

# THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly** capsule
- **Current** Affairs

Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking  
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP  
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |  
Book and Author | Science and technology



# The Hindu Review (September 2024)

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## Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Takes over as DG of Project Seabird</b>	Rajesh Dhankhar (Updated 1 September)
<b>Takes over as Cabinet Secretary</b>	TV Somanathan (Updated 1 September)
<b>Appointed the interim Chairman and Managing Director of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for three months</b>	Rajneesh Narang (Updated 3 September)
<b>Took over as the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm</b>	V Satish Kumar (Updated 3 September)
<b>Took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force in New Delhi</b>	Air Marshal Tejinder Singh (Updated 3 September)
<b>Took charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command</b>	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (Updated 4 September)
<b>Appointed Managing Director of NABCONS (NABARD Consultancy Services), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	Y Haragopal (Updated 4 September)
<b>The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommends for SBI MD post</b>	Rama Mohan Rao Amara (Updated 4 September)
<b>Appointed as Managing Director for the Philips Indian subcontinent</b>	Bharath Sesha

	(Updated 4 September)
<b>Federal Bank has approved the appointment of Managing Director and CEO of the bank</b>	Krishnan Venkat Subramanian (Updated 5 September)
<b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved for the appointment as the MD &amp; CEO of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)</b>	Nehal Vora (Updated 5 September)
<b>Took over the charge as Director General (DG) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)</b>	Rajwinder Singh Bhatti (Updated 5 September)
<b>The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has appointed as its new Chairman for 2024-25</b>	Partha Sinha (Updated 6 September)
<b>Named the first Indian ambassador of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation</b>	Ace paddler Sharath Kamal (Updated 7 September)
<b>Appointed new Finance Secretary</b>	Tuhin Kanta Pandey (Updated 10 September)
<b>Assumed office as the State Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM)</b>	Vinay Goyal (Updated 11 September)
<b>Takes charge as Chairperson of Commission for Air Quality Management</b>	Rajesh Verma (Updated 11 September)
<b>Unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language</b>	Amit Shah (Updated 11 September)
<b>IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited (IFFCO Tokio) has appointed as its new Managing</b>	Subrata Mondal (Updated 11 September)

<b>Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b>	
<b>Appointed as the Chairperson of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)</b>	RS Sharma (Updated 11 September)
<b>Resigns as Chief Minister of New Delhi</b>	Arvind Kejriwal (Updated 17 September)
<b>Elected as the new Chief Minister-designate in place of Arvind Kejriwal</b>	Atishi (Updated 17 September)
<b>Appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)</b>	Amrit Mohan Prasad (Updated 18 September)
<b>India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has appointed as a brand ambassador</b>	Manu Bhaker (Updated 18 September)
<b>Shriram Finance welcomes as Brand Ambassador</b>	Rahul Dravid (Updated 19 September)
<b>Airtel Payments Bank has appointed as its new Chief Compliance Officer</b>	Amar Kumar Kakarlapudi (Updated 20 September)
<b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment as MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank</b>	V Vaidyanathan (Updated 21 September)
<b>CIFDAQ, a leading blockchain ecosystem firm has appointed as Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)</b>	Muthuswamy Iyer (Updated 22 September)
<b>Appointed as the Whole Time Director (Executive Director) of TamilNad Mercantile Bank for a period of three years</b>	Vincent Menachery Devassy (Updated 22 September)

<b>Appointed as the new director general of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)</b>	Anurag Garg (Updated 22 September)
<b>joined the Telangana Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Special Police)</b>	Nikhata Zareen (Updated 23 September)
<b>Appointed as next Chief of Air Force</b>	Amar Preet Singh (Updated 23 September)
<b>Elected as the new president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)</b>  <b>About National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded- 1951</li> <li>• Headquarters- New Delhi</li> <li>• President- Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (replace Raninder Singh)</li> </ul>	Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (Updated 23 September)
<b>Taken charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank</b>	KVS Manian (Updated 24 September)
<b>Appointed as the Chief of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)</b>	Alok Ranjan (Updated 25 September)
<b>Appointed as the Chief of Hyderabad-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)</b>	Amit Garg (Updated 25 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court</b>	Justice Manmohan (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court</b>	Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court</b>	Justice Rajiv Shaktiher (Updated 27 September)

<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court</b>	Justice Suresh Kait (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court</b>	Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of the Jammu &amp; Kashmir and Ladakh High Court</b>	Justice Tashi Rabstan (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of Madras High Court</b>	Justice Shriram Kalpathi Rajendran (Updated 27 September)
<b>Appointed as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court</b>	Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao (Updated 27 September)
<b>Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment as Non-Executive Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank</b>	Parveen Kumar Gupta (Updated 28 September)
<b>Reappointed as MD &amp; CEO for IndusInd Bank</b>  <b>IndusInd Bank</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded - 1994</li> <li>• Founder - S.P. Hinduja</li> <li>• Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra,</li> <li>• MD &amp; CEO - Sumant Kathpalia</li> <li>• Tagline - We Make You Feel Richer</li> </ul>	Sumant Kathpalia (Updated 28 September)

### (International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Leading French cosmetic maker L'Oreal Paris has roped in Bollywood as its new global brand ambassador.</b>	Alia Bhatt (Updated 5 September)

<p><b>French President Emmanuel Macron appointed as his new prime minister</b></p> <p><b>About France</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital- Paris</li> <li>• President- Emmanuel Macron</li> <li>• Prime Minister- Michel Barnier</li> <li>• Official language- French</li> </ul>	<p>Michel Barnier</p> <p>(Updated 8 September)</p>
<p><b>Became the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)</b></p> <p><b>About Olympic Council of Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation - 16 November 1982</li> <li>• Headquarters - Kuwait City, Kuwait</li> <li>• Membership - 45 National Olympic Committees</li> <li>• President - Raja Randhir Singh</li> </ul>	<p>Raja Randhir Singh</p> <p>(Updated 10 September)</p>
<p><b>Re-elected as Algerian President</b></p> <p><b>About Algeria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital- Algiers</li> <li>• Currency- Algerian Dinar</li> <li>• Continent - Africa</li> <li>• President - Abdelmadjid Tebboune</li> </ul>	<p>Abdelmadjid Tebboune</p> <p>(Updated 10 September)</p>
<p><b>The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed as India's next ambassador to Republic of Croatia</b></p> <p><b>About Croatia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital- Zagreb</li> <li>• Currency - Kuna</li> <li>• Official language- Croatian</li> <li>• Prime minister- Andrej Plenković</li> <li>• President- Zoran Milanović</li> </ul>	<p>Arun Goel</p> <p>(Updated 10 September)</p>
<p><b>Incumbent International Hockey Federation (FIH) president is set to be elected unopposed as the head of the world body at its 49th Congress in Muscat, Oman</b></p>	<p>Tayyab Ikram</p> <p>(Updated 15 September)</p>

<p align="center"><b>Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Iceland</b></p>	<p align="center">R. Ravindra (Updated 16 September)</p>
<p><b>Jordan's king appoints to serve as PM</b></p> <p><b>About Jordan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital- Amman</li> <li>• King- Abdullah II</li> <li>• PM of Jordan - Jafar Hassan</li> <li>• Currency- Jordanian Dinar</li> <li>• Official language- Arabic</li> <li>• Continent- Asia</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Jafar Hassan (Updated 17 September)</p>
<p><b>Became the first Pakistani woman to be nominated to the ICC international panel of development umpires</b></p> <p><b>About International Cricket Council (ICC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket.</li> <li>• <b>Formation</b> - 15 June 1909</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b> - Dubai, UAE</li> <li>• <b>Chairman</b> – Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay) effect from 1 Dec 2024</li> <li>• <b>Deputy Chairman</b> - Imran Khwaja (Singapore)</li> <li>• <b>CEO</b> - Geoff Allardice (Australia)</li> <li>• <b>General Manager</b> – Wasim Khan</li> <li>• <b>Membership</b> - 108 members</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Saleema Imtiaz (Updated 18 September)</p>
<p><b>All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed as the new head coach of the national senior women's team, replacing former international player Chaoba Devi at the helm of affairs</b></p>	<p align="center">Santosh Kashyap (Updated 18 September)</p>
<p><b>Elected as the President of the IAEA's 68th General Conference</b></p>	<p align="center">Sang Wook Ham (Updated 23 September)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as Sri Lanka's new president</b></p> <p><b>About Sri Lanka</b></p>	<p align="center">Anura Kumara Dissanayake (Updated 24 September)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legislative capital</b> - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte</li> <li>• <b>Executive and Judicial capital</b> - Colombo</li> <li>• <b>Currency</b> - Sri Lankan rupee</li> <li>• <b>President</b> - Anura Kumara Dissanayake;9th (replace Ranil Wickremesinghe)</li> <li>• <b>Prime Minister</b> - Dinesh Gunawardena</li> </ul>	
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## Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<b>2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award</b>	Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki	For his significant contributions to <b>environmental protection and the promotion of peace through animation</b>
<b>32nd Ekalabya Puraskar</b>	Pratyasa Ray	Ray secured <b>six medals—four gold, one silver and a bronze— in the Khelo India University Games in Guwahati in swimming.</b>

### (International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<b>Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024</b>	Kerala Tourism	For its online contest <b>'Holiday Heist'</b> in the <b>Digital Marketing Campaign category</b> , at a function in Bangkok

<b>Olympic Order in gold</b>	French President Emmanuel Macron	In recognition of his unstinting support for the success of the <b>Olympic Games Paris 2024</b> and his attachment to the <b>Olympic ideal dear to Pierre de Coubertin</b>
<b>Singapore Literature Prize</b>	An Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University, <b>Prasanthi Ram</b>	<b>For English fiction with her debut short story collection, Nine Yard Sarees</b>
<b>The FIDE 100 Awards</b>	Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar	<b>Carlsen</b> , ranked world number one, is a part of the <b>Norway team in the ongoing Chess Olympiad 2024.</b>  <b>Polgar</b> , on the other hand, announced retirement from <b>competitive chess in 2014.</b>
<b>Miss India Worldwide 2024</b>	Dhruvi Patel	<b>Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student</b> from the USA
<b>Miss Universe India 2024</b>	Rhea Singha	-

### Awards 2024: Complete winners list

#### President Murmu confers National Teachers Award 2024 to 82 teachers

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 'National Teachers' Award to 82 educators from across institutions, during a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan on the occasion of Teacher's Day.
- 50 of the total 82 awardees are attached with schools, 16 (higher education), and 16 (Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship).
- Each award carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of 50 thousand rupees and a silver medal.

- Among the recipients is Urfana Amin from Jammu & Kashmir, who teaches at BHSS Soura, Hawal, Srinagar. Amin, an expert in English, Entrepreneurship, and teacher training, provided radio classes during the COVID-19 pandemic and developed educational materials such as FLN modules and e-content for DIKSHA.

### President confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to 15 Awardees at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024 to the nursing professionals at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- In all, 15 nurses were conferred the award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to duty and service to the community.
- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.
- The award is given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs, and Voluntary Organizations.

### Laapataa Ladies picked as official entry for 97th Oscars Awards

- The Hindi comedy film 'Laapataa Ladies', produced by Amir Khan and Kiran Rao and directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen to be India's official entry for the International Feature Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards 2025 (popularly known as the Oscars).
- The international Feature film category is for the country-selected feature film. The Hindi film Laapataa Ladies was chosen by a 13-member jury of the Film Federation of India, headed by renowned Assamese Director Jahnu Barua.

## Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
<b>Brindavan Gram' scheme</b> <b>(Madhya Pradesh)</b>	The selected <b>gram panchayats</b> will be named – ' <b>Brindavan Gram'</b> . <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> has a total of <b>313 blocks</b> , and one <b>gram panchayat</b> will be selected from each <b>block</b> . <b>Gaushalas (cow sheds)</b> will be established and milk production will be promoted.
<b>"PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) scheme"</b>	For the <b>procurement and operation of e-buses by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs)</b> with an outlay of <b>Rs. 3,435.33 crore</b>

'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme'	For promotion of <b>electric mobility in the country.</b>
<b>SUBHADRA' Scheme</b> (Odisha)	Under the <b>SUBHADRA</b> scheme, all eligible beneficiaries between the age of <b>21-60 years would receive Rs. 50,000/- over 5 years between 2024-25 to 2028-29.</b> An amount of <b>Rs 10,000/- per annum</b> in two equal installments will be credited directly to the beneficiary's <b>Aadhaar-enabled and DBT-enabled</b> bank account.
<b>The NPS Vatsalya scheme for minors</b>	<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b> announced the <b>NPS Vatsalya scheme in her 2024-25</b> union budget speech.  The event was attended by schoolchildren and was held simultaneously in <b>75 locations</b> across the country. She also distributed the <b>Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN)</b> cards to new minor subscribers.
<b>Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)</b>	To improve the <b>socio-economic condition</b> of the country's tribal <b>majority villages and aspirational districts</b>
<b>the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme</b>	The <b>PM-AASHA scheme consolidates the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)</b> into a unified program to enhance its effectiveness.
<b>The two umbrella schemes of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), merged as one scheme- 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio- RIDE)' with a new component namely Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry</b>	<b>Bio-RIDE scheme</b> is designed to foster <b>innovation, promote bio-entrepreneurship, and strengthen India's position as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.</b> It aims to <b>accelerate research, enhance product development, and bridge the gap between academic research and industrial applications</b>
<b>Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme</b>	The centrally sponsored scheme includes critical components such as <b>Project Tiger, Project Elephant</b> and Development of <b>Wildlife Habitat.</b>
<b>A financial assistance and support programme, 'Bana Kaih'</b> (Mizoram)	This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to farmers <b>growing ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli, and broomsticks.</b> These crops will be purchased through farmer societies established in villages.

