

April Monthly Current Affairs



International
Affairs

National
Affairs

Business

Awards

Important
Days

Sports

Banking

Ranking

Obituary

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>
April 01	88th Utkal Diwas/Utkala Dibasa/Odisha Foundation Day	-
April 01	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) celebrates 90 Years of Service on Foundation Day	-
April 03	260th Raising Day of Army Medical Corps (AMC)	-
April 05	61st National Maritime Day	"Sustainable Shipping: Challenges and Opportunities".
April 09	59th Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day/Shaurya Diwas	-
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	-
April 21	17th National Civil Service Day	-
April 24	15th National Panchayati Raj Day	-
April 28	CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum celebrated its 65th Foundation Day	-
April 30	Ayushman Bharat Diwas/Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) Diwas	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
March 30 to April 5	National Maritime Week	-
April 01 to April 07	Indian Government has observed Prevention of Blindness Week	-

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
April 02	The 17th United Nations (UN) World Autism Awareness Day	"Empowering Autistic Voices"
April 04	The 19th International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	'Protecting Lives, Building Peace'.
April 05	United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Conscience	"Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience"
April 06	11th edition of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	"Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies".
April 07	World Health Day	'My Health, My Right'.
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	"Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family".
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	-
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	-
April 13	International Turban Day	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
April 14	World Chagas Disease Day	Tackling Chagas Disease: Detect Early and Care for Life”
April 14	World Quantum Day	-
April 15	World Art Day	“A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art”.
April 17	World Haemophilia Day	“Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders”.
April 18	World Heritage Day/International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS)	Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter.”
April 19	World Liver Day	“Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups and Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases”
April 22	The United Nations (UN) International Mother Earth Day/World Earth Day	“Planet vs. Plastics”.
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	“Read Your Way”.
April 24	The United Nations (UN)’s International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	
April 25	World Malaria Day	“Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world”.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
April 26	The United Nations' International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	-
	World Intellectual Property (IP) Day	"IP and the SDGs: building our common future with innovation and creativity".
April 28	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	-
April 29	International Dance Day	-
April 30	UN's International Jazz Day	-
April 24 to April 30	World Immunization Week	"Humanly Possible: Immunization for All".
4th Thursday of April (April 25)	International Girls in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Day	"Leadership"

SPORTS

Cricket

- ICC Players of the Month for March 2024 - ICC Men's Player of the Month: Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka). ICC Women's Player of the Month: Maia Bouchier (England).
- Indian Squad announced for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 - India has named its 15-player squad for the eagerly anticipated ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, led by the experienced Rohit Sharma.



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Football

- Saudi Arabia’s oil behemoth, Aramco + Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) in a strategic global partnership - The collaboration, spanning until 2027 designates Aramco as FIFA’s Major Worldwide Partner exclusively in the energy sector.

Tennis

39th edition of the Miami Open 2024 -

Category	Winner	Runner
Men’s Singles	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria)
Women’s Singles	Danielle Collins (USA)	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men’s Doubles	Rohan Machanda Bopanna (India) and Mathew Ebden (Australia)	Ivan Dodic (Croatia) and Austin Krajicik (USA)
Women’s Doubles	Sofian Kennis (USA) and Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)

- Novak Djokovic becomes the Oldest World No.1 in ATP Ranking History
- Monte Carlo Masters 2024 - The 117th edition of Rolex Monte Carlo Masters was held at the Monte Carlo Country Club in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France
- Barcelona Open 2024 - The Barcelona Open is a 500-point ATP event that took place in Barcelona, Spain.

Wrestling

- Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 - India won 9 medals (4 silver and 5 bronze) in the Asian Wrestling Championships (Seniors) 2024 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Chess

- Chess Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh from Chennai won (Open Category) the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Candidates 2024 - Gukesh defeated Hikaru Nakamura of the United States to score 9 points at the event held in Toronto, Canada.

Weightlifting

- Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi and Saikhom Mirabai Chanu became the only two Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024



Grandprix
Japanese Formula One Grand Prix 2024

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)	Mexico
3	Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari)	Spain

Chinese Grand Prix 2024

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Lando Norris (McLaren)	United Kingdom (UK)
3	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)	Mexico

Events

- 56th National Kho Kho championships 2024 - Maharashtra secured the titles in both men's and women's category at the 56th National Kho Kho Championships.
- 51st National Carrom Championship 2024 - Rashmi Kumari won the national women's carrom title by defeat K Nagajothi to mark the record of 12th title.
- The 21st Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024 - The event was organized by the Asian Athletics Association in association with the UAE Athletics Federation in Dubai, serves as a qualifying event for the 2024 World U20 Athletics Championships, which is set to take place in Lima, Peru.

