

# Weekly One Liners 05th to 11th of February 2024

## Grammy Awards 2024, Check The Complete List Of Winners

### Grammy Awards 2024

The **66th Annual Grammy Awards**, marking a significant milestone in the music industry, celebrated the most remarkable recordings, compositions, and artists of the year, from **October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023**. Chosen meticulously by the esteemed members of The Recording Academy, this prestigious ceremony took place on February 4, 2024. Returning to the iconic **Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles for its 21st year**, the event was broadcast live on CBS, with streaming options available on Paramount, ensuring a global audience could partake in the festivities.

Hosting for the fourth consecutive time, **Trevor Noah** brought his charismatic presence and sharp wit to the stage, making the night unforgettable for both the winners and the worldwide viewers. This year's ceremony not only highlighted the incredible talent and achievements within the music industry but also continued the tradition of celebrating the universal language of music in all its diversity and splendour.

### Grammy Awards 2024, Check The Complete List Of Winners

Here is the list of Grammy Awardees 2024, the winners list is a testament to the wide-ranging tastes and sounds that have defined the musical landscape over the years.

Category	Winner
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For? from Barbie
Best Pop Vocal Album	Taylor Swift – Midnights
Best R&B Song	SZA – Snooze
Best Country Album	Lainey Wilson – Bell Bottom Country
Best Música Urbana Album	Karol G – Mañana Será Bonito
Best Pop Solo Performance	Miley Cyrus – Flowers
Best Progressive R&B Album	SZA – SOS
Best R&B Performance	Coco Jones – ICU
Best Folk Album	Joni Mitchell – Joni Mitchell at Newport (Live)
Producer of the Year, Non-Classical	Jack Antonoff
Songwriter of the Year, Non-Classical	Theron Thomas
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	SZA featuring Phoebe Bridgers – Ghost in the Machine
Best Dance/Electronic Recording	Skrillex, Fred again.. and Flowdan – Rumble
Best Pop Dance Recording	Kylie Minogue – Padam Padam
Best Dance/Electronic Music Album	Fred again.. – Actual Life 3 (January 1 – September 9 2022)
Best Traditional R&B Performance	PJ Morton featuring Susan Carol – Good Morning
Best R&B Album	Victoria Monét – Jaguar II
Best Rap Performance	Killer Mike featuring André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane – Scientists & Engineers
Best Melodic Rap Performance	Lil Durk featuring J Cole – All My Life
Best Rap Song	Killer Mike featuring André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane – Scientists & Engineers
Best Rap Album	Killer Mike – Michael
Best Country Solo Performance	Chris Stapleton – White Horse
Best Country Song	Chris Stapleton – White Horse
Best Song Written for Visual Media	Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For? from Barbie
Best Comedy Album	Dave Chappelle – What's in a Name?
Best Global Music Album	<b>Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti'</b>
Best African Music Performance	Tyla – Water
Best Musical Theater Album	Some Like It Hot

Category	Winner
Best Alternative Music Album	boygenius – The Record
Best Alternative Music Performance	Paramore – This Is Why
Best Rock Album	Paramore – This Is Why
Best Rock Song	boygenius – Not Strong Enough
Best Metal Performance	Metallica – 72 Seasons
Best Rock Performance	boygenius – Not Strong Enough
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Zach Bryan featuring Kacey Musgraves – I Remember Everything

**RBI's Analysis Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2022-23**

The annual performance report of the Indian banking sector, compliant with **Section 36(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, presents a comprehensive analysis of the sector's achievements and challenges. It encompasses cooperative banks and **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, providing insights into their contributions to the country's economic framework.

**Stability and Strength of the Banking System**

The report highlights the robustness of India's banking system and NBFCs, underpinned by high capital ratios, improved asset quality, and substantial earnings growth. This solid foundation has enabled credit expansion in double digits, thereby supporting domestic economic activities. However, the report emphasizes the necessity for enhanced governance, risk management, and the creation of additional financial buffers to sustain progress.

**Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)**

SCBs have experienced significant growth, with their combined balance sheets expanding by 12.2% in the fiscal year 2022-23, marking a nine-year high. This growth is attributed mainly to credit expansion in the retail and services sectors. Additionally, SCBs have strengthened their capital buffers and asset quality, with the **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio reaching a ten-year low of 3.9% by March 2023 and further dropping to 3.2% by September 2023**. Remarkably, no bank was under the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework by March 2023, indicating improved health of the banking sector.

**Capital Adequacy Ratios**

The Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) has seen varying trends across different bank types:

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) reported an increase in **CRAR from 14.6% in 2022 to 15.5% in 2023**.
- Private Sector Banks (PVBs) experienced a slight decrease in **CRAR from 18.8% to 18.6%**.
- Foreign Banks (FBs) maintained a stable **CRAR at 19.8%**.
- These figures reflect the banking sector's efforts to maintain or improve capital adequacy, essential for absorbing potential losses.
- Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)

- The report provides a detailed analysis of NPAs, showing an overall improvement in asset quality. The Gross NPA percentage of Gross Advances decreased for most bank groups, indicating effective management of bad loans. Public Sector Banks (PSBs), for instance, saw a decrease in **Gross NPA percentage from 7.3% to 5.0%**.

**Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**

NBFCs have shown remarkable growth and improvement in asset quality, with their combined balance sheets growing by **14.8%** in 2022-23. The sector has witnessed a significant credit expansion, particularly in unsecured loans, micro-finance, and MSME loans. The **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for NBFCs declined to 4.1%**, showcasing an improvement in asset quality.

**Co-operative Banks**

Co-operative banks continue to play a vital role in India's financial landscape, especially in rural areas. The government and the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** have taken steps to enhance the regulatory framework and provide these banks with more autonomy in capital acquisition, ensuring their continued contribution to financial inclusion.

