

# THE HINDU REVIEW

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

(हिन्दी)

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



## THE HINDU REVIEW (OCTOBER 2024)

### Index

No. of Chapter	Topic Name
Chapter 1	Appointment (National, International)
Chapter 2	Awards (National, International)
Chapter 3	Government Scheme/ campaign
Chapter 4	Summit/ Conference
Chapter 5	Partnership/ Agreement
Chapter 6	Ranking Index
Chapter 7	Mergers and Acquisitions
Chapter 8	Loan
Chapter 9	App/Website/Portal
Chapter 10	Important MoU
Chapter 11	GDP Forecasting
Chapter 12	Current Affairs (National) In Short
Chapter 13	Current Affairs (International)
Chapter 14	Banking & Financial
Chapter 15	Committee
Chapter 16	Defence News
Chapter 17	Sports News
Chapter 18	Book and Author
Chapter 19	Important Day
Chapter 20	Science & Technology
Chapter 21	Obituary

## Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<p><b>The Union government has assigned the additional charge of CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)</b></p> <p><b>About Rashtriya Ispat Nigam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded</b>- 18 February 1982</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b>- Visakhapatnam</li> <li>• <b>Owner</b>- Ministry of Steel, Government of India</li> </ul>	<p>Ajit Kumar Saxena (Updated 2 October)</p>
<p><b>Became the first woman officer to take over as the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)</b></p>	<p>Arti Sarin (Updated 2 October)</p>
<p><b>The Government has appointed the Director of the Delhi School of Economics, noted economist and the Director of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, to the Monetary Policy Committee</b></p>	<p>Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Nagesh Kumar (Updated 2 October)</p>
<p><b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed as Executive Director (ED)</b></p>	<p>Aviral Jain (Updated 8 October)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as new head of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit</b></p>	<p>Sharad Kumar (Updated 9 October)</p>
<p><b>The Central Government has extended the tenure as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India</b></p> <p><b>About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded</b> - 1 April 1935</li> <li>• <b>RBI Nationalized</b> - 1 January 1949</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b> - Mumbai, Maharashtra</li> </ul>	<p>Mr M. Rajeshwar Rao (Updated 9 October)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RBI set up</b> - Hilton Young Commission</li> <li>• <b>1st Governor</b> - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)</li> <li>• <b>1st Indian Governor</b> - CD Deshmukh</li> <li>• <b>25th Governor</b> - Shaktikanta Das</li> </ul>	
<b>Appointed as the next Vice Chief of Air Staff</b>	Air Marshal SP Dharkar (Updated 10 October)
<b>Re-elected as the president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for the year 2024-25</b>	Prasanth Kumar (Updated 10 October)
<b>Appointed as the Managing Director of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company for a five-year term</b>	Ravindra Kumar Kundu (Updated 10 October)
<b>Appointed as the Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited</b>	Manish Tiwary (Updated 11 October)
<b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved appointment as MD &amp; CEO of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years</b>	Partha Pratim Sengupta (Updated 12 October)
<b>The government has given additional secretary in Department of Commerce, the additional charge of CEO of public procurement portal GeM.</b>	L Satya Srinivas (Updated 13 October)
<b>Named the chairman of Tata Trusts, the charitable division of the Tata Group</b>	Noel Tata (Updated 12 October)
<b>Indian Railways Financial Corporation (IRFC) has appointed as the CEO, Chairman, and Managing Director of the company for five years</b>	Manoj Kumar Dubey (Updated 15 October)
<b>Took over as the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)</b>	Paramesh Sivamani (Updated 16 October)
<b>Acko appoints as CEO of Acko Life</b>	Sandip Goenka

	(Updated 17 October)
<b>Appointed the National Ambassador for Promoting Cyber Safety by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs</b>	Rashmika Mandanna (Updated 17 October)
<b>Sworn in as CM of Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	Omar Abdullah (Updated 18 October)
<b>Sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second consecutive time</b>  <b>About Haryana</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> – Chandigarh</li> <li>• <b>Chief Minister</b> – Nayab Singh Saini(11th)</li> <li>• <b>Governor</b> – Bandaru Dattatreya</li> <li>• <b>Legislative Assembly Seats</b>- 90</li> </ul>	Nayab Singh Saini (Updated 18 October)
<b>Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud has officially initiated the process to appoint his successor by recommending the Supreme Court's senior-most judge, to the Union government</b>	Justice Sanjiv Khanna (Updated 18 October)
<b>Named as director of cricket of Jindal South West (JSW) Sports</b>	Saurav Ganguly (Updated 19 October)
<b>Appointed as DG of Medical Services (Navy)</b>	Kavita Sahai (Updated 21 October)
<b>Appointed as president of industry body Indian Chamber of Commerce</b>	Abhyuday Jindal (Updated 21 October)
<b>Appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Women</b>	Vijaya Rahatkar (Updated 21 October)
<b>Assumed the charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Coal</b>	Vikram Dev Dutt (Updated 22 October)

<p><b>Pension regulator PFRDA has appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of National Pension System (NPS) Trust</b></p> <p><b>About NPS Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>NPS Trust</b> is administered by a Board of Trustees. They are entrusted with the task to ensure that the NPS Trust works in the best interest of <b>National Pension System (NPS) subscribers</b>.</li> <li>• <b>NPS</b> is a market-linked, voluntary, portable and <b>flexible scheme that helps people save for retirement</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Chitra Jayasimha (Updated 23 October)</p>
<p><b>RBI approves appointment as JP Morgan Chase Bank India CEO</b></p>	<p>Pranav Chawda (Updated 24 October)</p>
<p><b>The British multinational bank Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) made history by appointing as its first female Chief Financial Officer (CFO)</b></p>	<p>Pam Kaur (Updated 24 October)</p>
<p><b>BOBCARD Limited, a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, has appointed as its brand ambassador</b></p>	<p>Shreyanka Patil (Updated 24 October)</p>
<p><b>Axis Bank has reappointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank</b></p>	<p>Amitabh Chaudhry (Updated 26 October)</p>
<p><b>The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) for a five-year term</b></p> <p><b>About NAFED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAFED, established in 1958, is a crucial player in India's</li> </ul>	<p>Deepak Agarwal (Updated 29 October)</p>

agricultural sector, functioning as a cooperative marketing organization.	
<b>The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended for the position of managing director (MD) &amp; chief executive officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB)</b>	Ashok Chandra (Updated 30 October)
<b>Will take charge as the next Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Bharti Airtel</b>	Shashwat Sharma (Updated 30 October)
<b>Appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India</b>	Vipin Kumar (Updated 30 October)

### (International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<p><b>Sworn in as Mexico's first woman president</b></p> <p><b>About Mexico</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b>- Mexico City</li> <li>• <b>Currency</b> – Peso</li> <li>• <b>President</b>- Claudia Sheinbaum (first woman president of nation)</li> <li>• <b>Continent</b>- North America</li> </ul>	<p>Claudia Sheinbaum (Updated 2 October)</p>
<p><b>Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel appointed as the new Chief Justice of the country</b></p> <p><b>About Nepal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b>- Kathmandu</li> <li>• <b>Currency</b>- Nepalese rupee</li> <li>• <b>President</b>- Ram Chandra Paudel</li> <li>• <b>Prime minister</b>- - K.P. Sharma Oli (replace Pushpa Kamal Dahal)</li> <li>• <b>Chief Justice</b> - Prakash Man Singh Raut (replace Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha)</li> </ul>	<p>Prakash Man Singh Raut (Updated 8 October)</p>

<p><b>Appointed as the 102nd PM of Japan</b></p> <p><b>About Japan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b> - Tokyo</li> <li>• <b>Currency</b> - Yen</li> <li>• <b>Prime Minister</b> - Shigeru Ishiba (replace Fumio Kishida)</li> </ul>	<p>Shigeru Ishiba</p> <p>(Updated 9 October)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as India's next Ambassador to France</b></p>	<p>Sanjeev Kumar Singla</p> <p>(Updated 11 October)</p>
<p><b>Tunisian President has been re-elected for the second time for a five-year term</b></p> <p><b>About Tunisia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital</b>- Tunis</li> <li>• <b>Currency</b>- Tunisian dinar (TND)</li> <li>• <b>President</b>- Kais Saied</li> <li>• <b>Prime Minister</b> - Kamel Madour</li> <li>• <b>Official language</b>- Arabic</li> </ul>	<p>Kais Saied</p> <p>(Updated 11 October)</p>
<p><b>Takes oath as Indonesia President</b></p>	<p>Prabowo Subianto</p> <p>(Updated 21 October)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as the new Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</b></p> <p><b>About International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ICRISAT</b> is a pioneering International Organization committed to developing and improving dryland farming and agri-food systems.</li> <li>• <b>Founded</b>- 1972</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b>- Hyderabad, Telangana</li> <li>• <b>Founders</b>- M. S. Swaminathan, C. Fred Bentley, Ralph Cumming</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Himanshu Pathak</p> <p>(Updated 24 October)</p>
<p><b>Vietnam elected as its new president</b></p>	<p>Luong Cuong</p> <p>(Updated 24 October)</p>

## Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<b>The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2022</b>	Mithun Chakraborty	Mithun Chakraborty will be conferred the award at the <b>70th National Film Festival</b> award ceremony, which will be held on 8 October 2024.
<b>Femina Miss India 2024</b>	Nikita Porwal	The dazzling event held at <b>Famous Studios</b> , marked the <b>60th edition of the beauty pageant</b> .
<b>SHRM HR Excellence Awards</b>	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	SAIL received recognition in two key categories: <b>'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity &amp; Diversity'</b> and <b>'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce.'</b>
<b>'City with the Best Public Transport System'</b>	Bhubaneswar	<b>Bhubaneswar</b> won the <b>'City with the Best Public Transport System'</b> at the <b>17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference &amp; Exhibition 2024</b> .
<b>The Most Sustainable Transport System award at the 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI)</b>	Kochi City of Kerala	The <b>17th Urban Mobility India Conference &amp; Exhibition 2024</b> theme was <b>"Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions"</b> .

### (International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<b>2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology</b>	Scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun	For their discovery of <b>microRNA</b> and its role in gene regulation

<b>Nobel Prize in Physics 2024</b>	John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton	For their <b>discoveries and inventions</b> that enable <b>machine learning</b> with <b>artificial neural networks</b> .
<b>2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry</b>	David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M. Jumper	<b>American David Baker</b> was honoured for his work on ' <b>computational protein design</b> '. <b>British Demis Hassabi and American John M. Jumper</b> were honoured for their work in <b>predicting protein structures from their amino acid sequences</b> .
<b>2024 Nobel Prize in Literature</b>	South Korean novelist Han Kang	"For her <b>intense poetic prose</b> that confronts historical traumas and <b>exposes the fragility of human life</b> ."
<b>2024 Nobel Peace Prize for Disarmament</b>	Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization	This prize highlights the critical role <b>these survivors</b> have played in raising awareness about the <b>devastating impact of nuclear weapons</b> and their ongoing work to create a world free from nuclear arms.
<b>Economics Nobel Prize 2024</b>	Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson	The trio has been recognised " <b>for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity</b> ."
<b>An Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers</b>	President Droupadi Murmu	The <b>Doctorate</b> was presented to Murmu by <b>Kamal Baddari, Algeria's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research</b> .

<b>The 9th Conscious Companies Awards held in Johannesburg, South Africa</b>	Mohanji	Recognition for his <b>global humanitarian leadership</b>
<b>2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards</b>	Chiratae Ventures	<b>Chiratae Ventures</b> is one of <b>India's largest homegrown VC funds.</b>
<b>Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024</b>	Urmila Chaudhary of Nepal	This award honours <b>six civil society leaders for their exceptional courage, leadership, and commitment to advancing racial equity, justice, and human rights.</b>
<b>'The Harry Messel Award'</b>	Bibhab Talukdar	The award has been presented for <b>Talukdar's contribution</b> to species Conservation on the ground and through leadership, as part of the work of <b>the Species Survival Commission.</b>
<b>The South Pacific nation of Fiji's highest civilian honour</b>	Sri Sri Ravi Shankar	For his <b>tireless contribution to the upliftment of the human spirit and bringing diverse communities together</b> in peace and harmony.

