

# March 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>
March 01	48 <sup>th</sup> Civil Accounts Day	-
March 04	53 <sup>rd</sup> National Safety Da	“Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Excellence”.
	Geological Survey of India (GSI) has celebrated its 174th Foundation Day	-
March 11	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) celebrated its 38th Foundation Day	-
March 12	55th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Force	-
March 16	National Vaccination Day / National Immunization Day	Vaccines Work for All
March 22	Bihar Diwas	-
March 23	Shaheed Diwas/Martyrs' Day	-

**International Wise**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
March 01	UN's Zero Discrimination Day	"To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights"
	World Seagrass Day	"Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet".
March 03	World Wildlife Day	"Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".
	World Birth Defect Day	-
	18 <sup>th</sup> edition of World Hearing day	Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all!
March 04	World Obesity Day 2024	-
March 05	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness	-
March 10	International Day of Women Judges	-
March 14	International Day of Action for Rivers	Water for All
March 15	World Consumer Rights day	Fair and responsible AI for consumers
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
March 20	International Day of Happiness	Happier Together
	The United Nations (UN) French Language Day	Create, innovate, undertake in French
	World Sparrow day	I LOVE Sparrows
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent
	25th edition of World Poetry Day	Standing on the Shoulders of Giants
	World Forestry Day	Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World
	International Day of Forests	"Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world"
March 23	World Meteorological Day	At the Frontline of Climate Action
March 24	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	"Yes! We can end TB"
	International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victimss (Right to Truth Day)	-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
March 27	World Theatre Day	-
March 28	World Piano Day	-
March 30	The 2nd UN's International Day of Zero Waste	-
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of March (March 13, 2024)	No Smoking Day	Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March (March 14, 2024)	World Kidney Day	Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice

## **SPORTS**

### **Cricket**

- Election Commission of India (ECI) + Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) - To organise an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team and the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team at the Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi to foster voter education and inclusivity.
- Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid becomes the first Bangladeshi umpire to join the ICC's Elite Umpires' Panel

### **Badminton**

- Former World Championships bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth announced his retirement from Badminton
- The 94th edition of the French Open 2024 - The Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 750 Badminton tournament, was held at the Arena Porte de la Chapelle, Paris, France.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Shi Yu Qi (China)	Kunlavut Vitidsaran (Thailand)
Women's Singles	An Se Young (South Korea)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India)	Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan (Chinese Taipei)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yi Fan (China)	Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping (China)	Seo Seung-Jae and Chae Yoo-Jung (South Korea)

### Football

- Spain wins the 1st UEFA Women's Nations League - Spain's women's team secured a historic victory over France, winning the 1st-ever UEFA Women's Nations League with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville.

### Boxing

- Boxing Sub Junior National Championship - Haryana clinched the team titles in both the boys and girls categories with an impressive combined haul of 19 medals at the boxing Sub Junior National Championship.

### Table Tennis

- World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Beirut II 2024 - The event was held at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Beirut, Lebanon.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Chuang Chih-yuan (Chinese Taipei)	Kirill Gerassimenko (Kazakhstan)
Women's Singles	Sreeja Akula (India)	Sarah De Nutte (Luxembourg)

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Doubles	Manush Utpalbai Shah and Manav Thakkar (India)	Mudit Dani and Akash Pal (India)
Women's Doubles	Doo Hoi Kem and Zhu Chengzhu (Hong Kong)	Sreeja Akula and Diya Chitale (India)
Mixed Doubles	Akash Pal and Poymantee Baishya (India)	Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra (India)

### Chess

- IIT Madras is set to host the '6th Shaastra Rapid International Chess Federation (FIDE)-Rated Chess Tournament'

### Grandprix

#### Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2024

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)	Mexico
3	Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)	Monaco

#### F1 Australian Grand Prix 2024

- Held at Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne, Australia.

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Carlos Sainz Vázquez de Castro (Ferrari)	Spain
2	Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)	Monaco
3	Lando Norris (McLaren)	United Kingdom



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### Events

- 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 - Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has inaugurated the 3rd North East Games 2024 at the Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima.
- 4th edition of Khelo India University Games 2024 - The event was held in the North East region including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, from 17-29 February 2024.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### RBI