<b>The Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme</b>	The scheme provides <b>health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family</b> annually for secondary and tertiary care to <b>over 55 crore individuals</b> .
<b>A Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP)</b>	A Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP) was launched by the <b>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</b> in collaboration with the <b>British Council as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)</b> .  The initiative focuses on <b>supporting institutions in strengthening gender-inclusive practices to foster women's leadership in space science</b> .
<b>The CM-SATH scheme (Tripura)</b>	To boost the <b>educational prospects of the state's brightest students</b> .

### Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<b>The inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES)</b>	Goa	To <b>bolster India's media and entertainment industry</b> and extend its global influence.
<b>The National Conference of District Judiciary</b>	New Delhi	The two-day Conference, organized by the <b>Supreme Court of India</b> , hosts five working sessions to deliberate and discuss the issues related to the <b>District Judiciary</b> such as <b>Infrastructure and Human Resources, Inclusive Courtrooms for all, Judicial Security and Judicial Wellness, Case Management and Judicial Training</b> .
<b>The 19th Internet Governance Forum (IGF)</b>	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	The forum aims to reach <b>consensus among governments, private sector, and non-profit organizations on policies</b> for stronger internet governance worldwide.
<b>The second edition of the International Conference on Green Hydrogen</b>	New Delhi	The goal of this three-day event is to deepen our understanding of <b>the green hydrogen landscape and foster connections with global scientific communities and industries</b> .

<b>The 4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo</b>	Gandhinagar	A three-day flagship event of the <b>Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</b> , at <b>Mahatma Mandir</b> will bring together key players in the <b>renewable energy sector</b> .
<b>The first Global Cooperative Conference</b>	New Delhi	This five-day conference will focus on <b>exploring innovative solutions, technologies</b> , and best practices for the <b>cooperative movement</b> .
<b>The first India -GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue</b>	Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital	<b>The first India-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting</b> for Strategic Dialogue was co-chaired by <b>Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar</b> and <b>Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister</b> and <b>Foreign Minister of Qatar</b> . <b>Qatar holds the Presidency of the GCC</b> .
<b>The 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation 2024</b>	New Delhi	Highlighting the importance of the conference, Shri Naidu said <b>"It will focus on unlocking this potential, building robust partnerships, and addressing critical challenges such as infrastructure development, market gaps, sustainability, and workforce shortages</b> .
<b>The fourth RE Invest Global Industrial Meet</b>	Gandhinagar	<b>The 4th RE-INVEST Global Renewable Energy Meet &amp; Expo</b> has been organized by the <b>Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)</b> . The meet will highlight India's impressive progress in renewable energy manufacturing and deployment.
<b>The fourth edition of Global Bio-India 2024</b>	New Delhi	The three-day event was themed on the potential and opportunities in <b>'Biotech Innovation'</b> and <b>'Bio-manufacturing'</b> and their <b>impact on the bio economy</b> .  Theme 2024 - <b>Biotech Innovation'</b> and <b>'Bio-manufacturing</b>
<b>The 2nd Formal Meeting of the COP9 Bureau and the 3rd Formal Meeting of the Fund Approval Committee under the UNESCO International</b>	New Delhi	As <b>Vice-Chairperson of the COP9 Bureau, India</b> has taken the lead in organizing these high-level gatherings, which will bring together key decision-makers and <b>dignitaries from across the world</b> .

<p><b>Convention against Doping in Sport</b></p>		
<p><b>The second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024</b></p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>The summit brings together <b>countries' food regulators to exchange information on aspects of food regulation and safety requirements</b>. It also provides an opportunity to promote cooperation between the <b>food regulators of various countries</b>.</p>
<p><b>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducted a bilateral meeting with the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) on the sidelines of the Global Food Regulators Summit</b></p>	<p>Bharat Mandapam</p>	<p>The meeting focused on the implementation protocol of the <b>"Agreement"</b> signed between <b>India and BFDA on 21 March 2024</b>, during the visit of <b>PM Narendra Modi</b>.</p>
<p><b>The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), in collaboration with the Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE) successfully hosted the National Conclave on Gender Mainstreaming</b></p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>The conclave focused on <b>strengthening gender-responsive community institutions and discussed strategies</b> for advancing gender integration within the <b>DAY-NRLM framework</b>.</p>
<p><b>The first in-Person meeting of the Supply Chain Council of the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF)</b></p>	<p>Washington DC</p>	<p>These formal meetings were preceded by Panel discussions on various topics related to <b>supply chain resilience with special focus on the United States initiatives including the creation of dedicated Supply Chain Centre</b> and development of the tool like <b>SCALE</b>. While</p>

		the <b>US is the Chair, India is the vice Chair</b> of the Supply Chain Council.
<b>The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)</b>	Delhi	The <b>Department of Telecommunications (DoT)</b> has launched a series of <b>WTSA 2024</b> outreach sessions in major cities, including Delhi, <b>Bengaluru, and Hyderabad</b> , to engage students and foster discussions on the future of global communications.
<b>A daylong conference for the Directors of Small Finance Banks</b>	Bengaluru.	The theme of the conference was ' <b>Governance in SFBs – Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability</b>

## Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
<b>ClearTax</b> , one of India's largest tax systems, has partnered with <b>Microsoft</b>	To simplify <b>tax filing for over 20 million gig workers</b> in India.
<b>Mastercard</b> has collaborated with <b>Gramophone, a leading agritech platform</b>	To enable <b>2 million smallholder farmers on the Mastercard Community Pass</b> platform in India with access to agri inputs
<b>India and Singapore unveiled agreements</b>	For a <b>semiconductor ecosystem</b> partnership and <b>greater interoperability between their digital economies</b> even as they elevated their relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
<b>The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and UNICEF India</b> signed a Letter of Intent (LoI)	To collaborate on <b>strengthening systems and engaging communities for social change.</b>
<b>Suryoday Small Finance Bank</b> has partnered with <b>Tarrakki, a new fintech platform</b>	To develop and offer <b>digital fixed deposit.</b>
<b>Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life)</b> has entered into a <b>bancassurance partnership with</b>	The partnership plans <b>to incorporate Max Life's insurance products into CSB Bank's channels</b> , giving customers easy

<b>CSB Bank (CSB), a private sector bank in India</b>	access to insurance alongside banking services.
<b>AU Small Finance Bank has partnered with state-owned United India Insurance Company (UIIC)</b>	To distribute <b>general insurance solutions to the bank's customers</b>
<b>Blostem, a financial infrastructure platform, has partnered with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)</b>	This agreement allows <b>SSFB to benefit from Blostem's expertise in quick product development and deployment, deliver novel digital fixed deposit products, and reduce customer onboarding to a single day.</b>
<b>Union Bank of India announced its decision to become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)</b>	This step aligns with the <b>growing global emphasis on climate risk management</b> and the recent draft guidelines issued by the <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on climate risk disclosures.</b>
<b>Paralympic archery champions Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar team up</b>	To inspire voters nationwide as <b>ECI's national icons for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).</b>
<b>MongoDB has announced the expansion of MongoDB for Academia in India, including a new partnership with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of Education, Government of India</b>	The company stated this partnership will be supported by <b>SmartBridge's SmartInternz learning platform</b> to give over <b>150,000 Indian students access to virtual internships</b> and to gain the skills required to use <b>MongoDB Atlas—a multi-cloud developer data platform.</b>
<b>IBM and L&amp;T Semiconductor Technologies (SiLT) have signed an agreement</b>	To co-develop advanced processors for edge devices, hybrid cloud systems and areas like <b>mobility, industrial, energy, and servers.</b>
<b>Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (Star Health Insurance) has joined hands with Policybazaar</b>	To launch ' <b>SUPER STAR</b> ', a personalized long-term health insurance plan designed to provide more client value
<b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Ltd. (Piramal Finance), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piramal</b>	To <b>satisfy Bharat's</b> lending needs by expanding access to formal credit for <b>underserved persons and MSMEs.</b>

<b>Enterprises Ltd., has collaborated with Digital India's Common Service Centres (CSCs)</b>	
<b>India-Denmark Maritime collaboration gathers momentum</b>	Under the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership, the collaboration has expanded across key areas such as <b>Quality shipping, Cooperation on Port State Control, Maritime training and education, research and development, Piracy, Green maritime technology, shipbuilding, and green shipping.</b>
<b>India and the European Union agreed to enhance cooperation</b>	In <b>sustainable water management</b> and both sides committed to advance cooperation in river basin management, <b>fostering innovation and technology transfer while promoting sustainable investments.</b>
<b>Indian IT giant Infosys has collaborated with Metro Bank</b>	To drive the <b>digital transformation of its operations.</b>
<b>ICICI Bank partners with PFRDA</b>	It permits <b>parents/guardians to contribute to the minor until they reach adulthood.</b> When the individual reaches the age of 18, they can turn it into a regular <b>NPS account.</b>
<b>BLS E-Services has tied up with SBI General Insurance</b>	To offer a range of <b>insurance products directly to customers across India.</b>
<b>India has signed the first-of-its-kind agreements</b>	Focused on a <b>Clean Economy, Fair Economy,</b> and the overarching <b>Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)</b> in Delaware, <b>USA.</b>
<b>Axis Bank and Mastercard join hands</b>	To unveil <b>MyBiz credit card</b> for small business owners in India

## Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
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<b>2024 Hurun India Rich List</b>	Hurun Research Institute	-	Gautam Adani (Rs 11.6 lakh crore)
<b>The MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI)</b>	-	6th	China
<b>LinkedIn Top Startups India List 2024</b>	-	-	Quick commerce platform Zepto
<b>The Asian Power Index Report 2024</b>	Australian think tank Lowy Institute	3rd	The United States of America
<b>2024 Global Innovation Index (GII)</b>	The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)	39th	Switzerland

## Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

<b>Merger Company</b>	<b>About</b>
<b>The Competition Commission of India has approved the merger of Tata Motor Finance with Tata Capital</b>	The <b>merger</b> , announced in June, will see Tata Capital issue its equity shares to the shareholders of <b>Tata Motor Finance resulting in Tata Motors</b> effectively holding a <b>4.7% stake</b> in the merged entity.

## Chapter 8: Loan

<b>Organization/Bank</b>	<b>Loan Amount</b>	<b>To which country</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	<b>Financial assistance of Rs 530 crore</b>	Tripura	To upgrade the <b>drinking water supply in the state's 12 cities</b> benefiting around four lakh people.
<b>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	<b>A \$50 million</b>	Meghalaya, India	To <b>water, and community resilience to the effects of climate change in the state of Meghalaya, India</b>

## Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
<b>Saarthi</b>	Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)	To assist businesses in creating their own <b>customised buyer-side apps, co-developed with Bhashini</b>
<b>"Rangeen Machhli" mobile app</b>	Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh	The <b>"Rangeen Machhli"</b> app provides multilingual information on <b>popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages</b> , making it accessible to a wide audience.
<b>Web portal to monitor the progress of Special Swachhata Campaign 4.0</b>	Dr. Jitendra Singh	The <b>Special Campaign</b> aims to institutionalize <b>Swachhata in all central government</b> offices using a saturation approach.
<b>The website, www.ashtalakshmimahotsav.com</b>	Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister for <b>Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has officially launched the website for the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav.</b>
<b>"Paridhi 24x25" a bilingual web portal of VisioNxt and the AI Taxonomy e-book</b>	Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh	<b>VisioNxt</b> has produced <b>60+ micro trend reports, 10+ close-to-season trend reports, 3+ research papers</b> , and the first ever <b>AI Taxonomy</b> book of Indian wear categories to date.

## Chapter 10: Important MoU

<b>MoU</b>	<b>Between Which Countries</b>
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a three-year partnership valued at up to \$1 million USD</b>	The Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with Visa (NYSE: V), a global leader in digital payments
<b>Signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat in Colombo to address security and stability challenges in the Indian Ocean Region</b>	India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka
<b>Signed an MoU to foster collaboration between the two Supreme Audit Institutions, focusing on areas such as knowledge exchange, capacity building, and best practices in public sector auditing.</b>	The <b>Comptroller and Auditor General of India</b> with the <b>UAE Accountability Authority of the United Arab Emirates, Supreme Audit Institution, UAE</b> during a bilateral meeting with the <b>President of UAE Accountability Authority.</b>
<b>Signed an MoU for the establishment of a World Trade Centre in the proposed AI City near Hyderabad.</b>	<b>Telangana government</b> with the <b>World Trade Centres' Association</b>
<b>Under this MoU, a federated learning platform across a variety of machine learning model pipelines, a quality-preserving database, an open benchmarking platform for comparing &amp; validating AI models, and a consent management system for research under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) would be developed by IIT Kanpur</b>	The National Health Authority ( <b>NHA</b> ) and <b>IIT Kanpur</b>
<b>Signed an MoU aimed at increasing the milk production in the state</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b> government with the National Dairy Development Board ( <b>NDDB</b> )
<b>Signed an MoU to facilitate collaboration in joint research, education, and executive training in railway engineering through the Monash Institute of Railway Technology (IRT)</b>	<b>Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)</b> with Monash University, <b>Australia</b>

<b>Signed an MoU for the opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the premises of every coal field, selected hospitals, or any suitable location specified or decided by Coal India Limited.</b>	The <b>Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)</b> and Coal India Limited
<b>In a significant move to bolster, India's leadership in technological innovation, an MoU was signed</b>	The Telecom Centre of Excellence ( <b>TCOE</b> ) India and Visvesvaraya Technological University ( <b>VTU</b> ) – Visvesvaraya Research & Innovation Foundation ( <b>VRIF</b> )
<b>Signed an MoU to develop critical technologies for tracking space objects, particularly near-Earth objects and artificial satellites, as part of India's growing focus on Space Situational Awareness (SSA)</b>	<b>Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)</b> with Bharat Electronics Limited ( <b>BEL</b> )
<b>Signed an MoU to demonstrates India's dedication to food safety and signifies a major advancement in its ongoing efforts to enhance international collaboration in food safety</b>	The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India ( <b>FSSAI</b> ) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock ( <b>MAPA</b> ) of <b>Brazil</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to enhance research on the use of Rubber Process Oils marketed by IOCL in various tyre and non-tyre rubber products.</b>	The Rubber Research Institute of India ( <b>RRII</b> ) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd ( <b>IOCL</b> )
<b>Signed an MoU to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal</b>	<b>Ecommerce giant Amazon's India unit Amazon India with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal</b>

## Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

### NSO Reports 6.7% Real GDP Growth for April-June 2024 Quarter

- The Indian economy has clocked a GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of the financial year 2024-25. Figures released by the Ministry of Statistics showed that the crucial manufacturing sector that provides quality jobs to the young workforce posted a 7 per cent growth, while the construction and electricity sectors posted double-digit growth during the quarter.

