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IMPORTANT DAYS

NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	<u>Theme</u>
December 01	59th Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF)	-
	Nagaland celebrates its 61 st Statehood Day	-
December 02	National Pollution Control Day/National Pollution Prevention Day	-
December 04	The Indian Navy celebrates its Navy Day	-
December 06	India celebrates Mahaparinirvan Divas	-
December 07	Armed Forces Flag Day	-
December 08	39th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day	-
December 14	National Energy Conservation day	-
December 16	53rd Victory Day/Vijay Diwas (Bjoy Dibosh)	-
December 19	Goa Liberation Day	-
December 22	National Mathematics Day	-

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Date	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
December 25	Good Governance Day/Sushasan Diwas	-
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day/Bharatiya Grahak Diwas/National Consumer Day	-
December 26	Veer Bal Diwas	-
December 19-25	Good Governance Week/Sushasan Saptah	-

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
	23rd World Computer Literacy Day	-
December 02	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	'Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education'
December 03	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	"United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities".
December 04	UN's 4 th International Day of Banks	Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and reform the global financial architecture
	International Cheetah Day	-
December 05	World Soil Day	Soil and Water: A Source of Life"



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Date	Day	<u>Theme</u>
December 05	International Volunteer Day/International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	The power of everyone- collective action-if everyone did
December 07	International Civil Aviation Day	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
	International Day Against Corruption/International Anti-Corruption Day	UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption'.
December 09	International day of the Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and Prevention of this crime	"A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide".
December 10	UN's Human Rights Day/International or World Human Rights Day	"Freedom, Equality and Justice for All"
December 11	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Foundation Day	For every child, every right"
	International Mountain Day	Restoring Mountain Ecosystems
December 12	Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day	"Health For All: Time for Action".







Date	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
December 18	International Migrants Day	"Promoting Safe Migration"
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	-
December 21	The first-ever World Basketball Day	Basketball: Creating a lasting legacy for a better future'.
December 27	United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	

SPORTS

Cricket

- ICC Players of the Month for November 2023 Men's Player of the Month: Travis Head (Australia).Women's Player of the Month: Nahida Akter (Bangladesh).
- Former South Africa Captain Dean Elgar has announced his retirement from International Cricket after a test series against India
- Beverage major Coca-Cola announced that it has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for an 8-year period

Football

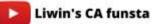
• Kerala footballer M. Viknesh gets2-year ban for doping - He had failed a dope test taken during the National Games in Ahmedabad in October 2022.

Tennis

• Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan won his 3rd ITF Kalaburagi Open title by defeating his Austrian rival, David Pichler







Chess

 Indian Chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the India's 84th Grandmaster by crossing the 2500 Elo live ratings

Events

• 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship 2023 - Maharashtra bagged the women's title and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) won the men's title in the event held in Guwahati.

Others

- 4th edition of the Asian Awards in Riyadh Sheetal Devi, an Indian Para Archer won the prestigious award of Best Youth Athlete.
- Olympian M. Sreeshankar clinched the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award
- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur will inaugurate the 1st-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023 in New Delhi - Haryana won the inaugural title by securing 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze.

OBITUARY

- Co-creator of Classic Children's TV Series Marty Krofft passed away at the age of 86 in California
- Emmy-Winning Actor Andre Braugher passed away at the age of 61
- Renowned Women's Rights Activist Dr V Mohini Giri died at the age of 86

RANKING

National Ranking

 1st edition of IDFC FIRST Private Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2023

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Net Worth</u>
1	Radhakishan Damani (Dmart)	Rs.238,188 crore
2	Binny Bansal& Sachin Bansal (Flipkart)	Rs.119,472 crore
3	Deepinder Goyal (Zomato)	Rs.86,835 crore
4	Bhavi Sheth& Harsh Jain (Dream11)	Rs.66,542 crore







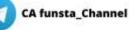
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<u>Rank</u>	Name	<u>Net Worth</u>
5	Sriharsha Majety& Nandan Reddy (Swiggy)	Rs.66,542 crore
6	Harshil Mathur& Shashank Kumar (Razorpay)	Rs.62,384 crore
7	Abhay Soi (Max Healthcare Institute)	Rs.55,085 crore
8	Vijay Shekhar Sharma (Paytm)	Rs.54,328 crore
9	Kunal Shah (CRED)	Rs.53,234 crore
10	Nithin Kamath& Nikhil Kamath (Zerodha Broking)	Rs.50,630 crore

- 1st Delta Rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme announced by the NITI Aayog - Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem, Asifabad district, Telangana secured the top position in the first delta rankings of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), Kaushambi block of Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh has secured the 2nd position.
- Logistics Performance Index Chart 2023 The Commerce and Industry Ministry released the 5th Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2023, shedding light on the logistics performance of various States&UT in India.
- 11th edition of India Skills Report 2024

Top 3 place to work for men & for women:

Rank	State Name	City Name
	For M	en
1	Kerala	Bengaluru (Karnataka)
2	Maharashtra	Pune (Maharashtra)
3	Andhra Pradesh	Kochi (Kerala)
For Women		







