>	<p>National Anubhav Awards Scheme Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Recognize the contributions of retiring and retired government employees by encouraging them to share experiences and insights. • Spearheaded by: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: March 2015, following the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. • Platform 'Anubhav': Allows retired government employees to share experiences and significant achievements during their service. • Purpose: Contributes to institutional memory by preserving replicable ideas for future governance challenges. • Recognition: Since inception, 59 Anubhav Awards and 19 Jury Certificates have been awarded. <p>Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Memory: Aims to create a repository of valuable lessons for future governance. • Encouragement for Retired Employees: Motivates retired employees to reflect on their service and share knowledge, fostering a culture of learning and improvement.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
Humsafar Policy	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	<p>Initiative by: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari</p> <p>Objective: Revolutionize travel experience on India’s national highways by enhancing infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Key Features of the Humsafar Policy</p> <p>Essential Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Toilets: Ensures hygiene and sanitation. • Baby Care Rooms: Supports traveling families. • Wheelchair Provisions: Enhances accessibility for differently-abled travelers. • EV Charging Stations: Promotes sustainable transportation. • Parking Spaces: Adequate parking for various vehicles. • Dormitory Services: Rest facilities at fuel stations for travelers. <p>Vision for Highway Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a convenient and safe environment for highway users. • Ensure an enjoyable experience for all travelers. • Empower entrepreneurs along the highway network. • Generate employment opportunities and enhance livelihoods for service providers.
PM GatiShakti National Master Plan	Prime Minister's Office	<p>The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks three years of transformative achievements in India’s infrastructure landscape.</p> <p>Key Features</p> <p>Data Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates data from 44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories. • Facilitates better coordination and execution of projects. <p>Major Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 200 major infrastructure projects assessed. • Focus on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation. <p>Social Sector Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies gaps in essential services like healthcare and education. • Ensures infrastructure development benefits underserved areas. • Each state/UT has developed State Master Plans aligned with the national framework. <p>Logistics Performance Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improved from 44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023. • Reflects better planning and execution of critical infrastructure projects. <p>Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 20,000 officials trained through workshops and courses on the iGoT platform. • Ensures officials can effectively implement the PM GatiShakti framework.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<p>Future Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to provide access to non-sensitive data for non-government users to enhance transparency in infrastructure planning. Focuses on data-driven, sustainable development. <p>Sustainability Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes green infrastructure and sustainable logistics solutions. Contributes to India's Net Zero commitment by 2070.
<p>'e-Shram: One Stop Solution' portal</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour & Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded e-Shram Portal: Launched by Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to streamline social security access for 300+ million unorganised workers. Data Integration: Consolidates multi-ministry data into a single repository, enabling state and district-wise beneficiary identification. Core Features: Integrates 10 central schemes (e.g., PM Awas Yojana, MGNREGA), simplifying access; 60,000-90,000 workers join daily. State-Level Collaboration: State portal integration emphasized for last-mile connectivity and wider welfare coverage. Future Expansion: Plans to add more welfare schemes to create a holistic social security network for unorganised workers.
<p>Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana</p>	<p>Ministry Of Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Mudra Loan Limits: Loan ceiling raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under a new 'Tarun Plus' category, supporting business expansion for entrepreneurs. Budget Announcement: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the update in the July 2024 Budget to promote entrepreneurship. Original PMMY Scheme: Initiated in April 2015, PMMY offered loans up to Rs 10 lakh for small, non-farm businesses without collateral. Loan Categories: PMMY's three initial categories include Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun (up to Rs 10 lakh). Impact on Entrepreneurship: In FY 2023-24, 66.8 million loans worth Rs 5.4 trillion were sanctioned, with a total of Rs 29.79 trillion disbursed since 2015. Improved NPA Rates: NPA for Mudra loans decreased to 3.4% in FY24 from 4.77% in FY21, indicating better loan recovery. Guarantee Support: The 'Tarun Plus' loans will receive coverage under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU), strengthening assistance for micro and small enterprises.
<p>Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana</p>	<p>Ministry of Tribal Affairs</p>	<p>Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY) Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched: October 28, 2014, for tribal community upliftment. Objective: Empower India's tribal communities (8.9% of the population) with essential services and preserve cultural heritage. Budget: ₹26,135.46 crore (2021-2026). Vision: "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" for sustainable development. <p>Six Core Components of PMVKY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana: Develops 36,428 tribal villages with ₹7,276 crore allocated till 2025-26. PVTG Development: Focus on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, improving 15,000 habitations with ₹15,000 crore.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Research Institutes (TRI): Supports state research on tribal welfare. • Pre-Matric Scholarships: Financial aid for tribal students in classes IX and X. • Post-Matric Scholarships: Supports education for tribal students beyond class X. • Administrative Support: State project units for efficient program management. <p>Additional Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Establishes 728 schools by 2026 for tribal students. • Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM): Supports tribal entrepreneurship, focusing on Minor Forest Produce. • Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST): Allocates ₹1.23 lakh crore to address tribal needs in education, health, and employment.
<p>Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: Introduced on October 29, 2024, by PM Modi under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). • Coverage: Provides free healthcare for all senior citizens aged 70+ with annual benefits up to ₹5 lakh. • Eligibility: Available nationwide, regardless of income, except in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation. • Economic Relief: Reduces out-of-pocket expenses for families with elderly members by covering hospital costs. • Healthcare Milestone: Aims to enhance healthcare access and ease financial burden for households with seniors. • Launch Location: PM Modi launched, inaugurated, and laid the foundation for healthcare projects worth ₹12,850 crore at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi.
<p>PM E-DRIVE Scheme</p>		<p>PM E-DRIVE Scheme: Launched on 11th September 2024 by the Ministry of Heavy Industries with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore to accelerate EV adoption and build critical infrastructure. Financial Outlay: ₹10,900 crore for two years.</p> <p>Focus: Accelerates EV adoption, builds infrastructure, and supports net-zero emissions goal by 2070.</p> <p>Key Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies for 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses, and emerging EVs. • ₹500 crore each for e-ambulances and e-trucks. • ₹4,391 crore for 14,028 e-buses in 9 cities. • ₹2,000 crore for 72,300 fast chargers. • ₹780 crore for testing agency modernization. <p>e-Voucher System: Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers for EV buyers to access incentives.</p> <p>Public Charging Infrastructure: ₹2,000 crore allocated for 72,300 charging stations.</p> <p>Vehicle Segments Supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-2Ws: 24,79,120 units (₹1,772 crore). • e-3Ws: 2,05,392 units (₹715 crore). • e-Rickshaws & e-Carts: 1,10,596 units (₹192 crore).

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Buses: 14,028 units (₹4,391 crore). • EV Public Charging Stations: 72,300 units (₹2,000 crore). • e-Ambulances & e-Trucks: ₹500 crore each. <p>Eligibility for Incentives: Advanced battery-fitted EVs (commercial, private, and corporate-registered).</p> <p>Scheme Transition: Transition from FAME and Electric Vehicle Promotion Scheme (EMPS) to PM E-DRIVE under the 'Swachh Vahan' initiative.</p> <p>Testing Agency Upgradation: ₹780 crore for modernization of testing agencies for new EV technology standards.</p>
Atal Pension Yojana		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atal Pension Yojana (APY) crosses 7 crore enrollments with 56 lakh new enrollments in FY 2024-25. • Launch Date: May 9, 2015. • Objective: Provide universal social security to underprivileged and unorganized sector workers. • Pension Range: ₹1,000 to ₹5,000/month, based on contributions. • Eligibility: Indian citizens aged 18-40 years. • Contribution Period: Until age 60 to receive pension. • Pension Structure: Monthly pension for subscriber; spouse continues after subscriber's death; nominee receives corpus after both subscriber and spouse's death. • Promotional Efforts: Outreach programs, media campaigns in 21 regional languages. • Regulatory Authority: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). • Significance: Ensures financial security for economically vulnerable individuals and promotes social welfare.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) Scheme	Government of Assam	<p>The Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) scheme is a significant initiative launched by the Assam government to promote girl education and reduce child marriage in the state. The scheme provides financial incentives to girl students pursuing higher education, with the aim of empowering them and encouraging them to continue their studies.</p> <p>Key points about the MMNM scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives: The scheme aims to empower girls through education and reduce child marriage. • Financial incentives: The scheme provides financial incentives to girl students pursuing higher secondary education, graduation courses, post-graduation, and B.Ed. programs. • Eligibility: The scheme is open to all girl students in Assam, except for daughters of ministers and MLAs, students who have received scooters under the state government scheme for excelling in HS exams, students enrolled in private colleges and universities, and girl students who are irregular in attendance or involved in undesirable activities. • Funding: The scheme is expected to cost the state government Rs. 1,500 crore over the next five years. • Impact: The scheme is expected to benefit approximately 10 lakh girl students in Assam and contribute to the reduction of child marriage in the state.
--	----------------------------	---

<p>GREEN Meghalaya Plus (GMP)</p>	<p>Meghalaya Government</p>	<p>GREEN Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: First week of October 2023 • Initiated by: Conrad K Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya • Purpose: Conservation and enhancement of forest cover in Meghalaya. <p>Key Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Conservation: Offers monetary rewards for protecting forested areas. • Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): Supports villages, communities, clans, or individuals committing to conserve natural forests for a minimum of 30 years. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the state's PES program launched in 2022. • Aims to expand forest conservation by an additional 50,000 hectares (500 sq km). • Over 3,000 individuals and communities have benefited, conserving over 54,000 hectares of natural forest. <p>Changes in PES 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Land Requirement: Reduced from 2 hectares to 1 hectare, allowing smaller landowners and communities to participate. • Increased Rewards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual reward per hectare increased from ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. ○ Base compensation increased from ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 per hectare per year. <p>Budget Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over ₹44 crore spent in the last two years on forest conservation. • ₹200 crore earmarked for future conservation efforts.
<p>Jal-Jagar Initiative</p>	<p>Chhattisgarh Government</p>	<p>Inaugurated By: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai</p> <p>Location: Ravishankar Reservoir, Gangrel Dam, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Purpose: Significant milestone in the state's water conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness Raising: Focus on the importance of water and environmental conservation. • Showcase Community Efforts: Highlight results of local community-driven water management initiatives. <p>About the Jal-Jagar Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus: Groundwater recharge in Dhamtari district, addressing critical depletion issues. • Community Involvement: Engages local communities and leverages traditional practices. • Complement to National Missions: Acts as a grassroots effort alongside larger initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission. • Goal: Achieve broader environmental sustainability in Chhattisgarh.
<p>Maiyaan Samman Yojana</p>	<p>Jharkhand Government</p>	<p>Maiyaan Samman Yojana Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Decision: Jharkhand's Hemant Soren cabinet increased the monthly honorarium for women under the Maiyaan Samman Yojana from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500. • Context: This decision responds to the BJP's Gogo Didi Yojana, which promises ₹2,100 per month to women as part of their election manifesto.

		<p>Key Proposals Approved by the Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Netarhat Tourism Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative approval for developing the Netarhat tourism area. Total budget: ₹43.08 crore. Residential Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of new residential schools in Kolhan, Chaibasa, and Santhal Pargana districts to enhance educational opportunities. Road Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised approval for road reconstruction projects totaling ₹109.16 crore to improve connectivity. Educational Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of integrated science and mathematics laboratories in elementary schools under the Gyanodya Yojana with a budget of ₹50 crore. Approval of regulations for Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit and Dual Degree Programmes in state universities under the National Education Policy-2020. Support for Orphan and Disabled Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the Navothan Scholarship Scheme to provide financial assistance to vulnerable students.
<p>Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024</p>	<p>Rajasthan Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Boost private investment in Rajasthan through enhanced financial incentives. Launch: Introduced ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit (December 9-11, 2024). Sector Expansion: Focus on sunrise sectors like Aero & Space, Defence, Drones, Semiconductors, Agri-Tech, and Waste Recycling. Additional Support: Includes Construction Equipment, Hydro Storage, Electrolyser Manufacturing, metals, Higher Education, Knowledge Industries, and Vocational Training. Incentives: Increased incentives for IT/ITeS, tourism, and women-led startups. Mega Project Benefits: First three projects in sunrise sectors get an extra 25% on subsidies. New Sector Incentives: Additional 10% subsidy above asset creation for eligible businesses. Economic Goal: Signed MoUs totaling ₹15 lakh crore to position Rajasthan as a top investment destination.
<p>Mission Basundhara 3.0 Assam</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Basundhara 3.0 launched by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma to provide formal land rights to indigenous people of Assam. Mission History: Basundhara 1.0 (Oct 2021) processed 8 lakh applications, Basundhara 2.0 (Nov 2022) granted land rights to 2 lakh indigenous people. Objectives: Expedite land allotment, enhance transparency, safeguard land rights for Assamese people. Eligibility: Three-generation ancestry required (SC, ST, Tea Tribes, Gorkhas exempt). Land Premium Rates: Reduced to 3% for urban dwellers. Proposed Reforms: Land passbooks for all holders, strengthen identity (Jati, Mati, Bheti). Features of Basundhara 3.0: Review of pending cases, digitization of pattas, tea land conversion, Bhoodan/Gramland settlement. Additional Initiatives: Special mobile number series (CUG), digital directory (Digidoc), Rs 1 lakh grant for Mouzadar offices' digital upgrades.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

App & Web Name	Launched By	Purpose
e-Migrate V2.0 web portal and mobile app	Dr. S. Jaishankar (Ministry of External Affairs) and Mansukh Mandaviya (Ministry of Labour and Employment)	Launched on 14 October 2024 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. This updated version of the e-Migrate portal aligns with Goal 10 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ("Reduce inequality within and among countries"). Developed initially by MEA in 2014, e-Migrate V2.0 offers digital payment services in partnership with SBI, with no transaction fees.
UMANG App	DigiLocker Partners with UMANG App for Seamless Access to Government Services	Collaboration enhances access to government services through DigiLocker, simplifying document management. - Enhanced Accessibility: Easy and unified access to multiple services. - Legal Validity: Documents accessed via DigiLocker are legally equivalent to physical originals.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **NATO plans to set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border in 2025**, to lead land force operations in northern Europe during potential military conflicts. **Finland, which joined NATO last year** after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, is preparing for the alliance's presence on its territory.
- Foreign Minister of Israel Katz announced that they decided to declare the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres an undesirable personality in Israel and to ban his entry into Israel. Israel has declared UN chief António Guterres banning him from entry for "failing" to condemn Iran's missile attacks on Israel.
- The first shipment of 100 land-based **Harpoon anti-ship missile systems**, ordered from the United States, has arrived in **Kaohsiung, Taiwan, as part of a \$2.69 billion deal signed in 2020**. This deal includes 100 shore-mounted Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems and related equipment, with Taiwan also allocating NT\$15 billion for infrastructure. The delivery is set in two phases: the first phase, to be integrated into Taiwan's Littoral Combat Command by 2026, and the second phase by 2028. **The shipment includes 400 RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Surface-Launched Missiles and 4 RTM-84L-4 Exercise Missiles, capable of targeting stationary and moving targets up to 124 km, covering most of the Taiwan Strait.** Developed by Boeing, the Harpoon missiles are strategically important in complicating China's invasion strategy, enhancing Taiwan's defense capabilities, especially against China's growing naval power.
- **Claudia Sheinbaum** made history by being **sworn in as Mexico's first female president**, marking a significant milestone for the nation. Taking office after outgoing president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, her close ally from the Morena party, Sheinbaum's leadership symbolizes a continuation of progressive policies.
- The redrawing of borders between **Italy and Switzerland** is a striking response to the **rapid melting of glaciers caused by climate change**. As global temperatures rise, glaciers in the Alps are shrinking, leading to shifts in natural watershed lines that have historically defined the frontier between these two countries. This agreement, made official by Switzerland on September 27, 2024, follows a recommendation from a commission formed in 2023 to assess climate impacts on glaciers. Italy is expected to approve the changes soon, which primarily affect regions around the **Matterhorn**.
- Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on Sunday appointed **Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice** of the country. Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut at a special ceremony organized at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office.
- After **181 years of horse racing**, **Singapore** hosted its final race day at the **Singapore Turf Club** on Saturday, as the site prepares to be repurposed for new housing developments. This decision, influenced by the growing population surpassing six million, marks a significant shift in the city-state's approach to land use, prioritizing housing over recreational activities.
- The recent inauguration of a new runway at **Hanimadhoo International Airport** and the launch of the **RuPay card** in the Maldives signify a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between **India and the Maldives**. Conducted through a virtual ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu marked these developments as essential steps to enhance economic ties and boost tourism cooperation.
- **Bangladesh's interim government** has established a **nine-member Constitution Reform Commission**, headed by **Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz**, to review and propose reforms within 90 days. The commission, formed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned, aims to create a more representative and democratic framework. Members include professors, legal experts, and student representatives, with student **Mahfuj Alam** serving as special assistant to **Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus**.

- President **Kais Saied** has secured a second **five-year term** as Tunisia's leader in an election marked by both overwhelming numbers and significant concerns. The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (**ISIE**) announced on October 7, 2024, that Saied had won a staggering **90.7 percent** of the votes cast, a figure that has raised eyebrows among democratic observers worldwide.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially validated India's elimination of trachoma as a public health problem, marking a significant achievement in public health. **Trachoma, caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis**, is one of the leading causes of global blindness. **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** praised India for its commitment to combating this debilitating disease, joining the ranks of Nepal and Myanmar in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 19 other countries worldwide that have achieved this milestone.
- **Beijing is systematically increasing pressure on Taiwan through a multifaceted strategy** that military officials describe as the **"Anaconda Strategy,"** aimed at compelling Taipei to accept reunification as inevitable.
- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected **18 new members** to the **47-member Human Rights Council** for the **2025-2027 term**. This election, conducted via secret ballot, includes countries such as **Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand**. The newly elected members will start their three-year terms on **January 1, 2025**. Based in **Geneva**, the Human Rights Council is vital for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. The elections emphasize a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity in the Council's composition.
- **Nicaragua** has officially severed **diplomatic relations with Israel**, a move announced by **Vice President Rosario Murillo** following a congressional resolution. This decision aligns with **Nicaragua's** leftist government, led by **President Daniel Ortega**, which has condemned Israel's actions in the ongoing Gaza conflict and labeled its government as **"fascist and genocidal."**
- **United States** has announced it will send the advanced **THAAD missile defence system** to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries. The deployment underscores the **US's "ironclad commitment"** to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region. **THAAD** stands for **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense**, a cutting-edge **anti-ballistic missile defence system** developed by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**. The system is designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles in their final, or **terminal phase**, making it a critical asset for defending against missile threats.
- Tensions between India and Canada have escalated significantly, particularly following the murder of Sikh separatist **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** in June 2023. This incident triggered a series of diplomatic retaliations, including the expulsion of Indian diplomats by Canada and subsequent expulsions by India. The conflict has deep roots, dating back to controversies involving **Sikh separatism** and criticisms exchanged over various issues, including farmer protests in India.
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** recently addressed the **149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** held from **October 13 to 17, 2024**, at the IPU headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**. During his address, Birla emphasized the critical need for **multilateralism** in today's world, advocating for dialogue and cooperation among parliaments in the realms of **science, technology, and innovation** for the common good.
- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has revised its criteria for placing countries on the grey list to alleviate the burden on least developed countries (LDCs) while intensifying focus on nations that present higher risks to the global financial system. The new criteria prioritize active reviews of FATF member countries that meet specific risk standards, particularly those on the World Bank's High-Income Countries list, with the exception of nations with only two or fewer banks in their financial sector. Countries with financial sector assets **over USD 10 billion** will also be subject to closer monitoring. LDCs, however, will generally not be prioritized for the grey list unless they present significant money laundering or terrorist financing threats.
- India has fulfilled a significant commitment made during the third **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III) Summit** by sending its first consignment of **12 Haemo-Dialysis machines to Papua New Guinea (PNG)**. Also in response to rising tensions and ongoing conflict in southern Lebanon, India has dispatched the first tranche of a **33-ton consignment of medical supplies as part of a humanitarian effort to support Lebanon**.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated three new airports developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The newly inaugurated airports are located in **Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Karmayogi Saptah, or National Learning Week**, on October 19, 2024, at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi**. This initiative is part of Mission Karmayogi, which aims to foster continuous skill enhancement among civil servants, aligning their competencies with the evolving goals of India, especially towards achieving a developed nation by 2047.
- Union Culture and Tourism **Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and **Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey** inaugurated the **first-ever coal gallery** at the **National Science Centre in New Delhi**. The exhibition, titled **"Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths,"** highlights **coal's journey** from its formation to its essential role in modern energy production.