### World Bank raises India growth forecast to 7% for current fiscal year from 6.6%

- The World Bank revised its FY25 growth forecast for India to 7%, up from its previous estimate of 6.6%.

- The upgrade reflects the Indian's government's continued capital expenditure on infrastructure, a rise in household investments in real estate, better-than-expected monsoon and agricultural output, and an increase in private consumption, it said.
- According to its projections, India's debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to decline from 83.9% in FY24 to 82% by FY27, while the current account deficit is anticipated to remain between 1% and 1.6% of GDP until FY27.

#### S&P retains India's growth forecast at 6.8%

- **S&P Global Ratings** maintained **India's growth forecast at 6.8 percent** while noting that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may cut interest rates in October.
- In its economic outlook for the Asia-Pacific region, S&P also retained its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year 2025-26 (FY26) at 6.9 percent.
- In India, GDP growth moderated in the June quarter as high interest rates tempered urban demand, in line with our projection of 6.8 per cent GDP for the full financial year 2024-25.

#### Moody's raises India's 2024 growth forecast to 7.1% on better growth in Asia-Pacific

- **Moody's** has revised its calendar year (CY) 2024 growth forecast for India to **7.1%**, from its earlier estimates of **6.8% in June**, as it expects growth in the Asia-Pacific region to outpace the global economy.
- It, however, kept its India growth forecast for CY 2025 unchanged at 6.5%.
- The revision in India's growth forecast by Moody's comes a month after **Moody's Ratings** similarly upgraded the GDP growth forecast to **7.2% in 2024** and **6.6% in 2025**.

## Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

#### Union Cabinet approved 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' for progressive expansion

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the progressive expansion in the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' to make it more attractive, impactful, and inclusive.
- The government has announced a series of measures to expand the scope of Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme. These initiatives aim to expand the scope of eligible projects and integrate additional supportive measures to foster a robust agricultural infrastructure ecosystem.
- **Viable Farming Assets-** To allow all eligible beneficiaries of scheme to create of infrastructure covered under 'viable projects for building community farming assets'.

- **Integrated Processing projects-** To include integrated primary secondary processing projects in eligible activities under AIF. However standalone secondary projects would not be eligible under MoFPI schemes.
- **PM KUSUM Component-A-** To allow convergence of Component-A of PM-KUSUM with AIF for farmers/groups of farmers/ Farmer Producer Organizations/ Cooperatives/ Panchayats.
- **NABSanrakshan-** In addition to CGTMSE, it is proposed to extend AIF credit guarantee coverage of FPOs through the NABSanrakshan Trustee Company Pvt. Ltd. also.

### Union Cabinet approves rolling out Private FM Radio to 234 uncovered new cities & towns

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for e-auctions to set up 730 channels in 234 new cities across the country with an estimated reserve price of ₹784.87 crore, as part of the initiative to expand the reach of private FM Radio channels.
- Many of these cities and towns are located in aspirational districts and areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism. A maximum of 100 channels are to be provided in 32 cities/towns of Uttar Pradesh, followed by 68 across 22 cities/towns of Andhra Pradesh, 61 in 20 cities/towns of Madhya Pradesh, and 59 in 19 cities/towns of Rajasthan.
- While 57 channels will be made available in Bihar, 53 channels have been proposed for Karnataka's 16 cities/towns, 42 in West Bengal, 36 in Maharashtra, 33 in Tamil Nadu, 31 in Telangana, 28 in Punjab, 24 in Gujarat, 27 in Haryana and 19 in Jharkhand.

### Cabinet approves 12 Industrial nodes/cities under NICD Programme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved 12 new greenfield industrial smart cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) to transform the country's industrial landscape.
- The combined estimated investment in these industrial areas will be 28,602 crore rupees. These projects will create ten lakh direct and up to 30 lakh indirect jobs.

### Sports Minister launches 'Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training' (RESET) Programme

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the "Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme on the occasion of National Sports Day in New Delhi.
- RESET Programme is aimed at empowering retired sportspersons who have played for the country and brought immense laurels to the nation.

- The programme will support retired athletes on their career development journey by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.

#### **Railtel, SJVN, NHPC bag 'Navratna' status from FinMin,**

- The Ministry of Finance upgraded four public-sector enterprises, **SJVN, Solar Energy Corporation, NHPC and RailTel Corporation of India, to the 'Navratna' status on August 30.**
- PSUs are given a status, from Maharatna companies, to Navratna companies and Miniratna companies. Navratna status is awarded to government-owned companies that were previously classified under 'miniratna' category I, recognizing their strong financial and market performance.

#### **5th Global Fintech Fest held in Mumbai**

- The 5th Global Fintech Fest was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The festival, which started in 2021, aims to establish itself as the premier global conference for the global fintech ecosystem, promote collaboration, and influence the future of the Fintech industry.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed the 5th Global Fintech Festival.

#### **Indian Army launches Project NAMAN to Support Veterans & Families**

- The Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, which is designed to provide dedicated support and services to Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families.
- In the first phase of Project NAMAN, 14 Common Services Centres have been established at key locations across India, including New Delhi, Jalandhar, Leh, Dehradun, Lucknow, Jodhpur, Bengdubi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Secunderabad, Saugor, Guntur, Ahmedabad, and Bangalore.

#### **PM Modi lays foundation stone of Vadhvan Port in Palghar**

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Vadhvan Port in the Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- He also inaugurated various fisheries projects and distributed transponders and Kisan Credit Cards to fishermen.

#### **. Seventh Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched with a focus on nutrition and well-being**

- The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah was inaugurated at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, with a strong emphasis on enhancing nutrition awareness and overall well-being across the nation.
- Annpurna Devi, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, emphasized the need to enhance the health of children and adolescents while combating malnutrition through a lifecycle approach. She outlined the four key pillars of Poshan 2.0 – good governance, convergence, capacity building, and community participation – as essential to the program's success.

#### **Vistara's last Flight on November 11**

- Vistara Airlines will cease to operate under its brand name on November 11.

- The airline's operations will be fully integrated with Air India starting from November 12, marking the culmination of a merger process initiated nearly two years ago.
- Vistara is a joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines. However, with Tata Group also owning Air India, the decision to unify the two airlines aims to streamline operations and offer passengers an enhanced travel experience.

#### Cabinet approves fifth semiconductor unit in Sanad

- The **Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi** approved the proposal of **Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to setup a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat**, with the objective to develop a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem. The proposed unit will be **setup with an investment of Rs 3,300 crore**.
- The capacity of this unit will be 60 Lakh chips per day. The chips produced in this unit will cater to a wide variety of applications which include segments such as industrial, automotive, electric vehicles, consumer electronics, telecom, mobile phones, etc.
- The Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India was notified on 21.12.2021 with a total outlay of Rs. 76,000 crore.

#### RIL becomes India's first company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has become the **first Indian company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue**. This significant milestone was announced by RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani during the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- During the AGM, Ambani revealed that Reliance achieved a record consolidated turnover of Rs 10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion), for the financial year 2023-24. For the same period, RIL reported an EBITDA of Rs 1,78,677 crore (USD 21.4 billion) and a net profit of Rs 79,020 crore (USD 9.5 billion).
- The company also recorded exports amounting to Rs 2,99,832 crore (USD 35.9 billion), which accounted for 8.2% of India's total merchandise exports.

#### Cabinet approves the Digital Agriculture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2817 Crore

- The **Union Cabinet Committee chaired by PM Narendra Modi** approved the **Digital Agriculture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2817 Crore**, including the central share of Rs. 1940 Crore.
- The Mission is conceived as an umbrella scheme to support digital agriculture initiatives, such as creating Digital Public Infrastructure, implementing the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCEs), and taking up other IT initiatives by the Central Government, State Governments, and Academic and Research Institutions.

- For a similar transformation of the Agriculture Sector, the government announced the building of Digital Public Infrastructure for agriculture in the Union Budget 2023-24.

### ISA to launch \$100 million solar facility, insurance mechanism to accelerate solar power projects

- **The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will launch a \$100 million fund, Global Solar Facility, that will help catalysing up to \$1.5 billion in funding to expand decentralised solar power capacities across the least developed countries in Africa, where more than 700 million people have no access to electricity.**
- Besides, the international organisation aiming to electrify the global south is also working on creating an insurance mechanism, which will also aid in accelerating funding in poor countries.

### Global Textiles Expo Bharat Tex 2025 to held from February 14th to 17th next year

- **The Global Textiles Expo—Bharat Tex 2025 will be held from February 14th to 17th next year at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital and at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.**
- Over five thousand exhibitors and more than six thousand international buyers will participate in the Expo, which is a collaboration between the government and industry.

### Bengaluru's Siddhartha Aggarwal becomes oldest Indian to swim across English Channel solo

- **Siddhartha Agarwal, a 49-year-old swimmer from Bengaluru, has made history by becoming the oldest Indian to swim across the English Channel.**
- Agarwal successfully navigated the 42-km stretch between England and France, completing the grueling swim in an impressive 15 hours and six minutes.
- Agarwal's quest in the freezing waters of the English Channel first began in 2018 when he crossed the Channel as part of an eight-member relay team. Incidentally, this was the same year when Srikaanth Viswanathan, also from Bengaluru, entered the Limca Book of Records for becoming the oldest to swim the English Channel solo at the age of 46.

### Giriraj Singh launches India's first fashion forecasting initiative 'VisioNxt'

- Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh has launched the 'VisioNxt Fashion Forecasting Initiative' of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), a bilingual web portal, and the India-specific Fashion Trend Book 'Paridhi 24x25'.
- VisioNxt initiative will foster healthy global competition and elevate Indian culture and design to new heights on the global stage. The fashion industry will benefit from Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) based trend insights offered by VisioNxt.

### Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches AgriSure Fund for Agriculture Start ups

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Minister for Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the AgriSURE fund in New Delhi.

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her 2022-23 Union Budget speech, announced the creation of a dedicated fund to finance startups for agriculture and rural enterprises.

#### PM Modi virtually launches Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually launched the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative in Surat, Gujarat** in the presence of Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti CR Patil and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

#### World's 1st breeding centre for Asian King Vultures inaugurated in UP

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has **inaugurated the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in the Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division**. It is the world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vulture or the red-headed vulture.
- The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society, has established the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Maharajganj.

#### Odisha's second AIIMS will come up in Sambalpur

- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** has announced that the **state's second AIIMS will be built in Sambalpur**.
- The state got its first All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in 2014 during the UPA regime.
- Meanwhile, **Majhi also launched 'CM-KISAN Yojana'** on the occasion of the **Nuakhai festival at Odisha's Sambalpur**.

#### Amit Shah releases documentary on Mumbai Samachar's 200-year journey

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** released the **documentary film Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out**, which chronicles the remarkable 200-year journey of Asia's oldest newspaper.
- **Entering its 203rd year of publication**, Mumbai Samachar has become an integral part of Mumbai's identity.
- Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out delves into the newspaper's pivotal role in the freedom movement, its unwavering commitment to unbiased reporting, and the secrets behind its enduring success.

#### Rajasthan Cabinet approves 33% reservation for women in police force

- **Rajasthan Cabinet** has **approved 33% reservation for women in the police force** by deciding to amend the State Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989.
- The State Cabinet took the decision at its meeting held here, fulfilling a promise made by the BJP in its manifesto for the 2023 Assembly election to increase the representation of women.

#### PM Modi inaugurates SEMICON India 2024 in Greater Noida

- **The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi** has **inaugurated SEMICON India 2024 at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The three-day conference showcase India's semiconductor strategy and policy which envisions making India a global hub for semiconductors.

- With India's electronics sector now valued at over \$150 billion, the Prime Minister outlined a larger goal to grow the country's electronics sector, to \$500 billion and create 6 million jobs by the end of this decade.

#### Govt to launch PAIR programme to boost research in higher education institutions

- **The government will launch the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme designed to elevate research capabilities in higher education institutions (HEIs) by linking top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment.**
- The decision was taken during the inaugural Governing Board meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Prof Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology.
- Through PAIR, ANRF will link top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment.

#### Cabinet approves implementation of the PMGSY-IV during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development for "Implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV) during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29".**
- The details of the approval given by the Cabinet are as follows:
  - i. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana -IV is launched for the financial year 2024-25 to 2028-29. The total outlay of this scheme is Rs. 70,125 crore (Central Share of Rs. 49,087.50 crore and State Share of Rs. 21,037.50 crore).
  - ii. Under this scheme 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas), and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011 will be covered.
  - iii. Under this scheme 62,500 Km of all-weather roads will be provided to unconnected habitations. Construction of required bridges along the alignment of the all-weather road will also be provided.

#### Cabinet approves 'Mission Mausam' to create a more weather-ready and climate-smart Bharat

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved 'Mission Mausam' with an outlay of Rs.2,000 crore over two years.**
- Mission Mausam, to be chiefly implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is envisaged to be multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research, and services.
- The mission's focus will include improving observations and understanding for providing highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across temporal and spatial scales, including monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality,

extreme weather events and cyclones, weather interventions for managing fog, hail, and rain, etc., capacity building and generating awareness.