### Awards 2024: Complete winners list

#### Chiratae Ventures honours Narayana Murthy with the Patrick J. McGovern Award

- **Chiratae Ventures**, a prominent Indian venture capital fund, has **recognized three influential leaders with the 2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards.**
- Narayana Murthy, the Founder of Infosys, received the India Lifetime Achievement Award for his groundbreaking contributions to the tech industry.
- While, Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO of Adobe, was awarded the Global Lifetime Achievement Award, while Abhinav Asthana, CEO and Founder of Postman, received the Exceptional Entrepreneurial Achievement Award.

- The awards honor the legacy of Patrick J. McGovern, a pioneer in technology media and an early supporter of Indian entrepreneurship.

### President Droupadi Murmu conferred 5th National Water Awards 2023

- **President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the 5th National Water Awards 2023 in New Delhi.**
- Union Jal Shakti Ministry has announced 38 winners in nine categories including Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Water User Association and Best Civil Society.
- In the category of Best State, the first prize has been conferred upon Odisha, with Uttar Pradesh securing the second position, and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly securing the third position.

### Bhubaneswar wins the 'City with the Best Public Transport System' at 17th Urban Mobility India Conference & Exhibition

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Category	City	Organization
City with the Most Sustainable Transport System	Kochi	Kochi Metro Rail Corp.
City with the Best Public Transport System	Bhubaneswar	Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)
City with the Best Non-Motorized Transport System	Srinagar	Srinagar Smart City Ltd.
City with the Best Safety and Security System & Record	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar Municipal Corp.
City with the Best Intelligent Transport System (ITS)	Surat	Surat Municipal Corp.
City with the Most Innovative Financing Mechanism	Jammu	Jammu Smart City Ltd.
City with Best Record of Public Involvement in Transport	Bengaluru	Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corp.
Metro Rail with the Best Multimodal Integration	Bengaluru	Bengaluru Metro Rail Corp. Ltd
Metro Rail with the Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction	Mumbai	Mumbai Metro One Pvt. Ltd

### Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
'Mahila Shaksham' scheme	Aimed at <b>benefitting women entrepreneurs</b> by ensuring <b>financial self-reliance</b> , the scheme is in line with the <b>Ministry of Rural Development's 'Lakshpati Didi Yojana'</b> scheme which is designed to improve the financial standing of women self-help group members.

### Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The 21st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Zone III Conference	Aizawl, Mizoram	Theme - <b>Democratic Sanctity, Transparency, Accountability, and Results from Democracy</b>
The 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference	New Delhi	The conference brings together policymakers, <b>industry leaders, researchers, and stakeholders</b> to encourage <b>dialogue, innovation, and collaboration</b> for sustainable growth and development of the <b>sugar and bio-energy industries</b> .
The 2024 edition of the annual apex-level international conference of the Indian Navy, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)	New Delhi	The theme of the three-day conference is <b>"Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific."</b>
The 12th edition of International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife, Vatavaran	New Delhi	The theme for the three-day film festival is <b>"Wetlands for Life"</b> , focusing on the awareness and conservation of the wetlands eco-system.

<b>The first phase of the Second Army Commanders' Conference 2024</b>	Gangtok in Sikkim	The two-day conference will serve as a forum for <b>Senior Commanders</b> to review current <b>operational preparedness, deliberate on critical strategies and outline future directives.</b>
<b>The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS)</b>	Vientiane, Laos PDR	The Prime Minister emphasized the important part that <b>ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)</b> plays in shaping the future of <b>the Indo-Pacific.</b>
<b>The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA)</b>	India	The 5-day conference will feature a <b>series of insightful sessions where regulatory authorities and industry leaders</b> will deliberate on key issues affecting <b>global drug and medical device regulation.</b>
<b>The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024</b>	New Delhi	The <b>Prime Minister</b> also inaugurated the <b>8th edition of the India Mobile Congress 2024</b> , which is being held along with the <b>WTSA 2024 in New Delhi.</b>
<b>The 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)</b>	Manila, Philippines	Theme 2024 - <b>Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction</b>
<b>The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA)</b>	New Delhi	Theme 2024 - <b>Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All</b>
<b>The international conference Advancements of Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda (AROHA-2024)</b>	New Delhi	The three-day event primarily aims to position Ayurveda as a key pillar of <b>global health and wellness.</b>  The theme of the AROHA 2024 is <b>Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda.</b>
<b>149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</b>	Geneva, Switzerland	The theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was <b>Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future.</b>
<b>The 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government</b>	Islamabad, Pakistan	This was the <b>first visit of an Indian minister</b> to Pakistan after the <b>2015</b> visit of the <b>then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.</b>

<b>The International Workshop on Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records</b>	New Delhi	The primary objective of the workshop is to showcase <b>global best practices in urban land record modernization, present applicable technological solutions</b> , and facilitate pilot project <b>planning for selected urban areas</b> .
<b>The defence ministers of the G7 countries met</b>	Naples, Italy	The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the <b>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union, and Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov</b> .
<b>16th BRICS summit meeting and the first BRICS Outreach/BRICS plus summit meeting</b>	Kazan, Russia	The theme of the <b>16th BRICS summit meeting was Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security</b> .

### Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
<b>Bandhan Life Insurance, following its acquisition of Aegon Life and subsequent rebranding earlier this year, has partnered with Bandhan Bank</b>	To distribute life insurance products through the <b>bank's expansive network of 1,700 branches</b>
<b>ICICI Bank has collaborated with MakeMyTrip (MMT)</b>	Introduced a premium <b>co-branded credit card tailored to the country's aspirational travellers</b>
<b>Bharat Forge subsidiary of Kalyani Strategic Systems has signed an agreement with US-based defence companies AM General and Mandus Group</b>	The companies aim to create <b>compact, robust, lightweight, ruggedized, and mobile artillery systems</b> capable of operating in all weather conditions and terrains.
<b>India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have signed a trilateral agreement</b>	To export <b>40 megawatts of electricity</b> from <b>Nepal to Bangladesh</b> via India's power grid.
<b>The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Axis Bank</b>	To provide a <b>\$500 million</b> loan to help develop a <b>blue finance market</b> and scale up financing of <b>green projects</b> in India.
<b>The National e-Governance Division has announced the integration of the UMANG app with DigiLocker</b>	To provide citizens <b>seamless access</b> to a wide range of <b>government services</b> .

<b>The Ministry of Skill Development &amp; Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with Meta</b>	For the launch of two key initiatives-  1. <b>An AI Assistant for the Skill India Mission</b> and  2. The <b>establishment 5 Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)</b> located at Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Jodhpur, Chennai, and Kanpur.
<b>India and Columbia have signed the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement</b>	It will enable <b>Indian and Colombian film producers</b> to utilize a platform for collaboration on <b>various facets of film making.</b>
<b>Aditya Birla Capital Ltd, Aditya Birla Housing Finance (ABHFL) has entered into a strategic partnership with BharatPe</b>	To facilitate access to <b>home loans and loan against property for latter's merchant partners.</b>
<b>Liberty General Insurance, one of India's prominent non-life insurers, has joined hands with Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking</b>	To enhance <b>insurance awareness across rural and urban regions.</b>
<b>NTPC has partnered with the Indian Army</b>	To establish a <b>Solar Hydrogen-based Microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh.</b>
<b>Solex Energy has partnered with State Bank of India (SBI)</b>	To offer <b>solar financing options for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers.</b>

### Chapter 6: Ranking Index

<b>Index</b>	<b>Index released by</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>1st Rank</b>
<b>The first Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI) 2024</b>	Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the non-profit website BioDB.com have jointly prepared and released	176 (Score- 45.5)	Luxembourg (Score- 70.8)

<b>The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index</b>	The World Justice Project (WJP), a Washington D.C.-based think tank	79	Denmark
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### Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
<b>A proposed acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines by Mankind Pharma for ₹13,630 crore was approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)</b>	<b>Mankind Pharma</b> had announced in July that it will fully acquire <b>Bharat Serums and Vaccines</b> from private equity firm <b>Advent International for around ₹13,630 crore.</b>
<b>HDFC Bank has approved 100% stake sale of subsidiary HDFC Education to Vama Sundari Investments</b>	It would <b>divest 91% stake in HDFC Edu</b> on or before October 31, 2024, and the remaining 9% stake will be divested <b>before June 30, 2025.</b> With this sale <b>HDFC Edu</b> would cease to be a subsidiary of the bank.
<b>The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has granted approval for transactions including the acquisition of 42.99 per cent of the total paid-up share capital of JM Financial Credit Solutions Limited (JMFCSL) by JM Financial Limited (JMFL)</b>	The <b>acquisition of 71.79 per cent</b> of the total paid-up share capital of <b>JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (JMFARC) by JMFCSL.</b>
<b>Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 24.91% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance and 25.18% shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance by Central Bank of India</b>	Proposed combination envisages acquisition by <b>Central Bank of India of 24.91% equity stake</b> in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGIICL) and <b>25.18% equity stake</b> in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILICL) through bid/resolution plan submitted by Central bank of <b>India under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution 2016.</b>
<b>Aquilo House Pte. Ltd (AHPL) 's proposed acquisition of Aavas Financiers Limited (AFL)</b>	<b>Aavas Financiers Limited (Acquirer)</b> is a newly incorporated entity, wholly and indirectly held by the <b>Relevant CVC Funds</b> which are certain investment funds or vehicles managed and/or advised by members of the <b>CVC Network.</b>

<b>Fintech firm Slice completed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank</b>	The merger process was completed over one year after the <b>bank received a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> . The merged entity aims to deepen the <b>bank's presence</b> in the country's north-eastern region.
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### Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<b>\$162 million</b>	Himachal Pradesh	The loan has been provided to finance the <b>state government's Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project</b> .
India	<b>INR 487.60 Crores</b>	Government of Mauritius	For financing of a <b>water pipeline replacement project</b>
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A USD 434.25 million (about Rs 3,600 crore) loan	Assam	<b>To increase renewable energy capacity and improve energy security in Assam</b>

### Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
<b>The eMigrate V2.0 web portal and Mobile App</b>	External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar	The <b>eMigrate portal</b> has <b>2.81 lakh registered</b> foreign employers. It promotes safe and legal <b>mobility channels for Indian migrants</b> .
<b>Citizen Sentinel app</b>	National Informatics Centre (NIC)	<b>Kerala 's Minister for Transport K.B. Ganesh Kumar</b> has launched Citizen Sentinel, an app using which members of the public can upload <b>photographs and videos of traffic rule violations in the NextGen Parivahan app</b> .

### Chapter 10: Important MoU

<b>MoU</b>	<b>Between Which Countries</b>
<b>Inked a MoU to provide vernacular language support to its AI Virtual Assistant, Feddy</b>	<b>Federal Bank</b> , a renowned private sector bank in India with <b>Bhashini</b> , an AI-Powered Language Translation Platform
<b>Signed four MoU to strengthen and boost their bilateral relationships. The agreement was signed during Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness's visit to India.</b>	<b>India and Jamaica</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to create a state-of-the-art green fuel ecosystem at Mumbai Port.</b>	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) with the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) and the Mumbai Port Sustainability Foundation (MPSF)
<b>Signed an MoU to collaborate on advancing innovative technologies for aviation textiles focusing on parachutes and other safety equipment</b>	<b>IIT Delhi</b> and Headquarters Maintenance (HQ) Command, <b>Indian Air Force</b> , Nagpur
<b>Signed an MoU to support steelmaking decarbonisation</b>	<b>The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)</b> with the leading global resources company, <b>BHP</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to offer life insurance options, including term insurance, tailored specifically for Naval Civilians, thereby providing essential financial security for their families</b>	The <b>Indian Navy</b> with <b>Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance</b>
<b>Signs MoU to promote individual financing for higher order enterprises</b>	<b>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development with nine Public Sector Banks and one Private Bank</b> (These Banks are Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, UCO Bank and, IDBI Bank Limited)
<b>Signed four MoUs to strengthen and deepen their bilateral ties.</b>  Four MoUs were signed on the occasion between the two countries; <b>(i) Training of diplomats</b> <b>(ii) Cultural exchange</b>	<b>India and Mauritania</b>

(iii) Visa exemption	
(iv) Foreign Office consultations.	
<b>Signed an MoU to bring innovative health products, particularly probiotics to market</b>	The Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) Guwahati with Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) Hyderabad.
<b>Signed an MoU to provide comprehensive entrepreneurship training and incubation support to aspiring entrepreneurs</b>	<b>The Indian Institute of Management Shillong</b> , through its <b>IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFIE)</b> with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

### Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

#### World Bank ups India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7% due to rising private consumption

- The **World Bank upped** India's **economic growth forecast** for the current fiscal year, ending in March 2025, to **7% year-on-year, up from April's estimate of 6.6%**, helped by a rebound in agricultural output and increased private consumption.
- The RBI's rate-setting panel on Wednesday retained its real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast at 7.2 per cent for FY25.
- With this, the RBI has now pegged growth rate for Q2 at 7% (reduced from 7.2%), Q3 at 7.4% (up from 7.3%) and Q4 at 7.4%. For Q1 FY26, the growth rate was kept at 7.3%.