- The **first anniversary of Namu Bharat train** operations was celebrated as **Namu Bharat Diwas in New Delhi**, marking a significant milestone in India's transportation history. The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** organized the event, attended by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan Sahu. During the celebration, excellence awards were presented to outstanding employees who contributed to the success of the Namu Bharat initiative.
- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister **Shri Pralhad Joshi** has launched the retail phase of **Bharat Chana Dal Phase II in Delhi-NCR**, marking a significant step in the government's commitment to provide essential food items at affordable prices.
- The government celebrated the **150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** with a nationwide program spanning two years, from 2024 to 2026. Announced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23, 2024**, the initiative aims to honor Patel's monumental contributions to India.
- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh**, also known as Lalan Singh, is set to launch the **21st Livestock Census operation**, a significant initiative aimed at gathering comprehensive data on India's livestock sector. The launch event is scheduled for October 25, 2024.
- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has announced a significant **new initiative for central government pensioners aged 80** and older, introducing an additional pension known as the compassionate allowance. This development comes with newly issued guidelines aimed at simplifying the process for retirees to access these supplementary benefits.
- The **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** has successfully concluded its **34th Capacity Building Programme (CBP)** for Maldivian civil servants in New Delhi. Held from October 14–25, 2024, this two-week program, organized in collaboration with the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, represents the second initiative under a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by **India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Maldives' Foreign Minister Mr. Moosa Zameer**.
- Airbus has inaugurated its new **India and South Asia Headquarters and Training Centre**, marking a significant investment in the Indian aerospace sector. Located in the National Capital Region (NCR), this facility is poised to play a key role in **training pilots and technicians** and expanding Airbus's industrial footprint in India. The centre is equipped with four A320 simulators and boasts a **capacity to train up to 800 pilots and 200 technicians annually**.
- **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** launched the 21st Livestock Census, which will be conducted **until February next year at a cost of ₹200 crore**. He emphasized that the collection of precise data is crucial for the government to formulate effective policies **aimed at ensuring animal health security and promoting growth in the livestock sector**.
- Newly inaugurated **President Prabowo Subianto** has unveiled **Indonesia's largest-ever Cabinet, comprising 109 members**. Named the **"Red and White Cabinet"** after Indonesia's flag, this lineup reflects his vision of a strong, unified government.
- On October 21, **Pakistan enacted the Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024**, limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years and establishing a special commission for appointing the top judge from **three senior-most Supreme Court judges**. The amendment received **President Asif Ali Zardari's** assent.
- **Pakistan has appointed Justice Yahya Afridi** as the next Chief Justice, bypassing the traditional seniority principle. This decision follows the **26th Constitutional Amendment**, which granted the committee the authority to appoint the top judge, replacing the seniority-based elevation system.
- **Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu** has announced the introduction of **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** to enhance the country's economy by improving financial inclusion and transaction efficiency. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen ties with India following Muizzu's previous stance against Indian military presence in the Maldives.
- **Egypt** has reached a significant public health milestone by being officially declared **'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 20, 2024**. This achievement makes Egypt the **second country in the world to receive this certification in 2024, following Cabo Verde**.
- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** have jointly announced the **Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework)**, marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Korea Eximbank.
- A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as **"Salt Typhoon"** has reportedly targeted the **phone data of former President Donald Trump**, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign.
- **Brazil** has chosen not to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, becoming the second member of the **BRICS bloc**, after **India**, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative.
- **Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia** paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of **Sheikh Naim Qassem** as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah by Israel** on September 27.

- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented **431 µg/m³**, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended **annual limit by 86 times**.
- **India** has surged to become the **second-largest supplier of restricted critical technologies** to **Russia**, with exports reaching **\$95 million** in July, doubling from earlier in the year. This growth reflects **India's expanding trade ties** with Russia, particularly as it continues to be a major **importer of Russian oil**, which complicates **Western efforts** to limit **Russia's economic resources**. Due to **US and EU sanctions**, **Russia** increasingly depends on **third-party nations** like India for access to restricted technologies, significantly reshaping **global supply chain dynamics**.
- India recently delivered **12 Haemodialysis machines** and **portable Reverse Osmosis (RO) units** to **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, aimed at improving dialysis treatment and water purification. Additionally, India sent the first tranche of **11 tons** of medical supplies to **Lebanon**, which is part of a larger **33-ton consignment**. The supplies include **cardiovascular drugs**, **NSAIDs**, and **antibiotics**. India also emphasized the **safety** of **UNIFIL** personnel in Lebanon amid growing concerns due to escalating conflict.
- **Italy and Switzerland** redrew their **Alpine borders** due to the rapid melting of glaciers caused by climate change. The border change was made official by Switzerland on September 27, 2024.

VISITS

India Visits By Foreigners

Highlights of Jamaican PM Andrew Holness's Visit to India (30th Sep – 3rd Oct 2024)

- PM **Andrew Holness** of **Jamaica** visited India to bolster bilateral ties, particularly in **trade and investment**.
- **PM Modi** emphasized the India-Jamaica relationship, defined by the **4Cs: Culture, Cricket, Commonwealth, and Caribbean**.
- **MoUs exchanged** in areas of **Digital Public Infrastructure, Cultural Exchange, and Sports**.
- **NPCI International Payments Limited** signed an MoU with **Egov Jamaica Limited** to support Jamaica's adoption of India's **UPI** technology.

State Visit of Mohamed Muizzu, President of Maldives (6th – 10th Oct 2024)

- President **Mohamed Muizzu** visited India to strengthen **India-Maldives** relations.
- **PM Modi** and President Muizzu inaugurated a new **runway at Hanimaadhoo International Airport**.
- India signed several MoUs with **Maldives**:
 - **RBI** entered a **Currency Swap Agreement** with **Maldives Monetary Authority**.
 - **CBI** and **Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)** of Maldives signed an MoU for **anti-corruption collaboration**.
 - MoUs for **judicial training** and **enhanced security cooperation**.

Indian States Visits

PM Modi's Visit to Maharashtra (5th Oct 2024)

- **PM Modi** launched initiatives in **Washim** and **Thane**, Maharashtra, valued at **Rs 23,300 crore**.
- **Agriculture and animal husbandry projects** worth **Rs 1920 crore** were inaugurated.
- Launched **Unified Genomic Chip for cattle** and **indigenous sex-sorted semen technology**.

Foreign Visits By Indian Personalities

PM Modi's Visit to the USA (21st – 23rd Sep 2024)

- **PM Modi** attended the **4th Quad Leaders Summit** in **Wilmington, USA**, hosted by **President Biden**.
- **India** will host the **2025 Quad Leaders Summit** and **USA** the **Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting**.
- Launched **Regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)** and announced a joint **coast guard exercise** for 2025.

Highlights of MoCI Minister Piyush Goyal's Visit to Laos (20th – 21st Sep 2024)

- Attended the **21st ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation** in **Vientiane, Laos**.
- **India** ranked as **ASEAN's 8th largest trade partner** with **FDI inflows** of **USD 5.6 billion** in 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Visit to Uzbekistan (24th – 28th Sep 2024)

- **Sitharaman** attended the **9th AIIB Annual Meeting** in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- Signed a **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** with **Uzbekistan** to promote **mutual investments**.

- Co-chaired the **India-Uzbekistan Business Forum**.

PM Modi’s Visit to Laos (10th – 11th Oct 2024)

- **PM Modi** attended the **21st ASEAN-India Summit** and the **19th East Asia Summit**.
- Announced **2025** as the **ASEAN-India Year of Tourism** with a **USD 5 million** initiative.
- Signed several MoUs in **defence, customs, audio-visual cooperation, and heritage preservation**.

President Droupadi Murmu’s Visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi (13th – 19th Oct 2024)

- **Algeria:** Awarded an **Honorary Doctorate in Political Science** at **Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology University**.
- **Malawi:** Signed **4 MoUs** focusing on **sports, art and culture, and pharmacological cooperation**.
- **Mauritania:** Signed **4 MoUs** in areas such as **visa exemptions, cultural exchange, and enhanced bilateral cooperation**.

BANKING & FINANCE

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	IndusInd Bank	The board of IndusInd Bank has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for another three-year term from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2028, pending approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders.
2.	Federal Bank	Federal Bank has signed an MoU with Bhashini, an AI-powered language translation platform, to integrate vernacular language support into its AI chatbot, Feddy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This collaboration, inspired by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub’s (RBIH) initiative for local language banking, aims to make banking services more inclusive and accessible across India. • With Feddy now capable of responding in 14 languages, customers will have greater ease in accessing banking services, particularly in their native languages, marking a significant step in enhancing the accessibility of financial services.
3.	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDFC Bank has officially announced the divestment of its entire 100% stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Pvt. Ltd (HDFC Edu) to Vama Sundari Investments for ₹192 crore. • This all-cash transaction, valued at ₹9.60 per share, aligns with the bank’s strategy to comply with regulatory requirements and streamline its operations following the merger with e-HDFC Ltd.
4.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced its decision to sell its Oman operations to Bank Dhofar as part of a broader strategy to rationalize its foreign business footprint. This acquisition will take place on a going concern basis, pending approval from regulatory authorities. • The total business of BoB’s Oman operations is valued at 113.35 million Omani Rials, with a net worth of 25.54 million Omani Rials.
5.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a \$500 million loan aimed at scaling up blue finance and green projects in India. • This is IFC’s first blue investment in the country and the largest climate finance initiative by IFC in India to date. Blue loans focus on funding water and wastewater management, reducing ocean plastic pollution, restoring marine ecosystems, and promoting offshore renewable energy, among others.
6.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced a new 400-day term deposit scheme known as the ‘bob Utsav Deposit Scheme’, aimed at offering higher interest rates to various categories of depositors during the festive season. • This scheme not only provides competitive interest rates for general depositors but also caters specifically to senior and super senior citizens, making it a beneficial investment option for a wide range of customers. <p>The interest rates offered under this scheme vary based on the category of the depositor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Citizens: The scheme provides an interest rate of 7.30%. • Senior Citizens (aged 60 and above): Eligible for a higher interest rate of 7.80%. • Super Senior Citizens (aged 80 and above): Benefiting from the highest interest rate in the category, 7.90%. • Non-Callable Deposits: Offering interest rates as high as 7.95%, making it an attractive option for customers who do not require premature withdrawal.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
7.	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October 15, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.
8.	Jio Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jio Payments Bank, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has successfully obtained a mutual fund distribution license from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). This Category 1 Execution-only Platform (EOP) license enables Jio Payments Bank to distribute the direct plans of various mutual fund schemes, marking a significant step in its expansion within the financial services sector.
9.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) successfully raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of Additional Tier-I (AT-I) bonds, marking its first issuance for the current financial year. The bonds, which carry a coupon rate of 7.98%, are aimed at strengthening the bank's capital base and comply with Basel-III norms.
10.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards, held in Washington, coinciding with the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. SBI Chairman CS Setty accepted the award, highlighting the bank's dedication to exceptional services and its role in promoting financial inclusion across the nation.
11.	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for foreign exchange services, marking a significant milestone in its operational capabilities. The bank has been granted the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence', allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of foreign exchange products and services.
12.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solex Energy has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide financing options for solar projects, targeting commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Under this collaboration, SBI will offer loans up to ₹10 crore through its Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme, aiming to make solar energy more accessible and affordable in India.
13.	North East Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fintech firm Slice has successfully merged with North East Small Finance Bank over a year after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This merger consolidates their operations, assets, and brand identities into one institution, enhancing the bank's footprint in India's northeastern region.
14.	State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank are actively supporting businesses in African countries by addressing the trade finance gap, as highlighted by the South African heads of the two organizations during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF).
15.	IndusInd Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IndusInd Bank has partnered with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) to provide collateral-free solar financing solutions for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in India. This strategic alliance aims to facilitate easy access to solar energy financing, promoting sustainability and reducing operational costs for MSEs.

RBI News

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting 2024: Repo Rate Unchanged and Other Key Outcomes

Key Aspect	Details
Repo Rate Decision	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate steady at 6.5% for the 10th consecutive time.
Monetary Policy Stance	The MPC has shifted its policy stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to "neutral," providing flexibility in response to inflation trends.
MPC Voting	The decision was supported by a majority vote of 5 out of 6 MPC members.
Inflation Projections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q3FY25: 4.8% - Q4FY25: 4.2% - FY25 overall: 4.5% (assuming normal monsoon) - Q1FY26: 4.3%
Economic Growth Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FY25 GDP growth: 7.2% - Q2FY25: 7.0% - Q3FY25: 7.4% - Q4FY25: 7.4% - Q1FY26: 7.3%
Reverse Repo Rate	Unchanged at 3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	Remains at 6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	Maintained at 6.75%
Impact on Borrowers	Lending rates linked to the repo rate will remain stable, providing relief to borrowers as their EMIs will not increase.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI action: The Reserve Bank of India has barred four NBFCs from sanctioning and disbursing loans for charging exorbitant interest rates. • Affected NBFCs: The four entities are Asirvad Microfinance, Arohan Financial Services (MFI), DMI Finance, and Navi Finserv (founded by Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal). • Ban effective date: The ban take effect on October 21, 2024, allowing time for pending transactions to close. • Monetary policy warning: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had cautioned NBFCs and MFIs about prioritizing excessive returns and charging high fees and penalties in the October 8, 2024 monetary policy statement. • Supervisory concerns: The action was based on supervisory concerns about excessive weighted average lending rates (WALR) and interest spread over cost of funds. • RBI inspections: Detailed inspections of NBFC-MFIs were conducted in the first quarter of the financial year, focusing on pricing policies and interest rates charged to customers.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupee Resilience: The Indian rupee settled at 83.97 against the US dollar due to active RBI intervention, preventing it from breaching the critical 84 mark. • RBI's Role: The Reserve Bank of India intervened in non-deliverable forwards (NDF) and local spot markets, helping stabilize the rupee amid pressure from foreign portfolio outflows, rising crude oil prices, and a strengthening dollar index. • Key Factors Affecting the Rupee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreign equity outflows from India. 2. Rising crude oil prices. 3. Strong US dollar index. • Forward Premiums: Dollar-rupee forward premiums dropped by 11 basis points to 2.27%, influenced by higher US Treasury yields and better-than-expected US job data.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Economic Impact: The US added 254,000 jobs in September, exceeding the forecast of 140,000, narrowing the interest rate differential between the US and India. • India's Forex Reserves: India's foreign exchange reserves surged past \$700 billion, supported by RBI interventions and foreign currency assets. • Historical Trends: The rupee has hit new lows over the past two months due to fears of a slowing US economy and declining interest in emerging market currencies. • Future Outlook: The rupee's future trajectory will depend on US economic indicators and Federal Open Market Committee decisions regarding interest rates. • RBI's Market Activity: In FY24, RBI has net bought \$19.2 billion in the spot market, though net dollar sales have totaled \$2.4 billion, reflecting a tightening balance of payments and widening trade deficit.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Framework (2024-2027): The RBI, with the Government of India's concurrence, has introduced a revised Currency Swap Framework for SAARC countries for the period 2024-2027. • INR Swap Window: A new INR Swap Window has been introduced with a corpus of ₹250 billion to offer swap support in Indian Rupees, providing various concessions. • US Dollar/Euro Swap Window: The existing US Dollar/Euro Swap Window will continue, with a corpus of US\$ 2 billion for SAARC countries. • Currency Swap Facility: Originally launched on November 15, 2012, the SAARC Currency Swap Facility provides financial backstop support for foreign exchange liquidity or balance of payment crises for SAARC countries. • Bilateral Swap Agreements: The facility will be available to SAARC member countries, subject to them signing bilateral swap agreements with the RBI.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Aviral Jain as Executive Director (ED) with effect from October 01, 2024. • Prior to being promoted to ED, Jain was serving as Regional Director for Maharashtra. As Executive Director, he will look after the several departments for the smooth functioning of RBI.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday said 98 per cent of the ₹2,000 denomination notes have been returned since its May 2023 move to withdraw the currency notes. • The total value of notes of the denomination has reduced to ₹7,117 crore from the ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023, the central bank said. • On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced a surprise decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 currency notes. The move was prompted on quality concerns and the denomination introduced after the demonetisation of November 2016 fulfilling its purpose. • The central bank said ₹2,000 notes continue to be legal tender and can be exchanged at 19 issue offices of the RBI either physically or sent by post for a credit into bank accounts.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Alert List: Identifies entities unauthorized to operate under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) or electronic trading platforms (ETPs) for forex transactions. • Recent Update: 13 new entities added to the list, bringing the total to 88. • Notable Additions: TDFX, Inefex, Ranger Capital, and others now included for unauthorized forex activities. • Consumer Warning: RBI advises consumers to avoid unauthorized platforms and verify any forex entity's authorization status. • Promotion of Unauthorized Services: Entities may promote unauthorized forex platforms or claim to provide training and advisory services, potentially misleading users. • Verification of Authorization: Presence on the list doesn't confirm authorization; consumers should check RBI's official list for verification.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>MPC Reconstitution: Government reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ahead of RBI's October 7-9 review.</p> <p>New Members: Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Nagesh Kumar appointed to MPC.</p> <p>MPC Role: Sets benchmark interest rates and manages inflation (CPI target range of 2-6%).</p> <p>RBI Act, 1934: Established Reserve Bank of India (RBI), operational since April 1, 1935.</p>

