

# Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th of May 2024

## World's super-rich list of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index

**Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani** have made it to the **top 15 world's super-rich list of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. This marks a significant achievement, especially for Gautam Adani, who reclaimed his position after losing it in 2023 due to short selling in his company's stock. Notably, for the first time, all individuals in the top 15 have a net worth of \$100 billion or more.

### Mukesh Ambani's Ranking and Wealth

**Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is **ranked 12th with a wealth of \$110 billion**. RIL operates across various sectors including petrochemicals, oil and gas, telecom, retail, and financial services, making Ambani one of the wealthiest individuals globally.

### Gautam Adani's Comeback

**Gautam Adani, with a wealth of \$100 billion, is ranked 14th**. Adani Group's business interests span ports, airports, power generation and transmission, green energy, edible oils, cement, and real estate. After a challenging year in 2023 due to accusations from Hindenburg Research and a subsequent sharp decline in his company's stock prices, Adani's fortunes rebounded. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Supreme Court cleared his name, leading to a resurgence in share prices driven by foreign investment.

### First Woman to Reach \$100 Billion

**Bettencourt Meyers**, owner of the famous **L'Oreal company**, has become the **first woman to achieve a net worth of \$100 billion**. Her wealth reached \$101 billion, placing her **14th on the list**, due to L'Oreal's share price recording its best year since 1998. This milestone marks a significant achievement in gender representation among the world's wealthiest.

## Richest Person in South America

**Carlos Slim of Mexico**, with a **net worth of \$106 billion**, has been included in the list for the first time, **ranking 13th**. Slim's wealth comes from his diverse business interests, including construction, telecommunications, and retail. He is the richest person in South America, highlighting the region's economic potential.

## World's Richest Man

**Bernard Arnault**, the founder and CEO of LVMH, continues to lead the **world's richest list with a net worth of \$222 billion**. LVMH's luxury brands have maintained robust performance, securing Arnault's top position.

Other notable rankings on the list of billionaires in the world:

- **Jeff Bezos**: The founder of Amazon.com Inc. is the second richest person with a net worth of \$208 billion.
- **Elon Musk**: CEO of Tesla, ranks third with a net worth of \$187 billion. Despite a significant drop of over \$40 billion this year, Musk remains one of the wealthiest individuals globally.

## Buddha Purnima 2024

**Buddha Purnima 2024**, also known as **Buddha Jayanti or Vesak**, is celebrated on Thursday, **23 May 2024**. This significant Buddhist festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha. Observed with reverence across South, Southeast, and East Asia, the day is marked by prayer meetings, religious discussions, and cultural events, highlighting the profound teachings and enduring legacy of the Buddha.

### Buddha Purnima 2024 – Date

Buddha Purnima, also known as **Buddha Jayanti or Vesak**, will be celebrated on Thursday, 23 May 2024. This day is a public holiday in several Indian states, including Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Buddha Purnima 2024: History

Buddha Purnima commemorates the **birth, enlightenment, and death (Mahaparinirvana) of Prince Siddhartha Gautama**, who later became known as Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Born around **563-483 BCE in Lumbini, Nepal**, Siddhartha Gautama was the son of **King Śuddhodana** and **Queen Maya Devi**. Raised in luxury, he was shielded from the sufferings of the world until he encountered old age, sickness, and death during excursions outside the palace. These encounters led him to renounce his royal life and seek enlightenment.

After years of ascetic practices and meditation under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, India, Siddhartha attained enlightenment and became the Buddha. He spent the rest of his life teaching the path to Nirvana until his **death at the age of 80**.

**Significance of Buddha Purnima**

Buddha Purnima is a significant festival in the Buddhist tradition, celebrated across **South, Southeast, and East Asia**. It marks the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha, making it a day of great reverence for Buddhists worldwide.

The festival is observed according to the lunisolar calendars used in Asian countries, and the date varies each year in the Gregorian calendar, typically falling in April or May. In some leap years, it may extend into June. The public holiday for Buddha Purnima in India was **first introduced by B. R. Ambedkar**, a key figure in Indian history and a convert to Buddhism.