Others

- India tops in World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s Doping Offenders List in 2022
- Georgia hosted the 13th edition of European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024
- Takshvi Vaghani sets New World Record for the lowest Limbo Skating over 25 metres

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BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI

RBI's 1st Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY25

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 imposes Rs.74.1 crore fine on 64 banks and NBFCs in FY24 - This action was part of the central bank's heightened regulatory measures to ensure compliance and enhance governance within the Indian financial sector.
- RBI to set up a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) as a measure to combat cybercrime in the digital lending space
- RBI is set to enable Cash Deposits via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs)
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty on IDFC First Bank and LIC Housing Finance - A monetary penalty of Rs.1 crore is imposed on IDFC First Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- RBI postpones the implementation of New Rules of Exchange-Traded Forex Derivatives to May 03 - These regulations, initially set to take effect imminently, aim to ensure participants in the market have genuine foreign-exchange exposure.
- India's Mutual Fund Transfer Agency, Computer Age Management Services (CAMS) has received a Certificate of Authorisation from RBI
- RBI rejected the applications of Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services and Tally Solutions Private for setting up Small Finance Banks

- Neobank Revolut India receive In-principle approval for a Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) license from RBI
- RBI to bring Point of Sales (PoS) operators under license regime - To tighten the offline payments ecosystem, the RBI is expected to come out with guidelines for issuing licenses to operate in the Point of Sales (PoS) business.
- RBI issued draft norms for offline Payment Aggregators (PA), moots Rs.15 crore net worth
- RBI expands Gold Hedging Options for Residents Amidst Price Surge - In response to the soaring gold prices, expected to surpass \$2700 per ounce this year amidst escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a significant policy amendment.
- Bengaluru-based Fintech Unicorn Company, CRED has received in-principle approval from the RBI for the Payment Aggregator licence
- PayU Payments Pvt Ltd has received in-principle approval from RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA)
- RBI raised the Minimum Capital Requirement for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) from Rs.100 crore to Rs.300 crore
- NABARD partnered with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) - To develop a system that will help speed up the process of agricultural loans will ensure instant delivery of credit to farmers.
- RBI laid out a framework in the form of eligibility conditions for the voluntary transition of Small Finance Banks to Universal Banks (UBs)
- RBI Talkcharge Technologies Pvt Ltd to stop the issuance and operations of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)/wallets and refund the balances
- RBI notified amendments to the FEMA regulations related to purchases of shares of Indian companies on international exchanges
- RBI proposes tighter norms for lending service providers (LSPs) offering multiple loan products

Public Sector Banks **State Bank of India (SBI)**

- SBI Cards and Payment Services launched its 1st travel-focused credit card, 'SBI Card MILES,' featuring three variants
- SBI Cards' Q4 (January-March quarter) Net Profit surges 11% to Rs.662 crore, total revenue rises 14%

Canara Bank

- Canara Bank launched a new loan product focused on healthcare - A range of innovative products aimed at enhancing financial inclusivity and addressing healthcare needs.
- Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE) at the IIT Bombay has signed a MoU with Canara Bank - To empower startups across India, marking a pivotal moment for the startup ecosystem.

Indian Overseas Bank

- Indian Overseas Bank's total business crosses Rs.5 lakh crore mark in FY24 for the first time

Bank of India

- Bank of India has signed an agreement with India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) - To provide mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products in the affordable housing segment for salaried and self-employed home loan customers.

Bank of Baroda

- RBI's bank on Bank of Baroda's 'BoB World' Mobile App: Strengthening Measures Against Cyber Fraud

Indian Bank

- Indian Bank + Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) - To promote solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations.

Private Sector Banks

HDFC Bank

- HDFC Bank seeks to sell its 100% stake in HDFC Education and Development Services via Swiss Challenge Method
- HDFC Bank becomes the 1st Private Bank to open branch in Lakshadweep's Kavaratti
- HDFC Bank has planned to raise Rs.60,000 crore through various debt instruments

Jammu & Kashmir Bank

- Jammu & Kashmir Bank signed a MoU with Paymart India Pvt Ltd - To launch an innovative Virtual Automated Teller Machine (VATM) facility to introduce cardless cash withdrawals for the Bank's customers through local merchants.

South Indian Bank (SIB)

- Ashok Leyland signed a MoU with South Indian Bank - For financing dealers under the bank's dealer finance program.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- RBI imposes restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 - For onboarding of new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and issuing fresh credit cards.

IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank's Pilot Program with RBI's Programmable CBDC

Payments Bank

- Airtel Payments Bank + NPCI launched NCMC enabled Debit and Pre-paid Cards
- Razorpay + Airtel Payments Bank - To launch Razorpay's own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure with "UPI Switch", a next-generation cloud based innovation.