#### WTO cuts 2025 world merchandise trade growth forecast to 3% from 3.3%

- The **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** has **reduced its growth forecast for the volume of global merchandise trade in 2025 to 3 per cent from 3.3 per cent**, amid escalating conflict in the West Asia region, which has blocked the crucial Red Sea shipping route for nearly a year.
- For 2024, the WTO revised upwards its forecast for merchandise trade growth to 2.7 per cent, up from the previous estimate of 2.6 per cent.

#### IMF retains India's GDP growth forecast at 7% for FY25, 6.5% for FY26

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** kept its **growth forecasts for India unchanged at 7 per cent and 6.5 per cent for FY25 and FY26**, respectively.
- This is because pent-up demand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential.

## Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

### PM Modi unveils projects worth ₹ 11,200 crore In Maharashtra

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects of ₹ 11,200 crore in Maharashtra** via video conference.
- Prime Minister Modi virtually inaugurated the Pune Metro section from District Court to Swargate, which also marks the completion of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-1).
- PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the Swargate-Katraj extension of the Pune Metro Phase-1 to be developed at the cost of around ₹ 2,955 crore.

### PM Modi launches PARAM Rudra Supercomputers

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated three PARAM Rudra supercomputers and two high-performance computing systems to the nation.**
- These Computing systems were developed and manufactured indigenously under the National Supercomputer Mission and in line with the Make in India initiative.
- The three supercomputers have been deployed in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata to support cutting-edge scientific research.

### President inaugurates the 8th Kala Mahotsav

- **President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 8th Bhartiya Kala Mahotsav**, focussed on the North-Eastern states at the Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad, Telangana.
- The eight-day-long Bhartiya Kala Mahotsav will be open to the public from 29 September to 6 October 2024.
- The 8th Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav, focussed on the North Eastern states, is being organised by the Union Ministry for Development of the North Eastern Region in association with the Union Ministry of Culture.

### PM Modi dedicates Bidkin Industrial Area of DMIC to nation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually dedicated the **Bidkin Industrial Area in Maharashtra to the nation.**
- The Bilkin Industrial Area, situated 20 km south of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, is part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).
- The project is part of the central government's "Make in India, Make for the World" programme, which aims to foster industrial growth, economic prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.

### National Centre of Excellence for AVGC-XR to be set up in Mumbai

- **The Government of India** has approved the **establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in the country.**

- The proposed NCoE will be in Mumbai, Maharashtra, the hub of the Indian film industry.
- The NCoE is being set up on the recommendation of the Task Force on Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics in 2022.

### 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 closing ceremony held in Ranchi

- The **7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024** ended on 30 September 2024 with an official ceremony **in Ranchi, Jharkhand**. The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi, presided over the closing ceremony.
- The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 was officially launched on 1 September 2024 by Annpurna Devi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### CSIR-NIScPR Commemorates 83 Years of Scientific Excellence of CSIR

- **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)** celebrated the **83rd Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** at the National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
- On the occasion, a special issue of 'Science Reporter', a monthly publication of CSIR-NIScPR was also released during the event. The title of the issue is "Science Reporter: A Six Decade Journey in Science Communication (1964-2024)".
- Awards were distributed by distinguished guests to retirees, employees completing 25 years of service, and meritorious 10th and 12th-class students.

### PM Narendra Modi participates in Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has participated in the **Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 programme on the occasion of 155th Gandhi Jayanti in New Delhi**.
- The Prime Minister will launch several projects related to sanitation and cleanliness, worth over nine thousand six hundred crore rupees. These include projects under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, National Mission for Clean Ganga and 15 Compressed Biogas Plant projects under GOBARdhan Scheme.
- The theme for Swachhata Hi Seva 2024, 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata', has once again united the nation in its commitment to cleanliness, public health and environmental sustainability.

### Cruise Bharat Mission launched to promote Cruise Tourism

- The '**Cruise Bharat Mission**' is a new project **launched by the Indian government to promote cruise tourism in India**.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal officially inaugurated **at Mumbai port on the cruise ship 'Empress'**.
- The mission aims to tap into India's potential as a major cruise destination and increase the number of people who travel by cruise ships. The goal is to double cruise passenger traffic by the year 2029.

### Prashant Kishor announces Jan Suraj as a political party

- Political strategist-cum-activist **Prashant Kishor** launched his **political outfit Jan Suraaj Party**, two years after he embarked on a campaign in Bihar to mobilise support for a “new political alternative”.
- As a political party, Jan Suraaj would contest all 243 seats in the Assembly elections in Bihar, next year in October-November.
- The 47-year-old also named **Manoj Bharti**, a Madhubani-born former Indian Foreign Service officer, **as working president of the party**.

#### Vistara to get AI2 flight number after merger with Air India

- **National carrier Air India** said that **flights operated by Vistara will start using the flight code 'AI2' after** the merger of the two airlines next month. Currently, Air India uses the airline code 'AI' while Vistara uses 'UK.'
- Despite the integration on November 12, the Vistara experience will "remain the same. The merger involves Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, and Air India.
- Though the legal entities and Air Operator Certificates will become one on 12 November, the Vistara experience will remain.

#### NITI Aayog launches first State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform

- **NITI Aayog** has launched **its maiden State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** in **association with WE Hub and the Telangana government**.
- An initiative to promote and support women entrepreneurs across various sectors by providing them access to resources, tools, and a network for enhancing their business growth, WEP thus far remained a scheme operated by the Centre.

#### India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum

- **India** has **become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF)**, which will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide.
- The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of, international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence.

#### PM Modi launch Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Jharkhand

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand**.
- PM also laid foundation stones and inaugurated projects worth Rs 83,000 crore. It included Eklavya Model Residential Schools and the foundation stones of various developmental projects under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), targeting the tribal communities.

#### Govt Approves ₹10,103 Crore National Mission on Edible Oils to Boost Self-Reliance in Oilseed Production by 2030

- **The government has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for 2024-25 to 2030-31 with an outlay of 10 thousand 103 crore rupees.**
- This has been done with an aim to make India self-reliant in oilseed production in the next seven years.
- The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare will implement the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).

#### Central Govt approves PM-RKVY and KY Schemes for Agriculture sector

- **The Union Cabinet has decided to merge all Central schemes in the agriculture sector into two new schemes, Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).**
- With a projected expenditure of ₹ 1,01,321.61 crore, the schemes will have a Central share of ₹ 69,088.98 crore and the States will have to add the remaining ₹32,232.63 crore.
- PM-RKVY, with an allocation of ₹57,074.72 crore, is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and KY will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency, with a fund of ₹44,246.89 crore. Both the schemes will be implemented through State governments.

#### Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese Get Classical Language Status

- **The Union Cabinet has approved giving the status of 'classical language' to five more languages - Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese.** With this cabinet decision, the number of languages that have the status will nearly double from 6 to 11.
- The languages that had the tag earlier were **Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia.** Tamil was granted the status in 2004 and the last language to get it was Odia, in 2014.

#### Nagaland gears up for spectacular silver jubilee Hornbill Festival 2024

- The **Department of Tourism, Nagaland,** will **celebrate the silver jubilee of the Hornbill Festival, scheduled from December 1 to 10 at the Heritage Village, Kisama.**
- The tribal bodies are the core and backbone of the Hornbill Festival, and with their cooperation and collaboration, the state has successfully hosted twenty-four Hornbill Festivals so far.
- Kisama Heritage Village, main venue, is undergoing renovations to welcome thousands of tourists, ensuring a grand celebration of Naga heritage. Naga morungs are traditional huts that were used as dormitories back in the day.

#### PM Modi inaugurated GAIL's first CBG Plant in Jharkhand

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **GAIL's first CBG Plant in Jharkhand,** through a virtual ceremony. The plant is **built in an area of 7.86 acres** at Ranchi Jharkhand, Jhir Dumping Site Mouza Jhiri.

- This 12,500 m<sup>3</sup> per day capacity plant is designed to process 150 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to produce 5,000 kg Bio-CNG and 25 tons of fermented bio manure per day.

### Northeast to hold first ever India International Science Festival showcasing PM's vision for the Region

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh disclosed** that the 10th edition of the **India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held at Guwahati**, marking a significant milestone in the region's journey towards becoming a hub for scientific and technological innovation.
- The 10th edition of IISF carries the theme "**Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub**" reflecting the government's ambition to merge science and technology with industrial growth, propelling India towards self-reliance and global leadership in manufacturing.

### Rajnath Singh inaugurated DefConnect 4.0 in Delhi

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **DefConnect 4.0 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.**
- The event has organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), Department of Defence Production.
- DefConnect 4.0 marks a milestone in India's defence innovation journey, bringing together the **Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, industry leaders, innovators, start-ups and MSMEs, academia, incubators, investors and policymakers.

### Himachal Pradesh CM launches Sankalp Initiative to tackle drug menace

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has launched a **drug eradication initiative 'Sankalp'** that also aims to address drug trafficking and supporting rehabilitation efforts.
- The Sankalp initiative was announced by the chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, at an event organised by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in the state capital, Shimla.

### India to provide \$400 Million Credit Swap Facility to Maldives

- **India** has **extended support of 400 million dollars** and a bilateral currency swap of 3,000 crore rupees to the Maldives.
- Besides, the currency swap agreement, the two countries signed two MoUs including bilateral cooperation on preventing and combating corruption. Two MoUs were also renewed between the two countries on Capacity Building Programs for Maldivian judicial officers and in the field of Sports and Youth Affairs.

### Health Minister JP Nadda announces enhanced nutrition support for TB patients

- **Union Health Minister JP Nadda** has announced **several key initiatives aimed at enhancing nutrition support for TB patients** and their household contacts.

- The monthly nutrition support under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana has been doubled from the existing 500 rupees to 1000 rupees for all TB patients during the period of treatment.
- The government has also decided to introduce energy-dense nutrition supplementation for all patients with BMI less than 18.5.
- The government also decided to permit expansion of scope and coverage of Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) including the family members of TB patients.

### DAE inaugurates MACE, Asia's Largest and World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Observatory, at Hanle Ladakh

- **The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, Secretary DAE & Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, at Hanle, Ladakh
- MACE is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia. Located at an altitude of ~4,300 m, it is also the highest of its kind in the world.
- The telescope is indigenously built by BARC with support from ECIL and other Indian industry partners.
- The inaugural of MACE Observatory was a part of the Platinum Jubilee year celebrations of the DAE.
- The MACE Observatory is a monumental achievement for India, placing our nation globally at the forefront of cosmic-ray research. This telescope will allow us to study high-energy gamma rays, paving the way for deeper understanding of the universe's most energetic events.

### Nitin Gadkari unveils 'Humsafar Policy' for Onboarding Service Providers

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways **Nitin Gadkari** launched the '**Humsafar Policy**' in New Delhi to enhance convenience of travelling on National Highways and accelerate development of the Wayside Amenities in presence of Shri Ajay Tamta, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.
- The policy aims to provide a comprehensive framework to ensure that commuters have access to standardized, well-maintained, and hygienic facilities by onboarding both existing and upcoming service providers along National Highways and Expressways. Existing and upcoming service providers under the categories of Eateries, Fuel Station and Trauma Centres will be eligible, to register under the Humsafar Policy.

### PM Modi laid foundation stone for various development projects in Maharashtra worth over Rs 7600 crore

- **The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for various development projects in Maharashtra worth over Rs 7600 crore** via video conference.