**Celebrations of Buddha Purnima 2024**

- **Rituals and Observances:** On Buddha Purnima, Buddhists gather at viharas (monasteries) and engage in extended sessions of reading Buddhist sutras, resembling religious services. Idols of the Buddha are worshipped, prayer meetings are held, and devotees participate in religious discussions and group meditations.
- **Major Sites:** In Bodh Gaya, the Mahabodhi Temple is adorned with colorful decorations, and special prayers are conducted under the Bodhi tree, where Buddha attained enlightenment. The national museum in Delhi also displays holy relics of the Buddha on this day.
- **Food Traditions:** A popular dish prepared on Buddha Purnima is 'Kheer,' a sweet rice and milk pudding. This dish is symbolic and is shared among devotees as a part of the celebration.
- **International Celebrations:** While Buddha Purnima is a major festival in India, it is also celebrated with great enthusiasm in countries like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other parts of South, Southeast, and East Asia. Each region has its own unique traditions and rituals to honor the Buddha.
- **Community and Cultural Events:** Public talks, seminars, and cultural performances are often organized to spread the teachings of the Buddha and to reflect on his life and philosophy. These events aim to promote peace, compassion, and understanding among people.

**National Affairs**

- The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over **Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission**, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem. Spearheaded by a public-private partnership model, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition** has made its mark in Dubai as a prestigious platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from India. The event aimed to uncover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** recently marked **International Women in Maritime Day**, recognizing the significant contributions of 27 women seafarers to the maritime industry. The event aimed to honor these professionals and promote gender equality within the maritime sector. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)** and the 26th Meeting of the **Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In a significant stride, India's market capitalization has surged to **\$5 trillion, marking a historic achievement**. This remarkable feat was accomplished in under six months since surpassing the \$4 trillion mark, showcasing the nation's robust economic resilience and investor confidence. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- As the **Doordarshan** channel **DD Kisan** marks its **9th anniversary on 26 May 2024**, it is set to embark on a remarkable journey by introducing **Krish and Bhoomi**, the first **AI anchors** in India's government broadcasting history. This groundbreaking move underscores the channel's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology to better serve the nation's agricultural community. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- India is the only country among the world's top five crude steel producers to record positive growth in April 2024, according to the **World Steel Association**. India, the second-largest crude steel producer globally, achieved a **growth rate of 3.9% compared to April 2023**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**States in the News**

- Assam has taken a significant step towards enhancing its disaster management capabilities with the launch of the **Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS)**. This state-of-the-art digital platform, an initiative of the **Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)**, aims to streamline the reporting and assessment of damages caused by various disasters, enabling prompt disbursement of aid to those affected. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Karnataka government** has mandated a **33% reservation for women** in outsourced government jobs. This aligns with existing quotas for permanent positions and applies to jobs lasting more than 45 days and involving over 20 employees. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**International Affairs**

