

# Weekly One Liners 15th to 21st of April 2024

## RBI Penalizes Five Co-operative Banks with Rs 60.3 Lakh Fine

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties totaling Rs 60.3 lakh on five co-operative banks for contravening various regulatory norms. These penalties primarily stem from non-compliance with specific directives issued by the RBI, encompassing bans on loans and advances to directors and their relatives, restrictions on opening savings accounts for certain entities, and maintenance of deposit accounts.

### Penalty Breakdown

- **Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank:** Fined Rs 43.30 lakh for violations related to loans to directors and their relatives, prohibition on certain savings account openings, and deposit account maintenance.
- **The Kangra Co-operative Bank (New Delhi):** Penalized Rs 5 lakh.
- **Rajdhani Nagar Sahkari Bank (Lucknow):** Also fined Rs 5 lakh.
- **Zila Sahakari Bank, Garhwal (Kotdwar, Uttarakhand):** Subject to a Rs 5 lakh penalty.
- **District Co-operative Bank (Dehradun):** Imposed with a penalty of Rs 2.

### RBI's Stance

The RBI clarified that these penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pass judgment on the validity of any transactions or agreements made by these banks with their respective customers.

## Indian Girls Shine at 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2024

The 13th edition of the prestigious **European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO)** took place in the picturesque city of **Tskaltubo, Georgia**, from April 11 to 17, 2024. Amidst fierce competition, the Indian contingent emerged victorious, showcasing their remarkable mathematical prowess and securing a coveted haul of medals.

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## Medal Tally: A Resounding Success

The 4-member Indian team clinched a total of four medals, including two **silver** and two **bronze**, in the 13th EGMO 2024. The illustrious medal winners are:

Student's Name	Location (State)	Award/Medal
Gunjan Agarwal	Gurgaon, Haryana	Silver Medal
Sanjana Philo Chacko	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Silver Medal
Larissa	Hisar, Haryana	Bronze Medal
Saeed Vitthal Patil	Pune, Maharashtra	Bronze Medal

## Guiding Force: A Dedicated Mentorship

The Indian team's success can be attributed to the unwavering guidance and support provided by the esteemed mentors, **Sahil Mhaskar** (Head), **Ms. Aditi Muthkhode** (Deputy Head), and **Ms. Ananya Ranade** (Supervisor) from the **Chennai Mathematical Institute**. Their mentorship has been instrumental in shaping the team's exceptional performance.

## A Remarkable Milestone

This achievement marks the second time in India's EGMO journey, which began in 2015, that all four participants have secured medals at the prestigious competition. This feat not only celebrates the individual brilliance of the participants but also highlights India's growing stature in the global mathematical arena.

## Nurturing Excellence: TIFR-HBCSE's Pivotal Role

The **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) – Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education (HBCSE)** serves as India's nodal center for Olympiad programs in various disciplines, including Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, and Junior Science. With structured training through the **EGMO Training Camp (EGMOTC)** and continuous support from the **National Board of Higher Mathematics** (Department of Atomic Energy), HBCSE plays a pivotal role in nurturing and preparing talented students for prestigious international competitions.

## Felicitation Ceremony: Celebrating Excellence

To honor the achievements of the Indian delegation, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the Main Building of HBCSE on the morning of April 18, 2024. The ceremony served as a platform to celebrate the remarkable success of these young mathematical prodigies and acknowledge their dedication and hard work.

As India continues to foster an environment that nurtures and encourages excellence in the field of mathematics, the achievements of the Indian team at the 13th EGMO 2024 serve as a testament to the nation's commitment to promoting and recognizing exceptional talent on the global stage.

### National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to make history as the **first Indian Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi to grace the cover of Newsweek**. In a comprehensive interview, PM Modi discussed a spectrum of topics, including China, economic reforms, the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Quad alliance, and the role of democracy in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a gesture of solidarity and support, **India has donated 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations in Nepal**, bolstering infrastructure in the crucial sectors of health and education. **Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava**, officiated the handover ceremony alongside Finance Minister Barshaman Pun. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards advancing India's rail infrastructure, the country is gearing up to launch an indigenous **bullet train** capable of reaching speeds exceeding **250 kilometres per hour (km/h)**. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize high-speed rail travel in India, showcasing the nation's engineering prowess and commitment to cutting-edge technology. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a move to simplify and streamline the process of students' transition from one school to another, the School Education Department in the state has made the use of **Permanent Education Number (PEN)** mandatory from the academic year 2024-25. PEN is a unique identification number assigned to every student by the Union Ministry of Education, through the **UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus)** portal, which covers more than 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### States in the News