**Contagion Risk and Regulatory Measures**

The interconnectedness between NBFCs and banks poses a potential contagion risk, necessitating careful monitoring. The RBI has introduced macroprudential measures to maintain financial stability, including increased risk weights for certain types of consumer credit loans and bank lending to NBFCs.

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**Customer Service and Financial Inclusion**

Despite advancements in banking technology, the RBI has noted that customer service quality needs to catch up. Efforts are being made to ensure banking solutions are accessible to all, including seniors and those with special needs. Additionally, the RBI is focused on mitigating systemic risks by evaluating the over-reliance on specific IT service providers.

**RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate Holds Steady at 6.5%**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has made a pivotal announcement, maintaining the repo rate at **6.5 per cent**. This decision marks the sixth consecutive time the rate has remained unchanged, following closely on the heels of the Interim Budget presented on February 1, 2024. The RBI's stance continues to focus on the withdrawal of its accommodative monetary policy, aiming to balance inflation control with economic growth. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **April 3 to 5, 2024**.

**Repo Rate Decision**

In a recent meeting that concluded on February 8, 2024, five out of six MPC members voted in favour of keeping the repo rate steady. This move was widely anticipated by financial experts, who expected the rate to remain at 6.5 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the importance of a disinflationary stance in monetary policy to ensure inflation aligns progressively with the target.

**RBI Repo Rate are as under**

- Policy Repo Rate: **6.50%**
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): **6.25%**
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: **6.75%**
- Bank Rate: **6.75%**
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: **3.35%**
- CRR: **4.50%**
- SLR: **18.00%**

**Inflation and Growth Projections**

The RBI has maintained its inflation forecast at **5.4 per cent for the fiscal year 2023-2024**, with a detailed outlook for the following year predicting a **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 4.5 per cent**. This detailed projection includes quarterly estimates, starting with 5 per cent in the first quarter and gradually adjusting to 4.7 per cent by the fourth quarter of FY 2024-2025.

**RBI projects real GDP growth of 7 pc for FY'25 with risks evenly balanced.**

Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7%

- For FY24Q1 is projected at 7.2%
- For FY24Q2 is projected at 6.8%
- For FY24Q3 is projected at 7%
- For FY24Q4 is projected at 6.9%

**Key Announcements and Policy Measures**

The MPC's decision comes with several significant announcements aimed at strengthening the economy and ensuring financial stability:

- **India's Forex Reserve:** Currently standing at **\$622.5 billion**, India's foreign exchange reserves are deemed comfortable for meeting all foreign obligations.
- **Loan Transparency:** Lenders are now required to provide "key fact statements" for loans to retail and MSME borrowers, enhancing transparency and consumer protection.
- **Inflation and GDP Targets:** The RBI remains vigilant, focusing on achieving a durable inflation target of 4 per cent while projecting a balanced real GDP growth.

**Who are members of the RBI MPC?**

The RBI MPC is comprised of six members, including both external members and RBI officials. This includes the RBI Governor, 2 deputy governors, and 3 external members

1. Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI
2. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI
3. Rajiv Ranjan, Officer of RBI nominated by the Central Board, Member
4. Prof. Ashima Goyal, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Member
5. Prof. Jayanth R. Varma, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Member
6. Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Member.

**Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, Check Complete List of Winners**

In a dazzling ceremony that underscored the indomitable spirit of athletes and their tireless dedication to sports, the **Sportstar Aces Awards 2024** celebrated the best in the world of sports. Recognizing remarkable achievements across various categories, the awards brought to the forefront the relentless pursuit of excellence that defines sportsmanship. Here's a detailed look at the luminaries who graced the winner's circle this year.

**Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, Check Complete List of Winners**

This table summarizes the achievements and honorees of the Sportstar Aces Awards 2024, recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and teams in the field of sports.

Category	Winner
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	Men's Relay Team
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	Parul Chaudhary
Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)	Hardik Singh, Mohammed Shami
Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports)	Vandana Katariya
Sportsman of the Year (Individual)	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual)	Rameshbabu Vaishali, Sift Kaur Samra
Sportsman of the Year (Parasports)	Sumit Antil
Sportswoman of the Year (Parasports)	Thulasimathi Murugesan
Coach of the Year	Rahul Dravid
Young Achiever of the Year (Male)	Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar
Young Achiever of the Year (Female)	Tilottama Sen
Lifetime Achievement Award	Chandu Borde, Karnam Malleswari
Sportstar of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra
Sportstar of the Year (Female)	Sheetal Devi
National Team of the Year	India Men's Cricket Team
Club/State Team of the Year	Saurashtra Cricket Team
Moment of the Year	Sheetal Devi Hits the Bullseye
International Icon	Muttiah Muralitharan
Best State for the Promotion of Sport	Tamil Nadu
Best PSU for the Promotion of Sport	NTPC Ltd
Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport	Tata Steel Ltd
Best University for the Promotion of Sport	SRM Institute of Science and Technology
Sport for Social Good	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board
Ace of Aces Award	Rohan Bopanna

**AIIMS Launches iOncology.ai for Early Cancer Detection**

In a landmark collaboration between AIIMS, New Delhi, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune, the groundbreaking **AI platform iOncology.ai** has been unveiled. This cutting-edge technology focuses on the early detection of cancer, particularly targeting breast and ovarian cancers, which are prevalent among women in India.

**Global Cancer Scenario**

- Cancer surpasses cardiovascular diseases in high-income and middle-income countries in terms of fatality rates.
- GLOBOCAN estimates for 2020 show 19.3 million incident cancer cases worldwide, with India ranking third after China and the United States.

**Cancer Statistics in India**

- A Lancet study predicts a 57.5% increase in cancer cases in India by 2040, reaching 2.08 million.
- In 2022, over 8 lakh deaths in India were attributed to cancer, mainly due to late detection, resulting in a mere 20% survival rate.

