

Weekly One Liners 29th Jan to 04th of Feb 2024

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners List

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners

The **69th** edition of the **Filmfare Awards 2024** took place in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The event featured hosting by **Karan Johar**, and performances by **Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, and Kartik Aaryan among others**. This year, the two-day celebration in Gujarat opened with a Curtain Raiser, leading up to the Filmfare Awards ceremony. The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners

The **Filmfare Awards 2024** celebrated the finest achievements in Indian cinema. Here's a glimpse of the notable winners honored for their outstanding contributions in various categories, showcasing excellence and talent in the film industry. Follow the below table to know the Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners name list.

Category	Winner
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Film (Critics')	Joram (Devashish Makhija)
Best Actor (Critics')	Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
Best Actress (Critics')	Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs. Norway), Shefali Shah (Three of Us)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya ("Tere Vaaste" – Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
Best Music Album	Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani, Bhupinder Babbal, et al.)
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly – Animal)

Category	Winner
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang – Pathaan)
Best Story	Amit Rai (OMG 2), Devashish Makhija (Joram)
Best Screenplay	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Dialogue	Ishita Moitra (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Background Score	Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal)
Best Cinematography	Avinash Arun Dhaware (Three of Us)
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty, Amit Ray (Sam Bahadur)
Best Costume Design	Sachin Lovelekar, Divvyaa Gambhir, Nidhhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
Best Sound Design	Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
Best Editing	Jaskunwar Singh Kohli- Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Action	Spiro Razatos, Anl Arasu, Craig Macrae, Yannick Ben, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues (Jawan)
Best VFX	Red Chillies VFX (Jawan)
Best Choreography	Ganesh Acharya ("What Jhumka?" – Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Debut Director	Tarun Dudeja (Dhak Dhak)
Best Debut Male	Aditya Rawal (Faraaz)
Best Debut Female	Alizeh Agnihotri (Farrey)
Lifetime Achievement Award	David Dhawan

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Australian Open 2024 Winners

Jannik Sinner secured his first Grand Slam in men's singles, while Aryna Sabalenka claimed her second in women's singles. Rohan Bopanna, at 43, became the oldest man to win men's doubles. Hsieh Su-Wei and Elise Mertens won women's doubles, and Hsieh, with Jan Zielinski, clinched mixed doubles.

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Zheng Qinwen (China)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna (India) & Matthew Ebden (Australia)	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (Italy)
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)	Jelena Ostapenko and Lyudmyla Kichenok (Latvia-Ukraine)
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) & Jan Zielinski (Poland)	Desirae Krawczyk (USA) & Neal Skupski (Britain)

Finance Ministry Issues 'Indian Economy – A Review' Report Instead of Economic Survey

In 2024, India will not have the usual **Economic Survey** traditionally presented before the **Union Budget**. **Instead**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** will present an interim budget, known as a vote-on-account, on February 1. The reason for not presenting the Economic Survey this year is the election context. 2024 is an election year in India, and presenting the Economic Survey could lead to politicization due to the potential change in government after the elections. This could disrupt the regular Budget process.

However, the **Ministry of Finance** has released an alternative report titled **"Indian Economy – A Review,"** prepared by the office of **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran**. This report does not replace the official Economic Survey but provides valuable insights into the Indian economy's trajectory and prospects over the past decade and its future outlook. It's important to note that the official Economic Survey is expected to be presented after the general elections and the formation of the new government. The Review consists of two chapters and takes stock of the state of the Indian economy and its journey in the **last 10 years and offers a brief sketch of the outlook for the economy in the coming years.**

Key points from "Indian Economy – A Review" include

1. India's projected growth to a \$5 trillion economy in the next 3 years and a potential to reach \$7 trillion by 2030.
2. The review focuses on structural reforms undertaken in the past decade and their positive impact.
3. It offers a cautious outlook on future growth and inflation, acknowledging global uncertainties and challenges.
4. India is expected to surpass a GDP growth rate of 7.2% in FY24, outpacing the global economy.

5. For the third consecutive year, the Indian economy is set to achieve a growth rate exceeding 7%.
6. There has been a rise in public sector investment, a robust financial sector, and substantial non-food credit growth over the past decade.
7. India is now the third-largest fintech economy globally, after the USA and the UK.
8. India has become the fourth-largest stock market worldwide, surpassing Hong Kong.
9. The PM Jan Dhan Yojana has significantly increased the percentage of women holding bank accounts.
10. There has been a surge in the female labour force participation rate and initiatives like the Skill India Mission, Start-Up India, and Stand-Up India are contributing to this increase.
11. A significant increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females in higher education.
12. The report highlights the dynamism in the MSME sector due to government support.
13. The implementation of GST and the integration of domestic markets have improved economic efficiency and lowered logistics costs.

Government Appoints Four key Members of the Sixteenth Finance Commission

The government has taken a significant step in shaping the **Sixteenth Finance Commission (SFC)** by appointing **4-key members**, three of whom are designated as full-time members. The Commission, headed by Shri Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, was constituted on December 31, 2023.

Appointed Members

1.	Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha , former member, 15th Finance Commission and former Secretary, Expenditure	Full time Member
2.	Smt. Annie George Mathew , former Special Secretary, Expenditure	Full time Member
3.	Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha , Executive Director, Artha Global	Full time Member
4.	Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh , Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India	Part time Member

Sixteenth Finance Commission: Dr. Arvind Panagariya Appointed Chairman

Context

In adherence to **Article 280(1)** of the Constitution, the Government of India, with the President's approval, has established the Sixteenth Finance Commission. **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Professor at Columbia University, assumes the role of Chairman. Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been appointed as the Commission's Secretary, and detailed terms of reference have been outlined in the official notification.

Key Appointments

- **Chairman:** Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- **Secretary:** Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

Terms of Reference

The Sixteenth Finance Commission is tasked with making recommendations on three crucial matters:

1. Distribution of Net Proceeds:

- Allocation of taxes between the Union and the States under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution.
- Division of respective shares among the States.

2. Grants-in-Aid:

- Principles governing grants-in-aid to States' revenues from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Sums to be granted under Article 275 for purposes other than specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article.