- In a remarkable feat of engineering and tourism development, the state of **Uttar Pradesh** has unveiled its first-ever **glass skywalk bridge**, located at the enchanting **Tulsi (Shabari) Waterfall in Chitrakoot**. This innovative and visually stunning structure, shaped like Lord Ram's bow and arrow, is poised to become a premier eco-tourism destination for visitors to the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh** enthusiastically celebrates the **Longte festival**, one of their biggest cultural events. Unlike many other tribal festivals, Longte prohibits the sacrifice of animals, instead adorning altars with decorative white feathers and bamboo decorations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In the realm of environmental conservation, Madhya Pradesh emerges as a frontrunner in the effective execution of the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** initiated by the central government. Over the past two months, the GCP has **greenlit tree plantation initiatives spanning across 500 land parcels, encompassing 4,980 hectares spread over 10 states**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### International Affairs

- **Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong**, after two decades in office, will step down on May 15, passing the baton to his deputy, Lawrence Wong. The transition marks a significant moment for Singapore as it prepares for new leadership amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the new Prime Minister** following the resignation of **Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah**. Sheikh Ahmad, born in 1952, brings extensive experience in finance and government, having held various ministerial positions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, **Nigeria** has become the inaugural nation to introduce the **innovative Men5CV vaccine, recommended by the WHO**, targeting five strains of meningococcal bacteria. This historic milestone holds immense promise in combating meningitis, a severe threat in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. The vaccine rollout, **funded by Gavi, is a crucial step towards achieving the WHO's goal of eliminating meningitis by 2030**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- India and Mauritius recently signed an amendment to their **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** on March 7, 2024. The amendment includes a **principal purpose test (PPT)** aimed at combating tax avoidance by ensuring that treaty benefits are granted only for transactions with a genuine purpose. This move raises concerns about increased scrutiny on foreign portfolio investments via Mauritius and potential implications for past investments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Apple has partnered with CleanMax to deploy 14.4 megawatts** of rooftop solar installations across six industrial sites in India, aimed at reducing emissions associated with its operations in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Books and Authors**

