

February Monthly Current Affairs



International
Affairs

National
Affairs

Business

Awards

Important
Days

Sports

Banking

Obituary

Ranking

Sports



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Current Affairs
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IMPORTANT DAYS

NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
February 01	48th Indian Coast Guard Day / ICG	-
February 12	National Productivity day/National Productivity Council Foundation Day	“Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Productivity Engine for Economic Growth”
February 14	Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Day	-
February 20	Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh State Foundation day	-
February 24	Central Excise Day	-
February 28	National Science Day	Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
February 02	World Wetlands Day (WWD)	Wetlands and Human Wellbeing
February 04	World Cancer Day	Close the Care Gap: Together, we challenge those in power
	4 th International Day of Human Fraternity	-
February 10	The 1 st -ever United Nations’s International Day of the Arabian Leopard	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
February 10	World Pulses Day	Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People'
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	"Women and Girls in Science Leadership: A New Era for Sustainability".
	World Unani Day	"Unani Medicine for One Earth, One Health".
February 12	UN's International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism	-
February 13	United Nations (UN) World Radio Day	"Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".
February 15	International Childhood Cancer Day	-
	World Hippo day	-
February 17	World Human Spirit Day	-
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	"Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances".
February 21, 2024	25th UN International Mother Language Day	"Multilingual education-a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning".
February 23	World Peace and Understanding Day	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
February 27	World Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Day	-
Second Monday of February (12 th February 2024)	International Epilepsy Day is observed on second Monday of February (12 th February 2024)	'Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey'.
Third Thursday of February (15 th February 2024)	World Anthropology Day	
3 rd Saturday in February (February 17, 2024)	World Pangolin Day	

SPORTS

Cricket

- ICC Player of the Month of January 2024 - ICC Men's Player of the Month: Shamar Joseph (West Indies). ICC Women's Player of the Month: Amy Hunter (Ireland).
- Faiz Fazal announced his retirement from Professional Cricket - This announcement was made at the end of Vidarbha's Ranji Trophy match against Haryana.

Badminton

- 5th edition of the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024.

Medal	Men's Team	Women's Team
Gold	China	India
Silver	Malaysia	Thailand
Bronze	Japan and South Korea	Japan and Indonesia

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Football

- India and Bangladesh has jointly declared as the winners of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Under-19 Football Championships - The 5th edition of the SAFF U19 Women's Championship was hosted by Bangladesh and was held at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Shipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Shooting

- Former Shooter Abhinav Bindra, India's 1st Olympic gold medallist will take part in the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay - The former shooter won the men's 10m air rifle event at Beijing 2008 and is India's first-ever Olympic gold medal winner.

Chess

- Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2024 - The 86th edition of the tournament has took place at the Dorpshuis De Moriaan in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.

Events

- IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy in the Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24 - Karnataka lifted the Nagesh Trophy after defeating Andhra Pradesh by nine wickets in the final of Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament.

Others

- Top Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari was banned for 12 years - For failing multiple dope tests by the international federation's Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), essentially ending her career.

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI

- RBI conduct a 4-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) Auction of Rs.50,000 crore - To reduce liquidity in the banking system in the backdrop of sharp decline in overnight money market rates and banks' deployment of funds at the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) exceeding draws.
- RBI conducted two overnight Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions - It marks the first instance of such action in a single day.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a business restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

- RBI imposed a penalties of over Rs.3 crore on SBI, Canara Bank, City Union Bank and Ocean Capital Market for violation of regulatory norms - RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs.2 crore on SBI for contravention of provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the BR Act read with the Depositor Education Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.
- RBI observed the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2024 from February 26 to March 01
- RBI tweaks rules to standardise filing of supervisory returns by banks - Banks will have to submit all audited returns to the central bank within 5 working days from the date of signing of the auditor's report, as per the RBI.

Public Sector Banks

SBI

- SBI launched digital enrolment for PMJJBY and PMSBY Schemes - A self-subscribing journey for enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) schemes for its customers to enroll under the schemes as per their convenience without visiting the Branch/Customer Service Point.
- Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) + State Bank of India (SBI)- To launched an "Automated Search Portal" to help public sector banks (PSBs) with antecedent verification of prospective borrowers and non-performing assets (NPAs)
- SBI is to utilise the enabling provision to raise Rs.11,900 crore through additional tier-I bonds in the current fiscal

Bank of Maharashtra

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has recorded the highest growth rate in terms of deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders

Private Sector Banks

Axis Bank

- IRDAI has approved the capital infusion of Rs 1,612 crore by Axis Bank into the Max Life Insurance, the subsidiary of Max Financial Services
- Paytm shifts Nodal Account to Axis Bank - Axis Bank's income will get a "fee and float" boost as One 97 Communications Ltd, which owns the Paytm brand, has decided to move its nodal account to the bank.