### Cabinet approves ₹5 lakh health insurance for senior citizens above 70 years

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- This aims to benefit approximately 4.5 Crore families with six crore senior citizens, with 5 Lakh rupees free health insurance cover on a family basis.
- With this approval, all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above irrespective of their socio-economic status would be eligible to avail the benefits of AB PM-JAY. The eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY.

### Adani Airports launches 'aviio' to give passengers real-time access data

- Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform to provide passengers with real-time data on a variety of airport accesses - from wait times to gate change and bags on belts.
- Aviio aspires to bring the aviation community together to collaborate and serve passengers better.

### Port Blair to be renamed as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'

- Union home minister Amit Shah has announced that Andaman and Nicobar Island's capital Port Blair has been renamed as "Sri Vijaya Puram."
- The government decided to free the nation from the colonial imprints. He said, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in the country's freedom struggle.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an unparalleled place in the country's freedom struggle and history. The island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is today poised to be the critical base for our strategic and development aspirations.

### Telangana government has decided to celebrate September 17 as Praja Palan Day

- The Telangana State government has decided to celebrate September 17th, the day on which Hyderabad State was integrated into the Indian Union in 1948, as the Telangana Praja Palana Day, the Day of People's Governance.
- On that day in 1948, the then-Hyderabad state merged with the Indian Union.
- In 2023, the then-BRS government decided to celebrate September 17 as National Integration Day. The Union government, on the other hand, decided to celebrate it as Hyderabad Liberation Day, and the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a gazette notification to this effect.

### PM releases 1st installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin to beneficiaries

- Prime Minister Modi released the first installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin in Jharkhand to beneficiaries.
- Rupees 32 crore was digitally transferred to the bank account of the beneficiaries. Besides sanction letters of 32,000 houses were distributed.
- He also virtually handed over keys to 46,000 beneficiaries of PMAY-G across the country. The Centre has approved 1,13,400 houses for the poor in Jharkhand under the PMAY-G scheme.

#### Group of Ministers to review tax rates on health, life insurance

- The GST Council constituted a 13-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest GST rates on premiums of various health and life insurance products. It will submit its report by October 30.
- Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is the convenor of the GoM. Members of the panel include members from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

#### Piyush Goyal launched Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative which will serve as a central hub where startups, investors, service providers, and government bodies can come together to collaborate, exchange ideas, and accelerate growth.
- It will also enhance collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.

#### IFFI 2024 to introduce new segment, 'Best Debut Indian Film Section'

- Information and Broadcasting Ministry has instituted a new section as part of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024 for young filmmakers called the 'Best Debut Indian Film Section 2024.'
- The 55th IFFI is slated to be held in Goa from November 20th to 28th.
- Through this section, IFFI will also focus on Indian debut films, showcasing a diverse range of narratives and cinematic styles from across the country.

#### India launches Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance to Typhoon Yagi affected countries

- India has launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance to typhoon Yagi-affected countries – Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.
- India sent urgent relief materials to Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam to assist them in dealing with the impact of the major typhoon. These countries are reeling under massive floods after Asia's most powerful storm this year hit the three countries.
- 10 tonnes of aid, including dry ration, clothing and medicines, were dispatched to Myanmar onboard the Indian naval ship INS Satpura.

#### Zanskar celebrates 9th Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2024

- The 9th Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2024 began with remarkable grandeur in the picturesque village of Sani, signifying a landmark event for the region.
- The festival was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra.
- This year's Zaskar Festival is especially significant as it marks the first celebration since Zaskar was officially declared a district.

#### President Murmu inaugurates 8th India Water Week

- President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 8th India Water Week 2024.
- The 8th India Water Week 2024 will start from 17 Sep to 20 Sep in New Delhi.
- Theme 2024 - Partnership and cooperation for inclusive water development and management.

#### PM Modi launches India's first 'Namo Bharat Rapid Rail' connecting Ahmedabad and Bhuj

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off country's first Vande Metro, now renamed as Namo Bharat Rapid Rail service, between Bhuj and Ahmedabad.
- The Ahmedabad-Bhuj Vande Metro service will stop at nine stations and cover the 360-kilometre distance in 5 hours and 45 minutes at a top speed of 110 kilometres per hour.

#### PM Modi inaugurates and lays the foundation stone for multiple development projects in Ahmedabad

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects of railways, road, power, housing, and finance sectors worth more than Rs 8,000 crore in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Modi inaugurated India's first Namo Bharat Rapid Rail between Ahmedabad and Bhuj earlier. He also flagged off several Vande Bharat trains on routes - Nagpur to Secunderabad, Kolhapur to Pune, Agra Cantt to Banaras, Durg to Visakhapatnam, Pune to Hubballi, and the first 20-coach Vande Bharat train from Varanasi to Delhi.
- Further, he launched the Single Window IT System (SWITS) of the International Financial Services Centres Authority.

#### Cabinet approves Nutrient Based Subsidy rates for Rabi Season 2024 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for RABI Season, 2024 (from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.
- The tentative budgetary requirement for Rabi season 2024 would be approximately Rs.24,475.53 crore.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers will be provided based on approved rates for Rabi 2024 (applicable from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025) to ensure smooth availability of these fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices.

### Union Cabinet approves Chandrayaan -4 Mission to collect lunar sample

- **The Union cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the mission to moon, named **Chandrayaan-4 to develop and demonstrate the technologies to come back to Earth after successfully landing on the Moon and also collect moon samples and analyse them on Earth.**
- This Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies capabilities eventually for an Indian landing on the moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth.
- The Chandrayaan -4 mission will collect lunar samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to Earth. Only three countries—the United States of America, Russia, and China—have successfully brought lunar soil back to Earth.
- ISRO has been **allocated a budget of Rs 2104.06 crore for the Chandrayaan -4 mission to be completed in 36 months.**

### New Delhi hosts the 3rd World Food India 2024

- **The 3rd edition of World Food India 2024** is being held in New Delhi. The event is **organised by the government of India** to promote domestic and foreign investment in the country's food processing sector and to highlight the country's rich food culture to the world.
- Along with the 3rd World Food India 2024 the 2nd edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit hosted is also being held.
- New Delhi hosted the first World Food India in 2017 and the 2nd edition in 2023.

### President Murmu attends Safai Mitra Sammelan in Ujjain

- **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the **Safai Mitra Sammelan in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.**
- The Safai Mitra Sammelan was organised as part of the fortnightly Swachhata Hi Seva—2024 campaign launched by the government of India.
- The theme of this year's Swachhata Hi Seva - 2024 campaign is **'Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata'.**
- The Swachhata Hi Seva—2024 campaign will run from 17 September to 2 October 2024.

### PM Modi address 1st anniversary of the National PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** attended the National PM Vishwakarma Program held in Wardha, Maharashtra to celebrate **the first anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.**
- PM Modi launched the Central Sector Scheme "PM Vishwakarma" on 17 September 2023 in New Delhi.

### India extends USD 50 million budgetary support to Maldives for another year

- **India** has extended budgetary support to the **Maldives government** in the form of a rollover of **the USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year** on the Maldivian government's request.

- At the request of the Maldivian government, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed the USD 50 million government Treasury Bills (T-bills) issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Maldives for a period of one more year upon the maturity of the previous subscription.

#### **Bhupendra Yadav launches Clean the Beach Campaign 2024 in Mumbai**

- The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupendra Yadav**, led the country in this year's **Clean the Beach Campaign on the occasion of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024**. The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai.
- The campaign is part of the government of India's "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" and "Swachh Sagar Abhiyan," which call for a mass cleanliness and sanitation campaign in the country with public participation.
- The campaign is being organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in collaboration with the Maharashtra State Government. The beach cleaning initiative will take place at over 100 beaches across India's coastal states and union territories.

#### **Jaipur to host 25th edition of IIFA Awards**

- **The 25th International Indian Film Academy Awards** will be held in **Jaipur from March 7 to March 9, 2025**.
- The announcement comes in the run-up of the 2024 edition of the awards, set to begin in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, for the third consecutive year from September 27.
- An MoU was signed between Rajasthan Tourism Department and the IIFA for the silver jubilee celebrations of the IIFA Awards, to be held in the state capital next year.

#### **IBM and NTT Data launches SimpliZCloud to Revamp India's Financial Services Sector**

- **NTT DATA and IBM** have launched **SimpliZCloud**, a fully managed cloud service built on **IBM LinuxONE**.
- The service is designed to support the infrastructure needs of critical workloads like those in financial services organizations including core banking applications, lending and risk management applications.

#### **FCRA licence of International Cooperative Alliance cancelled**

- **Union Home Ministry** has cancelled the **FCRA (Foreign Contribution Registration Act) licence of the International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA)** for its alleged violation of rules.
- ICA is the apex body representing cooperatives worldwide and provides knowledge, expertise and coordinated action in the field.
- Founded in 1895, ICA is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations and has over 1 billion members.

#### **India to get first national security semiconductor fabrication plant**

- Under a transformative **collaboration with the US**, India will get a **national security semiconductor fabrication plant** that will produce chips for use in military hardware and next-generation telecommunications.
- The India-US joint project was announced following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden in Wilmington.

#### **Tata Steel commissions India's largest blast furnace at Kalinganagar**

- **Tata Steel Ltd had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace'** at Kalinganagar, Odisha as part of the Phase II expansion its plant.
- With a total investment of Rs 27,000 crore, the Phase II expansion at Kalinganagar will take the total capacity at the site from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA.
- The new facility was inaugurated by T. V. Narendran, CEO and Managing Director, of Tata Steel.
- The new blast furnace will significantly boost the plant's overall production capabilities, allowing Tata Steel to meet the growing demands of various industries, including automotive, infrastructure, power, shipbuilding, and defence. It will also provide advantages in specific areas like oil & gas, lifting & excavation, and construction.

#### **Pune airport to be renamed 'Tukaram Maharaj Airport'**

- **The Maharashtra government** has officially approved the **renaming of Pune airport to 'Tukaram Maharaj Airport'** in honour of the revered 17th-century saint.
- This move aims to pay tribute to Sant Tukaram Maharaj, a prominent spiritual figure in Maharashtra's history, known for his devotional poetry and influence on the Bhakti movement.
- Sant Tukaram was a significant saint and spiritual poet of the Bhakti movement, born in Pune district.

#### **FRA implementation: Mankidia community becomes 6th PVTG to get habitat rights over forests in Odisha**

- The **Mankidia community in Odisha** has been **granted habitat rights, making them the sixth Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** to receive this recognition under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- This important legal recognition allows the Mankidia to access and manage their traditional forest areas, which were previously limited due to their PVTG status.
- The Mankidia are a semi-nomadic tribe, meaning they move around to find resources rather than staying in one place permanently. They are well-known for their skills in rope-making and have traditional practices that include trapping and eating monkeys.

#### **CAG of India assumes chairmanship of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions for 2024-27**

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India assumed chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for 2024-2027.
- CAG of India Girish Chandra Murmu said the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI has expanded to include 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).

#### West Bengal govt to discontinue tram service in Kolkata barring one short stretch

- The West Bengal government has decided to discontinue the 150-year-old tram service in Kolkata soon, barring a solitary heritage stretch from Maidan to Esplanade.
- Tram lovers, however, have decided to hit the streets in protest against the decision. Kolkata is the only city in the country where trams continue to operate.

#### Central Government Hikes Minimum Wage Rates, Effective From 1st October

- The central government has announced an increase in minimum wage rates by revising the Variable Dearness Allowance.
- The new wage rates will take effect from 1st October. The minimum wage rates are categorized based on skill levels-unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled, as well as by geographical areas A, B, and C.
- After the revision, minimum wage rates for workers in area 'A' in construction, sweeping, cleaning, and loading & unloading for unskilled work will be 783 rupees a day.

#### India and Republic of Uzbekistan sign Bilateral Investment Treaty in Tashkent

- The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan was signed by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and H.E. Mr. Khodjayev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, at Tashkent.
- The BIT between India and Uzbekistan assures appropriate protection to Uzbekistan investors in India and Indian investors in the Republic of Uzbekistan, in light of relevant international precedents and practices.

#### Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate Oxygen Bird Park (Amrit Mahotsav Park)

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated Oxygen Bird Park (Amrit Mahotsav Park) along the Nagpur-Hyderabad National Highway-44.
- Oxygen Bird Park (Amrit Mahotsav Park) is an eco-initiative developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) near Jamtha, along the Nagpur-Hyderabad National Highway-44.
- The project, which integrates environmental sustainability and recreational facilities, was formally approved in March 2023 with a development cost of ₹14.31 crores.
- A key aspect of the park is its focus on sustainability, showcased through its "Oxygen Park" feature

#### Tourism Ministry Launches 'Paryatan Mitra' and 'Paryatan Didi' on World Tourism Day

- On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the **Ministry of Tourism** has launched a national responsible **tourism initiative** titled **Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi**.
- The primary aim of this initiative is to elevate the overall experience for tourists in destinations, by having them meet 'tourist-friendly' people who are proud Ambassadors and Storytellers for their destination.

## Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

### Ashwini Vaishnaw, Anil Kapoor among Times 100 most influential people in AI

- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and actor **Anil Kapoor** are among Indians who have been **honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 "Most Influential People in AI 2024"**.
- The list highlights the most impactful figures in the field of artificial intelligence (AI).
- The list features a diverse group of global figures, from tech titans to researchers, policymakers, and artists. Some of the most prominent names include:  
Sundar Pichai: CEO of Google and Alphabet  
Satya Nadella: CEO of Microsoft  
Sam Altman: CEO of OpenAI  
Jensen Huang: CEO of Nvidia  
Rohit Prasad: SVP and head scientist of Artificial General Intelligence at Amazon.

### India emerges as second-largest global 5G smartphone market, overtakes US

- According to a new report from Counterpoint Research, **India has emerged as the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones**, trailing only behind China. 5G smartphones are becoming increasingly prominent across various price ranges in India.
- India became the second-biggest 5G handset market during the first half, overtaking the US.