**About iOncology.ai**

- Developed in collaboration with CDAC and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, iOncology.ai utilizes AI to reduce false negatives in manual cancer diagnosis.
- The platform employs deep learning models and self-learning capabilities to analyze complex medical data with unparalleled accuracy and efficiency.
- Initial focus lies on early detection of breast and ovarian cancers, leveraging a dataset of approximately half a million radiological and histopathological images from AIIMS.

**Positive Reception and Future Collaborations**

- iOncology.ai has been successfully implemented in five district hospitals, demonstrating its potential for widespread impact.
- It received positive feedback at a Med-Hackathon event during AIIMS Research Day celebrations and is poised for further partnerships with cancer hospitals and research centers across India.

**MoU between AIIMS and DGE for Rheumatological Disorders**

- The Department of Rheumatology at AIIMS New Delhi has signed an MoU with the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- This initiative aims to address challenges faced by patients with disabilities due to rheumatological disorders by providing certifications for employable skills and promoting economic upliftment and vocational rehabilitation.

**Bharat Ratna to Honour PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan**

India's highest civilian award, the **Bharat Ratna**, is set to honour the indelible contributions of three distinguished individuals whose efforts have significantly shaped the nation's trajectory. **Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan**, are the esteemed recipients of this prestigious accolade, acknowledging their unparalleled dedication to the progress of India.

**Bharat Ratna, PV Narasimha Rao**

**PV Narasimha Rao**, often hailed as the **Architect of Modern India**, played a pivotal role in ushering in economic liberalization in the early 1990s. His visionary leadership not only averted a financial crisis but also laid the groundwork for India's rapid growth and integration into the global economy. Rao's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by bold reforms that transformed the economic landscape, fostering investment, expansion of the private sector, and enhancing India's competitiveness worldwide.

Beyond economics, Rao's impact was profoundly felt in India's foreign policy, where he redefined relationships, steering the country through the post-Cold War era with strategic finesse. His initiatives towards strengthening ties with the East, including the Look East policy, paved the way for a new era in diplomatic relations and economic partnerships.

Rao's contributions extended into the realms of language and education, where he championed the cause of cultural diversity and literacy. His policies aimed at preserving India's rich linguistic heritage while promoting education as a means of empowerment.

**Bharat Ratna, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Champion of the Farmers**

Chaudhary Charan Singh revered as a true champion of India's agrarian community dedicated his life to the welfare of the farmers. His tenure as Prime Minister, though brief, was impactful, particularly his advocacy for policies that supported the agricultural sector and upheld the rights of the farmers. Singh's legacy is a testament to his commitment to rural development and his belief in the vital role of agriculture in India's economy.

Singh's initiatives aimed at alleviating farmer distress, improving agricultural productivity, and ensuring fair prices for crops have left an enduring mark on India's agricultural policies. His efforts to reform the agrarian landscape resonate with millions of farmers across the nation, making him a beloved figure among the rural populace.

**Bharat Ratna, MS Swaminathan, Father of the Green Revolution**

**Dr. MS Swaminathan's** contributions to India's agricultural revolution are monumental. As the architect of the **Green Revolution**, Swaminathan's scientific acumen and innovative approaches to crop improvement significantly increased food production, thereby mitigating the threat of famine and ensuring food security for millions. His work not only transformed India from a food-importing country to one of self-sufficiency but also inspired agricultural reforms worldwide.

Swaminathan's dedication to sustainable agriculture and his advocacy for the conservation of biodiversity have shaped the discourse on ecological balance and responsible farming practices. His vision extends beyond immediate agricultural gains, focusing on the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

**National Affairs**

- Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** recently spearheaded the inauguration of cutting-edge healthcare facilities at **AIIMS Bhubaneswar**, marking a pivotal moment for healthcare in Odisha. Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas expressed gratitude towards Minister Mandaviya for his unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Chief Minister Assam, laid the foundation stone for the **Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN)** and a **100-bedded Naturopathy hospital at Dihing Khamtighat in Dibrugarh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Building on the resounding success of the 2023 edition, **India Energy Week 2024** is set to take place in Goa from February 6 to 9, 2024. This premier event, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, is the country's largest and sole comprehensive energy exhibition and conference. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Following the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has introduced a meticulously crafted tour program, immersing travelers in the spiritual tapestry woven by the Ramayana. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for India's cultural heritage, Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** recently laid the foundation stone for the country's **digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad**. Spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, this museum aims to house approximately one lakh ancient writings spanning various times and languages, preserving them for future generations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** forecasts India to become the primary driver of global oil demand growth by 2030, despite a projected decline in domestic production. This trend, highlighted at the **India Energy Week 2024**, underscores India's emergence as the second-largest crude importer worldwide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Education Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, recently started the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme. This new program is all about making it easier for students who don't have much money to get a good education. It follows the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's** goals to make education available to everyone. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the '**Vividdhta ka Amrit Mahotsav**' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, showcasing Northeast India's cultural richness. Organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Ministry of Culture, the event ran from February 8th to 11th, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### States in the News