<u>Rank</u>	State Name	City Name
1	Kerala	Kochi (Kerala)
2	Maharashtra	Bengaluru (Karnataka)
3	Andhra Pradesh	Trivandrum (Kerala)

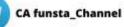
- India's Year End Crypto Portfolio Report 2023 Released by the crypto trading platform CoinSwitch, which shows that Delhi maintained its lead in India's crypto adoption, followed by Bangalore and Mumbai.
- Maharashtra ranked 1st in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs.1,18,422 crore in the fiscal 2022-23 and also tops in the Q1 of the FY 2023-24

International Ranking

 International Institute for Management Development (IMD)'s 7th edition of World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR) 2023

Rank	Country
1	USA (United States of America)
2	Netherlands
3	Singapore
4	Denmark
5	Switzerland
49	India









TIME Magazine Ranking 2023 - OpenAI CEO Sam Altman was named CEO of the • Year 2023 by TIME magazine.

Rank	Country
1	Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
2	Christine Lagarde (France)
3	Kamala Harris (USA)
4	Giorgia Meloni (Italy)
5	Taylor Swift (USA)
Indian Winners in the List	
32	Nirmala Sitharaman
60	Roshni Nadar Malhotra
70	Soma Mondal
76	Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

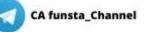
Forbes' 2023 World's 100 Most Powerful Women List

S&P Global Market Intelligence released the 'Global Credit Outlook 2024: New Risks, • New Playbook'

Rank	Company	Net Worth
1	Allianz SE (Germany)	\$ 750.20 Billlion
2	China Life Insurance Company (China)	\$ 616.90 Billion
3	Nippon Life Insurance Company (Japan)	\$ 536.80 Billion
4	Life Insurance Corporation of India (India)	\$ 503.7 Billion

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- Lahore has the worst air quality in the world with an AQI Of 400 which is 'Hazardous'
- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 Published by: Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network.
- Tracxn Technologies has released its 'Tracxn Geo Annual Report: India Tech 2023'
- Mercer's Quality of Living City Ranking 2023

Rank	City	
1	Vienna, Austria	
2	Zurich, Switzerland	
3	Auckland, New Zealand	
4	Copenhagen, Denmark	
5	Geneva, Switzerland	
Indian Cities in the List		
153	Hyderabad, Telangana	
154	Pune, Maharashtra	
156	Bengaluru, Karnataka	
161	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	
164	Mumbai, Maharashtra	
170	Kolkata, West Bengal	
172	New Delhi, Delhi	

• India is considered a top remittance recipient with an estimated inward remittance flow of USD 125 Billion with a 12.4% increase in inflows







BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) + Bank of England (BoE) signed a MoU For cooperation and exchange of information in relation to the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL).
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalties on four co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - A monetary penalty of Rs.4 lakh on Jijamata Mahila Sahakari Bank, Pune for non-compliance with RBI directions on 'Reserve Bank of India-Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016' and 'Frauds in UCBs: Changes in Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism'.
- RBI cancelled the licence of Kolhapur-based Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank
- RBI exempted the requirement of Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) for transactions up to Rs.1 lakh for certain categories of payments
- RBI proposed new transaction limit for UPI transactions related to medical or healthcare and educational services from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh per transaction
- RBI cancelled the licence of Urban Co-operative Bank in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - These co-operative banks are, Rajarshi Shahu Sahakari Bank, The Prathamik Shikshak Sahakari Bank, Patan Co-operative Bank and The District Cooperative Central Bank.
- RBI introduced a regulatory framework for loan aggregation services offered by Lending Service Providers (LSPs) - This separate regulatory framework is based on the recommendation of the Working Group on Digital Lending, chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash.
- RBI is working on establishing a cloud facility for the financial sector in India
- RBI's 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY 2023-24 of December 2023

Category	Percentage
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.75%







Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty on 5 Cooperative Banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - These 5 banks including Indapur Urban Co-operative Bank, Pune, Janakalyan Sahakari Bank, Mumbai, The Patan Urban Co-operative Bank, Satara, Pune Merchants Co-operative Bank, Pune and Pune Municipal Corporation Servant's Co-operative Urban Bank.
- RBI has lifted a ban on payment aggregators Razorpay and Cashfree after almost a year
- RBI has tightened norms for lenders relating to making investments in units of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)
- RBI has granted its final approval for 6 payment aggregator licences thus lifting the ban on entities RazorPay and Cashfree Payments for acquiring new merchants
- RBI has allowed Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT) through card issuing banks/institutions To provide cardholders with an additional choice to tokenize their cards for multiple merchant sites through a single process.
- RBI released a draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorized Persons (APs)' under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999
- RBI has flagged the interconnectedness of small finance banks (SFBs) with cooperative banks via the bulk deposit route
- RBI has issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) It moved SBI and HDFC Bank to higher buckets, while ICICI Bank continues to be in the same bucketing structure as last year.
- RBI has given its go ahead for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank

Public Sector Banks SBI

 NPCI Bharat BillPay has integrated the SBI Card into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay

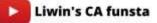
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- SBI signed a 70 million Euro (approx Rs.636 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with KfW Development Bank, Germany - For supporting solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in India.
- Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM) has signed a MoU with the State Bank of India - To provide comprehensive banking services to the self-help groups (SHGs) operating in the state.