- In the latest move against perceived infringements on its territorial claims, China has sanctioned **Boeing and two other US defense companies** for their involvement in **arms sales to Taiwan**. The announcement came on the day of Taiwan’s presidential inauguration, highlighting tensions in the region. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Venezuela** has recently witnessed a poignant environmental milestone, marking a grim reality of the climate crisis. The nation has likely become the **first in modern history to lose all its glaciers**, with the reclassification of the Humboldt glacier as an ice field, its final icy vestige, earlier this month. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Japanese consortium** has unveiled the prototype of what is touted to be the **world’s first high-speed 6G device**, promising data transfer rates at lightning speed. This groundbreaking innovation opens the door to a realm of possibilities previously unimaginable. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In a proud moment for Kannadigas and dairy farmers in Karnataka, the **Scotland cricket team** has unveiled its **new ICC T20 World Cup jersey** adorned with the **Karnataka Milk Federation’s (KMF) Nandini logo**. This collaboration signifies a significant milestone, bridging the worlds of cricket and dairy in a unique partnership. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Iran** mourns its **President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian**, and other officials who were killed in a **helicopter crash in northwest Iran**. This incident occurs amidst heightened tensions in West Asia, notably the ongoing conflict between **Israel and Gaza** and the broader geopolitical confrontations involving Iran, Israel, and the US. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Lai Ching-te was sworn in as Taiwan’s new President** in a ceremony on Monday after winning the election earlier this year. He succeeds **Tsai Ing-wen**, who led Taiwan through eight years marked by economic and social progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic and China’s increasing military threats. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **To Lam**, Vietnam’s former minister of public security, has been confirmed as the nation’s new president by the National Assembly. His rise comes amid an ongoing **anti-corruption campaign** that has shaken the country’s political establishment and business elites, resulting in multiple high-level government changes. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- Spain has officially become the **99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. The Instrument of Ratification was handed over by Spain’s Ambassador to India, José María Ridao Domínguez, to Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, during a meeting in New Delhi. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **European Union** has given the **final green light to the AI Act**, marking a historic step in regulating artificial intelligence. This groundbreaking legislation establishes comprehensive rules to ensure trust, transparency, and accountability in AI technologies while fostering innovation within Europe. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Amid the ongoing **Israel-Hamas conflict**, Ireland, Norway, and Spain have formally recognized Palestine as a state. In response, Israel has recalled its ambassadors to Ireland and Norway, with warnings directed at Spain. This move adds to the diplomatic tensions amidst the escalating **violence in Gaza**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF)**, will transition from his current role to become chairman of the board of trustees by January next year, according to an emailed statement from the Geneva-based institution. This move is part of a planned **“governance evolution”** from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** awarded the **First-Class Medal of Independence to Jose Aguero Avila**, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the UAE, on the occasion of the end of his tenure as ambassador to the country. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **University of Tokyo** has inaugurated the **Atacama Observatory (TAO)**, which has been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the **highest observatory in the world**. Situated at a staggering **5,640 meters above sea level** on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region of Chile, TAO stands as a testament to human ingenuity and determination. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Books and Authors**