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<p>Key Appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ram Singh: PhD, postdoc from Harvard. • Saugata Bhattacharya: Former Axis Bank Chief Economist. • Nagesh Kumar: PhD, experience with international organizations. <p>RBI Objectives: Regulation of banknotes, currency, credit system, and monetary stability.</p> <p>Key Functions: Issues banknotes, manages torn or disfigured banknotes, and legal tender status.</p>

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
1	SEBI Allows MFs to Sell Credit Default Swaps (CDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has permitted Mutual Funds (MFs) to sell Credit Default Swaps (CDS), a financial derivative used to protect against the default of corporate bonds. • This move aims to improve liquidity in the corporate bond market by helping MFs better manage credit risk. • The step will also enhance investor confidence in corporate bonds, which could lead to a more active and liquid market for such bonds, improving overall pricing efficiency. 	20th September 2024
2	SEBI Amended Delisting Regulations (Fixed Price Process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEBI has amended the Delisting of Equity Shares Regulations to introduce a fixed price process for voluntary delisting, as an alternative to the Reverse Book Building (RRB) process. • Under this framework, promoters can buy back publicly held shares at a price that is at least 15% higher than the “fair price” of the stock. The amended regulations also reduce the participation limit for successful delisting under the RRB process from 90% to 75%. • However, at least 50% of public shareholders must tender their shares for the delisting to be successful. This change is designed to simplify and expedite the delisting process, encouraging more companies to opt for voluntary delisting. 	September 2024
3	SEBI Established FPI Outreach Cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEBI has set up a dedicated Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Outreach Cell under its Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) and FPIs Department (AFD). • This cell is designed to enhance direct engagement with FPIs, address their concerns, provide guidance, and resolve any operational issues they may face in accessing the Indian securities market. • The initiative aims to strengthen India's position as a preferred investment destination for global investors by making the process more efficient and investor-friendly. 	September 2024
4	SEBI Mandates UPI for Public Debt Securities Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEBI has mandated that individual investors applying for public debt securities (such as bonds) through intermediaries for amounts up to Rs 5 lakh must use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to block funds. • This new provision aims to improve transparency in the payment process and minimize the chances of fraud or errors by automating the blocking and payment procedures. • The UPI system is expected to be safer and faster, providing a more efficient and secure way for investors to block funds when applying for public debt securities. 	1st November 2024

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
5	SEBI Announced New Framework to Curb Excessive Speculation in Stock Market Securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 20th November 2024, SEBI introduced a set of 6 new measures to curb excessive speculation in stock market securities, particularly with index derivatives. These measures are designed to reduce risks, especially for individual traders involved in speculative trading. The key measures include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Upfront collection of option premiums from buyers (Effective from 1st February 2025), Removal of Calendar Spread treatment on expiry day (Effective from 1st February 2025), Intraday monitoring of position limits (Effective from 1st April 2025), Adjustments in contract size for index derivatives (Effective from 20th November 2024), Rationalization of Weekly Index derivatives products (Effective from 20th November 2024), and Increased tail-risk coverage on the day of options expiry (Effective from 20th November 2024). <p>These steps are designed to ensure a more stable market by reducing the impact of excessive speculative trading on market prices.</p>	20th November 2024
6	SEBI Introduced New Regulations for InvITs and REITs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI introduced several amendments to the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 and SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014. The key changes include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in the trading lot size for privately placed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to Rs 25 lakh, aimed at attracting more investors and improving liquidity in the InvIT market. A new distribution timeline, requiring Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and InvITs to distribute returns to unit holders within 5 working days from the record date. This change is expected to improve transparency and ensure faster returns for investors, making these financial instruments more attractive to potential investors. 	September 2024
7	JFSL & BlackRock Received In-Principle Approval from SEBI to Set up Mutual Fund Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) backed by Reliance Industries, has received in-principle approval from SEBI to launch a Mutual Fund (MF) business in partnership with BlackRock Financial Management Inc., the world's largest asset management firm. This partnership will offer a range of investment solutions to Indian investors, combining JFSL's strong local presence with BlackRock's global expertise. This approval is a significant step towards expanding mutual fund offerings in India. 	September 2024
8	SEBI Changes Nomination Rules for Demat Account, Mutual Fund Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has amended the nomination rules for Demat accounts and Mutual Fund investments, allowing investors to designate up to 10 nominees. This change, approved in September 2024, provides investors with more flexibility in managing their investments, particularly for succession planning, and ensures that their assets can be easily transferred to the designated nominees in case of the investor's death. 	September 2024

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
9	SEBI Extends Digital Relaxation for AGMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has extended the relaxation for Annual General Meetings (AGMs) until 30th September 2025. This extension allows companies listed on Indian stock exchanges to continue conducting AGMs using digital communication methods, thereby eliminating the need to send physical copies of financial statements to shareholders. This policy reduces costs, minimizes the environmental impact, and ensures easier access for shareholders to important company information. 	4th October 2024
10	SEBI Introduces New Asset Class and Liberalizes MF Lite Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Asset Class: SEBI introduces a new asset class and liberalizes the MF Lite framework to enhance investment landscape. MF Lite Framework: Designed for passively managed mutual fund schemes with a ₹10 lakh minimum investment limit, offering greater flexibility and risk potential. Passive Schemes Management: Existing AMCs can separate passive schemes into distinct entities for better management and relaxed disclosure/regulatory requirements. T+0 Settlement Cycle: Expanded from 25 to the top 500 scrips, with differential brokerage rates for same-day settlement. Rights Issue Timeline: Reduced from 317 to 23 working days post-approval, compared to 40 working days for preferential allotments. Investment Advisors & Research Analysts: SEBI reviews regulations to simplify compliance and registration, expected to increase registered professionals. Expanded Definitions: Clarifications on "connected person" and "immediate relative," now including firms, partners, and broader definitions of relatives. Trading Facilities: Investors can now use UPI block mechanism or a 3-in-1 trading facility, alongside existing methods. Quicker Violation Resolution: Measures introduced for faster resolution of violations. 	
11	SEBI Introduces New Asset Class and Liberalizes MF Lite Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Asset Class & MF Lite Framework: SEBI introduces a new asset class and liberalizes the MF Lite framework for passively managed mutual fund schemes, with a minimum investment of ₹10 lakh per investor, enhancing flexibility and risk potential. Separate Management of Passive Schemes: AMCs can now separate passive schemes into distinct entities, allowing separate management of active and passive schemes, with relaxed disclosure and regulatory requirements. T+0 Same-Day Settlement Cycle: The optional T+0 cycle has been expanded from 25 to the top 500 scrips, with differential brokerage rates for investors opting for this settlement cycle. Rights Issue Timeline: SEBI reduces the timeline for rights issue completion from 317 to 23 working days post-approval, significantly quicker than 40 working days for preferential allotments. Regulation Review for Advisors: SEBI simplifies compliance and registration for Investment Advisors and Research Analysts, aiming to increase the number of registered professionals. Expanded Definitions: Amendments clarify the terms "connected person" and "immediate relative", expanding their scope to include firms, partners, and broader definitions of relatives. New Trading Facilities: Investors can now trade using UPI block mechanism or a 3-in-1 trading facility, alongside existing methods, with measures for quicker resolution of violations. 	

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
12	SEBI Imposes ₹12 Lakh Fine on NSE Data And Analytics for Regulatory Violations	<p>SEBI Fine: Imposed a ₹12 lakh fine on NSE Data and Analytics for regulatory violations during an inspection.</p> <p>Inspection Details: Conducted on September 6-7, 2023, covering operations from April 2022 to July 2023.</p> <p>Violations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of IT infrastructure segregation between NSE Data and Analytics and NSE. Delayed acknowledgment letters (61 cases, exceeded 10-day limit). Cybersecurity lapses (unaddressed vulnerabilities, data center security deficiencies). <p>Corrective Actions: NSE Data and Analytics has taken corrective measures but remains fully responsible for compliance.</p> <p>Regulator: SEBI enforces compliance in the Indian financial market, ensuring adherence to operational standards.</p>	

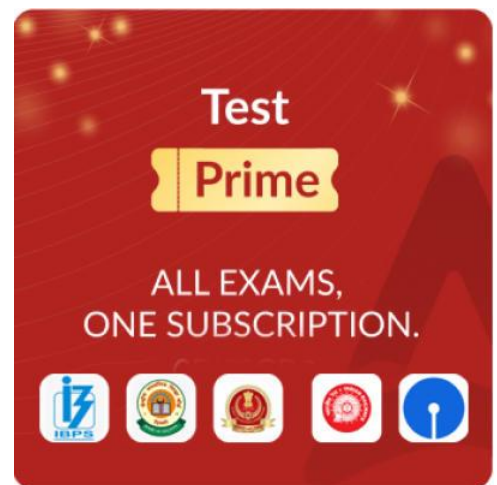
Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has significantly boosted its stake in **Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10%**, as disclosed in an exchange filing on October 5, 2024. This increase follows the allotment of **25.96 crore** equity shares priced at ₹57.36 each through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). This strategic move reflects LIC’s confidence in the bank’s growth potential and is aimed at strengthening its balance sheet to support expansion plans.
- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has informed that the Indian and UAE governments are working on **interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAE**. It will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between two countries. This will benefit over 3 million Indians residing in the UAE enabling them to use the power of UPI and AANI.
- Pakistan is witnessing widespread protests after the government raised **taxes by 40%** as part of a **\$7 billion bailout deal** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- HDFC Life, a prominent player in India’s insurance sector, has earned dual accolades for its commitment to **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** by **Avtar and Seramount**. Recognised among the **Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI)** and as **‘Exemplars of Inclusion’** in the Most Inclusive Companies Index (MICI), HDFC Life stands out for its supportive ecosystem not only for women but also for people with disabilities, the **LGBTQ+ community**, and diverse cultural backgrounds.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India’s Foreign Exchange Reserves:** India’s foreign exchange reserves reached a record high of \$692.3 billion as of September 20, 2024. The reserves increased by \$2.84 billion during the week, following a rise of \$19.3 billion in the previous five weeks. This growth is attributed to the Reserve Bank of India’s interventions in the forex market and inflows into local stocks and bonds.
- OECD Growth Forecast:** The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) raised India’s FY25 growth forecast to 6.7%, up from 6.6%, as per its Interim Economic Outlook released on September 25, 2024. Inflation is projected to rise to 4.5% from an earlier estimate of 4.3%. India’s economy is expected to grow at 6.8% in FY26, a 20 basis points increase from the May forecast.
- GST Taxation Group:** The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has formed a 10-member Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to address future taxation of luxury, sin, and demerit goods as the compensation cess is set to expire in March 2026.
- Revised Transaction Fees:** BSE and NSE announced revisions to their transaction fees, effective from October 1, 2024. The changes align with SEBI’s directive to ensure a uniform fee structure across market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- Current Account Deficit (CAD):** India’s CAD for the April-June 2024 quarter increased to \$9.7 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, compared to \$8.9 billion (1% of GDP) in Q1 FY2024. This widening is attributed to a rise in the merchandise trade deficit, which expanded to \$65.1 billion from \$56.7 billion in the previous year.



- **IBC 8th Annual Day:** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) celebrated its Eighth Annual Day on October 1, 2024, highlighting the accelerated resolution of insolvency cases over the past eight years under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- **Core Industries Index:** In August 2024, the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) showed a decline of 1.8% compared to the same month in the previous year, although the Steel and Fertilizers sectors showed positive growth during this period.
- **Foreign Exchange Reserves Cross \$700 Billion:** India's foreign exchange reserves exceeded \$700 billion for the first time, reaching \$704.89 billion as of September 27, 2024. This milestone makes India the fourth country to reach such a level, alongside China, Japan, and Switzerland.
- **Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI):** India's WPI increased to 1.84% in September 2024, driven mainly by a sharp rise in food prices, particularly vegetables such as onions, potatoes, and tomatoes.
- **IMF Growth Projections:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its growth projections for India at 7% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26, citing that the post-pandemic recovery has largely run its course and the economy is aligning with its potential growth trajectory.
- **NIPFP Revised Growth Forecast:** The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has revised its growth forecast for India to 6.9-7.1% for FY25, noting a slowdown in growth during the June quarter due to reduced government consumption and contraction in net exports.
- **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in October reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, marking an 8.9% increase year-on-year. This robust collection, based on September sales, represents the second-highest level of monthly GST collections since the indirect tax regime's inception in July 2017.** The rise is primarily attributed to stronger domestic transactions, with revenue from imports experiencing slower growth, as detailed by the Ministry of Finance in data released.

ECONOMY NEWS

- **Fossil Fuel Dominance in Electricity Generation:** According to a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the dominance of fossil fuels in India's electricity generation is expected to end by 2030, with renewable energy surpassing 50% of global electricity generation. Achieving this will require tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- **Manufacturing Employment Growth:** The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) revealed that employment in manufacturing industries increased by 7.5% in FY23, reaching 1.85 crore. This represents a 22.14 lakh increase compared to pre-pandemic levels (2018-19), with average emoluments per person rising by 6.3%.
- **Asset Monetisation Target Raised:** NITI Aayog has raised the Asset Monetisation (AM) target for FY25 to Rs 1.9 trillion, up by Rs 23,000 crore. This will help achieve the overall target of Rs 6 trillion under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) for FY22-FY25.
- **India's Foreign Reserves Milestone:** India became the fourth country to surpass \$700 billion in foreign reserves, with reserves reaching \$704.89 billion in the week ending September 27, 2024.
- **Unemployment Rates for Religious Minorities:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) indicated a rise in unemployment rates among India's religious minorities in 2023-24. Sikhs faced the highest unemployment rate of 5.8%, up from 5.1% in 2022-23, while Muslims and Christians also saw increases in their unemployment rates.
- According to a report released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the world's total public debt is poised to surpass **\$100 trillion** this year for the first time. **Projected to reach 100% of global GDP by 2030, surpassing 99% (COVID peak).**
- India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by **\$2.163 billion**, bringing the total to **\$688.267 billion** for the week ending October 18

BUSINESS NEWS

- **Shankh Air:** India's latest airline, Shankh Air, is set to debut by the end of 2024 after receiving approval from the civil aviation ministry. The airline will be Uttar Pradesh's first scheduled airline, with hubs in Lucknow and the upcoming Noida International Airport, focusing on inter- and intra-state routes.
- **Reliance Group in Bhutan:** Anil Ambani's Reliance Group is planning to develop 1,270 megawatts of solar and hydroelectric power projects in Bhutan in partnership with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd (DHI), the commercial arm of the Bhutanese government.
- **Adani Group and Google:** The Adani Group will supply renewable energy from its solar-wind hybrid project in Khavda, Gujarat, to Google starting in 2025. The Khavda project, located in the world's largest renewable energy facility, aims to meet Google's carbon-free energy goal.

- **PFC Loan Issuance:** Power Finance Corporation (PFC) closed the largest-ever foreign currency term loan issued by an Indian PSU, amounting to USD 1.265 billion. The loan was executed through a facility agreement with multiple banks based in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- **ADB Loan for Himachal Pradesh:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$162 million loan to boost tourism in Himachal Pradesh, focusing on the revival of five districts severely impacted by the pandemic and developing sustainable and inclusive tourism infrastructure.
- **Tira's Luxury Launch:** Reliance's beauty platform, Tira, has launched the luxury skincare and haircare brand Augustinus Bader in India, bringing its scientifically advanced and award-winning formulas exclusively to the Indian market.
- **Indian Navy's MoU with Bajaj Allianz:** The Indian Navy signed an MoU with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to offer affordable life insurance to its civilian workforce, marking the "Year of Naval Civilians" with a focus on financial security.
- **HAL Gains Maharatna Status:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, becoming the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to achieve this distinction.
- **Navi's Growth in UPI:** Navi, co-founded by Sachin Bansal, has become India's fifth-largest player in the UPI space, processing 120.41 million transactions worth Rs 6,549.1 crore in September 2024.
- **India's Bonds in FTSE Russell:** FTSE Russell announced that India's sovereign bonds will be included in its Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (EMGBI) starting September 2025, potentially attracting billions into India's local bond market.
- **Paytm's UPI Expansion:** Paytm received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to onboard new UPI users, which will increase Paytm's UPI transaction volumes and market position.
- **Deloitte's Economic Outlook:** Deloitte India projects that India's economy will grow between 7.0% and 7.2% in FY 2024-25, despite a 6.7% GDP growth in Q1 FY25.
- **Freo's Insurance Offering:** Freo, a digital finance app, received a corporate agent license from IRDAI to offer customized insurance products to its 25 million users, addressing India's low insurance penetration.
- **International Copper Association:** The ICA, representing 50% of global copper production, continues to be a prominent industry body promoting the usage and sustainability of copper worldwide.
- **Reliance and Nvidia AI Collaboration:** Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has partnered with Nvidia to establish AI infrastructure in India, deploying Nvidia's GB 200 supercomputer technology for large-scale AI projects.
- **Nvidia Surpasses Apple:** Nvidia surpassed Apple to become the world's most valuable company, driven by soaring demand for its supercomputing AI chips.
- **GAIL and VERBIO CBG Projects:** GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India signed an MoU to jointly develop agricultural residue-based compressed biogas (CBG) projects in India, supporting renewable energy and rural incomes.
- **Jio Financial Services – SmartGold:** Jio Financial Services Ltd launched SmartGold, a digital gold investment platform that allows customers to invest in 24-karat physical gold through the JioFinance app.
- **Jio and BlackRock Mutual Fund Venture:** Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc. announced the creation of two joint venture companies, Jio BlackRock Asset Management and Jio BlackRock Trustee, to enter India's mutual fund sector.
- **AGEL and AESL Join UNEZA:** Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL) joined the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA), committing to achieving Net Zero by 2050 and helping India's energy transition.
- **InCorp Global's BATF Licence:** InCorp Global became the first firm at GIFT IFSC to receive a BATF (Bookkeeping, Accounting, Taxation, and Financial Crime Compliance) license, further enhancing its corporate services in India.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Nepal	India and Nepal signed 12 MoUs for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal covering key sectors such as education, health, agriculture, drinking water, and culture for strengthening bilateral ties.
India	Colombia	India and Colombia signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement to enhance collaboration in film production and strengthen cultural ties.
India	Seychelles	India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) signed an MoU with Seychelles' Auditor General's office for boosting training opportunities and information sharing between their offices.
United States of America	Japan & South Korea	Signed the Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India Framework (DiGi Framework) to strengthen digital infrastructure development in India.
United Kingdom & Mauritius	-	Historical agreement for the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, ensuring continued U.S. military base operations.