3. Resource Augmentation:

- Measures to enhance a State's Consolidated Fund for supporting Panchayats and Municipalities, based on State Finance Commission recommendations.

Additional Mandate

The Commission will also review financing arrangements for Disaster Management initiatives, aligning with the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and provide relevant recommendations.

Timeline

The Sixteenth Finance Commission is expected to submit its comprehensive report by **October 31, 2025**, covering a five-year period starting from April 1, 2026.

Union Budget 2024 Detailed Sector Wise

In the Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, the Union Government demonstrates a robust commitment to bolstering economic growth through substantial investments in infrastructure development. The total expenditure in the Budget is estimated at **47,65,768 crore (47.65 Lakh Crore)**, with a significant focus on capital expenditure, reaching **11,11,111 crore (11.11 Lakh Crore)**. This reflects a commendable increase of 16.9% in capital expenditure over the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2023-24.

Capital Expenditure Highlights

1. **Total Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates `11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure, marking a 16.9% surge over the RE for 2023-24.
2. **Effective Capital Expenditure:** The effective capital expenditure for 2024-25 is projected at `14,96,693 crore, showcasing a substantial increase of 17.7% over the RE for 2023-24.

State Finances

1. **Total Resources to States:** In the fiscal year 2024-25, resources transferred to states, including devolution, grants, loans, and centrally sponsored schemes, amount to **22,22,264 crore (22.22 Lakh Crore)**. This represents a noteworthy increase of **4,13,848 crore** over the Actuals of FY 2022-23.
2. **Comparison with Previous Years:** The total expenditure in the RE for 2023-24 stands at **44,90,486 crore, surpassing the Actuals of FY 2022-23 by 2,97,328 crore**. The capital expenditure in the RE for 2023-24 is estimated at `9,50,246 crore.

Revenue and Capital Receipts

1. **Tax and Non-Tax Revenue:** Tax revenue (Net to Centre) is projected at **26,01,574 crore (26.01 Lakh Crore)**, while non-tax revenue is estimated at **3,99,701 crore**.
2. **Capital Receipts Breakdown:** Capital receipts include recovery of loans (**29,000 crore**), other receipts (**50,000 crore**), and borrowings and other liabilities (`16,85,494 crore).

Expenditure Breakdown

1. **On Revenue Account:** The Budget allocates **36,54,657 crore (36.54 Lakh Crore) on revenue account, covering interest payments (11,90,440 crore)** and grants in aid for capital account creation (`3,85,582 crore).
2. **On Capital Account:** Capital account expenditure is estimated at **11,11,111 crore, contributing to the effective capital expenditure of 14,96,693 crore**.

Deficit Metrics

1. **Fiscal Deficit:** The fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is projected at `16,85,494 crore, constituting **5.1% of the Nominal GDP**.
2. **Revenue Deficit and Effective Revenue Deficit:** The revenue deficit is anticipated to be **6,53,383 crore, while the effective revenue deficit is projected at 2,67,801 crore**.
3. **Primary Deficit:** The primary deficit for 2024-25 is estimated at `4,95,054 crore.

Government's Effective Capital Expenditure (in ₹ Crore) Overview

In the fiscal year 2024-25 Budget, the government's focus on effective capital expenditure is evident, with allocations specified for key sectors. The below information provides a breakdown of major items, showcasing the allocation and expenditure trends from the past fiscal years to the estimated figures for 2024-25.

Effective Capital Expenditure Breakdown

- Capital Expenditure:** The Budget allocates ₹11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure in 2024-25, reflecting a strategic commitment to investment in critical areas.
- Grants in Aid for Capital Assets:** Under this category, ₹3,85,582 crore is allocated for creating capital assets, emphasizing the government’s investment in long-term infrastructure development.
- Total Expenditure of Major Items:** The effective capital expenditure for major items is detailed, covering key sectors critical for economic growth.

Expenditure of Major Items (in ₹ Crore)

- Pension:** ₹2,39,612 crore is allocated, recognizing the importance of honoring commitments to retired personnel.
- Defence:** A substantial allocation of ₹4,54,773 crore emphasizes the government’s commitment to national security.
- Subsidies:** Noteworthy subsidies include **Fertiliser (₹1,64,000 crore), Food (₹2,05,250 crore), and Petroleum (₹11,925 crore)**, addressing key sectors crucial for public welfare.
- Agriculture and Allied Activities:** ₹1,46,819 crore is earmarked for the development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- Education:** A significant allocation of ₹1,24,638 crore underscores the importance of investing in education for national progress.
- Health:** ₹90,171 crore is allocated to the health sector, reflecting the government’s commitment to public well-being.
- Interest Payments:** With ₹11,90,440 crore allocated, managing interest payments remains a critical component of fiscal planning.
- Others:** Various sectors such as IT and Telecom, Rural Development, and Social Welfare receive targeted allocations, emphasizing holistic development.

Allocations for specific ministries

- Defence Ministry:** ₹6.1 lakh crore
- Ministry of road transport and highways:** ₹2.78 lakh crore
- Ministry of railways:** ₹2.55 lakh crore
- Ministry of consumer affairs, food & public distribution:** ₹2.13 lakh crore
- Ministry of home affairs:** ₹2.03 lakh crore
- Ministry of rural development:** ₹1.77 lakh crore
- Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers:** ₹1.68 lakh crore
- Ministry of communications:** ₹1.37 lakh crore
- Ministry of agriculture and farmer’s welfare:** 1.27 lakh crore
- Ministry of Education:** ₹1.24 Lakh Crore
- Ministry of Health:** ₹90,171 Crore

Transfer of Resources to States and Union Territories with Legislature (in ₹ Crore) Overview

The allocation and transfer of resources to states and union territories play a crucial role in fostering balanced development across regions. The below information provides a breakdown of actuals for 2022-23, revised estimates for 2023-24, and budget estimates for 2024-25.

Devolution of States Share in Taxes

- Actual Devolution (2022-23):** ₹9,48,406 crore was devolved to states, forming a critical component of their fiscal resources.
- Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 is ₹11,04,494 crore, indicating an increase in the devolution share.
- Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget proposes a further increase, with ₹12,19,783 crore earmarked for devolution, emphasizing the government’s commitment to empowering states financially.