HDFC Bank

- HDFC Bank has received RBI's approval to increase 9.5% stake each in 6 banks - These 6 banks were named Axis Bank, Suryoday Small Finance, ICICI Bank, Bandhan Bank, IndusInd Bank and Yes Bank.

IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank and its subsidiary, Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd have signed a MoU with the Government of Uttar Pradesh - To collaborate on livestock healthcare management and welfare in the Western Uttar Pradesh region through their social initiative, Bharat Sanjeevani Program.

Small Finance Bank

- ESAF Small Finance Bank has declared a bancassurance collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance - This partnership is to widen the accessibility of innovative life insurance products, capitalizing on ESAF Small Finance Bank's presence across rural markets in India.

Insurance News

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted In-principle approval to Policybazaar Insurance Brokers - For the upgradation of license from direct insurance broker (Life and General) to a composite insurance broker.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) + Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance - To provide a USD 200 million loan agreement for the 'Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management (FRERM) Project in Assam'.
- ADB has approved a USD 23 million loan for Gujarat - To foster the growth of fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India.

SEBI

- SEBI has levied a penalty of Rs.3 lakh on Kotak Alternate Investment Fund and its trustees - extending the tenure of its close-ended venture capital fund Kotak SEAF India beyond the prescribed tenure.

SIDBI

- SIDBI has unveiled impact study 'Prabhaav' on Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) - SIDBI unveiled the report of the impact assessment of the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), a pivotal element of the StartUp India Action Plan initiated by PM Modi in 2016.

Others

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service is now officially available at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, France
- Fintech Startups Juspay and Decentro, Software-as-a-Service Company Zoho have received the final licence from RBI to operate as Payment Aggregators
- Paytm's parent company One 97 Communications will form a group advisory committee chaired by former SEBI chairman M Damodaran - To help its board to strengthen compliance and regulatory matters.
- The 16th Finance Commission held its 1st meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya in Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi
- PayU + National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - To enable PayU merchants to accept digital payments via credit lines.
- Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) + Singapore-based DBS Bank signed a MoU - To spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes.
- Fintech startup Paymart India has partnered with 5 Indian banks, IDBI Bank, Indian Bank, Axis Bank, J&K Bank and Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) - To introduce India's 1st Virtual ATM (VATM) to offer innovative virtual, cardless, and hardware-less cash withdrawal service.
- Mswipe Technologies has secured a Payment Aggregator (PA) license from the RBI - A payment aggregator license enable the companies to provide payment services to merchants by accepting payment instruments from customers and transferring funds to merchants after a specified period.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT News

- IIT Madras has partnered with Munitions India Limited, a Defence Public Sector Enterprise - To develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defence sector.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) + Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar signed a MoU - To foster innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Kharagpur + C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have signed an agreement - For Developing Prototypes for 10-Gigabit-capable symmetric Passive Optical Network (i.e., XGS-PON) Optical Line Terminal (OLT) and Optical Network Unit (ONU).
- IIT Roorkee + C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have signed an agreement - For "Developing a 140GHz Fully Integrated Transmitter& Receiver Module for 6G and Beyond". IIT Guwahati unveiled a SWASTHA project and state-of-the-art ISO 5 and 6 Clean Room Facilities for Nanotech - SWASTHA Centre aims to revolutionise healthcare through advanced nanoelectronic theranostic devices, emphasising innovation and technological progress
- Tata Steel + IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP) signed a MoU - To explore collaboration in different areas including materials processing and modelling, energy and environment, and low carbon steel production and circular economy.
- IIT Madras + Indian Maritime University + Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) - To launch an MTech program in Dredging Engineering as there is dire need for qualified dredging professionals in the country.
- IIT Guwahati + EduRade, a brand owned by RC HobbyTech Solutions Pvt Ltd - launch India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO), spanning across 18 acres and boasting the capability to fly 9 medium-class drones simultaneously, positioning itself as a frontrunner in drone technology training.
- MoS for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Jal Shakti, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the 'Investor Information and Analytics Platform' developed by IIT Madras
- Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer at the IIT Delhi (FITT-IITD) + National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd (NICDC) under the DPIIT signed a MoU - To evaluate optimality of locations for development of Greenfield



Industrial Smart Cities in India leveraging the principles and framework of PM GatiShakti.