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Nepal, India & Bangladesh	-	Tripartite agreement for facilitating cross-border electricity trade, allowing Nepal to export electricity to Bangladesh through India.
India	Mauritius	India signed a \$750 million currency swap agreement with the Maldives to ease its foreign exchange crisis, including a \$400 million swap and ₹3,000 crore (\$357 million) under SAARC framework.
India	Mauritania	India and Mauritania signed 4 MoUs in areas such as diplomat training, cultural exchange, visa exemption, and foreign office consultations.
India	Colombia	India and Colombia signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement to enhance film industry collaboration and deepen cultural ties.
India	Germany	India and Germany are set to sign an agreement to facilitate the movement of workers and recognize skills between the two countries. - Labour Mobility: Enhance mobility between India and Germany. - Skill Recognition: Mutual recognition and certification of skills. - Non-Traditional Sectors: Facilitate migration of Indian professionals in fields like teaching and nursing.
India	-Pakistan	India and Pakistan renewed their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for five more years. The original pact, facilitating Indian pilgrimages to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, was set to expire on October 24. It was opened in 09 November 2019.
India	Uzbekistan	The Election Commission of India signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with Uzbekistan's central poll body to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance electoral processes . Both countries have a history of collaboration, with officials observing each other's elections, such as Uzbekistan's delegation participating in India's Lok Sabha elections . The partnership aims to share best practices , deepen cooperation, and contribute to strengthening democratic frameworks in both nations. The Election Commission of India , a constitutional body , ensures free and fair elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures , and the offices of the President and Vice-President of India , with powers extending to conducting elections and overseeing the entire electoral process.
India	UAE	India signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) with the UAE, effective August 31, 2024, to enhance investor confidence. The arbitration period for foreign investors is reduced from five years to three years. The treaty also covers portfolio investments like shares and bonds.
India	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-China Agreement: India and China announced a new agreement on patrolling along the LAC, aiming to normalize relations post-2020 tensions. Patrolling Rights Restored: Both nations agreed to restore mutual patrolling rights in Depsang Plains and Demchok; areas like Galwan Valley remain excluded. Three-Step Process: The agreement outlines disengagement, de-escalation, and demilitarization along the LAC. Disengagement: Immediate frontline troop withdrawal to reduce confrontation risks. De-escalation: Gradual reduction of military presence, currently around 50,000-60,000 troops on each side. Demilitarization Goal: Long-term aim to decrease military equipment and personnel along sensitive border zones. Background Efforts: Modi's call for border resolution in April 2024 led to positive dialogue with China. Patrolling Rights Focus: In May 2024, Minister Jaishankar emphasized Ladakh patrolling rights' importance. Troop Conduct Guidelines: Reinforces the 2005 Border Pact, prohibiting force use and promoting mutual courtesy. Interpretation Differences: India sees the agreement as a step toward full disengagement, while China prefers separate handling of border and broader relations. Future Dialogue: Plans for future meetings between Special Representatives to further resolve the boundary issue. Cautious Optimism in India: India's strategic circles are hopeful but aware of the complexities ahead. Long-term Implications: The agreement aims to foster trust but may require ongoing negotiation for a lasting resolution.

MoUs WITH STATE

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Rajasthan	Rural Electrification Corporation Limited	REC Limited signed an MoU with Rajasthan to provide Rs 50,000 crore per year for infrastructure projects, focusing on power and non-power sectors until 2030.
Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	MoU signed to address wildlife and forest management challenges, promoting cross-border conservation, mitigating human-animal conflicts, and sustainable forest management practices.
Meghalaya	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)	To improve population health outcomes in Meghalaya, particularly related to maternal and newborn health, family planning, nursing education, and agriculture.
Nagaland	Wales	MoU with Wales for participation in the 25th Hornbill Festival, focusing on cultural exchange and cooperation.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment	National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)	To enhance public awareness about various Acts, Rules, and Schemes, especially those for marginalized sections of society, including through awareness camps.
International Energy Agency (IEA)	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	Signed MoU on energy technology innovation to reduce emissions and lead clean energy transitions.
Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE)	Amazon	MoU to enhance employment accessibility in India, leveraging the National Career Service (NCS) portal to boost job opportunities.
Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	Reliasat Inc. Canada	MoU for collaboration in the area of space products, enhancing defense and aerospace technological capabilities.
Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)	Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC)	Signed a Definitive Agreement for setting up India's 1st AI-enabled greenfield semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera (Gujarat).
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)	Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE)	Partnered to foster innovation and technological advancements for defense applications.
Department of Posts	Amazon Seller Services Private Limited	MoU to strengthen logistics and e-commerce in India, enhancing the use of India's postal network for packages.
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)	MoU to create a future-ready workforce for the defense and aerospace sectors, particularly through skill development initiatives.
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Nepal Oil Corporation	Signed a B2B Framework Agreement for the development of petroleum infrastructure in Nepal with a total investment of around Rs 15 billion.
Global Biofuels Alliance	Government of India	Signed Host Country Agreement (HCA) to officially establish GBA Secretariat in India, promoting global biofuels.
Adani Group	Google	MoU for enhancing sustainability efforts, with a focus on clean energy growth in India to power Google's cloud services.
SKYBER Aerospace Private Limited	Sibia Technologies	MoU to market and sell made-in-India UAVs across the Middle East and Africa (MEA), targeting military and commercial sectors.
RITES Limited	Etihad Rail	MoU to explore collaboration on railway infrastructure development and operational services in the UAE and the wider region.
Government of India	Meta Platforms Inc.	Launched "Scam se Bacho" campaign to combat online scams, a joint safety initiative aimed at raising awareness about online frauds.
MSDE	Meta	MoU to enhance the Skill India Mission through AI and Virtual Reality (VR), establishing five Centers of Excellence for advanced skills development.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Nayab Singh Saini	Chief Minister	Haryana	Nayab Singh Saini took oath for the 2nd term as CM of Haryana. Previously served from March 2024 to October 2024 after Manohar Lal Khattar resigned.
Udhayanidhi Stalin	Deputy Chief Minister	Tamil Nadu	Udhayanidhi Stalin took oath as Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu on 29th September 2024, becoming the youngest in history to hold the post.
Omar Abdullah	Chief Minister	Jammu & Kashmir	Omar Abdullah sworn in as CM for the 2nd time, becoming the first CM of UT Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.
Noel Naval Tata	Chairman	Sir Ratan Tata Trusts	Succeeded Ratan Tata after his passing; Chairman of several Tata companies.
Indra Sena Reddy Nallu	Acting Governor	Mizoram	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu sworn in as acting Governor of Mizoram after Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati took medical leave.
Paramesh Sivamani	Director General	Indian Coast Guard	Took over as 26th DG of the Indian Coast Guard after the death of DG Rakesh Pal.
Ajit Kumar Saxena	Chairman and Managing Director	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Vizag Steel)	Appointed CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd with immediate effect.
Martin Schlegel	Chairman	Governing Board of Swiss National Bank	Took over as Chairman of SNB's Governing Board on 1st October 2024.
Partha Pratim Sengupta	MD & CEO	Bandhan Bank Ltd.	Appointed MD & CEO for Bandhan Bank, replacing Ratan Kesh.
Ravi Ahuja	CEO	Sony Pictures Entertainment	Tony Vinciguerra will step down as CEO in January 2025; Ravi Ahuja will succeed.
Thachat Viswanath Narendran	Chairman	World Steel Association (Worldsteel)	Elected Chairman for 2024-25, succeeding Leon Topalian.
Manoj Kumar Dubey	CMD & CEO	Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)	Appointed CMD & CEO of IRFC for 5 years, succeeding Shelly Verma.
Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar	Chairperson	National Commission for Women (NCW)	Appointed as the 9th Chairperson of NCW, replacing Rekha Sharma.
Amit Kumar	CMD	AIAHL	Appointed CMD of AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL).
Arti Sarin	Director General	Armed Forces Medical Services	First woman officer to take over as the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
Aishath Azeema	Ambassador to India	Maldives'	Ibrahim Shaheeb, who served since October 2022, represented Maldives during a period of strained India-Maldives relations.
Ajay Kumar Singh	New DGP	Jharkhand	Ajay Kumar Singh, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) for Jharkhand
Dr. Himanshu Pathak	Director General	ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has announced the appointment of Dr. Himanshu Pathak as the Director General-designate of the esteemed institute.
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD and CEO	Axis Bank	Axis Bank has officially announced the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Kais Saied	President	Tunisia	Won second term as President with 90.69% votes, first elected in 2019.
Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo	President	Indonesia	Appointed as 8th President of Indonesia for the 2024-2029 term, succeeding Joko Widodo.
Luong Cuong	President	Vietnam	Elected 14th President of Vietnam, succeeding To Lam.
António Guterres	Under-Secretary-General, Humanitarian Affairs	United Nations (UN)	Appointed Tom Fletcher as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.
Shubha Tole	President-elect	International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)	First scientist from a developing country to be elected as President-elect of IBRO.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Brand Ambassador	Appointed as brand ambassador for Garuda Aerospace, an Indian drone startup.
Mary Kom & Sunil Chhetri	Brand Ambassadors	Appointed as brand ambassadors for Utkarsh Small Finance Bank to promote initiatives like financial literacy campaigns.
Shreyanka Patil	Brand Ambassador	Appointed as the brand ambassador for BOBCARD LIMITED, a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda.
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador	Sourav Ganguly, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the Director of Cricket for JSW Sports

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Designation / Post	Who is Appointed	Replacing Whom	Key Notes
RBI's MPC Reconstitution	Aviral Jain	-	New external members appointed to RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, with Aviral Jain as Executive Director from 1st October 2024.
Deputy Governor, RBI	M. Rajeshwar Rao	-	Extension for one year from 9th October 2024.
Registrar General	Mritunjay Kumar Narayan	-	Tenure extended until 4th August 2026.
Special Secretary (Internal Security)	Praveen Vashista	Sivagami Sundari Nanda	Appointed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Chief Justice of Delhi High Court	Justice Manmohan	Justice Satish Chandra Sharma	Sworn-in as new Chief Justice.
DGP Jammu & Kashmir	IPS Nalin Prabhat	R.R. Swain	New DGP appointed.
CMD RINL	Shri AK Saxena	Atul Bhatt	Appointed CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL).
MD/CEO Bandhan Bank	Partha Pratim Sengupta	Chandra Sekhar Ghosh	Appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank.
Ambassador to France	Sanjeev Kumar Singla	Jawed Ashraf	Appointed as India's Ambassador to France.
CMD AI Assets Holding Limited	Amit Kumar	-	Appointed CMD of AI Assets Holding Ltd.
CEO, ACKO Life	Sandip Goenka	-	Appointed as the new CEO of ACKO Life.
Chief Executive Officer, JP Morgan India	Pranav Chawda	-	Appointed CEO of JP Morgan India.

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Designation / Post	Person Name	Key Notes
51 st Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Appointed as CJI, succeeding Justice DY Chandrachud.
Chief Justice of Delhi High Court	Justice Manmohan	Appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, replacing Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma.
48 th Vice Chief of the Air Staff	Air Marshal SP Dharkar	Succeeded Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who became the Chief of Air Staff.

AWARDS

NOBEL PRIZE

The Nobel Prize winner list 2024

Winner's Name	Category	Topic
John J. Hopfield (US) and Geoffrey E. Hinton (Canada)	Physics	“for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks”
David Baker (US) and Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper (London)	Chemistry	“for computational protein design” and “for protein structure prediction”
Victor Ambros (US) and Gary Ruvkun (US)	Medicine	“for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation”
Han Kang (South Korea)	Literature	“for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”
Nihon Hidankyo (Japan)	Peace	“for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again”
Daron Acemoglu (Turkish-American), Simon Johnson (British-American) and James A. Robinson (American-British)	Economics	“for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity”

70th National Film Awards (2022) Ceremony

Award Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Aattam (The Play)
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	Kutch Express
Best Film in AVGC	Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva
Best Debut Film of a Director	Fouja
Best Direction	Sooraj Barjatya for Unchai
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Rishab Shetty for Kantara
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrambalam (Tamil)
	Manasi Parekh for Kutch Express (Gujarati)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Pavan Raj Malhotra for Fouja (Haryanvi)
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Neena Gupta for Uunchai (Hindi)
Best Child Artist	Sreepathy for Malikappuram (Malayalam)
Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh for “Kesariya” from Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva (Hindi)
Best Female Playback Singer	Bombay Jayashri for Saudi Vell
Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Mithun Chakraborty
Best Film	Ponniyin Selvan I
Best Film Composer	AR Rahman for Ponniyin Selvan I

IIFA Awards 2024

Category	Winner	Film/Contribution
Best Film	"Animal"	Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan	"Jawan"
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji	"Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway"
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra	"12th Fail"
Best Supporting Actor	Anil Kapoor	"Animal"
Best Supporting Actress	Shabana Azmi	"Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani"
Best Actor in Negative Role	Bobby Deol	"Animal"
Best Story	"Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani"	-
Best Story (Adapted)	"12th Fail"	-
Best Music	"Animal"	-
Best Lyrics	Siddharth-Garima	"Satranga" from "Animal"
Best Singer Male	Bhupinder Babbal	"Arjan Valley" from "Animal"
Best Singer Female	Shilpa Rao	"Chaleya"
Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema	Jayantilal Gada, Hema Malini	-
Achievement on completing 25 years in cinema	Karan Johar	-

Awards in Arts & Culture / Films

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award	Mithun Chakraborty	Indian Cinema	Presented for his lifetime contribution to Indian cinema. Announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. He was 54th recipient of this award. Scheduled presentation: 8th October 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Honored with Padma Bhushan in 2024.

Other Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize	Alexander Dunn	Mathematics	Awarded for significant work in analytic number theory, specifically his collaboration on the Kummer-Patterson Conjecture. To be presented at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, 20-22 December 2024.
2024 IACP 40 Under 40 Award	Pritpal Kaur	-	Selected by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Kaur is the only Indian recipient for 2024. Award ceremony in Boston, USA on 22nd October 2024.
Lifetime Achievement Award	MK Stalin	Human Resource Management	Awarded by Asia HRD Academy for contributions to HR. Presented by Fahmi Jowder and Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
SEEMS Platinum Award	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport	Airport Sector	Managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited, SVPI won the award in the Facility category at SEEM Awards in New Delhi.
IFFI 2024 Honors Australia's Rich Film Legacy			The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is proud to announce Australia as the "Country of Focus" for the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award	Sister Rosita Milesi	-	Honored for nearly four decades of championing refugee rights in Brazil. Ceremony held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14th October 2024.

Important Recognitions

List Name	Details
Hurun India Under-35 List	Features young entrepreneurs including Isha Ambani (Reliance Retail), Parita Parekh (Toddle), and Ghazal Alagh (Mamaearth).
5th National Water Awards 2023	Presented by President Droupadi Murmu on 22nd October 2024. Top award: Odisha for Best State. Key district winners include Visakhapatnam (South), Dhalai (North-East), Banda & Ganderbal (North), Indore (West), and Balangir (East).
Forbes India's 100 Richest List	Topped by Mukesh Ambani (USD 119.5 billion), followed by Gautam Adani (USD 116 billion) and Savitri Jindal (USD 43.7 billion).
Central Bank Report Cards 2024	RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das awarded an 'A+' grade, shared with central bankers from Denmark and Switzerland.
ICC Hall of Fame	Inductees: Neetu David (India), AB de Villiers (South Africa), and Sir Alastair Cook (England).
Fortune 100 Most Powerful Women in Business 2024	Topped by Mary Barra. The 27th edition includes business leaders across six continents and 14 industries.
CII Awards	Pro Kabaddi League Wins 'Best Sports League'

Other Awards

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1	SASTRA Ramanujan Prize	Alexander Dunn
3	for Biodiversity 2024	Vera Voronova, Ysabel Agustina Calderón
4	Honorary Doctorate in Political Science	President Droupadi Murmu
5	Femina Miss India 2024	Nikita Porwal
6	V&A Illustration Awards - Emerging Illustrator	Aditi Anand
7	National Kishore Kumar Award	Rajkumar Hirani
8	2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards	Narayana Murthy
9	International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award	Dr. S. Somanath
10	Prestigious 2024 Humanitarian Award	Mohanji
11	Jury Member for ALT EFF 2024	Dia Mirza
12	Richest City Globally for Sovereign Wealth Funds	Abu Dhabi
13	SHRM HR Excellence Awards	Steel Authority of India Limited
14	Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award	Darasing Khurana
15	Global Anti-Racism Championship Award	Urmila Chaudhary
16	Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought	María Corina Machado and Edmundo González
17	Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is the highest human rights honor	Soviet physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov
18	Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership	Bibhab Kumar Talukdar
19	A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das
20	ANR National Awards 2024	Actor Chiranjeevi
21	Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji	Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
22	Best Companies for Women in India'	DBS Bank India

