

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



Full List Of Nobel Prize 2024 Winners

Website : ambitiousbaba.com

The Hindu Review (December 2024)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
Sworn in as Maharashtra CM for 3rd time	Devendra Fadnavis (Updated 6 December)
Joins Eurogrip Tyres as Brand Ambassador About Eurogrip TVS Srichakra Ltd, the manufacturer of Eurogrip, TVS Eurogrip, and TVS Tyres, was established in 1982 and operates as a key vertical of the USD 3 billion TVS Mobility.	MS Dhoni (Updated 8 December)
Named as the acting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) About Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded - December 1928 • Headquarters - Mumbai • President - Roger Binny • Secretary - Devajit Saikia (acting) 	Devajit Saikia (Updated 10 December)
The government has appointed as the ex-officio member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)	Vaibhav Chaturvedi (Updated 10 December)
Wins Ghana presidential election	John Dramani Mahama (Updated 11 December)
Appointed the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) About Reserve Bank of India (RBI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded - 1 April 1935 	Sanjay Malhotra (Updated 11 December)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI Nationalized - 1 January 1949 • Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra • RBI set up - Hilton Young Commission • 1st Governor - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia) • 1st Indian Governor - CD Deshmukh • 26th Governor - Sanjay Malhotra (replace Shaktikanta Das) 	
<p>Re-elected as the 15th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker</p> <p>About Maharashtra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Mumbai • Chief Minister - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time) • Deputy Chief Minister - Eknath Sindhe & Ajit Pawar • Governor - C P Radhakrishnan • Legislative Assembly Speaker - Rahul Narwekar • Legislative Assembly Seats - 288 	<p>Rahul Narwekar (Updated 13 December)</p>
<p>Re-elected Speaker of 6th Jharkhand Legislative Assembly</p> <p>About Jharkhand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital – Ranchi • Chief Minister – Hemant Soren • Governor - Santosh Kumar Gangwar • Legislative Assembly Speaker - Rabindra Mahto 	<p>Rabindra Mahto (Updated 13 December)</p>
<p>TransUnion CIBIL has appointed as its Managing Director and CEO</p>	<p>Bhavesh Jain (Updated 14 December)</p>
<p>Private sector lender YES Bank has appointed as executive director</p>	<p>Manish Jain</p>

(whole-time director) of the bank for three years	(Updated 14 December)
Tech giant Google has appointed as its new Country Manager and Vice President for India	Preeti Lobana (Updated 17 December)
RBL Bank's Board of Directors has approved the reappointment as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)	R Subramaniakumar (Updated 18 December)
The Indian REITs Association (IRA) has appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Brookfield India Real Estate Trust, as its new Chairman	Alok Aggarwal (Updated 19 December)
The union government has appointed as one of the Managing Directors of State Bank of India (SBI)	Ram Mohan Rao Amara (Updated 20 December)
The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) has officially appointed as the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup	Salman Khan (Updated 21 December)
President of India has appointed retired Supreme Court Justice as the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission	V. Ramasubramanian (Updated 25 December)
Appointed the new Governor of Manipur	Ajay Bhalla (Updated 26 December)
Made the new Governor of Mizoram	General V. K. Singh (Retd.) (Updated 26 December)
Kerala Governor has been moved to Bihar	Arif Mohammed Khan (Updated 26 December)
Named the new Governor of Kerala	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (Updated 27 December)

J&K Bank has appointed as its new managing director (MD) and CEO	Amitava Chatterjee (Updated 27 December)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed as the next revenue secretary	Arunish Chawla (Updated 27 December)
Appointed as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) About National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder- Department of Science and Technology • Founded- 1988 • Headquarters- Gurgaon • NABL is one of the constituent boards of Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. 	Dr. Sandip Shah (Updated 29 December)
Becomes the first transgender woman to be appointed as a guest lecturer at Karnataka University	K N Renuka Pujar (Updated 30 December)
Appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	Vitul Kumar (Updated 31 December)

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
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<p>The General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed by consensus to reappoint Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General for a second four-year term</p> <p>About World Trade Organization (WTO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded - 1 January 1995 • Headquarters - Geneva Switzerland • 1st Director General - Peter Sutherland • Director General - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) • Member Countries - 164 	<p>Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Updated 3 December)</p>
<p>Taken over as the chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC)</p> <p>About International Cricket Council (ICC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket. • Formation - 15 June 1909 • Headquarters - Dubai, UAE • Chairman – Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay) • Deputy Chairman - Imran Khwaja (Singapore) • CEO - Geoff Allardice (Australia) • General Manager – Wasim Khan • Membership - 108 members 	<p>Jay Shah (Updated 3 December)</p>
<p>President Donald Trump has nominated as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), marking him as the highest-ranking Indian American in Trump's incoming administration</p>	<p>Kash Patel (Updated 4 December)</p>

<p>Namibia elects as country's first female President</p> <p>About Namibia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital – Windhoek • Currency – Namibian dollar, South African rand • Prime Minister – Saara Kuugongelwa • Official language – English 	<p>Nandi-Ndaitwah</p> <p>(Updated 6 December)</p>
<p>Captain Ibrahim Traore, the junta leader in Burkina Faso has appointed as the country's new prime minister, a day after dissolving the government.</p> <p>About Burkina Faso</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Ouagadougou • Currency- West African CFA franc • Continent- Africa • PM - Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo 	<p>Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo</p> <p>(Updated 10 December)</p>
<p>The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS rebels in Syria, appointed as the transitional Prime Minister of Syria after Bashar al-Assad's government fell</p> <p>About Syria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital: Damascus • Currency: Syrian pound (SYP) • Official language: Arabi 	<p>Mohammad al-Bashir</p> <p>(Updated 13 December)</p>
<p>French President Emmanuel Macron announces Francois Bayrou as the new PM of France</p> <p>About France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Paris • President- Emmanuel Macron • Prime Minister- Francois Bayrou 	<p>Francois Bayrou</p> <p>(Updated 16 December)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official language- French 	
<p>Elected as the president of Georgia</p> <p>About Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital – Tbilisi • Currency – Georgian lari • President – Mikheil Kavelashvili • Prime Minister - Irakli Garibashvili 	<p>Mikheil Kavelashvili</p> <p>(Updated 16 December)</p>
<p>US President-elect Donald Trump named Indian American entrepreneur, venture capitalist and author as Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence</p>	<p>Sriram Krishnan</p> <p>(Updated 25 December)</p>
<p>The Pacific Island nation of Tonga has elected as its new Prime Minister</p>	<p>Aisake Valu Eke</p> <p>(Updated 25 December)</p>
<p>Sworn in as President of Moldova for 2nd Term</p> <p>About Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital - Chisinau • Currency- Moldovan Leu • Official language- Romanian • President- Maia Sandu 	<p>Maia Sandu</p> <p>(Updated 27 December)</p>
<p>Singapore's DBS Group has appointed as Chief Executive Officer of DBS Bank India to succeed Surojit Shome</p> <p>About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded - 1968 • Headquarters - Singapore • Chairman - Peter Seah • CEO - Piyush Gupta • DBS Bank India' CEO- Rajat Verma (replace Surojit Shome) • CEO - Tan Su Shan (effect from March 2025) 	<p>Rajat Verma</p> <p>(Updated 31 December)</p>

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The prestigious IGBC Green Champion Award at the Green Building Congress 2024	Bharat Forge Ltd.	This recognition celebrates Bharat Forge's ground breaking efforts in transforming villages into IGBC-certified Green Villages.
The 3rd PSU Transformation Award under the "Innovative Product Development" category	Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Ltd under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	For ' Firm and Dispatchable RE (FDRE) Supply to DISCOMs on a Demand Following Basis '.
The '3rd PSU Transformation Awards 2024'	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)	The awards spotlight HSL's commitment to innovation and excellence in the shipbuilding industry.
J C Daniel Award for 2023	Eminent filmmaker Shaji N Karun	For recognising his lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema
The prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ)	Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	For pioneering the biosciences movement in India
The 14th PSE Excellence Awards ceremony Gold Awards in the Mini Ratna category The Silver Award for "Operational Performance Excellence."	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)	Gold Awards For "Corporate Governance" and "Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability" The Silver Award for "Operational Performance Excellence."

<p>The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) National Awards 2024</p>	<p>Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)</p>	<p>SAIL has been recognised in various categories viz. E-Newsletter for SAIL Track, Corporate Film (English), Best Communication Campaigns (Internal Publics) for SAIL Gaurav Diwas celebration, House Journal (English) for SAIL News, Best PR Programme for Promoting Science & Technology for steel plant technologies, Best Use of social media in a Corporate Campaign for promoting green steel, corporate website.</p>
<p>The prestigious "Gold Award" in the State Energy Conservation Award 2024 competitions (conducted by the State Energy Conservation Mission of Andhra Pradesh)</p>	<p>RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant</p>	<p>For its significant initiatives towards Energy Conservation in the Iron & Steel category</p>
<p>The prestigious 'Great Place to Work' certification for January 2025 to January 2026, awarded by the Great Place to Work Institute, India</p>	<p>Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)</p>	<p>This marks the second consecutive certification for SAIL, having first been certified for December 2023 to December 2024.</p>
(International)		
<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>

Golden Peacock Award for Best Film at the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	Lithuanian drama ' Toxic '	For Best Film
The Prestigious Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024	Nurse Maria Victoria Juan From Philippines	She, is a Consultant at Philippines Army Health Services and Colonel, Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines , has been honoured with of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024 .
The International Social Security Association's (ISSA) 'Good Practice Award' for for Asia and Pacific	India (EPFO services)	For five services provided by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
The UNESCO Award of Distinction 2023	The 1,300-year-old Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi	For its heritage conservation
The first Indian film for Best Director (Motion Picture) at the 82nd Golden Globes 2025	Payal Kapadia's film All We Imagine As Light	For Best Director (Motion Picture)
Physiology or Medicine Nobel Prize 2024	Victor Ambros (USA) and Gary Ruvkun (USA)	For the discovery of microRNA and its role in gene regulation
The prestigious 2024 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 'Champions of the Earth' award	Ecologist Madhav Gadgil	Mr. Gadgil , the only Indian on the list of this year's award recipients, chaired the government-constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel to study the impact of population pressure, climate change, and development activities on

		the ecologically fragile region in India.
The 'Sword of Honour' by the British Safety Council	The 'Ram Temple project' of the Shri Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya	This award was one of the highest recognitions in safety management and that the British Safety Council evaluates the safety processes, practices , and on-site activities during its audits, and only those who receive a five-star assessment were eligible for the 'Sword of Honour' award .
The 'Bura Marp' (red scarf) and 'Patang' (ceremonial sword) by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel at the 117th Bhutanese National Day	Renowned Indian educationist Arun Kapur	He set up schools in India, Bhutan and Oman

Awards 2024: Complete winners list

Lithuanian drama 'Toxic' wins Golden Peacock Award for Best Film at the 55th IFFI

- The **55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was concluded in **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa**.
- The 55th International Film Festival of India was organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa.
- This year, the festival received 1,676 submissions from 101 countries. The nine-day festival presented over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in World, three in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.
- The **Director of the 55th IFFI was noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur**.
- The theme of the 55th IFFI was 'Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now.'
- **Opening Film**

Film Name - Better Man
 Country - Australia
 Directed by - Michael Gracey

- **Closing Film**

Film Name - Dry Season
 Country -- Czech Republic
 Directed by - Bohdan Sláma

Award Winners of the 55th IFFI

Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

- Australian director Phillip Noyce for his contributions to the cinema. Noyce is known for his suspenseful and culturally resonant films, such as Patriot Games, Clear and Present Danger, and Salt.

Indian Film Personality of the Year

- Actor Vikrant Massey in recognition of Massey's extraordinary contributions to Indian cinema.

Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film

- Toxic (Lithuania)- directed by Saulė Bliuvaitė. She was honoured with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs.

Silver Peacock for Best Feature Film

- The New Year That Never Came (Romania) -Directed by Bogdan Muresanu. He was honoured with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs.

Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Male)

- Clément Faveau (France) for his performance in the French Film Holy Cow. He was honoured with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs.

Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female)

- Two actresses, Vesta Matulytė and Ieva Rupeikaitė (both of Lithuania), received the award for the film Toxic. They received a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs, which was split between them.

Special Jury Award

- Louise Courvoisier (France) for the film 'Holy Cow.' She was honoured with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs.

Best Debut Feature Film of a Director

- Sarah Friedland (United States)-Film, Familiar Touch. She was honoured with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs prize

First Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film

- This award was introduced for the first time at the 55th IFFI. Navjyot Bandiwadkar- Director of the Marathi Film Gharat Ganpati.

ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal

- The award is given to a film which promotes peace, tolerance, and dialogue. Crossing- Directed by Levan Akin of Sweden.

Best Web Series (OTT) Award

- 'Lampan' (on Sony Liv)-Directed by Nipun Dharmadhikari.

- List of the eight winners of the 2024 UNESCO Award

Awards of Excellence

- Inari-yu Bathhouse Restoration Project in Tokyo, Japan

Award of Distinction

- Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project, in Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu
- Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project, in Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China.