Some Important Items of Transfer

- Actual Transfer (2022-23):** ₹1,20,366 crore was allocated for essential items, supporting various initiatives at the state level.
- Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 stands at ₹1,60,986 crore, reflecting adjustments in response to evolving fiscal needs.
- Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget earmarks ₹1,88,703 crore for important items of transfer, underscoring the government’s focus on targeted financial support.

Finance Commission Grants

- Actual Grants (2022-23):** Finance Commission Grants amounted to ₹1,72,760 crore, addressing specific developmental needs identified by the Finance Commission.
- Revised Estimates (2023-24):** The revised estimate for 2023-24 is ₹1,40,429 crore, reflecting adjustments based on the Commission’s recommendations and evolving fiscal priorities.
- Budget Estimates (2024-25):** The budget allocates ₹1,32,378 crore for Finance Commission Grants, highlighting continued support for state-level development.

Government of India’s Budget Allocation for Major Schemes (2024-2025)

In the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the Government of India has outlined a comprehensive allocation for various major schemes. These schemes are strategically categorized into three sections, emphasizing their significance and funding priorities.

1. Core of the Core Schemes (A):

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program:** ₹86,000 crore
- National Social Assistance Program:** ₹9,652 crore
- Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities:** ₹913 crore

- Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups: ₹2,150 crore
- Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes: ₹4,241 crore
- Umbrella Scheme for Development of Schedule Castes: ₹9,560 crore

2. Core Schemes (B):

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY):** ₹80,671 crore
- **Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Mission:** ₹70,163 crore
- National Health Mission: ₹38,183 crore
- Samagra Shiksha: ₹37,500 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna:** ₹19,000 crore
- National Livelihood Mission – Aajeevika: ₹15,047 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman: ₹12,467 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna: ₹11,391 crore
- **Urban Rejuvenation Mission (AMRUT and Smart Cities):** ₹10,400 crore
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna: ₹7,553 crore
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: ₹7,500 crore
- Krishionnati Yojana: ₹7,447 crore
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin): ₹7,192 crore
- Assistance to States Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains: ₹7,075 crore
- **PM Schools for Rising India:** ₹6,050 crore
- Swachh Bharat Mission: ₹5,000 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission: ₹4,108 crore
- Modernisation of Police Forces: ₹3,720 crore
- Interlinking of Rivers: ₹3,500 crore
- Mission Shakti: ₹3,146 crore
- Blue Revolution: ₹2,352 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan: ₹1,815 crore
- **Mission VATSALYA:** ₹1,472 crore
- Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States: ₹1,250 crore
- Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan: ₹1,064 crore
- Vibrant Villages Programme: ₹1,050 crore
- Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary: ₹1,000 crore
- Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme: ₹880 crore
- Environment, Forestry and Wildlife: ₹714 crore
- National River Conservation Plan – Other Basins: ₹592 crore

3. Major Central Sector Schemes (C):

- Crop Insurance Scheme: ₹14,600 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:** ₹60,000 crore
- Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations: ₹582 crore
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme: ₹22,600 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojna: ₹1,738 crore

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund: ₹600 crore
- Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security: ₹930 crore
- Research and Development Projects: ₹1,200 crore
- Nuclear Power Projects: ₹2,228 crore
- Feedstock: ₹1,253 crore
- R&D projects of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre: ₹1,100 crore
- Fuel Recycle Projects: ₹805 crore
- Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Projects: ₹764 crore
- **Urea Subsidy:** ₹1,19,000 crore
- Nutrient Based Subsidy: ₹45,000 crore
- Development of Industry (Pharmaceutical): ₹1,300 crore
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (Pharmaceutical):** ₹2,143 crore
- Regional Connectivity Scheme: ₹502 crore
- Interest Equalisation Scheme: ₹1,700 crore
- Industrial Development Scheme for Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand: ₹567 crore
- Fund of Funds: ₹1,200 crore
- Refund of Central and Integrated GST to Industrial Units in North Eastern Region and Himalayan States: ₹1,382 crore
- Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure: ₹2,000 crore
- Domestic Industry Incentivisation Scheme: ₹1,911 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:** ₹2,05,250 crore
- **Works under Border Roads Development Board:** ₹6,500 crore
- Other works: ₹1,500 crore
- Border Area Development Programme: ₹2,000 crore
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana: ₹300 crore
- Solar Rooftop Scheme: ₹2,000 crore
- Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor: ₹10,000 crore
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban):** ₹9,500 crore
- Subsidy for Interest on Loans under Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana: ₹408 crore

International Assistance Schemes Allocation

1. Scheme for Bhutan:

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹2467 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹2401 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹2399 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹2069 crore**

2. Scheme for Nepal:

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹434 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹550 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹650 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹700 crore**

3. Maldives Assistance:

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹183 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹400 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹771 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹600 crore**

4. Support to International Training/Programmes:

- Actual 2022-2023: ₹480 crore
- Budget Estimates 2023-2024: ₹435 crore
- Revised Estimates 2023-2024: ₹1105 crore
- **Budget Estimates 2024-2025: ₹769 crore**

LK Advani to be awarded Bharat Ratna, Announced by PM Modi

The Indian government has announced that **LK Advani**, one of the most prominent figures in Indian politics, will be conferred with the **Bharat Ratna**, the nation's highest civilian award. This prestigious honour is a testament to Advani's indelible contribution to Indian politics and society over several decades. The Bharat Ratna is a fitting recognition of LK Advani's legacy as a statesman who has dedicated his life to the nation. His leadership has not only shaped the BJP but also left a lasting impact on Indian politics and governance. The award celebrates his immense contributions and his role as a catalyst for political and social change in India.

Born on **November 8, 1927, in Karachi**, LK Advani's political journey is a saga of resilience, leadership, and profound influence on the Indian political landscape. Advani, a key architect of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been instrumental in shaping the party's ideology and steering it to national prominence.

LK Advani, Architect of Political Change

Advani's political career is marked by his visionary leadership and strategic acumen. His **Rath Yatra in 1990** was a turning point in Indian politics, significantly impacting the national discourse and contributing to the BJP's rise as a major political force. As a seasoned parliamentarian and a government official, Advani has held several key positions, including that of the Deputy Prime Minister of India.