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
23	Francis Ford Coppola	AFI Life Achievement Award
24	Adarsh Karmayogi Awards	Mission Karmayogi National Program and its related activities during the Karmayogi Saptah
25	Venezuelan Opposition Leaders Awarded EU Parliament's Human Rights Honor	The European Parliament has awarded its prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Venezuelan opposition leaders María Corina Machado and Edmundo González.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	16th BRICS Summit		<p>Why in News: 16th BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia; Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and UAE join as new members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edition: 16th BRICS Summit. • Name: BRICS Summit 2024. • Organized by: Hosted by Russia. • Place: Kazan, Russia. • Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security." • Last Venue: 15th Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. • Chairmanship: Russia. <p>Organisation Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acronym: BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). • Established: BRIC concept in 2001, first summit in 2009, expanded to BRICS in 2010. <p>Important Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRICS Pay: Introduced as an alternative payment system to reduce SWIFT/US dollar reliance. • Kazan Declaration: Endorsed UN reforms, supported Palestine's UN membership, encouraged national currency use in trade. <p>Bilateral Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China-Russia: Strengthened Belt and Road Initiative, Eurasian Economic Union integration. ○ India-China: Resolved military standoff, enhanced bilateral ties. ○ India-Iran: Focused on Chabahar Port, regional stability, and Central Asia. ○ Russia-South Africa: Reinforced historical ties; acknowledged Russia's apartheid-era support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement by Indian Leader: PM Modi advocated for inclusive UN reforms to ensure relevance. • Next Summit: To be hosted by Brazil in 2025.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
			<p>Important Past Editions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15th Summit (Johannesburg, 2023): Expansion of BRICS with six new members effective from January 2024. 5th Summit (Durban, 2013): Formation of BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). 6th Summit (Fortaleza, 2014): Official NDB launch. 9th Summit (Xiamen, 2017): "BRICS Plus" concept introduced.
Summits	12th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Bioenergy Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), addressed the 12th CII Bioenergy Summit. The summit's theme was "Fueling the Future - Securing India's Green Growth Goals". Gadkari highlighted that ethanol blending in petrol has increased from 1.53% in 2014 to 15% in 2024, with a target of reaching 20% by 2025.
Summits	2024 AYUSH Medical Value Travel Summit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inauguration of the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024, held in Mumbai, aims to strengthen India's position in the global Medical Value Travel (MVT) sector by integrating Ayush with modern healthcare. The summit, themed "Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel," is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush (India), the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of Maharashtra, and the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). The event seeks to promote India's traditional healing systems as an essential part of the global health and wellness industry.
Summits	Asia Clean Energy Summit 2024	Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES), a cornerstone event of the annual Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW), is held on the 11th edition from October 22-24, 2024, in Singapore.
Summits	44th and 45th ASEAN Summits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience." Lao President: Thongloun Sisoulith emphasized peace, stability, and multilateralism. Focus Areas: Regional integration, addressing climate change, tackling transnational crime, and promoting socio-economic development. Prime Minister: Sonexay Siphandone outlined 9 priorities aligned with ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
Summits	ASEAN Summit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Summits (Oct 8-11, 2024): Held in Vientiane, Laos; nearly 90 documents adopted focusing on resilience, connectivity, digital economy, and green transition. ASEAN Vision Statement on Indo-Pacific: Emphasizes ASEAN's role in regional security; declarations on supply chain resilience, biodiversity, and climate action. Vietnam's Bilateral Engagements: Promoted trade, food security, and digital transformation, focusing on AI, green energy, and trilateral cooperation with Laos and Cambodia. ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2024: Australia announced over \$500 million in initiatives, including a \$2 billion investment facility, startup programs, scholarships, and maritime cooperation.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st ASEAN-India Summit Key Outcomes: PM Modi emphasized ASEAN unity and economic growth; India-ASEAN trade doubled to \$130 billion in a decade; called for a review of ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA). • 10-Point Plan for Connectivity & Resilience: Includes initiatives such as Tourism Year 2025, youth summits, women scientists conclave, disaster resilience funding, health initiatives, and green hydrogen workshops. • Future Plan of Action (2026-2030): A new ASEAN-India action plan under development, with statements on strategic partnerships and digital transformation. • Joint Digital Transformation Statement: Focuses on digital infrastructure, fintech collaboration, cybersecurity, AI workforce development, capacity building, and sustainable financing.
Events	79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79)	New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session took place from 10th to 30th September 2024 at the UN headquarters. The State of Palestine was granted a seat among the UN member states. • The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) organized the “CSIR for Connect, Collaborate, Converge and Convert (5C) for Global Sustainable Development” on 18th-19th September 2024. India signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and joined the US-led Minerals Security Finance Network.
Events	75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2024)	Milan, Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The congress was held from 14th to 18th October 2024 at the Milano Congress Center. • The IAF World Space Award 2024 was awarded to ISRO Chairman Dr. S. Somanath. • The European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Moonlight Programme for lunar communication, aimed at establishing Europe’s first satellite constellation for telecommunication and navigation on the Moon.
Events	3rd edition of World Food India (WFI 2024)	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was held from 19th to 22nd September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme 'Processing for Prosperity'. • The National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management (NIFTEM) signed 19 MoUs and completed 3 technology transfers. • Sarathi, an IoT-based hybrid dryer, biodegradable packaging films, and rapid detection kits were key highlights.
Events	Climate and Health Solutions (CHS) India Conclave	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2-day conclave, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focused on climate change and its impact on public health in India. • The conclave brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to develop actionable strategies for improving the health sector.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Events	6th consecutive India-US Commercial Dialogue	USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, the dialogue in Washington, D.C. focused on enhancing bilateral trade. India and the USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand the critical minerals supply chain.
Events	ITU WTSA Hackathon 2024 Phase-2	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-2 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) Hackathon was held in New Delhi on 8th October 2024. It was hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and focused on the theme "AI Bharat 5G/6G Sandbox." This event was a precursor to the WTSA 2024, which took place alongside the India Mobile Congress (IMC).
Events	Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugurated by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the international workshop at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre focused on showcasing modern technologies for urban land record modernization. The aim was to present global best practices and plan pilot projects for selected urban areas.
Events	149th Inter-Union Parliamentary (IPU) Assembly	Geneva, Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held from 13th to 17th October 2024, the assembly's theme was "Harnessing science, technology, and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future." The assembly adopted a resolution on the UN Secretary-General's plea for recommitment to multilateralism for global peace. The Parliament of Jamaica rejoined the IPU as its 181st member after a gap of almost two decades.
Conference	National Conference on the PESA Act	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugurated by Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, this conference addressed the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) at Dr. Ambedkar International Central. It launched the PESA-GDPD (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) portal and seven specialized training modules aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of GDPDs.
Conference	The 21st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Zone III Conference	Aizawl, Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conference focused on the theme "Democratic Sanctity, Transparency, Accountability, and Results from Democracy." Delegates discussed ways to strengthen democracy and ensure accountability in parliamentary practices.
Conference	The 2nd India Sugar & BioEnergy Conference	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers to encourage dialogue and innovation in the sugar and bioenergy sectors. It aimed at exploring sustainable growth and development strategies for the industry.
Conference	Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2024	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held with the theme "Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific," this conference focused on the geopolitical importance of resources in the region and their impact on regional security and economic stability.
Conference	International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife, Vatavaran	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for the festival was "Wetlands for Life," aiming to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands ecosystems and promote their conservation.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conference	Second Army Commanders' Conference 2024	Gangtok, Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two-day conference served as a forum for Senior Commanders to review operational preparedness, discuss critical strategies, and outline directives for the future of the Indian Army.
Conference	19th East Asia Summit (EAS)	Vientiane, Laos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summit focused on the role of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific. The Prime Minister emphasized ASEAN's importance in the region's stability and growth.
Conference	19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA)	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conference featured sessions on smart regulation for medical products. It focused on delivering quality assured products and addressing global challenges in drug and medical device regulation.
Conference	ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the WTSA 2024 alongside the India Mobile Congress. The event focused on discussions around 5G/6G technology and telecommunication standards.
Conference	2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)	Manila, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction" emphasized strengthening disaster resilience and response in the region.
Conference	Advancements of Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda (AROHA-2024)	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda, positioning Ayurveda as a key pillar for global health and wellness.
Conference	149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	Geneva, Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was "Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a More Peaceful and Sustainable Future." Delegates discussed the role of science and technology in advancing peace and sustainability.
Conference	The 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government	Islamabad, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the first visit of an Indian minister to Pakistan since the 2015 visit of the then External Affairs Minister. The SCO discussed regional cooperation and strengthening multilateral engagements.
Conference	International Workshop on Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This workshop focused on urban land record modernization, presenting best practices, and planning pilot projects for selected urban areas.
Conference	G7 Defence Ministers Meeting	Naples, Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting discussed global security challenges and cooperation. Representatives from NATO and the European Union, along with Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, participated.
Conference	NHRC Concludes National Conference	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On its 31st Foundation Day, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organized a day-long national conference on the "Rights of Older Persons" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
Conference	16th BRICS Summit and BRICS+	Kazan, Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security." BRICS members discussed regional stability, security, and economic growth in a multilateral framework.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conference			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event: 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024, Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Organizers: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Institute of Urban Transport (India), supported by Government of Gujarat & Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Theme: Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions. <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardization of urban mobility, integration of transport modes, funding opportunities, E-Bus ecosystem development. <p>Award Winners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Sustainable Transport System: Kochi Best Public Transport System: Bhubaneswar Best Non-Motorized Transport: Srinagar Best Safety System: Gandhinagar Best Intelligent Transport System: Surat Most Innovative Financing Mechanism: Jammu Best Public Involvement: Bengaluru Best Multimodal Integration (Metro): Bengaluru Best Passenger Services (Metro): Mumbai <p>Purpose: Platform for manufacturers to showcase best practices, technologies, and discuss urban mobility challenges.</p>
Conference	India Digital Agri Conference 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event: Co-organized by ICFA and IIT Ropar TIF – AWaDH in New Delhi, focused on using digital technologies like AI, IoT, drones, and data analytics to modernize agriculture. Focus: Transition to digital farming, collaboration between farmers, researchers, and tech developers, and promotion of the Digital Agriculture Mission.

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

MEETINGS

Meetings	Venue	Key Points
4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat (16th-18th September 2024). REC Limited signed MoUs worth Rs.1.12 lakh crore for renewable energy projects. Gujarat won awards for renewable energy achievements and ranked in the top 3 for renewable energy capacity. Investment commitments worth Rs. 32.45 lakh crore by 2030.
1st meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Reviewed implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 with UN World Food Programme representatives.
194th meeting of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Labour & Employment. Extension of Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna till 30th June 2026. Provision of medical care under Ayushman Bharat PMJAY. 10 new ESIC medical colleges approved across India.
Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of Government	Islamabad, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held on 16th October 2024 under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif. Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar addressed the 23rd SCO CHG, becoming the first Indian foreign minister to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade.

<p>India Joins 44th Codex Nutrition Committee Meeting</p>	<p>Germany</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in News: India attended the 44th session of CCNFSDU in Dresden, Germany (Oct 2-6, 2024). • India's Role: Key contributor with pivotal interventions on significant agenda items. • Probiotic Guidelines: India urged revision of outdated FAO/WHO probiotic documents, highlighting need for international regulatory harmonization; FAO/WHO to review 2001-2002 documents with updated scientific findings. • Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs): India provided insights for 6-36 months NRVs; committee combined NRV-R for 6-12 and 12-36 months. • Sweetness Assessment: India, supported by USA, Canada, opposed EU's sensory testing proposal for carbohydrate sweetness due to lack of validation; committee paused the topic. • About CCNFSDU: A unit of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) that sets global standards for special dietary foods, including infant and medical foods.
<p>SCO Meeting</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAM S. Jaishankar visit Pakistan for the SCO Heads of Government meeting from October 15-16, 2024, marking his first visit to Pakistan in 9 years. • This visit follows Sushma Swaraj's 2015 trip for the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, which led to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue between India and Pakistan.

INDEX

RANKING

India Ranks 105th in Global Hunger Index 2024

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a comprehensive tool that tracks and measures hunger at the global, regional, and national levels and with specific emphasis on India's ranking and challenges.
India's GHI 2024 Ranking	105th out of 127 countries (Serious Hunger Category)
India's GHI Score	27.3 (Severe hunger level)
Key Indicators Contributing to GHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undernourishment: 13.7% of population - Child Stunting: 35.5% of children under five - Child Wasting: 18.7% of children under five - Child Mortality: 2.9% of children under five
Impact of Conflict on Hunger	- Conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, Syria, and others contribute to food crises.
Challenges & Projections	- Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2030) is increasingly unlikely without substantial progress.
Top Performers (2024)	1-22. Belarus, 1-22. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1-22. Chile, 1-22. China, 1-22. Costa Rica
Worst Performers (2024)	121. Niger, 122. Haiti, 123. Dem. Rep. of the Congo, 126. Yemen, 127. Somalia

Summary/Static	Details
India's Neighboring Countries	4. China, 52. Thailand, 56. Sri Lanka, 68. Nepal, 109. Pakistan

2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Key Findings	Details
Global Poverty	1.1 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, with 455 million in conflict-affected areas.
Child Poverty	Over 584 million children live in poverty, representing 27.9% of children.
Basic Needs Deficiency	828 million lack sanitation, 886 million lack proper housing, and 998 million lack cooking fuel.
Undernourishment	637 million people live in households with undernourished individuals, particularly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

MPI of South Asian Countries (2024)	MPI Value	Poverty Incidence	People in Poverty
India	0.105	23.8%	234 million
Pakistan	0.198	38.3%	93 million
Nepal	0.092	22.5%	7.5 million
Bangladesh	0.104	24.6%	41.7 million

Conflict Impact	Details
Electricity	25% of the poor in conflict areas lack access to electricity (vs. 5% in stable regions).
Education	17.7% of children in conflict areas lack schooling (vs. 4.4% in stable regions).
Nutrition	20.8% of people in conflict zones are malnourished (vs. 7.2% in peaceful regions).

Slow Progress in Conflict Zones	Details
Afghanistan	64.9% of Afghanistan's population was impoverished in 2022/23, with 5.3 million more people falling into poverty.

Global Trends	Details
MPI Tracking	Since 2010, MPI has tracked global poverty trends, emphasizing the need for investments in peace to break the poverty-conflict cycle.

MPI Indicators and Cutoffs	Details
Health	Deprived if a child under 18 dies in the last five years.
Nutrition	Deprived if any household member is undernourished.
Education	Deprived if no household member has completed six years of schooling.
Standard of Living	Includes indicators for cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and assets.

Fictional Example (Country X)	Details
H (Headcount)	0.667
A (Intensity)	0.417
MPI Calculation	$MPI = 0.667 \times 0.417 = 0.278$
Poverty Status	MPI poor ($\geq 33\%$)

REPORT

Report Name	Submitted By	Key Notes
World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific	International Labour Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlights challenges in extending unemployment benefits in Asia-Pacific. - Asia-Pacific achieved 53.6% population coverage by at least one social protection benefit but spends only 11.8% of GDP on social protection, below the global average of 19.3%. - Approximately 2.1 billion people remain unprotected from lifecycle and socio-economic risks, with uneven progress.
Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS): July 2022 - June 2023	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of the 79th National Sample Survey (NSS), conducted from July 2022 to June 2023; not conducted in some Andaman and Nicobar Islands villages. - 96.5% of rural and 97.9% of urban individuals (aged 15-24) can read/write simple statements and perform basic arithmetic. - Medical expenses: Rural - Rs 4,129; Urban - Rs 5,290. - 95.7% of rural and 97% of urban youth (15-24) use mobile phones.
NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) for 2021-22	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on a survey of 1 lakh rural households, covering economic and financial aspects post-COVID. - Average monthly income increased by 57.6% over 5 years, from Rs 8,059 (2016-17) to Rs 12,698 (2021-22). - Average monthly expenditure rose from Rs 6,646 (2016-17) to Rs 11,262 (2021-22).
2024 Living Planet Report - A System in Peril	World Wide Fund for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average size of monitored wildlife populations decreased by 73% in 50 years (1970-2020). - Living Planet Index (LPI) shows steep declines: Latin America and the Caribbean (95%), Africa (76%), Asia-Pacific (60%). - Highest decline in freshwater ecosystems (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) ecosystems.
Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 - Pathways Out of the Polycrisis	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India has 129 million citizens living on less than Rs 180 (USD 2.15) daily, a decline from 431 million in 1990. - Increased poverty threshold of USD 6.85 (around Rs 576) for middle-income countries leads to more individuals below this line. - Extreme poverty in India is expected to drop below 3% by the end of the decade.
Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2024	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) & ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 347 GW of photovoltaic capacity added globally in 2023, a 74% increase from 2022. - China contributed 63% (216.9 GW) of new PV capacities. - Jobs in renewable energy grew from 13.7 million (2022) to 16.2 million (2023); 7.1 million in solar PV alone. - India had a cumulative wind power capacity of 44.7 GW, ranking 4th globally.
NCPCR Report	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 11.5 lakh children across 27 states and 7 Union Territories identified as "vulnerable" to child marriage in 2023-24. - Uttar Pradesh has over 5 lakh vulnerable children, Assam has 1.5 lakh, and Madhya Pradesh has nearly 1 lakh. - Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands reported no children vulnerable to child marriage.
World Energy Outlook (WEO 2024)	International Energy Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India is on track to become the third-largest economy by 2028. - Global electricity demand projected to double by 2050, largely driven by China's energy transition. - India's GDP expected to grow 7.8% in 2024; CO2 emissions projected at 2.5 billion tonnes by 2035, 25% below the STEPS level.

<p>India Digital Payments Report for 1H 2024</p>	<p>Worldline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UPI transactions grew 52% YoY in 1H 2024, reaching 78.97 billion transactions. - Transaction value rose by 40%, from Rs 83.16 trillion to Rs 116.63 trillion. - PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm account for 94.83% of transaction volume. - 1.451 billion cards in circulation as of June 2024, led by SBI, Bank of Baroda, and HDFC Bank.
<p>October 2024 World Economic Outlook (WEO): Policy Pivot, Rising Threats</p>	<p>International Monetary Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's GDP growth forecast retained at 7% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26. - Global growth stable at 3.2% in 2024 and 2025. - India's headline inflation projected at 4.4% for FY25 and 4.1% for FY26.
<p>Employment in India Up by 36% : Center Reports</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in the news?: India saw a 36% increase in employment, adding 17 million jobs from 2016-17 to 2022-23. • Employment Growth: 36% increase, adding 17 million jobs. • GDP Growth: Average annual growth of 6.5% from 2016-17 to 2022-23. • WPR: Increased by 9 percentage points (26%) from 2017 to 2023. • Youth Unemployment: Declined from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23. • Female Workforce Participation: Steady increase due to supportive policies. • Sectoral Employment: 45% of the workforce in agriculture, gradual shift towards manufacturing & services. • Manufacturing Growth: Factories with >100 workers grew by 11.8% (FY18-FY22). • Wage Growth: Rural wages at 6.9% CAGR, Urban wages at 6.1% CAGR (FY15-FY22). • Gig Economy Growth: Projected to employ 2.35 crore by 2029-30. • Employment Elasticity: 1.11% increase in jobs for each 1% increase in value-added.

ACQUISITION & MERGERS

TIGA Investments Acquires Stake in Dream11

TIGA Investments, a Singapore-based investment firm, has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire a stake in Dream11's parent company, Dream Sports Inc (DSI). This deal is valued at over USD 150 million.

Mankind Pharma's Acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines

CCI approved Mankind Pharma Ltd.'s acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) for ₹13,630 crores, granting Mankind Pharma a full 100% stake in BSV's shareholding.

Merger of AIX Connect with Air India Express

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sanctioned the merger of AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with Air India Express, effective from October 1, 2024. The unified entity will operate under the name "Air India Express" with a single airline code, IX. The merger is part of a larger integration plan which includes Vistara merging with Air India by November 12, 2024.

JM Financial's Stake Increase in JM Financial Credit Solutions and JM Financial Asset Reconstruction

CCI approved JM Financial Limited's (JMFL) acquisition of a 43% stake in JM Financial Credit Solutions Limited (JMFCSL) for approximately ₹1,282 crore. Additionally, JMFL will acquire a 71.79% stake in JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (JMFARC) for ₹856 crore.

Patanjali's Home and Personal Care Business Acquisition

The CCI greenlit Patanjali Foods Limited's (PFL) acquisition of the Home and Personal Care (HPC) division of Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) for ₹1,100 crore.