- **German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann** have won the prestigious **International Booker Prize** for their novel “Kairos.” The book, which tells the story of a **tangled love affair** during the final years of East Germany’s existence, beat out five other finalists from a pool of 149 submitted novels. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- The Indian economy showed robust growth in the first three quarters of the 2023-24 fiscal year, with GDP expanding by 8.2% in the June quarter, 8.1% in the September quarter, and 8.4% in the December quarter. India Ratings and Research (Ind-RA) expects the **GDP growth rate to be 6.7% for the March quarter and around 6.9-7% for the entire fiscal year**, according to their principal economist, Sunil Kumar Sinha. The official GDP numbers for Q4 and provisional estimates for FY24 will be released on May 31. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- SBI General Insurance, the non-life insurance arm of **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has launched ‘**Surety Bond Bima**’ to support infrastructure development by providing a security arrangement for infrastructure projects. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has made significant adjustments to the regulations governing surety bonds in response to feedback from insurance stakeholders. These changes aim to enhance the accessibility of surety insurance products and encourage more insurers to participate in servicing the growing demand across various sectors of the economy, particularly the infrastructure sector. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- SEBI has introduced significant amendments to its **Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations**, focusing on the computation of market capitalization for listed companies. The amendments aim to redefine the criteria for applicability and establish a defined period for calculating average **market capitalization**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- India’s MSME sector, contributing over **30% to the GDP** and employing **approximately 12 crore people**, faces a significant credit gap of around **Rs. 28.2 lakh crores**. **RXIL’s Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- **Fusion Micro Finance** has obtained a **\$25 million loan** from the **United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** to fuel its expansion plans, primarily focusing on empowering rural women entrepreneurs. The initial disbursement of \$20 million, part of an **eight-year loan**, aims to enhance business operations and advance financial inclusion efforts. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Bank of Maharashtra** has emerged as a top performer among public sector banks, showcasing impressive growth in total business and deposit mobilization. **With a 15.94% rise** in total business and a **15.66% increase in deposits**, it outshines competitors like State Bank of India. The bank’s focus on low-cost CASA deposits, coupled with robust loan growth and exemplary asset quality, positions it as a resilient and efficient player in the banking sector. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Public sector banks (PSBs)** are poised to deliver **approximately 30% higher dividends** to the government in FY24 compared to the previous fiscal year. The total dividends from PSBs are **estimated at ₹18,013 crore for FY24**, a significant uptick from ₹13,804 crore in FY23, reflecting their robust financial performance. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of affluent and elite customers, YES Bank has introduced ‘**YES Grandeur**,’ a premium banking service designed to provide tailored financial and lifestyle solutions. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Tata Motors’ subsidiaries, **Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV)** and **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPeM)**, have teamed up with Bajaj Finance to offer an innovative financing programme for their authorised passenger and electric vehicle dealers. This partnership aims to streamline financing options and support the business operations of these dealers. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Tech mogul **Elon Musk** introduced **SpaceX’s Starlink satellite** internet service in **Indonesia**, aiming to enhance connectivity in remote regions of the archipelago nation. The inauguration took place in Bali, where Musk, alongside Indonesian officials, emphasized the transformative potential of improved internet access. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In a strategic move to expand its foothold within the **Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City)**, the State Bank of India (SBI) has finalized the acquisition of a **6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC Limited**. The transaction, valued at ₹6.125 crore, marks SBI’s commitment to enhancing its role in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company, announced plans to construct a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Singapore with a focus on producing **antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)**, a promising class of **cancer-fighting medications**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Online food delivery platform **Swiggy** has partnered with **SHIELD**, a device-first risk AI platform, to bolster its **fraud prevention and detection capabilities**. This strategic move aims to address promo abuse and deter fraudulent practices within Swiggy's Delivery Partner ecosystem. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the transfer of **Rs 2.11 lakh crore** as a dividend to the Government of India for the financial year 2023-24. This announcement was made after the **Central Board of Directors meeting on 22 May 2024 in Mumbai**. This is the highest-ever dividend despite the Contingent Buffer Risk being increased to 6.5% for 2023-24. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has marked a significant milestone by exporting its first-ever consignment of **100 octane premium fuel, XP100, to Sri Lanka**. The high-quality fuel, designed for premium high-end vehicles, was **shipped from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai**. This event highlights IOCL's commitment to expanding its global reach and showcasing the quality of its products. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **SIDBI**, in collaboration with **Airbus Helicopters**, has entered the realm of helicopter financing in India through a recent **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. This partnership aims to facilitate the financing of Airbus helicopters for potential civil operators in the country. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **HDFC Bank** divested its entire **3.20% stake in Protean eGov Technologies**, amounting to 12,94,326 shares, for Rs 150 crore. The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 1,160.15 apiece through an open market transaction. Simultaneously, Nippon India Mutual Fund acquired a 3.16% stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 148 crore. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services**, a prominent player in India's non-banking finance sector, has secured a corporate agency license from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. This license empowers Mahindra Finance to act as a 'corporate agent (composite)' under the Insurance Act, 1938, facilitating the distribution of insurance products. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- **Net foreign direct investment (FDI)** into India experienced a notable decrease of **62.17%** in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), plummeting to **\$10.58 billion from the previous year's \$27.98 billion**. This decline is attributed primarily to increased repatriation of capital and Indian companies' investments abroad. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its nod for the **appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank**, marking a significant development for the private sector lender. The approval, granted for a tenure of three years, underscores the bank's commitment to strengthening its leadership team. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Sanjiv Puri, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd.**, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25. Puri succeeds R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, in this prestigious role. Alongside Puri, Rajiv Memani assumes the position of President-Designate, while R Mukundan takes on the role of Vice President for the same term. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** has reported significant increases in student enrollment under various categories from 2014-15 to 2021-22. According to data released on Saturday, enrollment of **Scheduled Caste (SC) students rose by 44%**, from 4.61 million to 6.62 million. SC female student enrollment increased by 51%. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India**, the world's largest television audience measurement organization, has appointed **Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri** as its new **Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics**. He will succeed **Dr. Derrick Gray**, a veteran in the field of audience measurement and advanced analytics, who has been an esteemed member of the BARC India team for six years. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Vedanta Aluminium** has announced the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **John Slaven**, as the **Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI)**. In this prominent role, Slaven will spearhead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a **Zero Carbon future**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Shri Ramesh Babu V.** has taken the **oath of office and secrecy** as a Member of the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** on May 21, 2024. The oath was administered by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **Shri R. K. Singh**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- The board of **IndiaFirst Life Insurance** has approved the promotion of **Rushabh Gandhi**, the current Deputy Chief Executive Officer, to the position of **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO)**. Gandhi's appointment marks a significant milestone for the company, aligning with its succession strategy. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS)** announced the inauguration of a **Simulation Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus. This state-of-the-art facility is set to bolster engineering support for Airbus's aircraft structural simulation activities across its European business units in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Defence News