LK Advani, Contributions and Controversies

Advani's tenure in politics has not been without controversies. However, his contributions to national security, governance, and public welfare have been significant. His role in promoting infrastructure development and his tough stance on national security are particularly noteworthy. Advani's political journey is a reflection of his commitment to his principles and his unwavering dedication to India's development.

National Affairs

- In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over **Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh**. The diverse projects spanned crucial sectors such as rail, road, oil and gas, and urban development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court** of India and unveiled key technology initiatives during the event held at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi. The occasion marked the beginning of the **Supreme Court's 75th year**, coinciding with the 75th year of the Indian Constitution. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Republic Day Parade 2024** witnessed a remarkable tableau that captured the essence of India as the **'Mother of Democracy.'** This stunning representation not only enthralled the audience but also clinched the **first spot in the parade**, symbolizing India's rich democratic heritage. The tableau of the **Ministry of Culture** has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the President of India nominated **Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu** as a member of the Rajya Sabha. This decision recognizes Sandhu's remarkable contributions to education, philanthropy, and community development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- In a significant turn of events ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Janata Dal-United (JDU) chief **Nitish Kumar** was sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister for the ninth time, breaking ties with the 'Mahagathbandhan' and securing support from the BJP. The swearing-in ceremony, held at Raj Bhavan in Patna, saw Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar administering the oath of office. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The vibrant hues of oranges and the aroma of citrus filled the air as the **4th edition of the Rüsoma Orange Festival** unfolded in the picturesque village of Rüsoma, nestled in the Kohima district in **Nagaland**. With approximately 3400 attendees, this year's event showcased the best of organic produce, community spirit, and rural entrepreneurship. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **National Chilika Birds Festival**, a hallmark event in Odisha's calendar, commenced with grandeur on January 26. Hosted against the breathtaking backdrop of Chilika Lake, this festival brings together birders and enthusiasts from across India to celebrate the State of India's Birds. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Under the visionary leadership of **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann**, a groundbreaking initiative has been unveiled to enhance road safety across the state. The inauguration of the **Sadak Surakhya Force (SSF)** marks a significant leap forward in safeguarding lives and preventing accidents on Punjab's extensive road network. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant political development, **Champai Soren** has been announced as the **next Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, following the resignation of **Hemant Soren**. This marks a pivotal moment in Jharkhand's political landscape, bringing Champai Soren, a seasoned politician and a key figure in the **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**, to the forefront of the state's governance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Madhya Pradesh CM **Mohan Yadav** announced the green light for **IIT Indore's Ujjain satellite campus**, marking a pivotal moment for education and skill development. With approval from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, this project promises substantial benefits for the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu** has set a new benchmark in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection by securing two more **Ramsar sites**, thus achieving the highest number of such designated areas in the country. The recent addition of the **Longwood Shola Reserve Forest in The Nilgiris** and the **Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary in Ariyalur** has propelled the state to the forefront of ecological conservation efforts in India. With these new designations, Tamil Nadu now boasts 16 Ramsar sites, a testament to its rich biodiversity and the state government's commitment to preserving it. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Assam**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, advances with key decisions. The recent cabinet meeting saw approvals crucial for the state's growth. These include the **Assam Tourism Development and Registration Bill 2024** and the **Mising Autonomous Council Amendment Bill 2024**. Additionally, infrastructure strides are evident with the approval of a significant flyover project in Guwahati. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The first-ever **Mangalore Beachside Startup Fest** is set to unfold from February 16th to 18th, marking a significant milestone in the region's entrepreneurial landscape. With a focus on nurturing and promoting nascent ventures, this event promises to be a catalyst for the burgeoning startup ecosystem in Mangalore. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Surat Airport**, situated in Gujarat, has officially received recognition as an **International Airport** from the Indian government, a significant development overseen by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** and the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Karnataka** clinched the **Nagesh Trophy**, marking a significant milestone in the **Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24**. The thrilling final, held in Nagpur, saw **Karnataka** defeating Andhra Pradesh by nine wickets, ending a 20-year wait for a national title. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish a cutting-edge **Centralized GIS Data Centre in Ayodhya** under the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA). This initiative aligns with the Chief Minister's vision to enhance the city's infrastructure and efficiently manage the ongoing **141 projects worth Rs 30,977 crore**, aimed at restoring Ayodhya's historical grandeur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** concluded his two-day visit to India, participating as the chief guest in the 75th Republic Day celebrations. The visit aimed at strengthening strategic ties between India and France, featuring a 40-member delegation and significant diplomatic engagements. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a disputed electoral process, **Comoros President Azali Assoumani** has claimed victory for a fourth term with 63% of the vote, as announced by the electoral body Ceni. However, the opposition, boycotting the poll, decries it as "fraudulent." ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bhutan's liberal leader, **Tshering Tobgay**, from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), has commenced his second term as prime minister, following recent elections in the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **QatarEnergy and Exceletrate Energy** have finalized a pivotal 15-year LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with the goal of providing LNG to Bangladesh. Under the SPA, Exceletrate will secure up to one million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG from QatarEnergy. The deliveries, set to commence from January 2026, will be directed to floating storage and regasification units in Bangladesh. The agreement encompasses Exceletrate's procurement of 0.85 MTPA of LNG in 2026 and 2027, and one MTPA from 2028 to 2040. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic ceremony, **Sultan Ibrahim of Johor** state has been installed as **Malaysia's 17th king**. This event marks a significant moment in the nation's constitutional monarchy system, where the throne rotates among the rulers of the nine Malay states. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a surprising move, the military regimes in **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger** have announced their immediate withdrawal from the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, citing the bloc as a threat to member states. The Sahel nations, facing challenges of jihadist violence and poverty, have had strained relations with ECOWAS since recent coups. Despite being founding members in 1975, they were suspended and faced heavy sanctions for the overthrow of civilian governments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant milestone, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has issued its first-ever certificates acknowledging advancements in eliminating trans fatty acids (TFA), both industrially produced and naturally occurring. Five countries—**Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand**—have been commended for their pioneering efforts in demonstrating effective policies and robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in their TFA elimination strategies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development on January 1, **Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia** officially joined the BRICS group, expanding its membership to ten nations. The expansion, initially set to occur during the 15th BRICS summit in August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa, aims to enhance the group's influence on the global stage. Argentina, initially invited, opted out in December. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Amidst the grandeur of India's Republic Day celebrations, a significant milestone was quietly achieved as **French Defence Minister Sebastien Locornu** and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval sealed the **Defence Space Agreement** on January 26. The low-key signing belied the transformative potential of this pact, marking a pivotal moment in Indo-French relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** and **Oman** have taken significant strides in bolstering their strategic partnership through **enhanced defence cooperation**. The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) underscores their commitment to deepening collaboration in various realms of defence engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** released the first edition of **'Political History of Assam (1947-1971)- Volume 1**, marking a significant step in documenting the state's political journey. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,'** a collection of 75 poems penned by BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi, was launched in a prestigious event graced by top Indian defence and literary figures. This book reflects the confluence of creative expression and defence expertise. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**, a Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has taken a remarkable step towards fostering transparency and promoting renewable energy initiatives. On January 25, 2024, IREDA unveiled **'Pahal,'** the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to accountability and sustainability. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **THDC India Limited (THDCIL)**, a prominent Power Sector PSU, proudly unveiled **India's Largest Electrolyser End Fuel Cell-based Green Hydrogen Pilot Project** at its office complex in Rishikesh. The initiative aligns with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission," showcasing THDCIL's commitment to sustainable energy practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, **'BOB Financial Solutions Limited'**, has undergone a rebranding, emerging as **'BOBCARD Limited'** with the tagline **"Credit Reimagined."