- RBI has approved the merger between Fincare Small Finance Bank and AU Small Finance Bank
- RBI reported that 30 banks are facilitating people to search their unclaimed deposits/accounts through UDGM portal
- Reserve Bank of India + Bank of Indonesia signed a MoU in Mumbai - For establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.
- RBI released the report of India's forex reserves jumped USD 6.55 billion to USD 625.626 billion
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty on Bank of India, Bandhan Bank, Indostar Capital Finance - A monetary penalty of Rs.1.40 crore imposed on Bank of India (BoI) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Deposits', 'Customer Service in Banks', 'Interest Rate on Advances' and among others.
- RBI bars Federal Bank and South Indian Bank from issuing co-branded credit cards
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) and DCB Bank - A penalty of Rs.1,31,80,000 on TMB for non-compliance with RBI directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC)-Revision in Reporting'.
- RBI granted the coveted Online Payment Aggregator (PA) licences Innoviti Payments and Concerto Software - For marking the significant milestones in the digital payments landscape of India.

### Public Sector Banks

#### State Bank of India (SBI)

- Mumbai-based tech company Aurionpro Solutions has secured a Rs.100 crore contract from SBI - For the licence, implementation and support of its cutting-edge cash management and transaction banking platform, iCashpro+.
- SBI Card has partnered Titan Company Ltd (Titan) to launch 'Titan SBI Card'

#### Indian Overseas Bank

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced two new jewel loan products-IOB Gold Powered Card and Jewel Loan Suvidha

### Private Sector Banks

#### IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank launches India's first contactless payment wearable 'Indus PayWear' - A new wearable payment solution for both debit and credit cards available on Mastercard.

#### Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Kotak Securities MD&CEO Jaideep Hansraj as Group President-One Kotak

#### YES Bank

- YES BANK + Indian Olympic Association (IOA) - To be named as the Official Banking Partner for Team India for the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024, which is scheduled to take place from 26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France.

#### Federal Bank

- Federal Bank and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched a Rupay Smart Key Chain 'FlashPay'

#### Axis Bank

- Axis Bank introduced a digital opening of US dollar Fixed Deposits for NRI customers at its GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

### Small Finance Bank

- ESAF Small Finance Bank aims to raise Rs.135 crore through the issuance of tier-II bonds
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd - To offer robust supply chain finance offerings, to meet the working capital needs for MSME sector by providing end-to-end financial solutions thereby fostering inclusive growth.

### Insurance News

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) retained the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) status to three companies

### SEBI

- SEBI launched Beta Version of T+0 Trade Settlement - The T+0 settlement will occur concurrently with the current T+1 settlement cycle in equity cash market.

### Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- SIDBI has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) - For its maiden anchored project `Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.

### Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The Centre + Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$23 million loan agreement - To enhance access to quality fintech education, research and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City).
- Ministry of Finance of Gol + Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$181 million loan agreement - To build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

### Others

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) + Greece-based Eurobank to enhance cross-border UPI payments
- India's AI-powered fintech company, Infibeam Avenues has received the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator
- L&T Finance Holdings Ltd (LTFH) has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million - To support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.
- Paytm gets a 3rd-party application provider licence from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- DBS Bank India announced a lending commitment of USD 250 million for new-age start-ups and new economy companies
- Policybazaar's parent PB Fintech gets board nod for payment aggregator subsidiary
- NSFL has provided USD 45 million funding for Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) activities through 32 partner institutions
- Star Housing Finance and Tata Capital Housing Finance have entered into a co-lending arrangement
- ICICI Securities has secured shareholders' nod to delist its stock, setting up merger with ICICI Bank
- Pension regulator PFRDA has mandated 2-Factor Aadhaar Authentication- For access to the Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) system for conducting National Pension System (NPS) related activities.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **IIT News**

- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) + Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) signed a MoU - To work together to encourage innovation and advance the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector at the total cost of the project is Rs.24.6645 crore.
- IIT Delhi + Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for applied research - This partnership reflects IAI's commitment to corporate social responsibility in India, aiming to promote innovation and technological advancement through joint projects, training initiatives and research consultancy.
- Indian Navy + Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur signed a MoU - The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur.
- IIT Madras + French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL signed a MoU - To establish an innovative hub for start-ups with the funding support of a €100 million startup hub focusing on the Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem in India.

### **Space News**

- Russia launched an Iranian research-sensing and imaging satellite "Pars 1" into space
- SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon Endeavour capsule carrying the Crew-8 mission was launched from launch pad 39A at NASA

- SpaceX sends MethaneSAT Satellite into orbit to track Methane gas

### India in Science & Technology

- India successfully conducted the 1st flight test of an indigenously developed Agni5 ballistic missile - It has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) equipped with the Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology from Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ISRO conducted the "Pushpak" Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV-LEX-02) at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka
- International Astronomical Union (IAU)'s Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN) has approved the name "Statio Shiv Shakti" for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander
- Researchers named after ISRO new species of Isopod discovered in Kollam, Kerala
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd has signed a contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi - For the supply of six sets of LM2500 gas turbines (GT) and GT Auxiliaries (GTAE), spares, tools for Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) project.