### Algeria joins BRICS New Development Banks

- **Algeria** has been approved as the **newest member of the BRICS New Development Bank**, joining other nations in seeking alternatives to international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF.
- The decision was taken and announced by NDB chief Dilma Roussef at a meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The bank of the BRICS group of nations -- whose name derives from the initials of founding members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Membership in the BRICS bank will offer Algeria -- Africa's leading exporter of natural gas -- "new prospects to support and strengthen its economic growth in the medium and long term.

### Nepal Becomes 101st Member of International Solar Alliance

- **Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance-ISA as a full member.**
- The Ministry of External Affairs said that Nepal handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi.
- The Instrument of Ratification was exchanged during a meeting between Nepal's Charge d' Affairs Dr. Surendra Thapa and Joint Secretary.

#### **Mexico became the first country in the world to allow voters to elect judges at all levels**

- **Mexico** became the **world's first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels** after protesters invaded the upper house and suspended debate on the issue.
- The reform was approved with 86 votes in favor and 41 against, garnering the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution, in an upper chamber dominated by the ruling Morena party and its allies.
- A two-thirds majority was required to amend the constitution, and the reform achieved this threshold.

#### **Iran launches new research satellite Chamran-1 into orbit**

- **Iran** successfully **launched its Chamran-1 research satellite** into orbit, **utilising the Qaem-100 rocket developed by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.**
- The launch marks a milestone in Iran's aerospace program, which has faced scrutiny and criticism from Western nations due to concerns that the technology could be repurposed for ballistic missile development.
- The Chamran-1 satellite, weighing 60 kilograms, was placed into a 550-kilometer orbit and it is designed to test "hardware and software systems for orbital maneuver technology".
- The Qaem-100 rocket, a solid-fuel, three-stage vehicle, was previously used in January for another successful satellite launch.

#### **Jordan became the first country to eliminate Leprosy**

- In a historic achievement, **Jordan** has become the **first country to eliminate leprosy**, receiving **official verification from the World Health Organisation (WHO).**
- This milestone reflects the country's commitment to eradicating a disease that has plagued humanity for centuries and signifies a major breakthrough in global public health efforts.
- Jordan's journey to this remarkable achievement began many years ago with targeted public health campaigns, early detection programs, and free, accessible treatments for all citizens.

#### **Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko, Nikolai Chub set new record for longest single mission aboard ISS**

- **Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub** have **set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).**

- Kononenko and Chub broke the previous record for the longest continuous stay in space, which was set by cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio.

#### Ministry of Tourism announces Winners of Best Tourism Villages Competition-2024

- On the occasion of World Tourism Day on 27 September 2024, the **Union Ministry of Tourism** has announced the **winners of the 2024 Best Tourism Villages Competition**.
- The first edition of the Best Tourism Villages Competition in 2023 saw applications from 795 villages.
- In the second edition of the Best Tourism Villages Competition, a total of 991 applications were received from 30 States and UTs, **out of which 36 villages were recognized as winners across 8 categories of the Best Tourism Villages competition 2024**.
- The eight categories were Adventure Tourism, Agri Tourism, Community Based Tourism, Craft, Heritage, Responsible Tourism, Spiritual And Wellness and Village Village.

## Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

#### Mastercard launches Global Payment Passkey Service in India

- US-based multinational payment card services corporation Mastercard has launched its Payment Passkey Service, with plans to first introduce it to India. Its Payment Passkey Service, marking a significant step forward in secure online transactions.
- Unveiled at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, this innovative service aims to make online shopping more secure and convenient, with India chosen as the debut market for its pilot program.
- The pilot will involve some of the nation's leading payment players, including aggregators like Juspay, Razorpay, and PayU, major online merchants like BigBasket, and top financial institutions like Axis Bank.

#### Razorpay unveils Groundbreaking Payment Solutions at GFF 2024

- A leader in the fintech industry, Razorpay has launched a series of innovative products and enhancements at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 aimed at transforming the payments ecosystem. With a focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and the future of financial transactions, Razorpay continues pushing the boundaries of what's possible in fintech.
- Razorpay, in collaboration with Mastercard, has launched India's first Biometric Authentication system, revolutionizing the checkout process by eliminating the need for OTPs. This advanced system leverages passkey protocols to enhance security and convenience, resulting in a 4% increase in transaction success rates and a 35% reduction in OTP-related errors.

#### RBI imposes Rs 2.68 crore penalty on UCO Bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.68 crore on UCO Bank for contravention of certain provisions, including on opening of current accounts, interest rate on deposits and frauds classification.
- The RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 2.1 lakh on Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of KYC directions.

#### Indian Oil and RBL Bank launch co-branded credit card

- India's energy major, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has launched a co-branded credit card XTRA in partnership with RBL Bank in Global Fintech Fest (GFF), Mumbai
- This strategic collaboration aims to provide cardholders with attractive rewards and benefits, enabling them to earn upto 250 litres of free petrol annually.

#### ESAF Small Finance Bank to expand Dabba Savings Accounts campaign

- ESAF Small Finance Bank is planning to expand its newly introduced Dabba Savings Accounts campaign across the country.
- The campaign caters to women in economically backward areas who do not have bank accounts due to fear of banking procedures or lack of accessibility. It is designed to address the financial needs of micro banking customers to promote micro savings accounts, which play a crucial role in fostering a culture of savings among the micro banking community.

#### GST collections rise 10% to Rs 1.75 trillion in August 2024

- Gross GST collections in August grew 10 per cent to about Rs 1.75 lakh crore, reflecting higher domestic consumption.
- As per the government data released, gross GST revenues from domestic transactions grew 9.2 per cent to about Rs 1.25 lakh crore.
- Revenues from import of goods were up 12.1 per cent to Rs 49,976 crore.

#### IndiaFirst Life becomes 1st Indian life insurer to start ops in GIFT City

- IndiaFirst Life has become the first Indian life insurer to commence operations in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- The company inaugurated its IFSC Insurance Office (IIO) at the country's international financial gateway.

#### Razorpay launches DigiPOS – Elevating Apple Resellers In-Store Payment Experience

- Razorpay has launched the innovative Point-of-Sale (POS) software, 'Razorpay DigiPOS'.
- This industry-first solution is set to revolutionize in-store payments across Apple Premium Reseller outlets in India by leveraging iOS devices such as iPhones and iPads.
- The integration of DigiPOS ensures a seamless, intuitive, and efficient payment experience, eliminating the need for traditional Android devices and enhancing the overall customer experience.

#### Hitachi Payment launches Country's First Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine

- Hitachi Payment Services, India's leading provider of payments and commerce solutions, announced India's first Android-based cash recycling machine, which also serves as a Digital Banking Unit, providing one-stop services in a modern digital banking environment.
- The Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine, HPDx-BU01, is a big step towards improving customer convenience and experience while boosting operational and cost efficiency in banks.
- The Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine was presented at GFF with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

#### **NPST launches Digital Payment Services at Global Fintech Fest 2024**

- NPST, a major digital banking and payments technology company **unveiled a range of cutting-edge AI-enabled digital payment solutions at the Global Fintech Fest 2024.**
- UPI rails are driving the exponential growth of India's fintech sector. These solutions are intended to help banks and payment aggregators benefit from the current momentum by utilising cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning.

#### **AU Small Finance Bank applies for transition to Universal Bank**

- AU Small Finance Bank has submitted an application to the Reserve Bank of India to seek approval for the voluntary transition from a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to a Universal Bank.
- This application comes in the backdrop of Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) amalgamating with and into AU SFB with effect from April 1, 2024, marking the first such consolidation in the SFB space.

#### **Star Health launches India's first health insurance policy in Braille**

- Star Health and Allied Insurance has introduced an insurance policy in Braille.
- This is aimed at empowering visually impaired individuals in India. This will allow the blind community to access health insurance information independently.
- The new "Special Care Gold" policy provides tailored health coverage for individuals with disabilities.

#### **IRDAI asks insurance companies to integrate IT systems with Digilocker**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has asked insurance companies to enable their IT systems to interact with Digilocker, allowing policyholders to use the service effectively.
- Both life and general insurers are mandated to provide an essential summary of important information at different stages of the insurance contract.

#### **Kotak General Insurance rebrands as Zurich Kotak General Insurance**

- Kotak General Insurance has re-branded itself as Zurich Kotak General Insurance, following the Zurich Insurance Group's acquisition of a majority stake in the insurer, which was completed on 18 June 2024.

- Reflecting the shared vision of the Zurich Kotak entity, the new brand symbolizes the collective commitment to trust, innovation, integrity, and customer excellence.

#### BOI launches 333-Day Star Dhan Vriddhi FD

- **Bank of India (BOI) has launched a fixed deposit scheme called 'Star Dhan Vriddhi Fixed Deposit'** that will have a term limit of 333 days. These revised rates are effective September 1, 2024.
- The Star Dhan Vriddhi Fixed Deposit offers an interest rate of **7.90 per cent per annum** for the so-called super senior citizens.

#### Paysharp received final authorisation from RBI to act as a payment aggregator

- **Chennai based Fintech Paysharp has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) to act as a payment aggregator (PA).**
- Paysharp is an existing PA, which received RBI final authorisation on 30th August 2024 followed by the in-principal PA license on December 2022.
- Paysharp is a 5 years old startup, raised two rounds of funding sum of 23 crores, last funding round was on March 2023 with the valuation of 200 crores. Paysharp holds ISO 27001:2022 and SOC 2 accreditations.

#### SBI Foundation launches 3rd Edition of Asha Scholarship Program

- The **SBI Foundation has launched the 3rd edition of its Asha Scholarship Program, supporting 10,000 meritorious students** from underprivileged backgrounds.
- Scholarships ranging from 15 thousand to 2 lakh rupees are available for students from Class 6 to postgraduate level.

#### DICGC introduces Daava Soochak for depositors to track claim status

- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has **launched an online tool Daava Soochak for depositors to track their claim status.**
- The DICGC's mandate since its inception has been the reimbursement of insured amounts to depositors of failed banks.
- Daava Soochak, a user-friendly online tool, is part of DICGC's ongoing commitment to improving the services provided for depositors.

#### RBI imposes penalties on Housing and Urban Development Corporation, 2 others

- A penalty of **Rs 3.5 lakh has been imposed on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited.**
- RBI has also **imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Godrej Housing.**
- The Reserve Bank of India has also **imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**

#### RBI imposed penalty on HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank for non-compliance with regulations

- The **Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1.91 crore on Axis Bank and ₹1 crore on HDFC Bank** for non-compliance with regulations.

- Both banks opened certain savings deposit accounts in the name of ineligible entities. The monetary penalty on Axis Bank pertains to violations done in FY23.

### RBL Bank & DMI Finance Launches Co-Branded Credit Card

- **RBL Bank and DMI Finance Private Limited (“DMI”)**, part of the DMI Group, announced a **strategic agreement to provide co-branded credit cards to DMI Finance’s existing customers.**
- This collaboration intends to increase credit card access to clients in India’s metro and non-metro cities by combining RBL Bank’s extensive credit card experience, with DMI’s proven track record of enabling digital financial inclusion at scale.

### India's retail inflation at 3.65 per cent in August 2024

- **India’s retail inflation rose to 3.65 percent in August**, slightly higher than the 3.6 percent reported in July this year.
- According to data released, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) highlighted that this is the second-lowest retail inflation in the past five years.
- The inflation rate was within the Reserve Bank of India’s tolerance band of 2-6 percent. Meanwhile, the food inflation rate for August 2024, based on the All-India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), is provisionally reported at 5.66 percent, making it the **second-lowest since June 2023.**

### BoB to launch 7 phygital branches as a pilot project

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** is planning to **launch seven phygital branches as a pilot project across the country.** These branches integrate self-service and assisted service models.
- Debadatta Chand, Managing Director and CEO, recently inaugurated the bank’s second phygital branch in Mumbai at Vile Parle.
- BoB opened its first phygital branch at Horniman Circle in Mumbai in July. The second branch was opened last month at Chanda Nagar in Hyderabad last month.

### UPI users can now send Rs 5 lakh for some transactions

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has **increased transaction limits for tax payments** using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), allowing people to **transfer Rs 5 lakh in a single transaction.**
- While announcing its monetary policy statement on August 2024, RBI announced the enhancement of the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, per transaction.
- Consumers can now make UPI payments of up to Rs 5 lakh per transaction for the following categories: a) tax payments, b) hospital and educational services, and c) IPOs and government securities.

### HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative aims to uplift rural communities with sustainable development programmes

- The HDFC Bank is set to increase the income of 5 lakh marginal farmers earning less than ₹60,000 annually by 2025, scaling up further its over ₹5,000 crore investments in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the last decade.
- The bank's focus on rural development reflects our continued commitment to fostering sustainable growth and uplifting vulnerable communities. Since its inception in 2014, Parivartan has grown into one of India's largest CSR programmes, active in 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- Though following 2013, corporates invested 2 per cent of net profit in the CSR initiative as it has become mandatory due to Section 135 of the Companies Act, Bharucha said his bank started the sustainable livelihood initiative (SLI) way back in 2008, giving affordable credit to people.

#### LIC selects Infosys for NextGen digital insurance platform project

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has selected IT major Infosys to develop its NextGen digital platform.
- It will be an integrated end-to-end digital insurance solution providing "excellent services to customers, business lifecycle management and operational activities for sales intermediaries and digital front-end platform for branch employees".

#### WPI inflation drops to 4-month low of 1.31% in August

- India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation fell to a four-month low of 1.31 per cent on an annual basis in August from 2.04 per cent in July due to a reduction in the prices of manufactured products and food items, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### Bank of Baroda introduces GenAI-powered virtual relationship manager for conversational banking

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced 'Aditi', a GenAI-powered virtual relationship manager, to enhance the digital customer service experience.
- Available on the bank's web portal, the capability supports audio, video and chat-based assistance ensuring 24x7 banking services with multilingual support. This service is being gradually rolled out to our existing customers through an enrollment process available on the bank's website.
- In addition, BoB has also launched a GenAI-enabled knowledge management platform, 'GyanSahay.AI' for its employees.