- The projects include the **foundation stone laying of the upgradation of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur** with a total estimated project cost of around Rs 7000 crore.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the New Integrated Terminal Building at Shirdi Airport worth over Rs 645 crore. It will provide world-class facilities and amenities for the religious tourists coming to Shirdi.

### Cabinet Approves National Maritime Heritage Complex and Border Roads

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has **approved two major infrastructure projects** that highlight the government's focus on both heritage preservation and border area development.

### BJP Sweeps Haryana, NC & Cong alliance wins J&K Assembly election

- **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** was swept back to power for the historic third consecutive time in Haryana. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference-led alliance secured the majority to form a government.
- For the first time, an election was held to constitute a new legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir after its status was changed from a state to a Union Territory in 2019.
- The BJP won 48 seats, while the main opposition party, Congress, won 37 seats. The Indian Lok Dal won 2 seats, while independents won 3 seats.

### Govt releases advance instalment of Rs 1.78 lk cr for state govts amid festive season

- **The central government released tax devolution of over ₹ 1,78,173 to state government as against the normal monthly devolution of ₹89,086.50 crore.**
- It includes one advanced installment, in addition to the regular installment due in October 2024.
- According to the Finance Ministry, an advance installment was released **in view of the upcoming festive season** and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditures.

### Govt to set up 10 new ESIC medical colleges, extend unemployment allowance

- **The government will set up 10 new ESIC medical colleges** and extend the unemployment allowance scheme for ESI Corporation members until June 2026.
- Labour & Employment Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya at a meeting of ESI Corporation here announced several key decisions for further strengthening the infrastructure and medical facilities of ESIC.
- The establishment of 10 New ESIC Medical Colleges across various locations in the country. This decision will support the announcement made by Prime Minister during the Independence Day (2024) speech of creating new 75000 medical seats in the next 5 years.

### Cabinet approves supply of fortified rice under welfare schemes till Dec 2028 at cost of Rs 17,082 cr

- **The Union Cabinet**, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has **approved the continuation of the universal supply of Fortified Rice** under all schemes of the Government including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Schemes etc. in its present form, from July 2024 and **upto December 2028**.
- The rice fortification initiative will continue as a central sector initiative with 100% funding by the Government of India as part of PMGKAY (Food Subsidy), thus providing a unified institutional mechanism for implementation.

#### **IIT Indore launches Affordable Device for Early Breast Cancer Detection**

- **IIT Indore** has **introduced a new device for the early detection of breast cancer**, specifically designed to help women in rural and remote areas.
- This device, created by Prof. Srivathsan Vasudevan, is an important step in making cancer screening more affordable and accessible.
- The device uses Photoacoustic Spectral Response (PASR) technology, which combines light and sound to detect abnormal changes in tissue. This helps identify cancer at an early stage.

#### **PM Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' Completes 10 Years**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** popular radio programme **Mann Ki Baat** has **completed ten years** on 3 October.
- It was on this day in 2014 that Mr Modi started sharing his thoughts through the programme on Akashvani.

#### **India launches 'Study in India' campaign at International Education Show in Sharjah**

- **India** has **officially launched its 'Study in India' campaign** at the 20th International Education Show in Sharjah, marking a significant push to attract international students to its universities.
- Organized by EdCIL, a Miniratna company under the Ministry of Education, the campaign seeks to position India as a leading global education hub.

#### **Bihar to develop Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as tiger reserve, gets Centre's nod**

- The **Bihar government** will **develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS)** as the state's second tiger reserve.
- The Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), which is the state's only national park, has reached its capacity, and now the state government was finalising modalities for translocating the big cats to KWLS.
- The Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over an area of 1,504.96 sq km.

#### **MNRE notifies Scheme Guidelines for ₹500 crore 'Innovative Projects' component under PM-Surya Ghar Yojana**

- **Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has **notified Scheme Guidelines for implementation of 'Innovative Projects' under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**.

- Under the scheme component 'Innovative Projects', ₹500 crores have been earmarked to encourage advancements in rooftop solar technologies, business models, and integration techniques.
- The component seeks to identify and support startups, institutions, and industries in piloting new concepts, focusing on emerging solutions like blockchain-based peer-to-peer solar trading, smart materials, and rooftop solar integrated with electric vehicles and battery storage.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27.

### Defence Minister virtually dedicates to the nation 75 BRO infrastructure projects, worth Rs 2,236 crore

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has virtually dedicated to the **nation 75 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Rs 2,236 crore.**
- These projects - 22 roads, 51 bridges & two others - are spread across 11 States/Union Territories. 19 are in Jammu & Kashmir, 18 in Arunachal Pradesh, 11 in Ladakh, 9 in Uttarakhand, 6 in Sikkim, 5 in Himachal Pradesh, 2 each in West Bengal & Rajasthan, and 1 each in Nagaland, Mizoram, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- With the inauguration of these 75 projects, BRO has completed a total of 111 infrastructure projects in 2024 at an overall cost of Rs 3,751 crore which includes 36 projects worth Rs 1,508 crore, such as the state-of-the-art Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated by Prime Minister earlier.
- Last year, 125 infrastructure projects of BRO were dedicated to the nation at a cost of Rs 3,611 crore.

### Union Government releases 15th Finance Commission Grants for Rural Local Bodies in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

- **The Union Government** has released the **first instalment of the 15th Finance Commission grants for the FY 2024–25 to the Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.**
- **Andhra Pradesh** has received untied grants amounting to ₹395.5091 crores and tied grants totalling ₹593.2639 crores.
- **While in Rajasthan**, untied grants of ₹507.1177 crores and tied grants of ₹760.6769 crores have been released for the duly elected 22 eligible District Panchayats, 287 eligible Block Panchayats and 9,068 eligible Gram Panchayat in the state.

### Telangana appoints Commission for Scheduled Castes Sub-Classification

- **The Telangana state government** has launched a **new effort to study the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) for reservation benefits.** This is being done to ensure that the different groups within SCs get a fair share of the benefits offered by the government.

- This move follows the recommendations made by a Cabinet sub-committee, which looked at ways to ensure that the advantages of the reservation system are fairly shared among all SC sub-groups.

### HAL becomes 14th Maharatna CPSE in India

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** will now be the **14th 'Maharatna' company among Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)**, the Finance Ministry announced.
- HAL is a Department of Defence Production (DoDP) CPSE with an annual turnover of ₹28162 crore and a net profit of ₹7595 crore for FY2023-24.

### PhonePe launches new plan Firecracker Insurance for Diwali

- **Payments major PhonePe has tied up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer affordable insurance coverage against firecracker-related accidents** during Diwali for a limited period.
- The insurance cover entails a sum insured of Rs 25,000 for a premium of Rs 9, inclusive of goods and services tax (GST).
- The coverage is for 10 days starting from October 25, 2024, to November 3, 2024.

### BEML wins Rs 866.87 crore contract to build 'Made in India' bullet trains

- **State-owned BEML has been awarded a contract of Rs 867 crore for designing, manufacturing, and commissioning two high-speed train sets**, marking the first time that such work will be done indigenously.
- The contract was **awarded by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- The price of each car is Rs 27.86 crore and the total contract value is Rs 866.87 crore which includes design cost, one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, one time cost towards jigs, fixtures, tooling and testing facilities, which will be utilised for all future high-speed projects in India.

### Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates International 6G Symposium

- Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has inaugurated the International 6G Symposium at the sidelines of ITU-WTSA24 and IMC 24.**
- The Bharat 6G Alliance is a collaborative initiative of Indian industry, academia, national research institutions, and standards organizations.
- The Bharat 6G Alliance(B6GA) signed various MoUs with global collaborators, NGMN Alliance (Next Generation Mobile Network Alliance), 5G ACIA (5G Alliance for Connected Industries and Automation), Germany, UKI-FIN (UK- India Future Networks Initiative) & UK TIN (UK Telecom Innovations Networks), 6G Forum (South Korea), 6G Brasil (Brazil).

### Cabinet approves additional instalment of three percent of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **approved a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees.**

- The hike, which takes effect from July 1, 2024, also extends to pensioners, with Dearness Relief (DR) being increased by the same percentage. The Dearness Relief for pensioners has also been revised by 3%.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2024 representing **an increase of three percent (3%) over the existing rate of 50% of the Basic Pay/Pension**, to compensate against price rise.

### Cabinet approves MSP for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has **approved increasing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26.**
- The absolute highest increase in MSP has been announced for Rapeseed & Mustard at Rs.300 per quintal followed by Lentil (Masur) at Rs.275 per quintal. For gram, wheat, safflower and barley, there is an increase of Rs.210 per quintal, Rs.150 per quintal, Rs.140 per quintal and Rs.130 per quintal respectively.

S No.	Crops	MSP 2025-26 (Rs per Quintal)	MSP 2024-25 (Rs per Quintal)	Increase in MSP (Rs per Quintal)	Cost of production (Rs per Quintal)	Margin over cost (in per cent)
1	Wheat	2425	2275	150	1182	105
2	Barley	1980	1850	130	1239	60
3	Gram	5650	5440	210	3527	60
4	Lentil (Masur)	6700	6425	275	3537	89
5	Rapeseed and Mustard	5950	5650	300	3011	98
6	Safflower	5940	5800	140	3960	50

### SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies

- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has **inaugurated the country's 216th AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy.**
- Located at the Health Centre in SECL's Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, this new facility makes SECL the first coal company to operate four AMRIT pharmacies.
- The AMRIT pharmacies, part of a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015, provide a wide range of generic and life-saving branded drugs, implants, and surgical consumables at highly subsidized rates. SECL's initiative will benefit both inpatients and outpatients, including

SECL employees, general public, and especially people from tribal and rural areas within the coal belt.

### Dr Jitendra Singh dedicates India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility

- **Pavana Chitra** embodies a **powerful fusion of technology, tradition, and art, presenting an off-grid, self-powered indoor air quality monitor powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST**. It is crafted from locally available materials and designed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis.
- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled Pavana Chitra, India's first Airport based **self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport**.

### Justice will no longer be 'blind': Supreme Court embraces new symbolism

- The Supreme Court (SC) of India has unveiled a **redesigned version of the 'Lady Justice' statue, marking a significant departure from its colonial past**.
- Traditionally depicted with a blindfold and a sword, the new statue now features 'Lady Justice' with open eyes and the Constitution of India in place of the sword, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to constitutional values and justice that "sees everyone equally".

### NITI Aayog organized a two-day International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024

- **NITI Aayog** has organized a **two-day international methanol seminar and expo in 2024 in New Delhi**. The event was held in **collaboration with the Methanol Institute of the United States**.
- This event highlight the progress of projects, products, and Research and Development initiatives related to Methanol production, application, and allied technological developments in the world.

### Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurates second edition of Art Exhibition 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre'

- Union Minister for External Affairs, **Dr. S. Jaishankar** inaugurated **the second edition of the art exhibition "Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre"** in New Delhi.
- The four-day exhibition has been organized by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Sankala Foundation, the National Human Rights Commission and the International Big Cat Alliance.

### Manipur: Mera Hou Chongba festival observed to foster unity between hill & valley indigenous communities

- The festival to strengthen the cordial bond between the indigenous communities living in the hills and the **valley people of Manipur, the Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024, was observed in Imphal**.

- The main event was held at the holy site, Kangla, in Imphal, where leaders of Indigenous communities from various hill districts joined the valley people in observing the festival, which symbolizes harmony and cultural exchange.

### Government and Meta join forces for "Scam se Bacho" Campaign to tackle rising online scams

- **Government and Meta** have joined forces for the "Scam se Bacho" campaign to tackle the rising threat of online scams.
- During the launch of the campaign in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju delivered the keynote address, describing the initiative as a timely and essential step toward safeguarding citizens from the increasing danger of online fraud.

### Railways to cut advance booking period from 120 days to 60

- **The Railway Board** has reduced the time limit for advance booking of trains from 120 days to 60 days with the new time limit set to take effect from November 1.
- The Railways clarified that bookings made under the current 120-day ARP before October 31 will remain valid.
- It also stated that any cancellations for bookings made beyond the new 60-day ARP will still be allowed.