- The Uttarakhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has greenlit the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill**, marking a historic move. The bill, crafted based on recommendations from a government-appointed committee, will be presented in the **Uttarakhand Assembly on February 6**. If passed, Uttarakhand would be the first state post-Independence to adopt the Uniform Civil Code, aiming to standardize civil laws for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Justice Ritu Bahri** has become the new **Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court**. The Governor, Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh, gave her the oath at a beautiful ceremony at Raj Bhawan. Many important people, including the Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, were there to see this big moment. It shows how important Justice Bahri's new job is. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Ellora – Ajanta International Festival**, held in **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar** concluded marking the end of a three-day musical extravaganza that delighted audiences with a rich cultural treat. After a **seven-year hiatus**, the event returned in 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator **Banwarilal Purohit** resigned from his post, citing "personal reasons." In his resignation letter, he wrote, "Due to my personal reasons and certain other commitments, I tender my resignation from the post of governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Please accept the same and oblige." ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Uttarakhand**, Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the "**Dhami against drugs campaign**," a pivotal initiative spearheaded by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun. This campaign, running from February 5 to February 10, marks a significant step in the state government's resolution to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by the year 2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the heart of Patna, Bihar, a new landmark has emerged as a monumental tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi**, fondly known as the **Father of the Nation**. **The Bapu Tower**, located in Gardanibagh, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. This tower, the first of its kind in the country dedicated to Gandhi, has been completed, marking a significant milestone in the architectural and cultural landscape of Bihar. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The collaboration between the **Maharashtra government** and the **National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** marks a significant step towards advancing connectivity and tourism development through ropeways under the **National Ropeway Programme 'Parvatmala'**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently embarked on a day-long visit to **Goa**, where he inaugurated several significant infrastructural projects aimed at advancing various sectors, including sea survival training, energy, education, and waste management. These projects not only signify India's progress towards self-reliance but also underscore the government's commitment to fostering development and innovation across different domains. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment in Goa's educational landscape as he inaugurated the **permanent campus of the National Institute of Technology Goa**. The campus, built at a cost of over ₹1330 crore, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, faculty, and staff. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**, also known as **Monkey Fever**, has emerged as a significant health concern in Karnataka, India. With two fatalities reported this year and 49 positive cases, the state's health department is on high alert. Originating from the Kyasanur Forest in 1957, KFD is caused by the **Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV)**, belonging to the Flaviviridae family. This article delves into the essentials of KFD, from transmission and symptoms to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Uttar Pradesh government** is taking significant steps to promote the manufacture and use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. One of the key initiatives in this endeavour is the enhancement of the '**EV Upyog**' portal, which serves as a platform to facilitate EV-related activities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Maharashtra government** has announced 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' is set to benefit around **15 lakh senior citizens** suffering from physical or mental disabilities. Under this scheme, eligible citizens above the **age of 65** will receive financial assistance of three thousand rupees, providing much-needed support and relief to vulnerable members of society. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to growing safety concerns among **Telangana citizens residing abroad** and recognizing the need for immediate support and assistance for Telangana citizens facing challenges overseas, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the **establishment of a dedicated help desk**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Uttarakhand** has marked a significant milestone in **India's legislative history by becoming the first state** to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**. This groundbreaking move was initiated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, with the state Assembly passing the UCC Bill. The UCC aims to standardize laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and more across all citizens, irrespective of their religion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards bolstering infrastructure and fostering socio-economic development, Chief Minister (CM) **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** recently spearheaded the '**Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar**' program at Amb-Pathiyar under the Jawalamukhi assembly constituency. The event served as a platform for the CM to engage with local residents and gain insight into their concerns, while also unveiling a series of transformative announcements aimed at propelling the region forward. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a collaborative effort between the **Assam government** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the **Construction Skill Training Centre in Assam**. This initiative **aims to address unemployment** by providing comprehensive training opportunities to the youth and enhancing their employability in the construction sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** aims to revolutionize its energy sector by constructing **one million tonne per annum (mtpa)** green hydrogen production capacity, generating an estimated **120,000 jobs**. This initiative stems from the state's commitment to sustainable development and capitalizes on the burgeoning global green hydrogen market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Telangana Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** made groundbreaking announcements during her address to the joint session of the legislature, outlining the state government's ambitious agenda for digital inclusion and technological advancement. With a focus on ensuring universal access to the internet and **positioning Hyderabad and Telangana as the nation's AI capital**, Governor Soundararajan's vision sets a bold precedent for the state's future development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### International Affairs

- In a groundbreaking move, **Michelle O'Neill**, an Irish nationalist representing Sinn Fein, has been appointed as **Northern Ireland's First Minister**. This marks a significant departure from the traditional dominance of pro-British unionists in the region's political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **As of January 1, 2024, France** has pioneered the issuance of **Digital Schengen visas**, marking a significant leap in streamlining visa processes within the **European Union**. This groundbreaking initiative precedes the broader digitalization of Schengen visa procedures scheduled for full implementation in **2026**. The move is strategically aligned with the preparations for the **2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris**, with French authorities aiming to distribute around **70,000 digital visas**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Yemen's** Presidential Leadership Council, in a significant move, appointed Foreign Minister **Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak** as the country's new Prime Minister. This appointment comes at a critical time as Yemen faces increased tensions and security challenges. The outgoing Prime Minister, Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed, has been appointed as an advisor to the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, marking a notable shift in the country's political landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Geological Institute of Israel** has recently made a groundbreaking discovery near Cyprus, uncovering an underwater canyon of unprecedented proportions. Named **Eratosthenes** after the nearby underwater mountain, this canyon sheds new light on the geological history of the Mediterranean region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Sri Lanka, facing economic challenges and seeking to spur growth, plans to establish **free trade agreements (FTAs)** with several countries including India by the end of 2024. Foreign Minister Ali Sabry outlined the government's strategy to address the nation's economic woes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- Iran eliminates visa requirements for Indian tourists from **February 4, 2024**, aiming to boost tourism and global engagement. Indian ordinary passport holders can visit every six months for up to 15 days. The move extends to 33 countries, acknowledging India's growing outbound tourism market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- El Salvadoran President **Nayib Bukele** triumphantly secures his reelection, despite lingering concerns over authoritarian tendencies. Bukele's landslide victory underscores his firm stance against gang violence and his vision for democratic reforms. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kazakh President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** has appointed **Olzhas Bektenov**, his chief of staff, as the new prime minister. Bektenov, aged 43, previously headed the state anti-corruption agency and assumed the role of presidential administration head in April 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), the largest sovereign wealth fund in the UAE, is establishing a substantial investment fund totaling **\$4-5 billion through India's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China** has inaugurated its newest Antarctic research station, the **Qinling facility**, situated on Inexpressible Island in the Ross Sea. This marks **China's fifth research station** in Antarctica and signifies its commitment to advancing scientific exploration in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India** and **Saudi Arabia** recently engaged in discussions aimed at bolstering their bilateral defence and strategic cooperation. These talks, held between Minister of State for Defence **Ajay Bhatt** and Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister **Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** in Riyadh, highlighted several key areas of collaboration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NITI Aayog** and the Embassy of the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** have collaborated on energy transition efforts since 2020. Their joint report, released during India Energy Week on February 6, 2024, focuses on the adoption of **LNG as a transportation fuel** in medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCVs) in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India and Russia** have strengthened their long-standing nuclear cooperation with the signing of a protocol amending the 2008 intergovernmental agreement. The agreement focuses on the construction of additional nuclear reactors at the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project** site and the development of Russia-designed nuclear power plants at new locations in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant development in the aerospace industry, **Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer** and **Mahindra** announced a strategic partnership aimed at fulfilling the Indian Air Force's (IAF) acquisition of the **C-390 multi-mission transport aircraft**. With the IAF seeking to replace its aging fleets of AN32 planes, this collaboration aligns with India's defense modernization efforts under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Books and Authors