#### Banks, FIs to invest Rs 32.5 trillion in renewable energy by 2030: Centre

- Leading renewable energy (RE) project developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions committed close to \$386 billion or around Rs 32.45 trillion to the development of RE projects by 2030.
- This commitment was made at the inaugural ceremony of the 4th RE-Invest Summit hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- Public sector and private project developers have committed to building close to 570 gigawatts (Gw) of RE capacity.

#### Govt notifies NaBFID as a public financial institution under Companies Act

- **The government has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a public financial institution under the Companies Act.**
- This will help the government fortify the nation's infrastructure finance structures.
- The Corporate Affairs Ministry said that in exercise of the powers,
- **Section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, hereby notifies the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development as a "public financial institution".**

#### Razorpay launches integration platform DataSync

- **Fintech giant Razorpay has launched DataSync**, a no-code data integration platform that provides real-time data access, allowing businesses to enhance business intelligence, improve financial reporting, strengthen fraud and security monitoring, and uncover new revenue opportunities.
- DataSync will allow businesses to safely and conveniently integrate their financial and business data on Razorpay. This allows firms to use their data for deeper business insight, improved financial reporting, fraud and security monitoring, and generating new revenue ideas, transforming payment data into a profit centre.

#### Jana SFB introduces "Liquid Plus Fixed Deposit": A Comprehensive Solution to Manage Short Term Liquidity Needs

- **Jana Small Finance Bank**, one of India's leading small finance banks, has **launched a comprehensive solution "Liquid Plus" Fixed Deposit** with attractive interest rate of 6.75% p.a. for tenures ranging from 7 to 180 days.
- The rate is applicable for the minimum deposit amount of INR 10 Lakhs for retail deposits up to INR 3 Crores and above INR 3 Crores to INR 200 Crores for bulk deposits per customer.

#### YES Bank launched PaisaSave Cashback Credit Card

- **Paisabazaar**, India's leading online marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform, has **partnered with Yes Bank to unveil their co-branded credit card - YES BANK Paisabazaar PaisaSave Credit Card.**
- The PaisaSave Credit Card is designed to reward frequent shoppers by offering substantial cashback on everyday purchases, both online and offline, making it a must-have for the value-conscious customers.

#### SEBI imposes Rs 1 crore fine on Jai Anmol Ambani in Reliance Home Finance case

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Jai Anmol Ambani**, the elder son of industrialist Anil Ambani, for not exercising proper due diligence while approving corporate loans at Reliance Home Finance.

- Additionally, Krishnan Gopalakrishnan, the Chief Risk Officer of Reliance Home Finance, has been fined Rs 15 lakh for similar violations. The two individuals are required to pay the amount within 45 days of the SEBI order.

#### **IDFC FIRST Bank launches Ashva and Mayura Credit Cards**

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched the **Ashva Credit Card**. This new metal credit card, powered by Visa, combines India's rich cultural heritage with modern sophistication.
- IDFC FIRST Bank has also launched the **Mayura Credit Card**, adding to its premium metal card range.

#### **Decentro unveils eNACH and UPI AutoPay, Streamlining Recurring Payments**

- **Decentro**, India's largest fintech infrastructure platform, has introduced **eNACH & UPI AutoPay**, intended to streamline and simplify the management of recurring payments for businesses.
- The company hopes to assist at least 100+ enterprises with integrating these modules over the next three months, addressing some of the most difficult obstacles that businesses encounter regarding recurring payments. The first partner bank for this new module is YES Bank.

#### **Federal Bank unveils NPS Vatsalya, assuring long-term wealth building to minors**

- **Federal Bank**, one of India's leading banks has unveiled **NPS Vatsalya**, a pioneering program inside the **National Pension System (NPS)** designed exclusively for minors.
- The Government of India launched NPS Vatsalya to provide a secure and flexible retirement planning solution for children while assuring long-term wealth building, through the power of compounding.

#### **Bank of Baroda Unveils Co-Branded Travel Debit Card in Collaboration with EaseMyTrip**

- **Bank of Baroda**, in collaboration with **EaseMyTrip.com**, has introduced a '**Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card**', targeting frequent travellers and those spending on entertainment and lifestyle.
- This is the first co-branded travel debit card to be launched by a public sector bank.

#### **IDBI Bank launched Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana for one time settlement of retail NPAs**

- **IDBI Bank** has launched a special Scheme "**Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana (SUGAM)**", to boost its recovery efforts through one time settlement of Retail NPAs up to March 31, 2021.
- The scheme will be applicable to borrower's principal outstanding above Rs.0.10 crore and up to Rs.10 crore (subject to eligibility criteria), at relaxed terms.
- It will provide a renewed opportunity to the borrowers who are in distress and are willing to settle their dues to avoid legal entanglement. The scheme will end on March on 2025.

#### **HDFC Bank launches instant SIP via SmartWealth app**

- **HDFC Bank** has launched **updates to its SmartWealth app**. One of the key additions is the Instant SIP, which allows users to invest in mutual funds on the same day they identify an opportunity.
- This feature enables users to capitalise on favorable market conditions immediately. It caters to those who wish to respond quickly to market changes.

#### Axis Bank's new economy group launches Corporate Credit Card Suite for startups

- **Axis Bank** has unveiled its **Corporate Credit Card Suite** designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG).
- This innovative offering is tailored to streamline various financial processes for start-ups, including travel, expenses, and vendor payments.

## Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
<b>The revenue department</b> in the finance ministry has formed a panel	V K Gupta, chief commissioner of income-tax (I-T)	To simplify the decades-old <b>I-T Act</b>
<b>The Supreme Court</b> has constituted a high-powered committee	Justice Nawab Singh	To <b>amicably resolve the grievances of farmers</b> agitating at the Shambhu border between <b>Punjab and Haryana</b> .
The constitution of the <b>23rd Law Commission of India</b>	-	The commission will include a full-time chairperson, <b>four members, and additional ex-officio and part-time members</b> . The commission's mandate is to <b>review and recommend legal reforms to enhance the Indian legal system</b> .
<b>The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), GoI, has constituted a committee of experts</b>	Bharat Khera	To recommend a robust framework for <b>Repairability Index and to empower consumers and promote sustainable practices</b> within the tech industry.

<p><b>The fifteen-member steering committee of the GlobE Network following a multi-stage voting process</b></p>	<p>Beijing, China</p>	<p>The <b>Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities</b> (GlobE Network) is an initiative launched under the <b>G20 framework to address international corruption and financial crime.</b></p>
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## Chapter 16: Defence News

### India's 2nd nuclear missile submarine 'INS Arighat' commissioned by Rajnath Singh

- India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, the INS Arighaat, was commissioned into service at Visakhapatnam in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- It joins the first such submarine, the INS Arihant, which was commissioned into service in 2016.
- The INS Arihant was quietly commissioned into service in August 2016. It has a displacement of 6,000 tonnes and is powered by an 83 MW pressurised light-water reactor with enriched uranium. INS Arighaat retains the same reactor and dimensions, but has several technological upgrades.

### Cabinet approves ₹26,000 cr deal with HAL for 240 aero-engines for SU-30 MKIs

- PM Narendra Modi-headed Cabinet Committee on Security in its meeting approved a proposal for procurement of 240 aero-engines (AL-31FP) for Russian-origin SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft from defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of over ₹26,000 crore.
- Earlier, the MoD had given nod to HAL for major upgrade of SU-30 MKI fleet of aircrafts of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to increase their operational lives which is worth ₹60,000 crore.

### Indian Navy and South African Navy sign agreement to enhance submarine rescue support cooperation

- **The navies of India and South Africa have signed an implementation agreement to enhance submarine rescue support cooperation that ensures the "safety of the South African Navy's submarine crew in times of distress or accident."**
- Under this agreement, the Indian Navy will provide assistance by deploying its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) when required, further strengthening the collaborative ties between the two navies.
- The agreement was signed by Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi and Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, Chief of the South African Navy.

### Indian Army & Indian Air Force Ink MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

- To enhance the skills and capability building of their personnel, **the Indian Army and Indian Air Force** signed an **MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara** in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.
- The MoU will enable the two Services to acquire higher expertise in logistics. It will ensure the development of in-house expertise on various facets of logistics operations and contribute effectively towards the national development plans - PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates IDAX-24 Expo in Jodhpur

- **The India Defence Aviation Exposition (IDAX-24) was officially inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Jodhpur.**
- This major event coincides with Exercise Tarang Shakti-24, one of the largest multinational air exercises hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF). IDAX-24 highlights the significant advancements and contributions of the Indian aviation industry.

### VL-SRSAM missile successfully test-fired by DRDO & Indian Navy

- **The Indian Navy, in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).**
- The test was carried out at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur island off the coast of Odisha.
- This is the second successful missile test by the DRDO in the past week. On 6 September 2024, the DRDO successfully conducted the user trial of its nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM Agni-4).
- DRDO is developing the VL-SRAM, which will be **manufactured by the central government-owned Bharat Dynamic Limited.**

### Indian Navy commissions Submarine Escape Training Facility Vinetra

- **The Indian Navy commissioned its indigenously designed and developed Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility at its premier submarine training base, INS Satavahana, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**
- The INS Satavahana is under the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. L&T Defence has constructed the Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility, Vinetra (meaning Trainer).

### Indian Army signs MoU with Tiranga Mountain Rescue to enhance high-altitude operations

- **The Indian Army has entered an understanding with the Tiranga Mountain Rescue (TMR) at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies in the Delhi Cantonment.**
- This understanding marks a pivotal step in advancing the Indian Army's rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains.

### Indigenous Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joins Western Naval Fleet

- The country's indigenous aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant** joined the western naval fleet, in a significant enhancement to maritime power in the Arabian Sea.
- INS Vikrant is designed by Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and **built by Cochin Shipyard Limited**, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- The 262.5 m long and 61.6 m wide Vikrant displaces approximately 43,000 T, having a maximum designed speed of 28 Knots with endurance of 7,500 Nautical Miles.

#### DRDO & IIT Delhi develop ABHED Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), together with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has developed light weight bullet proof jackets, named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat), which offer 360-degree protection.
- These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.
- The design configuration is based on characterisation of various materials at high strain rates followed by appropriate modelling and simulation in collaboration with DRDO. The armour plates for the jackets have passed all necessary R&D trials as per the protocols.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The 22nd edition of India-France Bilateral Exercise VARUNA	India-France	The Indian Navy's frontline warship <b>INS Tabar</b> participated in the 22nd edition of India-France Bilateral Exercise <b>VARUNA</b> in the Mediterranean Sea.
The 16th edition of Exercise Kakadu 2024	India-Australia	The Indian Navy's <b>P8I aircraft</b> , led by Commanding Officer Captain <b>Ajay Kanwar</b> , has reached <b>Australia's Darwin</b> to participate in the 16th edition of <b>Exercise Kakadu 2024</b> .
The seventh edition of the bilateral military	Indian Air Force and the Royal Oman Air Force	The Indian Air Force has sent a contingent of <b>MiG-29s, Jaguar fighter</b>

<b>exercise Exercise Eastern Bridge</b>		<b>planes, and C-17 Globemaster III</b> transport planes.
<b>The 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise AI NAJAH</b>	The Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman	The military exercise will focus on <b>executing counterterrorism operations</b> as per the <b>United Nations Charter</b> . It will be undertaken in desert conditions, which is expected to increase the desert warfare capabilities of both armies.
<b>National Disaster Management Authority and the Army Southern Command</b> entitled <b>Exercise AIKYA</b>	The Indian Army	The primary aim of the exercise is to <b>enhance disaster preparedness and foster robust collaboration among key stakeholders</b> .
<b>Exercise KAZIND -2024</b>	India -Kazakhstan	The aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military <b>capability of both sides to undertake counter-terrorism operations</b> in a sub-conventional scenario under <b>Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter</b> .

## Chapter 17: Sports News

### Shannon Gabriel retires from International Cricket

- Shannon Gabriel of the West Indies has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Since his West Indies debut in 2012, the right-arm quick played 59 tests, 25 ODIs and two T20 Internationals finishing with 202 wickets across the three formats.
- Gabriel was more successful in test matches and became a regular member of the West Indies team in 2017.

### Avani Lekhara wins gold medal in para shooting at Paris Paralympics

- India's Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal won the gold and bronze respectively in the women's 10m Air Rifle competition.
- Avani bettered her previous record set in the Tokyo Games to finish at the top. She finished with a total of 249.7 to achieve the new Paralympic record in the category. Her previous best was 249.6 in the Tokyo Paralympics.
- Mona won the first medal for the country in the Paris Paralympics on her debut in the Games.

### **Aarti wins Bronze Medal in Women's 10000m race walk event at World U20 Athletics Championships**

- In the World U20 Athletics Championships, Aarti won a Bronze medal in the Women's 10000m race walk event with the National U20 record time to open India's medal account at Lima in Peru.
- She clocked 44 minutes 39.39 seconds to finish third in the gruelling event on the penultimate day of competitions.
- The 17-year-old Aarti broke her own earlier national record of 47 minutes 21.04 seconds which she had clocked in March this year in the National Federation Cup U20 Championships in Lucknow.

### **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 to begin from 11th Nov at Rajgir**

- Hockey India has announced that the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will begin at Rajgir in Bihar on November 11th this year.
- The event, a joint effort between Hockey India and the Bihar Government, will take place at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium between 11th November and 20th November.

### **Dawid Malan retires from International Cricket**

- Dawid Malan, England's former world No. 1 T20I batter, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 37.
- The left-handed batter announced his decision in an interview with British Daily 'The Times', following his omission from the upcoming white-ball series against Australia.