Space News

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched the Plankton, Aerosol, Climate, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) Satellite - The satellite launched into orbit aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, to study ocean health, air quality and the effects of Climate change for the benefit of humanity.
- ISRO launched the meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission - The satellite was launched from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- India's first indigenous spy satellite by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) set for SpaceX launch - This launch in SpaceX rocket by April 2024 and will be used by the armed forces to get discreet information.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- DRDO has conducted the four flight trials of the High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) ABHYAS - Four flights of ABHYAS, designed by the DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and called as 'ABHYAS', were successfully carried out from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd with support from the DRDO will be involved in the Rs 60,000 crore worth upgrade of the Su-30MKI fighter jet fleet

India in Science & Technology

- Chennai-based drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has launched a nano drone, Droni – For the consumer photography and cinematography segment, Droni is a small-sized foldable quadcopter weighing 250 gm.
- The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has partnered with ISRO for NISAR Phase II research programme
- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) + Airbus Defence and Space - To produce detailed parts and sub-assemblies for the C295 aircraft in India, highlighting the country's capabilities in advanced manufacturing.

Environment & Energy

- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals has signed a long-term gas supply agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation for 5 years
- ACME Group has signed a MoU Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) - For cooperation and collaboration on developing the green hydrogen and ammonia market in India.
- Cochin International Airport + Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) signed a MoU - To set up the world's first green hydrogen plant and fueling station in the airport premises.
- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed a pact worth Rs.500 crore with state and industry bodies at the 4-day India Energy Week event
- REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd (RECPDCL) handed over 5 inter-state transmission project SPVs
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of NLC India's 300 MW solar power plant in Barsingsar of Bikaner district in Rajasthan
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) + Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a MoU - To promote renewable energy initiatives and aimed at enhancing support for RE projects.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- SJVN Limited, through its wholly owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Ltd (SGEL) + J&K Power Corporation Ltd signed a Power Usage Agreement - Under this, SGEL will supply 300 MW Solar Power capacity to JKPCL from the under-construction 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project in Rajasthan.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Bangladesh

- India and Bangladesh have collaborated for trans-boundary tiger conservation in Sunderbans
- The trial movement from Maia to Sultanganj Port - The first trial movement of vessels carrying stone aggregates was flagged off on the Maia-Aricha route, connecting Maia Port in India to Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh.

Colombia

- India and Colombia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - For cooperation in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation.

Japan

- Japan commits Official Development Assistance loan of Japanese Yen 232.209 billion for 9 projects in various sectors in India

Nepal

- Reserve Bank of India + Nepal Rastra Bank signed the Terms of Reference - For the integration of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Payments Interface (NPI) to integrate the fast payment systems of both countries.

New Zealand

- RAdm David Proctor, Chief of Navy, Royal New Zealand Navy is on an official visit to India - Adm David Proctor interacted with Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy at New Delhi.

Philippines

- Philippines becomes first Asian Country to ratify ILO convention to end Workplace Violence and Harassment 2019 (No. 190)

Russia

- India and Russia have strengthen nuclear cooperation with the signing of protocol on amendments to the 2008 intergovernmental agreement

Saudi Arabia

- India and Saudi Arabia collaborated to discuss the Defence and Strategic Cooperation

United Arab Emirates

- India and UAE signed a MoU - The MoU on interlinking of the instant payment platforms, India's UPI and UAE's AANI, were exchanged between India and the UAE in presence of PM Narendra Modi and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- PM Narendra Modi will visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to inaugurate the first Hindu temple 'BAPS Mandir' in Abu Dhabi
- Dubai introduces 5-year multiple-entry visa for Indians - To leverage multiple entries/exits, providing operational flexibility for business, leisure travel etc.

United States

- India and USA has proposed a mega drone deal at an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion - The proposed mega drone deal was announced during the historic State Visit of PM Narendra Modi in June 2023.

Summit/Event

- World Government Summit (WGS) is to be held at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Dubai
- 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference being held in Perth, Australia - Theme: "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".
- The 2-day INDUS-X Summit is to be held in New Delhi
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) concluded its 5th Plenary session in Paris, France under the presidency of T Raja Kumar of Singapore
- The 3-day 5th edition of the International Gita Mahotsav on the foreign soil will be organised in Sri Lanka

Exercise

- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise "MILAN24" is hosted by India, commenced in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- The Nepali Army and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command are co-hosts the Exercise Shanti Prayas IV - The exercise was held at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre in Panchkhal, Nepal.
- The 16th edition of the India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral exercise "Dosti" is held in Male, Maldives
- The 5th Edition of the India-Japan Annual Military Exercise "Dharma Guardian" held in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan

Others

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Iran and Egypt have all agreed to join BRICS - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates joined the organization on 1 January 2024.
- The Indian government has decided to construct a fence along the entire 1643 km long Indo-Myanmar border- To facilitate better surveillance, a patrol track along the border will also be paved.
- India launched the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and RuPay card services in Mauritius

- Malta joined as the 119th country to join International Solar Alliance (ISA) - It could be done after the Malta's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Christopher Cutajar has signed the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

President Droupadi Murmu News

- Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund, Haryana.