Insurance News

- PhonePe has partnered with Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (Star Health Insurance) - To offer health insurance options with monthly and annual payment choices to enhance flexibility for users.
- IRDAI new regulation on surrender charges decoded; SBI Life, LIC top buy in insurance space now
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has partnered with the insurance platform Policybazaar - To provide a comprehensive product portfolio of ICICI Lombard to the wide user base of Policybazaar.
- LIC increased its stake in Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) at 5.01%
- SBI Life Insurance has launched a IdeationX initiative - A groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering life insurance innovation and encourages future leaders from top B-Schools to devise unconventional solutions that cater to evolving consumer needs in the insurance sector.
- IRDAI has removed the age cap on buying health insurance policies with effect from 1st April 2024
- Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd (BFHL), the promoter of Bandhan Bank, has renamed Aegon Life Insurance as Bandhan Life
- IRDAI may price Bima Vistar insurance plan at around Rs.1500 per individual

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- SEBI launched the new version of SCORES (SEBI Complaint Redressal System) "SCORES 2.0" - To enhance the investor complaint redressal mechanism in the securities market by auto routing and auto escalation, monitoring by designated bodies and reducing timelines.
- SEBI has approved CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics Ltd as a Category 1 provider of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Ratings
- SEBI has notified Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to pay regulatory fees based on notional value rather than premium value for options contracts

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- SIDBI + fintech startup Onionlife Pvt Ltd to use its technology platform KarmaLife for a pilot to offer micro-loans for gig workers
- SEBI has given its approval to Hinduja Group-owned Asia Enterprises for a change of control in Reliance Wealth Management Limited under SEBI's regulations governing investment advisers and portfolio managers.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ADB raised India's Gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for FY25 (2024-25) to 7% from 6.7%

Others

- PhonePe + eSewa, a digital wallet service of Nepal and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN)-Pokhara - To promote digital payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on the Nepal payment processor Fonepay Network.
- BharatPe cofounder Ashneer Grover launched a new fintech application "ZeroPe"
- Fitch Ratings has upheld the long-term issuer default rating (IDR) of "BBB-" for State Bank of India (SBI) and Canara Bank
- Finance Ministry notifies a new FDI limits for satellite-related activities under Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules - Under the amended FDI policy, 100% FDI is allowed in the space sector.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted a standing committee to transform GIFT City into Climate Finance Hub
- Net Direct Tax collections in FY 2023-24 is increased to 17.7% as compared to the previous fiscal year
- BharatPe launched India's 1st all-in-one Payment Device BharatPe One
- Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended MD of SBI and Indian Bank - Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been proposed for the Managing Director of SBI, Asheesh Pandey has been proposed for the Managing Director of Indian Bank
- Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd launched India's first upgradable Automated Teller Machine (ATM) for customers



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- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched Common Audit Norms for Banks under GST Regime

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT News

- IIT Madras launched the 'Mobility and Intelligent Transportation' (MInT) collaborative - To build a global mobility digital infrastructure and develop R&D portfolio to enhance the sector's technological capabilities.
- IIT Bombay launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer named "CAR-T cell therapy"
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) + IIT Patna signed a MoU - To utilise the advanced geological models in tunneling projects of SJVN.
- Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a MoUs with IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur - For collaborative research & training and development of an innovative medical devices and focuses on addressing the health issues of the soldiers in diverse terrains.
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) + IIT Jodhpur (Rajasthan) have signed an agreement - For "Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI".

Space News

- Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) launched India's 1st Privately-Built Sub-Metre Resolution Surveillance Satellite, TSAT-1A into space
- Indian Army has acquired 24 Iгла-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) along with 100 missiles from Russia
- Israel deployed its ship-mounted defense system "C-Dome" near the city of Eilat
- Russian space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) successfully launched the 1st Angara-A5 space rocket
- Rocket Lab launches NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) and South Korea's 'NEONSAT-1' under the 'Beginning of the Swarm' mission into orbit
- China launched its Shenzhou-18 spacecraft ("Divine vessel"), aboard the Long March 2-F rocket with 3 astronauts to its Tiangong space station

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and DRDO successfully conducted the flight test of the New Generation Ballistic missile Agni-Prime (Agni-P)

- Indian Army + DRDO conducted the warhead flight trials of the Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System
- DRDO organised the 1st International workshop on 'Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton' in Bengaluru
- DRDO conducted the flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha

India in Science & Technology

- Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) is designated as the Nodal Centre for ISRO's 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme
- Pilot Gopichand Thotakura became the first Indian tourist to travel into space

Environment & Energy

- Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) Group + Tata Technologies Limited have signed a Joint Venture (JV) agreement - To establish an Automotive Software and Information Technology (IT) development Hub in Pune (Maharashtra), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has achieved its highest-ever annual loan sanctions and disbursements in the FY 2023-24
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) launched the latest edition of the Girl Empowerment Mission, its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative
- Adani Green Energy builds World's largest Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat's Khavda region of Kutch district
- Mahindra Susten to develop 150 MW (solar+wind) hybrid renewable energy project at a cost of Rs.1200 crore
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) has inaugurated India's 1st Multipurpose (combined Heat and Power) 1,500 MW Green Hydrogen Pilot Project
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has secured a green loan of Japanese Yen 60.536 (Rs.3250 crore) from Servizi Assicurativi del Commercio Estero (SACE), an Italian export credit agency
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) + Ocean Sun signed a MoU - To explore cooperation on floating solar technology projects.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) + M/s HIMA Middle East FZE, Dubai strategic partnership agreement for the Railway Signalling Business

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

China

- China launched 1st of the 8 Hangor-class submarines being built for Pakistan - To provide it with state-of-the-art warships, adding a new dimension to their growing bilateral military cooperation at the Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group's (WSIG) Shuangliu Base.