Union Bank India

• Union Bank of India collaborated with Accenture to boost operational efficiency

Indian Bank

 Intellect Design Arena Ltd has signed a Rs.80 crore, 5-year deal with Indian Bank - To deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System to bolster the bank's corporate banking modernization.

Bank of India

 Bank of India has launched an exclusive savings bank product "Nari Shakti Savings Account" - For women at the age of 18 years and above with an independent source of income.

Bank of Baroda

 Bank of Baroda has launched the "BoB BRO Savings Account" - It is a Zero Balance Savings Account especially designed for students aged 16 to 25 years to meet their specific needs with no minimum balance requirement, offer up to 15 basis points interest rate concession on Education Loans, complete waiver of processing fee on education loans and a lifetime free RuPay Platinum Debit Card.

Canara Bank

 Canara Bank has given in-principle approval to Canara Robeco Asset Management Company, in the stock exchanges via IPO









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Private Sector Banks ICICI Bank

 iVIS has partnered with ICICI Bank to boost security with advanced e-surveillance services

HDFC Bank

 HDFC Bank has released Tata Neu HDFC Bank Infinity Credit Card and Tata Neu HDFC Plus Credit Card

IDFC First Bank

- IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with Mastercard - This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships.
- IDFC First Bank + LIC Cards + Mastercard jointly launched an exclusive co-branded credit card "LIC IDFC FIRST Credit Cards"
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance + IDFC First Bank have entered into a bancassurance partnership

Axis Bank

 Private Equity Firm Bain Capital sold shares worth Rs.3,737 crore in private sector lender Axis Bank

RBL Bank

 RBL Bank + National Securities Depository Limited (NeSL) - To launch an electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) product, which allows for paperless issuance and confirmation of bank guarantees.

IndusInd Bank

• IndusInd Bank has launched 'eSvarna', the country's first corporate credit card on the RuPay network as part of a Corporate Liability program

Small Finance Bank

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank + Water.org To provide safe water and sanitation through affordable financing, solutions for water and sanitation solutions.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance + Ujjivan Small Finance Bank have entered into a bancassurance partnership





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Insurance News

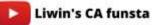
- The finance ministry has amended the insurance ombudsman rules to increase the maximum compensation amount to Rs.50 lakh
- ICICI Lombard has introduced MaxProtect, the latest addition to its range of customer-focused products
- ACKO General Insurance + PhonePe To offer a variety of comprehensive car and bike insurance products directly to users on the PhonePe platform.

Asian Development Bank

- ReNew Energy Global (ReNew) has signed a MoU with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) To collaborate on climate change mitigation and adaptation projects at a cost of USD 5.3 billion between 2023 and 2028.
- ADB has sanctioned a USD 200 million loan to bolster the power supply in Uttarakhand
- Government of India and the ADB signed a USD 175 million loan to improve connectivity and resilience of roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh
- IIFL Home Finance + Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly hosted the 15th Chapter of 'Kutumb' (10th Colloboration with ADB) event
- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$200 million loan agreement To improve the quality, efficiency, and reliability of power supply in the state of Uttarakhand.
- Reliance Industries + DBS Bank India To introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- ADB has pledged a substantial allocation of USD 200 million To enhance sanitation facilities across 100 cities and elevate waste management practices in India.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreement for a 37 billion Japanese Yen (\$250 million) loan - To continue financing the construction of the 82-kilometre Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.
- The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$250 million policy-based loan To continue support to industrial corridor development to make manufacturing more competitive, strengthen national supply chains and links with regional and global value chains and create more jobs.





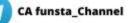


Others

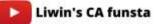
- Axis Mutual Fund announced the launch of the Axis India Manufacturing Fund
- Bandhan Bank has secured authorisation from RBI
- A British-Australian multinational metals and mining company, Rio Tinto has collaborated with the Department of Posts in India To launch a customised 'My Stamp' and special cover called 'Rio Tinto 150'.
- PhonePe has rolled out a new feature on the platform that will allow its users to manage their credit cards as well as pay bills and loans
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched an Application Supported by Blocked Account (ASBA)-like facility in the secondary market

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- The total value of transactions processed on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform in November 2023 is Rs.17.40 lakh crore
- India's Foreign Exchange (FOREX) reserves increased USD 2.538 billion to USD 597.935 billion
- The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) rose to 56 in November, up from 55.5 in October, though it remained below 57.5 in September
- Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) + Business Finland signed a MoU To boost the startup ecosystems in India and Finland.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of shareholding in Delanord Investments by Abu Dhabi Ports Company
- Bharat Electronics Ltd has received an order of Rs.580 crore from the Indian Army for AMC Radars the supply of artificial magnetic conductor (AMC) of radars and various defense equipment.
- The central government has planned to sell up to 8% stake in IRCON International through an offer for sale (OFS)
- Godrej Capital Nirmaan announced a partnership with DBS Bank India, Visa and Amazon to aid MSME growth
- State Bank of India's (SBI) shareholding in Jio Payments Bank fell to 23% in FY23 from the 30%
- The Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of SBI has accorded final approval to the Bank for acquiring 20% stake held by SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS) in (SBI Pension Funds Private Ltd (SBIPFPL) for Rs.229.52 Crore