** The transformation includes a distinctive logo named **'Baroda Sun,'** featuring dual 'B' letterforms enveloping the rays of a rising sun. This initiative signifies a revitalized commitment to reshaping India's credit landscape by offering innovative and customer-centric credit solutions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **GAIL**, India's leading gas company, has made significant strides in enhancing its liquefied natural gas (LNG) portfolio through a recent partnership with the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) **ADNOC Gas**. Under this deal, GAIL is set to procure 0.5 million tonnes of LNG annually for a decade, marking a crucial step towards meeting India's growing demand for natural gas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Toyota**, the renowned Japanese automaker, has once again secured its position as the **world's top-selling automaker in 2023**. This achievement underscores Toyota's continued dominance in the global automotive market and its commitment to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a notable development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its GDP growth estimate for India to **6.7% for the current financial year**, marking a 40 basis points increase from its earlier forecast of 6.3%. This optimistic adjustment is attributed to robust public investment and favorable labor market outcomes, as highlighted in the latest World Economic Outlook report. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move to bolster the **mobile phone manufacturing industry in India**, the Centre has announced a significant reduction in import duties on mobile phone components. The import duty on parts used for mobile phone manufacturing has been slashed to **10% from the earlier 15%**. This decision aligns with India's broader objectives to enhance its role in global supply chains and increase exports. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL)**, a subsidiary of NTPC, recently inked a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth **Rs 80,000 crore with the Maharashtra government**. This strategic collaboration aims to pioneer green hydrogen projects within the state, aligning closely with the government's vision outlined in its Green Investment Plan. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed major business restrictions on **Paytm Payments Bank**, effective from **February 29**. The regulatory action comes in response to persistent non-compliances and material supervisory concerns identified during a comprehensive external audit of the bank's systems. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's core sector output growth plummeted to a **14-month low of 3.8% YoY** in December, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This sharp decline from the previous month's 7.9% was attributed to a high base and a slowdown in six constituent sectors. Notably, only fertilizers (5.8%) and cement (1.3%) sectors saw an output acceleration in December. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a commendable financial feat, the Centre reported a **10.4% surge** in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for January, reaching an impressive **₹1,72,129 crore**. This milestone represents the **second-highest GST collection ever** recorded, with the ₹1.7 lakh crore benchmark surpassed for the third time in the fiscal year 2023-24. The Ministry of Finance disclosed that the robust growth is indicative of a significant year-on-year increase, showcasing a notable rise from the ₹1,55,922 crore collected in January 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) surged to 418.77 in September 2023, showcasing a robust growth trajectory from 395.57 in March 2023 and 377.46 in September 2022. This remarkable uptick aligns with a **10.94% annual rise in digital payments** by the end of March 2023, underscoring the increasing adoption of online transactions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to escalating rice prices, the Government of India has unveiled the **'Bharat' brand rice**, aiming to address market volatility and ensure affordability for consumers. The rice will be available in **5- and 10-kg packs at ₹29 per kg** through cooperatives such as Nafed, NCCF, and Kendriya Bhandar. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, the Indian government has decided to substantially increase the issuance of **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB)** for the upcoming fiscal year. The allocation for SGBs has been more than doubled, rising from ₹1,500 crore in the financial year ending March 31, 2023, to a significant ₹3,500 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reports a remarkable milestone in Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions for January, reaching a **record ₹18.41 trillion**. This marks a 52% increase in volume and a substantial 42% rise in value compared to the same month in the previous financial year. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has officially entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance**. This collaboration aligns the two organizations in their commitment to prioritizing customer needs, fostering a culture of growth, and promoting innovation in the financial sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed on February 1 that **97.50% of the Rs 2,000 currency notes** in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have been successfully reintegrated into the banking system. This development follows the government's decision to withdraw the high-denomination bills as part of the clean note policy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India has officially introduced the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** at the iconic **Eiffel Tower** in Paris, marking a significant step towards realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI. This initiative follows the digital payments sector agreement signed between India and France in July of the previous year, making France the first European country to adopt India's UPI for retail transactions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Sharat Chauhan**, a seasoned 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been designated as the **new Chief Secretary of Puducherry**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Railway Board Chief **Anil Kumar Lahoti** has been appointed as the chairman of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** following the vacancy left by PD Vaghela. The appointment, approved by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), marks a significant transition in India's telecommunications sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- AU Small Finance Bank announced the appointment of **Harun Rashid Khan**, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as its Non-Executive Chairman. The appointment, effective January 30, 2024, received approval from the Board of Directors, RBI, and shareholders. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jay Shah**, the Secretary of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, was unanimously appointed for a third consecutive term as the **President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Consequent upon approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), **Shri Pawan Kumar**, ICoAS, has assumed charge as **Chief Adviser (Cost)**, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, in Level-17 (Apex level) on 01/02/2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- The inaugural joint military exercise, **Sada Tanseeq**, between the armies of **India and Saudi Arabia**, is poised to commence in **Rajasthan**, showcasing a significant leap in bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia. Scheduled from **January 29th to February 10th, 2024**, Sada Tanseeq signifies a landmark collaboration, epitomizing the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the realm of national defense, rapid deployment and robust infrastructure are paramount. The **Indian Army**, under the Ministry of Defence, stands vigilant against external threats, prioritizing cutting-edge equipment like **SARVATRA** – a Multispan Mobile Bridging System. Crafted by **Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE)** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SARVATRA epitomizes innovation in bridging solutions, ensuring seamless connectivity for the Indian Army. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Visakhapatnam's Naval Dockyard** will witness a momentous occasion as **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** presides over the commissioning ceremony of **INS Sandhayak**. This event marks a significant addition to the Indian Navy's capabilities, reinforcing its presence in the Indian Ocean Region. Distinguished guests, including Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar and senior officials from the navy and the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, will be in attendance to celebrate this milestone. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Havildar Preeti Rajak**, a distinguished trap shooter in the Indian Army, has reached a historic milestone by being promoted to the esteemed rank of **Subedar**. Her promotion marks a groundbreaking achievement, as she becomes the **first woman in the Indian Army to hold this prestigious rank**, signifying not only her personal accomplishment but also a significant advancement for women in the armed forces. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a strategic move to bolster efficiency and bolster the well-being of its civilian workforce, the **Indian Navy** has declared 2024 as the **'Year of Naval Civilians.'** This groundbreaking initiative targets comprehensive Civilian HR Management, with a sharp focus on enhancing administrative efficiency, embracing digital transformation, implementing targeted training programs, and fostering employee welfare activities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's strategic collaboration with the **United States** in defense takes a significant leap forward with the procurement of **MQ-9B armed drones**. This acquisition underscores the strengthening ties between the two nations and represents a pivotal moment in enhancing India's military capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to conduct **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**, a grand display of its aerial might, on 17 February 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer. Following the successful execution of the previous edition on 16 February 2019, this year's exercise promises to be an even more impressive demonstration of the IAF's offensive and defensive capabilities, both during the day and night. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The prestigious **Blavatnik Awards** will recognize the exceptional contributions of **Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat**, and other early career scientists at a black-tie gala in London on February 27. These awards, totaling 480,000 pounds in grants, underscore the importance of recognition and research funding in propelling scientific breakthroughs. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Nikhil Mukund Wagh**, who works as a **Public Relations Officer at Goa Shipyard Limited**, was recently given the **"Maha Gaurav 2024"** award. This award was handed to him by **Shri Ajit Pawar**, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, during a ceremony at Kaneri Math in Kolhapur on Monday, January 29. The award is a big deal because it recognizes Nikhil's great work in public relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is all set to inaugurate the **Bharat Mobility Global Expo**, a groundbreaking event in India's automotive landscape. Taking place from **February 1-3** in the national capital, this expo aims to highlight India's emergence as a global hub for mobility. With over 800 exhibitors and 50 overseas participants, the event covers the entire mobility value chain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **PM GatiShakti Summit**, a collaboration between the **Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** and the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, unfolded in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development strategy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