France

- Rashtriya Raksha University signed a MoU with French Starburst Aerospace - To advance aerospace, defence, and homeland security innovation.

Kazakhstan

- India and Kazakhstan agreed to enhance their counter-terrorism cooperation in response to a terrorist attack in Moscow

Nepal

- India has gifted 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organisations across Nepal

Nigeria

- Nigeria has become the 1st country to launch a new vaccine called Men5CV Meningitis Vaccine recommended by the WHO

Oman

- The 5th Annual High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Royal Oman Police Coast Guard (ROPCG) - The meeting was held in New Delhi to discuss combating transnational illegal activities at sea and promoting regional cooperation.

Philippines

- India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines

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Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), despite criticism from human rights groups

United States

- US state, Arizona has declared Pluto as its 'official state planet'

Zimbabwe

- Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has launched the new currency "Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)" backed by gold and foreign currencies

Summit/Event

- The 19th Annual Meeting of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan
- 16th edition of the World Future Energy Summit 2024 is to be held in Abu Dhabi
- The 6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) - Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the conference in New Delhi.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Astana, Kazakhstan endorses 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'

Exercise

- Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti' between the coast guards of the Maldives, India and Sri Lanka is held in the Maldives
- The 5th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLI-24' is being conducted in Termez District, the Republic of Uzbekistan

Others

- The European Union (EU) and India launched an Expression of Interest (EOI) - For startups working in Electric Vehicles (EVs) Battery Recycling to take part in the matchmaking event taking place under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
- Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army General Manoj Pande has inaugurated a State-of-the-Art Information Technology (IT) Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of the Armed Forces
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) signed a MoU - To establish ECO villages inspired by Govardhan EcoVillage (GEV) in Maharashtra.

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

- Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia - To strengthen bilateral exchange and cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development (HRD) in Civil Service over the next 5 years.

Ministry News

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shri Narendra Singh Tomar

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare notified specifications of a new product Nano Urea (liquid) 16 (Nano Urea Plus) fertiliser
- Agriculture Ministry has extended the interim approval granted for the approved use of pesticide formulations through drones for 1 year

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines:

Shri Prahlad Joshi

- Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched the Swachhata Pakhwada Initiative 2024 - mang Narula, Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched Swachhata Pakhwada, 2024 (from 16th to 30th April, 2024) with administration of Swachhata Pledge to all the Officers/ officials of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in New Delhi.
- Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation + Ministry of Mines signed a MoU - To provide knowledge support in the field of Critical Minerals.

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

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) - Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala

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

- Giriraj Singh - the National Colloquium on Grassroots Governance on 24th April to mark National Panchayati Raj Day 2024

Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Steel: Jyotiraditya Scindia

- Scindia established a 14th task force aimed at exploring the utilization of biochar in steel production

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

- Power Ministry has established an independent panel "Thermal Power Monitoring Group (TPMG)" - To assess the progress of ongoing thermal power projects in the public and private sectors, as well as those run by independent power producers.

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

- MoHFW - the myCGHS app for the iPhone Operating System (iOS) devices

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

- NFDC - the Animation Crash Course & VFX Pipeline workshop at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)

State News

Arunachal Pradesh

- The Nyishi Community of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates the Longte Festival - The Longte festival aims to spiritually cleanse the community by setting a symbolic barrier against evil spirits, ensuring peace and harmony among the people.

Goa

- The Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa has become the 14th Airport in India to launch the DigiYatra system

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install "hybrid pitch"



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Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh leads in Centre's Tree Plantation under the Green Credit Programme (GCP)

Punjab

- Punjab launched an innovative election initiative 'Booth Raabta' website - To enhance voter engagement and accessibility to election-related information, Punjab's Malerkotla district has introduced the 'Booth Raabta' website.