- Celebrated British-American author **Salman Rushdie** is set to release his memoir **“Knife”**, recounting the chilling experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and his journey to overcome the near-fatal ordeal. The book serves as a powerful testament to Rushdie’s unwavering commitment to free speech, a core value that has defined his life and literary career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the ever-evolving landscape of legal discourse, the book **“Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond,”** edited by **Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh**, stands as a remarkable exploration of the intricate relationship between two seemingly disparate realms – the domain of law and the realm of spirituality. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In his recently published memoir, **“Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career,”** former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Duvvuri Subbarao** takes readers on a captivating journey through his distinguished career, spanning diverse roles from sub-collector to finance secretary and ultimately, the helm of the central bank. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The launch of **Bhimeswara Challa’s** book, **“India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda,”** at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) campus in Hyderabad marks a significant moment in the intellectual discourse surrounding the future of the nation. As a former United Nations official, Challa brings a unique perspective to the table, offering a compelling and ambitious vision for India’s path to renaissance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has implemented service charges for **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** transactions, effective from June 15, 2022. AePS is a bank-led model allowing online financial transactions at **Point of Sale (PoS)** terminals through Aadhaar authentication, enabling various banking services. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government aims to produce **170 million tonnes of coal** from captive and commercial coal blocks in the upcoming financial year, as per the review conducted by M Nagaraju, the additional secretary of coal. Representatives from **74 coal mines participated** in the review meeting, expressing confidence in achieving the set target. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Trade between **India and China** has historically seen **India importing more than it exports**. In April 2022, India faced a **trade deficit of -8.37 Billion USD**, which improved **slightly to -1.38 Billion USD in April 2023** but still remained a deficit. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- March 2024 witnessed a **positive inflation rate of 0.53% in India’s Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** compared to March 2023. This inflation was primarily attributed to increased prices in food articles, electricity, crude petroleum & natural gas, machinery & equipment, and other manufacturing sectors. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In March 2024, **India’s goods exports surged to a 12-month high at \$41.68 billion**, marking a significant achievement despite a slight decrease of 0.67% compared to the previous year. Notably, the goods trade deficit narrowed to \$15.6 billion, the lowest in 11 months. This boost was largely propelled by a substantial decline in gold imports by 53.6%, offset by a remarkable 1059% increase in silver imports. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India’s merchandise trade deficit reached a low of \$15.60 billion annually in March**, marking a significant reduction in the yearly deficit to \$240.2 billion in FY24. This decline comes as India strategically curtails its overseas purchases. Economists had initially estimated **March’s deficit to be \$18.55 billion**, making this reduction even more noteworthy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** has entered into a strategic **partnership with Bank of India (BOI)** to introduce mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products. This collaboration targets salaried and self-employed individuals in the affordable housing sector, aiming to enhance accessibility to homeownership. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a recent move, **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** announced that its stake in FMCG major **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** has surpassed 5%. The Corporation augmented its shareholding in **HUL from 4.99% to 5.01%** of the company’s paid-up capital by acquiring additional shares from the open market. This increase amounted to a purchase of 3,05,000 equity shares, bringing **LIC’s total shares in HUL to 11,77,18,555**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **IMF projects India’s GDP to grow at 6.8% in FY25**, with a slight dip to 6.5% in FY26, attributing the strength to robust domestic demand and a growing working-age population. For **FY24, the IMF raised its GDP growth projection to 7.8%**, reflecting continued economic momentum. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to a surge in cyber fraud incidents, including the Bank of Baroda World app scam, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) halted Bank of Baroda’s customer onboarding on its **‘BoB World’ mobile app in October 2023**. The Finance Ministry is now proposing stringent measures to combat such frauds, focusing on enhancing cybersecurity and bolstering financial institutions’ due diligence practices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Fitch Ratings has upheld the long-term **issuer default rating (IDR) of “BBB-”** for both the State Bank of India (SBI) and Canara Bank. The agency also maintains a **“stable”** outlook for these state-run lenders. Despite variations in risk appetite and loan growth patterns, both banks exhibit adequate capacity for fulfilling their financial commitments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Mahindra Susten, a subsidiary of the Mahindra Group,** enters the hybrid renewable energy sector with a **₹1,200-Crore project in Maharashtra,** combining 101 MW wind and 52 MW solar capacity. The project aims to generate 460 million kWh of clean energy and offset 420,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Adani family, led by Gautam Adani, has infused ₹8,339 crore into Ambuja Cements Ltd.,** increasing their **stake to 70.3%.** This investment, part of a larger strategy, aims to bolster Ambuja’s growth trajectory and cement its position in the market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **SBI Life Insurance has inaugurated IdeationX,** a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering life insurance innovation. This initiative encourages future leaders from top B-Schools to devise unconventional solutions that cater to evolving consumer needs in the insurance sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, **Sany India,** a leading manufacturer of mining and construction equipment, has launched the **SKT105E Electric Dump Truck.** This remarkable feat marks a significant milestone in the Indian mining industry, as the SKT105E becomes the first locally manufactured electric off-highway dump truck, paving the way for a more environmentally conscious and cost-effective future. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **UNCTAD forecasts India’s GDP growth at 6.5% in 2024, a slight deceleration from the previous year’s 6.7%.** This projection aligns with the IMF’s revised forecast, attributing growth to strong public investment and the services sector. The report highlights the trend of multinational corporations shifting manufacturing processes to India, which bolsters exports. Despite moderated commodity prices, restrained public consumption spending is offset by robust public investment, sustaining growth momentum. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India’s electronics industry experienced a notable surge in exports, reaching \$29.12 billion in fiscal year 2023-24, a substantial 23.6% increase from the previous year. This growth is particularly significant amid an overall contraction of the country’s total exports by 3%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- RuPay, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), introduces the ‘Link it, Forget it’ campaign during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024.** This initiative aims to showcase the seamless integration of RuPay credit cards with UPI, emphasizing the convenience of leaving physical wallets behind. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Bandhan Life Insurance, formerly known as Aegon Life Insurance,** has rebranded itself with the tagline **‘Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Se’,** reflecting its commitment to empowering the aspirations of India. Under the ownership of Bandhan Financial Holdings, the company is embarking on an aggressive growth strategy, aiming to recruit 1,000 new employees and expand its customer base. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **CRED, the Bengaluru-based fintech start-up,** has recently obtained in-principle approval for a payment aggregator license, as reported by the Economic Times. This significant development allows CRED to broaden its services beyond its focus on reward-based credit card payments. With the new license, CRED can now facilitate merchant payments directly, enhancing its role in the digital payments ecosystem. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Airtel Payments Bank has introduced NCMC-aligned debit and prepaid cards in collaboration with NPCI, powered by RuPay.** These cards are designed to support India’s **One Nation, One Card initiative.** Savings account holders can avail NCMC-enabled debit cards, while wallet users can opt for prepaid cards. Crafted from eco-friendly e-PVC material, these cards offer versatility in payment options, including offline transit transactions, online shopping, and enhanced security with EMV Chip protection. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- According to a recent report by S&P Global, **three Indian banks—State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank—**have secured positions among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region based on their assets. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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### Appointments/Resignations