UIIC 2024
Administrative Officer
Generalist
50+ Total Tests
Test Series

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted the **Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The 'INDIA AGEING REPORT 2023,' jointly conducted by the **International Institute for Population Sciences** and the **United Nations Population Fund**, provides a comprehensive overview of the aging demographic in Jammu Kashmir. **Jammu Kashmir** emerges as a region with remarkable resilience against elderly poverty, boasting a mere 4.2 percent of its aged population falling below the poverty line. Among the elderly, constituting 9.4 percent of the region's population, Jammu Kashmir stands out with the **highest life expectancy after the age of 60**. Males exhibit a life expectancy of 20.3 percent, and females, 23.0 percent, making it the leader in this demographic indicator between 2015-19. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22**, released by the Ministry of Education, unveils a significant spike in higher education enrollment. The total enrollment soared from 4.14 crore in the previous session to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22, marking a notable uptick of 19 lakh students. The report highlights a commendable rise in female enrollment in the science stream, surpassing male counterparts. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri **Bhupender Yadav**, released a significant report on the status of Snow leopards in India. This groundbreaking study, part of the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program**, marks the first-ever scientific exercise to assess the population of this elusive species in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's placement in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023 remained largely unchanged, securing the **93rd position out of 180 countries**. The CPI, curated by Transparency International, evaluates nations based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, utilizing a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 signifies high corruption and 100 represents very clean governance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- **India** finished as runner-up at the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup after a 7-2 loss to the **Netherlands** in the final in Muscat. India tried to make a comeback and scored twice – **Jyoti Chhatri (20th minute) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (23rd minute)** – but could not catch the Dutch team which added one more goal courtesy of Kalse before the full-time hooter. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Hyderabad's Tanmay Agarwal** scored an unbeaten **323 off just 160 balls** against Arunachal Pradesh in the **Ranji Trophy Plate Group** game. His innings included 33 fours and 21 sixes, showcasing his aggressive batting style. Agarwal achieved his triple century in a record 147 balls, surpassing the previous record of 191 balls set by Marco Marais. This feat also marked the second-fastest triple ton by time, taking 183 minutes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Naorem Roshibina Devi**, the pride of Manipur, has clinched the prestigious title of **International Wushu Federation Female Athlete of the Year**, solidifying her place as a powerhouse in the world of wushu. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sonam Maskar** made a remarkable debut in the **shooting World Cup in Cairo, Egypt**, clinching the women's air rifle **silver medal**. Despite her impressive performance, she was narrowly **beaten by Anna Janssen of Germany** by a mere 0.9 points. Maskar's stellar performance highlights her potential as a rising star in the sport. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian boxer **Mandeep Jangra** secured a remarkable triumph at the US-based National Boxing Association's (NBA) intercontinental **super featherweight championship**. His win came after a compelling bout against American Gerardo Esquivel in Toppenish City, Washington. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The mascot for the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the majestic snow leopard, named '**Sheen-e She' or 'Shan' in the Ladakh region**. Native to the high-altitude areas of J&K and Ladakh, the snow leopard symbolizes the spirit of the Games and brings attention to the conservation of this endangered species. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's shining moment at the **ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup** was marked by stellar performances in the **10m air pistol mixed team** event and the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal showcased exceptional skill and coordination to secure gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, while **Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar** displayed resilience to clinch silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Divyansh Singh Panwar** continues to carve his name in the annals of shooting history, securing his **fourth World Cup gold** in the **10m air rifle event**. This latest triumph adds to his impressive collection, which includes victories in Munich, Beijing, and Delhi since 2019. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The ancient tradition of the **Olympic Torch Relay** continues its journey towards **Paris 2024**, with the flame set to cross the Mediterranean and embark on a 68-day adventure across France. **Abhinav Bindra**, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, is among the 11,000 torchbearers chosen to carry the iconic symbol. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant move towards the development and empowerment of approximately one crore tribals in Odisha, the state government, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has approved the launch of the **'LABHA' scheme**. LABHA, an acronym for **Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya**, is a 100% state-funded Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister **Udhayanidhi Stalin** recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. Named after the late Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the **'Kalaignar Sports Kit' initiative** is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu government**, under the leadership of **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, has taken a significant step towards improving public service delivery and expediting the implementation of various schemes through the launch of the **"Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril" (Bringing Services to Your Doorstep) scheme**. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the gap between the government and the public by ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach the grassroots level. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In an era where digital devices have become an extension of our lives, the **Government of Karnataka** has taken a pioneering step towards fostering a healthier digital ecosystem. Recognizing the need to mitigate the adverse **effects of excessive online gaming**, the state has announced a groundbreaking **digital detox initiative** to create a responsible gaming environment. This move not only highlights the government's commitment to public health but also sets a precedent for digital wellbeing. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a monumental achievement, the **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal** has garnered over 1.45 crore youth registrations within a remarkable three-month period, attesting to its widespread popularity. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 31, 2023, the platform has swiftly become a crucial driver of youth development and engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a concerted effort to fortify child protection measures, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has pioneered the development of two pivotal portals: the **Track Child Portal** and the **GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite Portal**. These platforms play a crucial role in tracking missing and found children, enhancing restoration and repatriation processes, and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable minors under the purview of the Juvenile Justice system. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant stride towards scientific progress, **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** has initiated two groundbreaking endeavors: **the establishment of the Human DNA Bank** and **the imminent completion of the Wildlife DNA Bank**. These initiatives, powered by cutting-edge technologies such as the Automated DNA Extractor Machine, epitomize India's commitment to innovation and indigenous manufacturing under the Make in India initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that it has successfully executed all experiments within the **Payload Orbital Experiment for Microgravity (POEM-3)** mission, which was launched as part of the PSLV-C58 mission. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to launch its latest meteorological satellite, **INSAT-3DS**, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities. This satellite, **designed to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management**, represents a culmination of rigorous testing and collaboration between ISRO and various stakeholders. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of tiny lizards in the biodiverse forests of the Western Ghats, describing them as **"diminutive dragons."** The newfound species, named **Agasthyagama edge** or the northern kangaroo lizard, belongs to the **Agamidae family**, characterized by its diminutive size with a maximum snout-vent length of 4.3 cm. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking development, **Neuralink**, the neurotechnology company co-founded by **Elon Musk**, has successfully implanted its first brain chip into a human being. This marks a significant step forward in the field of **brain-computer interfaces (BCIs)** and opens up a myriad of possibilities for the future of medical treatment and human enhancement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- **Indian Newspaper Day**, observed on **January 28th** each year, is a tribute to the rich legacy of journalism in the country. It marks the inception of newspapers in India, a historic moment when James Augustus Hicky introduced the first printed newspaper, **Hicky's Bengal Gazette, in 1780**. This article delves into the significance of this day, the historical backdrop of Hicky's Bengal Gazette, and the evolving role of newspapers in today's digital age. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India commemorates **Martyrs' Day**, also known as **Shaheed Diwas, on January 30th each year**. This day holds a dual significance as it marks the assassination of **Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation,"** and also serves to honour all the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom and sovereignty. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **World Leprosy Day**, observed annually on the **last Sunday of January**, is a crucial event dedicated to raising awareness about leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease. As we mark **World Leprosy Day on January 28** this year, it's important to understand the disease, its impact, and the significance of this day. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **International Zebra Day**, observed annually on **January 31**, is a significant event dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation of zebras. These unique animals, easily recognizable by their black and white stripes, are an integral part of Africa's wildlife and ecosystem. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 1st**, India celebrates the **Indian Coast Guard Day**, a tribute to the valour, dedication, and service of the personnel safeguarding the country's maritime interests. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On **February 2, 2024**, the world comes together to celebrate **World Wetlands Day**, emphasizing the undeniable importance of wetlands to both the environment and human wellbeing. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 2nd**, the world marks **Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day**, dedicated to shedding light on rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic autoimmune disease that significantly impacts the lives of millions globally. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year, from **February 1st to 7th**, the world commemorates **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)**, a time dedicated to fostering mutual understanding, peace, and harmony among people of different faiths. Instituted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, this week-long observance highlights the crucial role of interfaith dialogue in building a culture of peace and nonviolence. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Recognized annually on **February 4th**, **World Cancer Day** aims to shed light on this critical issue, advocating for advances in research, prevention, and patient care. The ongoing theme for World Cancer Day from 2022 to 2024, "**Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care,**" focuses on the disparities in cancer care across different communities and regions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **International Day of Human Fraternity** serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty of unity and the strength found in diversity. Observed annually on **February 4th**, the day calls for global solidarity and mutual understanding, underscoring the importance of compassion, respect, and empathy in overcoming hatred and conflict. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Dr. Nitya Anand**, who made the first oral contraceptive pill '**Saheli**' in India, passed away at 99 in Lucknow. Dr. Anand was in charge of the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) from 1974 to 1984. He was part of CDRI since it started in 1951. He guided 100 PhD students, wrote over 400 papers, and had more than 130 patents. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The academic community is in mourning following the passing of **R. Champakalakshmi**, a revered historian, former president of the Indian History Congress, and professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- On the **occasion of the 159th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, January 28, 2024**, we commemorate the life and contributions of one of India's most revered freedom fighters, politicians, and authors. Fondly known as **Punjab Kesari**, **Lala Lajpat Rai** left an indelible mark on India's struggle for independence and its socio-political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On **January 28**, we celebrate the **birth anniversary of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa**, the **inaugural Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army**. Recognized as a national hero, Cariappa's pivotal role in shaping the Indian military from colonial to independent India remains revered. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India** has nominated the '**Maratha Military Landscapes**' for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle**. This significant move by the Culture Ministry highlights the exceptional fortification and military systems envisioned by the Maratha rulers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A remarkable feat unfolded as two-year-old **Carter Dallas** from **Scotland** etched his name into the annals of mountaineering history by becoming the **youngest person to reach the Mount Everest base camp**. Accompanied by his parents, Ross and Jade, Carter embarked on an extraordinary journey that captured the world's attention. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