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

- Narendra Modi addressed the India's largest and first-of-its-kind mobility exhibition- Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth over Rs.1330 crore during the Viksit Bharat-Viksit Goa 2047 programme in Goa
- PM Narendra Modi will unveil the 125 feet statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan at Lahdoigarh, Hologapar in Jorhat
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of 554 Amrit Bharat stations - To improve the facilities at railway stations by developing rooftop plazas and city centres at a cost of Rs.40,000 crore.
- PM Modi inaugurated the India's longest Cable-Stayed Bridge Sudarshan Setu - Sudarshan Setu, formerly known as the Signature Bridge between Okha and Beyt in the pilgrimage site of Dwarka, Gujarat.
- PM Modi inaugurated the largest-ever global textile event Bharat Tex 2024, to be organized at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

Ministry News

Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

- Rajnath Singh unveiled a life-size statue of late General Bipin Rawat at TonsBridge School, Dehradun
- MoD has crossed the milestone of Rs.1 lakh crore orders on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal since its inception



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

- Amit Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stone of 53 different projects worth Rs.2448 crore

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari

- The government's target to build 13,000 kilometres (km) of National Highways (NH) by the end of March
- Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 18 National Highway Projects worth Rs.7,290 crore in Belagavi, Karnataka

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda

- Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda launched portal 'SARATHI' - To provide a comprehensive suite of insurance products including PMFBY, tailored explicitly for farmers and rural population of India.
- Arjun Munda launched a "Joint National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions" - To cater to the healthcare requirements of students residing in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across tribal areas in India.

Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed the "Track Child Portal" - It enables tracking of the missing and found children in all States/UTs in India.
- Ministry of Ayush + Ministry of Women and Child Development signed a MoU - For the nutritional improvement in adolescent girls through Ayurveda Interventions.

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

- Ministry of Education has launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme - To benefit students from economically disadvantaged groups and aims at empowering meritorious students who do not have enough resources by offering them access and opportunities.
- Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the 2-day 100 Cube Start-up Conclave at IIT Bhubaneswar, Research and Entrepreneurship Park

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) through the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in remote villages of India

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

- Narayan Rane launched a special scheme for informal micro enterprises (IMEs)

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

- Pralhad Joshi launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) named C- CARES - The portal was developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Joshi inaugurated 3 initiatives being undertaken as Corporate Social Responsibility of Coal India Ltd (CIL) - The MoU signed between CIL and Educational Consultants India Ltd (EDCIL) aims to provide digital education through smart classrooms and computer laboratory up to 12th standard schools in Coal Bearing States.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH): Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

- Sonowal launched a major push for the development of waterways with unveiling projects worth of Rs.308 crore for Guwahati
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways + Indian Institute of Management (IIM Shillong) signed a MoU - To set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' on the campus.
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated two institutes of Ministry of Ayush which will promote holistic healthcare scenario in the country

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr. Virendra Kumar

- Virendra Kumar inaugurated multiple projects worth over Rs 100 crore across the country - For the government's efforts to foster inclusion and enhance rehabilitation facilities for persons with disabilities (PWD).

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

- National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS) signed a MoU with BRAC International - For the inclusion of the poorest of the poor under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- Secretary of Ministry of Panchayati Raj Vivek Bharadwaj inaugurated the Cross Learning Interactive National Workshop - The Workshop focuses on Gram Panchayat Spatial Development Plan (GPSDP) at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

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

- MeitY + National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology hosts 1st Digital Indis Future SKILLS summit in Guwahati

Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras

- Pashupati Kumar Paras inaugurated the "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024"

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

- 3 more Ramsar sites from Karnataka and 2 more Ramsar sites from Tamil Nadu have been added to the Ramsar list by the MoEFCC - With this addition, the total number of RAMSAR sites in India has increased from 75 to 80.

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

- MoS for Health and Family Welfare Singh Baghel launched the 1st phase of the Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign - For Lymphatic Filariasis elimination, the campaign aims to check disease transmission by providing free preventive medications to the residents in areas affected by the disease.
- Mandaviya launched the AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card - The AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card will ensure hassle free payments for treatment in AIIMS New Delhi.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Shri Parshottam Rupala

- Parshottam Rupala launched the realigned AHIDF Scheme and released the Radio Jingle on AHIDF at New Delhi
- Department of Fisheries + Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform signed a MoU - To provide better digital marketing access for the fisheries sector and other aquatic produce.