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan** attended the **'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024'** on May 22, 2024, emphasizing the critical importance of enhancing India's cyber defence capabilities. Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency from May 20 to May 24, 2024, this comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to bolster collaboration and integration among military and national agencies, advancing the nation's cyber defence readiness. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of **Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) in Sri Lanka**. The stamp was presented by the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Senthil Thondaman. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The public sector company **NTPC** has secured the **third rank in the world for the Talent Development category** at the prestigious **ATD BEST Awards 2024**. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024. Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, NTPC's chief general manager strategic HR & talent management, accepted the award on behalf of the company. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Srinivas R. Kulkarni**, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the **prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy** for 2024. This prestigious recognition celebrates Kulkarni's **groundbreaking discoveries** in the field of astronomy, including his pioneering work on **millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- The 10th World Water Forum, **themed "Water for Shared Prosperity,"** officially commenced on May 21 in Bali, Indonesia. Attendees included numerous country leaders and United Nations representatives. The forum focused on four critical topics: water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- India has ascended to the **39th spot in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024**, marking a significant improvement from its 54th position in 2021. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, India showcases resilience and competitiveness in various aspects of its travel and tourism industry. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- According to a recent report by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, there are more than **4000 Gangetic dolphins in the Gangetic River basin**. **Over 2000** of these dolphins are found in **Uttar Pradesh**, primarily in the Chambal River. This increase suggests that the river's pollution levels are declining, and the government's conservation efforts are proving effective. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In the latest **Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index**, Delhi emerges as the **highest-ranked Indian city**, securing the **350th position** among the **world's 1000 largest cities**. However, no Indian city managed to break into the top 300. The index, encompassing cities from 163 countries, evaluates cities across five key categories: **Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance**. New York clinches the top spot, with London, San Jose, Tokyo, and Paris following suit. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

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**Sports News**

- **Cristiano Ronaldo**, despite nearing the twilight of his career, has secured the **top spot on Forbes’ list of the world’s highest-paid athletes**. His significant earnings in Saudi Arabia have propelled him to this position for the fourth time. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Indian para-athlete **Deepthi Jeevanji** etched her name in history by winning the **gold medal** in the women’s **T20 400m event** at the **World Para Athletics Championships 2024**. Her stunning performance on Monday not only secured India’s first gold medal at the prestigious event but also set a new **world record** time of **55.07 seconds**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The world’s third-ranked Indian badminton pair of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** etched their names in glory by winning the coveted **Thailand Open 2024** men’s doubles title. In a thrilling final clash on **May 19, 2024**, the dynamic duo defeated the Chinese pair of **Chen Bo Yang** and **Liu Yi** with a scoreline of **21-15, 21-15**, in a match that lasted **46 minutes**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **German tennis star Alexander Zverev** etched his name in history by winning the **Italian Open** singles title for the second time. The 25-year-old defeated the first-time Masters finalist, **Nicolas Jarry of Chile**, in straight sets, **6-4, 7-5**, to claim his eighth overall Masters title. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The Indian boxing contingent made a remarkable impact at the 3rd Elorda Cup 2024, held in the Kazakh capital city of **Astana**. The team returned with an impressive haul of **12 medals**, including **2 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Max Verstappen**, the defending Formula 1 World Champion, showcased his prowess on the track by clinching a hard-fought victory at the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024**. The Dutchman held off a spirited challenge from McLaren’s rising star, **Lando Norris**, to secure his third win of the season. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In a historic moment for South American football, **Brazil** was declared the host of the **2027 Women’s World Cup** at the **FIFA Congress**. The Brazilian bid triumphed over the joint bid from **Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany**, becoming the first South American country to secure the hosting rights for the prestigious tournament. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** has confirmed **Australia** as the hosts for the **AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026**. The continental football governing body made this announcement after the AFC Executive Committee ratified the recommendations of the AFC Women’s Football Committee at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has launched the **“Let’s Move India”** campaign in collaboration with the **Reliance Foundation** and the **Abhinav Bindra Foundation**. The initiative aims to celebrate the Olympians heading to the upcoming **Paris Olympics** and encourage everyone to participate in physical activity. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Schemes and Committees News**