Others

- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs + HP India - Jointly launched the 'HP Future Impact Leaders-IICA Certified Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) Professional Programme" in New Delhi.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched the 'Myth vs Reality Register' for the General Elections 2024
- Geographical Indication Registry granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to 19 products from Assam, 4 from Meghalaya, 2 from Tripura and 3 from Uttar Pradesh, 2 from Maharashtra

State	Category	GI Product
Assam	HandiCrafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assam Bihu Dhol • Assam Jaapi • Sarthebari Metal Craft • Assam Pani Mateka Craft • Assam Asharikandi Terracotta Craft • Thorka • Sifung • Kham • Serja • Jotha-Bodo Musical Instrument • Gongona
	Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assam Mising Handloom

State	Category	GI Product
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products • Dokhona • Eri Silk / Indi Silk • Jwmgra • Gamsa
	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gongar Dunjia • Keradapini-(Plant, Shrub) • Khardwi
Tripura	Food Stuffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripura Matabari Peda (Sweet)
	Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripura Pachra/Rignai Textile
Meghalaya	Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghalaya Garo Dakmanda Textile
	HandiCrafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghalaya Larnai Pottery
	Manufactured Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghalaya Chubitchi (Rice) • Liquor)
	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakadong Turmeric
Uttar Pradesh	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundelkhand Kathiya Gehu (Wheat)
	Food Product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiranga Barfi
	HandiCrafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft
Maharashtra's Musical Instruments	HandiCrafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miraj Tanpura • Miraj Sita

- MeitY and NeGD organised the 43rd Batch of Chief Information Security Officers' (CISO) Deep Dive Training Programme
- Tri-service Planning Conference 'Parivartan Chintan' held in New Delhi, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) + Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) signed a MoU - For bolstering technical and knowledge cooperation for Critical Minerals at the National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) Corporate Office in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana) balance rises 18% to Rs.2.35 trillion in FY24
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) signed a MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) - For long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations.
- Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) unveiled New Logo and Motto
- India's Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) recognized as a best practice in governance

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- The total value of UPI transactions processed in FY24 is worth Rs.199 lakh crore - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) achieving new milestones in transaction volume and value during March 2024.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription to 14,25,79,161 equity shares of Max Life Insurance Company by Axis Bank
- AU Small Finance Bank has completed the acquisition of Fincare Small Finance Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's GDP growth forecast by 30bps to 6.8% for FY25 and retained the forecast for FY26 at 6.5%
- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation rises to 3-month high of 0.53% in March from 0.2% in February
- National Stock Exchange (NSE) to launch derivative contracts on the Nifty Next 50 index
- Deloitte's GDP growth forecast for India for the FY 2024-25 (FY25) is 6.6%
- SBI Mutual Fund has acquired a nearly 3% stake in Savita Oil Technologies, a specialty petroleum company, leading to a significant 10% increase in the company's stock price.

- IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL), the Mauritius-based Investment Holding Company of the Hinduja Group, has acquired a 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management India (IAMI).
- The National Statistical Office released data for the retail inflation rate, which fell to a 10-month low in March at 4.85% in India.
- Japan-based MUFG acquired a 20% stake in HDB Financial Services at close to USD10 billion valuation.

RANKING

National Ranking

Top 10 banks in India by Market Capitalisation in 2024

Rank	Bank Name	Market Cap (Rs Lakh Crore)
1	HDFC Bank	11.16
2	ICICI Bank	7.70
3	State Bank of India	6.75
4	Kotak Mahindra Bank	3.56
5	Axis Bank	3.24
6	Punjab National Bank	1.38
7	Bank of Baroda	1.37
8	Indian Overseas Bank	1.21
9	IndusInd Bank	1.20
10	Union Bank of India	1.19

- Karnataka and Gujarat are leading in the Clean Energy Transition - According to the report of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember, evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level.

Current Affairs

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International Ranking
Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2024

Rank	Name	Net Worth (USD Billion)
1	Bernard Arnault (Chairman and CEO of LVMH)- France	233
2	Elon Musk (CEO of Tesla)-USA	195
3	Jeff Bezos (Chairman and Founder of Amazon)-USA	194
4	Mark Zuckerberg (Cofounder of Meta Platforms)- USA	177
5	Larry Ellison (CTO and Founder of Oracle)-USA	141
6	Warren Buffet (CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc)-USA	133
7	Bill Gates (CoChair, Bill& Melinda Gates Foundation)-USA	128
8	Steve Ballmer (Former CEO of Microsoft)-USA	121
9	Mukesh Ambani-India	116
10	Larry Page (Cofounder and Board Member of Alphabet)-USA	114
Top 5 Billionaires of India in the List		
9	Mukesh Ambani (CMD of RIL)	116
17	Gautam Adani (Chairman of Adani Group)	84
39	Shiv Nadar (Co-Founder of HCL)	36.9
46	Savitri Jindal (Chairperson Emeritus of the O P Jindal Group)	33.5
69	Dilip Shanghvi (Founder & MD of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd)	26.7

- Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024 - The United States maintained its lead with 703 unicorns and China followed with 340, India ranked third with 67 unicorns.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the 14th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 - This edition featured 55 individual subjects across five broad subject areas viz. Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences & Management.