- Vice President of India **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has released the book titled **'9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government – Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana'** at Surajkund Faridabad. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The Gautam Adani-led Adani Group is constructing the **world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant** in Mundra, Gujarat. This \$1.2 billion facility, set to commence its first phase operations by March-end, aims to reach a full-scale production capacity of 1 million tonnes by 2029. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Forty days after an ammonia gas leak from a fertilizer plant owned by **Coromandel International Limited** shook Ennore in Tamil Nadu, the Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department has taken decisive actions against the company.
- The department has slapped a significant penalty of **Rs 5.92 crore** on Coromandel International Limited for its role in the gas leak incident. This reflects the seriousness with which authorities are addressing environmental hazards. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The RBI's announcement on **January 1, 2024**, revealed that **a staggering 97.38 per cent of ₹2,000 notes in circulation had been successfully returned**. The deadline for deposit and exchange at bank branches was October 7, 2023, marking the end of an era for the vibrant-coloured currency. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honored with the prestigious **Best Green Bond – Corporate Award** at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance. This recognition underscores REC's commitment to Sustainable Finance and Environmental Sustainability. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- HDFC Bank and its affiliated companies have obtained approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire stakes in six prominent banks. This approval, received on January 5, 2024, grants HDFC Bank and its group entities the authority to acquire an aggregate stake of up to 9.5% in **ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, YES Bank, Bandhan Bank, and Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)**. The approval, valid until February 4, 2025, follows applications submitted by the bank as a promoter or sponsor of the group on December 18, 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- The liquidity deficit in the banking system has significantly reduced to approximately **₹1.40 lakh crore** as of February 4, down from a **recent high of ₹3.46 lakh crore** on January 24. This decline is attributed to increased government spending, as per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Consequently, overnight money market rates have eased, with the weighted average rate dropping to 6.33 per cent from last month's range of 6.50 per cent to 6.75 per cent. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In its latest interim economic outlook, the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) upwards to 6.2%, a marginal increase from the previous estimate of 6.1%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Fitch, a global ratings agency, forecasts **India's fiscal deficit to reach 5.4%** of GDP in FY25, surpassing the government's target of 5.1% announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The agency views the government's adjustment of the FY24 deficit target to 5.8% from 5.9% as modest. Achieving the FY25 target is seen as critical for reaching the goal of a 4.5% deficit in FY26. However, Fitch believes this target might be challenging due to potential setbacks, particularly from increased spending before general elections. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Tata Group has made history by becoming the first Indian conglomerate to surpass the **₹30 lakh crore mark** in combined market capitalization. This significant achievement is driven by strong performances from key subsidiaries, including **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Motors, Tata Power, and Indian Hotels.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently granted final authorization to fintech firms **Juspay and Decentro**, along with software-as-a-service company **Zoho**, to operate as payment aggregators. This approval comes in the wake of stringent criteria set by the regulator and positions these entities alongside other notable players in the payments aggregator landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a visionary collaboration with philanthropist Ratan Tata, **Tata Trusts** proudly announces the launch of the nation's foremost **Small Animal Hospital in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai.** This groundbreaking initiative is a testament to Mr. Tata's enduring commitment to pet healthcare and veterinary care. Spanning an impressive 98,000 square feet across five floors, this state-of-the-art facility epitomizes excellence in pet healthcare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announces the introduction of **offline functionality for e-rupee** transactions to facilitate payments in areas with poor or limited internet connectivity. This move aims to enhance accessibility and usability of the Central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot project. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Flywire Corporation, in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), aims to modernize and **digitize international education payments** for Indian students. This partnership facilitates seamless transactions in Indian Rupees, ensuring compliance with the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) guidelines. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** have surged to a one-month high, reaching **\$622.47 billion** as of February 2, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 9. This marks the second consecutive week of increase, with reserves climbing by \$5.74 billion during the reporting period, the largest rise in nearly two months. The previous week saw a modest increase of \$590 million. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$200 million loan** to enhance flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India. This project aims to build on previous successful initiatives and address the persistent challenges of flooding and erosion in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Apurva Chandra** used to be in charge of the Information and Broadcasting department, but now he's going to be the Health Secretary. He's been working for the government since 1988, so he has a lot of experience. **Sanjay Jaju** is going to take Apurva Chandra's old job as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary. He used to work in Telangana and started his government job in 1992. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bollywood superstar **Ranveer Singh** has recently invested in the popular lifestyle brand **boAt**, becoming not only a stakeholder but also the official face of the brand's audio products. This partnership marks a strategic move for boAt, as they welcome Singh into their illustrious list of brand ambassadors, which already features notable celebrities and sports personalities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move within the Indian Army, **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** has been appointed as the new **Army Vice Chief**, effective February 15. This transition signifies a seamless succession plan as Lt Gen Dwivedi steps into the role, succeeding Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who is set to assume command at the Northern Army Command in Udhampur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **K.R. Mangalam University** proudly announces the appointment of the **distinguished former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Justice U.U. Lalit**, as the Eminent Jurist and Distinguished Professor at The School of Legal Studies. This significant development follows closely on the heels of the university securing the 2nd position in Haryana, according to the BW Legal World Law School Rankings 2022, affirming its commitment to delivering unparalleled legal education. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Rajasthan** has welcomed Senior Advocate **Rajendra Prasad Gupta** as its new Advocate General, following the approval of his appointment by Governor Kalraj Mishra. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced the appointment of **Mio Oka** as its new **Country Director for India**, succeeding **Takeo Konishi**. Ms. Oka brings nearly three decades of professional experience, including over 18 years with ADB, to her new role. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in ADB's continued partnership with India in supporting its development goals and economic growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Justice Vijay Bishnoi** has recently been sworn in as the **Chief Justice of the esteemed Gauhati High Court**, marking a significant milestone in his illustrious legal career. The ceremony, graced by dignitaries including the Assam Governor and Chief Minister, commemorated Justice Bishnoi's ascension to this esteemed position. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Digital** has announced the appointment of **Naveen Tahilyani** as the new **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Group's e-commerce unit**. Tahilyani, who presently holds the position of CEO and MD at Tata AIA Life Insurance, is set to transition into his new role on February 19, taking over from Pratik Pal. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management has appointed **Ravi Kumar Jha** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive. With over 30 years of experience at LIC, Jha brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has announced the appointment of its President and Chief Distribution Officer, **Venkatachalam H**, as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, pending regulatory approval. This strategic move marks a new chapter for the company as Venkatachalam, a veteran in the insurance and financial services sector, prepares to steer Tata AIA Life towards future growth and innovation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** recently announced the appointment of **Ajay Kumar Choudhary** as its new non-executive chairman and independent director, effective February 8, 2024. Mr Choudhary, a distinguished central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this crucial role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Fit India Movement** broke the mold by appointing **Narendra Kumar Yadav, an IRS officer**, as its new brand ambassador. This groundbreaking choice highlights the diverse paths to fitness and challenges us to rethink what it means to be a role model for a healthier India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Defence News