### PM Modi launches 'Karmayogi Saptah' in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched the 'Karmayogi Saptah'— **National Learning Week** at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- Through Mission Karmayogi, the goal is to create human resources that would become the driving force of our country's development.
- The new learnings and experiences during the National Learning Week will provide strength and help in improving working systems, which will help us achieve our goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

### Karnataka Launches AI Tool Shiksha Copilot for Teacher

- **Karnataka's School Education and Literacy Minister, Madhu Bangarappa**, launched "Shiksha Copilot," a digital tool powered by artificial intelligence (AI).
- This tool aims to improve the education system in government schools, helping both teachers and students perform better academically. It was developed in partnership with the Sikshana Foundation and Microsoft Research India.
- The main goal of Shiksha Copilot is to make teaching easier by helping teachers with lesson planning and providing resources like activities and videos.

### PM Modi inaugurates Saharanpur, Rewa and Ambikapur airports under RCS-UDAN

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated **three airports, developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)**, from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- These airports are **Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, Ambikapur in Chhatisgarh, and Saharanpur in UP.**
- The RCS- UDAN, a government-backed initiative to improve infrastructure and connectivity in India, especially in remote and underserved regions, completes seven years. It is a vital component of India's National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016, launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on October 21, 2016, with a 10-year vision.

#### JP Nadda inaugurates the “Medicine Update BJMFCON

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, **JP Nadda** inaugurated the “**2nd Medicine Update BJMFCON 2024**”, organized by the **Bihar & Jharkhand Medical Forum (BJMF).**
- As the chief guest at the event, Shri Nadda also released the ‘Souvenir and BJMF Directory’.
- The first Medicine Update was held in 2023.

#### Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to Launch 'eShram-One Stop Solution' for Unorganized Workers

- Union Labour Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** has **launched 'eShram-One Stop Solution' for unorganised workers.**
- eShram-One Stop Solution aims to integrate information of beneficiaries of all social security and welfare schemes meant for unorganised workers in an effective manner through a single platform.
- This initiative will help unorganised workers become aware of the schemes designed for them.

#### 18.9 per cent overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu: Study

- The **overall prevalence of diabetes in Jammu is 18.9 per cent**, with an alarming **26.5 per cent in urban areas and 14.5 per cent in rural areas**, a study had revealed.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in collaboration with the **Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF)**, has released critical data from the **ICMR-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) national study**, which includes data for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This first-of-its-kind study in the region also revealed that **10.8 per cent of the population in Jammu is affected by prediabetes**, with **13.4 per cent and 9.3 per cent in the urban and rural areas respectively.**

#### MP's Datia district hospital and medical college installed 'pink alarms' for women's safety

- **Madhya Pradesh's** Datia district hospital and medical college installed '**pink alarms' for women's safety.**

- The initiative was introduced after the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

### First-ever coal gallery inaugurated at National Science Centre in New Delhi

- Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey unveiled the first-ever coal gallery at the National Science Centre in New Delhi.
- The exhibition – ‘Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths’ – is based on the lifespan of coal and aims to provide information about the discovery of coal, the Coal extraction process, techniques used to extract coal.

### Assam government launches SWIFT project with ADB support

- **Assam government** has launched the **Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project to revitalise 129 Beels and boost Indigenous fish production.**
- The state government's SWIFT project is funded and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The total outlay for the project is Rs 800 crore. It aims to revitalise 129 Beels of the state.

### Adani Group Donates ₹ 100 Crore For Skills University In Telangana

- **The Adani Foundation**, which is the corporate social responsibility arm of the Adani Group, has **donated ₹ 100 crore to the Telangana government for the establishment** of a university that will **help young people develop industry-specific skills.**
- The Young India Skills University (YISU) has been established in Hyderabad under the Young India Skills University, Telangana (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2024, to bridge the gap between industry requirements and academic offerings.

### NCRTC organises 1st Nammo Bharat Diwas in New Delhi

- **The Nammo Bharat Diwas** was **observed in New Delhi on 21 October 2024** to mark the anniversary of the operation of the Nammo Bharat Trains.
- On 20 October 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 17-kilometer section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot section of the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

### Ministry Approved 50 NH Projects in Manipur, Prioritizes 902 km of Road Development in Hill Areas

- **The Ministry** has approved **50 National Highway projects of 1026 km length in Manipur.** Out of this, 44 projects of 902 km length lie in the hills of the State so far.
- In hills, 8 projects for 125 km have been completed and balance 36 projects of Rs 12000 cr for 777 km are in progress.
- In the Annual Plan 2024-25 of the Ministry, there are 2 National Highway projects of Rs 1350 cr for a total length of 90 km which lies in hills.

### DoPPW to conduct Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 3.0 from 1st to 30th November, 2024

- **The Centre will conduct a month-long campaign from November 1 to promote submission of digital life certificates (DLCs) by pensioners.**
- Pensioners have to submit a life certificate every year in the month of November for continuation of pension.
- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will be conducting the third nation-wide digital life certificate campaign which will be held in 800 cities/districts across India **from November 1-30.**

### Rajasthan government set up Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force

- **Rajasthan government** has constituted a **high-powered Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force** for the holistic economic development of the state.
- The task force has been set up by the state government in pursuance to the announcement made by the State Finance Minister Diya Kumari in her 2024-25 budget speech.

### Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi launches retail of Bharat Chana Dal Phase - II in Delhi-NCR

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy, **Pralhad Joshi** has **launched the retail of Bharat Chana Dal Phase - II in Delhi-NCR** by flagging off mobile vans of NCCF, NAFED and Kendriya Bhandar.
- **In Phase - II of Bharat Chana Dal, 3 lakh tons of Chana stock** from the price stabilisation buffer is being converted to Chana Dal and Chana Whole for retail sale to consumers at **MRP of Rs.70 per kg and Rs.58 per kg**, respectively. Apart from Chana, the government had also expanded the Bharat brand to Moong and Masur Dals.

### Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches 'International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System'

- Union minister for communications **Jyotiraditya M Scindia** has **launched** the department of telecommunications' "**International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System**" that can detect and block spam international calls that display Indian numbers as the caller ID.
- Multiple scammers masquerade as police, courier company employees, or others to call victims from international numbers that appear as Indian numbers on the victims' phones.

### NESTS launches 'Amazon Future Engineer Program' for Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** launched the **Third Phase of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Program'** in 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) **spread across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura.**

- The third phase would include an orientation on blockchain, artificial intelligence, coding, block programming and AI sessions.
- The third phase of the Amazon Future Engineer Program will be rolled out across 410 proposed EMRSs in India.

### **BSNL unveils new brand identity, launches seven digital services for pan-India connectivity**

- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** revealed its **new logo and introduced seven digital services focusing on secure, affordable, and reliable connectivity** across India. The launch event was led by Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M Scindia in New Delhi.
- The company also introduced automated SIM kiosks offering 24/7 services with UPI payment options and an intranet TV service providing 500+ channels through its FTTH network at no additional cost.

### **Department of Posts issues a Commemorative Stamp to mark 200 Years of Kittur Vijayotsava**

- **On the 200th anniversary of Kittur Vijayotsava a commemorative Postage stamp was released at the historic Kittur Rani Channamma Stage, Kittur Fort Premises.**
- This grand event **commemorated Rani Channamma's glorious victory on 23rd October, 1824 against the British rule.**
- The commemorative stamp designed by Shri Brahm Prakash features a striking portrait of Rani Channamma, on her horse drawing a sword, fighting against the British, embodying her strength and bravery.
- Surrounding her image are forts symbolizing the rich heritage of Kittur and the historic battle of Kittur.

### **Govt launches two-year nationwide celebration for Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary**

- **The government will commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** with a two-year-long nationwide programme from 2024 to 2026 to honour his monumental contribution to the country. Patel was born on October 31, 1875, at Nadiad in Gujarat.
- Sardar Patel's enduring legacy as the visionary behind the establishment of one of the world's most robust democracies and his pivotal role in unifying India from Kashmir to Lakshadweep remains indelible.

### **Loan limit under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) increased to Rs.20 lakh from Rs.10 lakh**

- **The government has doubled the limit of Mudra loan amount under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh under a new 'Tarun Plus' category to promote entrepreneurship in the country.**

- The increase aims to further the objective of the Mudra Scheme, which is to fund the unfunded. This enhancement is specifically beneficial to emerging entrepreneurs, facilitating their growth and expansion.
- The enhanced limit for Mudra loans was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman in the Union Budget 2024-25 on July 23 this year.

### Rajiv Ranjan Singh launches “Weather Forecasting at the Gram Panchayat Level” in Vigyan Bhawan

- **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh**, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, and Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, **launched Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**
- This initiative, developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), marks a major step forward in climate preparedness at the grassroots level.
- The initiative will provide Gram Panchayats with a five-day weather forecast and hourly updates, enabling rural communities to better plan agricultural activities and prepare for weather-related risks.

### Reliance, Nvidia partner to build large-scale AI infrastructure in India

- **Reliance Industries** has **partnered with Nvidia to build large-scale AI infrastructure in India** that could accelerate India's artificial intelligence capabilities.
- The announcement came during a fireside chat between Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang at the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai.
- The partnership will see Reliance deploying Nvidia's latest GB 200 supercomputer technology to build a massive AI infrastructure.
- The collaboration aims to make AI accessible and affordable to India's 1.4 billion population, following a model similar to what Reliance's Jio did for mobile data.

### Central govt pensioners to get additional compassionate pension after 80

- The **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)** announced that **central government pensioners aged 80 and older will qualify for an additional pension called compassionate allowance.**
- New guidelines have been issued for central government civil service retirees who reach the age of 80 to access these supplementary benefits.
- The guidelines simplify the process for distributing these additional allowances -  
From 80 to 85 years of age: 20 percent of basic pension/compassionate allowance.  
From 85 to 90 years of age: 30 percent of basic pension/compassionate allowance.

From 95 to 100 years of age: 50 percent of basic pension/compassionate allowance.

100 years or more: 100 percent of basic pension/compassionate allowance.

### **Bihar CM unveils panchayat projects worth Rs 7,160 cr.**

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth Rs 7,160 crore.**
- The projects for which the CM virtually laid the foundation stones include 2,615 panchayat government buildings in different blocks in the state and a panchayat resource center in Sonepur in the Saran district.

### **21st Livestock Census launched to count 16 species of livestock**

- The **central government** launched the **centrally sponsored 21st Livestock Census operation**. Simultaneously, the government launched a **\$25 million Pandemic Fund Project to strengthen the country's animal health infrastructure**.
- The Livestock census operation and the Pandemic Fund Project were launched by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, in New Delhi.
- The census is 100 per cent funded by the central government, and the total outlay for the 21st Livestock Census is Rs 200 crore.
- The 21st Livestock Census is conducted by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in partnership with the respective state government/Union Territories Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.

### **Swiggy unveils 'International Logins' for NRIs from 27 countries**

- **Swiggy**, the food and grocery delivery platform, has **introduced 'International Logins'**, a feature that **allows users from 27 countries—including** the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the UAE—to access all the offerings on the Swiggy app using their international phone numbers.

### **'IndiaAI' and Meta announces the establishment of the Center for Generative AI, Shrijan at IIT Jodhpur**

- **IndiaAI and Meta** announced the **establishment of the Center for Generative AI, Shrijan (सृजन) at IIT Jodhpur** and the **launch of the YuvAI initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building in partnership with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.
- This collaboration is aimed at propelling the advancement of open-source artificial intelligence (AI) in the country.

### **Cyclone Dana hits Coastal Odisha & West Bengal**

- **Severe tropical cyclone 'Dana'** struck the **eastern coast of India**, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds up to 100-120 km per hour.
- It caused significant damage to the infrastructure and crops in the coastal districts of Odisha and West Bengal.

- This is the third tropical cyclone to hit India in the 2024 season. The first cyclone of the 2024 season to form in the Bay of Bengal was 'Remal,' which hit coastal areas of West Bengal and Bangladesh in May 2024. Oman suggested the name Remal, which in Arabic means sand.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and the visiting **Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sanchez**, jointly **inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd's (TASL) Tata Aircraft Complex at Vadodara, Gujarat.**

### Dr Jitendra inaugurates new campus of India's first Biomanufacturing Institute at Mohali

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has **inaugurated the new complex of India's first Biomanufacturing Institute, "BRIC-National Agri-Food Bio-Manufacturing Institute" (BRIC-NABI).**
- The BRIC-National Agri-Food Biomanufacturing Institute (BRIC-NABI), formed through the strategic merger of NABI and CIAB, is poised to transform India's agricultural landscape by uniting biotechnology and bioprocessing expertise.