### Environment & Energy

- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) has announced the renewal of its partnership with Union Bank of India - To offer financing solutions for solar projects, in line with the government's PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the loan tenure has also been extended up to 10 years.
- GAIL (India) has signed a tripartite MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Shell Energy India (SEI) - o explore opportunities for import of ethane and other hydrocarbons.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is set to become the 1st company to supply fuel for Formula 1 (F1) cars
- Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) + Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have signed a MoU - For offering liquid fuels, automotive lubricants and expanding CNG infrastructure.
- REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd + Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) - To develop renewable energy projects across the country.
- Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) has designated as a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)



- National Cadet Corps (NCC) + Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed a MoU - To conduct various awareness programmes throughout the country to enhance the public perceptions on peaceful use of nuclear power and disseminate scientific & authentic information.
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has inked a pact with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) - For sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million (Japanese Yen 30 billion or around Rs 1,650 crore).
- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility + Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) signed a MoU - To set up 5,000 public charging stations across the country by the end of 2024.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Bhutan**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay inaugurated a modern hospital built with Indian Assistance

### **Nepal**

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) + Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL) - To facilitate cross-border digital payments between India and Nepal.
- Nepal Government has declared Pokhara, situated in the picturesque Gandaki province, as its Tourism Capital of the Himalayan Nation

### **Saudi Arabia**

- Infibeam Avenues' international subsidiary, Infibeam Avenues Saudi Arabia became the 1st Indian fintech player to secure PTSP Certification from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA)

### **Singapore**

- India and Singapore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - The MoU signed on cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of Law & Dispute Resolution.

### **South Korea**

- India expand its strategic partnership with South Korea - This collaboration covers areas like critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors and green hydrogen.

### Summit/Event

- World Trade Centers Association hosted the 54th annual WTCA Global Business Forum in Bengaluru
- India and Brazil held their first 2 plus 2 Secretary level Political and Military Dialogue in New Delhi

### Exercise

- India-Malaysia Bilateral Maritime Exercise “Samudra Laksamana” is held in Visakhapatnam
- Comprehensive Maritime Security Exercise ‘Sea Defenders-2024’ between Indian Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard (USCG) - The exercise culminated at Port Blair, Andaman& Nicobar Island to enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability between ICG and USCG.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tir participates in the 1st Training Squadron joined Exercise Cutlass Express-24 at Port Victoria, Seychelles
- 10th edition of Joint Military Exercise “LAMITIYE-2024” between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) - The Joint Exercise “LAMITIYE” means ‘Friendship’ in Creole language, is to be conducted in Seychelles.
- 3rd Edition of India and the USA Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise “Exercise Tiger Triumph-24”
- The 2nd edition of Joint Maritime Exercise between India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise “IMT-TRILAT 2024”

### Others

- Nicaragua has become the 1st Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)/Indian Pharma standards
- Panama has officially become the 97th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Sweden formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the 32nd member of the transatlantic military alliance
- National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) + Information Technology Institute (ITI) of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed a MoU - NIELIT is an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the ITI is affiliated to the Ministry of Communication and IT of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo, Egypt.



- The protocol for the establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and Dominican Republic was signed
- India launched "Operation Indravati" to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic
- World's first Om-Shaped 'Om Aakar' Temple is inaugurated in Pali, Rajasthan
- SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA) + Brazilian Association of Satellite Telecommunications Companies ABRASAT - The MoU boosts advancement in the space sector and aims to foster collaboration and drive innovative ventures and technological cooperation between India and Brazil.
- European Accelerator Starburst has formed a strategic collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management-Mumbai - For promoting aerospace, new space, and defence (ASD) startups in India.

### **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones for three semiconductor facilities worth over Rs.1.25 lakh crore
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

#### **Ministry News**

##### **Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh**

- Ministry of Defence signed five major capital acquisition MoU worth Rs.39,125.39 crore to procure military equipment
- MoD has signed a tripartite MoU with BEML, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) - For the development of advanced fuelling and control system for engines for heavy duty applications.
- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane + Italian Secretary General of Defence & National Armament Director Lt Gen Luciano Portolano - Jointly co-chaired the 10th India-Italy Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting in New Delhi to enhance the defence industrial cooperation.
- Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd at a cost of Rs.2,890 crore - For Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of 25 Dornier Aircraft along with associated equipment for the Indian Navy.