Award of Merit

- BJPCI Conservation Project, of Mumbai, India;
- Guanyin Hall Teahouse Conservation Project, Chengdu in Sichuan Province of China;
- Helou Pavilion Conservation Project, of Shanghai, China;
- Observatory Tower Conservation Project, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Special Recognition for Sustainable Development

- Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project
- Helou Pavilion Conservation Project, of Shanghai, China;

Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

- Rabinhorn Building, Bangkok, Thailand

National Panchayat Awards 2024

- **The National Panchayat Awards 2024 honoured 45 exceptional Panchayats for their contributions to sustainable and inclusive development in rural India.** The event was presided over by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, with Hon'ble Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.
- The National Panchayat Awards are usually celebrated on April 24th every year, in conjunction with National Panchayati Raj Day (due to the General Elections to the Lok Sabha held earlier in 2024, the award ceremony was rescheduled to 11th December this year.).
- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar** - This award recognizes the top 3 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under each of the 9 Localization of Sustainable Development Goal's thematic areas.
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**- Awarded to the top 3 GPs, Block Panchayats (BPs), and District Panchayats (DPs) with the highest average score across all 9 themes.
- **Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar** - Awarded to the top 3 GPs for their significant contributions to adopting and utilizing renewable energy sources.
- **Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**- Given to the top 3 GPs for their efforts in achieving net-zero carbon emissions.
- **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar** - Awarded to the top 3 institutions that have provided exemplary institutional support

to Panchayats in achieving the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Nobel Prize 2024 winners Honoured in Stockholm and Oslo

- The 2024 Nobel Prize winners were honored in ceremonies held in Stockholm and Oslo on 10 December 2024.

Nobel Prize 2024

Physics Nobel Prize 2024

- **Given By** - The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Awardee** - John J. Hopfield (USA) and Geoffrey E. Hinton (British Canadian)
- **Achievement** - *For foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks*

Chemistry Nobel Prize 2024

- **Given By** - The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Awardee** - David Baker (USA), Demis Hassabis (British), and John M. Jumper (USA)
- **Achievement** - David Baker (*for computational protein design*)
Demis Hassabi & John M. Jumper (*for protein structure prediction*)

Literature Nobel Prize 2024

- **Given By** - The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Awardee** - Novelist Han Kang (South Korea)
- **Achievement** - *For her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life*

Peace Nobel Prize 2024

- **Given by** - Norwegian Nobel Committee
- **Awardee** - Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo (also known as Hibakusha)
- **Achievement** - For its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again

Economics Nobel Prize 2024

- **Given By** - The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Awardee** - Daron Acemoglu (USA), Simon Johnson (USA), and James A Robinson (USA)
- **Achievement** - For studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity

List of the 2024 UNEP Champions of Earth Award winners

Winner	Category
Madhav Gadgil (India)	Lifetime Achievement
Sonia Guajajara (Brazil's Minister of Indigenous Peoples)	Policy Leadership
Lu Qi(China)	Science and Innovation
Sekem organisation of Egypt (It was founded by Ibrahim Abouleish)	Entrepreneurial Vision
Amy Bowers Cordalis (United States of America)	Inspiration and Action
Gabriel Paun (Romania)	Inspiration and Action

President Murmu Confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 Children

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 children (10 girls and 7 boys) at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. The award was announced and conferred on the occasion of the Veer Baal Diwas.
- Since 2022, December 26 has been observed in the country as Veer Bal Diwas to honour and recall the sacrifice of the tenth Sikh guru Guru Gobind Singh's youngest sons Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.
- The winner of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is awarded a Medal, a Certificate, and a Cash prize of Rs. One Lakh.
- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is administered by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. The award was instituted by the government of India in 1996.
- The Child Excellence Award is given to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements in : (i) innovation (ii) Arts & Culture (iii) Science & Technology (iv) Environment (v) Social Service (vi) Sports.

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
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<p>The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme (MSSC)</p>	<p>Exclusively for women and minor girls to promote financial independence by allowing attractive interest rates and to help achieve objectives of financial inclusion set by the government.</p> <p>In a written response to a question in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary said that 43,30,121 accounts have been opened under the scheme as of October 10, 2024.</p>
<p>Him Bhog Atta, Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojna, Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HP Shiva), E-taxi under the Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Swarojgar Yojna, Cow dung purchase scheme, Mobile Ayush healthcare units Mukhyamantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana (Himachal Pradesh)</p>	<p>Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched six welfare schemes in the state to mark the two years of the completion of his government.</p>
<p>“Banglar Bari” scheme (West Bengal)</p>	<p>To provide houses for the rural poor in the State</p>
<p>The Credit Guarantee Scheme</p>	<p>To enable farmers to access credit from eligible financial institutions on harvested crops deposited in registered warehouses.</p>
<p>The Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana (Delhi)</p>	<p>To provide Rs 1,000 as a monthly stipend to women residents whose annual family income does not exceed Rs 3 lakh.</p>

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<p>The 59th All India Conference of Director</p>	<p>Bhubaneswar, Odisha</p>	<p>The 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police brings together the central government and the state</p>

Generals (DGP)/ Inspector General (IG) of Police		government apparatus responsible for the country's internal security.
The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)	New Delhi	The conference will bring together approximately 150 participants from various countries to discuss the latest advancements in satellite remote sensing and their application in meteorology and climatology .
The 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Riyadh	COP16 will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 2-13 December 2024 under the theme Our Land. Our Future .
The World Maritime Conference 2024	Chennai	Internationally reputed speakers and panellists will discuss the future of the Global maritime scenario . The US, UK, Germany, Spain, and Asia Pacific Countries will participate in the discussions.
The 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	India	The CND is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug-related matters . It is mandated to monitor global drug trends, support Member States in formulating balanced policies, and oversee implementation of the major international drug conventions .
The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024	New Delhi	Supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) , this initiative by India's multi-stakeholder community aims to explore critical aspects of Internet governance, foster meaningful dialogue, and highlight India's leadership in the global digital landscape .
The Western Air Command's (WAC) two-day Commanders' Conference	New Delhi	The CAS emphasized the need for focused training to ensure readiness for multi-domain warfare, aligning with the theme "Bharatiya Vayu Sena - Sashakt, Saksham, Atmanirbhar" and urged collective efforts to advance the Indian Air Force (IAF) .
The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India	India	Conclave focusing on "Insolvency Resolution: Evolution & Global Perspective"

(IBBI) in association with INSOL India organized an International Conclave		<p>The event brought together distinguished experts and practitioners from across jurisdictions to share insights and experiences in insolvency resolution.</p> <p>The Conclave included three panel discussions. The first Panel Discussion was on the theme "Issues, Recent Developments & New Trends in Restructuring & Insolvency Across Jurisdictions".</p>
The Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 and the Rajasthan Global Business Expo	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Theme 2024 - Replete, Responsible, Ready
The two-day first India Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024	New Delhi	Apart from highlighting India's rich maritime heritage, the Conclave also deliberated on developing the maritime sector in India to create employment opportunities and make India a global hub and a leading maritime player.
The World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)	India	The WAVES Summit is poised to serve as a global platform for India's creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
India and the U.K. signed a Statement of Intent (Sol)	On cooperation on the design & development of Electric Propulsion Systems for the Indian Navy .
The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited.	For Short Refit and Dry Docking (SRDD) of INS Vikramaditya at an overall cost of Rs. 1207.5 Cr
Razorpay, India's leading omnichannel payments and banking platform, has collaboration with the Ministry of	This partnership comes as India contributes 46% of the global digital payment volume, underscoring the urgent need for robust cybersecurity

Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)	measures to safeguard businesses and consumers.
Hyundai Motor Group has tied up with three IITs	To establish a collaborative research system in the fields of batteries and electrification entailing an investment of USD 7 million over five years.
India signed the Supply Chain Resilience Agreement (Pillar-II) in November 2023 under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a 14-member plurilateral grouping in the region	The Agreement seeks to strengthen the supply chain crucial for national security and economic stability. The Agreement came into force on February 24, 2024.
Mahindra Finance, a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC), has entered into a strategic corporate agency agreement with Magma HDI General Insurance Company	This collaboration aims to provide a diverse range of tailor-made insurance solutions to Mahindra Finance customers, spanning motor and non-motor segments.
The second India and the United Kingdom 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue	The 2+2 Foreign and Defence dialogue is a Senior official-level mechanism for discussing and reviewing all aspects of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
The United States has approved a possible \$1.17 billion deal with India	To sell India support equipment for MH-60R multi-role helicopters under its Foreign Military Sales programme.
Andhra Pradesh has entered into an agreement with Google under which the tech giant	It will help the state in adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in various fields including healthcare , and also give a fillip to the local startup ecosystem there.
Neysa and DSW join hands to launch Advanced AI Cloud Platform	The platform is designed to help insurers confidently build, optimize, and deploy AI/ML-powered digital solutions , enhancing operational efficiency, risk management, and customer-centric innovation.

<p>Wipro has collaborated with SIAM.AI, a member of the NVIDIA Cloud Partner program in Thailand</p>	<p>The companies will leverage NVIDIA computing and software to develop an AI-powered digital assistant for the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This collaboration will utilise infrastructure, data, and networks within the country.</p>
<p>India and Norway forge deeper economic partnerships</p>	<p>The forum brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to discuss avenues for deepening India-Norway trade and investment ties across priority sectors.</p>
<p>The Geological Survey of India (GSI) will collaborate with Italy's Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI)</p>	<p>To enhance landslide forecasting and early warning systems.</p>
<p>Kyndryl, the world's largest IT infrastructure services provider, has partnered with The Co-operative Bank</p>	<p>To migrate the bank's existing applications from on-premise environments to AWS Cloud.</p>
<p>Universal Sampo General Insurance has collaborated with Child Rights and You (CRY)</p>	<p>To foster educational opportunities for children in marginalized communities in Andhra Pradesh.</p>
<p>Government-owned oil major HPCL and Sea6 Energy Private Limited have entered into a MoU</p>	<p>For R&D collaboration to take up joint development and commercialisation of technologies for valorising seaweed biomass.</p>
<p>Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has signed an agreement with NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd. (NLDS)</p>	<p>To integrate its APIs with Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)</p>
<p>The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecom R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, has signed an agreement with Trois Infotech</p>	<p>For its "Face Recognition Using Drone" technology.</p>

<p>Manipal Academy of BFSI (MABFSI), a leading learning solutions provider for the BFSI sector, has partnered with Axis Bank</p>	<p>To launch a Women-Exclusive Cohort under the Axis Bank Young Bankers Program (ABYB)</p>
<p>The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt has signed an agreement with Silizium Circuits Pvt Ltd a fabless Semiconductor IP & SoC Startup under FABCI (Fabless Chip Design Incubator) IIT Hyderabad</p>	<p>For the “Design and Development of LEO Satellite Components, and GNSS RF Front End ASIC”</p>
<p>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has inked a partnership with HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank by assets, by signing an MoU</p>	<p>To empower startups with world-class banking and financial services</p>
<p>The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an MoU with Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd, a renowned leader in business management software</p>	<p>Pertinently, this strategic partnership is aimed at introducing a comprehensive, module-based workshop series, tailored to address critical challenges faced by startups in areas such as financial management, compliance, marketing, digitization, and investment preparedness.</p>
<p>Federal Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has announced a strategic partnership with Ecofy, the country's first green-only NBFC backed by Eversource Capital</p>	<p>To empower MSMEs with innovative financing solutions for commercial rooftop solar installations.</p>
<p>Magma HDI General Insurance, a leading player in India's general insurance sector, has partnered with IndoStar Capital Finance</p>	<p>This collaboration aims to enhance the availability of motor, health, and commercial insurance solutions for customers.</p>

Limited (ICFL), a prominent non-banking financial company (NBFC)	
The Ministry of Culture has partnered with France Museums Development (FMD)	To develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a world-class cultural institution.
M2P Fintech has joined hands with the State Bank of India (SBI)	To deliver seamless and secure payment experiences
Contract development and manufacturing organisation, Akums Group has entered into a strategic long-term agreement at an estimated value of 200 million euros (Rs 1,760 crore) with an undisclosed global pharma firm	For manufacturing and supply of formulations in the European market

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
Prime Global Target for Mobile Malware Attacks	The cloud security company Zscaler Inc.	-	India
The 2024 AirHelp Score report	-	103rd	Brussels Airlines
The 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI),	The Portulans Institute in Washington DC	49th	-

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of certain stake of Speed JVco S.à r.l. (Target) by Ramon Investments Pte.	Acquirer is an investment holding company and does not engage in any business operation other than holding investments. It is an indirect wholly owned

Ltd. (Acquirer). The Proposed Combination involves the acquisition of certain stake of the Target by the Acquirer.	subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited (Temasek).
Adani Group will acquire aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services firm Air Works for an enterprise value of Rs 400 crore	Adani Defence Systems & Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire 85.8 percent shareholding in Air Works, India's largest private sector MRO company with the largest pan-India footprint.

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	\$98 million loan	India	The funding will support the establishment of disease-free planting material systems, boosting crop yields, quality, and resilience to climate change.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A \$50 million loan	The Government of India	To strengthen water security in Meghalaya by constructing climate-adaptive water-harvesting systems.
The World Bank	A \$188.28-million	Maharashtra	The \$188.28 million Maharashtra Strengthening Institutional Capabilities in districts for enabling growth operation will support district planning and growth strategies.
Deutsche Bank AG, India	A €91 million (about ₹814 crore)	SMFG India Credit (SMICC)	The senior secured loan, which carries a tenor of three years, is compliant with Deutsche Bank's Sustainable Finance framework criteria.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A USD 788.8 million (over Rs 6,600 crore)	Andhra Pradesh	For the development of Amaravati as a green and smart capital city that offers world-class infrastructure
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	\$500 million	India	To support India's economic growth by promoting environmentally sustainable infrastructure
The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)	\$42 million	Maharashtra	To provide coastal and riverbank protection to increase the resilience of

			local communities and natural ecosystems in the state of Maharashtra.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	\$500 million	The Government of India	To support green and sustainable infrastructure projects aligned with the country's climate commitments

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' Portal	The Department of Justice	The campaign aims to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and to celebrate the shared values that bind our nation.
The Rashtraparv Website along with its Mobile App	Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh	On the occasion of 'Good Governance Day' commemorating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee .

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed an MoU to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation at the Foreign Minister level to strengthen bilateral ties	India and Kuwait
Signed an MoU For Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to support and empower tech start-ups in India	Flipkart , India's homegrown e-commerce platform with the Department
Signing of a significant MoU along with agreements to promote India's transition to a circular economy	The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with the Government of Telangana and CSIR , along with leading recyclers

Signed an MoU to enhance support for customers engaged in the Australia-India business corridor	ICICI Bank with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)
Signed an MoU to enhance financial literacy, investor education, and protection in India, focusing on both urban and rural sectors	The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
Signed an MoU to provide a live broadcast of the upcoming Hockey India League. With this MoU, Doordarshan has become the official broadcast partner for Hockey India League 2024-25	Prasar Bharati with Hockey India
Signed an MoU to enhance logistics-related education, research, and training for the Indian Navy	Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya , Vadodara with the Indian Navy in New Delhi
Signed an MoU proposing to invest Rs 20,000 crore for constructing the Vadhvan Port Project	Terminal Investment Ltd Sarl (TIL) with the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)
Signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive digital transformation in India's maritime sector by integrating NeGD's technological expertise with IPA's in-depth insights into the maritime sector	The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and the Indian Ports Association (IPA)
Signs MoU to maintain electrification infrastructure, including Overhead Equipment (OHE) and Power Supply Installation (PSI)	Northeast Frontier Railway with IRCON

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

India's GDP growth aim for FY25 further slashed to 6.3% by Morgan Stanley

- Morgan Stanley has again cut its GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 percent for this fiscal year, down from its earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent.
- This come days after India's GDP slowed to a seven quarter low in the July-September quarter. Morgan Stanley had cut India's growth target for FY25 to 6.7% earlier in November and ahead of the Q2 GDP data.
- India's GDP growth slowed to 5.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the July-September quarter of 2024, marking its lowest level since March 2023.

S&P Global retains 6.8% growth for FY25

- The Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.8% in 2024-25 and 6.9% in 2025-26, according to India Outlook by S&P Global Ratings.
- In the second quarter of the current financial year, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.4%, marking a seven-quarter low, due to weak manufacturing and sluggish demand, according to the official data released last month. Manufacturing growth was recorded at 2.2%, down from 7% in the first quarter.
- In the monetary policy meeting last week, the RBI revised its growth estimate for 2024-25 to 6.6% from 7.2% earlier. It also kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5% for the eleventh consecutive time.

ADB cuts India FY24 GDP growth forecast to 6.5%, 7% in FY25 on weak demand

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.
- The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year.
- Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5 per cent.

Indian economy to grow at 6.5-6.8% in FY25 on high consumption: Deloitte

- Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.5-6.8 percent this fiscal and slightly higher between 6.7-7.3 percent in FY2026, boosted by domestic consumption, Deloitte said.
- Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said the growth in the first half of the fiscal year 2025 turned out to be slower than estimated as election uncertainties followed by disruptions in activity, due to heavy rainfall and geopolitical events weighed on domestic demand and exports.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

Cabinet approved National Mission on Natural Farming

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.2481 crore (Government of India share – Rs.1584 crore; State share – Rs.897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).
- Objective - To promote natural farming in mission mode across the country as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

- Rooted in the traditional knowledge inherited from their forefathers, farmers will practise Natural Farming (NF) as a chemical free farming which involves local livestock integrated natural farming methods, diversified crop systems, etc. NF follows local agro-ecological principles rooted in local knowledge, location specific technologies and is evolved as per the local agro-ecology.

Cabinet approves ₹7,927 crore multitracking projects to boost rail connectivity

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has **approved three major multitracking projects for Indian Railways at a cost of approximately ₹7,927 crore.**
- The initiative aims to enhance rail connectivity, reduce congestion, and contribute to economic growth.
- The projects are:
 Jalgaon – Manmad 4th line (160 km)
 Bhusawal – Khandwa 3rd & 4th line (131 km).
 Prayagraj (Iradatganj) – Manikpur 3rd Line (84 km)

Cabinet approves the PAN 2.0 Project

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department with a financial outlay of ₹1,435 crore.
- Currently, about 78 crore PANs have been issued, of which 98% are to individuals.

GoI to host 1st Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi

- As part of the central government's vision to make the North Eastern region the development engine of the country, **the government of India has decided to hold an Asthalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi from 6-8 December 2024.**
- The Union Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, also released the **mascot for the upcoming Asthalakshmi Mahotsav- Purvi.** The mascot is a girl, and she is wearing attire that represents the elements of the eight states of the North East.

Kolkata International Film Festival announces France as focus country

- **The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF),** slated to kick off on December 4, announced its lineup of 175 films from 29 countries, and revealed **France as the focus country of this year's film festival.**
- The lineup includes 42 feature-length films, and 30 shorts and documentaries in competitive categories, and 103 films in non-competitive categories.
- Screenings will take place in 20 venues in different parts of the city between December 5 and 11.
- Chairperson of the 30th KIFF Goutam Ghose highlighted that the festival this year will also screen certain films with projections from their original

celluloid, like Chokh and Debsishu by reputed director from the 1980s, Utpalendu Chakraborty.

- Like other years, the 30th edition of the KIFF has unveiled 'Unheard India', a non-competitive category that boasts of screenings of multiple films made in Indian languages like Garhwali, Konkani and Tulu.

Gujarat's 'Gharcholas' receive GI tag

- Gujarati "Gharcholas" traditionally worn at weddings within Hindu and Jain communities has received a Geographical Indication or GI tag from the Government of India.
- The coveted GI tag for Gharchola handicrafts was presented to Gujarat at the "GI and Beyond – Virasat Se Vikas Tak" program in New Delhi, hosted by the Handlooms Development Commissioner of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- This is the 27th GI tag that Gujarat has received. The GI recognition for Gharchola demonstrates Gujarat's commitment to guarding its rich artistic heritage.

Arunachal Pradesh launches 'Mission Himveer' to boost local economy

- To boost market linkage for agricultural and horticultural products in Arunachal Pradesh, the state government has launched Mission Arun Himveer by signing a pact between the agriculture marketing board and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, North East Frontier.
- As part of the initiative, the state government will supply fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry to the ITBP. These produces will be procured from local farmers, self-help groups (SHGs), farmer producer organisations and farmer cooperatives.

Government scraps windfall tax on crude, petrol, diesel export

- The Indian government has abolished the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, petrol, and diesel, effective immediately.
- This move marks the end of a levy introduced in July 2022 and aims to provide relief to oil producers and refiners.
- The decision is expected to benefit major oil players like Reliance Industries and ONGC by boosting their gross refining margins—a measure of profitability in refining crude oil.
- Additionally, the government has removed the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on petrol and diesel exports, further alleviating financial pressure on the oil sector.

What is a windfall tax?

- A windfall tax is an additional levy imposed on extraordinary or unexpected profits made by companies or industries.

India Gets First Water Transport Service 'Uber Shikara' In Srinagar

- In a pioneering move, Uber has launched its first water transport service in India, the Uber Shikara, on the serene Dal Lake in Srinagar.

- This new offering allows users to book shikara rides through the Uber app, bringing a modern twist to a traditional form of transport in Kashmir.

Kirti Vardhan Singh launches 'Nano Bubble Technology' for cleaning and purifying water

- Union Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, **Kirti Vardhan Singh** has launched 'Nano Bubble Technology' for cleaning and purifying water of the National Zoological Park in Delhi, and to promote the health of aquatic animals.
- This technology can effectively clean dirty pond water by eliminating algae and similar growths. It is being tested in the zoo for the first time as a 15-day trial. If successful, it will be used in the zoo.

Ratapani Tiger Reserve, MP notified as the 57th Tiger Reserve of the country.

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, informed the Nation about the notification of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, as the 57th Tiger Reserve of the country.
- Ratapani Tiger Reserve has a core area of 763.8 sq km, a buffer area of 507.6 sq km and a total area of 1271.4 sq km. It is the 8th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.

Government Launches Training Program on Chemical and Petrochemical Industrial Safety

- As part of the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has introduced its first training program on “Chemical and Petrochemical Industrial Safety” in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The program, themed “Safety First, Sustainability Always: Protecting People and Planet,” was held at the Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET): Institute of Petrochemicals Technology (IPT).

MOU renew between MEA and Department of Posts for Post Office Passport Seva Kendra Service Enhancement

- In a significant development, an MoU was renewed for five years between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts for the continued accessibility of passport services through the Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs).
- Launched in 2017, the Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) service has been instrumental in facilitating passport-related services to over 1.52 Crore citizens, particularly in rural and underserved areas, ensuring wider accessibility to passport services for citizens across India.

Govt launches 'Anna Chakra' platform to optimise PDS supply chain

- **Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi** has unveiled 'Anna Chakra', a groundbreaking supply chain optimization tool for the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Developed in partnership with the World Food Programme and IIT-Delhi, the system leverages advanced algorithms to optimize foodgrain movement across the country's logistics network.
- The initiative covers 4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops and 6,700 warehouses, targeting the country's food security programme serving 81 crore beneficiaries.

Centre approves ₹50 lakh grants each for 7 startups in technical textiles to boost innovation and sustainability

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has approved the startups in Technical Textiles to boost innovation and sustainability and to foster transformative developments that will shape the industry's future.
- Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles Rachna Shah has said this while chairing the 7th meeting of the Empowered Programme Committee of the National Technical Textiles Mission in New Delhi.

International Gita Mahotsav 2024 inaugurated in Kurukshetra

- The **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** has inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav at Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- The International Gita Mahotsav commemorates the birth of 'Srimad Bhagwat Gita', the sacred scripture containing advice of Lord Krishna that he gave to Arjuna in Kurukshetra on the first day of the famous 18-day battle in the Mahabharata.

Nafithromycin: Country's First Indigenous Antibiotic

- India has led the way with the creation of Nafithromycin, the country's first indigenous Macrolide antibiotic. This remarkable achievement marks a pivotal moment in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, showcasing India's growing capabilities in pharmaceutical innovation.
- Developed by Wockhardt with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Nafithromycin (marketed as "Miqnaf,") targets Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP) caused by drug-resistant bacteria, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune system.

NeGD and ISB launch "Digital Transformation for Senior Leaders" Training Program to empower government officials

- The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the

Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali, inaugurated a five-day training program titled “Digital Transformation for Senior Leaders”.

- This program is a pivotal initiative under the Digital India mission aimed at equipping senior government officials with critical knowledge and skills to lead digital transformation across various governance domains.

25 years of Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- Nagaland’s signature tourism and cultural festival, “Hornbill Festival”, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024 that is annually held from December 1 to 10
- The Hornbill Festival, also famous as the “Festivals of Festivals”, derives its name from the elusive Hornbill bird.
- The Hornbill Festival was launched in 2000 by the Nagaland government as a celebration of Naga culture but over a period of time has grown in popularity and stature, attracting national and international visitors.
- During the festival, 17 tribes of Nagaland showcase their culture and tradition through dances, processions, art exhibits and musical performances.
- The Opening ceremony of the 25th edition of Hornbill Festival was held in the Kisama Heritage Village on 1 December 2024 and it was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio.
- This year the international partners of the Hornbill Festival are the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, and Peru. The partner state of this year's Hornbill festival is Sikkim.
- Popular music composer A R Rahman was also a guest at the opening ceremony.

Union Cabinet approves Rithala-Kundli corridor of Delhi Metro

- The Union Cabinet has approved the 26.463-km Rithala-Kundli corridor of the Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project that will further enhance connectivity between the national capital and neighbouring Haryana.
- The entire stretch will comprise 21 stations, all of them elevated. The corridor is scheduled to be completed in 4 years from the date of its sanction.
- This line will be an extension of the presently operational Shaheed Sthal (New Bus Adda) - Rithala (Red Line) corridor and will boost connectivity in the north western parts of the national capital in areas such as Narela, Bawana, parts of Rohini etc. This entire stretch will comprise of 21 stations.

Centre approves ₹944 crore as Cyclone Fengal relief to Tamil Nadu, promises more after assessment reports

- The Centre has approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to Tamil Nadu as two instalments of its share from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

to help the state government's relief efforts in areas ravaged by Cyclone Fengal.

- Concerning overall funds for disaster relief, the Centre claimed that more than ₹21,718.716 crore has already been released to 28 states so far, this financial year.
- This includes ₹14,878.40 crore from SDRF to 26 states, ₹4,808.32 crore from NDRF to 18 states, ₹1,385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states and ₹646.546 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to seven states.

India's first Hyperloop train test track completed by IIT Madras

- IIT Madras has completed a **410-meter Hyperloop test track**, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward futuristic transport systems.
- The project is **being led by IIT Madras's Avishkar Hyperloop team in partnership with TuTr, a startup** incubated at the institute. The Avishkar Hyperloop team comprises 76 undergraduates and postgraduate students from IIT Madras.

PM Modi launched 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' for women

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Panipat to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness among women.**
- This initiative of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is designed to empower women aged 18-70 years, who are Class X pass. They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

Centre to launch 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign for improving service delivery

- **The Centre will launch "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore", a nation-wide campaign to redress public grievances and improve service delivery, during the good governance week from December 19 to 24.**
- In this campaign, over 700 district collectors will be participating and officials will be visiting tehsils and panchayat samiti headquarters.
- Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore is a decentralised version of special campaign 4.0 conducted in central ministries and departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) from October 2 to 31, 2024.
- This is the third time that the government of India will be conducting a national campaign at the tehsil level to address public grievances and improve service delivery, the personnel ministry statement said.

Dharmendra Pradhan launches PMeVIDYA DTH 24x7 Channel No. 31 for Indian Sign Language

- Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the **PMeVIDYA DTH 24x7 Channel No. 31 for Indian Sign Language (ISL) in New Delhi.**
- This move aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is set to transform the educational experience for hearing-impaired students across the country.
- The establishment of a dedicated PM e-VIDYA DTH Channel for ISL reflects the government's commitment to addressing the educational needs of children with hearing impairments.