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- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has launched a nationwide initiative called 'Build for Bharat'
- Meta and IBM launched a new group called the AI Alliance advocating for an "openscience" approach to AI development
- National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) signed documents for acquisition of two insolvent Srei companies under the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP)
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) announced two separate partnerships with Google and Meta To expand its outreach to small businesses through Google Maps and WhatsApp through its technical solution providers.
- Hinduja Global Solutions has launched AI-powered User Interface HGS Agent X
- Bharti Airtel + IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt Ltd To connect up to 2 crore smart meters with Internet of Things technology, to be executed over a period of next 10 years.
- RBI gave its approval to SBI Mutual Fund for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital/voting rights of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).
- Japan's SoftBank Group is slated to sell a 1.1% stake in food-delivery company Zomato for an estimated Rs.1,127.5 crore/USD 135 million.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of the control/stake in Reliance Capital Limited by IndusInd International Holdings Limited, IIHL BFSI (India) Limited and Aasia Enterprises LLP.
- RBI has given its approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company to acquire aggregate holding of up to 9.95% of the paid-up share capital/voting rights in RBL Bank, IDFC FIRST Bank, Equitas Small Finance Bank, Federal Bank and IndusInd Bank.

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
'RESILIENT INDIA: How Modi Transformed India's Disaster Management Paradigm'	-	Edited& Compiled by the Bluekraft Digital Foundation and Modi Story
Former President Ramnath Kovind launched	-	-

BOOKS AND AUTHORS







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the "Naye Bharat ka Samaveda"

APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
1991-batch Indian Forest Officer from Madhya Pradesh Cadre, Kanchan Devi	1st Woman Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)	
A Revanth Reddy	2nd Chief Minister of Telangana and 1st Congress CM of Telangana	K Chandrashekar Rao
Anish Dayal Singh	Full-time Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	-
Anish Shah	New President of FICCI Subhrakant P	
Ansuman Pattnaik	Director General (Investigation) of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)	
Bajan Lal Sharma	Chief Minister of Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot
C S Rajan	Part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank	Prakash Apte
Cricketer Suresh Raina	Youth Voter Awareness Ambassador for Jammu and - Kashmir	
IAS officer Atal Dulloo	Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir	Arun Kumar Mehta







Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Intelligence Bureau officer Rahul Rasgotra	Director General of Indo- Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	Anish Dayal Singh
Jithesh John	Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)	-
Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte	24th Chief Secretary of Jharkhand	Sukhdev Singh
Lieutenant Commander Prerna Deosthale	The 1st woman officer to the warship INS Chennai	-
Mohan Yadav	Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Mohan Yadav	Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Narayan Seshadri	Chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)	Diwakar Gupta
Nina Singh	1st Woman Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	-
Parama Sen	Part-Time Member in the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	Anne George Mathew
Pramod Agrawal	Chairman of BSE	S S Mundra
Puneet Vidyarthi	President of the Rural Marketing Association of India (RMAI)	Biswabaran Chakrabarti

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Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Rajiv Anand	Chairman of Max Life Insurance	Analjit Singh
RBI approved the reappointment of Sandeep Batra	As the Executive Director of ICICI Bank	_
Sports entrepreneur Vita Dani	Governing board member of the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation	-
Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi, the Indian Air Force Officer	As the 1st woman Indian Armed Forces officer of the Aide-de-Camp (ADC) of Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati	-
Veera Rana	Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh	CS Iqbal Singh Bains
Vishnu Deo Sai	Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel
Vivek Srivastava	Director General of the Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards	_
Zoram People Movement leader, Lalduhoma	Chief Minister of Mizoram	Zoramthanga





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International Appointments

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Donald Tusk	Prime Minister of Poland	Mateusz Morawiecki
India-born Media Executive Samir Shah	BBC Chairman	Richard Sharp
Reuven Azar	Ambassador of Israel to India	-
Santosh Jha	India's new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka	Gopal Baglay (who has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia)

AWARDS

National Awards

- Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), a Maharatna CPSU has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award 2023
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was awarded the Vision Zero 2023 Award by International Social Security Association (ISSA)
- Draupadi Murmu honoured Prashant Agrawal with National Awards for the Empowerment of Divyangjan under the category of 'Best Personality-Empowerment of Differently-abled'
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman 2023
- Veteran Lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar receive the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival (AIFF)
- Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai has been honoured with the Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize
- Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad have been honoureed with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2023
- A Medical Student from Michigan, Rijul Maini was crowned Miss India USA 2023 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey







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- Real Vision Homes Chairman, Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath has honored with Visionary Leader Icon Award 2023 by AASRAA
- 3 Indian Armed Forces Officers Honoured with 'Golden Owl' at Sri Lanka's DSCSC Graduation
- INS Shivaji, the premier training establishment of the Indian Navy received the original 'Vir Chakra' awarded to Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury
- 11th Edition of FICCI Water Award 2023 The award was presented during the inaugural event of the 9th Edition of India Industry Water Conclave held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.
- TATA Projects, a leading EPC company in India has won the prestigious Engineering News Record 2023-Global Best Projects Awards
- Indian Chamber of Commerce hosted the 13th PSE Excellence Awards in New Delhi
- Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar awarded the 6th edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for her book, 'Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems'
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced the National Sports Awards 2023