Rank	University Name
<u>Arts & Humanities</u>	
1	Harvard University, US
2	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (UK)
3	University of Oxford, UK
<u>Engineering and Technology</u>	
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US
2	Stanford University, US
3	University of Oxford
<u>Life Sciences & Medicine</u>	
1	Harvard University
2	University of Oxford
3	Johns Hopkins University, US
<u>Natural Sciences</u>	
1	Harvard University
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
3	University of Oxford
<u>Social Sciences & Management</u>	
1	Harvard University
2	University of Oxford

Rank	University Name
3	Stanford University

Indian University in the Rankings

Rank	Global Rank	University Name	Related Subject
1	20	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Development Studies
2	22	IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Business & Management Studies
3	25	IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay, Maharashtra	Engineering- Mineral & Mining
4	29	IIT-Madras, Tamil Nadu	Engineering-Petroleum

- World Cybercrime Index - A newly developed World Cybercrime Index was compiled by a team of researchers including Miranda Bruce, Jonathan Lusthaus, Ridhi Kashyap, Nigel Phair and Federico Varese, the index draws insights from surveys conducted among leading cybercrime experts worldwide.
- Airports Council International (ACI) World released the World's Top 10 Busiest Airports in 2023

Rank (2023)	Airport	Rank (2022)
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, US	1
2	Dubai International Airport	5
3	Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, US	2
4	London Heathrow, UK	8
5	Tokyo Haneda International Airport, Japan	16
10	New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport	9

- Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2024 - Wisden Cricketers' Almanack has revealed its Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2024.
- TIME released the 21st edition of an annual "TIME 100 most influential people 2024" in the world - The TIME100 list, compiled by the American magazine TIME,

recognises the impact, innovation, and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

- India ranked 4th in Global Military Spending in 2023 - The report was released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Rank	Country	Military Spending
1	United States of America (USA)	USD 916 billion
2	China	USD 296 billion
3	Russia	USD 109 billion
4	India	USD 83.6 billion
5	Saudi Arabia	USD 75.8 billion

- Passport Affordability Rankings: Indian Passport is ranked 2nd Cheapest - A recent study conducted by Australian firm Compare the Market AU has revealed intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility.
- India leads in AI and Cloud Innovation - Data storage and infrastructure company NetApp in its Cloud Complexity Report reveals India heads the pack as an AI leader, with 70% of companies having AI projects up and running.

AWARDS

National Awards

Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023

Category of the Award	Winner	Prize Amount
Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for the Player of the Year (Men)	Hardik Singh	Rs 25 lakhs
Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for the Player of the Year (Women)	Salima Tete	Rs 25 lakhs
Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year	PR Sreejesh	Rs 5 lakhs
Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year	Harmanpreet Singh	Rs 5 lakhs

Category of the Award	Winner	Prize Amount
Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the year	Abhishek	Rs 5 lakhs
Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh award for Midfielder of the Year	Hardik Singh	Rs 5 lakhs
Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award	Ashok Kumar	Rs 30 lakhs
Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men Under 21)	Arajeet Singh Hundal	Rs 10 lakhs
Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women-Under 21)	Deepika Soreng	Rs 10 lakhs

- REC Limited won SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category
- The MD of the Times Group, Vineet Jain won the exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023
- Dr. Karthik Kommuri was honoured at the National Fame Awards 2024 - For their exceptional contributions to their field, serving as an inspiration for excellence and innovation across diverse domains.
- SJVN Ltd received the Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024
- Indian Actor Ram Charan awarded with Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Vels University
- Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with the Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award - For his contributions to the world of Indian cinema over the span of his illustrious five-and-a-half-decade career.
- Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023 - The award recognized in promoting hockey as a sport both nationally as well as on the international platform, Hockey India announced first ever 'Hockey India Annual Awards' for the players.

Category	Winner
Hockey India President Award for Technical Official	Sonia Bathla
Hockey India President Award for Umpire/Umpire Manager	G Harsha Vardhan
Hockey India Presidents Award For Outstanding Achievement	Sail Hockey Academy, Rourkela
Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution	Dr Bibhu Kalyan Nayak
Hockey India Baljit Singh Award For Goalkeeper of the Year	PR Sreejesh
Hockey India Pargat Singh Award For Defender of the Year	Harmanpreet Singh
Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year	Hardik Singh
Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award For Forward of the Year	Abhishek
Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award For Upcoming Player of the Year (Women-Under 21)	Deepika Soreng
Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award For Upcoming Player of the Year (Men-Under 21)	Arajeet Singh Hundal
Hockey India Balbir Singh sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women)	Salima Tete
Hockey India Balbir Singh sr. Award for Player of the Year (Men)	Hardik Singh
Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award	Ashok Singh

- The Founder, CEO& Chairman of Ananth Technologies, Pavuluri Subba Rao honored with Aryabhata Award by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)