### India's first 'Writer's village' inaugurated in Dehradun

- The **country's first 'Writer's village'** was jointly inaugurated by former President Ram Nath Kovind, Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.
- Located in Thano village, **about 24 km from Dehradun**, the 'Writer's village' is the brainchild of former chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, a distinguished writer himself.

## Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

### Trachoma no longer a public health problem in India: WHO

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO)** has **certified India, Nepal, and Myanmar** as having **eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.**
- India joins 19 other countries in the world that have successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.
- According to the WHO, trachoma is still a major public health problem in 39 countries in the world and causes blindness in around 19 lakh people worldwide.

### Ericsson wins multi-billion-dollar 5G equipment contract from Bharti Airtel

- Swedish telecom gear maker **Ericsson** has received a **new multi-billion-dollar contract for selling 5G equipment from India's Bharti Airtel.**
- This comes after Ericsson got part of a \$3.6 billion contract last month for selling 5G equipment to India's Vodafone Idea. It shared the contract with Nokia and Samsung.

### 75th International Astronautical Congress begins in Milan with focus on responsible space for sustainability

- The **75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) opened at the MiCo Convention Center in Milan, Italy.**
- The event has drawn more than 10,000 space experts, scholars, entrepreneurs, and professionals from around the world. Italian President Sergio Mattarella attended the opening ceremony.
- This year's congress, themed "Responsible Space for Sustainability," focuses on promoting the sustainable development of space technologies globally, ensuring that future space exploration and utilization strike a balance between scientific advancement and environmental protection.

### Abu Dhabi World's Richest In Terms Of Sovereign Wealth Funds

- **As of October 2024, Global SWF has crowned Abu Dhabi with the title of the world's richest country,** in terms of its sovereign wealth funds.
- The country is estimated to boast a staggering \$1.7 trillion in capital, followed closely by Oslo (home of the world's largest SWF, NBIM), Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh and Hong Kong.
- Collectively, these six cities account for two-thirds of the capital managed by sovereign wealth funds worldwide, totalling \$12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024.

### WHO certifies Egypt as malaria-free

- **Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- The country became the second country in the world, following Cabo Verde, to be officially declared malaria-free this year. It is also the fifth African nation to receive malaria-free certification from the WHO.
- Egypt is the third country within the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to receive malaria-free certification, achieving this milestone in the region after 14 years. Morocco was declared malaria-free in 2010, following the United Arab Emirates, which received the certification in 2007.

### India & Pakistan extends Kartarpur Corridor agreement till 2029

- The **governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor** for five years until **24 October 2029.** The initial agreement was to lapse on 24 October 2024.
- The agreement between the two countries comes in the background of the Minister for External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan for the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad on 15 & 16 October 2024.

### Ayush Ministry to celebrate 9th Ayurveda Day on 29 October

- **The Ministry of Ayush will celebrate 9th Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi on 29th October.**

- This year the day is being celebrated around the theme Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health.
- Over 150 countries across the globe are to join this year's Ayurveda Day celebrations.

### IFFI 2024 celebrates Australia's Rich Film Traditions and Vibrant Cinema Culture

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has **announced** that **Australia** has **been nominated as the "Country of Focus" at the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, to be held in Goa from 20th November to 28th November 2024.
- This special recognition aims to celebrate the dynamic contributions of Australian cinema to the global film industry, highlighting its rich storytelling traditions, vibrant film culture and innovative cinematic techniques.
- India & Australia are already parties to an Audio-Visual Co-production Treaty.

### Cabinet approves two Railway projects with estimated cost of Rs 6,798 crore and will be completed in 5 years

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved **Two Railway projects of the Ministry of Railways with total estimated cost of Rs.6,798 crore (approx.)**.
- Two approved projects are – (a) the doubling of Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga & Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur Section covering 256 kms and, (b) construction of new line between Errupalem and Namburu via Amaravati covering 57 kms.
- The Two projects covering 8 Districts in 3 States i.e., Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Bihar will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 313 Kms.
- **The Union cabinet also approved setting up of a Rs 1000 crore VC fund dedicated to the space sector, under the aegis of IN-SPACE.**

### US, Japan and S.Korea to support digital infrastructure in India

- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** will launch a new framework to collaborate with the Indian private sector to support digital infrastructure in India.
- **The new framework is called the Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India Framework (DiGi Framework).**
- The DiGi Framework will be supported by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of Korea (Korea Eximbank) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

## Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

### SEBI approved new asset class for HNIs with riskier appetite

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved a **new asset class, allowing high-net-worth investors to invest in riskier regulated products.**
- The new asset class is to have a **minimum investment amount of Rs 10 lakh.** The offerings under the new product will be referred to as 'Investment Strategies', to maintain a clear distinction from the schemes offered under the traditional mutual funds.

### GST collections hit a 40-month low in September, with revenues at ₹1.73 lakh crore

- Growth in India's **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections** slumped to a **40-month low of 6.5% in September**, with revenues at **₹1,73,240 crore**, about 1% lower than the tally in August.
- Net GST receipts, after adjusting for refunds made to taxpayers, were 3.9% higher than a year ago, marking the slowest growth in this financial year.

### Magma HDI Unveils OneProtect – A Contemporary Personal Accident Insurance

- India's premier general insurance provider, **Magma HDI has unveiled OneProtect**, a contemporary personal accident insurance product.
- With over 20 customisable add-ons adapted to today's lifestyle needs, OneProtect is the ideal companion for anybody, including thrill-seekers and explorers.

### Market regulator Sebi slaps Rs 12 lakh fine on NSE Data And Analytics

- **Markets regulator SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 12 lakh on NSE Data And Analytics Ltd** for its failure to segregate IT infrastructures and manpower between itself and its parent firm National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- It has been directed to pay the fine within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in its order.

### NCRTC and Airtel Payments Bank Launch Co-Branded National Common Mobility Cards to Enhance Commuter Convenience

- **The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) and Airtel Payments Bank** have joined forces to **introduce co-branded National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)**, aimed at streamlining travel for commuters.
- The cards offer multiple payment options including Debit, Prepaid, and Prepaid Payment Instruments for Mass Transit Solutions (PPI-MTS).
- The NCMC cards are designed to simplify travel across various modes of transport, such as metros, railways, and buses, by offering a unified payment solution. This eliminates the need for multiple tickets or cards.

### SEBI gives in-principle nod to Jio Fin-BlackRock for mutual fund entry

- **Jio Financial Services'** joint venture with **BlackRock** to enter the mutual fund (MF) space in India has received the **nod from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Jio's entry into the MF space is expected to intensify competition in the industry, which currently has over Rs 66 trillion in assets under management.

#### Arka Fincap launches 'Uday' to boost MSME Growth with Small Ticket Loans

- **Arka Fincap Limited**, a subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL), has **introduced a new product called 'Uday'**, offering Small Ticket Loans Against Property (STLAP).
- Targeted at micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) owners, these loans will range from ₹10 lakh to ₹30 lakh.
- The company aims to address the growing credit demands of small businesses in Tier II, III, and IV cities, providing crucial financial backing for their growth and expansion.

#### Reliance Nippon Life Insurance unveils 'Nishchit Pension' to help Indians secure guaranteed long-term retirement income

- **Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited**, a leading private life insurer, has **unveiled a new deferred annuity plan, the Reliance Nippon Life Nishchit Pension**, which is designed to provide a guaranteed lifelong income, allowing customers to **streamline their retirement income** and protect against any decline in long-term interest rates.
- RNL Nishchit Pension solves significant retirement-related concerns such as establishing lifetime **income guarantees**, ensuring income for the last surviving couple, and leaving a legacy for future generations
- RNL Nishchit Pension provides a lifelong rate guarantee for self and family, which is critical for good retirement planning.

#### BoB to sell Oman operation to Bank Dhofar as part of rationalisation

- **State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has proposed to **sell its Oman operation to Bank Dhofar as part of rationalisation of foreign operation**.
- The bank has accorded approval for accepting the offer for acquisition of the banking business of Bank's Oman territory operations by Bank Dhofar on a going concern basis.

#### Repo rate remains unchanged at 6.50% for tenth time in a row

- **The Reserve Bank of India** decided to **keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the tenth time in a row**.
- Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 percent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent. The RBI has maintained status quo on benchmark interest rate since February 2023.

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also decided to change the monetary policy stance to 'neutral' and to remain unambiguously focused on a durable alignment of inflation with the target, while supporting growth.

### UPI transactions volume increases 52% to 78.97 bn in Jan-Jun: Report

- Instant payment system **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transaction volumes recorded a 52 percent year-on-year surge to 78.97 billion** in the first six months of 2024, according to a report.
- In its India Digital Payments Report for the first half of 2024 (January to June), payment technology service provider Worldline that UPI continues to rule the payment market.
- The average ticket size (ATS) of all UPI transactions in H1 2023 was Rs 1,603, while it dropped to Rs 1,478 in 1H 2024, it said.

### Net direct tax collection grows 18% to ₹11.25 lakh crore

- **Net direct tax collection grew 18.3% to about ₹11.25 lakh crore** as of October 10 this fiscal, government data showed.
- The mop-up includes personal income tax collection of ₹5.98 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of ₹4.94 lakh crore.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) stood at ₹30,630 crore, while other taxes (including equalisation levy and gift tax) earned ₹2,150 crore.

### Bank of Baroda introduces 400-day 'Utsav Deposit Scheme' at 7.3%

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced a 400-day 'Utsav Deposit Scheme'** for the festive season, **offering 7.30 per cent interest** to general citizens, even as it has increased interest rates on term deposits (TDs) in the above 3 years to 5 years bucket from 6.50 per cent to 6.80 per cent.
- The Utsav Deposit Scheme is applicable on **fixed** deposits below ₹3 crore, offers senior citizens 7.80 per cent interest, super senior citizens (aged 80 years & above) 7.90 per cent, and up to 7.95 per cent on Non-Callable Deposits.

### Biz2X surpasses Rs 9,000 crore mark in loan disbursements

- **Biz2X**, a digital lending SaaS platform and subsidiary of Biz2Credit, has **surpassed Rs 9,000 crore mark in loan disbursements**.
- One of the company's key growth drivers is its AI-integrated digital lending platform, DigiKred, which plays a pivotal role in optimizing lending functions for Indian lenders.

### Tata Capital, Tata Motors Finance merger receives RBI's approval

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the merger of Tata Capital**, an unlisted entity, **with Tata Motors Finance (TMFL)**, paving the way for the formation of India's 12th largest non-banking finance company.
- The RBI sent its "no-objection" to both companies earlier this month, according to the companies' regulatory filings.

- As consideration for the merger, Tata Capital will issue equity shares to the shareholders of TMFL, resulting in Tata Motors holding a 4.7 per cent stake in the merged entity.

### URG0 Capital secures financing facility of USD 40 million from DFC

- **United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has committed **USD 40 million (approx Rs 330 crore) loan with UGRO Capital to bridge the credit gap in the MSME sector.**
- This investment marks a critical step in UGRO Capital's journey to empower small businesses at the grassroots level and deepen financial inclusion across the country.
- This financing facility from DFC will mark the third impact deal for UGRO within a year.

### Cashfree Payments unveils UPI Switch to enhance success rates for online businesses

- India's largest payment and API banking firm, **Cashfree Payments** has received **certification from the National Payments Corporation of India for its UPI Switch service.**
- This will allow Cashfree to directly integrate with any bank's core banking software and offer a higher transaction success rate for its merchants.

### Magma HDI launches 'Double Suraksha': Affordable Insurance for Every Income Group

- **Magma HDI General Insurance** provides '**Double Suraksha**,' a **comprehensive insurance solution** tailored to the demands of people with diverse financial backgrounds.
- Whether for individuals who cannot afford complete health policies due to high costs, or for the wealthy wanting additional coverage for unexplained expenses while hospitalised, 'Double Suraksha' gives a fixed daily cash reward.