Varthana Secures \$15 Million Funding to Revolutionise Affordable Education in India

- **Varthana** has successfully secured **\$15 million (₹120 crores)** from the **BlueOrchard Microfinance Fund**, managed by global impact investor BlueOrchard, through the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) framework.
- The funds will support Varthana's mission to enhance affordable private education in India, particularly for underserved communities.

Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2024 concluded in Vijayawada

- The **three-day Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2024** successfully concluded at the **Tummalapallivari Kshetranya Kalakshetram Auditorium in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- The festival was organised to pay rich tribute to Telugu culture and Carnatic music and provide a platform for lesser-known artists to perform.
- The three-day Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam was organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Union Ministry of Culture, the Union Ministry of Textile, and the government of Andhra Pradesh.

Canara Bank launched Nationwide Credit Outreach Program to Empower MSMEs

- **Canara Bank** has launched a **two-day nationwide Credit Outreach program to support the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across 238 MSME clusters in key industrial and business regions.**
- The initiative provided entrepreneurs with tailored financial solutions, advisory services, and access to government-sponsored schemes to enhance their business growth.
- The program was led by Canara Bank's top management, including MD and CEO Shri. K. Satyanarayana Raju, and Executive Directors Shri. Debashish

Mukherjee, Shri. Ashok Chandra, Shri. Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia, and Shri. Bhavendra Kumar.

Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants Released for the Rural Local Bodies of Himachal Pradesh and Goa

- **The Union Government** has released the **Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants during Financial Year 2024–25**, for Rural Local Bodies in Himachal Pradesh, 2nd installment of Untied Grants amounting to **Rs.70.40 crores** along with the withheld amount of 1st installment of **Untied Grants for Financial Year 2024–25 amounting to Rs.11.4716 crores**.
- These funds are for all eligible 12 District Panchayats, all eligible 81 Block Panchayats and all eligible 3615 Gram Panchayats.
- XV FC Grants during Financial Year 2024–25, for Rural Local Bodies in Goa, 2nd installment of Untied Grants of the Financial Year 2022–23 amounting to Rs.9.69 crores have also been released. These funds are for all eligible 191 Gram Panchayats of the State.

Nepal Army chief conferred honorary rank by President Murmu

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief **General Ashok Raj Sigdel** at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- He was honoured for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India.

CM Dhami inaugurated 10th World Ayurveda Congress 2024 at Dehradun

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the **10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 at Dehradun**. The 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 will be held in Dehradun from 12-15th December 2024.
- Theme 2024 - **Digital Health- an Ayurveda Perspective**
- The first Ayurveda Conference was organised in Kochi, Kerala, in 2002.

Uber launches women-only bike taxi service 'Moto Women' in Bengaluru

- **Ride-hailing giant Uber India** has introduced 'Uber Moto Women' in **Bengaluru**, marking its first women-exclusive bike taxi service globally.
- The service, which connects female riders with female drivers, is set to expand to other major metropolitan cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad.
- Uber Moto Women drivers will have the option to switch between accepting only female riders or all passengers.
- A dedicated 24×7 safety helpline also offers priority support for women users.

NDTL receives approval from WADA to manage Athlete Biological Passport

- National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi has received the approval from World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as an Athlete Passport Management Unit to manage Athlete Biological Passport.
- The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has received approval from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to manage the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), which is significant for the country's initiatives to curb the abuse of banned performance-enhancing substances.

INCL Launches 'CHARAK'- "Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal" in Singrauli

- Under the guidance of the Ministry of Coal, Singrauli based Coal India arm Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has rolled out 'CHARAK'- "Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal", an innovative health-centric CSR Initiative.
- This project is aimed at providing free treatment for the patients suffering from identified Life- Threatening diseases belonging to Economically Weaker Sections of Singrauli region.
- Under 'CHARAK', NCL will provide free treatment of identified life-threatening diseases at its dedicated hospital (NSC) or at specialised empanelled hospitals across the country.

India sets up its first diabetes biobank in Chennai

- Aimed at facilitating advanced research on diabetes, the variations of the Indian type and other related disorders, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has set up the country's first diabetes biobank.
- This repository of population-based biological samples established in Chennai will gather, process, store and distribute biospecimens to assist scientific studies.

Delhi airport becomes India's first airport to connect 150 destinations

- The New Delhi airport has become the first airport in India to connect 150 destinations. Notably, DIAL, operates and manages the IGI Airport in New Delhi.
- As per DIAL, Thai AirAsia X launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport.

PM Modi inaugurates projects worth ₹46,300 crore in Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 24 projects related to power, road, railway and water worth more than Rs 46,300 crore in Jaipur.

- He inaugurated 9 projects worth more than Rs 11,000 crore, which include 7 projects of the Central Government and 2 projects of the State Government.
- These projects also include the Parvati, Kalisindh, Chambal Link Project, which is important for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Assam CM attends Bhutan's 117th National Day

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended Bhutan's 117th National Day celebration on 17 December 2024 at Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.
- Assam shares an international boundary with Bhutan, and the Himanta Biswa Sarma visit is intended to strengthen the cultural and regional ties between Bhutan and Assam.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim share a land border with Bhutan. India shares a 699 km long international boundary with Bhutan.

Gujarat, Maharashtra & UP lead in rooftop solar installations under PM Surya Ghar scheme

- Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the top three states with the highest number of rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme.
- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024, aims to provide rooftop solar power to one crore households by March 2027.
- Under the scheme, installations are expected to cross 10 lakhs by March 2025, double to 20 lakh by October 2025, and reach 40 lakh by March 2026.
- As of December 9, 2024, over 6.79 lakh installations (total households covered) have been completed since the scheme's launch. These include more than 5.38 lakh individual residential units and around 1.41 lakh households through installations in residential welfare associations, according to Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, in a Rajya Sabha reply.

Scientists develop 'kisan kavach' to shield farmers from pesticide sprays

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has unveiled Kisan Kavach, Bharat's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit.

- Designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure, this innovation marks a transformative step in ensuring farmer safety.

Women hold only 10% key managerial personnel positions in India: Report.

- **Women constitute less than 20 per cent of the overall workforce, and only 10 per cent hold key managerial personnel (KMP) positions even as companies are making efforts for diversity, according to a report.**
- Women constitute less than 20 per cent of the overall workforce and hold just over 10 per cent of KMP positions, while female directors account for less than 20 per cent of the total board director positions, according to the 'Mind the Gender Gap' report by CFA Institute and CFA Society India.
- The 'Mind the Gender Gap' report is based on insights from 300 Indian companies through their Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) disclosures.

India Conducts First-ever Ganges River Dolphin Tagging in Assam

- **Marks a historic achievement in wildlife conservation as the first-ever Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista Gangetica) has been tagged in Assam.**
- The tagging of India's national aquatic animal, the Gangetic River Dolphin, is part of Project Dolphin of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to track the movement pattern of the highly endangered species.

NITI Aayog Releases Report on S.A.F.E. Accommodation

- **NITI Aayog released a report on "S.A.F.E. Accommodation – Worker Housing for manufacturing growth".** The report explores the crucial role of Secure, Affordable, Flexible, and Efficient (S.A.F.E.) accommodations for industrial workers in boosting India's manufacturing sector. It identifies key challenges, offers actionable solutions, and highlights the pivotal interventions required to scale up such housing facilities across the country.
- India is poised to elevate its **manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from the current 17% to 25% as part of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.** This goal is aligned with the country's objectives of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

Arvind Kejriwal launches Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship for Dalit students

- **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has launched a new scholarship programme aimed at Dalit students in Delhi.**
- The scheme, named the **Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship, will cover all expenses for Dalit students wishing to pursue higher education abroad.**

- The Delhi government would bear the entire cost of tuition, travel, and accommodation for those Dalit students who are accepted into foreign universities.

Govt to infuse Rs 500 cr in IFCI to improve its financial health

- **The government has decided to infuse Rs 500 crore capital in state-owned IFCI to improve its financial health ahead of the company's proposed restructuring and consolidation into a group.**
- With the infusion, the government of India's holding in the company is expected to further increase from existing 71.72 per cent as on September 2024.
- The capital infusion plan for IFCI was approved through the passage of the first Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2024-25 in Lok Sabha last week.
- The Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2024-25 made an allocation for an additional amount of Rs 499.99 crore for 'Subscription to the Share Capital of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI).

RTE Amendments 2024: Schools now allowed to fail class 5 and 8 students

- In a **major shift in school education policy**, schools will now have the **authority to 'fail' students in classes 5 and 8 if their performance does not meet required standards.**
- The central government announced this amendment in the Right of Children and Free School Education Act 2010 (RTE Act 2010).
- The new amendments allow states to hold regular exams for the students of class 5 and 8 and hold them back if they fail. These amendments come five years after the RTE Act was amended, in 2019. Under the new rules, states are allowed to conduct 'regular examinations for Classes 5 and 8 at the end of the academic year'.
- Students who 'fail' these exams will receive 'additional instruction' and have the chance to retake the examination two months later. If they still fail to meet the promotion criteria, they will be forced to repeat Class 5 or Class 8.

Indians can travel to Malaysia without a visa for 30 days until Dec 2026

- **Malaysia has extended its visa exemption for Indian nationals until December 31, 2026**, allowing them to visit the country without a visa for up to 30 days.
- This announcement was made by Datuk Awang Alik Jeman, the Secretary-General of the Home Ministry, who emphasized that the extension aligns with Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN chairmanship and, the preparations for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

Adani's Mundra port welcomes its first-ever LNG-Powered Vessel

- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Mundra welcomed CMA CGM Fort Diamant, the first-ever Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered container vessel to dock at the port's Container Terminal-CT4.
- This vessel, measuring 268 meters in length and 43 meters in beam, is the third in a series of LNG-powered ships with a capacity of 7,000 containers.
- Operating on the CIMEX2K/AS-1 service connects the Indian subcontinent with China, further enhancing global trade routes.
- Adani's, Mundra port is India's largest port and flagship of APSEZ, and is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure to handle vessels of up to 21 meters in depth, supported by robust connectivity through highways, rail corridors, and, the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

PM to distribute over 50 lakh property cards to property owners under SVAMITVA Scheme

- Four years after the Union government launched the Svamitva scheme to digitise property records in rural areas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed 58 lakh property cards providing 'Record of Rights' to owners in over 50,000 villages across 12 States at a virtual event.
- Prime Minister was launched the SVAMITVA scheme with a vision to enhance the economic progress of rural India by providing a 'Record of Rights', to households possessing houses in inhabited areas in villages through the latest surveying drone technology.

Health insurance claims rejection up 19.10% in FY24: IRDAI report

- India's insurance companies rejected 11 per cent of health claims and had 6 per cent pending as of March 2024, according to the industry regulator's annual report.
- Health policy claims worth Rs 26,000 crore were disallowed and "repudiated" by insurers in the year ending March 2024, marking a 19.10 per cent increase from the year before.
- The rejection amount was Rs 21,861 crore in the year ending March 2023, according to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Gautam Adani launches new renewable energy brand campaign

- Adani Group unveiled a new advertising campaign, titled "First the fan will come, then electricity will come", to promote its renewable energy initiatives.
- The campaign is part of Adani Group's broader commitment to renewable energy. Its renewable unit, Adani Green Energy, aims to develop 50 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. This includes the ambitious Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat.

- Spanning 538 square kilometres—five times the size of Paris—Khavda is set to become one of the largest renewable energy projects in the world.
- The park will have a total capacity of 30 GW, with the first phase of 250 MW wind energy already operational. The group's track record includes the 648 MW Kamuthi Solar Plant in Tamil Nadu, completed in 2016.
- At the time, it was the world's largest single-site solar power project. These projects highlight Adani Group's leadership in advancing India's clean energy goals.
- Director of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd - Jeet Adani

Sikkim Celebrates Kagyad Dance Festival

- Sikkim celebrated the annual Kagyad Dance festival at Tsuklakhang Palace in Gangtok with tradition.
- Enacted on the 28th and 29th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar (early December), it is a vibrant cultural event drawing both locals and international tourists seeking spiritual blessings.

Gujarat CM launches 'SWAR' platform to overcome language barriers

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched a new citizen-centric initiative called the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform.
- The SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25.
- The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini Team (National Language Translation Mission), has developed the SWAR platform.

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement marks two years of success

- The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) completes two years of remarkable success, driving mutual growth and showcasing the complementarity of both economies.
- The Ind-Aus ECTA has significantly advanced trade ties, creating new opportunities for MSMEs, businesses and employment in both nations, while reinforcing the foundation of their economic partnership.

Haryana cabinet approves 25% raise in Death-cum-Retirement gratuity limit

- The Haryana government has decided to increase the maximum limit of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity for state government employees by 25 percent.
- This enhancement will take effect from January 1, 2025, raising the gratuity from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

- The Cabinet also approved a 25 percent increase in the maximum limit of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity for Judicial officers of the state government.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission gets licence for largest nuclear plant

- **Pakistan is set to construct its largest nuclear plant for electricity generation after the country's atomic energy regulatory agency issued the licence for it.**
- The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) issued the licence to **build Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5), the largest plant producing electricity through nuclear power with a capacity of 1200 MWe.**
- C-5 is an advanced third-generation Pressurised Water Reactor of Chinese Hualong design, having active and passive safety features, including a double-shell containment and reactor-filtered venting system. It has a lifespan of 60 years.