A blue rectangular advertisement for SBI Clerk Mains preparation. It features the SBI logo in the top right corner. The text reads: "SBI Clerk Mains 90+ Total Tests | ebooks" in white. Below this, there is a graphic of a book with a checkmark, and the words "Test Series" in a white rounded rectangle at the bottom.

Static Takeaways

List of Bharat Ratna award winners

Bharat Ratna award is received by 48 persons and 17 were awarded posthumously. A list of all the people who were facilitated with the Bharat Ratna award is listed below with their contributions to society.

Year	Recipients	About
Bharat Ratna 1954	C. Rajagopalachari	Activist, statesman, and lawyer
	Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan	India's first Vice-President and second President
	C. V. Raman	Physicists, mathematicians, and scientists
Bharat Ratna 1955	Bhagwan Das	Activist, philosopher, and educationist
	M. Visvesvaraya	Civil engineer, statesman, and Diwan of Mysore
	Jawaharlal Nehru	Activist and author served as the Prime Minister of India
Bharat Ratna 1957	Govind Ballabh Pant	Activist and first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
Bharat Ratna 1958	Dhondo Keshav Karve	Social reformer and educator
Bharat Ratna 1961	Bidhan Chandra Roy	Physician, political leader, philanthropist, educationist, and social worker
	Purushottam Das Tandon	Activist and speaker of the United Provinces Legislative Assembly
Bharat Ratna 1962	Rajendra Prasad	Activist, lawyer, statesman, and scholar
Bharat Ratna 1963	Zakir Husain	Activist, economist, and education philosopher served as a Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and the Governor of Bihar
	Pandurang Vaman Kane	Indologist and Sanskrit scholar, known for his five-volume literary work
Bharat Ratna 1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri	Activist and served as the second Prime Minister of India
Bharat Ratna 1971	Indira Gandhi	First women Prime Minister of India
Bharat Ratna 1975	V. V. Giri	Trade Unionist
Bharat Ratna 1976	K. Kamaraj	Independence activist and statesman, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Bharat Ratna 1980	Mother Teresa	Catholic nun and the founder of the Missionaries of Charity.
1983	Vinoba Bhave	Activist, social reformer, and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi
Bharat Ratna 1987	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	First noncitizen, independence activist
Bharat Ratna 1988	M. G. Ramachandran	Actor turned politician, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Bharat Ratna 1990	B.R. Ambedkar	Social reformer and leader of the Dalits
	Nelson Mandela	Leader of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, President of South Africa
Bharat Ratna 1991	Rajiv Gandhi	Gandhi was the ninth Prime Minister of India serving from 1984 to 1989.
	Vallabhbhai Patel	Activist and first Deputy Prime Minister of India
	Morarji Desai	Activist, and Prime Minister of India
Bharat Ratna 1992	Abul Kalam Azad	Activist and first Minister of education
	J. R. D. Tata	Industrialist, philanthropist, and aviation pioneer
	Satyajit Ray	Director, filmmaker, writer, novelist
Bharat Ratna 1997	Gulzarilal Nanda	Activist, and interim Prime Minister of India.
	Aruna Asaf Ali	Activist
	A.P.J Abdul Kalam	Aerospace and defense scientist

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Year	Recipients	About
Bharat Ratna 1998	M. S. Subbulakshmi	Carnatic classical vocalist
	Chidambaram Subramaniam	Activist and former Minister of Agriculture of India
Bharat Ratna 1999	Jayaprakash Narayan	Activist, and social reformer
	Amartya Sen	Economist
	Gopinath Bordoloi	Activist
	Ravi Shankar	Musician, sitar player
Bharat Ratna 2001	Lata Mangeshkar	Singer
	Bismillah Khan	Hindustani classical shehnai player
Bharat Ratna 2009	Bhimsen Joshi	Hindustani classical vocalist
Bharat Ratna 2014	C. N. R. Rao	Chemist and professor, author
	Sachin Tendulkar	Cricketer
Bharat Ratna 2015	Madan Mohan Malaviya	Scholar and educational reformer.
	Atal Bihari Bajpayee	Elected nine times to the Lok Sabha, twice to the Rajya Sabha, and served as the Prime Minister of India for three terms.
Bharat Ratna 2019	Pranab Mukherjee	Indian politician, and senior leader in the Indian National Congress.
	Nanaji Deshmukh	A social activist from India, education, health, and rural self-reliance.
	Bhupen Hazarika	Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician, singer, poet, and filmmaker from Assam.
Bharat Ratna 2024 (Posthumously)	Karpoori Thakur	A renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar
Bharat Ratna 2024	Lal Krishna Advani	A Veteran Bhartiya Janta Party Leader