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

- G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the country's 1st National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
- Ministry of Culture set up a Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi known as Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra in Hyderabad

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

- Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting unveiled the 'India Year Book 2024' and 'Career Calling'
- Anurag Thakur launched 4 transformative portals as part of MIB's digital initiatives to modernise media industry

State News

Assam

- Assam government and Larsen & Toubro established the Construction Skill Training Center
- Assam designates 'Kaji Nemu' (Citrus limon) as the Official State Fruit

Chhattisgarh

- Dharmendra Pradhan, along with the CM of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai have inaugurated 211 PM SHRI schools in Raipur

Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi dedicated a slew of development projects worth Rs.60,500 crore for Navsari and Mehsana in Gujarat

Haryana

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Van Mitra' Scheme and Portal - To encourage community participation in tree planting activities in non-forest areas.
- Haryana CM Manohar Lal inaugurated the 'Savera' Program - It was initiated by the Medanta Foundation in collaboration with the Health Department in Gurugram.

Karnataka

- The Centre has released Rs.235.14 crore to Karnataka as third installment under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for FY 2023-24
- Karnataka government has launched the new agricultural scheme "Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojane" - To promote the sustainability and profitability for farmers to make agriculture sustainable and lucrative.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra Public Work Department + National Highways Logistic Management Ltd (NHLML) signed a MoU - To implement ropeways as part of the National Ropeway Programme 'Parvatmala'.
- Maharashtra Government has introduce 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' - To benefit 15 lakh senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability.
- Maharashtra government signed a MoU with search engine giant Google - To utilize Artificial Intelligence for solutions in sectors including agriculture, healthcare and education.

Goa

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) + Goa signed a MoU - To fund the state's green energy ambitions through a blended finance facility.

Odisha

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for projects worth more than Rs.68,000 crore in Sambalpur, Odisha - It aimed at boosting the energy sector involving natural gas, coal and power generation.
- Gupteswar Forest in in Koraput district of Odisha has designated as the 4th Biodiversity-Heritage Site (BHS) in the state
- Odisha cabinet has decided to provide a interest-free loans up to Rs.1 lakh to youth under the new scheme named Swatantra Yuva Udyami Scheme (SWAYAM) - To provide interest-free loans to unemployed or underemployed youths and to promote self-employment among the youths in Odisha.

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Sikkim

- Sikkim launched a INSPIRES (Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Revising Economics) Program - Launched under the aegis of the Planning and Development Department was launched at Chintan Bhavan

Tamilnadu

- Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) launched its ticketing services on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network
- Tamil Nadu Minister MRK Panneerselvam presented a separate 'Agriculture Budget 2024-25' in the state assembly

Telangana

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a loan of Rs.1,336 crore - To promote job creation and support the start-up ecosystem in Telangana.
- Telangana announced a Rs.2,000 crore plan to develop 64 ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes) as Skill Development Centres
- Telangana hosts the "Samakka Saralamma Jatara" tribal fair - Hundreds of thousands of Adivasis from across the country began thronging Medaram, a tiny hamlet in Tadwai forests of Telangana's Mulugu district.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh government is enhances 'EV Upyog' portal to promote Electric Vehicles (EVs)
- Yara India has signed an MoU with the Department of Horticulture and Food Processing, Government of Uttar Pradesh - The strategic partnership aims to support potato farmers in enhancing crop productivity and quality to gain acceptance for produce in the market.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for four projects being developed by Torrent Power in Uttar Pradesh worth Rs.25,000 crore
- Forest department in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda in coordination with Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India - To establish a turtle conservation reserve in the Sarju river, a tributary of Ghaghra river at Gonda district is known for its turtle diversity, making it an ideal location for such a conservation effort.

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama launched the “Dhama against drugs campaign” - It is being run by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun from February 5 to February 10.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated a 'Himalayan Basket' initiative - By transforms Champawat into an ideal district by boosting local employment and creating economic growth.

Union Territory News

Jammu and Kashmir

- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs.32,000 crore in Jammu

Union Cabinet News

- Union Cabinet has approved the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the United Arab Emirates - The approval is expected to increase investments in India and helps in realizing the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging domestic manufacturing, reducing import dependence, increasing exports etc.
- Union Cabinet has approved the determination of Marketing Margin on supply of domestic gas to Fertilizer (Urea) Units for the period from May 1, 2009 to November 17, 2015
- Union Cabinet has approved the extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) families - It was distributed through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.
- Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for another three years up to 2025-26
- Union Cabinet approved amendments in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for the space sector

NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog + Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - Jointly released the report titled 'LNG as a Transportation Fuel in Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle' at India Energy Week in Goa.
- NITI Aayog launched the Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and portal in New Delhi