17-year-old Mumbai teen conquers seven highest peaks on seven continents

- **Kaamyaa Karthikeyan, a Class 12 student from Navy Children's School, Mumbai, has achieved the sensational feat of becoming the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.**
- At just 17 years old, Kaamyaa completed the Seven Summits Challenge by climbing Mt Vinson in Antarctica on December 24, 2024, alongside her father, Commander S Karthikeyan.
- Her journey included summiting Africa's Mt Kilimanjaro, Europe's Mt Elbrus, Australia's Mt Kosciuszko, South America's Mt Aconcagua, North America's Mt Denali, Asia's Mt Everest, and finally Mt Vinson in Antarctica.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica begins operations

- **China has officially inaugurated its first overseas atmospheric background station in Antarctica, marking a major milestone in global climate research.**
- The National Atmospheric Background Station began operations, offering critical data to support international efforts in addressing climate change.

Elon Musk makes history: Surpasses \$400 billion net worth, widening lead over Bezos and Zuckerberg

- **Elon Musk has become the first person to surpass \$400 billion in net worth, solidifying his position as the world's richest individual.**
- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Musk's fortune has reached \$447 billion, marking significant growth since the US presidential election.
- Musk's increasing wealth highlights the rising value of his ventures, particularly in the electric vehicle and space sectors, as Tesla and SpaceX continue to lead their respective markets.

- Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is a distant second on the list with a total worth of \$249 billion and Mark Zuckerberg is a close third at \$224 billion.
- Larry Ellison is in the fourth position with a net worth of \$198 billion and Bernard Arnault is at \$181 billion.

Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP

- **Britain has become the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member.**
- The bloc comprises Canada and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- The UK, following its 2016 Brexit referendum, is attempting to establish new trade deals abroad after signing the accession treaty with most EU members.

Moldova joins International Solar Alliance

- Moldova has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi, marking its commitment to renewable energy.
- The ISA, co-founded by India and France in 2015, aims to mobilize USD 1,000 billion for solar energy by 2030.
- A treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation, International Solar Alliance (ISA), aims at mobilising more than USD 1000 billion of investment needed by 2030 for the massive deployment of solar energy.

China to Construct World's Largest Dam in Tibet

- **The Chinese government has given its green signal to the construction of the world's largest dam on the river Yarlung Zangbo/Tsangpo (known as the Brahmaputra in India) on the eastern rim of the Tibetan plateau.**
- The project has raised concerns among environmentalists as it will lead to the displacement of millions of people and the destruction of the natural ecosystem in Tibet.
- The construction of a dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River was announced by China in 2020. It will be the world's largest dam in the world overtaking the Three Gorges Dam built on the Yangtze River in China.
- The total investment in the dam is over 1 trillion yuan (US\$137 billion), making it the single largest infrastructure project in the world.

Bald eagle officially declared US national bird after 250 years

- **The bald eagle is now officially the national bird of the US, after President Joe Biden signed a law on Christmas Eve bestowing the honour upon the white-headed and yellow-beaked bird of prey.**
- The bird has been a national emblem in the US for years, appearing on the Great Seal of the US - used on US documents - since 1782.

- Founding Father Benjamin Franklin objected to the creature being chosen to represent the country, calling it a "bird of bad moral character".

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

Nirmala Sitharaman Reviews Performance of 4 states RRB in Bihar

- A meeting of the eight **Regional Rural Banks (RRB)** operating in four states of the Eastern Region- Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal was held in **Patna, Bihar**.
- The Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting.
- The Union Ministry of Finance periodically holds meetings with the heads of the RRBs to review banks' performance.

Economy growth rate dips to 5.4 % during July-September Quarter 2024

- The Indian real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate dipped to **5.4 % in the July-September quarter of 2024** compared to the **2023 July-September quarter growth rate of 8.1 %**, according to National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The Indian economy's second-quarter growth rate was lower than the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 7 per cent.
- The mining and quarrying sector was the only sector which recorded a negative growth of 0.1 %.

RBL Bank and Bajaj Finance end co-branded credit cards partnership

- **Private sector lender RBL Bank** and consumer financier **Bajaj Finance** have mutually decided to **cease the issuance of co-branded credit cards** under their partnership, as the synergies initially envisioned have undergone significant changes.
- RBL Bank partnered with Bajaj Finance in 2016 to issue co-branded credit cards for a period of five years. The partnership was renewed for another five years in 2021.

SBI Launches Nationwide Drive to Reactivate Inoperative Accounts

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a **nation-wide drive to raise awareness about the importance of inoperative account activation**.
- A savings or a current account is treated as inoperative if the customer has no transaction in the account for a period of over two years.

GST collection rises 8.5 pc to Rs 1.82 lakh cr in November 2024

- The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue **grew 8.5 per cent to over Rs 1.82 lakh crore in November 2024** as compared to Rs 1.68 lakh crore in the same month a year ago.
- The Central GST collection stood at Rs 34,141 crore, State GST at Rs 43,047 crore, Integrated IGST at Rs 91,828 crore and cess at Rs 13,253 crore.

- During the month under review, GST from domestic transactions grew 9.4 per cent to Rs 1.40 lakh crore, while revenues from tax on imports rose about 6 per cent to Rs 42,591 crore.

RBI lifts supervisory restrictions on Sachin Bansal-led Navi Finserv

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions imposed on Sachin Bansal-led Navi Finserv with immediate effect.
- The central bank on October 17, 2024 had issued directions to Navi Finserv Limited, Bengaluru (and three other NBFCs), to cease and desist from sanction and disbursement of loans, effective from close of business of October 21, 2024.

SBI Mutual Fund Unveils SBI Quant Fund

- SBI Mutual Fund has launched the SBI Quant Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed around a quant-based investing approach.
- The scheme aims to generate long-term capital appreciation through equity and equity-related instruments selected using an in-house quant model.
- The SBI Quant Fund will predominantly allocate:
80%-100% to equity and equity-related instruments selected through the quant model.
0%-20% to other equity instruments and debt instruments.
0%-10% to REITs and InvITs, in line with SEBI limits.

India's external debt rises by \$31 bn to \$647 bn in 2023: World Bank report

- India's total external debt has increased by \$ 31 billion to \$ 646.79 billion in 2023, according to World Bank International Debt Report.
- The report further said that interest payment increased from \$ 15.08 billion in 2022 to \$ 22.54 billion in 2023.
- While the long-term debt stocks have risen 7 per cent to \$ 498 billion in 2023, short-term debt stocks declined marginally to \$ 126.32 billion in 2023.

SEBI imposes Rs 9 lakh fine on Reliance Securities for 'flouting market norms'

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a Rs.9 lakh monetary penalty on Reliance Securities for "flouting market norms" and stock broker rules.
- The market regulator's order came after National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) carried out a thematic onsite inspection of the books of accounts, records and other documents of authorised persons (APs) of Reliance Securities Ltd (RSL).

UPI rule changes: UPI Lite transaction, wallet limit hiked

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for offline digital payments through UPI Lite. The move can benefit many people, especially those who live in places with poor internet connectivity.

UPI Lite transactions are offline in the sense that there is no need to enter a UPI PIN while making payments.

- The RBI has **hiked the per-transaction limits on UPI Lite from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. The overall wallet limit of UPI Lite has also been raised from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.**

BharatPe launches 'Shield' to protect users from digital transaction frauds

- **Fintech firm BharatPe** has launched a **fraud protection plan 'Shield'** to offer coverage against digital frauds, including protection against fraudulent Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.
- The new offering extends protection to users from fraudulent digital transactions up to Rs 5,000. Users will have to pay Rs 19 per month to avail this protection.

Axis Bank launches 'ARISE Women's Savings Account' with Benefits

- **Axis Bank** has launched, a specialized solution designed to cater to the financial needs of women.
- The account, introduced by Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson of Salesforce India, offers a range of benefits, including access to women financial experts, personalized investment options, healthcare discounts, and more.

RBI Innovation Hub develops MuleHunter.ai to combat mule account fraud

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** said that the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub** has developed an **AI/ML-based model, MuleHunter.ai**, which will be used to address the issue of mule bank accounts being used to commit financial frauds.
- As a countermeasure, the RBI is also currently running a hackathon on the theme "Zero Financial Frauds," which includes a specific problem statement on mule accounts, to encourage the development of innovative solutions to contain the use of mule accounts.

RBI allows small finance banks to offer pre-sanctioned credit via UPI

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to permit Small Finance Banks to extend pre-sanctioned credit lines through the UPI.**
- This will further deepen financial inclusion and enhance formal credit, particularly for 'new to credit' customers.
- Credit line on UPI was first introduced in September 2023 and was made available through Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
- This move aims to support underserved groups, including small businesses, micro-entrepreneurs, and individuals in rural and semi-urban regions.

RBI keeps rates unchanged, cuts CRR by 50 bps to 4% - MPC review

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent — the status quo for an 11th straight time — maintaining a “neutral” stance.
- The inflation projection for this financial year, meanwhile, was increased by 30 bps to 4.8 per cent.

SBI Card surpasses milestone of 20 million credit cards in circulation

- SBI Card has reached a significant milestone by surpassing 20 million credit cards in circulation.
- It achieved the milestone of 20 million credit cards in force, having started its credit card business in 1998.
- SBI Card has witnessed strong growth of around 25 per cent CAGR in cards in force and 26 per cent CAGR in spends between FY19 and FY24.
- Meanwhile, HDFC Bank had 22.64 million cards in circulation in October. The total number of outstanding credit cards in the system increased 12.85 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) to 106.88 million led by HDFC Bank which added 241,119 cards followed by SBI Cards with 220,265 card additions.

RBI introduces new interest rate benchmark - SORR

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to introduce a new benchmark for the interest rate derivatives market based on secured money markets.
- Based on the recommendations of the Mumbai Inter-Bank Offer Rate (MIBOR) Committee and the feedback received, and aligned with current market dynamics, the RBI has proposed to establish a benchmark derived from secured money markets, encompassing both basket repo and triparty repo (TREP).
- This benchmark, to be known as Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR), will be developed with the support of Financial Benchmarks India Limited (FBIL), which has been requested to take the proposal forward.

RBI raises collateral-free agriculture loan limit to Rs 2 lakh per borrower from 1.6 lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India enhanced the collateral-free agriculture loans limit to Rs 2 lakh per borrower from the existing Rs 1.6 lakh.
- At present, banks are required to extend collateral-free agriculture loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower. This limit was enhanced from Rs 1 lakh, set in the year 2010 to Rs 1.6 lakh in the year 2019.
- This will enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system.

India's FDI Journey hits \$1 Trillion

- India has crossed a milestone of **\$1 trillion in cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows since April 2000**, led by improved global competitiveness, a dynamic innovation ecosystem, and a business-friendly environment, according to the commerce and industry ministry.
- Taiwanese companies are increasingly shifting their supply chains to India due to global trade tensions, with FDI from Taiwan surpassing \$665 million between 2018 and 2024.
- This achievement was bolstered by a nearly 26% rise in FDI to \$42.1 billion during the first half of the current fiscal year, reflecting India's growing appeal as a global investment destination.

HSBC, IFC launch \$1 bn trade finance programme for emerging markets

- HSBC and the **World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC)** will jointly provide funding to trade transactions valued at up to **\$1 billion**, in a move to help fill a gap in financing for emerging market trade.
- They would equally share the risk on a portfolio of trade-related assets held by emerging-market banks in 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

BOBCARD unveils a women-centric credit card with free health perk vouchers

- **BOBCARD LIMITED** has introduced the **TIARA Credit Card, premium credit card** designed exclusively for women.
- Unveiled by model and actor **Milind Soman**, Pinkathon creator and yoga practitioner **Ankita Konwar**, and **Ravindra Rai, MD & CEO of BOBCARD LIMITED**, the TIARA card is powered by the RuPay network.
- It offers a **host of rewards and benefits across travel, dining, lifestyle, entertainment, and health categories**, catering to the aspirations of modern women.
- The TIARA cardholders get complimentary vouchers and memberships worth up to **Rs 31,000** from leading brands like Myntra, Nykaa, Flipkart, Lakme Salon, and Urban Company.

Max Life rebrands to Axis Max Life Insurance after regulatory approval

- **Max Life Insurance** announced a change in its corporate name to **Axis Max Life Insurance** after receiving the corporate and regulatory approval.
- Earlier this year, Axis Bank's board of directors approved the proposal to acquire Max Life shares, raising Axis entities' total holding in the insurance company to 19.99 percent from 19.02 percent.
- The new brand identity is reflected in a new logo through the inclusion of Axis's 'A' and burgundy shade.

World Bank approves \$325 Million Project to Boost Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh

- The World Bank has approved the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) Project, a \$325.10 million initiative aimed at enhancing farmers' incomes in Uttar Pradesh through improved crop productivity, adoption of digital and climate-resilient practices, and better market connections.
- The project also seeks to attract \$15 million in private investment to bolster these efforts.

SBI chief to head panel to recommend fresh list of accounts for NARCL: DFS

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Finance Ministry has decided to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of SBI Chairman C S Setty to submit a fresh list of accounts for transfer to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), colloquially known as 'Bad Bank'.
- This emerged at a review meeting chaired by DFS Secretary M Nagaraju to address key operational challenges and enhance the efficiency of resolution mechanisms through NARCL and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- Till date, NARCL, which came into the scene in mid-2021, has acquired 22 accounts with an exposure of ₹95,711 crore. The Finance Ministry had a few months back said that it was targeting stressed assets transfer of ₹1 lakh crore to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) by March 2025.

Newgen Unveils AI-enabled Captive Finance Solution to Revolutionize Lending and Leasing Operations

- Newgen Software, a global leader in AI-driven digital transformation, has launched its AI-enabled Captive Finance Solution, powered by the NewgenONE low-code platform.
- The solution is designed to help captive finance organizations and NBFCs optimize lending and leasing operations through intelligent automation and a customer-centric approach.

WPI inflation falls to 3-month low of 1.89% in November on softer food Prices

- Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation hit a three-month low of 1.89 per cent in November 2024 from 2.4 per cent recorded in October 2024.
- This fall in WPI was largely due to the softening of primary food inflation, which moderated to 8.63 per cent in November 2024 compared to 13.54 per cent in October 2024.
- For the April-November 2024 period, WPI inflation stood at 2.1 per cent as against a contraction of 1.29 per cent in the same period last year.