- In a significant development, **Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul**, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in financial services and banking, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Posts. Kaul, a 1989-batch Indian Postal Service officer, currently serves as **Member (Banking & Direct Benefit Transfer) of the Postal Services Board**. She will succeed Vineet Pandey upon his superannuation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Supreme Court Justice Aniruddha Bose** has been named the new director of the **National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal**, as announced by Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud during a ceremonial bench held on April 10. The NJA, established in 1993, operates under the guidance of the Supreme Court and aims to enhance the skills of judges and facilitate court administration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development in India's law enforcement landscape, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior **IPS officer Anurag Kumar as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. This move, which comes into effect immediately, underscores the government's confidence in Kumar's leadership and expertise to serve in this crucial role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kristalina Georgieva** has been re-appointed as the **Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for a new 5-year term starting on 1 October 2024. She was the sole candidate nominated for the position this year, and her appointment was made by the IMF executive board. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- BharatPe**, the fintech company that has been making waves in the Indian payments landscape, has officially elevated **Nalin Negi** as its chief executive officer. This move comes 15 months after Negi took charge as the company's interim CEO and chief financial officer, during a period of significant upheaval and transition. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Central Government** has entrusted IAS officer **Saurabh Garg** with the additional charge of Secretary of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. This decision, communicated through an order issued by the **Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)**, underscores Garg's extensive experience and expertise in the realm of public administration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved two key appointments in India's premier security agencies. **Nalin Prabhat**, a 1992 batch **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the **Director-General of the**

**National Security Guard (NSG)**, while **Sapna Tewari**, a 1992 batch IPS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the **Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** greenlights **Ajith Kumar KK's appointment as Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank**, marking a pivotal moment amidst the bank's preparations for a ₹300 crore rights issue. The leadership transition follows a series of senior management exits amid internal conflicts. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move to capitalize on the rapid economic growth in India and fortify its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, **Intel Corporation** has announced the appointment of new executives for its **Sales, Marketing, and Communications Group (SMG)**. This reorganization is part of the company's ongoing transformation initiatives. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Defence News