- Vankaiah Naidu, Mithun Chakraborty, Usha Uthup and Ram Naik conferred Padma Awards 2024 - President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma Awards 2024 ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.
- Randeep Hooda honored with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award - For his contributions to Indian cinema and his recent film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar" at the ceremony held at Mumbai's Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih.
- KV Kamath conferred with an honorary doctorate by Manipal Academy of Higher Education
- Indian Forest Activist of of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, Alok Shukla conferred with the Goldman Environmental Prize 2024

2024 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners:

Winner	Country
Marcel Gomes	Brazil
Murrawah Maroochy Johnson	Australia
Alok Shukla	India
Teresa Vicente	Spain
Andrea Vidaurre	United States of America
Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu	South Africa

Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award 2024

Award Winner	For the Year	City belongs to	Related Field
Uma Sharma	2015	New Delhi	Kathak
Rama Vaidyanathan	2016	New Delhi	Kathak
Uma Dogra	2017	Jaipur	Kathak
Hema Malini	2018	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
Sandhya Puricha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi	2018	Mumbai	Bharatanatyam Exponent
Saira Banu	2019	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress

Award Winner	For the Year	City belongs to	Related Field
Dr. Malabika Mitra	2021	Kolkata	Kathak
Prachi Shah	2022	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya	2023	Mumbai	Kathak
Pandit Rajendra Gangani	2024	Jaipur	Kathak

International Awards

- Prof. Meena Charanda, the Principal of Kalindi College, Delhi University was honored with the 'International Culture Award' for the year 2024
- Chandrayaan-3 mission team of Indian space agency, ISRO has received the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert Jr. award for Space Exploration
- Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital won the 'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the Annual Meeting of the ASCRS (American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery) 2024 - For the efficacy of RevitalVision vision-training software in improving best-corrected vision in stable keratoconus patients post Crosslinking surgery.
- 'All We Imagine as Light' first Indian Film to compete for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 30 years
- Indian Microbiologist and Virologist Gagandeep Kang honoured with the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award 2024
- Jain spiritual leader Lokesh Muni received the US Presidential Gold Volunteer Service Award 2024
- Kannada Poet Mamta G. Sagar honored with Prestigious World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- Nykaa Fashion CEO Adwaita Nayar is being named a 2024 Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024 - Doha's (Qatar) Hamad International Airport has been named as the World's Best Airport in 2024 in the 2024 Skytrax World Airport Award.



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Rank	Airport Name
1	Hamad International Airport, Doha, Qatar
2	Singapore Changi Airport, Singapore
3	Incheon International Airport, Seoul, South Korea
4	Tokyo Haneda International Airport, Japan
5	Tokyo Narita, International Airport, Japan
6	Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, France
7	Dubai International Airport, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
8	Munich Airport, Germany
9	Zurich Airport, Switzerland
10	Istanbul Airport, Türkiye

- Professor Kaushik Rajashekara honored with the International Fellow of the Engineering Academy of Japan
- 25th edition of the Laureus World Sports Awards in 2024

Category	Winner	Sport
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Tennis
Laureus Sportswoman of the Year	Aitana Bonmatí (Spain)	Football
Laureus World Team of the Year	Spain's Women's Football Team	Football
Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year	Jude Bellingham (United Kingdom)	Football
Laureus World Comeback of the Year	Simone Biles (United States of America)	Gymnastics
Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability	Diede De Groot (Netherlands)	Wheelchair Tennis

Category	Winner	Sport
Laureus World Action Sports person of the Year	Arisa Trew (Australia)	Skateboarding
Laureus Sport for Good	Fundación Rafa Nadal (Spain's multi-sport organisation)	-

APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
A 1991-batch IAS Officer of the Odisha Cadre, Saurabh Garg	Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	-
Ajith Kumar K.K	MD& CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank	J.K.Shivan
Amitabh Singh Chaudhry	Re-appointment as the MD& CEO of Axis Bank	-
Chairman and MD of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Dr. Meenesh Shah	Chairman of National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI)	Mangal Jit Rai
Former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Pratinidhi Srinivasacharya (PS) Dinesh Kumar	Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)	Justice Tarun Agarwala
Former Director of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Manoj Panda	As the Full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission of India	Niranjan Rajadhyaksha
Former Indian Wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav	Elected Chairman of the 7 member Athletes' Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)	-

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Gajanan Sampatrao Kale	CEO of Tata Power Delhi Distribution	-
Harendra Singh	Head Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team	Janneke Schopman
Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, Love Kumar and Umesh Chander Datta	Inspector General in the Special Protection Group (SPG)	-
Indian Revenue Officer (IRS) Sunil Kumar Yadav	Director of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)	-
Joyshree Das Verma	41st National president of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the FY 2024-25	-
Keki M Mistry	Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance	Deepak Parekh
M.P. Ram Mohan from IIM Ahmedabad and Dinabandhu Mohapatra from Indiabulls Housing Ltd	As the part-time members to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Governing Board	-
Nalin Negi	CEO of BharatPe	Suhail Sameer
Nalin Prabhat	Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG)	Daljit Singh Chaudhary
Prateek Agrawal	MD & CEO of Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company	Navin Agarwal
Sachidananda Mohanty	Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC)	-