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

- Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024

**Ministry of External Affairs: Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**

- MoS for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi unveiled the revamped website of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the National Museum in New Delhi

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Dhanuka Agritech Limited have signed a MoU - The objective of this agreement is to utilize the efficiency of both the institutions to deliver new technology to the farmers.

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda**

- Arjun laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and promotion of Tribal Culture & Heritage' at Padampur in Kharsawan, Jharkhand

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

- Smriti Zubin Irani launched the Haj Suvidha App and Haj Guide for Haj 2024
- Smriti Irani laid the foundation stone for 38 projects with the total cost of Rs.225 crore
- Smriti launched a National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from 3-6 Years and a National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to 3 Years
- Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved the 'Centre of Jain Manuscriptology (GUCJM) at Gujarat University at Rs.40 crore
- Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved the 'Establishment of Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV)' in Indore at cost of Rs.25 crore
- Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved the infrastructure support for Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS)
- Ministry of Heavy Industries has approved a new E-Vehicle (Electric-Vehicle) scheme - To promote India as a manufacturing destination so that e-vehicles (EV) with the latest technology can be manufactured in the country.

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Textiles: Shri Piyush Goyal**

- Piyush Goyal launched e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)

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

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Project ODISERV in Sambalpur

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

- Sonowal inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) virtually
- Sonowal has approved the waterways projects worth Rs.645 crore on Brahmaputra in Assam

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

- EaseMyTrip.com + Ministry of Rural Development signed a MoU - To train members of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana.
- Ministry of Rural Development and Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia based at the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) signed a MoU - To expand the 'Samaveshi Aajeevika' program across India and aims to leverage knowledge and expertise to uplift marginalised communities, particularly focusing on women, towards self-sufficiency.
- Ministry of Rural Development + Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) signed a Non-Financial MoU - To support the livelihood intervention of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) by syncing their activities in livestock and fisheries development.

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

- Department of Telecommunication has launched its new platform, Chakshu
- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has signed a tripartite MoU - The MoU signed with Prasar Bharati (under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (a Digital Public Infrastructure initiative of Department for Promotion of Industry and

Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital services across the country.

- Vaishnav launched the Curtain Raiser of World Telecom Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA 2024) and India Mobile Congress (IMC 2024)
- MeitY and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) launched the BhashaNet portal to advance the vision of digital inclusion

#### **Ministry of Jal Shakti: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the 5th edition of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign at the NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi

#### **Ministry of Earth Sciences: Shri Kiren Rijiju**

- Ministry of Earth Sciences hosted the 1st 'Blue Talks' meeting in New Delhi

#### **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**

- Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a 201 Compressed Natural Gas Stations across 17 states GAIL's 1st Small-Scale LNG Unit
- Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the 5th Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Para Games at New Delhi's Thyagaraj Stadium
- India has achieved an average ethanol blending rate of 11.60% in the 1st four months of 2023-24 supply year from Nov-Feb
- Hardeep Singh Puri launched "Ethanol 100 (E100 Fuel)", a cleaner greener automotive fuel alternative to gasoline

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

- Mandaviya inaugurated 27 greenfield bulk drug park projects and 13 greenfield manufacturing plants for medical devices
- Mandaviya inaugurated a Credit Assistance Program of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAK)



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### Ministry of Heavy Industries: Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey

- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) announced a new promotional scheme for electric 2W and 3W for four months

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

- Parshottam Rupala released Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Engineering Association, Rajkot, Gujarat

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

- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the first-of-its-kind technical centre built by IN-SPACE in Ahmedabad
- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 1st-of- its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at the premier National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute in Mohali, Punjab

## State News

### Arunachal Pradesh

- Bichom becomes the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh
- PM Modi virtually dedicated to the nation the Sela Tunnel project during the Viksit Bharat Viksit North East programme in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

### Assam

- PM Modi unveiled a 125 ft bronze statue of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district
- The traditional Majuli Masks and Majuli Manuscript Painting in Assam were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Centre

### Bihar

- PM Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation the Hindustan Urvarak& Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni, Bihar
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs.21,400 crore in Aurangabad, Bihar
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated India's 1st-ever dolphin research centre in Patna