- **India is embarking on Mission ISHAN**, aimed at consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur. This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Science and Technology News**

- Indian expatriate **Gopi Thotakura** joined the ranks of space explorers as the first **Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth’s atmosphere**. The NS-25 mission, part of **Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin program**, saw **Thotakura** and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, **Noise**, has announced the acquisition of the **AI-powered women’s wellness platform SocialBoat**. This strategic move is part of Noise’s broader strategy to **advance innovation in smart rings**, particularly its flagship wearable, the **Luna Ring**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

**Important Days News**

- **World Bee Day, observed on May 20**, marks the **birth anniversary of Anton Janša**, a pioneer in beekeeping. Established by the **United Nations in 2017**, this day highlights the critical role of bees in ensuring food security, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. The 2024 theme, **“Bee engaged with Youth,”** emphasizes the importance of involving young people in bee conservation efforts to protect these vital pollinators. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- On **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**, tea enthusiasts and advocates worldwide will come together to commemorate **International Tea Day**. This annual celebration honors the rich cultural heritage, economic significance, and environmental impact of the humble tea leaf. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- On **May 21st**, the world celebrates the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**. This important day, designated by UNESCO, aims to highlight the richness of global cultures and the vital role of **intercultural dialogue** in achieving peace and sustainable development. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

- **The International Day for Biological Diversity** is celebrated every year on **May 22**. This year, it falls on a Wednesday. The theme for 2024 is **“Be Part of the Plan.”** This theme encourages governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to showcase their efforts in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- India observes **Anti-Terrorism Day** on **21 May** to commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** by a suicide bomber from the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)**, a terrorist organization based in Sri Lanka. The day serves as a reminder of the devastating consequences of terrorism and emphasizes the need for vigilance against such threats. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed **May 24** as the **International Day of the Markhor**. This resolution, sponsored by Pakistan and eight other countries, aims to raise awareness and promote the conservation of this iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **World Turtle Day**, celebrated annually on **May 23**, aims to raise awareness about the unique lifestyle and habitats of turtles and tortoises. While often mistaken for one another, these reptiles have distinct differences. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- In 2024, the world marks the **100th anniversary** of the first international football tournament involving teams from all regions, held on **May 25, 1924**, during the Summer Olympic Games in Paris. To honour this milestone, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/78/281 on May 7, 2024, proclaiming **May 25 as World Football Day**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- The U.N. commemorates **International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories** annually from **May 25 to May 31**. The U.N. describes a Non-Self-Governing Territory as a territory “whose people have not yet gained a complete degree of self-government.” ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- The ongoing conflict in Gaza has claimed the life of **Colonel (Retd.) Waibhav Anil Kale**, a former Indian Army officer who was serving as a staff member of the **United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS)** in the region. The tragic incident occurred on May 13, 2024, when Kale’s vehicle came under attack in **Rafah, Gaza**, marking the first international casualty since the latest escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas. ([Click Here to Read Article](#))

- The Indian banking industry mourns the loss of a legendary figure, **N Vaghul**, who passed away on Saturday in Chennai at the age of 88. Vaghul, a **former chairman of ICICI Bank**, left an indelible mark on the financial sector with his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- **Mohammad Mokhber**, born on June 26, 1955, in Dezful, Iran, is a prominent figure in Iranian politics. He holds two doctoral degrees, one in international law and another in management, along with a master’s degree in management. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history as the first airport in India to achieve the prestigious recognition of **zero waste to landfill (ZWL)**. This commendation comes from the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development**, confirming the airport’s commitment to environmentally responsible practices. ([Click to Read the Article](#))
- A low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into **Cyclone Remal**, reaching **Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal** coasts as a severe cyclonic storm. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts the cyclone’s progression, predicting it to become a severe cyclonic storm by **May 25 morning** and **make landfall between Sagar island in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh by May 26 evening**. ([Click to Read the Article](#))