- In a significant milestone for India's defense capability, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Indian Army have successfully conducted trials of the indigenously designed and developed **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**. This indigenous development marks a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defense systems, as underscored by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- DRDO conducted a successful test flight of the **Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha**. The missile showcased excellent performance, closely monitored by various sensors and the Indian Air Force. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- During his visit to **Uzbekistan from April 15-18, 2024**, **Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande**, marked a significant milestone in bilateral defense cooperation between India and Uzbekistan by inaugurating a state-of-the-art IT Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces. This initiative stems from a commitment made during the Defence Ministers' meeting in September 2018, highlighting the growing partnership between the two nations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Government of India has appointed **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, currently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**, as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **April 30, 2024**. He will succeed the present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, who retires from service on the same day. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant move reflecting the deepening military cooperation between India and the Philippines amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, India has successfully delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. This delivery marks the fruition of a **\$375 million deal signed in January 2022**, making the Philippines the first export customer for this **joint venture missile between India and Russia**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- In a remarkable achievement, Indian-American actress **Avantika Vandanapu**, best known for her role as Karen Shetty in the 2024 musical comedy "Mean Girls," has been honored with the prestigious **"South Asian Person of the Year" award by Harvard University**. This accolade recognizes Vandanapu's outstanding contributions to the arts and her role in promoting South Asian representation in global media. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Mamta G. Sagar**, a renowned Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist based in Bengaluru, has added another feather to her cap by winning the prestigious **World Literary Prize** from the **World Organization of Writers (WOW)**. This prestigious accolade recognizes Sagar's exceptional contributions to the world of literature, solidifying her status as a trailblazing literary icon. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **World Economic Forum** has named **Adwaita Nayar**, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, as a **'2024 Young Global Leader'**. This prestigious recognition highlights Nayar's remarkable achievements as a change-maker and entrepreneur, solidifying her place among the most influential young leaders in the world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a prestigious ceremony, **Vels University in Chennai** conferred an honorary doctorate in literature upon renowned Indian actor **Ram Charan**. This distinguished recognition celebrates Charan's remarkable contributions to the world of cinema and his profound impact on audiences across the globe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous announcement, the prestigious **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** will be presented to the esteemed Hindi cinema actor, **Amitabh Bachchan**, this year. This honour, bestowed by the **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratisthan Public Charitable Trust and the Mangeshkar family**, serves as a testament to Bachchan's exceptional contributions to the world of Indian cinema over the span of his illustrious five-and-a-half-decade career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In response to the soaring gold prices, **expected to surpass \$2700 per ounce** this year amidst escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a significant policy amendment. This move allows resident entities to diversify their hedging strategies against gold price volatility in overseas markets. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Deepika Soreng**, the promising forward of the **India Women's Hockey Team**, has been honoured with the prestigious **Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award** for Upcoming Player of the Year during the **Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023**. The award recognizes her outstanding performance and immense potential as a rising star in the sport. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kaushik Rajashekara**, a distinguished professor at the **University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering**, has been elected as an **International Fellow** of the prestigious **Engineering Academy of Japan**. This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of **power conversion** and the **electrification of transportation**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- American President **Joe Biden** hosted the **inaugural trilateral summit among the United States, Japan, and the Philippines** on April 11, 2024, at the White House in Washington D.C. The meeting underscored the commitment of the United States to support its allies, Japan and the Philippines, amid escalating territorial disputes with China. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **16th World Future Energy Summit** has commenced in **Abu Dhabi**, drawing together global leaders, policymakers, and experts in sustainable energy and climate initiatives. The summit aims to foster dialogue on key issues like global climate action, renewable energy, energy security, and sustainable development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The devastating conflict in Sudan has plunged the nation into a profound humanitarian crisis, prompting the international community to take swift action. On April 15, 2024, the French capital, **Paris**, hosted an **International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and Neighbouring Countries**, organized in response to the United Nations' funding appeal on February 7, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- India ranks among the **top twelve countries responsible for 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste**, as highlighted in the recent Plastic Overshoot Day report by Switzerland's EA Earth Action. Despite having the lowest per capita plastic waste production globally, **India is expected to generate 7.4 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste in 2024**, a figure the report deems "very high." ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Airports Council International (ACI) World** recently released its rankings for the busiest airports worldwide in 2023. **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport secured the tenth position**, handling 7.22 crore passengers annually. This marks a significant progression from its 2019 ranking of 17th place, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Global Forest Watch reveals that India has experienced significant **tree cover loss since 2000, totaling 2.33 million hectares**. This loss includes both natural disturbances and human-induced factors, impacting the country's carbon balance and climate change. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Alia Bhatt's inclusion in TIME Magazine's '100 Most Influential People of 2024'** underscores her remarkable ascent as a global icon. Renowned director Tom Harper, lauding her as a **"truly international star,"** highlights her multifaceted talent and magnetic presence both on and off-screen. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)** has been honored with the **'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024'** award by Skytrax. The announcement took place during the **Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany**, on April 17. This accolade underscores the exceptional quality of service provided by the airport's staff across various fronts, as evaluated through meticulous audits and assessments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- The **United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)** latest report, titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: **Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,**" sheds light on India's population dynamics and the persistent disparities in sexual and reproductive health. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Sports News