### Chhattisgarh

- PM Modi launched the Mahatari Vandana Yojana scheme in Chhattisgarh

### Gujarat

- PM Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of petrochemicals complex of petronet LNG including Ethane and Propane handling facilities
- MoS for Education of Gujarat Praful Pansheriya, launched the online learning platform, Shiksha Reform in Surat

### Haryana

- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 112 National Highway projects spread across the country

### Himachal Pradesh

- Election Commission of India has launched a special campaign in "Mission 414" in Himachal Pradesh

### Jharkhand

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth Rs.35,700 crores in Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand

### Karnataka

- Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore - For the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) under externally supported Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and III.
- Karnataka government has signed a pact with the World Economic Forum (WEF) - To establish a Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the state.
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 22 National Highway Projects, spanning 268 km at over Rs.4,000 crore in Mysuru, Karnataka

### Kerala

- KTCT Higher Secondary School, Thiruvananthapuram + Makerlabs Edutech Pvt Ltd launched "Iris", India's 1st AI teacher
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 1st government-owned OTT platform 'CSpace'
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated the India's first FutureLABS center in C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram

### Madhya Pradesh

- PM Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan and inaugurated projects worth Rs.118 crore 72 lakh in Madhya Pradesh via video conferencing

### Maharashtra

- Maharashtra unveiled its 4th women's policy on the eve of Women's Day
- L&T Technology Services has secured a program in India worth \$100 million (Rs.800 crore) from Maharashtra State Cyber Department

### Mizoram

- Chapchar Kut Festival celebrated across Mizoram

### Odisha

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth Rs.19,600 crore at Chandikhole in Odisha
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's 1st indoor athletics and aquatic centres at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar

### Rajasthan

- NLC India Limited + Rajasthan signed a MoU - For the Formation of Joint Venture to set up 125 MW Lignite Based Power Plant and 1000 MW Solar Power Plant.
- Rajasthan government has signed a MoUs with NTPC, CIL, NLC India and SJVN - For setting up 28.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar power capacity and one million tonnes of green hydrogen manufacturing facility.

### Tamilnadu

- The Union Government has allocated an outlay of Rs.2281 crore for widening and strengthening of national highways in Tamil Nadu
- Tata Motors signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government - For setting up a vehicle manufacturing facility in the state at an investment of around Rs.9,000 crore over the next 5 years and would help create up to 5,000 direct and indirect jobs.

### Telangana

- Telangana government has implemented a 'one time scheme' (OTS) in all the urban local bodies (ULBs) of the state

- Telangana CM Revanth Reddy launched a Indiramma Housing Scheme - The scheme aims to provide affordable housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society.
- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple developmental projects worth more than Rs.56,000 crore

### Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" scheme
- Uttar Pradesh has become the 1st state in the country to issue 5 crore Ayushman cards - Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 177 development projects in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh

### West Bengal

- PM Narendra Modi unveiled multiple metro projects across the country, including India's first underwater metro line in Kolkata
- PM Modi inaugurated and flagged off multiple metro services and connectivity projects across the country worth Rs.15,400 crore

### Union Territory News

#### Jammu and Kashmir

- The 4-day long 'Tawi Festival' is kick off in Jammu - To showcase the Jammu region's art, culture and heritage while highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans.
- PM Modi inaugurated the developmental project of the Hazratbal Shrine during the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit J&K' programme in Srinagar
- Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gave nod to a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) project - For designing and developing Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) to fulfil Indian Air Force's (IAF) requirement for a 5th generation stealth fighter jet.

### Union Cabinet News

- Union Cabinet approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- Union cabinet has approved the India AI Mission with an outlay of Rs.10,372 crore for 5 years to encourage AI development in India



- Indian Government has approved a \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission to fuel AI Development
- Union Cabinet approved the inter-governmental framework agreement (IGFA) signed between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - To bolster bilateral ties under the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
- Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Bhutan - For co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- The Centre has approved a simple reversionary bonus for Postal Life Insurance Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme for FY 2024-25
- The Centre has notified a 3-10% increase in the wage rates for MGNREGA workers for the financial year 2024-25 with effect from April 1, 2024

### NITI Aayog

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog + Meta have announced the launch of Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs)
- Minister of Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw launched NITI Aayog's NITI For States platform in New Delhi

### Others

- 10 Products from 8 States have get Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

GI Product	State	Category
Bengal Muslin	West Bengal	Textiles
Risa Textile	Tripura	Textiles
Narasapur Crochet Lace Products	Andhra Pradesh	Textiles
Kutch Rogan Craft	Gujarat	Textiles
Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree)	Odisha	Handi Crafts
Majuli Mask	Assam	Handi Crafts
Majuli Manuscript Painting	Assam	Handi Crafts
Hyderabad Lac Bangles	Telangana	Handicraft