Others

- The treatment costs under AYUSH will soon be brought on par with allopathy from the next financial year - Announced by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- North India's first human DNA bank is being set up at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Commonwealth Legal Education Association-Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference 2024 held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi
- MoS for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the "Digital India FutureLABS" - To strengthen research and development (R&D) and innovation in areas such as automotive, computing, communication, strategic electronics, industrial electronics and Internet-of-Things (IoT) in India.
- 6th edition of India Boat& Marine Show (IBMS) is held in Kochi, Kerala
- Divya Kala Mela event is being held in Agartala, Tripura
- MoS for Health and Family Welfare S.P Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar has virtually launched the Kilkari programme and Mobile Health Academy (m-health) - For beneficiaries in local content in Gujarat and Maharashtra, aimed at strengthening public health infrastructure in the states.
- Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the GoI had launched the 'Science for Women: A Technology and Innovation (SWATI) Portal
- PM Modi launched PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to provide free electricity to its beneficiaries
- The Global Pulses Conference:Pulses 24 is held in Delhi
- Secretary of the Department of Land Resources, Nidhi Khare has rolled out National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) throughout Assam
- Supreme Court declares electoral bonds scheme and related legal amendments unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary
- Indian government has increased the allocation under the "Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector" Scheme by 23% to Rs.708.69 crore from Rs.576.41 crore for the next two FYs 2024-2026
- Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) and Meta announced a dedicated fact-checking helpline on WhatsApp
- GoI has increased the Authorised Capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Rs.10,000 crore to Rs.21,000 crore - To enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively.

- The 11th International Puppet Festival was kicked off at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh
- Chief Justice of India Justice DY Chandrachud has inaugurated 'Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre' in the premises of Supreme Court of India
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has unveiled the logo for the upcoming 7th North East Youth Festival 2024 in Tripura
- The Centre has decided to continue its flagship scheme for women safety with an approval of Rs.1,179.72 crore till 2025-26
- PM inaugurated the pilot project of 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector'
- India's rural and urban poverty is estimated at 7.2% and at 4.6%, based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- UPI transactions has reached a record of Rs 18.41 lakh crore in January 2023
- Gross GST revenue of January is Rs.1,72,129 crore - The government has settled Rs 43,552 crore to CGST and Rs 37,257 crore to SGST from the IGST collection.
- Morgan Stanley buys 50 lakh shares of Paytm's parent company One97 Communications for Rs.244 crore through an open market transaction
- India's forex reserves increased USD 591 million to USD 616.733 billion for the week ended on January 26, according to the RBI
- IOB shares surged as much as 7.92% to Rs.56.22 apiece on the BSE, with its market valuation rising above Rs.1.03 lakh crore
- Adani Total Gas and INOX India have entered into a mutual support agreement - To distribute LNG and LCNG equipment and services and other collaboration opportunities.
- Commodity Exchange NCDEX's Investor Protection Fund and Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) launched a centre of excellence in Anand, Gujarat - For growth of commodity derivatives market.
- LIC has increased its shareholding in Navin Fluorine International Ltd (NFIL) from 5.037% to 7.071% of the latter's paid-up capital



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- Paytm Ecommerce has changed its name to Pai Platforms, acquires Bitsila
- Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Coastal Energen Pvt Ltd (CEPL) by Dickey Alternative Investment Trust (DAIT) and Adani Power Ltd (APL)
- Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) shareholding in SBI Cards and Payments Services crossed 5% with the insurer
- Zoho launched Zakya, which offers a Point of Sale (PoS) solutions for retail stores to streamline their day-to-day operations
- Jio and Qualcomm working on a Super affordable 5G phone
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of up to 8.79% (approx.) of the equity share capital of Pricol Ltd (Pricol/Target) by Minda Corporation Ltd (Minda/Acquirer).
- IT Services and Consulting Firm Tech Mahindra has completed the acquisition of 100% stake in Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI) through its wholly-owned subsidiary for a total of \$3.27 million.
- The National Company Law Tribunal has approved Rs.9,650 crore resolution plan submitted by Hinduja's Indusind International Holdings (promoter of Indusind Bank) for bankrupt Reliance Capital.

RANKING

International Ranking TomTom Traffic Index 2023

<u>Rank</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Average Travel km</u>
1	London (United Kingdom)	37 min 20 sec
2	Dublin (Ireland)	29 min 30 sec
3	Toronto (Canada)	29 min
4	Milan (Italy)	28 min 50 sec
5	Lima (Peru)	28 min 30 sec
6	Bengaluru (India)	28 min 10 sec
7	Pune (India)	27 min 50 sec

<u>Rank</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Average Travel km</u>
8	Bucharest (Romania)	27 min 40 sec
9	Manila (Philippines)	27 min 20 sec
10	Brussels (Belgium)	27 min
44	New Delhi	21 min 40 sec
54	Mumbai	21 min 20 sec

Brand Guardianship Index (BGI) 2024

- It was compiled by Brand Finance.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>CEO-Company-Country</u>	<u>BGI Score 2024</u>
1	Huateng Ma-Tencent-China	81.6
2	Mukesh Ambani-Reliance Group-India	80.3
3	Jensen Huang-NVIDIA-United States	79.9
4	Tim Cook-Apple Inc-United States	79.3
5	Natarajan Chandrasekaran-TATA Sons-India	79.2

- World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Report 2023 - An Inter-Ministerial dedicated team comprising of Stakeholder Ministries/Departments has been formed, focusing on all 6 LPI parameters: Customs, Infrastructure, Ease of Arranging Shipments, Quality of logistics Services, Tracking and Tracing and Timeliness.