Name of the Winner	Related Sports	
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 (2)		
Shri Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty	Badminton	
Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj	Badminton	
Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2023 (26)		
Ojas Pravin Deotale	Archery	
Ms Aditi Gopichand Swami	Archery	
Shri Sreeshankar M	Athletics	
Ms Parul Chaudhary	Athletics	
Shri Krishan Bahadur Pathak	Hockey	
Ms Pukhrambam Sushila Chanu	Hockey	
Shri Pawan Kumar	Kabaddi	



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Ms Ritu Negi	Kabaddi	
Shri Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting	
Ms Esha Singh	Shooting	
Shri Sunil Kumar	Wrestling	
Ms Antim	Wrestling	
Ms Nasreen	Kho-Kho	
Ms Pinki	Lawn Bowls	
Shri Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu	Squash	
Ms Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis	
Shri Mohameed Hussamuddin	Boxing	
Ms R Vaishali	Chess	
Shri Mohammed Shami	Cricket	
Shri Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian	
Ms Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian Dressage	
Ms Diksha Dagar	Golf	
Ms Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu	
Ms Sheetal Devi Para	Archery	
Shri Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy	Blind Cricket	
Ms Prachi Yadav	Para Canoeing	
Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2023: 5 Regular Category		
Shri Lalit Kumar	Wrestling	

Shri Lalit Kumar

Wrestling

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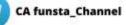




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Shri R. B. Ramesh	Chess		
Shri Mahaveer Prasad Saini	Para Athletics		
Shri Shivendra Singh	Hockey		
Shri Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar	Mallakhamb		
Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2023: 3 in Lifetime Category			
Shri Jaskirat Singh Grewal	Golf		
Shri Bhaskaran E	Kabaddi		
Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal	Table Tennis		
Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achie	Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games 2023 (3)		
Ms Manjusha Kanwar	Badminton		
Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma	Hockey		
Ms Kavitha Selvaraj	Kabaddi		
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023			
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	Overall winner university		
Lovely Professional University, Punjab	1st runner-up University		
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana	2nd runner-up University		









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- SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 The award was presented respectively to Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang, both mathematicians at the University of California in Berkeley at the SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam.
- Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu, the newly appointed Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council, was honored with the prestigious "Man of the Year-2023"

International Awards

- Indian author and translator, Arshia Sattar was honoured with "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)
- Indian-origin writer Meira Chand was among the 3 Singaporeans conferred the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's Highest Prestigious Arts Award
- Michelle Zarate Palomec of Mexico and Sebastian Mwaura of Kenya were the winners of the UN Global Climate Action Awards
- Novak Djokovic from Serbia and Aryna Sabalenka from Belarus were honored as the International Tennis Federation's 2023 ITF World Champions
- Finland awarded the International Gender Equality Prize 2023 to the Afghan Women Skills Development Center, NGO in Afghanistan
- 5th edition of Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2023 The prize was jointly awarded to"Against All Odds: The IT Story of India" written by S. 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan, N. Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan and "Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs" written by T.N. Hari and Bala Srinivasa.
- Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia, has been awarded Bhutan's prestigious National Order of Merit Gold Medal
- Hardik Singh, the midfielder of the Indian Men's Hockey Team and Indian women's hockey team captain Savita Punia 2023 FIH Hockey Star Awards

Winner	<u>Category</u>	
Hardik Singh (India)	Men's Player of the Year	
Xan de Waard (the Netherlands)	Women's Player of the Year	
Pirmin Blaak (the Netherlands)	Men's Goalkeeper of the Year	
Savita Punia (India)	Women's Goalkeeper of theYear	
Gaspard Xavier (France)	Men's Rising Star of the Year	







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Winner	<u>Category</u>	
Teresa Lima (Spain)	Women's Rising Star of the Year	
André Henning (Germany)	Coach of the Year (Male)	
Alyson Annan (China)	Coach of the Year (Female)	
Ben Göntgen (Germany)	Umpire of the Year (Male)	
Ayanna McClean (Trinidad and Tobago)	Umpire of the Year (Female)	

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT News

- IIT Madras + FedEx Express (FedEx) To establish the 'FedEx Centre of Excellence (CoE)' for Smart and Sustainable Supply Chains.
- IIT Kanpur + Kotak Mahindra Bank Jointly launched the Kotak School of Sustainability, India's first fully integrated school of sustainability at IIT Kanpur.
- IIT Madras + ZorioX Innovation Labs, a start-up Jointly developed a 3D-printed face implants for patients suffering from Black Fungus, which has been reported in Covid-19 patients.
- Reliance Jio launched a 'Bharat GPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer)' program in collaboration with IIT-Bombay Bharat GPT program aims to leverage large language models and generative AI to transform sectors in India.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) + IIT-Madras + Anna University (AU), Chennai to signed a MoU For various initiatives, including courses to enhance the skill sets of both students and young professionals.