LIC's Stake Increase in Bank of Maharashtra

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) raised its stake in Bank of Maharashtra (BOM) from 4.05% to 7.10% after acquiring 25.96 crore shares via a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), purchasing at an average price of ₹57.36 per share.

Government of India's Stake Sale in Cochin Shipyard Limited

The Government of India divested 5% of its stake in Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) through an Offer for Sale (OFS), valued at approximately ₹2,026 crore with shares priced at ₹1,540 each.

Central Bank of India's Acquisition in Future Generali Insurance Companies

CCI approved Central Bank of India's acquisition of a 24.9% stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGIICL) and a 25.18% stake in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILICL).

Bharti Airtel's Increased Stake in Indus Towers

CCI approved Bharti Airtel's proposal to increase its shareholding in Indus Towers Limited to 50.005%, from the previous 48.95%, through a share buyback.

Aquilo House Pte. Ltd. Acquisition of Aavas Financiers Limited

CCI approved Aquilo House Pte. Ltd.'s acquisition of Aavas Financiers Limited (AFL), a housing finance company registered with the National Housing Bank (NHB) as a non-deposit-taking institution.

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR VIII)	South Africa	INS Talwar participated in the 8th edition of IBSAMAR, focusing on Blue Water Naval Warfare, including Surface and Anti-Air Warfare with Brazil and South Africa.
Exercise KAZIND	Uttarakhand / India-Kazakhstan	8th edition of the annual India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise held at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand, from 30th September to 13th October 2024.
MALABAR (2024)	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Multi-national maritime exercise from 8th to 18th October 2024, with participation from Australia, Japan, and the USA, hosted by India to strengthen maritime cooperation.
Naseem Al Bahr	Goa / India & Oman	Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise from 13th to 18th October 2024. The exercise focused on enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman.
'Swavlamban Shakti'	Jhansi	The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command is currently conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi
'Sagar Kavach'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Conducted by: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on October 16-17, 2024, in Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Goa, Maharashtra. Objective: Enhance maritime security, improve coordination, and test SOPs for threats like infiltration and smuggling. Participating Agencies: Indian Navy, BSF, NSG, IB, State Police, Marine Police, and port authorities. Assets Used: Ships, boats, drones, and aircraft for surveillance. Exercise Focus: Infiltration, smuggling, piracy, natural disasters, and terrorist threats. Coordination Goal: Validate SOPs and improve inter-agency communication. Strategic Importance: Strengthen coastal patrolling and interdict potential threats. Indian Coast Guard Overview: Established in 1977, protects maritime interests with a fleet of over 150 ships, 60+ aircraft, headquartered in New Delhi.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
VSHORADS	Pokhran Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan	Successfully tested by DRDO; a Man Portable Air Defence System designed with a 6 km strike range, fully digital, and heat-seeking, developed by Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad.

DEAL & MoU's

1. Tata Motors & Morocco's Defence Collaboration

- Contract Signed: Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) has signed a contract with the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco to produce 150 Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) combat vehicles.
- Indigenous Innovation: The WhAP vehicles are jointly developed by Tata Motors and DRDO, showcasing Indian advancements in defense technology.
- Timeline: All 150 units will be delivered over the next three years, enhancing Morocco's defense capabilities.

2. ABHED – Lightweight Bullet Proof Jackets Developed by DRDO and IIT Delhi

- New Development: DRDO, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has launched 'ABHED' (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat), a lightweight bulletproof jacket for defense personnel.
- Research Hub: This innovation emerged from the DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Delhi, highlighting India's push for defense research partnerships with academic institutions.

3. "Vayu Veer Vijaeta" Car Rally for 92nd Indian Air Force Anniversary

- Send-Off by Defence Minister: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the "Vayu Veer Vijaeta" car rally from the National War Memorial in New Delhi on October 8, 2024.
- Rally Route: The rally, covering a distance of 7,000 km, starts from Thoise in Ladakh—one of the world's highest altitude air force stations at 3,068 meters above sea level—and conclude at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, on October 29, 2024.
- Significance: This rally commemorates the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force, celebrating its legacy, valor, and contributions to national security.

4. CCS Gave Approval to Establish New Missile Testing Range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** had given its approval to establish a new missile testing range in **Nagayalanka** village, Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh (**AP**).

- Apart from setting up new missile testing range, CCS had also approved the proposal of purchasing **31 Predator** long-endurance armed drones from the United States of America (**USA**) and **two** nuclear submarines to be built by ATV Project India Limited for developing strategic submarines for the Indian Navy (IN).
- **India** signed an agreement worth **USD 4 billion** with the United States of America (**USA**) to acquire 31 MQ-9B Predator high-altitude, long-endurance drones from the USA based **General Atomics**, under the foreign military sales programme.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

4. Lokesh Machines Delivers India's First Indigenous SMGs to Indian Army

- Details: Lokesh Machines Limited, based in Hyderabad, delivered 550 units of its 9x19mm "Asmi" Sub-Machine Gun (SMG) to the Indian Army's Northern Command.
- Significance: This marks India's first private-sector-developed SMG.
- Contract Value: USD 550,000.

5. Indian Navy Launches Fourth Nuclear-Powered Submarine 'S4'*

- Details: The Indian Navy launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, "S4*", at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Missile Capability: Equipped with K-4 ballistic missiles with a 3,500 km range.
- Context: Follows the commissioning of INS Arighaat (second SSBN) and upcoming INS Aridhaman in 2025.

6. Indian Coast Guard Launches Fast Patrol Vessels 'Adamyā' & 'Akshar'

- Details: Built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), these Fast Patrol Vessels were launched on October 28, 2024.
- Specifications: 52 meters long, 8 meters wide, maximum speed of 27 knots, 320 tons displacement.

7. Zen Technologies Unveils Remote Weapon Systems

- Details: Hyderabad-based Zen Technologies Limited introduced advanced remote-controlled weapon systems in collaboration with AI Turing Technologies.
- Systems Introduced: Includes RCWS - 7.62 x 51 MMG (Parashu), Tank Mounted RCWS - 12.7 x 108 HMG (Fanish), Naval RCWS – 12.7 x 99 HMG (Sharur), and Artillery Rugged Camera (Durgam).

8. Indian Army Establishes High-Altitude Firing Range in Tawang

- Location: Tawang sector, Arunachal Pradesh under the Indian Army's Eastern Command.
- Purpose: Enables high-altitude artillery training with howitzers and other weapon systems.

9. Indian Navy's Circumnavigation Voyage by Two Women Officers

- Participants: Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K. and Roopa A.
- Expedition: Second edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama on INSV Tarini, launched from INS Mandovi, Goa, on October 2, 2024.

10. HAL Delivers AL-31FP Aero Engine to IAF

- Details: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited delivered the first AL-31FP aero engine for Su-30MKI aircraft under a contract of 240 engines.
- Location: Koraput, Odisha, in presence of Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar.

11. GRSE Delivers INS Nirdeshak, Second Survey Vessel for Indian Navy

- Details: GRSE, Kolkata, delivered INS Nirdeshak (Yard 3026) as the second of four Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ships for the Indian Navy.
- Specifications: Built according to Indian Register of Shipping standards.

12. USA Approves 53 MK-54 Torpedoes for Indian Navy

- Details: US Defense Security Cooperation Agency approved the sale of 53 MK-54 lightweight torpedoes, worth USD 175 million.
- Intended Use: For India's MH-60R Seahawk helicopters to enhance naval capabilities.

13. Indian Army Unveils First Upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' Tank

- Details: The Indian Army introduced its first upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' tank, produced under a license agreement with Russia at the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi, Tamil Nadu.
- Significance: Boosts the operational strength of India's armored units.

14. Indian Navy Launches Missile-Cum-Ammunition Barge LSAM 12

- Details: The sixth Missile Cum Ammunition Barge LSAM 12, built by SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam.
- Purpose: Enhances the logistics and firepower capabilities of the Navy.

15. INS Samarthak: First Multi-Purpose Vessel by L&T

- Details: Larsen & Toubro launched the first Multi-Purpose Vessel, INS Samarthak, from its Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- Specifications: 106 meters long, 16.8 meters wide, top speed of 15 knots, designed for towing operations.

16. Indian Army Launches Multi-Target Detonation Device "Agniakra"

- Location: Unveiled at the Army Commanders Conference in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- Developed by: Major Rajprasad RS of the Corps of Engineers.
- Purpose: To enhance safety and reliability in executing multiple-target detonations.

17. Army Sports Conclave Hosted by Indian Army

- **Purpose:** Highlight the Indian Army's role in India's sporting ecosystem and support efforts to host the 2036 Olympics.
- **Partners:** Indian Olympic Association, Sports Authority of India, National Sports Federations.
- **Contribution to Sports:** Long-standing tradition of supporting athletes in international competitions like Asian Games and Olympics.
- **Investment in Athletes:** Focused on developing athletes for national pride, fitness, and global prestige.

18. Training Deployment: Indian Navy Ships Land in Muscat Category

- Indian Naval Ships Tir and Shardul, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera, arrive in Muscat, Oman, for training deployment.
- Objective: Strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance regional ties.
- Activities: Joint exercises with Royal Navy of Oman, harbor interactions, training exchanges, and sports fixtures.
- Significance: Reinforces India-Oman defense ties, enhances maritime security, and focuses on operational training for naval cadets.

19. Saluting Valor A Month-Long Tribute to 1962 Walong Heroes

- **Why in the News?** Indian Army holding month-long events from October 17 to November 14, 2024, to honor 1962 Walong heroes.
- **Purpose:** Tribute to soldiers' bravery in the 1962 Battle of Walong.
- **Battle of Walong Facts:** Fought from October 20 - November 14, 1962, at Walong, Arunachal Pradesh, near the McMahon Line.
- **Forces Involved:** Indian Forces (Assam Rifles & Indian Army) vs. China's PLA.
- **Legacy:** Symbol of Indian military bravery; Walong War Memorial honors fallen soldiers.

20. India Strengthens Navy with Fourth Nuclear Submarine

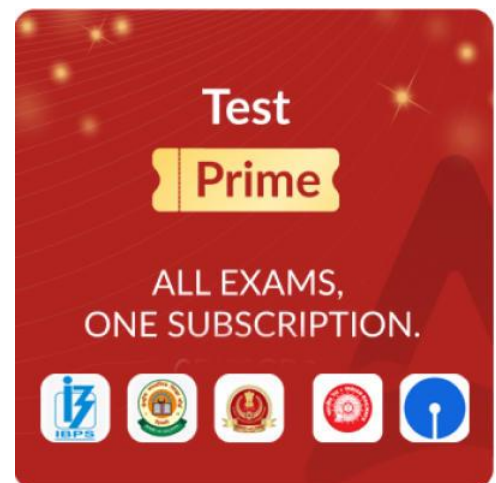
- India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), S4*, was launched at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.
- Launched after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Very Low Frequency Naval Station.
- **Indigenous Components:** Approximately 75% of components are indigenously produced.
- **Equipped with:** K-4 nuclear ballistic missiles (range: 3,500 km).
- **INS Arihant (S2):** Armed with K-15 missiles (range: 750 km).
- **INS Arighaat and S4*:** Upgraded with K-4 missiles.
- **Unlimited range and endurance,** with constraints related to food, crew fatigue, and maintenance.
- **Submarine Patrols:** INS Arihant and INS Arighaat are on deep-sea patrols.
- **Other SSBNs:** INS Chakra (S1), INS Arihant (S2), INS Arighaat (S3), and *INS Aridhaman (S4)**.

GRSE's Seventh ASW Ship, 'Abhay', Joins Indian Navy Fleet

- Indian Navy's seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), 'Abhay', launched on October 25, 2024, at M/s L&T's Kattupalli facility.
- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- Replaces Abhay class ASW Corvettes.
- Designed for anti-submarine operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and mine-laying operations.
- Dimensions: Length of 77 meters, maximum speed of 25 knots, and endurance of 1,800 nautical miles.
- Capable of monitoring both surface and underwater targets for coordinated anti-submarine operations.
- Equipped with lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mines.
- Weaponry includes 30 mm Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) and 12.7 mm Stabilized Remote-Control Guns.
- Sonar systems: Hull Mounted Sonar and Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar.

DefConnect 4.0: A Step Towards Indigenous Defence Innovation

- DefConnect 4.0 was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 7, 2024, to promote indigenous defence innovation.
- Organised by iDEX-DIO under the Ministry of Defence at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi.
- Features include technology showcases, collaborations, and interactive sessions with industry leaders.
- Focused on budget announcements and semiconductor initiatives in defence innovation.
- iDEX has supported 450+ start-ups and received 9,000+ applications since 2018.
- Aligns with India's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, fostering self-reliance in defence technologies.
- iDEX launched in 2018 by PM Narendra Modi.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

China successfully launched six new satellites, known as “**Jilin-1 Kuanfu 02B (01-06)**,” from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province, northern China. The satellites, which are part of the Jilin-1 Kuanfu (wideband) series, were launched aboard a Long March-2D carrier rocket. This mission adds to China’s growing satellite capabilities and expands the Jilin-1 series, which is used for Earth observation and other space-based applications.

China has successfully launched a new crew aboard the **Shenzhou-19 crewed** spaceship, propelled by the Long **March-2F rocket**, from the **Jiuquan Satellite** Launch Centre in northwest China. The spacecraft reached orbit just 10 minutes after launch, marking a significant step in expanding operations aboard China's space station.

NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 launched on **Sept. 28, 2024**, from Cape Canaveral to the International Space Station (ISS) for a 5-month mission focused on scientific research, including over 200 experiments on blood clotting, plant growth, and vision changes in space. The crew consists of Nick Hague (USA) as **Mission Specialist** and **Aleksandr Gorbunov (Russia)** as Flight Engineer. Crew-9 temporarily increased the ISS crew to 11 members, with their return scheduled for February 2025. The ISS, orbiting at 400 km altitude and traveling at 28,000 km/h, is a platform for international collaboration and advanced research in space, supported by NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA, and CSA. The station, launched in 1998, remains active and is expected to operate until the 2030s.

NATIONAL1. **Chandrayaan-3 Vikram Lander Lands in Buried Impact Crater**

- **Details:** Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) revealed that India’s Chandrayaan-3, with the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover, has landed within a buried lunar impact crater.
- **Crater Specifications:** The crater has a diameter of 160 km and a depth of 4.4 km. It is speculated to be one of the oldest on the Moon, even older than the South Pole Aitken (SPA) basin, which is the largest known impact basin in the Solar System.

2. **Earth Gains a Temporary 'Mini-moon': Asteroid 2024 PT5**

- **Dates:** 29th September 2024 – 25th November 2024
- **Details:** Earth has acquired a temporary “mini-moon” named Asteroid 2024 PT5. The asteroid will orbit Earth in a horseshoe-shaped path for approximately 55 days before escaping Earth’s gravitational pull without completing a full revolution.

3. **ISRO Prepares for 'Space Handshake' Mission (SPADEX)**

- **Mission:** Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX)
- **Details:** ISRO has received two 400 kg satellites from Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ATL) for the SPADEX mission. These satellites will be launched into slightly different orbits by a single rocket as part of ISRO's preparations for space docking experiments.
- **Location:** Satellites were delivered to ISRO's Udupi Ramachandra Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru.

4. **IIA Astronomers Map the Sun's Chromosphere Rotation**

- **Details:** Using a century of data from the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in Tamil Nadu, astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have observed differential rotation in the Sun’s chromosphere.
- **Findings:** The chromosphere rotates at varying speeds, taking about 25 days at the equator and 35 days at the poles.

5. **PSLV-37 Upper Stage Re-Entry**

- **Date:** 6th October 2024
- **Details:** The upper stage of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-37 re-entered Earth’s atmosphere after 8 years in orbit, marking progress toward ISRO’s Debris-Free Space Mission (DFSM) goal by 2030.
- **Location of Re-entry:** North Atlantic Ocean. The upper stage's altitude had decayed to around 134x148 km before re-entry.

6. **National Space Commission Approves India's 5th Lunar Mission 'Lupex'**

- **Mission:** Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)
- **Partners:** Collaboration between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- **Mission Goals:** The Lupex mission aims for an extended lunar surface stay of up to 100 days, much longer than Chandrayaan-3’s 20-day duration.
- **Specifications:** JAXA will develop the rover and rocket, while ISRO will build the lander system. The Lupex rover will weigh around 350 kg, significantly heavier than the Chandrayaan-3 Pragyan rover (26 kg).

7. Google AI Collaborations in India for Health, Sustainability, and Agriculture

- **Details:** Google announced several AI-led partnerships to boost India's healthcare, sustainability, and agriculture sectors. The initiative was revealed at a roundtable event in Bengaluru, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of Google's Research Lab in the city.
- **Collaborators:** Google is working with Forus Health (Bengaluru, Karnataka), AuroLab (Madurai, Tamil Nadu), Perceptra (Thailand), and Saahas Zero Waste (Bengaluru).

8. IIT Madras Set to Launch International Research Centre in Dubai by 2025

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has announced plans to launch its inaugural international flagship centre in Dubai
- The initiative is a result of an agreement between IIT Madras and the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET).
- Bridge connection between Dubai and India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Drive research, innovation, intellectual property (IP) licensing, and technology transfer in key areas.

9. Cultural Tribute Konark Wheel Replicas Unveiled at Amrit Udyan

- Four sandstone replicas of the Konark wheel installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan.
- Showcases India's cultural heritage and artistic achievements to visitors.
- The Konark wheel is a key aspect of India's artistic and historical legacy.
- Part of efforts to integrate cultural elements at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Original Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Temple designed as a colossal chariot for the Sun god Surya.
- 24 wheels at the base, symbolizing time, months, and days of the week.
- Seven horses represent the seven days of the week.
- Carvings depict foliage, birds, animals, and medallions with women.
- Spokes act as sundials, helping estimate time.
- Chandrabhaga Mela is a major pilgrimage event at the site.
- Constructed around 1250 CE during the reign of King Narasimhadeva I.
- Recognized as a symbol of India's cultural and artistic heritage.

Google for India 2024: AI-Driven Solutions for a Digital Future

- Google for India 2024 focuses on AI-driven solutions for India's digital future, including healthcare, payments, and sustainability. Gemini Live expanded to Hindi, with plans for 8 other languages.

WHO Recognition of India's Vaccine Regulatory System

- **WHO Recognition:** India's vaccine regulatory system recognized as "functional" by WHO after an evaluation in September 2024.
- **WHO Evaluation Overview:** Evaluation covered registration, licensing, market surveillance, inspections, and clinical trials; India's National Regulatory Authority (NRA), led by CDSCO, meets global standards.
- **Continuous Improvement and Global Role:** WHO proposed an Institutional Development Plan for further enhancement; India's leadership in global vaccine supply reaffirmed.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran Unveils Powerful Suicide Drone 'Shahed-136B'

- **Date:** September 2024
- **Details:** Iran showcased the "Shahed 136B", a one-way attack drone, also referred to as a 'kamikaze' or 'suicide' drone, for the first time at a military parade. The event marked the anniversary of the 1980-88 war with Iraq. Iran also revealed a new missile, "Jihad", a single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile.