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **General Anil Chauhan** made a significant announcement at the Defence Literature Festival, "Kalam and Kavach," in Pune. He unveiled a groundbreaking book titled '**Artificial Intelligence and National Security**,' marking a pivotal moment in blending India's rich cultural heritage with contemporary national security strategies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In an endeavor to bolster border security measures, India has embarked on a significant project to fence the entire **1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar border**. Home Minister Amit Shah made the announcement, underscoring the government's commitment to fortifying national borders and enhancing surveillance capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- **Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri**, the chief priest (Rawal) of the world-renowned Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand, was honoured with the **Shankar Smriti Award in Kerala**. This recognition marks a significant acknowledgement of his dedication and service to the spiritual domain, enhancing the rich tapestry of Indian religious practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. Bina Modi**, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious '**Outstanding Business Woman of the Year**' Award. This recognition, bestowed upon her by **Rajnath Singh**, Defence Minister of India, at a distinguished conference organized by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), underscores her exceptional leadership and contributions to the industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Renowned Mathematics educator **Anand Kumar**, founder of Super 30, achieved a significant milestone on Tuesday, February 6, as he was granted the prestigious '**Golden Visa**' by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) government**. This recognition catapults Kumar into an elite group, traditionally dominated by Bollywood stars and sports icons. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- In a celebration of nature's serene beauty, a photograph depicting a **polar bear asleep on an iceberg** has clinched the prestigious **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award**. This enchanting image, titled 'Ice Bed,' captured by British amateur photographer Nima Sarikhani, has emerged victorious in a competition that saw a record-breaking 75,000 votes from the public. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **second DNPA Conclave & Digital Impact Awards** served as a pivotal platform for discussions on the **revenue-sharing disparity between digital news publishers and major technology platforms**. Key stakeholders, including the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), converged to address this pressing issue amidst the backdrop of the imminent Digital India Act. The Conclave focuses on the theme '**Navigating Digital Transformations and Challenges in the Media Industry**.' ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Pyarelal Sharma**, one-half of the legendary composer duo **Laxmikant-Pyarelal**, has been felicitated with the prestigious Lakshminarayana International Award. This honour was bestowed upon him as part of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, acknowledging his invaluable contributions to the Indian music industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the prestigious **World Government Summit (WGS)** in Dubai on February 14. This marks his second invitation to the WGS, with the **first being in 2018**. The WGS, an annual global gathering held in Dubai since 2013, convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A **North-East Sammelan** convened at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi** drawing attention to the region's progress and collaborative efforts. The event boasted the presence of distinguished ministers, MPs, MLAs, officers, and students, accentuating the significance of the occasion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant moment for regional sports diplomacy, the **first-ever BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship** was officially declared open in New Delhi on February 6th, 2024. The ceremony, graced by the esteemed presence of **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, Honourable Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports of India, and **Shri Dig Bahadur Limbu**, Honourable Minister of Youth & Sports of Nepal, marked the commencement of a historic sporting event within the BIMSTEC framework. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **2024 World Governments Summit**, scheduled to be held in Dubai from February 12-14, has designated **India, Türkiye, and Qatar** as guests of honor. Themed 'Shaping Future Governments,' the summit aims to facilitate discussions among over 25 government and state heads worldwide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- In a remarkable achievement, Mukesh Ambani, the visionary leader steering Reliance Industries Limited, secures the first position among Indian executives and an impressive second globally in the prestigious **Brand Guardianship Index 2024** by Brand Finance. This recognition places Ambani ahead of renowned global leaders such as Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai, Tim Cook, and Elon Musk. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's logistics performance has seen remarkable improvements, as indicated by its rank in the **Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Report by the World Bank**. Through collaborative efforts among various ministries and departments, alongside the implementation of key policies and initiatives, India is advancing towards enhancing its competitiveness globally. India has significantly climbed in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranking, securing the **38th position out of 139 countries**, according to the World Bank's report. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **TomTom**, a leading expert in location technology, has unveiled revealing insights into the global challenge of traffic congestion. Among the standout findings, **London emerges as a focal point**, experiencing the slowest traffic in 2023. This revelation, based on TomTom's comprehensive analysis, underscores the pressing need for innovative solutions to tackle urban mobility challenges. TomTom's report also sheds light on the traffic woes plaguing major Indian cities such as Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi, and Mumbai. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Sports News