GI Product	State	Category
Ambaji White Marble	Gujarat	Natural Goods
Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic)	Madhya Pradesh	Agriculture

- Government raises age for Postal Voting to 85 years from 80 years
- India's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1% in 2023 from 3.6% in the preceding year
- The central government has remain unchanged the rate of interest on small savings scheme for April-June 2024

Small Savings Instrument	Interest Rate for April-June 2024	Interest Rate for January-March 2024
Savings Deposit	4%	4%
1 year time deposit	6.9%	6.9%
2 year time deposit	7.0%	7.0%
3 year time deposit	7.1%	7.1%
5 year time deposit	7.5%	7.5%
5 year recurring deposit	6.7%	6.7%
Senior citizen savings scheme	8.2%	8.2%
Monthly Income Account	7.4%	7.4%
National Savings Certificate	7.7%	7.7%
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1%	7.1%
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5% (Matures in 115 Months)	7.5% (Matures in 115 Months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.2%	8.2%

- ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode + Tata Trusts - To develop and support spice value chains in the North Eastern Hill region.
- Google has partnered with the Election Commission of India (ECI) - To provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections via Google Search and YouTube videos.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal

- Agricultural Sciences Company FMC India launched Arc farm intelligence - By combining a real-time data and predictive modelling, Arc farm intelligence assists farmers in monitoring field conditions and pest pressure.
- Modi Government allocates Rs.6,212.03 crore for strengthening Regional Rural Banks (RRB) - As of the recapitalization scheme on March 6.
- GoI has directed National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) - To procure 5 lakh tonnes of onion directly from farmers for buffer requirements.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

- Gross GST revenue of February is Rs.1,68,337 crore - Out of which CGST-Rs 31,785 crore, SGST-Rs 39,615 crore, IGST-Rs 84,098 crore, cess-Rs 12,839 crore.
- UPI transactions has reached a record of Rs 18.28 lakh crore in February 2024
- REC Limited has successfully listed two bonds worth Rs.5,375 crore on the NSE India (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)
- Retail Inflation eases to 5.09% in February 2024
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has expanded its presence on India's coastline after buying 95% in Odisha's Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL) at Rs.3,080 crore
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the transaction inter alia envisaging the acquisition of 59.25% shareholding in Maini Precision Products Ltd by Ring Plus Aqua Ltd.
- The US-based investment firm GQG Partners has acquired a significant chunk in Bharti Airtel, buying 0.8% direct stake from Singtel for S\$950 million (\$712.5 million).
- Aditya Birla Capital announced the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiary Aditya Birla Finance with itself as the large non-bank lender seeks to comply with RBI's mandate on scale-based regulations.
- Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, will be selling 2.34 crore shares/0.65% equity of Tata Consultancy Services through a block deal for Rs.9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion).
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 100% equity share capital of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by Adani Power Limited, a part of the Adani Group.

- Kotak Mahindra Bank had acquired 100% stake in Sonata Finance Private Limited, a microfinance institution for Rs.537 crore, with this, Sonata has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

## **RANKING**

### **International Ranking**

- Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2022 - According to the Human Development Report 2023-24 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Rank	Country
1	Denmark
2	Norway
3	Switzerland
4	Sweden
5	Netherlands

- Human Development Index (HDI) 2022 - India's position in the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) 2022, climbed one position to the 134 out of 193 nations and territories with an HDI value of 0.644.
- 12th edition of the World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024

Rank	Country
<b><u>Top 3 Happiest Countries</u></b>	
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
<b><u>Top 3 Unhappiest Countries</u></b>	
143	Afghanistan

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Country</u>
142	Lebanon
141	Lesotho

- DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024 - The report was prepared together by DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business, have analysed around nine million data points and ranked the connectedness of 181 countries, accounting for 99.7% of the world's gross domestic product.
- World Air Quality Report 2023 - India ranked 3rd worst polluted country out of 134 countries trailing behind Bangladesh and Pakistan, as per the World Air Quality Report 2023.

#### Top 10 most polluted cities in India by March 2024:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>PM2.5 Concentration (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</u>
1	Bergusarai	118.9
2	Guwahati	105.4
3	Delhi	102.1
4	Mullanpur	100.4
5	New Delhi	92.7
6	Siwan	90.6
7	Saharsa	89.4
8	Goshaingaon	89.3
9	Kathar	88.8
10	Greater Noida	88.6

- Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024 Report - Brand Finance is an independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy.