RBI's Foreclosure Guidelines on MSME Loans Implications for NBFCs

- The Union Budget 2024 incorporates numerous initiatives for MSMEs, particularly for manufacturing units, to boost the sector's long-term growth and profitability.
- One of these initiatives is the Credit Guarantee Scheme, where MSMEs in manufacturing can access **collateral-free loans with a guarantee of up to INR 100 crore**, shared Jugal Mantri, CEO, Anand Rathi Global Finance, in an exclusive interaction with Srajan Agarwal of Elets News Network (ENN).
- In the recent MPC meeting of the RBI, it was stated that banks and NBFCs **cannot levy foreclosure charges or pre-payment penalties on MSMEs**. A draft circular on this matter is also expected to be issued for public consultation.

₹12.3 lakh crore: Indian banks' loan write-off in past 10 years

- **Indian commercial banks** wrote off **Rs 12.3 lakh crore in loans between the 2014-15 and 2023-24 financial years**, according to government data presented in Parliament.
- Public sector banks accounted for Rs. 6.5 lakh crore of these write-offs in the last five years (FY20-24).
- Write-offs peaked at Rs. 2.4 lakh crore in FY19 following an asset quality review. They dropped to Rs. 1.7 lakh crore in FY24, representing 1% of the total outstanding bank credit. Public sector banks hold a 51% share of new loans, down from 54% in FY23.
- As of September 30, 2024, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) for public sector banks were ₹3,16,331 crore (3.01% of outstanding loans), and ₹1,34,339 crore (1.86% of outstanding loans) for private sector banks.

LazyPay Unveils 'LazyPay EMI' to Simplify High-Value Purchases

- **LazyPay**, a leading digital financial services provider by PayU, has launched 'LazyPay EMI' in partnership with its partner lender, PayU Finance.
- This innovative solution is designed to make high-value online purchases more affordable and accessible for consumers across India. By eliminating the need for a credit card, the feature offers a hassle-free way for users to finance their purchases.

Bank of Baroda Unveils Phygital Branches to Transform Customer Banking Experience

- **Bank of Baroda**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has launched **innovative Phygital branches** aimed at enhancing customer banking experiences by seamlessly integrating physical and digital services.
- These Phygital branches are equipped with advanced features like 24/7 self-service kiosks, a video contact center for non-financial services, and universal service desks to provide in-person assistance.

Indian economy to grow 6.6% in FY26: Ind-Ra

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, up from 6.4% in the current fiscal year.
- Ind-Ra believes investments will be a key growth driver for the Indian economy in FY26, like in FY22 and FY24.
- The Indian economy has experienced a cyclical growth slowdown in the past three quarters, which it expects to reverse from the December quarter.

ICICI Bank and Times Internet launch super-premium credit card

- ICICI Bank and Times Internet have launched a super-premium co-branded credit card targeting high-net-worth individuals.
- The 'Times Black ICICI Bank Credit Card', powered by Visa, offers an array of exclusive benefits designed to appeal to affluent customers. The metallic card features a unique design incorporating historic printing plates from The Times of India, symbolising a blend of tradition and innovation.
- Cardholders will receive significant perks including unlimited lounge access at over 1,300 global airports, visa services at home, and entry to 'The Quorum Club'.

Suspension of futures trading in key farm commodities extended for one month till January 2025: SEBI

- The Commodities market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has extended the ban on the future trading of seven agricultural commodities- soybean and its derivatives, crude palm oil, wheat, rice(non-basmati), moong, chana and mustard seed till January 2025.
- According to the SEBI notification issued, this has been done to check speculation in this commodity and keep in check food inflation in the country.
- In December 2021, SEBI banned future trading in these seven agricultural commodities for a year. It was extended for one year in December 2022 and again in December 2023 for a year.

RBI imposes fine on Manappuram Finance, IndusInd Bank over non-compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on IndusInd Bank and Manappuram Finance amounting to Rs 27.3 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, respectively, for non-compliance with norms.
- A penalty of Rs 27.30 lakh has been imposed on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of norms related to 'interest rate on deposits.

Shriram Finance launches Green Finance Vertical

- Shriram Finance Limited, a financial services company, has launched a new vertical to manage all its commitments to green financing.

- The newly-launched Shriram Green Finance plans to build on the group's existing portfolio of green financing, mostly focused on electric vehicles (EVs) and explore opportunities beyond this segment.
- In particular, Shriram Green Finance would focus on financing electric vehicles (EV), battery charging stations, renewable energy and energy efficient machinery.
- **Shriram Finance is targeting assets under management (AUM) of Rs 5,000 crore (\$588 million) over the next three to four years** under the portfolio. It also plans to raise funds from domestic and international sources, focusing on green investments.

CBIC chairman launches four new initiatives to enhance taxpayer services

- **Sanjay Kumar Agarwal**, Chairperson, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), in presence of all Board Members, **launched a series of initiatives that aim to improve taxpayer experience and enhance transparency.**

1. Revised Citizen's Charter: A Commitment to Better Service Standards-

- The CBIC has introduced a revised Citizen's Charter, which provides updated timelines and service standards for key taxpayer services.
- Covering areas such as Drawback, Import & Export of Air Cargo, and innovative platforms like CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), the new Charter ensures transparency and accountability in service delivery.

2. Ease of Doing Business' tab for giving suggestions –

- A new platform has been launched to enable taxpayers to directly contribute to the ease of doing business (EoDB).
- This initiative, born out of insights from Chintan Shivir 2023, allows individuals and businesses to share suggestions for improving tax procedures and policies.

3. Revamped Citizen's Corner: Knowledge at Your Fingertips-

- The Citizen's Corner online portal has been significantly enhanced to serve as a one-stop hub for tax-related information.
- Designed to empower taxpayers with knowledge, the Citizen's Corner simplifies self-compliance and encourages voluntary adherence to tax regulations.

4. CBIC Archives: A Digital Window to India's Tax History –

- Highlighting its storied legacy, the CBIC has launched a digital archive showcasing the historical evolution of indirect taxes in India. This user-friendly platform now features six (06) interactive menu tiles with

approximately 82 submenus, offering taxpayers access to videos, webinars, and the latest updates on various tax-related topics.

Poonawalla Fincorp Introduces AI in its HR Processes

- Poonawalla Fincorp has embarked on a **groundbreaking initiative by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) across its Human Resources (HR) Strategic Business Unit (SBU)**.
- This industry-first move, is set to transform operational standards and ignite innovation within the financial services sector.
- Poonawalla Fincorp's AI integration has revolutionized HR processes by drastically reducing the time to finalize job offers from traditionally around ten days to just under one a 90% decrease.

Aditya Birla Capital Becomes First to Integrate Financial Services on ONDC

- Aditya Birla Capital is the **first financial services company to integrate lending, insurance, and investments on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.
- ONDC is a government initiative to create an open and interoperable e-commerce network. It allows buyers and sellers to transact across platforms, supporting inclusivity and competition in digital commerce.
- By offering all three services, Aditya Birla Capital provides easier access to financial products. As a Wave-1 participant, the company has contributed to building the financial services ecosystem on ONDC. Wave-1 participants are early adopters who help develop the infrastructure for others to join.

UPI QR transactions jump 33% at retail stores in Bharat this year: Report

- UPI transactions at retail stores have increased by 33 percent in semi-urban and rural areas this year, reflecting the growing adoption of digital payments, according to a report.
- Moreover, insurance policy purchases and premium collections saw a 127 percent increase in transaction volume and, a 96 per cent growth in new customer adoption during the year, the report by branchless banking and digital network PayNearby.
- The report is based on an analysis of real transaction data derived from over 10,00,000 small retailers (kirana stores, mobile recharge stores etc) offering financial and digital services spread across India in rural and semi-urban regions.

Claims ratio of non-life insurers dips to 82.52% in FY24: IRDAI report

- Net incurred claims to net earned premium (claims ratio) of non-life insurance industry stood at 82.52 percent during 2023-24 as against 82.95 percent in the preceding fiscal year, as per the IRDAI's annual report.
- According to the Annual Report 2023-24 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), during 2023-24, the non-life

insurance industry underwrote a total direct premium of Rs 2.90 lakh crore in India registering a growth of 12.76 per cent from previous year.

- The contribution of public sector general insurers increased 8.88 per cent from Rs 82,891 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 90,252 crore in 2023-24.
- Private sector insurers, including standalone health insurers, have underwritten Rs 1.88 lakh crore as against Rs 1.58 lakh crore in 2022-23.
- The aggregate profit of the non-life insurance sector was Rs 10,119 crore as against a net loss of Rs 2,566 crore in 2022-23.

Equity raised through IPOs will cross Rs 2 trillion in 2025: Report

- India has emerged as the global leader in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), hosting twice as many IPOs as the United States and 2.5 times more than Europe, shows data analysed by Pantomath Group.
- In the first 11 months of 2024 alone, 76 companies raised Rs 1.3 trillion. Pantomath Group's report now predicts Rs 2 trillion+ record-breaking IPO fundraising in 2025.
- India achieved a historic milestone by securing the top position globally in terms of IPO volume for the first time, surpassing both the US and Europe, with nearly double the number of IPOs listed compared to the US and two-and-a-half times more than Europe.
- In contrast, the US reclaimed the lead in IPO proceeds for the first time since the peak in 2021, reinforcing its status as the most vibrant and appealing market for global investors," noted the report.

ICICI Prudential Rural Opportunities Fund launched

- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched the ICICI Prudential Rural Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following Rural and allied theme. It opens on 9 January 2025 and closes on 25 January 2025.
- The scheme will predominantly invest in sectors contributing to and benefiting from rural India's growth and development.
- Benchmark – Nifty Rural Index
- The Nifty Rural Index aims to track the performance of stocks from the Nifty 500 Index, which represent the rural theme.

ICICI Pru Life, RGA launch product to cover women-specific ailments

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind health product catering to women-specific critical illnesses and surgeries.
- ICICI Pru Wish has been developed in collaboration with Reinsurance Group of America Inc., a leading global life and health reinsurer.

SEBI fines Jaiprakash Power for misrepresenting co's financial statements

- Markets regulator SEBI imposed a penalty totalling Rs 54 lakh on Jaiprakash Power Ventures, its MD and CEO Suren Jain and other top officials for misrepresenting the company's financial statements.

- Others who have been penalised by Sebi are the company's chairperson Manoj Gaur, executive directors -- Sunil Kumar Sharma and Praveen Kumar Singh -- chief financial officer R K Porwal and former whole-time member M K V Rama Rao.
- They have been directed to pay the fine within 45 days.

Doha Insurance Group Secures Approval to Establish Reinsurance Branch in India

- **Doha Insurance Group (DIG)**, a leading provider of insurance and reinsurance solutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, has announced plans to **expand in India by opening a reinsurance branch**.
- The insurer has received approval from the Qatar Central Bank to establish the branch within Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT City). The new branch will operate under the "Gift City" international insurance office category.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)	PM Narendra Modi	PM Narendra Modi , has approved an investment of ₹3,689 crore for the construction of two hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh's Shi Yomi district . Both projects are expected to be completed within 50 months .
The Defence Ministry has set up a committee	The Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh	To address the capability development of the Indian Air Force (IAF) amid critical shortage of fighter jets, weapons, and equipment
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee	Pushpak Bhattacharyya , Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay	To develop a Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) in the Financial Sector.

Chapter 16: Defence News

BEML secures ₹136 crore contract from Ministry of Defence for High Mobility Vehicles

- Defence PSU BEML Limited has secured ₹136-crore contract to supply indigenously designed High Mobility Vehicles (HMVs) 8x8.
- These vehicles will be deployed for the Battlefield Surveillance System (BFSS) project.
- The HMVs will primarily be manufactured at the Palakkad plant, with additional production in other divisions as determined by management based on operational feasibility.

Defence Ministry signs ₹13,500-crore deal with HAL for 12 Su-30MKI aircraft

- In a significant step toward bolstering India's defence capabilities and promoting the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft.
- The deal, valued at approximately ₹13,500 crore, includes associated equipment and is inclusive of taxes and duties. The aircraft will feature a homegrown content of 62.6%, achieved through the indigenisation of numerous components manufactured by the Indian defence industry.

MoD inks Rs 7,629 crore contract with L&T for K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for Indian Army

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a Rs 7,628.70 crore contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for the procurement of additional 155 mm/52 calibre K9 Vajra-T self-propelled tracked artillery guns for the Indian Army.
- The procurement falls under the "Buy (Indian) category", providing a further boost to the Centre's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) initiative.
- The procurement of the latest batch of K9 Vajra-T guns will "catalyse artillery modernisation" and "enhance the Indian Army's overall operational readiness". The guns will be manufactured under licence from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense, extending an initial contract for 100 guns that has already been completed.

MoD inks Rs 1,990 cr deal with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders for plug for DRDO-made AIP system

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai for air independent propulsion (AIP) plugs worth nearly Rs 1,990 crore.
- The plugs will integrate the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-developed AIP system into the Kalvari-class submarines.

- An AIP is fitted onto conventional submarines with an AIP plug to allow the submarines to stay underwater longer without having to come up to the ocean surface for air, hence reducing the chances of detection by the enemy. AIP acts as a 'force multiplier' of a diesel-electric submarine.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The 13th edition of Joint Military Exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024), a bilateral exercise	Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces	The three-day exercise conducted witnessed participation by the Singapore Armed Forces contingent comprising 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery and the Indian Army contingent comprising 114 personnel from the Regiment of Artillery.
The 11th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2024) off	Kochi coast	Theme 2024 - Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities Through Regional Collaboration
India-Cambodia's first Joint Tabletop Exercise, codenamed 'CINBAX,' commenced at the Foreign Training Node	Pune, Maharashtra	The exercise is part of the military diplomacy of both countries to strengthen friendly ties between the two countries, especially military-to-military ties.
The bilateral Joint Military Exercise "Harimau Shakti"	India and Malaysia	Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the jungle environment.