- The highly anticipated **FIFA World Cup 2026** is set to take centre stage, promising football fans a thrilling and expanded 48-team tournament. The **United States, Canada, and Mexico** are co-hosting this global spectacle, with **MetLife Stadium in New York** selected as the venue for the July 19 final. In this blog post, we'll delve into the key details and highlights of the upcoming tournament. **MetLife Stadium in New York emerged victorious in the bid to host the final on July 19**, overcoming stiff competition from Dallas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **PT Usha**, was honoured with the prestigious '**Lifetime Achievement**' award. This accolade was presented to her by the **Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI)** and **Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA)**, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to Indian athletics. The award ceremony saw the attendance of notable personalities, including **Rajeev Shukla, Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha and Vice President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, and former Indian shooter Jaspal Rana, among the Guests of Honour. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **Telangana Football Association (TFA)** has achieved a significant milestone by securing approval to host the FIFA World Cup qualifiers round between **India and Kuwait**. The match is scheduled to take place on June 6th of this year in **Hyderabad**, announced Dr. K.T. Mahi, Chairman of TFA. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium** is set to be rebranded as the **Niranjan Shah Stadium**. This change comes as a tribute to the former first-class cricketer and senior cricket administrator, Niranjan Shah, marking his immense contributions to the sport and the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **International Football Association Board (IFAB)** is preparing to debut a new card, the **blue card** as part of trials involving sin bins in professional football. In November 2023, the governing body recognized the necessity of addressing player conduct towards match officials, leading to the implementation of temporary dismissals for dissent and certain tactical infractions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Grand Master **Wei Yi** emerged triumphant in the highly anticipated **2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament**, showcasing his exceptional skill and tactical prowess. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a surprising turn of events, the **SAFF Women's U-19 Championships** concluded with **India and Bangladesh** being declared joint winners. The tournament, held in Dhaka, witnessed a series of unusual occurrences that led to this unprecedented decision. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- With the Paris Olympic Games approaching, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) hosted the **"Road to Paris 2024: Championing Clean Sports and Uniting for Anti-Doping"** Conference. The event aimed to educate Indian athletes about the dangers of prohibited substances while emphasizing ethical competition. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Etihad Airways joins forces with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** as their official sponsor, marking a thrilling new chapter for both entities. This strategic partnership, announced on February 9th, 2024, promises to propel the excitement of cricket to new heights for fans around the world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The iconic **Jungfraujoeh**, also known as the **Top of Europe**, witnessed a momentous event recently. India's Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower, **Neeraj Chopra**, was honoured with a **commemorative plaque** at the renowned **Ice Palace**. This prestigious recognition adds another feather to his cap and strengthens the bond between **Switzerland and India**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Pathum Nissanka** etched his name in Sri Lankan cricket history, by becoming the **first-ever player** to score a **double century** in One Day Internationals (ODIs) for the nation. His **unbeaten knock of 210 runs** against Afghanistan was a masterclass in batting, shattering records and propelling Sri Lanka to a massive victory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S P Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, virtually launched the **Kilkari programme** and **Mobile Academy**, aimed at strengthening public health infrastructure in **Maharashtra and Gujarat**. Kilkari provides timely audio messages on reproductive maternal, neonatal, and child health, while Mobile Academy offers training for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) via mobile phones. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Cabinet has given its approval for the upcoming telecom spectrum auctions, scheduled to take place later this year. The reserve price for the auctions has been fixed at **Rs 96,317 crore**. All available spectrum in various bands including **800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300, 2500, 3300 megahertz (MHz)**, and 26 gigahertz (GHz) will be up for auction. The decision aligns with recommendations from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and follows the government's commitment to holding annual spectrum auctions, as decided in September 2021. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Arjun Munda** introduced several key initiatives under the **Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** in New Delhi on 8th February 2024. These initiatives aim to benefit insured farmers and mitigate their risks. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards fostering entrepreneurship in **Tamil Nadu**, the MSME Minister, T M Anbarasan, launched two pivotal initiatives during an event organized by StartUp TN. These initiatives, the **Smartcard scheme** and the **StartUp Challenge website**, underscore the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups and fostering innovation in the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move for the Northeast region, **Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim** announced the revival of the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)** for state government employees **hired on or after April 1, 2006**, during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention. This decision underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of its workforce. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Science and Technology News**

- In a pioneering leap for India’s space endeavors, **Vyommitra**, the woman robot astronaut developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to embark on an uncrewed mission in the third quarter of this year. The mission, named after the Sanskrit words “**Vyoma**” (Space) and “**Mitra**” (Friend), signifies a significant stride towards the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, the country’s maiden manned space flight, slated for 2025. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Russian cosmonaut **Oleg Kononenko** achieved a historic milestone by setting a world record for the **most time spent in space**, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka’s previous record of 878 days in orbit, as reported by Russia’s space corporation, Roscosmos. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic partnership aimed at advancing India’s self-reliance in defence, **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** (IIT Madras) and **Munitions India Limited** have joined forces to pioneer the development of 155 Smart Ammunition. This groundbreaking collaboration underscores a concerted effort towards achieving indigenisation in the defence sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** has made a significant discovery—a **super-Earth** located in a habitable zone, offering tantalizing possibilities for the conditions conducive to life. This discovery sheds light on the diversity of planets in our universe and the potential for habitable worlds beyond our solar system.
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- Alphabet’s Google has made significant strides in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI), recently rebranding its chatbot and introducing a new subscription plan. This move places Google in direct competition with its rival OpenAI, signaling a pivotal moment in the ongoing AI race. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The vast expanse of our planet’s oceans and the intricate dance of Earth’s atmosphere hold key secrets to understanding and battling climate change. In a recent groundbreaking move, **NASA** launched the **Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE)** mission, embarking on a crucial journey to unlock these mysteries. This ambitious project promises to revolutionize our understanding of the complex interactions between air, water, and life, providing invaluable insights into our planet’s changing climate. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Important Days News**