**Top 5 Strongest Insurance Brands 2024:**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Brand Value (USD in millions)</b>
1	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	88.3
2	Cathay Life Insurance (China)	87.7
3	NRMA Insurance (Australia)	87.0
4	PZU Group (Poland and Central and Eastern Europe)	86.2
5	China Life (China)	85.9

**Top 5 Most Valuable Insurance Brands 2024:**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Brand Value (USD in millions)</b>
1	Ping An (China)	33.6
2	Allianz (Germany)	24.6
3	China Life	17.5
4	AXA (France)	16.6
5	China Pacific Insurance (Group) Co. Ltd (CPIC)	15.3

**AWARDS****National Awards**

- Dr Pradeep Mahajan has received the Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting honored for Outstanding Accounting Performance
- Journalists Greeshma and Ritika were awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award for 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year
- Renowned Carnatic Musician, T M Krishna has been chosen as the Sangita Kalanidhi Award for 2024

- Former chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award
- The renowned Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma has been named the recipient of Saraswati Samman 2023
- Principal of Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya of Mumbai, Dr. Uma Rele, has been conferred with the prestigious Maharashtra Gaurav Award
- ISRO has been honoured with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award under Space category for its achievements with the historic Chandrayaan-3 Mission
- Ajit Rangnekar has received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Hyderabad Management Association (HMA)
- President Droupadi Murmu conferred Bharat Ratna on 4 Luminaries Posthumously
- Vijay Jain, Managing Director of Star Estate was adjudged the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award

#### International Awards

- Tiger Woods honored with United States Golf Association (USGA)'s Prestigious Bob Jones Award
- Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar and British Indian Chef Asma Khan honored at India-UK Achievers' Awards in London
- Krystyna Pyszkova of Czech Republic, clinched the 71st edition of Miss World 2024 Pageant
- India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has received the "Measles and Rubella Champion" Award by the Measles and Rubella Partnership
- Srinivasan K.Swamy, CMD of RK Swami Ltd has been presented with the IAA Goden Compass Award
- President of India Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the prestigious Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius
- Delhi Innovator and Mental Health Campaigner from Haryana are the Indian winners of Diana Legacy Awards in UK
- Dr.Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP28 is the recipient of the CERAWeek Leadership Award
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Bhutan's highest civilian award "Order of the Druk Gyalpo"
- The project of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) "Mobile enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting" has been qualified for the WSIS Prizes 2024



- Bina Agarwal and James K. Boyce are the joint recipients of the 2024 Global Inequality Research Award (GiRA) Prize
- French Mathematician Michel Talagrand honoured with the 2024 Abel Prize

### 96th Edition of the Academy Awards 2024

Category	Winner
Best Supporting Actress	Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"
Best Animated Short	"War Is Over!"
Best Animated Feature	"The Boy and the Heron"
Best Original Screenplay	"Anatomy of a Fall"
Best Adapted Screenplay	"American Fiction"
Best Makeup and Hairstyling	"Poor Things"
Best Production Design	"Poor Things"
Best Costume Design	"Poor Things"
Best International Feature	"The Zone of Interest"
Best Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"
Best Visual Effects	"Godzilla Minus One"
Best Film Editing	"Oppenheimer"
Best Documentary (Short Subject)	"The Last Repair Shop"
Best Documentary Feature	"20 Days in Mariupol"
Best Cinematography	"Oppenheimer"
Best Short Film (Live Action)	"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"
Best Sound	"The Zone of Interest"
Best Score	"Oppenheimer"
Best Song	"What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie"
Best Actor	Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"

Category	Winner
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
Best Actress	Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
Best Picture	"Oppenheimer"

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **National Appointments**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
1992 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer, Vinay Kumar	Ambassador of India to Russia	Pavan Kapoor
Abhay Thakur	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar	Vinay Kumar
An officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) Hansha Mishra	Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	-
Appointment Committee of Cabinet has approved an extension of Vinay Mohan Kwatra	As Foreign Secretary	-
Ashwani Kumar	President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)	A Sakthivel
B Sairam	Chairman & MD (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL)	-
Brajesh Mehrotra	Chief Secretary of Bihar	Amir Subhani