Space News

- South Korea planned to send five Spy Satellites into the Space by 2025 under the contract with SpaceX
- China jointly Egypt to launch MisrSat 2 satellite, valued at \$72 million into the space
- Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of indigenously developed guided multilaunch rocket system 'Fatah-II'







Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

 DRDO successfully carried out a flight trial of an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Under Project "Ghatak"

India in Science & Technology

- Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) + University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute (Sydney ID) signed a MoU - To collaborate on advancing vaccine research initiatives, strengthening academic-industry partnerships and augmenting global efforts to combat infectious diseases.
- ISRO launched India's first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) XPoSat mission was launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota to delve into the polarisation of intense X-Ray sources.
- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has announced a seed fund scheme
- IBM announced its ambitious plans to build its first fault-tolerant quantum computer by the year 2029
- Interglobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo has received approval from IFSC Gift City to establish an aircraft leasing venture
- Pune-based KPIT Technologies has rolled out India's first Sodium (Na)-Ion battery technology
- ISRO's PSLV-C58 Mission will launch XPoSAT in to an Eastward low inclination orbit

Environment & Energy

- Infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm RITES + Oil India Limited signed a MoU - The focus of this partnership is the transformation of Duliajan Township in Assam into a mini smart city.
- Tata Power Company Ltd collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation signed a MoU To deploy 500+ fast and ultra-fast Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points across India.
- Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd under the Ministry of Power has signed a 200 million Euro loan agreement with the German bank KfW This agreement marks REC's sixth line of credit under the Indo-German Development Cooperation and demonstrates the corporation's commitment to enhance the distribution infrastructure of DISCOMs in line with the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India.







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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Italy

- Italy has officially informed China that it is quitting the Belt and Road Initiative
- Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Directorate General for the Protection of Industrial Property-Italian Patent and Trademark Office of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy signed a MoU - For Cooperation in the field of Industrial Property Rights (IPR).

Kenya

- Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Mansukh Mandaviya has addressed the India-Kenya Trade and Investment Forum
- India extended a \$250 million Line of Credit for modernisation of agriculture in Kenya

Saudi Arabia

- Ministry of Electronics and IT of the Republic of India + Ministry of Communications and IT of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia - On cooperation in the field of Digitization and Electronic Manufacturing to promote research in digital innovation and the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Robots, Cloud Computing and Blockchain.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) + Saudi Arabia signed a MoU -To protect the rights of skilled labourers from India, including Air Conditioner (AC) mechanics, and car painters who are working in Saudi Arabia.

Tanzania

 India and Tanzania has signed a MoU - On Cooperation in the Field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

United Arab Emirates

• UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed announced the establishment of \$30 billion Climate Fund for Global Climate Solutions

United States of America

• United States of America + the Republic of India signed a MoU - To enhance innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake.







Summit/Event

- PM Modi addressed the COP 28 Summit on Transforming Climate Finance is held in Dubai, UAE
- 124 countries signed the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health at the World Climate Action Summit
- United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India became a member of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Genrobotics, a Kerala-based startup has been adjudged among top three Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups of India at the GPAI Summit 2023
- India postpones Quad summit meeting scheduled in January 2024

Exercise

- The collaborative military exercise between India and the UAE 'Desert Cyclone 2024' is scheduled to be held in Rajasthan from January 2-15
- India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council under Category B states for the 2024-2025 biennium
- India has joined the UN's 'Race to Resilience', a global campaign
- Proposed India-Oman Free Trade Pact to potentially lower import duties on 80% goods, as per the analysis of GTRI
- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate special status of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution
- India and Germany to support development projects into the African Countries Ethiopia and Madagascar.
- United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year Of Camelids (IYC 2024)
- India is the world's 3rd largest energy consumer, for the 1st-time ever paid the United Arab Emirates in rupees for the purchase of crude oil
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed a free trade agreement with South Korea









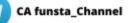
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Prime Minister, Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, All important policy issues, All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister : Shri Narendra Modi

- PM Narendra Modi retained his position as the World's Most Popular Leader with an approval rating of 76%, as per the Morning Consult Survey
- PM Narendra Modi Launched the 2nd Edition Of The Kashi Tamil Sangamam at Varanasi
- PM Modi inaugurated the world's largest meditation centre Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi
- PM Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express from Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh
- PM Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Ayodhya railway station and flagged off two Amrit Bharat and six Vande Bharat trains

Ministry News Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

- iDEX-Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) under the MoD has signed a contract with Agnit Semiconductors Pvt Ltd - For design and development of advanced Gallium Nitride (GaN) semiconductors, which is essential for the next generation of wireless transmitters in defence applications ranging from radars to electronic warfare jammers.
- MoS for Defence, Ajay Bhatt has participated in the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Accra, Ghana
- MoD has signed a contract with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) worth Rs.588.68 crore
- Rajnath Singh inaugurated a 10-feet tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat, Delhi
- Ministry of Defence has cleared a proposal to purchase 70,000 more semi-automatic assault rifles from US-based Sig Sauer for Indian Army at Rs.800 Crore
- MoD has approved Rs.2,800 crore proposal for buying around 6,400 rockets for Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher Systems
- MoD has granted a No Objection for the grant of site clearance to set up a Greenfield Airport at Parandur near Chennai in Tamil Nadu
- MoD has signed a landmark contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) at worth Rs 5,336.25 crore