Small Rocky Planet 'Barnard b' Detected by ESO's VLT

- **Details:** Astronomers discovered an exoplanet, 'Barnard b', orbiting Barnard's star, the closest single star to our Sun. The discovery was made using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (ESO's VLT).
- **Specifications:** Barnard b has a diameter of about 6,000 miles (9,700 km), roughly three-quarters the size of Earth. The findings were published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

NASA's Spacecraft Europa Clipper Blasts off to Explore Jupiter's Moon Europa

- **Date:** 14th October 2024
- **Details:** NASA launched the Europa Clipper spacecraft under its Europa mission to explore Jupiter's moon, Europa, to determine if it can support life.

- **Mission Details:**
 - The spacecraft was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida.
 - Mission Cost: USD 5.2 billion.
 - The spacecraft will conduct nearly 50 flybys of Europa, with closest approaches as low as 16 miles (25 km) above the moon's surface.
 - This mission is part of NASA's Artemis program, aiming to return astronauts to the Moon and eventually to Mars.

SpaceX Launches Mega Starship Rocket on 5th Test Flight

- **Date:** 2024
- **Details:** SpaceX successfully launched the 5th test flight of its Starship rocket, a fully reusable super heavy-lift vehicle.
- **Launch Location:** Starbase near Boca Chica, Texas, USA.
- **Flight Details:** The empty Starship blasted off from Texas, reaching a height of around 400 feet (121 meters) and arched over the Gulf of Mexico, similar to previous Starship flights.

James Webb Telescope Discovers Carbon Dioxide and Hydrogen Peroxide on Pluto's Moon Charon

- **Details:** NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) detected carbon dioxide (CO₂) and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) on the surface of Charon, Pluto's largest moon.
- **Method:** The discovery was made using Webb's Near-Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec).

SPORTS

CRICKET

Dwayne Bravo Retires from All Forms of Cricket; Joins KKR as Mentor

- Dwayne Bravo, the 40-year-old West Indies cricketer, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, concluding a remarkable 21-year career.
- Bravo retired from international cricket in 2021 and made his final appearance during the 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL), which was cut short by injury.
- Bravo was a key member of the West Indies team that won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2004 and the ICC T20 World Cup in 2012 and 2016.
- In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Bravo won four IPL titles with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in 2011, 2018, and 2021 as a player, and in 2023 as a coach.
- Bravo has now joined Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a mentor.

Bangladesh Tour of India Test Series 2024: India Won the 2-Match Series

- The Bangladesh cricket team, captained by Najmul Hossain Shanto, toured India in September and October 2024 for a series comprising 2 Test matches and 3 T20I matches.
- India won the 2-match Test series 2-0 under the leadership of Rohit Sharma.
- This victory marked India's 180th Test win, placing them 4th in the list of most Test wins, with Australia (414), England (397), and West Indies (183) ahead.
- R Ashwin became the Indian bowler with the most Test wickets in Asia, surpassing Anil Kumble's 419 wickets in Asia.
- Virat Kohli became the fastest to hit 27,000 international runs, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar.

2024-25 Irani Cup: Mumbai Cricket Team Won the Title for 15th Time

- Mumbai Cricket team, captained by Ajinkya Rahane, won the 2024-25 Irani Cup, defeating Rest of India, captained by Rituraj Gaikwad, based on the first-innings lead.
- This victory marks Mumbai's 15th Irani Cup title and their first since 1997.
- The match was held from 1st to 5th October 2024 at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- Mumbai received a cash prize of Rs 50 Lakhs from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and an additional Rs 1 crore from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024: New Zealand Won its Maiden Title by Defeating South Africa

- New Zealand's Women's Cricket team won their first-ever ICC Women's T20 World Cup title by defeating South Africa by 32 runs in the final.
- The match was held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Prizes:**
 - New Zealand received a cash prize of USD 2.34 million (Rs 19.6 crore) as the champions.
 - South Africa, as the runners-up, received USD 1.17 million (Rs 9.8 crore).
- **Awards:**
 - Player of the Tournament: Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
 - Player of the Match (Finals): Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)

New AI Initiative Launched for a Safer Cricket Community Ahead of Women's T20 World Cup 2024

- **Why in the news?:** ICC launched new software for social media moderation ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to protect the cricket community from toxic content.
- **Player Protection:** Players can opt for moderation to shield personal accounts from harmful content, promoting mental well-being.
- **Aim:** To create a safer, kinder, and healthier online environment, protecting the cricket community from toxic content.
- **Key Features of the ICC Digital Rollout:**
 - Live Commentary
 - Live Streaming
 - Fan Engagement
- **GoBubble Partnership:** ICC partnered with GoBubble to moderate social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and players' accounts.

Praveen Jayawickrama Receives 1 Year Ban for ICC Anti-Corruption Breach

- **Why in the news?:** Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been banned for one year from all forms of cricket.
- **Ban:** 1-year ban, with the last 6 months suspended.
- **Charges:**
 1. Failure to report match-fixing approach.
 2. Failure to report attempts to involve another player in fixing.
 3. Obstructing the investigation by deleting messages related to the corrupt approach.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

ITTF-Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024: India Wins 3 Bronze

- India won 3 bronze medals at the 2024 ITTF-Asian Table Tennis Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 7th to 13th October.
- **Indian Medalists:**
 - **Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee** - Women's Doubles: Bronze
 - **Manika Batra, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Sutirtha Mukherjee** - Women's Team: Bronze
 - **Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai** - Men's Team: Bronze
- India finished 7th in the medal tally.

Rafael Nadal Announces Retirement After 2024 Season

- Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal, 38, announced his retirement from professional tennis at the end of 2024.
- His final tournament will be the Davis Cup 2024 in November in Malaga, Spain.

Career Highlights:

- Nadal has won 92 singles titles, including 22 Grand Slam singles titles.
- He is the only player to achieve a Career Golden Slam (winning all four Grand Slam titles and Olympic gold in both singles and doubles).
- In 2010, he won major titles on three different surfaces in the same year.

Carlos Alcaraz Shocks World No. 1 Sinner in Final Category

- **Why in the news?:** Carlos Alcaraz from Spain defeated World No. 1 Jannik Sinner from Italy in the final of the 2024 China Open to win the title.
- **Runner-up:** Jannik Sinner (Italy)
- **Final Score:** 6-7, 6-4, 7-6
- **Winner:** Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
- **China Open:** Held at the China National Tennis Center, Beijing, ATP 500 event.
- **Tournament Title:** China Open 2024, Alcaraz's fourth title of 2024.

ARCHERY & SHOOTING**ISSF World Cup Final 2024 held in New Delhi: India Finished 9th with 4 Medals**

India finished 9th on the medal tally of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) **World Cup Final Rifle / Pistol / Shotgun 2024** with 4 medals (2 Silver and 2 Bronze).

- China topped the medal tally with 8 medals (5 Gold and 3 Bronze) followed by Italy with 5 medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze) and Germany with 3 Medals (1 Gold and 2 Silver).
- India's **Sonam Maskar** secured the **silver** medal in the **women's 10m air rifle** event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2024.
- Vivaan Kapoor won the **silver** medal in Men's Trap (Shotgun) event in the ISSF World Cup Final with 44 points.
- Akhil Sheoran won the **bronze** medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Position Men final at the ISSF World Cup Final 2024.
- Anantjeet Singh Naruka won the **bronze** medal in the **men's skeet event** with a total of 43 points.

Liu Yukun, Yang Ji-in Shine as ISSF Athletes of the Year

- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athlete of the Year awards
- Liu Yukun (China): Olympic champion in 50-metre rifle 3-position at Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Yang Ji-in (Korea): Olympic champion in 25-metre sports pistol at Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Luciano Rossi: Presented the Athlete of the Year awards to Liu Yukun and Yang Ji-in.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL**Football: India won the SAFF U-17 Championship 2024 held in Bhutan**

- India's Under-17 men's football team (the Blue Colts), won the **2024** South Asian Football Federation (**SAFF**) **U-17 Championship** by defeating **Bangladesh (2-0)** in the final held at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- The 2024 SAFF U-17 Championship is the 9th edition of the international football competition for men's U-17 national teams. The competition was held from 20th to 30th September 2024.
- **Mohammed Arbash** (India) was named Player of the Tournament, **Aheibam Suraj Singh** (India) won Goalkeeper of the Tournament, **Sujan Dangol (Nepal)** was the Top Scorer with 4 goals, and **Bhutan** received the Fair Play Trophy.

Rodri Clinches Men's Ballon d'Or 2024 and Bonmati Wins it for Spain

- **Men's Ballon d'Or:** **Rodri** (Spain / Manchester City) – Key role in **Premier League** win, **Euro 2024** Player of the Tournament.
- **Women's Ballon d'Or:** **Aitana Bonmatí** (Spain / Barcelona) – Helped **Barcelona** win **Spanish league & cup**, second consecutive Ballon d'Or for women.
- **Kopa Trophy:** **Lamine Yamal** (Spain / Barcelona).
- **Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper):** **Emiliano Martínez** (Argentina / Aston Villa).
- **Gerd Müller Trophy:** **Kylian Mbappé** (France / PSG/Real Madrid), **Harry Kane** (England / Bayern Munich).
- **Men's Coach of the Year:** **Carlo Ancelotti** (Italy / Real Madrid).
- **Women's Coach of the Year:** **Emma Hayes** (USA / Chelsea).
- **Men's Club of the Year:** **Real Madrid**.
- **Women's Club of the Year:** **FC Barcelona**.
- **Socrates Award:** **Jenni Hermoso** (Spain / Tigres UANL) – Recognized for **humanitarian work**.
- **Awarding Body:** **Ballon d'Or** by **France Football**, partnered with **UEFA** this year.
- **Most Winner:** **Lionel Messi** with **8 Ballon d'Or** wins.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS**Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveils Logo, Mascot for Women's Asian Champions Trophy- 2024**

Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar, unveiled the **Logo** and **mascot** named “**Gudiya**” of the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024** which is scheduled to be held from 11th to 20th November 2024 in Rajgir, Bihar.

- Gudiya, holding a hockey stick, symbolizes the sport, while the **goalkeeper's glove** and nearby **hockey ball** represent strategy and teamwork, emphasizing the government's commitment to women's empowerment. The logo features the **Bodhi tree** and a **hockey stick**.
- 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy is the 8th edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, a biennial field hockey tournament for the six best Asian women's national teams.

Indian Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar Announces Retirement

On 7th October 2024, **Dipa Karmakar**, India's first female gymnastics Olympian, announced her retirement from professional competition at the age of 31. She had a career of **25** years in this professional sport.

- Dipa Karmakar won a **bronze** medal at the **2014** Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the United Kingdom (UK), becoming the **first** Indian female gymnast to do so in the Commonwealth Games.
- Dipa represented India in the **2016 Summer Olympics** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil becoming the 1st Indian female gymnast ever to compete in the Olympics. She secured **4th** place in the vault.
- **Awards:** The government of India (GoI) has honoured her with **Padma Shri** (Sports) in **2017**; **Arjuna Award** (Gymnastics) in **2015** and **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in **2016**.

Formula 1: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won the 2024 United States Grand Prix

Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** (Monaco) won the title at the Formula 1 (**F1**) **United States (US) Grand Prix (GP) 2024** held on 20th October 2024 in the Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, The United States of America (USA). This marks Charles Leclerc's 3rd title of the 2024 season after Italy GP and Monaco GP.

Formula 1: Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Mexico City Grand Prix.

Ferrari's **Carlos Sainz** (Spain) won the **Mexico City Grand Prix (GP) 2024** (officially Formula 1 (**F1**) Gran Premio De La Ciudad De México 2024) on 27th October 2024 at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in **Mexico City, Mexico**. This marks Carlos Sainz's **4th career title** and **2nd title** of the **2024** season.

- **Lando Norris** of McLaren finished **2nd (18 points)** and Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** finished **3rd**.
- Mexico City GP 2024 is the **20th round** of the **2024 F1 World Championship**.

India is set to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

The Kho Kho Federation of India (**KKFI**), in association with the **International Kho Kho Federation**, announced that India is set to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025 and will feature 16 men's and women's teams from 24 countries and six continents.

India's Arjun Erigaisi won the WR Chess Masters Cup 2024

Indian Chess Grandmaster (**GM**) **Arjun Erigaisi** won the **Wadim Rosenstein (WR) Chess Masters Cup 2024** by defeating French GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in an Armageddon tiebreaker.

WR Chess Masters Cup 2024, organised by entrepreneur Wadim Rosenstein, was held from **14th to 18th October 2024**, at the Langham Hotel, **London, United Kingdom (UK)**.

Top 5 of the WR Chess Masters Cup 2024

Rank	Name	Rating
1	Arjun Erigaisi (India)	2797
2	Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan)	2783
3	Alireza Firouzja (France)	2767
4	Viswanathan Anand (India)	2751
5	Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (India)	2746

Gold Glory: Indian Men's Team Triumphs in Rapid Fire Pistol

- Why in the news?: The Indian trio won the team Gold medal at the 2024 ISSF Junior World Championship in the 25m Men's Rapid Fire Pistol event.
- Location: Lima, Peru
- Indian Trio: Raajwardan Patil, Mukesh Nelavalli, Harsimar Singh Rattha
- Gold Medal: India won with a score of 1722-42x, ahead of France and Poland
- Individual Performances:
 - Raajwardan Patil: 3rd in qualification with 579-17x (4th in final)
 - Mukesh Nelavalli: 4th in qualification with 579-15x (5th in final)
 - Harsimar Singh Rattha: 13th in qualification with 564-10x
- Qualification Results:
 - France: 2nd with 1701-44x
 - Poland: 3rd with 1701-36x
- Medal Tally (India): India topped the medal tally
- ISSF Junior World Championship: Introduced in 2017, features both Olympic and non-Olympic events
- ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation): Governing body for Olympic and non-Olympic shooting events, managing international competitions and Olympic qualifications.

Advani Triumphs at Singapore Open Billiards

- Pankaj Advani wins the prestigious Songhe Singapore Open title by defeating Jaden Ong.
- Final Frame Performance: Advani seals victory with a 74-6 score in the last frame.
- Tournament: The Songhe Singapore Open is a prominent annual event featuring top cueists in billiards and snooker.
- Significance: Demonstrates Advani's expertise and resilience in a high-level international competition.

The End of an Era: Andrés Iniesta Announces Retirement

- Why in the news?: Andrés Iniesta, the Spanish football maestro, announced his retirement from professional football.
- National Team Career: Key player for Spain's golden generation.
- 2010 FIFA World Cup: Scored the decisive extra-time goal in the final against the Netherlands, securing Spain's first and only World Cup title.
- UEFA European Championships: Part of Spain's victorious teams in the 2008 and 2012 UEFA European Championships.

Karnataka Triumphs at 24th National Para-Swimming Championship

- 24th National Para-Swimming Championship concluded with Karnataka emerging as the overall champion with 392 points.
- Second place: Maharashtra (378 points), Third place: Rajasthan (248 points).
- Organized by: Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and Goa Paralympic Association.
- Participants: 518 swimmers (360 men, 158 women), including 231 first-time competitors.
- Men's Senior Champion: Mohammed Aasim (Kerala).
- Men's Junior Champion: Ravi Karthik (Andhra Pradesh).
- Men's Sub-Junior Champion: Revansh (Haryana).
- Women's Senior Champion: Sharanya (Karnataka).
- Women's Junior Champion: Sae Pujair (Maharashtra).
- Women's Sub-Junior Champion: Abha Ganesh (Maharashtra).

Chirag Chikkara Leads India to Gold at U23 World Wrestling Championships

- Chirag Chikkara became the third Indian wrestler to win a gold at the Under-23 World Championship in men's freestyle 57kg, defeating Abdymalik Karachov (Kyrgyzstan) 4-3.
- Total medals for India: 1 Gold (Chirag Chikkara), 2 Silver, 6 Bronze.
- India placed 4th with 82 points; top three: Iran (158), Japan (102), Azerbaijan (100).
- Vicky: Bronze in men's 97kg freestyle.
- Sujeet Kalkal: Bronze in men's 70kg freestyle.
- Vishvajit More: Bronze in men's 55kg Greco-Roman.
- Anjli: Silver in 59kg.
- Neha Sharma: Bronze in 57kg.
- Shiksha: Bronze in 65kg.
- Monika: Bronze in 68kg.
- Ravi Kumar Dahiya: Silver in 2018 U23 World Championships.
- Abhishek Dhaka: Bronze in 2018.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Jalandhar Peeth Ka Rahsya and Mushtarka Khata	Ajay Parashar	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, released two books, "Jalandhar Peeth Ka Rahsya" and "Mushtarka Khata" by Ajay Parashar, Director, Information and Public Relations of North-East Council.
Mother Mary Comes to Me	Arundhati Roy	Arundhati Roy, renowned Indian author and 1997 Booker Prize winner, will publish her first memoir titled "Mother Mary Comes to Me" in September 2025.
LARA: The England Chronicles	Brian Charles Lara	Memoir of former Trinidadian cricketer Brian Charles Lara, published by Simon & Schuster LLC.
Witness	Sakshi Malik	Sakshi Malik, Indian freestyle wrestler and Olympic bronze medalist, co-authored a memoir titled "Witness" with journalist Jonathan Selvaraj. It offers an intimate look into her life, struggles, and triumphs. Published by Juggernaut Books.
Mountain Mammals of the World	Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh	Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, wildlife conservationist, launched his fourth book "Mountain Mammals of the World", published by Penguin Random House, at WWF India headquarters.
Bharatvakya	Pravin Vitthal Tarde	Biography of classical musician Dr. Bharat Balvalli, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The bilingual book is available in Marathi and English, published by Sakal Media News Publication.
Lara: The England Chronicles	Brian Lara and Co-Author Phil Walker	Memoir of Brian Lara with co-author Phil Walker.
War	Bob Woodward	Book by Bob Woodward on war.
Mountain Mammals of the World	M.K. Ranjitsinh	Another book by M.K. Ranjitsinh titled "Mountain Mammals of the World".
Thank You, Gandhi	Krishna Kumar	Book titled "Thank You, Gandhi" by Krishna Kumar.
Mother Mary Comes to Me	Arundhati Roy	Memoir by Arundhati Roy.