<p style="text-align: center;">The bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka–India Exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sri Lanka–India</p>	<p>The exercise will be held in two phases - the Harbour Phase from 17 to 18 December and the Sea Phase from 19 to 20 December.</p> <p>Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years.</p>
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Chapter 17: Sports News

Pacer Siddharth Kaul announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- **Former Indian international Siddharth Kaul** has announced his retirement from professional cricket at the age of 34, following an unsold bid in the IPL Auction 2025.
- The right-arm fast bowler's journey in Indian cricket spans nearly two decades, commencing in 2007 with a first-class debut for Punjab against Odisha in Mohali.
- Kaul played a pivotal role in the Indian U19 team that clinched the World Cup in 2008, led by none other than Virat Kohli. His international career took flight in 2018, featuring in three ODIs and as many T20Is

Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen** claimed his ninth win of the season and 63rd of his career with a stunning victory for Red Bull at the crash-hit and controversial Qatar Grand Prix.
- In a race shaped by a litany of stewards' decisions and penalties, including a harsh late 10-second 'stop-go' for Lando Norris of McLaren, the newly-crowned four-time world champion was flawless as he came home six seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Sindhu & Lakshya win 2024 Syed Modi International Badminton tournament

- **The Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen**, respectively, won the women's and men's titles of the 2024 Syed Modi International badminton tournament.
- The USD 2.10 Lakh prize money BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour 300 Syed Modi International badminton tournament was held at the Babu Banarsi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Pavan Kampelli wins historic maiden Medal at Asian Esports Games

- **India's Pavan Kampelli has made history by securing a bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games held in Bangkok.** Pavan Kampelli also nicknamed "Mr Tomboy".
- Pavan Kampelli won a historic bronze medal for India in the e-football event. He defeated 2022 eFootball World Finals Winner (Mobile), Asgard Azizi of Indonesia, 2-1, to win the bronze medal.
- Pawan Kampelli won a \$ 500 cash prize for his bronze medal win in the Games. Also, for the first time, an Indian has won a medal in an international e-football event.
- Nattawat Namburee of Team Thailand won the gold medal, and Malaysia's Ahmad Muhaimin "Minbappe" Abdul Razak won the silver.

India wins 5th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup after Defeating Pakistan

- **The Indian Men's Junior Hockey team crushed Pakistan 5-3 in the final of the 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 to win the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup title for a record fifth time.**
- The 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 final was played at Muscat, Oman.
- This was the fifth title win for the India team in the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup. Before their win in the 2024 edition, the Indian team had won the title in 2023, 2015, 2008 and 2004.

Stealth frigate INS Tushil commissioned into the Indian Navy in Russia

- **The Russian-built multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate INS Tushil was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.**
- The flag-raising ceremony was held in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin, Ambassador of India to Russia Vinay Kumar, and other senior officials from both countries.

Bangladesh defends its ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup Title at Dubai

- **Bangladesh defeated India by 59 runs in the 11th ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup Final in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to successfully defend its title.**
- Bangladesh, which won the previous edition in 2023, clinched its second consecutive U19 Men's Asia Cup title. The ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup is for male cricketers below 19.
- Player of the Final match: Iqbal Hossain Emon (Bangladesh)
- Player of the Tournament: Iqbal Hossain Emon (Bangladesh)

Sathish Karunakaran win Guwahati Masters 2024 badminton Singles title

- **Indian badminton player Sathish Karunakaran has.**
- In the doubles, the defending champion Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto successfully defended their title by beating the Chinese pair in the final.

- The \$100,000 lakh prize money BWF Super 100 Guwahati Masters 2024 was held in Guwahati, Assam. It was the second BWF Super 100 Guwahati Masters after the inaugural edition of 2023.

Super 100 Guwahati Masters 2024 Badminton Title Winners

Events	Winner	Runners-Up
Men's Singles	Satish Karunakaran (India)	Zhu Xuan Chen (China)
Women's Singles	Cai Yan Yan (China)	Anmol Kahrab (India)
Men's Doubles	Chia Weijie and Lwi Sheng Hao (Malaysia)	Huang Dia and Liu Yang (China)
Women's Doubles	Ashwini Ponnappaa and Tanisha Crasto (India)	Li Hua Zhou and Wang Zi Meng (China)
Mixed Doubles	Zhang Han Yu and Bao Li Jing (China)	Rory Easton and Lizzie Tolman (England)

F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2024: Lando Norris win ends McLaren's long wait for Constructors' Championship

- McLaren won the World Constructors' Championship after 26 years, at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the finale of the Formula One 2024 season.
- Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc were second and third for Ferrari, respectively.
- McLaren finished with 666 points to Ferrari's 652 and Red Bull's 589.

2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will run from June 24 to July 25

- The 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will be played from June 24 to July 25, FIFA, soccer's international governing body announced.
- Thirty-two teams will participate in the Women's World Cup, which is being played in South America for the first time.

FIFA Confirms Saudi Arabia As 2034 World Cup Host

- FIFA has confirmed that Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup, underlining the Gulf kingdom's growing influence in world sport despite criticism of the country's human rights record.
- At the same time, a virtual Congress of world football's governing body confirmed that Morocco, Spain and Portugal will be joint hosts of the 2030 World Cup, in which three games will also be played in South America.

Ladakh to host Khelo India Winter Games from Jan 23

- The dates for the **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)** have been announced, with **Ladakh set to host the ice events from January 23 to 27, 2025**, while **Jammu and Kashmir will host the snow events from February 22 to 25, 2025**.
- The Khelo India Winter Games began in 2020. Nearly 1,000 athletes, including 306 women, participated in the inaugural edition.
- Participation has grown significantly over the years, with more than 1,350 athletes in 2021 and over 1,500 in 2022, reflecting the increasing appeal of the Games in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 2024 edition of KIWG witnessed over 1,200 participants, including more than 700 athletes, 141 support staff, 113 technical officials, and over 250 volunteers. A total of 136 medals were contested.

Haris and Wyatt-Hodge crowned ICC Players of the Month for November 2024

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the **ICC Players of the Month for November 2024** as **Pakistan's Haris Rauf and England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge**.
- Pakistan pacer Haris wins after his destructive bowling spells in Australia secured Pakistan's first ODI series victory in the country since 2002, while England's evergreen Wyatt-Hodge produced trademark fireworks in her side's convincing short-format victory over South Africa.

Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh becomes youngest World chess champion

- **Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh** became the **youngest chess champion in the world**.
- Gukesh made history as he **clinched 18th World Chess Championship defeating Ding Liren of China** in the 14th and the final match of the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore.
- With the endgame dragging out into the fifth hour, Ding made a blunder in the 55th move which cost him the match and the crown.

Mumbai Indians appoint Carl Hopkinson as new fielding coach

- **Mumbai Indians** have appointed **Carl Hopkinson as their new fielding coach ahead of IPL 2025**.
- Hopkinson has replaced James Pamment, who was MI's fielding coach for seven years.
- Hopkinson recently finished his stint as England's long-standing fielding coach, a role which he took up in 2018.

Shaheen Afridi Becomes Youngest Bowler to take 100 Wickets in all 3 formats

- **Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi** made history by **becoming his country first bowler to take 100 wickets in each format of the international cricket**.
- The left-arm pacer achieved the milestone during the first T20I against South Africa in Durban. The hosts defeated Pakistan by 11 runs in the match.

- In the match, Shaheen took three wickets to complete 100 T20I wickets in 74 T20s and became the first Pakistan bowler to have 100 wickets in each format of the game.
- Shaheen became the youngest player in the world to achieve the feat and the first to reach 100 wickets in all three formats of the game in international cricket before turning 30.

Mumbai defeats Madhya Pradesh to win the 2024 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- **Mumbai, led by Shreyas Iyer, defeated Madhya Pradesh to win the 2024-25 season Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.**
- In the final played at the Chinnaswamy stadium, Bengaluru, Mumbai defeated Madhya Pradesh by 5 wickets to win their second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.
- The victory over Madhya Pradesh in Bengaluru was the second title win for the Mumbai team. Mumbai had earlier won the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy in the 2022-23 season by defeating Himachal Pradesh.
- Award winner
- Player of the Match- Suryansh Shedge (Mumbai)
- Player of the Tournament - Ajinkaya Rahane (Mumbai)
- The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic championship organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and is played in the T20 format.
- Thirty-eight teams which participated in the Ranji Trophy played in this season of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which was divided into five groups.

Rithvik Kumar wins Odisha Masters 2024 badminton men's singles title

- **Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar won the men's single title of the 2024 BWF Super100 Odisha Masters badminton tournament.**
- Rithvik was the sole Indian winner in the Odisha Masters, which was dominated by the Chinese players, who won three titles, and the Japanese claimed the women's doubles title.
- The \$100,000 lakh prize money BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters 2024 was held in Cuttack, Odisha. It was the third edition of the BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters after the inaugural edition in 2021 and 2023.

Indian Hockey team won Women's Junior Asia Cup title at Muscat

- **Indian women's junior hockey team successfully defended their Women's Junior Asia Cup title in Muscat, Oman, by defeating China 3-2 in the final.**
- India, the previous 2023 edition winner, won the 10th Women's Junior Asia Cup, 3-2 in the penalty shoot-out in the final played at Muscat.
- The top five finishers at the 2024 Women's Junior Asia Cup - India, China, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia qualified for the 2025 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Chile.

Riya Shirish Thatte clinches Gold medal in Women's 25m Pistol Final of 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions

- In Shooting, **Riya Shirish Thatte of Aurangabad** has clinched the **gold medal in the women's 25m pistol final of the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in New Delhi.**
- She defeated Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar 7-2 in a shoot-off after both had tied at 31 hits in the eight series of five-shots decider. This is Riya's first senior national title.
- Olympian and former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat was third with 25 hits.
- The shotgun and pistol competitions of the National Shooting Championship are being held in New Delhi, while Bhopal is holding the rifle nationals.

Team Asia of Manika Batra wins inaugural TT Waldner Cup 2024 in Norway

- **Team Asia** won the **inaugural Waldner Cup 2024 Table Tennis tournament**, defeating Team World 14-10.
- Manika Batra was the only Indian player to be included in the Team Asia team. World no.25 ranked Manika Batra lost her singles and doubles match in the Waldner Cup. She lost her singles match to Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico.

Hardik Pandya most Searched Indian Sportsperson

- **Indian cricketer Hardik Pandya** was the **most searched Indian sportsperson across the globe, as per Google Year in Search 2024**, ranking seventh among the most searched sportspersons world-wide.
- It has been a career-defining year for Hardik Pandya, who experienced the extreme highs and lows in a matter of months.
- The IPL was the top trending overall search in India ahead of the T20 World Cup. The Olympics (5th), Pro Kabaddi League (9th) and Indian Super League (10th) were the other sporting events present in the top 10 overall trends.

Ravichandran Ashwin retires from International Cricket

- One of the all-time greats of India, **Ravichandran Ashwin**, has announced **his retirement from all forms of international cricket.**
- The unexpected retirement announcement came after the third test of the 2024-25 Border Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane ended in a draw.
- With 765 wickets in his credit, Ashwin is the second-highest wicket-taker from India after Anil Kumble

Brazilian Vinicius Junior wins FIFA Best Male Awards 2024

- **Brazilian and Real Madrid football player Vinicius Junior** won the **2024 FIFA Best Male Footballer of the Year award.** While, Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmatí won the **FIFA Best Female Player award.**

- Aitana Bonmati won the Best FIFA Female Award for the second consecutive time. She was part of the Spanish team which won the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.
- The winners of the 2024 FIFA Awards were announced and felicitated at a function held in Doha, Qatar. FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave the awards to the winners.

Kiran Ankush Jadhav clinches Men's 50m Rifle 3P title at 67th National Shooting Championship

- **Indian Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav** beat Paris Olympic **bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale** and another Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar to clinch the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) title at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Bhopal.
- Jadhav shot 465.8 in the final to leave Aishwary Pratap (463.1) of the home state in second place at the M.P. State Academy Shooting range.

Russian tennis player Daniil Savelev suspended for 2 years for doping

- **Russian tennis player Daniil Savelev** has been handed a **two-year suspension for violating anti-doping regulations**.
- The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) announced that Savelev tested positive for the prohibited substance meldonium during a test conducted in July 2024.
- Consequently, he has been provisionally suspended since August of the same year, and his suspension will conclude in August 2026.

Martina Devi wins silver in women's junior +87kg at Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships

- **Indian lifter Martina Devi** clinched a **silver medal in the women's junior +87kg category at the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships**.
- The 18-year-old from Manipur lifted a total of 225kg (96kg+129kg) to finish second in the three-lifter field. She also won a silver medal for her clean and jerk effort and a bronze for her snatch.

Vijayveer Sidhu wins Men's 25m rapid fire Pistol title at 67th National Championship

- **Punjab's Vijayveer Sidhu** beat fellow Olympian Gurpreet Singh of the Army Marksmanship Unit to clinch **his maiden men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) title at the ongoing 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC)** for pistol events.
- Taking aim at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range (DKSSR) Finals Hall, Paris Olympian Vijayveer got the better of Rio Olympian Gurpreet 28-25 in the title round.
- Air Force's Shivam Shukla finished third with a score of 23.

33 medals for India at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship 2024

- The young Indian weightlifters finished their campaign at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 with a credible 33 medals -

7 gold, 16 silver, and 10 bronze medals. Jyoshna Sabar of Uttar Pradesh stood out with three gold medals and a new Asian record.