<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, Naveen Jindal	President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA)	Dilip Oommen
Daljit Singh Chaudhary	Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG)	MA Ganapathy
Ex-SEBI Director S.Ravindran	Part-time Chairman of the Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank	-
Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) appoints Bhupesh Sushil Rahul	As the Chairman and MD of United India Insurance	S Tripathy
Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) appoints Girija Subramanian	As the Chairman and MD of New India Assurance	Neerja Kapur
Former CEO of Bank of Maharashtra AS.Rajeev	Vigilance Commissioner at the Central Vigilance Commission	Praveen Kumar Srivastava
IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu	New Election Commissioners of India	-
Indian hockey Goalkeeper Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh and Chilean Women's Hockey Player Camila Caram	As co-chairs of the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) new Athletes Committee	-
Javelin Thrower Devendra Jhajharia	President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)	Para-Athlete Deepa Malik

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan	Took Additional Charge as the Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Puducherry	Tamilisai Sounderarajan
Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani	Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu& Kashmir and Ladakh	Justice N. Kotiswar Singh
Kiren Rijju	Additional Charge of Ministry of Food and Processing Industries	Pashupati Kumar Paras
Kumar Venkatasubramanian	CEO of Procter& Gamble India	LV Vaidyanathan
Madhu Nair	CEO of Union Asset Management Company	G Pradeepkumar
Mariam Mammen Mathew, the CEO of Manorama Online	As the Chairperson of the Digital News Publishers' Association (DNPA)	Tanmay Maheshwari, the MD of Amar Ujala
MD& CEO of CEAT Arnab Banerjee	Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)	-
MD& CEO of the of Central Bank of India Matam Venkata Rao	Chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA)	Atul Kumar Goel, MD& CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB)
Nidhu Saxena	MD& CEO of Bank of Maharashtra	A.S Rajeev
Pankaj Dwivedi	Executive Director (ED) at Union Bank of India	-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Philanthropist and Author Sudha Murty	12th nominated Member of Parliament in the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)	-
Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance) of NHPC	Additional Charge of the Chairman and MD of NHPC Limited	Abhay Kumar Singh
Retired Bureaucrat Navneet Kumar Sehgal	New Chairperson of the Prasar Bharati Board.	A Surya Prakash
Senior Bureaucrat Rahul Singh	New Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	Nidhi Chhibber
T.Dhanaraj	Executive Director of the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)	-
The 1990-batch IPS officer, Sadanand Vasant Date	Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA)	-

### International Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Feleti Teo	Prime Minister of Tuvalu	Kausea Natano
Tamas Sulyok	1st Female President of Hungary	Katalin Novak
Mohammad Mustafa	Prime Minister of Palestine	Mohammad Shtayyeh
Luis Filipe Montenegro Cardoso de Morais Esteves	Prime Minister of Portugal	Antonio Costa
Bassirou Diomaye Faye	President of Senegal	Macky Sall

**Brand Ambassadors**

Name	Brand Ambassador
Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador for Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)'s premium petrol variant, 'Speed'

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
"Swallowing the Sun"	Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri	-
S. Raman's autobiography "From a Car Shed to the Corner Room & Beyond"	S. Raman	Notion Press

**OBITUARY**

- Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney passed away at the age of 84
- Renowned Archaeologist and Padma Shri awardee, Arun Kumar Sharma passed away at the age of 91 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- Former Vice Chairman and MD of Novartis India and Chairman of JB Pharmaceuticals, Ranjit Shahani has passed away
- Former Navy Chief Admiral (retired) Laxminarayana Ramdas passed away
- Prominent Tribal Leader and Prominent Buddhist Monk of Ladakh Lama Lobzang passes away at the age of 94
- Nobel Prize Winner of Psychologist, Daniel Kahneman passed away at the age of 90
- Legendary Actor Louis Gossett Jr passed away at the age of 87

## **DEFENCE**

- India flagged off its first commercial trial shipment of Pomegranates to the US via sea
- Raksha Rajya Mantri, Ajay Bhatt inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Jetty Vadinar in the ICG's North-West Region
- Indian Navy will commission Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu in the presence of Admiral R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) is responsible for building the ships for the Indian Navy under the ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project
- Indian Army established its inaugural Apache attack helicopter squadron at Nagtalao Army Base north of Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- Maiden test-firing of the 1st indigenously made 1500 HorsePower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks took place at the Bharat Earth Movers Ltd's facility in Mysuru
- Indian Army deploys Advanced Anti-drone Defense Systems along the Northern Borders with China to its air defence capabilities
- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) achieved a significant milestone by connecting the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road in Ladakh
- The Indian Army organised a Army Commanders' Conference 2024 in hybrid mode



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