- In a display of unparalleled skill and consistency, **Rashmi Kumari** has etched her name deeper into the annals of Indian carrom history by claiming her **12th National Carrom Championship title**. The three-time World Champion overcame a tough challenge from **K Nagajothi in the women's final**, emerging victorious with a scoreline of 25-8, 14-20, 25-20. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Nepal's 24-year-old all-rounder Dipendra Singh Airee** etched his name in the history books by smashing six sixes in a single over during the **ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup clash against Qatar** in Al Amerat. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Lithuania's rising star in the discus throw, **Mykolas Alekna**, etched his name in the annals of athletics history. At the Oklahoma Throws Series meeting in Ramona, the 21-year-old Alekna shattered the longest-standing men's world record in track and field, hurling the discus to an incredible distance of **74.35 meters\***. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece** swept aside his opponent, Casper Ruud of Norway, with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 victory to win the prestigious clay-court **Monte Carlo Masters for the third time in four years**. The emotional triumph was marked by Tsitsipas' tears of joy as he sat in his chair, reflecting on his hard-fought journey to this momentous achievement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** took the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 by storm, crushing their opponents Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) with a record-breaking total of **287 runs for the loss of just 3 wickets**. Pat Cummins-led team had scored 277 for 3 in its second match of the ongoing edition against **Mumbai Indians** at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, breaking the then record of 263 for 5, set by RCB against the now-defunct **Pune Warriors India in 2013 in Bengaluru**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamshala** has become the first **BCCI-accredited venue** to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'. This new technology is set to transform the game, as future international and IPL matches will be played on this innovative track. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In the 2024 edition of the prestigious **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack**, two exceptional talents have been crowned as the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World, **Australian captain Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable display of skill, flexibility, and unwavering determination, India's young skating sensation, **Takshvi Vaghani**, has etched her name in the record books by setting a new world record for the **lowest limbo skating over 25 metres**. On April 18, 2024, the 6-year-old prodigy from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, defied the boundaries of human agility, gliding across the 25-meter distance at a mere **16 cm (6.29 in)** above the ground. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rohit Sharma**, the former captain of the **Mumbai Indians**, etched his name in the annals of **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history by becoming only the second player to feature in **250 IPL matches**. This remarkable milestone was achieved during a match against the **Punjab Kings** in Mullanpur, Chandigarh, further solidifying Rohit's status as an IPL legend. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- The **Indian government** has launched **CDP-SURAKSHA**, a groundbreaking digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the **Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**. This initiative comes amidst the significant contribution of the horticulture sector to **India's agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)**, with consistent growth in crop production over the years. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- At the 42nd **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** annual meet, **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** announced India's pledge to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030. This commitment aligns with global efforts to ensure the sustainability of space exploration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the landmark **Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India Case 2023**, the **Special Marriage Act of 1954** was challenged for its exclusion of same-sex marriages, citing a violation of Article 14 of the fundamental rights. Despite the Act allowing marriages between individuals of different religions, it did not extend this provision to same-sex couples. The committee, chaired by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, comprises six members including secretaries from key ministries. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- Since its inception in 2001, **SPACE India** has been on a mission to integrate **Astronomy and Space Science** into school curricula nationwide, inspiring over 1.5 million students across 1,000 schools. The organization has been instrumental in demystifying rocket science and making space education accessible to all. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards enhancing India's naval capabilities, the Department of Defence (R&D) and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE)** at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **European astronomers** have made a groundbreaking discovery – the largest **stellar black hole** in our **Milky Way galaxy**. Named '**BH-3**', this celestial behemoth has a staggering mass **33 times greater than our Sun** and is located a mere **2,000 light-years** away from Earth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg** has announced the launch of the company's advanced AI assistant, **Meta AI**, powered by the state-of-the-art language model **Llama 3**. The new AI offering is designed to enhance the user experience across Meta's popular apps, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger, while also being available on a dedicated website, meta.ai. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Important Days News