- **February 6th, 2024**, marks the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, a pivotal moment for communities worldwide to unite against a practice that infringes on the rights, health, and well-being of millions of women and girls. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Safer Internet Day**, celebrated on **6th February** each year, serves as a global call to action for individuals, families, and communities to unite in making the digital world a safer and more secure environment for all. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2024, “**Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online,**” reflects a proactive approach towards fostering a positive and secure online experience. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **National Science Day (NSD)** is a celebration of scientific achievements and discoveries that have shaped the world we live in. On this occasion, the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, unveiled the **theme for NSD 2024 – “Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat”** – emphasizing India’s commitment to innovation and self-reliance in science and technology. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**, observed annually on **February 7th**, stands as a pivotal moment in the ongoing battle against HIV/AIDS within African American communities. This year’s theme is “**Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities**”. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **United Nations General Assembly** has marked **February 10th** as the **International Day of the Arabian Leopard**. This decision, formalized in resolution 77/295, highlights the critical status of the **Arabian Leopard (Panthera pardus nimr)**, classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The rapid decline of this majestic creature signals a dire need for concerted actions to address the biodiversity crisis threatening ecosystems globally. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- Every year on **February 10th**, the global community celebrates **World Pulses Day**, an occasion dedicated to recognizing the pivotal role of pulses in promoting food security, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural practices. This year's theme, "**Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People**," emphasizes the dual benefits of pulses for enhancing soil health and providing essential nutrients to humans. It's a day to appreciate the humble pulse, not just as a source of food but as a cornerstone of ecological and human health. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **February 11th**, the world celebrates the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGIS)**. This day serves as a crucial reminder of the immense contributions women and girls have made, and continue to make, in the fields of **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)**. Yet, the celebration also highlights the persistent gender gap that remains a reality in these fields. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- Namibia is mourning the loss of **President Hage Geingob**, who succumbed to cancer at the age of 82. He had been undergoing treatment for the illness, leaving the nation in a period of transition. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On February 1st, 2024, the entertainment world was rocked by the news of the passing of **Carl Weathers**, a beloved Hollywood actor renowned for his unforgettable roles in 'Rocky' and 'Predator.' The announcement, made by **Deadline**, a leading US-based media outlet, marked the end of an era in Hollywood. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The prestigious **Bharat Rang Mahotsav**, India's foremost theatre festival, inaugurated its festivities in the culturally vibrant Kachchh district of Gujarat, heralding the onset of a lively homage to the performing arts. The festival kicked off in grand style with a mesmerizing rendition of '**Uttaramacharitam**,' a classic masterpiece by Bhavabhuti, directed by Dr. Chavan Pramod R. from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. This stirring play, presented in Gujarati, showcased the remarkable talent of NSD students. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Civil Aviation Ministry** has granted in-principle approval for the installation of a towering **242 feet high statue of Adiyogi Shiva** near the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, western Uttar Pradesh. This monumental decision clears the path for the Isha Foundation to spearhead the establishment of this spiritual landmark. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India has taken a significant step towards the economic development of the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** by announcing an **interim Budget of \$14 billion for fiscal year 2024-25**. This financial commitment is noteworthy, as it is approximately 4.5 times greater than the total amount Pakistan is seeking from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** to address its ongoing economic challenges. The allocation of such a substantial sum underscores India's dedication to fostering growth and

development in Jammu and Kashmir. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **The Divya Kala Mela**, an initiative by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD)**, is set to grace the vibrant city of **Agartala, Tripura**. This event, inaugurated on **6th February 2024**, aims to celebrate the talents and skills of Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs from across the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Farooq Nazki**, a revered poet, broadcaster, and a distinguished recipient of the **Sahitya Akademi Award**. At the age of 83, Nazki's passing marks the end of an era in Kashmiri literature, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chile's political landscape was shaken as news broke on February 6th of the tragic death of former **President Sebastian Pinera** in a helicopter crash in the south of the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- In a groundbreaking move towards inclusivity and equality, **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced a significant government initiative **declaring free bus travel for the transgender community within the national capital**. Emphasizing the long-standing neglect faced by marginalized groups, Kejriwal underscored the importance of extending equal rights and privileges to all members of society, regardless of gender identity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **New Delhi Book Fair**, organized by the **National Book Trust** in collaboration with the **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)**, is set to enchant visitors at Pragati Maidan from February 10 to 18, 2024. This year's theme, "**Multilingual India: A Living Tradition**," promises a celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural exchange. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Static Takeaways

- Etihad Airways Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;
- Etihad Airways Foundation Year: 2003.
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- NPCI Foundation Year: 2008
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- NASA Foundation Year: July 29, 1958
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson (as of February 10, 2024)
- Switzerland Capital: Bern
- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc (CHF)
- Switzerland President: Ignazio Cassis (as of February 10, 2024)
- Switzerland Official Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh
- Switzerland Population: Approximately 8.7 million
- Switzerland Area: 41,285 square kilometres (15,940 square miles)
- Switzerland Government: Federal republic

- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).
- Press Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Press Council of India Founder: Parliament of India;
- Press Council of India Founded: 4 July 1966, India.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is chairman of the council .
- All India Football Federation President: Kalyan Chaubey;
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937;
- All India Football Federation HQ: Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007–);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India(SBI) Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India(SBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India(SBI) Established in – 1955
- State Bank of India(SBI) Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh;
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967;
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
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- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.