### Static Takeaways

- World Customs Organisation Founded: 26 January 1953;
- World Customs Organisation Secretary General: Kunio Mikuriya (January 2009 - present).
- Toyota Motor Corp Founded: 28 August 1937, Japan;
- Toyota Motor Corp Founder: Kiichiro Toyoda.
- Central Railway Founded: 5 November 1951, Mumbai;
- Central Railway Headquarters: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai.
- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Indian Air Force Air chief Marshall: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria;
- Japan Air Self-Defence Force Founded: 1 July 1954, Japan.
- Japan Air Self-Defence Force Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- Central Provident Fund Commissioner in. Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO): Neelam Shami Rao;
- Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Founded: 4 March 1952.

- PepsiCo Foundation CEO: Ramon Laguarta (3 Oct 2018–);
- PepsiCo Foundation Headquarters: Purchase, Harrison, New York, United States;
- PepsiCo Foundation Founded: 1965;
- PepsiCo Foundation President: Ramon Laguarta.
- Director General Border Roads Organization: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chowdhary.
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath;
- ISRO's foundation Date: 15th August, 1969;
- ISRO's Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath;
- ISRO's foundation Date: 15th August, 1969;
- ISRO's Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime minister: Élisabeth Borne.
- 5th and current National Security Advisor (NSA): Ajit Kumar Doval;
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva;
- Federal Bank CEO: Shyam Srinivasan (23 Sept 2010–);
- Federal Bank Founder: K.P Hormis;
- Federal Bank Founded: 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram.
- Cuba Capital: Havana;
- Cuba Currency: Cuban Peso;
- Cuba President: Miguel Díaz-Canel;
- Cuba Continent: North America.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Canara Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Canara Bank Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai;
- Canara Bank MD and CEO: L V Prabhakar;
- Canara Bank Founded: 1 July 1906.
- Director Generals of NDRF: Atul Karwal;
- HQ of NDRF: New Delhi;
- NDRF Formed: 2006.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin;
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–);
- Google Parent organization: Alphabet Inc;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- WEF Founder: Klaus Schwab
- WEF Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
- WEF President: Borge Brende.
- NCRA Founded:- Early 1960's
- NCRA Director:- Yashwant Gupta
- IISc Founded:- 1909
- IISc Founders:- Jamsetji Tata & Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV
- IISc Director:- Govindan Rangrajan.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- NHPC Founded: 7 November 1975
- NHPC Headquarters: Faridabad, India
- NHPC Chairman & Managing Director – Shri Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi
- CEA Founded: 1951
- CEA Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CEA Chairperson – Shri Ghanshyam Prasad.
- New Zealand Capital: Wellington;
- New Zealand Currency : New Zealand dollar.
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States;
- NASA Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower;
- NASA Administrator Bill Nelson;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Head: Hiroshi Yamakawa;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- Spain Government: Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Spain Capital: Madrid
- Spain King: Felipe VI of Spain
- Spain Prime Minister : Pedro Sánchez.
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi Taka
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese Dong.
- EY Headquarter:- London, England
- Chairman & CEO – Carmine Di Sibio.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Bahrain Capital: Manama.
- Bahrain Currency: Bahraini dinar.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;

- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Chief Of Naval Staff:- Admiral R. Hari Kumar.
- Egypt Capital: Cairo;
- Egypt President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi;
- Egypt Currency: Egyptian pound.
- National AIDS Control Organization Director General: V Hekali Zhimomi;
- National AIDS Control Organization Headquarters: New Delhi;
- National AIDS Control Organization Founded: 1992.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Headquarters : Thrissur
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Founded : 10 March 2017
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Chairperson :- P. R. Ravi Mohan
- ESAF Small Finance Bank MD & CEO :- K. Paul Thomas.