### **Indian shooter Rubina Francis won bronze in women's 10-meter air pistol SH1 final at Paralympic Games**

- In the Paris Paralympic Games, Indian shooter Rubina Francis won bronze in the women's 10-meter air pistol SH1 final qualification round.
- Rubina secured India's fourth medal in shooting at the 17th Summer Paralympic Games. The 25-year-old shooter from Madhya Pradesh scored a total of 211.1 to finish third in the final.

### **Barinder Sran announces retirement from international cricket**

- Barinder Sran, the left-arm fast bowler, has called it quits from international and domestic cricket with immediate effect at the age of 31.
- He made his debut under MS Dhoni's captaincy in January 2016 and played six ODIs and two T20Is until June 2016 before losing his place in the Indian team.

- He could never don the blue jersey and eight years later, has decided to step away from the game.

### Himanshi Tokas clinches silver medal at Asian Cadet Judo Championships

- Himanshi Tokas won a silver medal at the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championships.
- The event took place in Mungyeong, South Korea.
- Himanshi competed in the women's 63-kilogram weight category.
- She is 19 years old and part of the Khelo Bharat program. 12 members from India participated in the competition.

### 15-year-old International Master Mayank Chakraborty wins his 2nd Grand Master Norm in Greece

- 15-year-old Chess International Master Mayank Chakraborty from Assam has won his second Grand Master Norm in a GM Norm Tournament being conducted in Greece.
- IM Mayank requires one last norm and to touch the FIDE Rating Point 2500 once to be a Grand Master, in fact the first Grand Master from entire North East India.
- His present FIDE rating is 2431. He had become International Master this year in April only, and right now he is the player with the highest number of Grand Master Norms and highest rating from the entire North East India.

### Preethi Pal makes history with Bronze and Nishad Kumar wins Silver at Paris Paralympics 2024

- At Paris Paralympics 2024, Indian Para Athlete Preethi Pal secured yet another medal for India, clinching a bronze medal in the Women's 200 meters – T35 Final.
- She won the medal with a personal best timing of 30.01 seconds.
- With this win, she became the first track and field Indian Woman Para Athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics.
- On the other hand, Indian athlete Nishad Kumar also won a silver medal with an effort of 2.04 meter in Men's High Jump – T47 event.

### Yogesh Kathuniya wins silver in men's Discus throw F56 final

- India's Yogesh Kathuniya clinched his second consecutive Paralympic silver medal in men's discus throw F-56 event with a season's best effort 42.22m at the ongoing Games in Paris.
- The 27-year-old hurled the discus to the podium-clinching distance in his very first attempt to add to the silver he won in the Tokyo Paralympics three years ago.
- Greece's Konstantinos Tzounis won the bronze with 41.32m.

### Shuttler Nitesh Kumar wins gold medal at Paris Paralympics

- Nitesh Kumar, a para badminton player from Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, claimed India's second gold medal at the Paris Paralympics in Para badminton, after beating Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the final of men's singles SL3 category.

- SL3 class players, like Nitesh, compete with more severe lower limb disabilities, requiring play on a half-width court.
- The 29-year-old Nitesh, who overcame permanent leg damage from a 2009 accident, showed his dominance with a (result) win over Bethell in the final.

#### **Divyanshi Bhowmick clinches Bronze medal at WTT Youth Contender 2024**

- Indian paddler Divyanshi Bhowmick clinched a bronze medal in the Under-19 Youth Girls Singles Event at the World Table Tennis Youth Contender Varazdin 2024 ARENA VARAŽDIN in Croatia.
- The 13-year-old paddler is a Khelo India athlete.

#### **Thulasimathi, Manisha claims badminton silver and bronze medals at Paralympics**

- Indian shuttlers Thulasimathi Murugesan and Manisha Ramadass signed off with maiden silver and bronze medals respectively in women's singles SU5 category at the Paralympics.
- The 22-year-old Thulasimathi, the number one seed, put up a fight before going down 17-21 10-21 against China's defending champion Yang Qiuxia in the final.
- Second seed Manisha, playing at the adjacent court, outplayed Denmark's Cathrine Rosengren, seeded third, 21-12 21-8 to claim the bronze medal.

#### **Suhas Yathiraj gets silver in badminton men's singles SL4 category**

- India's Suhas Yathiraj got the silver medal in the men's singles SL4 category in badminton at the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- He lost to France's Lucas Mazur 9-21, 13-21 in the gold medal match at the La Chapelle Arena Court 1. It took the Frenchman 34 minutes to beat Suhas.

#### **Sheetal Devi, Rakesh Kumar clinched Archery Mixed Team Bronze**

- India's Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar clinched the bronze medal in the mixed compound open archery event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- The duo secured the victory in a nail-biting match against Italy's Eleonora Sarti and Matteo Bonacina, winning by a single point with a scoreline of 156-155.

#### **Sumit Antil wins gold in javelin throw F64**

- Star javelin thrower Sumit Antil became the first Indian man and second from the country to defend the title as he won the F64 category gold with Paralympics record of 70.59m at the Paris Games.
- The 26-year-old world record holder from Sonipat in Haryana bettered his own earlier Paralympic best of 68.55m set in Tokyo while winning the gold three years ago. Antil's world record stands at 73.29m.

#### **Badminton player Nithya Sre Sivan wins Bronze in Paris Paralympics**

- Para shuttler Nithya Sre Sivan has won the bronze medal at the Paris Paralympics in the Women's Singles Badminton SH6 event.
- The 'SH6' event has been newly introduced and features short-statured athletes.
- The 19-year-old Nithya, who entered the tournament as a top seed, dominated her match against Indonesia's Rina Marlina, winning 21-14, 21-6 in just 23 minutes.

### NorthEast United FC wins its maiden Durand Cup beating Mohun Bagan

- Guwahati-based NorthEast United Football Club won its first Durand Cup title, defeating the defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final.
- The final of the 133rd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament was played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata (West Bengal).
- The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup was held in Kolkata, Kokrajhar (Assam), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), and Shillong (Meghalaya).
- Jamshedpur was hosting the matches of the Durand Cup for the first time.
- Mohun Bagan Super Giant football club, the most successful team in the history of the Durand Cup, having won it 17 times, failed to defend its title.

### Bangladesh wins maiden SAFF U-20 Championship Football Tournament

- Bangladesh won its maiden SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Men's U-20 Championship by defeating host Nepal 4-1 in the final.
- The final was played at the ANFA Complex in Lalitpur, Nepal.
- The Bangladeshi team, also famous as the Bengal Tigers, finally won the title in their fourth attempt at the finals. The Bangladeshi team appeared in the 2017, 2019 and 2022 finals without any success.
- However, in this fourth attempt, they defeated the host country, Nepal, to win their maiden title.
- The Bangladeshi team defeated the favourite and defending champion, India, 4-3, in the penalty shootout in the semi-final to progress to the final.
- Nepal defeated Bhutan 4-1 in the penalty shoot-out in the other semi-final to reach the finals.

### Shot put thrower Sachin Khilari wins silver in Paris Paralympics

- 2023 and 2024 world champion Sachin Khilari clinched silver in the Paris Paralympics. Khilari threw 16.32m in the men's shot put F46 - finishing behind Canada's Greg Stewart at Stade de France in Paris.
- Khilari's throw was also the best effort an Asian has ever put in the men's F46 event.
- There were a total of three Indians participating in the event. Mohd Yasser and Rohit Kumar were not able to get into the podium contention, finishing 8th and 9th respectively with best throws of 14.21m and 14.10m.

### Harvinder Singh becomes first Indian archer to win Paralympic gold medal

- At the Paris Paralympics 2024, Harvinder Singh created history by winning a Gold in the men's archery individual recurve open final.
- He became the first and only Indian archer to clinch a gold medal at the Paralympics or Olympics.

### Dharambir sets Asian record to win gold, while Pranav secures silver in Paralympic Men's F51 club throw

- India's Dharambir broke the Asian record to clinch the gold medal in the Paralympics 2024 while compatriot Pranav Soorma clinched the silver as Indian club throwers dominated the men's F51 event in the marquee event happening in Paris.
- After four fouled attempts, the world championships bronze medallist from Sonapat, Dharambir hurled the club to a distance of 34.92m in his fifth attempt to claim the top spot.

#### Luis Suarez retires from Uruguay national team

- Celebrated football striker Luis Suarez is ending his historic run with the Uruguay national team.
- The nation's all-time leading scorer with 69 goals, Suarez announced that he will retire from international duties following the FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifier against Paraguay in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Suarez has made 142 appearances for Uruguay, playing in four World Cups and winning the 2011 Copa America title.

#### Kapil Parmar wins historic Judo bronze for India at Paralympics

- At Paris Paralympics 2024 India's JudoKa Kapil Parmar won bronze medal in Para Judo men's -60kg J1 category beating Brazil's Elielton de Oliveira .
- This is the first medal in this event in India's history of Paralympics. The match ended in just 33 seconds.
- Parmar produced a superlative performance, dominating his opponent from start to finish to record a 10-0 win in the bronze medal contest.
- He had earlier lost to S Banitaba Khorram Abadi in the semifinals, beaten 0-10 by his Iranian opponent.

#### Wrestler Jyoti Berwal wins gold medal in U20 World Championships

- In wrestling, Jyoti Berwal clinched a gold medal in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.
- Jyoti defeated Ukraine's Mariia Orlevych in the final. On her way to the final, Jyoti defeated Mongolian, Chinese, and Turkish opponents.
- This was India's second consecutive world U20 title in women's 76 kg after Priya Malik claimed it in the 2023 edition.

#### Ajeet Singh clinches silver medal in javelin throw, Sundar Singh Gurjar wins bronze at Paris Paralympics

- India's Ajeet Singh and Sundar Singh Gurjar won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, in the men's javelin throw F46 class at the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- Ajeet Singh, 30, won the silver medal with his penultimate throw of the night which measured 65.62m at the Stade de France.
- Sundar Singh Gurjar was in second position after his fourth throw landed at 64.96m but was pushed down to third after Ajeet Singh's late comeback.

#### Praveen Kumar wins gold medal in Men's High Jump T64 final

- At the Paris Paralympic Games, **star athlete Praveen Kumar** bagged a **gold medal in the Men's High Jump T64 final**.
- Praveen secured the top spot on the podium with a brilliant effort of 2.08m, setting a new Area record. In a tightly contested final, Praveen made seven successful jumps in a row to claim the number one position.

#### Hokato Hotozhe Sema on winning bronze medal in Men's F57 shot put

- **Hokato Hotozhe Sema** has won the **bronze medal in the men's F57 shot put event in Paris Paralympic 2024**.
- The 40-year-old from Dimapur made himself **the first-ever medallist from Nagaland** to win a bronze at the Paralympic Games for shotput, with a career-best throw of 14.65 meters.

#### Nitika wins silver medal in women's 62 kg freestyle category at U20 World Championships

- **In wrestling, Nitika** won the **silver medal in the women's 62 kg freestyle category at the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain**. She lost to Ukrainian wrestler Iryna Bondar 1-4 in the final.
- Last year, Nitika won a gold medal at the U20 Asian Championships.
- Neha clinched the bronze medal, beating Hungarian grappler Gerda Terek 10-8 in the women's 57 kg freestyle division. She had won the yellow metal in the U17 World Championships last month.

#### Harvinder, Preeti named India's flag-bearers for Paralympics closing ceremony

- **Gold medal-winning archer Harvinder Singh and sprinter Preeti Pal**, who made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics, have been **named India's flag bearers for the closing ceremony of the Paris Paralympic Games**.
- Harvinder, 33, etched his name in history as the first Indian archer to clinch a gold at the Paralympics, adding to the bronze he secured in Tokyo in 2021.

#### Navdeep Singh wins gold medal at the Paris Paralympics

- **Navdeep Singh** won a **gold in the men's javelin throw F41 class at Paris 2024 with a new Paralympic record of 47.32m** to register India's first-ever medal in the category.
- Navdeep's medal-winning throw eclipsed the previous Paralympic record of 47.13m, set by Sun Pengxiang of the People's Republic of China at Tokyo 2020.

#### India secures record 29 medals at Paris Paralympics 2024

- **The Indian contingent concluded its historic Paris Paralympics campaign with 29 medals**, including **seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals**, marking the country's best performance in the competition's history.
- India also crossed the 50-medal mark in Paralympic Games history with this impressive performance.

- The 29 medals were won across five sports, with a remarkable 17 coming from track and field events. This ensured that India finished in the top 20 of the medal standings at the mega-event, which was once again dominated by China.
- China topped the Paralympics medals table with 220 medals, including 94 golds. China has led the medal standings at every Paralympics since Athens 2004. Great Britain finished second in Paris with 49 golds, followed by the United States, which claimed 36 titles.
- **Complete List of Medal winners of India**

S.No	Para-Athletes	Sport	Event	Medal
<b>GOLD Medal</b>				
1	Avani Lakhera	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Gold
2	Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's singles SL3 class	Gold
3	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Javelin throw F64	Gold
4	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's individual recurve open	Gold
5	Dharambir	Athletics	Men's club throw F51 class	Gold
6	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T 64	Gold
7	Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F41	Gold
<b>SILVER Medal</b>				
1	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Men's 10m air pistol SH1	Silver
2	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T47	Silver
3	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's discus throw F56	Silver
4	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's singles SU5	Silver
5	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's singles SL4	Silver
6	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Silver
7	Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Silver
8	Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's shot put F46	Silver
9	Pranav Soorma	Athletics	Men's club throw F51 class	Silver
<b>BRONZE Medal</b>				
1	Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Bronze
2	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
3	Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
4	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze

5	Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women's singles SU5	Bronze
6	Rakesh Kumar & Sheetal Devi	Archery	Mixed team compound open	Bronze
7	Nithya Sre Sivan	Badminton	Women's singles SH6	Bronze
8	Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
9	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Bronze
10	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Bronze
11	Kapil Parmar	Judo	Men's Judo -60kg J1 Class	Bronze
12	Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's shot put F57	Bronze
13	Simran	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze

### Medal's Tally

Position	Country	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total Medal
1	China	94	74	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	USA	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	India	7	9	13	29

### Moeen Ali announces retirement from international cricket

- **Moeen Ali**, the versatile England all-rounder, has officially **announced his retirement from international cricket**.
- Moeen made his international debut in 2014 against West Indies. He scored 6678 international runs and picked 366 wickets. He won the 2019 Cricket World Cup and 2022 T20 World Cup with the senior men's side.