- **International Turban Day** is an annual celebration observed on **April 13th** to honour the rich cultural and religious significance of the turban in Sikhism. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of the turban as a symbol of Sikh identity and to promote religious harmony and intercultural understanding. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Siachen Glacier, situated in the Karakoram range of the Himalayas, has long been a strategically important region for both India and Pakistan. On **13 April 1984**, the **Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF)** launched **Operation Meghdoot**, a daring and unprecedented military operation to secure the heights dominating the Northern Ladakh region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- On April 14, 2024, India celebrates **World Quantum Day**, a global initiative to raise awareness and appreciation of quantum science and technology. As a nation aspiring to become a global leader in various fields of Quantum Science and Technology, India's efforts have gained significant momentum with the launch of the **National Quantum Mission (NQM) in 2023**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **April 15th**, people around the globe celebrate **World Art Day**, a tribute to the enduring impact of art across various cultures and societies. The theme for World Art Day 2024, "**A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art**,". ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **World Hemophilia Day** is an annual observance held on **April 17th** to raise awareness about hemophilia, a rare and inherited bleeding disorder. This year, the theme for World Hemophilia Day 2024 is "**Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders**." This article will explore the history, significance, and importance of this important health observance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **World Heritage Day**, also known as the **International Day for Monuments and Sites**, is observed annually on **April 18**. This year, the special day falls on Thursday, April 18, 2024. For 2024, the theme is "**Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter**". ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- On **April 19th**, the global community comes together to observe **World Liver Day**, an initiative dedicated to shedding light on the importance of liver health and promoting preventive measures against liver diseases. This annual event serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness, encouraging lifestyle changes, and supporting those affected by liver-related conditions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **National Civil Service Day** is celebrated annually on **April 21st** in India. The first ever **National Civil Services Day** in India was celebrated on **April 21, 2006**. It was recognized to commemorate the first **Home Minister of India – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- The Australian cricketing community has lost a true icon with the passing of former Cricket Australia (CA) chair, **Jack Clarke**, at the age of 70 in Adelaide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The cricket world is in mourning as it bids farewell to one of its most revered figures, **Derek Underwood**, who has passed away at the age of 78. Underwood, a legendary spinner who represented England for over 15 years, was a true icon of the game, leaving an indelible mark on the sport with his exceptional skill and unwavering dedication. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **K.G. Jayan**, a towering figure in Carnatic music and Malayalam cinema, passed away, at his residence in Thripunitura, Kerala. He was 90 years old. The legendary musician had been battling various age-related ailments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Squadron Leader **Dalip Singh Majithia**, the oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, passed away at the age of 103. Majithia's life was a testament to a lifetime of service, adventure, and a deep love for aviation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The cricketing world mourns the loss of a legendary figure as **Raman Subba Row**, the former England Test batsman, has passed away at the age of 92. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the sorrowful news, paying tribute to England's oldest living men's Test cricketer at the time of his demise. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- **Comet Pons-Brooks**, currently orbiting near Jupiter, is captivating astronomers and stargazers alike as it approaches its closest point to the Sun on April 21, 2024. Its increasing brightness and elongating tail make it a spectacle in the night sky, visible even to the naked eye. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant ruling, the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act**. Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds. Parray had been held since May based on allegations of being associated with terrorist groups, but the court found the detention illegal and ordered his immediate release. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, two iconic products from the historic city of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, have been granted the coveted **Geographical Indication (GI)** status. On April 16, 2024, the GI Registry Office based in Chennai announced that the **Tiranga Barfi** of Varanasi and the **Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft** have been included in the prestigious GI category. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking event that blurs the lines between reality and artificial intelligence, the world is set to witness the first-ever beauty pageant exclusively for **AI-generated models and influencers**. Dubbed "**Miss AI**," this unique contest will pit these virtual creations against each other, judging them on their online presence, aesthetics, and the technical prowess behind their creation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Static Takeaways**

- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Chief of the Air Staff of India: Vivek Ram Chaudhari;
- IAF Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan.
- DRDO founded: 1958;
- DRDO Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi;
- DRDO Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO.
- CBI Founded: 1 April 1963;
- CBI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman & CEO of Foxconn: Young Liu
- Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in: 1983
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Shri Bhupender Yadav
- Oracle Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States;
- Oracle Founders: Larry Ellison, Bob Miner, Ed Oates;
- Oracle CEO: Safra Catz (18 Sept 2014–).
- Minister for Animal Husbandry in Madhya Pradesh: Ms. Kusum Mehendale
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India: Ajay Kumar Sood
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982

- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India: Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited: Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Chairperson of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet: Narendra Modi;
- Israel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Currency: New Israeli Shekel (NIS).
- Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board: AK Jain
- Chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights : Priyank Kanoongo
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- Minister of Minority Affairs: Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani.
- Intel CEO: Patrick P. Gelsinger (15 Feb 2021–);
- Intel Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- Intel Chairperson: Omar Ishrak.