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- Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Ltd - For procurement of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) valued at Rs.1614.89 crore.
- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in Bengaluru, Karnataka

Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Cooperation: Shri Amit Shah

- A high-level committee headed by the Home Minister, has approved the recovery and reconstruction plan of Rs.1,658 crore for Joshimath
- Amit Shah released a commemorative Postal Stamp, to mark 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's music festival 'Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha' in New Delhi

Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs: Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

 Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Ministry of External Affairs: Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

• External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Russia for the bilateral Cooperation

Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda

- Arjun Munda inaugurated the ASEAN-India Millet Festival at New Delhi
- Arjun Munda has inaugurated a 2-day tribal orientation programme, Adi Vyakhyan in New Delhi

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Shri Narayan Tatu Rane

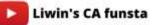
• Narayan Rane launched three sub-schemes under the existing RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines: Shri Prahlad Joshi

 MoM Pralhad Joshi launched the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal
 The NGDR portal, spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), is set to revolutionize the accessibility of geospatial data across the country.







Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh

- MoS for Rural Development& Steel, Faggan Singh Kulaste inaugurated the SARAS Food Festival in New Delhi
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra"
- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed a MoU with Reliance Retail's JioMart To enhance the outreach of the products of self-help groups (SHGs) of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Steel: Jyotiraditya Scindia

• Ministry of Steel has funded a R&D project on "Development of Design Guidelines and Specifications for utilization of steel slag in road construction"

Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for the development of stations on Indian Railways
- Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred the 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar' (AVRSP)

Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy: Shri Raj Kumar Singh

- MoNRE has informed that the draft National Electricity Plan prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated the fund requirement for solar and wind generation projects during FY 2022-2032 as Rs.20.67 lakh crore
- MoNRE has inaugurated the POWERGRID Vishram Sadan It was built at a cost of about Rs.23 crore and a 2-storey Vishram Sadan has 270 beds, 55 rooms of this Sadan are equipped with all necessary facilities and are capable of providing the maximum possible comfort to the attendants of the patients.

Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate change, Ministry of Labour and Employment: Shri Bhupender Yadav

- Bhupender Yadav launched a G20 report, 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy' in New Delhi
- Bhupender Yadav launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) To facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, MInistry of Chemical and Fertilizers: Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya







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 Mandaviya virtually launched 'MedTech Mitra' - A strategic initiative aims to boost indigenous development, fostering affordable and quality MedTech devices and diagnostics, thereby reducing import dependence in the MedTech sector and to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region: Shri G.Kishan Reddy

 Ministry of Tourism (MoT) + Ministry of Environment, Forest& Climate Change (MoEFCC) - launch an Alternative Livelihood Programme under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme 2023 in Sultanpur National Park, a Ramsar Site in Haryana.

Ministry of Information& Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs& Sports: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

- Anurag Singh Thakur launched the official logo, jersey, mascot, torch and theme song for the 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2024
- Anurag Singh Thakur launched a "MY Bharat Campaign" By introducing digital payments, India has become the 5th-largest economy and has registered 48% of such payments in the world.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- Jitendra Singh stated that the Indian Space Economy has expected to grow from around \$8.4 billion to \$44 billion Indian by 2033
- Jitendra Singh launched 3 new features on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform: My iGOT, Blended Programs, and Curated Programs
- Jitendra Singh launched the Rural Diabetes Prevention& Control Campaign in village Purana Ramnagar of Varanasi district

State News

Arunachal Pradesh

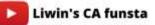
• Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu and US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti inaugurated 'The Hump WWII Museum'

Bihar

• Bihar State Government launched Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill)







Gujarat

- Gujarat's Garba dance was included in the Representative List of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity
- Gujarat Govt unveiled a Draft Development Plan for the expansion of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar
- Ami Organics Ltd has signed a non-binding MoU with a global manufacturer of electrolytes
- IPL Biologicals + Gujarat signed a MoU For setting up a Rs.400 crore bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticide facility in Gujarat.
- Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited + Government of Gujarat signed a MoU -For the expansion of food manufacturing capabilities in the state.
- Gujarat + Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited signed a MoU To explore the captivating marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, an island steeped in Hindu mythology off the coast of Dwarka city.

Karnataka

• Meta is collaborating with the Government of Karnataka for online safety training

Manipur

• United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and the Government of Manipur and Government of India has signed a Peace Agreement - To establish permanent peace in the Northeastern region specifically in Manipur.

Meghalaya

 Four products from Meghalaya has been honoured with Geographical Indication (GI) Tag - These four products including Lakadong Turmeric, Garo Dakmanda (traditional dress), Larnai pottery and Garo Chubitchi (alcoholic beverage) have received the GI tag.