Financial Times Global MBA Ranking 2024

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>B-School</u>
1	31	Indian School of Business (ISB)
2	41	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
3	47	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore



<u>Rank</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>B-School</u>
4	67	Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
5	85	Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
6	99	XLRI-Xavier School of Management

Monthly Update of Henley Passport Index 2024

- India's ranking dropped from 80th to 85th between January 2024 and February 2024.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Country Name</u>	<u>Access to Nations</u>
1	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain	194
2	Finland, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden	193
3	Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, United Kingdom	192
4	India	62

- Cybercrime Report: India Ranks 80th Worldwide - India was placed on the 80th position in a report focusing on local threats in the year 2023.
- US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of its International IP (intellectual property) Index

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Overall Score</u>
1	United States	95.48%
2	United Kingdom	94.12%
3	France	93.12%
4	Germany	92.46%
5	Sweden	92.12%
42	India	38.64%



AWARDS

National Awards

- 14th edition of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Food Safety Awards 2023 - The award recognised Cargill’s food safety initiatives in categories such as ‘Large Manufacturing Food Businesses: Fats and Oils-Kurkumbh plant, Maharashtra’ and ‘Large Manufacturing Food Business: Sweeteners-Davangere plant, Karnataka’.
- The government honoured Senior BJP Leader and the man behind the Ram Janambhoomi movement, Lal Krishna Advani with Bharat Ratna
- Public Relations Officer of Goa Shipyard Ltd’s Nikhil Mukund Wagh has received the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award
- REC Limited has secured the prestigious Best Green Bond-Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024

Sportstar ACES Awards 2024

- The Sportstar Aces Award 2024 event held at the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winners</u>
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	Men’s Relay Team (4*400m) (Muhammad Anas, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, and Rajesh Ramesh)
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	Parul Chaudhary (Athletics)
Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)	Hardik Singh (Hockey), Mohammed Shami (Cricket)
Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports)	Vandana Katariya(Hockey)
Sportsman of the Year (Individual)	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty (Badminton)
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual)	Rameshbabu Vaishali (Chess), Sift Kaur Samra (Shooting)
Sportsman of the Year (Parasports)	Sumit Antil (Javelin)
Sportswoman of the Year (Parasports)	Thulasimathi Murugesan (Badminton)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winners</u>
Coach of the Year	Rahul Dravid (Cricket)
Young Achiever of the Year (Male)	Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar(Archery)
Young Achiever of the Year (Female)	Tilottama Sen(Shooting)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Chandu Borde (Cricket), Karnam Malleswari(Weightlifting)
Sportstar of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra(Javelin)
Sportstar of the Year (Female)	Sheetal Devi(Archery)
National Team of the Year	India Men's Cricket Team
Club/State Team of the Year	Saurashtra Cricket Team
Moment of the Year	Sheetal Devi Hits the Bullseye
International Icon	Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka Men's Cricket)
Best State for the Promotion of Sport	Tamil Nadu
Best Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) for the Promotion of Sport	NTPC Ltd (National Thermal Power Corporation)
Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport	Tata Steel Ltd
Best University for the Promotion of Sport	SRM Institute of Science and Technology
Sport for Social Good	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board
Ace of Aces Award	Rohan Bopanna(Tennis)

- Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, and eminent Agricultural Scientist MS Swaminathan has conferred with 'Bharat Ratna'
- Composer of My Name Is Lakhan, Pyarelal Sharma has received the Lakshminarayana International Award

- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala Section has conferred the KPP Nambiar Award for 2024 to the ISRO Chairman, S.Somanath
- President Droupadi Murmu has awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal to Havildar Varinder Singh of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army
- The '19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo& Citations 2023' by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) is held in Mumbai - City Union Bank (CUB) has won seven awards in various categories such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Fintech DPI Adoption, Financial Inclusion, Digital Engagement, IT Risk Engagement, Technology Talent and Special Mention for Best Technology Bank.
- 58th Jnanpith Award - The award has been awarded to Two personalities, Legendary Indian poet and lyricist Sampooran Singh Kalra (popularly known as Gulzar) for Urdu and Indian spiritual leader and scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for Sanskrit.
- REC Ltd has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award'
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) won 3 awards for Telecom Innovations at the 14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards

International Awards

- The UK has named nine scientists, including three researchers of Indian descent, as recipients of UK's prestigious Blavatnik Award - For young scientists who are advancing science and improving the world.
- Member of Parliament and prolific author Shashi Tharoor was conferred with "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion Honour)

APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Ajay Kumar Choudhary	Non-Executive Chairman and Independent Director of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Biswamohan Mahapatra
Anand Radhakrishnan	MD& CEO of Sundaram Asset Management	Sunil Subramaniam
Aravamudan Krishna Kumar	Part Time Non Official Director as well as Non	-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
	Executive Chairman of UCO Bank	
Ashish Vijayakar	MD& CEO of State Bank of Mauritius (SBM)	-
Bank of Maharashtra MD and CEO A S Rajeev	As Vigilance Commissioner	Praveen Kumar Srivastava
Champai Soren	12th Chief Minister of Jharkhand	Hemant Soren
Former Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha	Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank	G. C. Chaturvedi
Former LIC Chairman M R Kumar	Part Time Non Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Bank of India	-
H Venkatachalam Iyer	MD& CEO of Tata AIA Life Insurance	Naveen Tahilyani
Justice Vijay Bishnoi	New Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court	Sandeep Mehta
K.V.S. Manian	Re-designated as the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank	-
Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi	Vice Chief of the Army Staff	Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar
Naveen Tahilyani	MD& CEO of Tata Digital	Pratik Pal
Pranam Wahi	Additional Independent Director of Axis Bank	-
Radha Raturi	1st woman Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand	Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal	72nd New President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).	Aniket Sunil Talati
Ravi Kumar Jha	MD& CEO of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management	-
Renu Sud Karnad	Chairperson and Independent Director of PayU Payments	
Sanjay Jaju	New Information and Broadcasting Secretary	Apurva Chandra
Sanjay Kumar Jain	Chairman & MD of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)	-
Srinivasan Sridhar	Part Time Non Official Director as well as non Executive Chairman of Indian Overseas Bank	-
Virendra Bansal	MD& CEO of SBI Capital Markets	Rajay Kumar Sinha

Current Affairs
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International Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Finland's former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb	As the 13th President of Finland	Incumbent President Sauli Niinisto
Geeta Batra	Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility	-
Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam	New President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)	United States' Joan Donoghue
Maryam Nawaz	1st-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan	
Mio Oka	New Country Director for India by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Takeo Konishi
Nayib Bukele	Re-elected as the President of El Salvador	-
Olzhas Bektenov	Prime Minister of Kazakhstan	Alikhan Smailov

Brand Ambassadors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Brand Ambassador</u>
Narendra Kumar Yadav	Brand Ambassador for the Fit India Movement

OBITUARY

- Veteran Odia Actor Sadhu Meher passed away - He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2017 for lifetime contribution to the field of entertainment.

- A Prominent broadcaster, poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee, Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki passed away - Nazki was awarded the Sahitya Academi award in Kashmiri for his poetry book Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas (Fire in the eyelashes) in 1995.
- Renowned litterateur and Padma Shri awardee Usha Kiran Khan passed away - She was a great writer who wrote several novels in Hindi and Maithili.
- Former Indian Test Cricket Team Captain Dattajirao Gaekwad passed away - He was the country's oldest living test cricketer and his debut for India came during the team's tour of England in 1952.
- Renowned Jain monk Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj died at the age of 77 at Chandragiri Teerth in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district
- A renowned Indian jurist and Padma Awardee, Fali Sam Nariman passed away - He was designated as a senior advocate in 1971, he also served as a Member of Parliament (MP) of Rajya Sabha.
- Former German footballer Andreas Brehme passed away
- Former Maharashtra CM and Ex-Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away - He served as CM of Maharashtra from 1995-99, then serving as the Union Heavy Industries Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government at the Centre from 1999-2002.
- Renowned Indian filmmaker and screenwriter Kumar Shahani passed away - He won 3 National Awards named National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi in 1973, his first full-length movie Tarang won the 2nd National Award in Special Mention in 1984 and his movie Bhavantarana won the 3rd National Award for Best Biographical Film In 1991.
- A prominent Indian Ghazal singer and Padma Shri awardee Pankaj Keshubhai Udhas passed away - He was honoured with the India's fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri for arts in 2006.

DEFENCE

- INS Sandhayak (Yard 3025) was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh - The first Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ship was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted the Vayu Shakti Exercise 2024 in Pokhran, Rajasthan

- Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' - To improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.
- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R.Hari Kumar has inaugurated a Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for various capital acquisition proposals amounting to Rs.84,560 crore
- IAF strengthens Air Defense with indigenous Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) Missile System - SAMAR-2 is a air defense system leveraging the expertise of the IAF's 7 Base Repair Depot Tughlakabad (BRD).

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