### PFC Infra Finance IFSC Ltd gets approval to operate from GIFT City

- **PFC Infra Finance IFSC Limited (PIFIL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), has **received approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to commence business as a Finance Company in IFSC GIFT City Gujarat.**
- PFC Infra Finance IFSC Ltd (PIFIL) will be the first finance company in IFSC dedicated to power and infrastructure sector lending.

### Neowise Unveils India's First AI-Driven Debt Collection SaaS Tools

- **Neowise**, India's fastest-growing debt recovery solutions provider, has **launched the country's first generative AI-powered debt collection tools.**
- With the debut of NeoBot, a voice-based debt collection assistant, and NeoSight, an AI call analytics tool, Neowise aims to revolutionise the debt recovery landscape.

### SBI raises ₹5,000 cr via AT-I bonds at 7.98%

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** raised ₹5,000 crore through **Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issuance** on at a coupon rate of 7.98 percent.
- This is the bank's first AT-1 bond issuance in the current financial year. The tenor of these bonds is perpetual with a call option after 10 years, and each anniversary date thereafter.
- The bonds are rated AA+ with a stable outlook from CRISIL Ratings and CARE Ratings.

#### **FIU slaps Rs 54 lakh fine on Union Bank of India for multiple PMLA violations**

- **The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)** has imposed a fine of Rs 54 lakh on the **Union Bank of India** for "failing" to report suspicious transaction reports and for not undertaking due diligence under the anti-money laundering law for certain accounts at one of its branches in Mumbai.

#### **MobiKwik launches fixed deposit product with up to 9.5% interest rate**

- **MobiKwik**, a digital financial services platform, has **launched an Instant Fixed Deposit (FD) product on its mobile app**, in partnership with financial services firms. The product aims to simplify the savings process for its users.
- **MobiKwik Fixed Deposits** allows users to start investing with as little as Rs 1,000 and earn up to 9.5 per cent returns per annum without opening a new bank account.

#### **Sharapova, Bryan brothers elected into Tennis Hall of Fame**

- Five-time singles Grand Slam champion **Maria Sharapova**, Russia, and **American twins Bob and Mike Bryan**, who formed the most successful doubles team in history, were named to the **International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025**.
- Sharapova, one of only 10 women to achieve a career Grand Slam in singles, became the first Russian woman to reach the world number one ranking in 2005. She also won a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

#### **RBI revokes authorisation certificate of UAE Exchange Centre**

- **The Reserve Bank** has **revoked the certificate of authorisation of UAE Exchange Centre LLC for non-compliance** with regulatory requirements and now it cannot transact the business of cross-border in-bound money transfer.
- **UAE Exchange Centre LLC (UAEEC)**, with a registered office in Dubai, was issued Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for cross-border in-bound money transfer operator (customer-to-customer) as 'Overseas Principal'.

#### **SBI awarded Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine**

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** was **recognised as the Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine** of the US at its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards event held during the sidelines of Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington.

- SBI Chairman CS Setty received the award in recognition of the bank's unwavering commitment to providing exceptional services and promoting financial inclusion nationwide by winning the trust of its customers.

### RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das ranks top central banker by US magazine

- **Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked the top central banker by the US-based Global Finance magazine.**
- This is the second consecutive year that he has been ranked as the top central banker globally.
- Governor Shaktikanta received the award for A+ grade in Central Bank Report Cards 2024, for the second consecutive year. Das has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors, who have been rated A+.

## Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The <b>77th</b> session of WHO's Regional Committee for Southeast Asia	JP Nadda	The focus is on improving <b>public health systems and addressing key epidemiological and demographic challenges.</b>

## Chapter 16: Defence News

### DRDO successfully test the 4th Gen VSHORADS Air defence system

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted three flight tests of the 4th Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- The tests, conducted in the last two days were carried out against a high-speed target, demonstrating very critical parameters of maximum range and maximum altitude interception.

### GRSE delivers second survey vessel INS Nirdeshak to Indian Navy

- **Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** delivered survey vessel **INS Nirdeshak to the Indian Navy.**
- INS Nirdeshak is the second in a series of four such vessels being constructed by GRSE, with the first delivered to the Navy 10 months ago in December 2023.
- These are the largest survey vessels for the Indian Navy to be built in the country.

### Indian Naval Ship Shardul arrives in UAE

- **The Indian Naval Ship Shardul**, part of the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, **arrived at Port Mina Rashid, Dubai, UAE**, as part of its Long Range Training Deployment.

- This visit marks a significant milestone in strengthening maritime cooperation and fostering mutual understanding between India and UAE.

### India, US sign Rs 32,000-crore deal for 31 Predator drones

- **India** has signed a **deal with the US for the procurement of 31 Predator MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance UAV** manufactured by General Atomics.
- The development comes less than a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden held talks about the acquisition of the drones on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit held in Delaware.

### India's fourth nuclear submarine launched into water

- **India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, referred to as **S4\***, was **launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam**.
- This submarine is bigger and more capable than the first, INS Arihant (S2), which is essentially a technology demonstrator developed under the Advanced Technology Vessel programme.
- India currently has two SSBNs operational. 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.

### Navy launches 7th GRSE's Anti-Submarine Warfare Vessel 'Abhay'

- The Indian Navy's **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Abhay**, constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, was ceremoniously **launched at L&T's Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai**.
- **This vessel is the seventh in an eight-ship ASW SWC series**, an initiative from a 2019 contract between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and GRSE.
- The Arnala-class ships will eventually replace the existing Abhay-class ASW corvettes, currently serving the Indian Navy.
- Designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, these advanced craft are also capable of Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine-laying activities, enhancing the Navy's operational reach and defensive capabilities along India's coastlines.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
<b>The joint naval exercise of QUAD nations</b>	India, Australia, Japan, and the United States of America	The exercise, named <b>Malabar 2024</b> , includes <b>sea and harbor</b> phases focusing on cooperation in the <b>Indo-Pacific region</b> . It features various Indian naval platforms, such as guided missile destroyers,

		submarines, and fighter aircraft.
<b>The 2nd edition of 'Sagar Kavach' exercise 2024</b>	All the agencies responsible for the coastal security of <b>India- State Police, Indian Navy, Marine Police, Border Security Force (BSF), National Security Guard (NSG), Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and the Port authorities, participated in the exercise.</b>	The <b>Indian Coast Guard</b> successfully conducted its <b>2nd edition of the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach'</b> across <b>Gujarat</b> and the <b>Union Territory of Daman &amp; Diu coasts.</b>
<b>The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command is conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI'</b>		The exercise that aims to integrate <b>New Technology Equipment (NTEs)</b> into the Army's offensive strategies, ensuring readiness for future warfare scenarios, started in the presence of <b>Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, General Officer Commanding of Sudarshan Chakra Corps.</b>
<b>Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr</b>	India and Oman	<b>INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft</b> participated in the <b>Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr</b> with the <b>Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb</b> off <b>Goa.</b>
<b>The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)</b>	Singapore-India	The exercise will be conducted in two phases - the <b>Harbour Phase from October 23 to 25</b> at <b>Visakhapatnam</b> and the <b>Sea Phase from October 28 to 29</b> in the <b>Bay of Bengal.</b>

## Chapter 17: Sports News

### 9th World Junior Wushu Championships 2024: India wins 7 medals

- The Young **Indian Wushu players** ended their campaign at the **9th World Junior Wushu Championships 2024** by winning seven medals, including two golds, one silver, and four bronze medals.
- The Championships were held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.
- India's Aryan clinched the gold medal after defeating Gong Huanran from China in the Boys' Group Junior 48 kg weight category. Shaurya triumphed over his Iranian opponent Alireza Zamani to win another gold medal in Boys 48kg (children) section.

### India wins SAFF U-17 Championship 2024 after beating Bangladesh

- The undefeated **Indian football team** lifted the **2024 Men's SAFF U17 Championship** by defeating Bangladesh 2-0 in the final.
- The final was played at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- The Indian boy's football team, also famously known as Blue Colts, remained undefeated throughout the tournament.

### Virat Kohli becomes fourth player to complete 27,000 international runs

- **Indian batsman Virat Kohli** became **only the fourth player in history to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket across formats**, a feat that he achieved on the fourth day of the ongoing second Test against Bangladesh here.
- Kohli made a brisk 47 off 35 balls with four fours and a six as he helped India push on further in an aggressive mode to make up for the lost time in the Test due to incessant rains.

### India to host first-ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

- **The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup** will be held in **India** next year and will feature **16 men's and women's teams from 24 countries and six continents**.
- Kho Kho has its roots in India and this World Cup will highlight the rich cultural heritage and competitive spirit of the sport. Today, the sport that started in the mud and has gone to the mat now has a global presence with 54 countries playing the sport across the world.

### Carlos Alcaraz defeats Jannik Sinner to win first China Open Title

- In tennis, second-seeded **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz** beat defending champion and world No. 1 Jannik Sinner, winning 6-7 6-4 7-6 to **claim his first China Open title**.
- Meanwhile, China's Zheng Qinwen stormed into the quarterfinals of the women's singles after defeating Amanda Anisimova of the United States.

### ICC Women's T20 World Cup begins in Sharjah

- **The ninth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup** begins in **Sharjah, UAE**. The opening match will feature Bangladesh against debutant Scotland.

- India is carrying a spin-heavy bowling arsenal to the stage. With Deepti Sharma, Radha Yadav, Sajana Sajeevan, Asha Sobhana Joy, Tanuja Kanwer, and Shreyanka Patil, the team has versatility and effectiveness in its ranks.
- Group B includes Bangladesh, England, Scotland, South Africa, and the West Indies.

### West Indies legend Dwayne Bravo announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- **West Indies** decorated all-rounder **Dwayne Bravo** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after his farewell Caribbean Premier League (CPL) season was cut short due to an injury.
- Bravo, who is going to turn 41 next month, is the leading wicket-taker in the T20 format. Bravo retired from international cricket in 2021 and decided to end his time in the IPL.

### Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveils logo, mascot for Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the **logo and mascot for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024**, which will be held in Rajgir from November 11-20.
- The **mascot, named 'Gudiya'**, is inspired by the state bird of Bihar, Sparrow.
- The hockey stick in Gudiya's hand is the symbol of the hockey competition and the goalkeeper's glove in the hand, and the defensive posture reflect the strategic qualities of alertness.

### Mumbai win Irani Cup for first time in 27 years

- **Mumbai** has won the **2024-25 season Irani Cup** under its first-innings lead over the Rest of India.
- **Mumbai won the trophy after 27 years, having won it in the 1997/98 season.** This was the 16th Irani Cup title for the current Ranji Champion, Mumbai.
- The Irani Cup is a first-class domestic cricket tournament held at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Eakana Stadium in Lucknow.

### Olympian Dipa Karmakar retires from Gymnastic

- Olympian and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist **Dipa Karmakar** has **announced her retirement from Gymnastics.**
- Dipa Karmakar, nicknamed 'Small Wonder,' was the first female Indian gymnast to establish India's name at the international level in the sport.

### Rafael Nadal announced his retirement from Tennis

- One of the greatest men's tennis players in the open era, **Rafael Nadal (from Spain)**, has announced **his retirement from professional tennis.**
- The upcoming Davis Cup Final in Spain will be his last tournament as a professional player.

- The 2024 Davis Cup Final will take place from 19 to 24 November 2024 in Malaga, Spain.

### Indian Men & Women's team wins Bronze at Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024

- The **Indian men's and women's teams** have won **bronze medals in their respective events at the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024**, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- This was the first medal for the women's team in the championships after 1960, when they won bronze at Bombay, while for the men's team, it was their third consecutive bronze medal.

### Uttarakhand to host 38th National Games in 2025

- The **38th edition of the National Games (Summer & Winter)** will be held in **Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025**, the Indian Olympic Association announced.
- The 37th National Games was held in Goa from 25 September to 9 November 2023. Maharashtra claimed the top spot with a whopping 228 medals, including 80 gold.

### Historic medal for Ayhika & Sutirthat at Asian T T Championships 2024

- In Table Tennis, **India's top-ranked pair of Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee** have scripted **history by clinching the first-ever medal for the country** in Women's Doubles of Asian Championships 2024 at Astana in Kazakhstan.
- The Indian pair settled for the bronze medal after losing to the Japanese combination of Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara 0-3 in the semi-finals.