Punjab

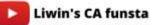
 AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann launched the "Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme

Uttar Pradesh

• UP to build India's first AI city in Lucknow







Union Territory News Delhi

- Lt Governor V.K. Saxena launched an 1800-crore campaign, 'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan'
 To develop urban villages in the national capital and to be funded and implemented by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).
- Delhi air quality remains 'very poor' and stood at 377 as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data

Jammu and Kashmir

- The government launched auctions for 20 blocks of such minerals including 5.9 million-tonne lithium reserves discovered in Reasi district of J&K
- Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Composite Regional Centre (CRC)

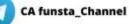
Ladakh

• The central government has sanctioned 29 road projects worth Rs.1,170.16 crore in the UT of Ladakh

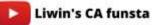
Union Cabinet and Centre News

- The Centre has approved the first urban flood mitigation project of Rs 561.29 crore
- Union Cabinet approved the reservation norm for mandatory use of jute in Packaging for jute year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport as an International Airport
- The Centre has extended the import duty exemption on masur dal (lentils) by another year till March 31, 2025
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a hike in minimum support prices for copra for 2024 season by Rs.250-300 per quintal from current season









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- Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the proposal to sign the Migration and Mobility Agreement between the India and Italy
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to open of a Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand
- CCEA approved the Construction of a New 4556 meter-long, 6-Lane High Level/ Extra Dosed Cablestayed Bridge across the River Ganga
- CCEA approved the project for the improvement and widening of the Khowai-Harina road covering a total length of 134.913 kms in Tripura

NITI Aayog

• National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and the International Food Policy Research Institute signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) for 5-years

Others

- A total of 310 districts in the country have been identified as the most vulnerable ones under the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)
- National Mission for Clean Ganga on behalf of River Cities Alliance has signed a Memorandum of Common Purpose with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
- The Govt unveiled "Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar" Project to Document Village Heritage
- PM Modi inaugurated the 1st Indian Art, Architecture, and Design Biennale 2023 (IAADB'23) at Red Fort in New Delhi
- National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an agreement with M/s DC Multi Modal Park (Nagpur), a SPV of M/S. DeltaBulk Shipping India - For the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Nagpur under the Public Private Partnership model at an estimated cost of Rs.673 crore in an area of 150 acres.
- The total enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has crossed 6 crore with over 79 lakh enrolments in the current FY
- The Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment), Bill, 2023
- PM Modi flagged off the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram
- "Alleviating Heat stress by Enhancing production of Affordable cooling Devices (AHEAD)" consultation workshop held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
- CA Institute, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has unveiled a new logo







- The Indian government has confirmed the approval of 50 Solar Parks across 12 States with a total combined capacity of 37,490 MW
- Share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to 15% during the last fiscal year (FY23) from 35% in 1990-91
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal-2 has been recognized as the UNESCO's 'World's Most Beautiful Airport'
- India-ASEAN set to review trade pact for modernization in February 2024 ٠
- Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have deployed higher capacities through the Solar ٠ Park Scheme
- Indian Parliament passed the Telecommunications Bill, 2023 •
- French President Emmanuel Macron will visit India to participate in the 75th Republic Day celebrations on January 26 as the Chief Guest
- Ayodhya Airport has been renamed 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Ayodhyadham'
- The 12th edition of 'Divya Kala Mela' is taking place in Surat, Gujarat
- Contract for Construction and Delivery of 07 x 250 Men Ferry Craft was concluded with M/s Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata
- The Government of India has constituted the 16th Finance Commission, in pursuance to Article 280(1) of the Constitution
- The central government has raised the rate of interest on two small savings scheme for January-March 2024 by 10-20 basis points

Small Savings Instrument	Interest Rate for January-March 2024	Interest Rate for October-December 2023
Savings Deposit	4%	4%
1 year time deposit	6.9%	6.9%
2 year time deposit	7.0%	7.0%
3 year time deposit	7.1%	7.0%
5 year time deposit	7.5%	7.5%
5 year recurring deposit	6.7%	6.7%
Senior citizen savings scheme	8.2%	8.2%
Monthly Income Account	7.4%	7.4%
National Savings Certificate	7.7%	7.7%
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1%	7.1%

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Small Savinga Instrument	Interest Rate for	Interest Rate for
Small Savings Instrument	January-March 2024	October-December 2023
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5% (Matures in 115	7.5% (Matures in 115
	Months)	Months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account	8.2%	8.0%
Scheme	0.2 %	0.0%

DEFENCE

- Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated a dedicated Tele-MANAS Cell at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders& Engineers (GRSE) has delivered the first of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, INS Sandhayak (Yard 3025) to the Indian Navy
- Indian Navy conducts bi-annual exercise 'Prasthan' off Mumbai Coast
- The Indian Navy re-inducting a refurbished 22-year old fast attack craft, INS Tarmugli at the naval dockyard, Visakhapatnam
- The Indian Army has conducted a Table-Top Exercise for the Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi
- The 12th edition of Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta concluded at Indian Naval Academy in Ezhimala
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully test-fired trials of its in-house designed and developed SAMAR air defence missile system
- The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Lt Gen JP Mathew flagged off the Delhi to Gwalior leg of the JSW-NDA Car Rally from New Delhi
- Indian Navy commissioned the indigenously-built stealth-guided missile destroyer INS Imphal at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai
- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has received orders of Rs.2,673 crore from Goa Shipyard Ltd for Rs.1,701 crore and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers for Rs.972 crore



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