### OCA includes Yogasana as demonstration sport in 2026 Asian Games

- India's ancient sport, **Yogasana** was included as a **demonstration event at the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.
- Yogasana's inclusion in the Asian Games calendar as a demonstration sport was unanimously passed at the 44th General Assembly of Olympic Council of Asia.

### Jannik Sinner, Aryna Sabalenka wins 2024 US Open Singles title

- Jannik Sinner of Italy has won the men's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament.

- While, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the women's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament.

#### Syria wins the 4th Intercontinental Cup Men's Football Tournament

- **Syria** defeated India 3-0 in the last round-robin match to **win the 4th Intercontinental Cup men's football championship**. India, the defending champions, could not score a single goal in the match.
- Mahmoud Al-Mawas, Syrian captain, received the winners' trophy and was named the Syed Abdul Rahim Player of the Tournament.

#### Indian boxer Deepali Thapa becomes 1st ever Asian Schoolgirl Champion

- **Indian boxer Deepali Thapa** has made history by **becoming the first-ever Asian Schoolgirl Champion in Al Ain, UAE**.
- Her victory led India to secure seven female titles at the Asian Championships. In the 33 kg weight category, Thapa defeated Ukraine's Liudmyla Vasylenko in the final.

#### Irani Cup 2024 to be played in Lucknow from October 1-5

- **The 2024/25 Irani Cup game**, which was supposed to be held in Mumbai from **October 1 to 5, has been shifted to Lucknow**.
- The match will be played between current Ranji Trophy winners Mumbai and a Rest of the India side selected by the national selection committee.
- Last year, Rest of India won the Irani Cup after beating Saurashtra by 175 runs in Rajkot.

#### Anmol Kharb clinches Belgian International Title

- India's 17-year-old shuttler, **Anmol Kharb** secured her **first senior international title by winning the women's singles event at the Belgian International 2024 in Leuven**.
- In a remarkable display of skill and determination, the 17-year-old, overcame Denmark's Amalie Schulz 24-22, 12-21, 21-10 in the final.

#### Oscar Piastrri won Azerbaijan F1 GP

- **Oscar Piastrri** won the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** after a late crash impacted the race and required it to finish behind a virtual safety car.
- The win, combined with the fourth-place finish of McLaren teammate Lando Norris, gave the team a 20-point lead over Red Bull in the constructors standings. Red Bull had topped the standings for the past 55 races; McLaren last held the position in 2014.

#### Neeraj Chopra finishes second at Diamond League Final in Brussels

- **Ace Indian javelin throw athlete Neeraj Chopra** finished in **second position in Brussels** with a **best throw of 87.86 m** at the **Diamond League Final**.
- Neeraj missed out on the top spot by just a 1 cm margin.

#### 4th South Asian Junior Athletics Championship: India at topped the medal tally

- **The 4th South Asian Junior Athletics Championships** was held at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

- India led the Medal tally by winning 48 medals- 21 gold,22 silver and 5 bronze.
- The Sri Lanka team, which gave a tough fight to the Indians, came second with 35 medals—9 gold, 9 silver, and 17 bronze. Bangladesh came third with three bronze medals. Pakistan and Bhutan failed to win a single medal at the event.

#### India wins Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for record 5th time

- The Indian men's hockey team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, defeated host China 1-0 in the final to win the Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for a record fifth time.
- The final match of the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was played at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City.
- Defending champion India had earlier won the trophy in 2011,2016,2018 and 2023.
- In the final, Jugraj Singh scored the only winning goal of the match in the 51 minutes.

#### Glasgow to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games

- Glasgow, Scotland's capital, has agreed to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after the original host, Victoria of Australia, declined due to the rising cost.
- Glasgow has previously successfully hosted the 2012 Commonwealth Games.
- The first Commonwealth Games was held in 1930, and countries or territories that are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation, now known as Commonwealth Sport, participate in the Games.

#### India's Dhanush Loganathan wins Bronze in Men's 55kg at IWF Junior World Championships 2024

- In Weightlifting, India's Dhanush Loganathan won the bronze medal in the men's 55kg event at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2024 in Leon, Spain.
- The 17-year-old Indian weightlifter lifted a total of 231kg (107 snatch+124kg clean and jerk) for bronze.
- Medals at the junior World Weightlifting Championships 2024 are awarded separately in snatch, clean and jerk and total categories.

#### Punjab lifts Hockey Junior Men's National Championship trophy

- Punjab defeated Uttar Pradesh to clinch the 14th Hockey India Junior Men's National Championship 2024 at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar.
- After a 3-3 finish, the match was decided in the shootout, with Punjab winning 4-3 to lift the trophy.

#### Jasprit Bumrah becomes 10th Indian Bowler to reach 400 International Wickets

- Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah completed 400 wickets in international cricket, becoming the 10th bowler from his team to do so.
- Bumrah reached this milestone during India's first Test against Bangladesh at Chennai.

- In 196 international matches, Bumrah has taken 401 wickets at an average of 21.01, with the best bowling figures of 6/19.

### Chess Olympiad 2024: Indian teams make history, bag gold in both categories

- **India** has struck **historic double gold medals in the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary**. Both men and women teams emerged on top.
- In the open section, India's maiden title win was secured following Arjun Erigaisi's victory over Jan Subelj of Slovenia in the final round of the competition.
- At the same time, second-placed China dropped crucial points against the USA in their fixture, and India officially clinched the title. The Indian team for the open category included Gukesh D, Praggnanandhaa R, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, Pentala Harikrishna, and Srinath Narayanan.

### Sangram Singh becomes 1st Indian male wrestler to win MMA fight at Gama International Fighting Championship

- **Indian wrestler Sangram Singh** became the **first Indian male wrestler to win an MMA (mixed martial arts) fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship Tbilisi in Georgia**.
- Commonwealth heavyweight wrestling champion Sangram won in a 90-second match against the Pakistani opponent, Ali Raza Nasir.

### Lando Norris wins Singapore Grand Prix

- **Formula One title contender Lando Norris** led from pole to chequered flag to win the **Singapore Grand Prix**, narrowing the gap to championship leader Max Verstappen, who was second.
- It was the McLaren driver's third career GP win and his first from pole at his sixth attempt.

### Indian tennis duo Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashant win Hangzhou Open Doubles title

- Indian tennis duo **Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth** won the **doubles title in the ATP 250 Hangzhou Open 2024**.
- They defeated the German pair of Constantine Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Expo Centre.
- The Indian duo staged a remarkable comeback to triumph 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-7, marking their first ATP title together as a pair.

### Kamal Chawla clinches Gold in IBSF World 6 Red Snooker Championship

- In snooker, **Indian veteran Kamal Chawla** has clinched his **maiden IBSF World 6-Red title with a commanding 6-2 victory over Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal in the final at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- This triumph marks a significant turnaround for Chawla, who was the runner-up in the 2017 edition of the tournament. India also won three more bronze medals through Malkeet Singh, Vidya Pillai, and Keerthana Pandian.

### BCCI inaugurates state-of-the-art 'Centre of Excellence' in Bengaluru

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has officially opened the new **National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru**, now named the BCCI Centre of Excellence.
- This state-of-the-art facility, envisioned by BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, aims to cultivate the next generation of cricket talent while promoting advancements in sports science across India.
- Spanning over 40 acres, the Centre of Excellence is equipped with three cricket grounds and a total of 86 pitches, offering both indoor and outdoor training options.

#### Gulveer Singh breaks his 5000m National Record in Japan

- **Gulveer Singh** broke his **national record in the men's 5000m event by clocking 13:11.82 to win gold** at the World Athletics Continental Tour in Niigata, Japan.
- Gulveer, in June this year, had broken Avinash Sable's record at the 2024 Portland Track Festival by clocking 13:18.92.
- The 26-year-old surpassed Avinash's record of 13:19.30 set at the Sound Running On Track Fest 2023 in LA to secure a personal best.

## Chapter 18: Book and Author

## Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
31 August	International Day for People of African Descent	<b>The International Day for People of African Descent</b> marks a significant milestone in the global recognition of the <b>contributions and challenges faced by individuals of African descent worldwide.</b>
1st – 7th September	National Nutrition Week	Theme 2024 - <b>Nutritious Diets for Everyone</b>
2 September	World Coconut Day	Objective - To promote the importance of coconuts worldwide. This <b>versatile fruit is crucial in agriculture, nutrition, and the economy in many tropical regions.</b>

<b>3 September</b>	World Skyscraper Day	It is a tribute to the <b>brehtaking structures</b> that have transformed the cities. These structures are testaments to <b>human creativity, engineering prowess and an unwavering drive to reach for the skies.</b>
<b>5 September</b>	National Teachers' Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Empowering Educators for a Sustainable Future</b>
<b>5 September</b>	International Day of Charity	The primary objective of this day is to <b>increase awareness and create a shared platform for charity-related activities worldwide.</b>
<b>7 September</b>	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	Objective - <b>To raise awareness and drive action on combating air pollution.</b>
<b>8 September</b>	World Physical Therapy Day	Theme 2024 - <b>LBP (Low Back Pain) and the role of physiotherapy in its prevention and management</b>
<b>9 September</b>	International Literacy Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace'.</b>
<b>10 September</b>	World Suicide Prevention Day	Theme 2024 - <b>'Changing the Narrative on Suicide – Start the Conversation</b>
<b>11 September</b>	National Forest Martyrs Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Honoring the Guardians of Our Forest</b>
<b>12 September</b>	International Day of South-South Cooperation	Theme 2024 - <b>A better tomorrow through South-South Cooperation</b>
<b>14 September</b>	World First Aid Day	Theme 2024 - <b>First Aid and Sports</b>
<b>14 September</b>	Hindi Diwas	<b>On 14 September 1946</b> , the Constituent Assembly of India adopted <b>Hindi in Devnagari script</b> as the official language ( <b>Raj Bhasha</b> ) of the

		Indian government, based on the <b>K, M Munshi-N.G Iyenger formula.</b>
<b>15 September</b>	National Engineers Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Innovating for a Sustainable Future</b>
<b>16 September</b>	World Ozone Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action</b>
<b>16 September</b>	International Day for Interventional Cardiology	This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the <b>critical field of interventional cardiology and its pivotal role in treating heart diseases</b> through minimally invasive procedures.
<b>17 September</b>	World Patient Safety Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety</b>
<b>18 September</b>	World Bamboo Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design</b>
<b>18 September</b>	International Equal Pay Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Need To Eliminate Wage Discrimination</b>
<b>19 September</b>	International Talk Like a Pirate Day	The day aims to bring <b>people together in the spirit of camaraderie and shared amusement as friends, family and even strangers engage in lighthearted conversations, jokes and activities</b> that let them loose, have a good laugh and momentarily escape the stresses of everyday life.
<b>20 September</b>	World Cleanup Day	The theme of the inaugural event, taking place on 20 September in the city of <b>Tromsø, Norway, is "Arctic Cities and Marine Litter"</b> .
<b>21 September</b>	International Day of Peace	Theme 2024 - <b>Cultivating a Culture of Peace</b>

<b>21 September</b>	International Day of Peace	Theme 2024 - <b>Cultivating a Culture of Peace</b>
<b>22 September</b>	World Rhino Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Keep the Five Alive</b>
<b>23 September</b>	International Day of Sign Languages	Theme 2024 - <b>Sign up for Sign Language Rights</b>
<b>25 September</b>	World Pharmacist Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Pharmacists: Meeting global health need</b>
<b>25 September</b>	Antyodaya Diwas	The day marks the birth anniversary of <b>Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya</b> to remember his life and legacy.
<b>26 September</b>	World Contraception Day	Theme 2024 - <b>A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose.</b>
<b>26 September</b>	World Environmental Health Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.</b>
<b>26 September</b>	World Maritime Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Navigating the Future: safety first</b>
<b>26 September</b>	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	Objective - <b>To raise awareness about the threat of nuclear weapons and to promote their elimination.</b>
<b>27 September</b>	World Tourism Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Tourism and Peace</b>
<b>28 September</b>	World Rabies Day	Theme - <b>Breaking Rabies Boundary</b>
<b>29 September</b>	World Heart Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Use Heart for Action</b>
<b>30 September</b>	International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	Theme 2024 - <b>Climate Finance for Food Loss and Waste Reduction</b>
<b>30 September</b>	International Translation Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Translation, an Art Worth Protecting: Moral and Material Rights for Indigenous Languages.</b>

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### India successfully carries out launch of Agni-4 ballistic missile at Chandipur

- India has carried out a successful launch of an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- In April this year, India successfully tested the new-generation nuclear-capable Agni-Prime ballistic missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. It met all the trial objectives, validating its reliable performance.
- The Agni missiles are long-range, nuclear weapons-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missiles developed by India.

## Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Chilean tennis legend Luis Ayala	<b>Ayala, a Santiago native</b> , was a prominent figure in the sport and won <b>46 singles</b> titles throughout his <b>career</b> , including significant achievements on clay courts.
Poet, writer and former IPS officer Keki N Daruwalla	<b>Daruwalla</b> published his first volume of poetry in <b>1970</b> , titled <b>Under Orion</b> , followed by <b>Apparition in April (1971)</b> , <b>Crossing of Rivers (1976)</b> , <b>The Keeper of the Dead (1982)</b> – for which he won the <b>Sahitya Akademi award in 1984</b> – and <b>The Scarecrow and the Ghost (2004)</b> , among others.

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