- In the 2023 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, the Indian weightlifting contingent finished with a total of 42 medals.

India's medal winners in Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024

Silver Medal winners

- Sanjana - women's 76kg (clean and jerk)
- Sanjana - women's junior 76kg (total)
- Nilam Devi - women's Junior 55kg (snatch)
- Nilam Devi - women's Junior 55kg (clean and jerk)
- Nilam Devi - women's Junior 55kg (total)
- Maibam Martina Devi - women's junior +87kg (total)
- Maibam Martina Devi - women's junior +87kg (clean and jerk)
- Valluri Ajaya Babu - men's junior 81kg (snatch)

Bronze medal winners

- Payal - women's junior 45kg (total)
- Payal - women's junior 45kg (clean and jerk)
- Shankar Lapung - men's junior 61kg (total)
- Maibam Martina Devi - women's junior +87kg (snatch)

India's medal winners in Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships 2024

Gold medal winners

- Jyoshna Sabar - women's youth 40kg (total)
- Jyoshna Sabar - women's youth 40kg (snatch)
- Jyoshna Sabar - women's youth 40kg (clean and jerk)
- Payal - women's youth 45kg (total)
- Payal - women's youth 45kg (snatch)
- Koyel Bar - women's youth 55kg (clean and jerk)
- Sairaj Pardeshi - men's youth 81kg (total)

Silver medal winners

- Preetismita Bhoi - women's 45kg (clean and jerk)
- Koyel Bar - women's 55kg (total)
- Sanjana - women's 76kg (total)
- Sanjana - women's 76kg (snatch)
- Sanjana - women's 76kg (clean and jerk)
- Sairaj Pardeshi - men's 81kg (snatch)
- Sairaj Pardeshi - men's 81kg (clean and jerk)
- K Oviya - women's 81kg (clean and jerk)

Bronze medal winners

- Payal - women's 45kg (clean and jerk)
- Babulal Hembrom - men's 49kg
- Asmita Dhone - women's 49kg (clean and jerk)
- Koyel Bar - women's 55kg (snatch)
- Parv Chaudhary - men's 96kg (clean and jerk)
- Parv Chaudhary - men's 96kg (total)

M Raghu & Devika Sihag crowned 2024 Senior National Badminton Champion

- Karnataka's M. Raghu and Haryana's Devika Sihag won the men's and women's singles titles, respectively, at the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024.
- The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India and hosted by the Karnataka Badminton Association in Bengaluru from December 20 to 24, 2024.

Lakshya Sen bags bronze at the King Cup International Badminton Open

- Lakshya Sen from India secured third place at the King Cup International Badminton Open by defeating French player Alex Lanier in straight games.
- The 23-year-old earned a prize of approximately ₹36 lakh.

India's Koneru Humpy Crowned World Rapid Chess Champion for historic second time

- Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won a historic second title at the World Rapid Chess Championship, emerging victorious in the tournament in New York.
- Humpy has become only the second chess player after Ju Wenjun of China to win the title in the women's section more than once.
- Koneru Humpy, 37, sealed the title when she defeated Irene Sukandar with the black pieces in the final round.

Jasprit Bumrah Creates History with Best Bowling Average Among 200+ Test Wicket-Takers

- India's pace ace Jasprit Bumrah carved his place in cricketing history, becoming the bowler with the best average among those with 200 or more Test wickets.
- Bumrah also emerged as the fastest Indian pacer to reach the 200-wicket milestone in Test cricket.
- The historic feat unfolded on the fourth day of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy's fourth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where Bumrah dismissed Australia's Travis Head to claim his landmark 200th wicket.

World Boxing forms new Asian body; Lovlina in Athletes' Commission, Ajay Singh named board member

- Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been included in the Athletes' Commission while six Boxing Federation of India (BFI) officials, including s
- India will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Asian boxing within this new structure, with the BFI holding seven key positions, including Singh, who has been appointed as a board member.
- Borgohain will represent the athletes' voices in Asian and global boxing. Key BFI officials, including Secretary General Hemanta Kumar Kalita and Treasurer Digvijay Singh, will hold positions on the Olympic Commission and Finance and Audit Committee respectively.

Kerala clinches Senior National Men's Handball Championship title

- Kerala defeated Chandigarh 34-31 to clinch their maiden Senior National Men's Handball Championship title.
- Kerala had earlier entered the summit clash for the first time, edging out Services 23-21 in the semi-finals, while Chandigarh earned their spot by defeating Indian Railways 32-30.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	The General Assembly passed a resolution to that effect in 1977, selecting this particular day as this was when, in 1947, the Assembly adopted a resolution partitioning the Palestinian territory into an Arab State and a Jewish one .
30 November	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	Established during the 20th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention , this memorial day honors the memory of victims and strengthens the commitment of the international community to the complete eradication of chemical weapons .

1 December	World AIDS Day	Theme 2024 - Take the Rights Path
1 December	60th Raising Day of BSF	The BSF was formed on December 1 1965 to ensure the security of India's borders and for matters connected therewith. Senior IPS officer Khusro Faramurz Rustamji was tasked with the formation of the BSF at the time. He was posted as IGP of Madhya Pradesh back then.
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Objective - To raise awareness about human trafficking, and promoting the rights and dignity of all individuals, especially those who have been victims of slavery.
4 December	International Day of Banks	Theme 2024 - Empowering Sustainable Development Through Finance.
4 December	Indian Navy Day	The theme for Indian Navy Day 2024, "Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation," reflects the Navy's ongoing focus on enhancing its defense capabilities through cutting-edge technology and self-reliance.
5 December	International Volunteer Day	Theme 2024 - Volunteer Now for Our Future
6 December	Mahaparinirvan Diwas	Dr. Ambedkar , a principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a pioneer in the fight against caste-based discrimination , passed away in 1956. This year, the 69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas commemorated at Prerna Sthal in the Parliament House Complex.
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme 2024 - Safe Skies. Sustainable Future: Together for the next 80 years

7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day or Flag Day	The day is commemorated to honour the soldiers and the bravehearts , who lost their lives in the line of duty. Since December 7, 1949 , this day has been observed to pay respect to the military forces. The Armed Forces Flag Day is also dedicated to raising funds from Indian citizens for the welfare of Indian Armed Forces troops.
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme 2024 - Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity
9 December	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide	This day honours the memory of the victims of genocide and raises awareness about the crime , emphasizing the importance of preventing future atrocities .
10 December	World Human Rights Day	Theme 2024 - Our Rights, Our Future
11 December	International Mountain Day	Theme 2024 - Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth
11 December	International Mountain Day	Theme 2024 - Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth
11 December	UNICEF Day	This day highlights the organization's critical role in advocating for and protecting the rights of children worldwide .
12 December	International Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme 2024 - Health: It's on the Government!
12 December	International Day of Neutrality	International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12 every year to raise awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level .

13 December	National Horse Day	National Horse Day is celebrated annually on December 13 in India to honor and acknowledge the importance of horses in the country's history, culture, and economy.
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Theme 2024 - Powering Sustainability: Every Watt Counts
18 December	International Migrants Day	Theme 2024 - Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights.
18 December	Minorities Rights Day	Minorities Rights Day in India aligns with the United Nations' adoption of the ' Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities ' on December 18, 1992.
18 December	World Arabic Language Day	Theme 2024— Arabic Language and AI: Advancing Innovation while Preserving Cultural Heritage.
19 December	Goa Liberation Day	It commemorates the successful military operation, Operation Vijay , which ended 451 years of Portuguese colonial rule in Goa.
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	Theme 2024 - Promote togetherness and collaboration
23 December	National Farmer's Day	Theme 2024 - Empowering 'Annadatas' for a Prosperous Nation
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	The day commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 , which provides a framework for protecting consumers from unfair trade practices.
25 December	Good Governance Day	Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December each year in India to honor the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime

		Minister of India. This year marks Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary.
26 December	Boxing Day	Boxing Day is an official bank holiday in England, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. In South Africa, it is called the 'Day of Goodwill' and is also a holiday.
27 December	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	The day raises awareness about the importance of global preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics.
29 December	International Cello Day	The day aims to honour the life and contributions of the legendary cellist Pablo Casals, who was born on this day.

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

ISRO successfully launch ESA Probe 3 Spacecraft using PSLV C-59 Rocket

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched the **European Space Agency (ESA) Probe 3 Spacecraft** from the First Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota Andhra Pradesh.
- The ESA Probe 3 was launched onboard ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-59.

Japan, India startups to study laser-equipped satellite to tackle space debris

- **Space startups in Japan and India** had agreed to jointly study using laser-equipped satellites to remove debris from orbit, an experimental approach to the increasingly imminent problem of orbital congestion.
- Tokyo-based Orbital Lasers and Indian robotics company InspeCity said they would study business opportunities for in-space services, such as de-orbiting a defunct satellite and extending a spacecraft's life.
- The project is the latest example of collaboration between Japan and India, whose governments are working together on the joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, which could launch as early as 2026.

China astronauts script history with world's longest spacewalk, break US record

- **China's space programme** achieved a milestone as two of its astronauts completed a nine-hour spacewalk.
- The nine-hour extravehicular activity (EVA) by Shenzhou-19 crew members Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong surpassed a 22-year-old record held by the US.

- The two astronauts aboard the Tiangong space station have set the new world record for the longest spacewalk, as reported by the South China Morning Post.
- Cai and Song wrapped the nine-hour extravehicular activity, better known as a spacewalk.

ISRO-European Space Agency Sign Deal For Cooperation In Astronaut Training

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into an agreement with European Space Agency (ESA) for cooperation on activities related to astronaut training, mission implementation, and research experiments.**
- The agreement was signed by ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space (DOS) Dr S Somanath and ESA Director General Dr Josef Aschbacher.
- The agreement provides a framework for cooperative activities in human space exploration and research, especially in areas such as astronaut training, support for experiment development and integration, using ESA facilities on the International Space Station (ISS), human and biomedical research experiment implementation as well as joint education and outreach activities.

South Korea successfully launches 3rd spy satellite into orbit

- **South Korea successfully placed into orbit its third homegrown spy satellite launched from a US space centre.**
- SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the satellite normally lifted off from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California as planned.

It is the third military satellite launched under South Korea's plan to acquire five spy satellites by 2025. South Korea has previously relied largely on satellite imagery provided by the United States.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Former Australia Test opener Ian Redpath	<p>Redpath was a regular fixture in the Australian team in the 1960s and 1970s, and served as a member of the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.</p> <p>He once emerged from international retirement to join World Series Cricket where injury restricted his on-field contributions, and returned to retirement.</p>
Former CBI director Vijay Shanker	A 1969-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shanker headed the

	<p>Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008.</p> <p>During Shanker's tenure as CBI director, the agency took over the infamous Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case.</p>
Australian tennis great Neale Fraser	<p>He won 19 Grand Slam titles. The former world number one lifted three major singles titles, including Wimbledon in 1960, together with 16 Grand Slam doubles crowns.</p>
Former Karnataka CM SM Krishna	<p>Last year, Krishna was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his political career spanning six decades, starting from his first election way back in 1962 upon his return from the US.</p> <p>Krishna is best known for his time as Karnataka chief minister.</p>
Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain	<p>Ustaad Zakir Hussain was born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai. As the eldest son of the illustrious tabla player Allah Rakha, he was naturally drawn towards music from a very young age.</p>
Singer and musician, Pandit Sanjay Marathe	<p>He received prestigious awards and honours for harmonium playing and singing. He actively participated in various programs organised on the occasion of his father's birth centenary this year.</p>
Former Haryana CM, INLD chief Om Prakash Chautala	<p>In 2013, Chautala and his son Ajay Singh Chautala were sentenced to 10 years in prison after being found guilty of corruption in a teacher recruitment scam. They were held guilty of illegally</p>

	recruiting 3,206 teachers in the state in 2000.
Snack Brand Epigamia Founder Rohan Mirchandani	Under his leadership, Epigamia transitioned from a modest venture into a household name in urban India , offering a diverse range of health-focused products. The brand's reach extended to over 20,000 retail points across 30 cities , with plans for expansion into the Middle East by 2025-26.
Doyen of Parallel Cinema filmmaker Shyam Benegal	Shyam Bengal is considered one of the leading lights of the parallel cinema movement in India along with Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Govind Nihalini with films like 'Ankur', and 'Manthan'.
Former PM Manmohan Singh	Singh presided over a period of unprecedented growth during his tenure as prime minister . Between 2004 and 2014, India witnessed rapid economic expansion, the fastest since Independence, emerging as a nearly \$2 trillion economy.
Richard Parsons, prominent Black executive who led Citigroup	Parsons, a Brooklyn native who started college at 16, was named chairman of Citigroup in 2009 . He steered Citigroup back to profit after financial turmoil from the subprime mortgage crisis, which upended the economy in 2007 and 2008.
Osamu Suzuki, Former Suzuki Chairman	The former chairman of the Japanese brand who led the organisation for over four decades has reportedly died of lymphoma . It is to be noted that Suzuki stepped down as the chairman of the brand in 2021 at the age of 91.

<p>Malayalam writer & Jnanpith awardee M.T. Vasudevan Nair</p>	<p>Madath Thekkepat Vasudevan Nair was born in a Nair family in Kudallur village, Palakkad district of Kerala in 1934.</p> <p>MT's literary achievements earned him the Jnanpith Award in 1995, India's highest literary honour, as well as numerous other accolades, including the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Vayalar Award, Vallathol Award, Ezhuthachan Award, Mathrubhumi Literary Award, and O N V Literary Award.</p>
<p>Former US President Jimmy Carter</p>	<p>Jimmy Carter, the 100-year-old former US president and Nobel peace laureate who rose from humble beginnings in rural Georgia to lead the nation from 1977 to 1981, has died.</p>