### India to hoist Junior World Cup of shooting in 2025

- The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President Luciano Rossi confirmed that India will host the ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025.**
- India continues to be a significant force in the world of shooting not only with its talented athletes but also through its commitment to expanding the sport's infrastructure and reach.

### Harmanpreet Singh emerges as most expensive player in Hockey auction

- **India captain Harmanpreet Singh** became the **most expensive player on day one of the Hockey India League auction, with Soorma Hockey Club** snapping the star drag-flicker for 78 lakh rupees.
- Abhishek became the second-most expensive buy, acquired by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for 72 lakh rupees, while Hardik Singh went to UP Rudras for 70 lakh rupees.
- The league will get underway on 28th December this year.

### India beat Taipei to win women's single Bendigo International Challenge Badminton Tournament

- **India's Tanya Hemanth** beat **Tung Ciou-Tong** of Taipei in straight games to win the **women's singles title at the Bendigo International Challenge badminton tournament in Bendigo, Australia.**
- The second-seeded Tanya beat her opponent Tung, seeded sixth in the tournament, 21-17, 21-17 in the women's singles final.

#### Neetu David, AB de Villiers, Alastair Cook inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- **Former spinner Neetu David** became only the **second Indian woman to be inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame.**
- For the 47-year-old, it was an emotional moment when ICC named her **alongside men's greats A B de Villiers and Alastair Cook** as the latest entrants to the select club.

#### Deepika clinches silver in Archery World Cup

- In the Archery World Cup Final, **India's Deepika Kumari** clinched the **silver medal in the women's recurve category in Tlaxcala, Mexico.**
- She faced a defeat to Li Jiaman of China, nil-6 in the Final. Deepika entered the final by defeating Alejandra Valencia of the host country, Mexico, 6-4, in the Semi-final.

#### New Zealand clinched Women's T20 Cricket World Cup defeating South Africa

- In the **Women's T20 Cricket World Cup**, **New Zealand** scripted history as the Sophie Devine-led side **clinched their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title after beating South Africa** by 32 runs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai.
- Chasing a target of 159 runs set by New Zealand, South Africa made 126 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated twenty overs.

#### Bala Devi becomes first Indian woman to score 50 international goals

- **Bala Devi**, often referred to as the "goal machine" of Indian women's football, **etched her name in the history books by becoming the first Indian woman to score her 50th international goal** during the 2024 SAFF Women's Championship in Nepal, in a match against Pakistan.
- Bala Devi started her career in Manipur, where she showcased her talent from a young age, earning accolades at various youth tournaments.

#### Ferrari's Leclerc wins US Grand Prix

- **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc** clinched his **third Formula One race of the season** as he finished ahead of teammate Carlos Sainz **to win the United States Grand Prix.**
- Monaco native Leclerc helped Ferrari finish the race one-two as Spaniard Sainz was placed second, 8.562 seconds behind Leclerc's winning time of 1:35:09.639 in a memorable race at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

#### Queen of Indian Hockey Rani Rampal retires from the Game

- The 30-year-old former **Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal**, also known as the queen of Indian hockey, announced her **retirement from the game**.
- The hockey governing body in India, Hockey India, has decided to retire the No.28 jersey as an honour to Rani Rampal. Rani used to wear jersey no.28 while playing for India.

### Manika Batra becomes first Indian to reach Quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Champions event

- **Manika Batra** has made table tennis history as she became the first Indian to qualify for quarter-finals at a WTT Champions event.
- Indian paddler Manika yesterday defeated Bernadette Szocs of Romania 3-1 in the round of 16 in Montpellier, France.

### India finishes U23 World Wrestling Championships 2024 with 9 Medals

- The **Indian wrestling contingent finished** its **U23 World Wrestling Championships 2024** campaign with **nine medals**—1 gold, 1 silver, and 7 bronze.
- India sent a 30-member wrestling team for the Tirana Championship.

S.No	Players	Category	Medal
1	Chirag Chikkara	Men's freestyle 57kg	Gold
2	Anjali	Women's freestyle 59kg	Silver
3	Vishvajit More	Men's Greco Roman 55kg	Bronze
4	Monika	Women's freestyle 68kg	Bronze
5	Neha Sharma	Women's freestyle 57kg	Bronze
6	Shiksha	Women's freestyle 65kg	Bronze
7	Abhishek Dhaka	Men's freestyle 61kg	Bronze
8	Sujeet	Men's freestyle 70kg	Bronze
9	Vicky	Men's freestyle 97kg	Bronze

### India wins 24 medals at the Japan Para-Badminton International 2024

- **Indian para-badminton players delivered** an impressive performance at the **Japan Para-Badminton Internationals 2024** by winning **24 medals- 6 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze**.
- The Japan Para-Badminton Internationals 2024 was held in Tokyo, Japan. It was a level 2 category Para-Badminton tournament.
- Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sukant Kadam lead Indian medals rush

### Afghanistan A defeats Sri Lanka A to lift the 2024 Emerging Asia Cup

- **The Afghanistan A men's cricket team** defeated the Sri Lankan A side by seven wickets to **win the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024**.

- The Asian Cricket Council organised the 6th ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup at Al Almerat, Oman.
- It was for the first time that the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup was held in T20 format.

### Australian Wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade Retires

- **Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has drawn curtains on his international career after playing for 13 years and across 225 fixtures.
- Wade, who has played 36 Test matches, 97 One-Day Internationals and 92 T20 Internationals for Australia will continue playing in the domestic cricket and leagues.

## Chapter 18: Book and Author

## Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 October	International Day of Older Persons	Theme 2024 - <b>Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide</b>
1 October	International Coffee Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Coffee, Your Daily Ritual, Our Shared Journey</b>
2 October	Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri Birth Anniversary	The nation celebrated <b>Gandhi Jayanti on October 2</b> , to honour the birth anniversary of <b>Mahatma Gandhi</b> , affectionately known as Bapu, the <b>father of the nation</b> . This year marks the <b>155th birth anniversary of Gandhi</b> . <b>Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti</b> is celebrated every year on <b>October 2nd</b> to honor the birth anniversary of India's third <b>Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri</b> .
4 October	Animal Welfare Day	Theme 2024 - <b>The World Is Their Home Too</b>
4 - 10 October	World Space Week	Theme 2024 - <b>Space &amp; Climate Change</b>

5 October	World Teachers Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education</b>
6 October	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Uniquely CP</b>
7 October	World Cotton Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Cotton for Good</b>
7 October	World Habitat Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Engaging youth to build a better urban future</b>
8 October	World Smile Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Do an act of kindness</b>
8 October	Indian Air Force Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Bharatiya Vayusena: Saksham, Sashakt aur Aatmnirbhar' (Potent, Powerful, and Self-Reliant)</b>
9 October	World Post Day	Theme 2024 - <b>150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations.</b>
10 October	World Mental Health Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Mental Health At Work</b>
10 October	World Sight Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Children, Love Your Eyes</b>
11 October	World Egg Day	Theme 2024 - <b>United by Eggs</b>
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child	Theme 2024 - <b>Girls' Vision for the Future</b>
12 October	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme - <b>Protect Insects, Protect Birds</b>
12 October	World Arthritis Day	Arthritis primarily affects the joints, causing <b>pain, stiffness, and swelling</b> . <b>Joint pain</b> is a common symptom of <b>arthritis</b> due to the inflammation or degradation of the <b>cartilage that cushions joints</b> .
13 October	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Theme 2024 - <b>Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future</b>
14 October	World Standards Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for the Changing Climate</b>
15 October	International Day for Rural Women	Theme 2024 - <b>Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future:</b>

		<b>Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment</b>
15 October	World Students' Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Empowering Students to be Agents of Change</b>
15 October	World White Cane Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Promoting Inclusion: Celebrating Abilities and Advocating Access for People</b>
15 October	Global Handwashing Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Why are clean hands still important</b>
16 October	World Food Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future</b>
16 October	World Anesthesia Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Workforce Well-Being</b>
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme 2024 - <b>Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges: Together Towards Equality and Inclusion</b>
20 October	National Solidarity Day	This significant day marks the <b>national integrity displayed by India in its conflict with China.</b>
20 October	World Osteoporosis Day	Objective - <b>To raise awareness around the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.</b>
21 October	National Police Commemoration Day	This solemn day provides an opportunity to express <b>gratitude to the officers currently serving</b> and their families who stand by them every day.
21 October	World Iodine Deficiency Day	Theme 2024 - <b>Strengthening Public Health through Awareness and Action</b>
22 October	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Theme 2024 - <b>The Power of Listening - People Who Stutter Have The Unique Opportunity To Teach The World To Listen</b>
22 October	Mole Day	Theme 2024 - <b>EncantMole</b>
24 October	United Nations Day	This day offers an <b>opportunity to reflect on the global body's efforts</b> to maintain peace, promote human rights,

		and foster social and economic development across the world.
24 to 30 October	UN Disarmament Week	The week-long observance is dedicated to <b>raising awareness about the importance of disarmament and promoting international dialogue to reduce the spread</b> and impact of weapons.
24-31 October	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	Theme 2024 - <b>The New Digital Frontiers of Information: "Media and Information Literacy for Public Interest Information"</b>
24 October	World Polio Day	Theme 2024 - <b>A Global Mission to Reach Every Child</b>
24 October	63rd ITBP Raising Day	The <b>ITBP Raising Day</b> commemorates the founding of this elite paramilitary force, which was raised in the aftermath of the <b>1962 Sino-Indian War</b> .
24 October	World Development Information Day	The day focuses on the need to <b>mobilise public opinion in both developing and developed countries</b> in a bid to accelerate their economic and social progress.
27 October	Indian Army Infantry Day	<b>Indian Army</b> is celebrating it as the <b>78th Infantry Day</b> this year. On this day, the country pays tribute to the brave hearts who sacrificed their lives while protecting the country.
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Theme 2024 - <b>Your widow to the world.</b>
29 October	World Stroke Day	Theme 2024 - <b>#GreaterThanStroke</b>
29 October	International Day of Care and Support	Theme 2024 - <b>Transforming Care Systems: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of Beijing+30</b>

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### Bharat Electronics, Israel Aerospace Industries form joint venture firm

- Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, Israel's leading aerospace and defence company, have established a joint venture company (JVC), which has been incorporated in the name of BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd.
- The JVC with its registered office in Delhi shall be the single point of contact (SPOC) for extending long-term product support to the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems of India's defence forces.

### National Space Commission approves India's Fifth Lunar Mission 'Lupex'

- After the success of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, **India's National Space Commission (NSC)** has **approved a new lunar mission, called the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)**.
- This mission is a **partnership between India's space agency ISRO and Japan's space agency JAXA**, and it will focus on exploring the Moon's resources, especially water at the lunar south pole.
- The collaborative moon expedition, set to touch down at the precise southern tip of the moon (90-degree latitude), is focused on exploring the moon for water and other valuable resources.

### NASA launches Europa Clipper to examine Jupiter's moon

- **NASA** has launched a **groundbreaking mission to investigate Jupiter and its moon, Europa**, one of the prime locations in **the search for life beyond Earth**.
- The spacecraft, named Europa Clipper, is designed to study the moon's icy surface and the subsurface ocean believed to exist beneath.
- It was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center, with the mission costing \$5.2 billion.

## Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Maggie Smith	He was the two-time <b>Oscar-winning actor</b> best known for playing the stern <b>Professor McGonagall</b> in the " <b>Harry Potter</b> " movie franchise and the tart-tongued Dowager Countess on " <b>Downton Abbey</b> ," died at the age of 89.
<b>Doyen of Indian industry Ratan Tata</b>	In <b>2008</b> , he received the <b>Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian honour</b> in India, after receiving the <b>Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honour in 2000</b> .

<b>Veteran Actor Debraj Roy</b>	<b>Debraj Roy</b> made his cinematic debut in <b>Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi</b> in <b>1970</b> , and the following year, he became a household name with <b>his outstanding performance in Mrinal Sen's Calcutta 71</b> .
<b>Legendary Gussadi folk dancer Kanaka Raju</b>	<b>Kanaka Raju</b> was born in the <b>Marlawai village in Jainoor mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad</b> district in <b>Telangana</b> .

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