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Santhosh Kumar Jha	New Chairman and MD of Konkan Railway Corporation	-
Santhosh Viswanathan	Vice-President and MD of Intel's newly formed India region	-
Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul	New Secretary of the Department of Posts	Vineet Pandey
Seniro IPS Officer Anurag Kumar	New Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	-
Sheyphali B. Sharan	5th Woman Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau in 2024	Manish Desai
Srinivas Pallia	MD and CEO of Wipro	Thierry Delaporte
Sushil Sharma	Chairman & MD of SJVN Limited	-
T Rabi Sankar	Re-appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI	-
Vice-Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi	26th Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy	Admiral R. Hari Kumar

International Appointments

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi	President of Egypt	-
Former Deputy Governor of RBI, Rakesh Mohan	As a member in Economic Advisory Panel of World Bank Group (WBG)	-
Ida Jeng Christensen	Head of World Economic Forum's Young Global	-

	Leaders as of 2024	
India's Gita Sabharwal	United Nations Resident Coordinator in Indonesia	Valerie Julliard of France
Jagjit Pavadia	Re-elected for a third term to the International Narcotics Control Board	-
Judith Suminwa Tuluka	1st female Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo	Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde
Kristalina Georgieva	Reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) of IMF	-
Lawrence Wong	New Prime Minister of Singapore	Lee Hsien Loong
Peter Pellegrini	6th President of Slovakia	Zuzana Caputo
Rajeev Singhal	Managing Director of Tata International	Anand Sen
Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait	Sheikh Dr Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al-Sabah
Simon Harris	Ireland's Youngest ever Prime Minister	Leo Varadkar (who resigned as Fine Gael leader and Taoiseach in March 2024)
Tarun Bajaj	As the chair of the US-India Tax Forum by the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)	-

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Brand Ambassadors

Name	Brand Ambassador
New Zealand's Shot Putter Dame Valerie Adams	International Event Ambassador for the "16th edition of Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru (Karnataka)"
Indian Actress Sanjana Sanghi	Brand Ambassador for SPACE India
Former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh joins West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle and Jamaican Athlete Usain Bolt	As the 1st Ambassador of the ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) World Cup 2024
Former Pakistan Women's Cricketer, Sana Mir	Ambassador of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2024.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
"The Winner's Mindset"	Former Australian Cricketer Shane Robert Watson	HarperCollins Publishers

OBITUARY

- World's oldest man, Juan Vicente Perez Mora dies at the age of 114
- A legendary filmmaker and cinematographer of the Ramsay Brothers Gangu Ramsay passed away in Mumbai
- R.M. Veerappan, the most trusted lieutenant of late MGR, passed away
- Former Bureaucrat, Intellectual, Speaker and Columnist, Bahukutumbi Srinivasa Raghavan passed away at the age of 96
- Nobel prize-winning British Physicist Peter Higgs passed away at the age of 94 in Edinburgh, UK
- The Former New Zealand leg spinner, Jack Alabaster passed away at the age of 93 in Cromwell, UK
- Former Cricket Australia Chairman Jack Clarke passed away at the age of 70 in Adelaide

- Carnatic Musician and Padma Shri Awardee KG Jayan passed away at the age of 89 in Ernakulam, Kerala
- IAF Veteran Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia passed away at the age of 103
- Former England Test Batsman Raman Subba Row passed away at the age of 92
- A Renowned Writer, Cultural Critic Sudhir Kakar, the Father of Indian Psychology passed away at the age of 85

DEFENCE

- Odisha's Paradip Port is emerged as India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes in FY24
- Indian Army inducts "Akashteer System" to enhance Air Defence Capabilities - This automated air defence control and reporting system was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and aims to integrate the army's air defence units for enhanced operational efficiency.
- Coastal Security Exercise "Sagar Kavach 2024" was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands
- Indian Army's Trishakti Corps conducted a training exercise of Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) at a super-high altitude area of 17,000 ft in Sikkim
- Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL) 2024 on East Coast - To validate procedures and to assess Indian Navy's preparedness to meet the maritime security challenges in the region.
- Indian Navy to get 3rd Cadet Training Ship is being constructed by L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli
- Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) + Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a MoU - The MoU aims to undertake cooperative and collaborative activities, in the field of biomedical research and academics, which will address multidisciplinary scientific, technological and educational problems of relevance to the country and the Armed Forces.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Successfully Conducted the Test of Air-Launched Medium-range Ballistic Missile
- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy inducted Rampage Missile to boost long-range precision strike capabilities

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