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Ratan Naval Tata	Businessman (National-International)	Bombay Presidency, British India (now Mumbai)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran Indian industrialist & philanthropist, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons. Passed away at age 86 in Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai. Born on 28th December 1937. Started with Tata Group in 1961 at Tata Steel. Became Chairman of Tata Sons in 1991 until 2012, with an interim role in 2016-17. Honoured with Padma Bhushan (2000) and Padma Vibhushan (2008). Received Oslo Business for Peace Award (2010) and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (2014). Honorary Citizen Award by Singapore (2020).
2	Pappammal alias Rangammal	Indian Farmer Organic	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Padma Shri Awardee and Indian organic farmer from Tamil Nadu. Passed away at age 109. Born in 1914, resided in Thekampatti near Mettupalayam, Coimbatore. Received Padma Shri (2021).

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
3	Keki N. Daruwalla	Former IPS Officer & English Poet	Lahore, British India (now in Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Padma Shri Awardee, former IPS officer and celebrated English poet. Passed away in September 2024 at age 87 in New Delhi. Born on 24th January 1937. Received Sahitya Akademi Award (1984) for "The Keeper of the Dead." Honoured with Padma Shri (2014) for Literature and Education.
4	Dr. Panangipalli Venugopal	Medical Professional (National-International)	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Padma Bhushan Awardee and renowned cardiac surgeon, former Director of AIIMS. Passed away at age 82 in New Delhi. Born on 6th July 1942 in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. Honoured with Padma Bhushan (1998) for Medicine. Authored memoir "Heartfelt - A Cardiac Surgeon's Pioneering Journey" (2023) with his wife, Priya Sarkar.
5	Dhaneswar Majhi	Former Rajya Sabha MP & Tribal Leader	Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed away at age 83 in Kalahandi, Odisha. Born on 5th July 1941. A five-time MLA, represented Kesinga and Narla constituencies in Kalahandi district, Odisha.
6	Mohanraj	Actor (National - Malayalam Film Industry)	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known for his role as "Keerikkadan Jose" in the movie "Kireedam."
7	Indranand Singh Jha	Radio Presenter	Darbhanga, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former radio presenter and compere at Akashvani Darbhanga.
8	Atul Parchure	Actor (Theater, Cinema, Television)	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renowned Marathi actor known for contributions to theater, cinema, and television.
9	Justice K.S. Puttaswamy	Former Judge	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pivotal petitioner in the landmark Right to Privacy case, passed away at age 98.
10.	Rohini Godbole	Renowned Physicist and Gender Equity Proponent	Bengaluru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Rohini Godbole, an esteemed physicist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on Friday in Bengaluru at the age of 72

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Dame Maggie Smith	Actor (National-International)	Ilford, Essex, UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British actor, known for roles in Harry Potter and Downton Abbey. Double Oscar winner: Best Actress for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" (1969) and Best Supporting Actress for "California Suite" (1978). Passed away at age 89.
2	Alex Salmond	Former Leader of Scottish National Party	West Lothian, Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former SNP leader and First Minister of Scotland (2007-2014). Passed away at age 69 in Ohrid, North Macedonia. Worked as an economist at Royal Bank of Scotland (1980-87). Born on 1st December 1954 in Linlithgow, Scotland.
3	Salvatore Schillaci	Italian Striker	Palermo, Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italian striker, famously known as 'Toto' Schillaci, top scorer of the 1990 FIFA World Cup. Passed away at age 59 in Palermo. Scored six goals in the 1990 World Cup and received the FIFA Golden Boot and Golden Ball awards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
October 1	United Nations International Day of Older Persons	Theme: "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide."
October 1	International Coffee Day	Theme: "Coffee, Your Daily Ritual, Our Shared Journey," focusing on sustainable and ethical coffee practices.
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	Advocates for a meat-free lifestyle, promoting animal rights, environmental sustainability, and human health.
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	Established to coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, promoting non-violence and peace.
October 4	World Animal Day	Commemorates St. Francis of Assisi's feast day, advocating for animal welfare.
October 4-10	World Space Week	Theme: "Space & Climate Change," celebrating contributions of science and technology.
October 5	World Teachers' Day	Acknowledges the invaluable contributions of educators in shaping society.
October 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Raises awareness and advocates for the rights of individuals with cerebral palsy.
October 7	World Cotton Day	Celebrates cotton as a versatile crop in various industries beyond textiles.
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	Commemorates the dedication and sacrifices of air warriors in India.
October 9	World Post Day	Theme: "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations."
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Theme: Mental Health at Work
October 10	National Postal Day	Marks the establishment of the Indian Postal Service and its crucial role in communication.
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	Theme: "Girls' Vision for the Future," recognizing the rights and potential of girls globally.
October 12	World Migratory Bird Day	Focuses on the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats; Theme: "Insects for Birds."
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Theme: "Education as a Lifeline for Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction."
October 14	World Standards Day	Theme: Our Shared Vision For a Better World
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Theme: "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future."
October 15	World Students' Day	Honors the life and contributions of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
October 16	World Food Day	Theme: "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future."
October 16	World Anaesthesia Day	Theme: "Workforce Well Being," celebrating the role of anaesthesia in medicine.
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme: "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment: Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies."
October 17	International Abhidhamma Divas	Celebrates the philosophical tradition of Abhidhamma.
October 16	Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG)	Commemorates the bravery and dedication of NSG personnel; established in 1984.
October 20	World Statistics Day	Celebrates the significance of statistics in shaping societies; first observed in 2010.
21st October	World Iodine Deficiency Day	The primary goal of this observance is to raise awareness about the importance of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the adverse consequences of iodine deficiency, which remains a global public health issue.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
24 Oct, 2024 – Wed, 30 Oct, 2024	Disarmament Week	. The week-long observance is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of disarmament and promoting international dialogue to reduce the spread and impact of weapons.
24 th to 31 st October	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	The New Digital Frontiers of Information: “Media and Information Literacy for Public Interest Information”
October 24	United Nations Day	This day is a global celebration of the UN’s mission to promote peace, security, human rights, and development around the world. In 2024, The United Nations was officially established on October 24, 1945, after the UN Charter was ratified by a majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and France.
October 24	World Development Information Day	This observance was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, with the primary goal of drawing global attention to development issues and promoting the dissemination of information that supports international cooperation for development.
October 24	World Polio Day	The day underscores global efforts to eradicate the disease and ensure a polio-free world for future generations.
October 24	International Day of Diplomats	The International Day of Diplomats, celebrated annually on October 24, shines a spotlight on the critical role that diplomats play in shaping international relations, promoting peace, and fostering cooperation among nations.
October 25	International Dwarfism Awareness Day	Highlights the lives and challenges faced by people with dwarfism, while also raising awareness about conditions like Achondroplasia. This day encourages understanding and inclusion of people with short stature, breaking stereotypes and misconceptions.
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Established by UNESCO in 2005, this day highlights the importance of preserving audiovisual materials like films, sound recordings, and broadcasts, which face unique risks such as chemical decay and technological obsolescence.
October 27	Infantry Day	This day marks the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield in 1947, a pivotal moment in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir against invading forces.
October 28	International Animation Day	International Animation Day (IAD) was created by ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d’Animation) in 2002 to honor the origins and influence of animation.
October 29	Ayurveda Day	9th Ayurveda Day on October 29, 2024, this observance aligns with Dhanvantari Jayanti and brings together over 150 countries under the theme, “Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health.”
October 29	International Day of Care and Support	Theme: "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide."
28 th October 2024 to 3 rd November 2024	Vigilance Awareness Week	Theme : “Culture of Integrity for Nation’s Prosperity”
October 31st	National Unity Day	India celebrates National Unity Day to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the nation’s independence movement and its first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Known as the “Iron Man of India,” Patel was instrumental in uniting the country’s diverse princely states into a single, independent nation.
October 31	World Cities Day 2024	“Youth leading climate and local action for cities” - Focuses on youth's role in driving climate action and shaping sustainable urban futures.

ENVIRONMENT

Discovery	Details
New Catfish Species	Name: Exostoma sentiyonoae Location: Dzuleke River, Nagaland, India Publication: Zootaxa Journal
New Snake Species	Name: Anguiculus dicaprio Location: Western Himalayas Research Team: India, Germany, UK Named After: Leonardo DiCaprio for conservation efforts
New Spider Species	Name: Tenkana Spider Location: Not specified
2 New Orchid Species	Name: Crepidium assamicum Location: Dibru Saikhowa National Park, Assam, India
	Name: Coelogyne tripurensis Location: Jampui Hills, North District of Tripura, India

Miscellaneous

- **The Military Nursing Service (MNS)** marked its **99th Raising Day** on Oct 1, 2024 with solemnity and pride. Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora, Additional Director General of Military Nursing Services laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, in the presence of senior MNS officers and veterans.
- As Hurricane Milton threatens the Florida coast, residents of the **Tampa Bay region** are evacuating in droves, fearing a potentially catastrophic storm. Hurricane Milton regained strength on Tuesday afternoon, becoming a Category 5 storm with winds reaching 165 mph (265 kph). Predictions indicate the storm could make landfall in the densely populated Tampa Bay area, which has over 3.3 million residents. The National Hurricane Center has warned of heavy rainfall and storm surges, with some areas expected to receive up to 18 inches of rain.
- An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer, **Nima Rinji Sherpa**, made history on Wednesday by becoming the youngest person to summit all **14 of the world's 8,000-meter** (26,246-foot) peaks. His remarkable achievement was sealed after successfully reaching the summit of Tibet's 26,335-foot Shisha Pangma.
- In a tribute to the legacy of **Ratan Naval Tata**, the **Bihar Postal Circle** has released a special cover commemorating his contributions to industry, philanthropy, and national development. This gesture serves not only as a tribute but also as a reminder of his enduring values and leadership.
- On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. MACE is the **largest imaging Cherenkov telescope** in Asia and the **highest in the world** at about **4,300 meters** altitude. Developed by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** with support from **Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)** and other partners, this facility marks a significant milestone in India's **astrophysical research**. Its inauguration aligns with the **Platinum Jubilee** of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, highlighting a strong commitment to scientific advancement.
- **The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. Founded on this very day in 1925, also known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad.
- Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to Conquer Mt. Shishapangma. **Arjun Vajpai, the youngest person** to climb Mt. Everest, has once again made India proud by accomplishing another historic feat. On October 9, 2024, Arjun Vajpai stood atop Mt. **Shishapangma**, completing his 8th successful summit of a peak over 8,000 meters.
- On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, former **cricketer Ajay Jadeja has been officially declared the heir to the throne of Jamnagar by his uncle**, the Maharaja Shatrushalyasinh Jadeja. At the age of 53, Ajay Jadeja is set to take on the title of the new Jamsaheb, the titular head of the historic princely state of Jamnagar, marking a significant moment in both his life and the legacy of the Jadeja family.

- **State-owned Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** has been awarded a contract worth **₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** to design, manufacture, and commission **India's first indigenously built bullet trains**. This project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey, as it will feature two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars, with a **test speed of 280 km/h** and an **operational speed of 250 km/h**.
- The World Health Organization **secured \$1 billion in pledges** during a fundraising event in Berlin, marking a significant initiative to reform its funding model and enhance its ability to address global health emergencies.
- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its **fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy**, making it the first coal company to do so. This **216th AMRIT pharmacy**, located at SECL's Health Centre in Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, will provide generic and life-saving medicines at highly subsidized rates, benefiting SECL employees, the general public, and underserved tribal and rural communities.
- Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu to honor the sacrifice of **Capt. Amit Bhardwaj during the Kargil War**. The event, attended by prominent military and civil officials, including **CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun** and **Major General K. Mahesh, SM**, celebrated Bhardwaj's bravery and dedication to his nation.
- On the evening of **October 17, 2024**, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** made a significant announcement: **Yahya Sinwar**, the head of Hamas in Gaza, was killed during a targeted ground operation in **Rafah**, located in southern Gaza. Sinwar, one of the most feared and influential leaders of Hamas, was among three high-ranking Hamas militants killed during this mission.
- The **20th edition of Jazzmandu**, also known as the Kathmandu Jazz Festival, is set to light up Kathmandu with an electrifying week of jazz, world music, and cultural fusion from **October 24 to October 30, 2024**. Celebrating two decades of rich musical exchange, this year's festival is marked by a star-studded lineup featuring international jazz icons and Nepalese musical talent. Jazzmandu has firmly established itself as one of the premier jazz festivals in South Asia.
- In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after **Belgium's Princess Elisabeth**, this groundbreaking **energy island** represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative.
- **Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taiwan** on 31st October 2024. Considered the largest typhoon to directly impact Taiwan in nearly 30 years. Made landfall on Taiwan's eastern coast around 13:40 local time (04:40 GMT).
- **Shyamji Krishna Varma's** birth anniversary is being commemorated for his contributions to India's independence movement. Born on 4 October 1857 in Kutch, Gujarat; died on 30 March 1930.

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Organization/Name	Designation	Established	Headquarters
1	NASA	Head: Senator Bill Nelson	29 July 1958	Washington, D.C., United States
2	SpaceX	Founder & CEO: Elon Musk	14 March 2002	Hawthorne, California, United States
3	Bharat Electronics Limited	Chairman & MD: Manoj Jain	1954	Bengaluru, India
4	Kho Kho Federation of India	President: Sudhanshu Mittal	1954	New Delhi, India
5	BCCI	President: Roger Binny	December 1928	Mumbai, India
6	Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL)	Chairman & MD: Ajit Kumar Saxena	22 June 1962	Nagpur, India
7	Power Finance Corporation	Chairman & MD: Parminder Chopra	July 1986	New Delhi, India
8	Mauritius	Prime Minister: Pravind Jugnauth	-	Port Louis (Capital)
9	Switzerland	President: Viola Amherd	-	Bern (Capital)
10	Italy	President: Sergio Mattarella	-	Rome (Capital)
11	Finland	President: Alexander Stubb	-	Helsinki (Capital)
12	NATO	Secretary General: Mark Rutte	4 April 1949	Brussels, Belgium
13	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Director-General: Dr. Qu Dongyu	16 October 1945	Rome, Italy
14	Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir	Manoj Sinha	-	-

Sr. No	Organization/Name	Designation	Established	Headquarters
15	Inter-Parliamentary Union	President Tulia Ackson	30 June 1889	Geneva, Switzerland
16	Colombia	President: Gustavo Petro	-	Bogotá (Capital)
17	United Nations Statistical Commission	Chair: Gabriella Vukovich	1947	New York, United States
18	ICC	CEO: Geoff Allardice	15 June 1909	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
19	World Wide Fund	Director General: Kirsten Schuijt	29 April 1961	Gland, Switzerland
20	Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture	Chairman: Dr. MJ Khan	2015	New Delhi, India
21	International Astronautical Federation	President: Clayton Mowry	1951	-
22	Digital India Corporation	Managing Director & CEO: Akash Tripathi	2013	-
23	AI Assets Holding Limited	Chairman & MD: Amit Kumar	2018	New Delhi, India
24	Indian Meteorological Department	Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra	1875	New Delhi, India
25	UNESCO	Director-General: Audrey Azoulay	16 November 1945	Paris, France
26	United Nations	Secretary-General: António Guterres	1945	New York, USA
27	BRICS	-	2009	Shanghai, China
28	Steel Authority of India (SAIL)	Chairman Amarendu Prakash	24 January 1973	New Delhi, India
29	Indian Chamber of Commerce	President: Abhyuday Jindal	1925	Kolkata, India
30	NVIDIA	CEO: Jensen Huang	5 April 1993	Santa Clara, California
31	International Copper Association	President and CEO Juan Ignacio Díaz	1895	Brussels, Belgium
32	SBI	Chairman: Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	1 July 1955	Mumbai, India
33	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Chairperson Debasish Panda	1999	Hyderabad, Telangana
34	International Monetary Fund	MD: Kristalina Georgieva	1944	Washington, USA
35	Election Commission of India	CEC: Rajiv Kumar	25 January 1950	New Delhi, India
36	World Health Organization	Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	7 April 1948	Geneva, Switzerland
37	Asian Development Bank	President: Masatsugu Asakawa	1966	Manila, Philippines
38	Indo Tibetan Police Force	Director-General: Rahul Rasgotra	1962	New Delhi, India
39	International Monetary Fund	MD: Kristalina Georgieva	1944	Washington D.C., USA
40	Airports Authority of India	Chairman: Vipin Kumar	1 April 1995	New Delhi, India
41	EXIM Bank	Chairman: Ms. Harsha Bangari	1 January 1982	Mumbai, India
42	Employees' State Insurance Corporation	Chairman: Union Minister of Labour	24 February 1952	New Delhi, India
43	Reserve Bank of India	RBI Governor: Shashikant Das	1 April 1935	Mumbai, India
44	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Chairman: Maeda Tadashi	1 October 1999	Tokyo, Japan
45	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Chairman: Mr. Banavar Prabhakar	February 1, 2017	Bengaluru, Karnataka
46	All India Institute of Ayurveda	Director Prof. Tanuja Nesari	October 2010	New Delhi, India
47	Central Vigilance Commission	Chairman: Praveen Kumar Srivastava	February 1964	New Delhi, India

Sr. No	Organization/Name	Designation	Established	Headquarters
48	GAIL	CMD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta	1984	New Delhi, India
49	US International Development Finance Corporation	Chairman: Scott Nathan	20 December 2019	Washington D.C., USA
50	Bharti Airtel	Chairman: Sunil Bharti Mittal	7 July 1995	New Delhi, India
51	IndusInd Bank	Chairman: Sunil Mehta	April 1994	Mumbai, Maharashtra
52	Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited	Chairman: Deepesh Nanda	2007	Mumbai, Maharashtra
53	International Animated Film Association	President: Deanna Morse	1960	Annecy, France
54	Railway Protection Force	DGP: Manoj Yadava	1957	New Delhi, India
55	Indian Railway Board	Chairman & CEO: Sathish Kumar	1905	New Delhi, India
56	Taiwan	President: Lai Ching-te	-	Taipei (Capital)
57	Fiji	President: Wiliame Katonivere	-	Suva (Capital)
58	Brazil	President: Lula da Silva	-	Brasília (Capital)

Important Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
VTAP	Visa Tokenized Asset Platform
UPI	Unified Payments Interface
AICTE	All India Council of Technical Education
ADIA	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority
MSF	Marginal Standing Facility
NEFT	National Electronic Funds Transfer
AMFI	Association of Mutual Funds in India
BBVA	Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria
CAD	Current Account Deficit
PFRDA	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
EMI	Equated Monthly Installment
IFSC	International Financial Services Centre
FPI	Foreign Portfolio Investor
SDF	Standing Deposit Facility
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
RTGS	Real-Time Gross Settlement
SLCM	Sohan Lal Commodity Management Limited
DIPAM	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
FTSE	Financial Times Stock Exchange
NBBL	NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited
IMPS	Immediate Payment Service
SLR	Statutory Liquidity Ratio
WGBI	World Government Bond Index
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard