
CURRENT AFFAIRS
JUNE 2024

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NATIONAL NEWS

Narendra Modi sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the third time

- Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India for the third term at the swearing-in ceremony that took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi.
- President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath.

Name of the Ministers	Portfolio
Narendra Modi	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space and all important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs
Rajnath Singh	Minister of Defence
Jagan Prakash Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers
Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs
Nitin Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport & Highways
Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Minister of Rural Development
Manohar Lal Khattar	Minister of Power and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
HD Kumaraswamy	Minister of Steel and Minister of Heavy Industries
Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh)	Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu	Minister of Civil Aviation
Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology and Minister of Railways
Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Minister of Communications
Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs
Annapurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism
Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing Industries
CR Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti
G Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines

Name of the Ministers	Portfolio
Rao Inderjit Singh (MoS)	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy Minister of State in the Department of Space
Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Pratap Rao Jadhav	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Jayant Chaudhary (MoS)	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
Jitin Prasada (MoS)	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Shripad Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Pankaj Chaudhary (MoS)	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Krishan Pal Gurjar (MoS)	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Ramnath Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Anupriya Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
V Somanna	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
SP Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Kirti Vardhan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
BL Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Name of the Ministers	Portfolio
Suresh Gopi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
L Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Ajay Tamta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Kamlesh Paswan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Bhagirath Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Satish Chandra Dubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
Sanjay Seth	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
Ravneet Singh Bittu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Durgadas Uikey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Raksha Khadse	Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Sukanta Majumdar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Savitri Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development
Tokhan Sahu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Raj Bhushan Choudhury	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
Bhuoati Raju Srinivasa Varma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel
Harsh Malhotra	Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nimuben Bambhaniya	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Murlidhar Mohol	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
George Kurian	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Pabitra Margherita	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles

Supreme Court Re-Constitutes Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee with Justice Hima Kohli as its Chairperson

- The Supreme Court has reconstituted its Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee. It will be a 12-member committee headed by top court judge Hima Kohli.
- This was done under the powers conferred by Clause 4(2) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013.

Key Points

Chief Justice of India — Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud

Central government introduces separate mobile numbering series for service, transactional voice calls

- The Centre introduced a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for making service or transactional calls. This will help citizens easily identify legitimate calls and curb unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers using 10-digit mobile numbers.

- Currently, 140xxxxxx series has been allocated to telemarketers for making promotional/service/transactional voice calls. Since the 140xx series is being used extensively for promotional calls, consumers normally do not respond to such calls and many important service/transactional calls are missed.
- This resulted in the wide use of regular 10-digit numbers by genuine entities for making service/transactional calls. This allowed fraudsters to deceive consumers by using 10-digit numbers.

Key Points

Union Minister for — Ashwini Vaishnaw
Electronics & Information
Technology

Two bird sanctuaries of Bihar added to Ramsar list

- The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries in Jamui district, Bihar are now recognised under the Ramsar Convention.
- These two new wetlands are man-made reservoirs in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui. Their catchments feature dry deciduous forests surrounded by hills.
- Both sites were declared Wetlands of International importance on World Environment Day on June 5.
- A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. This convention is also known as The Convention on Wetlands and is an international environmental treaty signed on February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of UNESCO.

NOTA creates a record in Indore

- BJP's sitting MP from Indore Shankar Lalwani won by a record margin of 11,75,092 votes in a contest where NOTA created a record with 2.18 lakh voters opting for the 'None Of The Above' option in the Lok Sabha elections.
- He defeated his Congress rival Pankaj Ahirwar by 4,03,312 votes.
- NOTA stands for None of the above and was introduced by the Election Commission of India in 2013.

Key Points

Chief Election Commissioner — Rajiv Kumar
(CEC)
National Voters' Day — January 25

Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'

- Kozhikode in North Kerala, known for its rich cultural heritage, was officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- In October 2023, Kozhikode earned a place in the 'Literature' category of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

Key Points

Kerala's Chief Minister — Pinarayi Vijayan
Governor — Arif Mohammad Khan
Capital — Thiruvananthapuram

Srinagar was named the 'World Craft City'

- Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC), three years after it was designated as part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts.
- Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore are the other Indian cities that were previously recognised as World Craft Cities.

Govt employees to get six-month maternity, child care leave for surrogacy

- The Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, have been updated to allow 'commissioning mothers' who opt for surrogacy 180 days of maternity leave.
- Under this, childcare leave will be provided to commissioning mothers with less than two surviving children. Additionally, 'commissioning fathers' are eligible for a 15-day paternity leave under the amended rules.
- Additionally, the Central Civil Services (Leave) (Amendment) Rules, 2024, state that commissioning mothers with fewer than two surviving children may avail of the child care leave.
- The rules also define the 'surrogate mother' as the woman who bears the child on behalf of the commissioning mother, while the 'commissioning father' refers to the intended father of the child born through surrogacy.
- Recently, the Centre revised the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules of 2022, permitting married couples to use donor eggs or sperm when one partner faces a medical condition.
- According to the amended Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules of 2022, it is mandated that the District Medical

Board must confirm the presence of a medical condition in either the husband or wife, which requires the use of a donor gamete.

Central government forms a committee to review NTA

- The central government constituted a seven-member high-level committee to review the National Testing Agency (NTA) and its operations to ensure fair conduct of exams.
- The committee is led by former ISRO chairman Dr. K Radhakrishnan and includes former AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria, among others.

PM Modi launches 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to commemorate World Environment Day on June 5. He planted a Peepal tree sapling at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi.
- He urged people in India and around the world to plant a tree in the coming days as a tribute to their mother.

NHRC takes a serious view of 'Nata Pratha', issues notice to four states

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to four states—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat over the social practice of Nata Pratha, where girls are sold by their family members under the guise of marriage.
- The commission has requested the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the concerned states to present an action taken report within eight weeks.
- This notice follows a 2020 case in which a father sold his daughter for 2.5 lakhs and later filed a complaint with the commission upon discovering her dead body.

Key Points

Chairperson of NHRC — Vijaya Bharathi Sayani
Governing Body — Ministry of Home Affairs

Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB), India's first private biosphere

- India's first biosphere, the Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB) was created in a tiger reserve within Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand.
- Rajaji National Park is named after the freedom fighter C. Rajgopalachari, also known as 'Rajaji'.

- Under the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act 1972, it was declared as Rajaji Tiger Reserve.
- It was created by two environmentalists- Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana.
- Vijay Dhasmana is known for restoring Aravali landscapes. The duo is also developing a second biosphere above the Koyna River in the buffer zone of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve near Pune, Maharashtra, along the Western Ghats.

Indian universities to offer admissions twice a year on lines of foreign varsities: University Grants Commission (UGC)

- Indian universities and higher education institutions will now be allowed to offer admissions twice a year on lines of foreign universities.
- The two admission cycles will be July-August and January-February from the 2024-25 academic session.
- Biannual university admissions will help students maintain motivation since they do not have to wait one full year to be admitted if they miss admission in the current cycle. With biannual admissions in place, industries can also do their campus recruitment twice a year, improving employment opportunities for graduates.

Key Points

UGC Chief — Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar
Headquarters — New Delhi

Vice President of India inaugurates Prerna Sthal at Parliament House Complex

- The Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the newly constructed Prerna Sthal at the Parliament House Complex.
- The Sthal houses the statues of India's eminent leaders and freedom fighters that were previously dispersed across different places in the Parliament House complex.
- The initiative aims to enhance the visitor experience by making it easier to access and using modern technology, such as QR codes, to narrate the life stories of these inspiring figures of Indian history.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the newly built campus of Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly built campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir,

Bihar. Nalanda University was a great example of our identity and traditions to the world.

- In the ancient times, the Nalanda University was identified as the centre of education.
- The ruins of ancient Nalanda comprise the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important artworks in stucco, stone and metal.

Key Points

Chief Minister of Bihar	—	Nitish Kumar
Governor of Bihar	—	Rajendra Arlekar
Capital	—	Patna

India Contributes USD 1.169 Mn to continue the promotion of Hindi at the United Nations

- The Government of India has contributed USD 1,169,746 for the 'Hindi @ UN' project to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.
- India has been partnering with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) since 2018 by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content of DGC in the Hindi language.

The National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad designated a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Ayush, as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research.
- This recognition has been granted for four years.
- This will make NIIMH the third Indian institute to receive such an honour. The other Indian institutes are- the Institute for Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.
- NIMH was established in 1956 and has been a pioneer in various digital initiatives of Ayush such as AMAR Portal, Showcase of Ayurvedic Historical Imprints (SAHI) Portal and the NAMASTE Portal.

Key Points

Union Minister of AYUSH	—	Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav
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Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) signs MoU with Sansad TV

- IGNCA and Sansad TV have signed an agreement to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.
- Under this, programmes produced by IGNCA will be telecast on Sansad TV and Sansad TV will also be able to use the content from IGNCA's cultural archives.

Key Points

CEO of Sansad TV	—	Rajat Punhani
Director of IGNCA	—	Dr. Priyanka Mishra

UP govt to set up bioplastic park in Lakhimpur Kheri at ₹ 2,000 crore

- The Uttar Pradesh government will set up a bioplastic park in Gola Gokarannath of Lakhimpur Kheri district at an investment of ₹ 2,000 crore.
- The park will be developed by the Balrampur Sugar Mills Firm over 1,000 hectares in Kumbhi village of the district on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will serve as the nodal agency for the park's development.

Key Points

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	—	Yogi Adityanath
Governor of Uttar Pradesh	—	Anandiben Patel
Capital- Lucknow		

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Centre launched in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has established the world's first conservation and breeding centre named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, for Asian king vultures in Maharajganj district.
- It aims to improve the population of Asian king vultures, which was listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List in 2007.

Meta AI launched in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram

- Facebook parent Meta made its artificial intelligence chatbot Meta AI available to use in India months after the tech giant tested the AI chatbot with a section of users in India.
- It will be available in English across the company's apps- WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Messenger.

- The chatbot has been rolled out in more than 12 countries including the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

India's largest leopard safari opens at Bannerghatta, Bengaluru

- South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated at the Bannerghatta Biological

Park (BBP), Bengaluru. The safari is set up in a 20-hectare area that meets the strict rules of the Central Zoo Authority for safety and ecosystem mimicry.

- It includes several protective measures, such as a railway barricade, a 4.5-meter-high chain-link fence, and 1.5-meter metal sheets installed at a 30-degree angle.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Railway Protection Force (RPF) launches Sangyaan App

- The Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Shri Manoj Yadava launched the mobile application- Sangyaan App.
- It was designed and developed by the Tech Team of RPF to provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023.
- The Sangyaan App aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws while highlighting the relevance of these new acts in the context of RPF operations.

Central zone of Indian Railways installs first-ever floating solar plant of Indian Railways

- The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacity in the Igatpuri lake located in the Western Ghats.
- The plant is committed to leveraging renewable energy sources, utilising solar power, installing wind-energy resources, providing adequate passenger amenities and contributing significantly towards the railways' goal of a green Earth'.

Key Points

Union Railway Minister — Ashwini Vaishnaw

Cabinet approves assistance for 3 crore more houses under PM AWAS Yojana

- The Union Cabinet approved the assistance to 3 crore additional rural and urban households for the construction of houses, to meet the requirements arising out of the increase in the number of eligible families.

- PMAY or Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was launched in 2015-16. Under this, assistance is provided to eligible rural and urban households for the construction of houses with basic amenities.
- The houses constructed under PMAY come with amenities such as toilets, LPG connection, electricity and functional taps through convergence with other schemes of central and state governments.

Cabinet approves Central Sector Scheme 'National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme' (N.F.I.E.S.)

- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the Central Sector Scheme – National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES).
- Under the scheme, off-campus labs of the National Forensic Sciences University will be set up across 28 states and UTs and the existing structure will be enhanced.
- Additionally, Central Forensic Science laboratories will also be established along with the enhancement of the existing infrastructure of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Delhi.
- With the enactment of new criminal laws that mandate forensic investigation for offences involving punishment of seven years or more, a significant increase in the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected.
- The establishment of additional campuses of the NFSU and new Central Forensic Science Laboratories would address the shortage of trained forensic manpower, alleviate the caseload/pendency of forensic laboratories, and align with the government's goal of securing a high conviction rate of more than 90%.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) launches 'NCRB SANKALAN of CRIMINAL LAWS' App

- NCRB has unveiled a mobile application- NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws. It will be a comprehensive

guide consolidating essential information about the upcoming legal reforms in one accessible platform.

- The mobile application is designed for a wide audience ranging from the general public to legal professionals.
- The app includes detailed compilations of three major legislations-Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita (Indian Penal Code), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (Code of Criminal Procedure), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (Indian Evidence Act).
- It provides users with an indexed structure linking all chapters and sections of these new laws, facilitating ease of navigation and reference.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Delhi
Director, NCRB	—	Vivek Gogia

NHAI to enhance green cover along the National Highways

- NHAI will undertake a unique initiative to plant Miyawaki plantations on land parcels adjacent to National Highways at various locations.
- A total land area of over 53 acres has been identified at different places in and around Delhi-NCR to establish the Miyawaki plantations.
- Miyawaki plantations, also known as Miyawaki method, is a Japanese approach to ecological restoration and afforestation development. It will create dense, native, and biodiverse forests in a short time. These forests retain groundwater and help to recharge the groundwater table.
- This will help in the improvement of air and soil quality. It will also help in biodiversity conservation, rapid growth of green cover, efficient carbon absorption, soil restoration and habitat creation for local flora and fauna.

Key Points

NHAI's Headquarters	—	Delhi
NHAI's chairman	—	Santosh Kumar Yadav

Cabinet okays ₹76,200-cr port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra

- The Union cabinet approved a major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in, Palghar, Maharashtra at a cost of ₹ 76,200 crore.
- It will be an all-weather greenfield deep draft port set up by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL).
- VPPL is a Special-Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra

Maritime Board (MMB) with a shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.

NHAI signs MoU with IIIT-Delhi to enhance road safety through Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi signed an agreement to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions for improvement in the availability of road signs on National Highways.
- As a part of the agreement, IIIT Delhi will conduct surveys to collect imagery and other related data related to the availability and condition of road signs on selected National Highway stretches.
- Around 25,000 km of tentative length of Highways stretches will be covered under this project.
- The data collected through surveys will be processed by IIIT Delhi through the deployment of Artificial Intelligence for accurate identification and classification of road signs.

Centre notifies anti-paper leak law–Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

- The central government has notified a law, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 against cheating, paper leaks, and irregularities in competitive examinations.
- It came into effect on June 21, 2024, and under this, the offenders will be subjected to a jail term of up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹ 1 crore. The act provides punishments for “leakage of question paper or answer key”, “directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in any manner unauthorisedly in the public examination” and “tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system”.
- Both individuals and institutions are also liable to punishments.
- The Act aims to prevent malpractice in the public examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the railways, banking recruitment examinations and other examinations held by the National Testing Agency.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) introduces two new standards to enhance the Safety and Quality of Electric Vehicles in India

- BIS has introduced two new standards- IS 18590: 2024 and IS 18606: 2024, aimed at enhancing the safety of electric vehicles in the L, M, and N categories.

- L refers to two-wheelers, while the M and N categories correspond to four-wheelers and good trucks, respectively.
- These focus on the main parts of electric cars, buses and trucks, especially the powertrain (which includes parts like motor and transmission).
- These standards are crucial in driving the transition to a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and efficient transportation system in the country.

Key Points

BIS's Headquarters	—	New Delhi
Director General	—	Pramod Kumar Tiwari

Assam to introduce first-ever witness protection scheme for better justice delivery

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma approved the state's first-ever witness protection scheme - Assam Witness Protection Scheme, 2024 for ensuring a fair justice delivery system.
- The scheme will ensure adherence to Section 398 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to ensure the protection of witnesses against imminent threats during the investigation and trial of any cases.
- According to the scheme, a witness in any case could apply for Witness Protection in a prescribed form before a competent authority through its member secretary for seeking a Witness Protection Order.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance as 100th Member

- Paraguay has become the 100th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member.
- The ISA, co-founded by India and France during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, aims to promote solar energy deployment worldwide.
- It is a collaborative platform for member countries to increase energy access, ensure energy security and drive the transition towards sustainable energy sources.

Key Points

ISA's Headquarters	—	Gurugram, Haryana
Director General	—	Dr. Ajay Mathur

Oleg Kononenko, a 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut becomes the first to spend 1,000 days in space

- Oleg Kononenko, a 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut has become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space.
- He has made five journeys to the International Space Station (ISS) since 2008.
- His current trip to the ISS began Sept. 15, 2023, when he launched alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and compatriot Nikolai Chub.
- Kononenko first took the cumulative space-time record in February 2024, when he surpassed the total of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes and 48 seconds set by fellow Russian Gennady Padalka in 2015.

King Charles III currency notes introduced in the UK

- Brand new banknotes featuring the portrait of the new monarch, King Charles III, have been introduced in the market.
- The Bank of England has asked people to return old banknotes featuring the portrait of Queen Elizabeth. The old banknotes featuring Queen Elizabeth II will continue to remain valid and will remain in circulation along with new ones to ease the transition.

Denmark becomes the first country to impose a tax on livestock carbon emissions

- Denmark will introduce a tax on livestock carbon dioxide emissions from 2030, making it the first country to do so.
- Agriculture is Denmark's biggest source of pollution, even though the country exports a lot of dairy and pork goods. Each cow will be taxed at 672 krone (\$96) a year starting in 2030.
- The tax will begin at 300 krone (\$43) per tonne of CO₂-equivalent emissions from animals in 2030 and rise to 750 krone (\$107) by 2035.

Sino-French satellite launched to detect the most powerful explosions in the universe

- Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM), the satellite jointly developed by China and France was launched into orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province.
- It is the most powerful satellite yet for studying Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs), which result from some of

the universe's most explosive events such as the birth of black holes and neutron star collisions.

- It is the first astronomy satellite jointly developed by China and France.

Pakistan launches 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' or 'Resolve for Stability'

- Pakistan has launched Operation Azm-i-Istehkam to oppose and dismantle terrorist networks from its territory. The operation will not only include military action, but socio-economic uplift to deter extremism.
- This initiative follows Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's review of the country's counterterrorism operations, focusing on the National Action Plan adopted after the December 2014 Peshawar Army Public School attack, which resulted in over 140 deaths, mostly students.

European Space Agency (ESA) develops Zero Debris Satellite

- European space industry giants Airbus, OHB, and Thales Alenia Space have signed contracts with ESA to develop large low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite platforms adhering to Zero Debris standards.

- This initiative aims to pave the way for zero-debris production lines, a crucial move to preserve lower Earth orbits for future use.

Key Points

ESA's Headquarters	—	Paris, France
ESA's Director General	—	Josef Aschbacher

NASA and SpaceX launch GOES-U, Weather Satellite

- SpaceX successfully launched the fourth and final satellite, GOES-U for NASA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- GOES-U will assist weather forecasters and climate researchers with real-time high-resolution imagery, earlier detection of severe weather that could save lives, and tropical cyclone forecasts.
- The satellites are expected to help predict space weather near Earth that can interfere with satellite electronics, GPS, and radio communications.

Key Points

NASA's Administrator	—	Bill Nelson
NASA's Headquarters	—	Washington DC, US

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) forms committee to review Clearing Corporations (CC)

- Capital markets regulator SEBI has set up a committee to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations and suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.
- The ad-hoc committee would be chaired by Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Mumbai
Chairperson	—	Madhabi Puri Buch

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approves merger of full-service carriers Vistara with rival Air India

- NCLT approved the merger of full-service carrier Vistara with rival Air India. The merger was first announced in November 2022.
- With this merger, Vistara will be absorbed into Air India.

Singapore Airlines owns a stake of 49% in Vistara and it will have a stake of 25.1% in the merged entity.

- The Air India group includes low-cost carriers- Air India Express and Air Asia India.

Key Points

Headquarters of NCLT	—	New Delhi
CEO of Air India	—	Campbell Wilson
Chairman of Air India	—	N. Chandrasekaran

CERT-In and Mastercard India sign MoU for collaboration in cyber security to enhance India's cyber-resilience in the Financial Sector

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has joined hands with Mastercard to promote cooperation and information sharing in cybersecurity related to the financial sector.
- Both these entities will leverage their shared expertise in cybersecurity incident response, capacity building, sharing cyber threat intelligence specific to the financial sector and advanced malware analysis.

- CERT-In is the National agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, of 2000. It provides Incident Prevention, Response services and Security Quality Management Services.

Key Points

Director General, CERT-In	—	Dr. Sanjay Bahl
Headquarters, CERT-In	—	New Delhi
CEO of Mastercard	—	Michael Miebach
Headquarters of Mastercard	—	New York, US

World Bank approves \$1.5 bn loan to support India's green hydrogen push

- The World Bank approved a \$1.5-billion loan to help India accelerate its low-carbon energy development. The funds will promote a market for green hydrogen and electrolyzers and increase renewable energy penetration.
- This is the second round of funding from the World Bank. In June 2023, the World Bank approved the \$1.5-billion First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation to accelerate India's development of low-carbon energy.
- The Centre has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070. Further, the Centre also launched the ₹ 17,000-crore National Green Hydrogen Mission to promote the manufacturing of electrolyzers and green hydrogen.
- This operation is aligned with the Government of India's energy security and the Bank's Hydrogen for Development (H4D) partnership.

Key Points

President of World Bank	—	Ajay Banga
Headquarters	—	Washington DC, US

Axis Bank, Bajaj Allianz forge strategic bancassurance partnership

- Axis Bank, a private sector bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a private general insurer, have entered a strategic bancassurance partnership to boost insurance penetration and financial inclusion in the country.
- Under this Bancassurance tie-up, a comprehensive suite of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance products will be distributed through Axis Bank's network of 5,250 plus branches.

- The suite of insurance solutions would include personal insurance products such as motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance, and commercial insurance products, including engineering and marine insurance.
- Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model where companies partner with banks to sell policies.

Key Points

MD and CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	—	Tapan Singhel
MD and CEO, Axis Bank	—	Amitabh Chaudhry

SBI pays ₹ 6,959 crore dividend to govt

- In the financial year 2023-24, the State Bank of India (SBI) paid a dividend of ₹ 6,959 crore to the government.
- SBI declared a dividend of ₹ 13.70 per share for the financial year 2023-24, higher than ₹ 11.30 per equity distributed for the previous year.

Key Points

Chairman, SBI	—	Dinesh Kumar Khara
Headquarters, SBI	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra

ICICI Bank mcap tops \$100 bn; becomes only sixth Indian co to hit a milestone

- ICICI Bank's market capitalisation crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time, becoming only the sixth company to do so.
- With this, it joins the likes of Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel—the four other domestically listed companies with a market value of more than \$100 billion.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD and CEO	—	Sandeep Bakhshi

RBI Launches SAARC Currency Swap Framework For 2024-27

- The Reserve Bank of India introduced a new currency Swap Window worth ₹ 25,000 crore to support the Indian Rupee for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries, offering various concessions.
- This initiative was revealed in the SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-27.
- The SAARC Currency Swap Facility started on Nov. 15, 2012, to offer a back-up funding line for short-

term foreign exchange liquidity needs or balance of payment crises in SAARC countries until long-term arrangements can be made.

- SAARC has eight member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Moreover, the RBI plans to maintain swap agreements in US Dollar/Euro Swap Window totaling \$2 billion.

Key Points

RBI's Headquarters	—	Mumbai
RBI's Governor	—	Shaktikanta Das

Central Electronics Limited (CEL) granted 'Mini RATNA' status (Category-1)

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced the grant of 'Mini RATNA' status (Category-1) for Central Electronics Limited (CEL) at its Golden Jubilee celebration.
- For a Mini-RATNA status, the company must have consistently recorded profits for the past three years. Additionally, it must have earned a pre-tax profit of at least ₹ 30 crore in the last three years or maintained an average annual turnover of at least ₹ 120 crore over the same period.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	New Delhi
Chairman and Managing Director	—	Chetan Prakash Jain

Arka Fincap gets IRDAI's Corporate Agency License to offer Insurance Solutions

- Arka Fincap has been granted a Certificate of Registration to act as a corporate agent (composite) by the IRDAI, allowing it to venture into insurance distribution.
- Arka Fincap Limited is a subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited.

GAIL to set up India's largest ethane cracker project at an investment of ₹ 60,000 cr in MP

- GAIL intends to set up a 1500 KTA ethane cracker project at Ashta, district Sehore in Madhya Pradesh, having a product slate of various ethylene derivatives.
- The project will cover 800 hectares, with land provided by the MP Industrial.

Key Points

GAIL's Headquarters	—	New Delhi
Chairman and MD	—	Sandeep Kumar Gupta

Canara Bank to dilute 14.50% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance via IPO

- Public sector lender Canara Bank approved a proposal to dilute 14.50% stake in the insurance arm of Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company via the Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- It is subjected to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the Department of Financial Services, Government of India.

Key Points

MD and CEO	—	K Satyanarayana Raju
Headquarters	—	Bengaluru

Finance Ministry caps dispute value at ₹10 crore for arbitration

- To streamline the arbitration process to resolve commercial disputes having the government or PSE as one party, the Finance Ministry has set an upper limit of ₹10 crore for cases to be brought in.
- It has also been said that arbitration clauses should not be automatically included in large contracts.
- Arbitration as a remedy is based on an explicit provision in a contract and is not a judicial process. Arbitration can cover a whole range of contractual matters, including disputes between private sector parties where the Government or a public sector undertaking is not involved.

Key Points

Union Finance Minister	—	Nirmala Sitharaman
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Oracle Partners with Tamil Nadu to Empower Youth with IT Skills

- Oracle and Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) have launched a specialised skills development programme under the state's massive skill enhancement initiative, Naan Mudhalvan
- Under this, programme employment-linked skills development training will be provided to more than 2,00,000 students in the state.
- TNSDC is collaborating with Oracle to offer Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) training to help students in the state advance their careers.

Key Points

Oracle's Headquarters	—	Austin, Texas, United States
Executive Chairman and CTO	—	Larry Ellison

DGCA issues advisory to promote gender equality

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory circular on 'Gender Equality in the Civil Aviation Sector' for stakeholders to increase the number of women in various positions to ensure 25% representation by 2025.
- This is in line with the principle of gender equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) vision to promote equal opportunities to achieve gender equality in aviation.
- The ICAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for aviation standards and regulations.

Key Points

ICAO's Headquarters	—	Quebec, Canada
ICAO's President	—	Salvatore Sciacchitano

RBI penalises SBM Bank (India) with ₹ 88.70 Lakh Fine

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹ 88.70 lakh on SBM Bank (India) for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with licensing conditions imposed by the RBI, and specific directions to stop undertaking Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) transactions.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Mumbai
MD and CEO of SBM bank	—	Sidharth Rath

Axis Bank partners with Mastercard to launch NFC Soundbox

- Axis Bank partnered with Mastercard to launch NFC Soundbox. The new soundbox will act as an all-in-one solution to allow users to accept Bharat QR, UPI, Tap & Pay and Tap + Pin payments.
- The device will be powered with a dual confirmation feature, providing audio cues through its speaker and visual feedback on the screen in more than seven languages, ensuring a smooth and reassuring transaction experience for both merchants and consumers.

- The Tap + Pin capability will enable merchants to accept transactions greater than ₹ 5,000 via card instruments.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Mumbai
MD and CEO	—	Amitabh Chaudhry

AIBEA Launches 'Bank Clinic' Initiative

- The All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) launched the 'Bank Clinic' initiative to assist bank customers with grievance redressal.
- It is a non-resolving advisory platform guiding customers on the remedies available per RBI guidelines.
- It serves as an additional channel alongside the normal Banking Ombudsman process. Under this initiative, customers can register their complaints on the Bank Clinic website and within five working days, they will receive a reply detailing the available remedies and relevant RBI guidelines for their specific issue.

PNB board approves diluting 10% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has got approval from its board of directors to initiate the process of diluting a 10% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company by listing the insurer through an initial public offer.
- Currently, PNB holds a 23% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance.
- Currently, Canara Bank has a 51% stake in the life insurer, while HSBC has a 26% stake in the joint venture.

Key Points

MD and CEO of PNB	—	Atul Kumar Goel
Headquarters	—	Delhi

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partners with Ria Money Transfer

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Ria Money Transfer (Ria) to provide convenient and affordable doorstep financial services for customers in remote areas across India.
- Ria is a global leader in the cross-border money transfer industry and business segment of Euronet Worldwide, Inc.

Key Points

IPPB Headquarters	—	New Delhi
IPPB CEO	—	Vineet Pandey

Axis Bank acquires additional stake in Max Life Insurance subsidiary for ₹ 336 crore

- Axis Bank has acquired additional equity shares of Max Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Max Financial Services, for ₹ 336 crores.
- This strategic move comes after Axis Bank received regulatory approval in August 2023 to inject ₹ 1,612 crore into Max Life Insurance by subscribing to shares on a preferential basis, initially increasing Axis entities' stake to 19.02%.
- In 2021, Axis Bank announced its deal to acquire a stake in Max Life Insurance Co, a subsidiary of Max Financial Services.

Key Points

Axis Bank's Headquarters	—	Mumbai
Axis Bank's MD and CEO	—	Amitabh Chaudhary
Max Life Insurance's MD and CEO	—	Prashant Tripathy
Headquarters	—	New Delhi

FIU fines Axis Bank ₹ 1.66 cr for failing to detect fraud NSG account

- The Financial Intelligence Unit has slapped a fine of more than ₹ 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for 'failing' to put in place a mechanism to detect and report suspicious transactions carried out at one of its branches by creating a "fraud" account in the name of counter-terrorist commando force NSG.
- FIU has issued an order under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that empowers its Director to impose a monetary penalty on a reporting entity (like Axis Bank) if the agency finds that its designated director on the board or any of its employees failed to comply with the obligations mandated under the said law.
- The FIU functions under the Union Finance Ministry. It examines steps taken to check money laundering and other financial frauds, by banks and other financial institutions designated as 'reporting entities' under the PMLA, in the financial channels of the country.

Key Points

FIU's Director	—	Vivek Aggarwal
Headquarters	—	New Delhi

Bank of India Acquires 6.1% Stake in CCIL IFSC

- The Bank of India has acquired a 6.125% stake in the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) for ₹ 6.125 crore, aiming to enhance its strategic presence in GIFT City IFSC.
- This acquisition reflects the bank's commitment to the growth and development of GIFT City as a global financial hub.

Key Points

Headquarters	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD and CEO	—	Rajneesh Karnatak

RBI launches Global Hackathon HaRBInger 2024 to combat Financial Frauds

- RBI announced its third global hackathon, HaRBInger 2024 to develop cutting-edge technological solutions to combat financial fraud in real time.
- This initiative underscores RBI's proactive approach to leveraging technology to predict, detect, and prevent fraudulent activities, thereby enhancing the security and resilience of the financial ecosystem.
- The hackathon features two key themes: 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly'.

SEBI launches Saathi 2.0 mobile app on personal finance for investors

- Capital markets regulator SEBI launched a mobile app 'Saathi 2.0' on personal finance for investors with comprehensive tools aimed at simplifying complex financial concepts.
- The app includes financial calculators and has modules that introduce and explain KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares on stock exchanges, investor grievances redressal mechanism and the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform.
- Additionally, the app features a range of videos designed to assist investors in their personal finance planning.

DEFENCE NEWS

MoD inks MoUs with four banks to onboard them as SPARSH Service Centres across 1,128 branches pan India

- Defence Accounts Department (DAD), Ministry of

Defence has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in New Delhi to onboard them as SPARSH.

- SPARSH stands for System for Pension Administration (Raksha) Service Centres.
- The MoUs will provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners, especially in remote areas where they do not have the technical wherewithal to log on to SPARSH.
- SPARSH is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence that aims to provide comprehensive solutions to defence pensioners.

Key Points

Union Defence Minister — Rajnath Singh

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) sign MoU to set up dedicated Tele MANAS cell for armed forces

- MoHFW and MoD signed an MoU to facilitate collaboration between the two ministries in operating a special cell of Tele MANAS
- MANAS is the National Telemental Health Helpline of MoHFW. It was run as a two-year pilot project at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune.
- With the signing of the MoU, the mental health and well-being of Armed Forces personnel and their families will be addressed and the Armed Forces beneficiaries will have direct access to specialised care, ensuring that their unique mental health needs are addressed promptly and effectively.
- Tele MANAS is the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), offering comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services. The initiative provides toll-free number, 14416, in each State and Union Territory (UT) for easy access to mental health support.

Nagastra 1 inducted into the Indian Army

- Nagastra 1, the country's first indigenously manufactured suicide drone was inducted into the Indian Army.
- These are produced by Economics Explosive Limited, a subsidiary of Solar Industries based in Nagpur.
- Nagastra 1 enhances the Indian Army's operational strength with its portability and versatility.
- It was tested in the Nubra Valley of Ladakh near the China border.
- It is a 9 kg drone that boasts a flight duration of 30 minutes and a range of 15 km in man-in-loop mode, extending to 30 km in autonomous mode. Its stealth

capabilities, aided by low sound emissions, ensure it remains undetected by enemy radars, allowing it to infiltrate and strike targets discreetly.

Key Points

Chief of Defence Staff — General Anil Chauhan (CDS)
Chief of the Army Staff — General Upendra (CoAS) Dwivedi

SAMEER, MeitY and MCTE, Indian Army forge strategic partnership for technological advancement

- In a landmark event, the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an autonomous R&D laboratory under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) signed an MoU to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army'.
- This initiative marks a significant milestone in strengthening the Indian Army's technological capabilities which is aligned towards the declared vision for 2024 as the 'Year of Technological Absorption for Indian Army' by the Chief of Army Staff
- This strategic alliance is poised to set new standards for cooperation between government R&D institutions and military educational bodies, driving significant technological progress.

High speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' completes developmental trials

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has completed six consecutive developmental trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' with improved booster configuration from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- During the trials, various mission objectives covering the safe release of booster, launcher clearance, and endurance performance were successfully validated.
- ABHYAS has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru, and developed through Production Agencies - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & Larsen & Toubro.

Key Points

DRDO's Headquarters — New Delhi
DRDO's Chairman — Sameer V. Kamat

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Rakesh Ranjan	Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
PV Sindhu	Brand Ambassador for Tobacco Control
Sushil Kumar Singh	Chairperson, Deendayal Port Trust
Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah	Crown Prince of Kuwait
Aditya Roy Kapur	Brand Ambassador of Bisleri Limonata
Kamal Kishore Soan	Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
Philemon Yang	President of 79th UN General Assembly (UNGA)
Rakesh Mohan Joshi	Vice-Chancellor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)
InderPal Singh Bindra	Secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)
Raj Priy Singh	Director, Department of Rural Development
P K Mishra	Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Pawan Kalyan	Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh
Prem Prabhakar	MD and CEO of SBICAP Ventures Limited
Ajit Doval	National Security Adviser (NSA) of India
Dr Kapil Dua	President of the Asian Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons
Lt General Upendra Dwivedi	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)
Abhijit Kishore	Chairman of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)
Rahul Vatts	Vice- Chairman of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)
Prem Singh Tamang	Chief Minister of Sikkim
Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman	Army Chief of Bangladesh
Ajith Kumar KK	MD & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank
Rajeev Agarwal	Non-Executive Independent Director, Paytm
Ashwani Kumar	Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)
Girish Tanti	Chairman, Suzlon Group
N. Chandrababu Naidu	Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
Tesam Pongte	Speaker of Arunachal Pradesh Assembly
Sudhakararao Papa	Director (Enterprise) at BSNL
Bhartruhari Mahtab	Pro-Tem Speaker of Lok Sabha
Atul Kumar Chaudhary	Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
MLA C. Ayyanna Patrudu	Elected speaker of Andhra Assembly
Paul Thomas	Chairperson of Sa-Dhan
Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza	Commandant, Military Institute of Technology, Pune
Manoj Jain	Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited
Pradeep Singh Kharola	Additional Charge, Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA).

Gaurav Banerjee	MD & CEO, Sony Pictures Networks India
Girija Subramanian	CMD of New India Assurance Company
Anuj Tyagi	MD and CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance
J.P. Nadda	Leader of House, Rajya Sabha
Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani	Vice Chief of Army Staff
Simon Mak	Vice- Chancellor of Universal AI University (UAIU), India's first artificial intelligence university
Aksha Mohit Kamboj	Vice President of India Bullion Jewellers Association
Vikram Misri	India's Foreign Secretary
António Costa	President of the European Council
Aksha Mohit Kamboj	Vice President of India Bullion Jewellers Association
Mark Rutte	Secretary General of NATO

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson
A Fly on the RBI Wall	Alpana Killawala
I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story	Ravichandran Ashwin
Ed Finds a Home	Alia Bhatt

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
A.J.T. Johnsingh	Renowned wildlife field biologist and conservationist
Rajeev Taranath	Musician
Harpal Singh	Sports Journalist
Murlidhar Chandrakant	Politician
Ramoji Rao	Founder of Eenadu Group and Ramoji Film City
Amol Kale	President, Mumbai Cricket Association

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Saulos Chilima	Politician
Donald Sutherland	Actor

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
June 1	Global Day of Parents	The Promise of Playful Parenting
June 1	World Milk Day	
June 2	International Sex Worker's Day	Access to Justice
June 3	World Bicycle Day	Cycling for Health, Equity and Sustainability
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	
June 5	World Environment Day	Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience
June 7	World Food Safety Day	Food safety: prepare for the unexpected
June 8	World Ocean Day	Awaken New Depths
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day	Brain Health and Prevention
June 12	World Day against Child Labour	Let's act on our Commitments: End Child Labour!
June 14	World Blood Donor day	20 years of Celebrating Giving: thank you Blood Donors!
June 15	World Wind Day	
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies
June 16	International Family Remittances Day	
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future,
June 18	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	The Power of Youth for Countering and Addressing hate speech
June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally
June 20	World Refugee Day	For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed
June 21	International Yoga Day	Yoga for Self and Society
June 21	World Music Day	
June 21	World Hydrography Day	Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities.
June 22	World Rainforest Day	Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests
June 23	International Olympic Day	Let's Move and Celebrate
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	
June 23	International Widows' Day	Accelerating the Achievements of Gender Equality
June 24	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	
June 26	International Day against Drug Addict and Illicit Trafficking	The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	

June 27	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day	MSMEs and the SDGs
June 29	International Day of Tropics	
June 29	National Statistics Day	Use of Data for Decision-Making
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism	
June 30	International Asteroid Day	

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

Mumbai retains top spot as India's most expensive city for expats: Mercer report

- According to Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai remains the most expensive Indian city for expatriates. Hong Kong tops the global ranks yet again with Singapore at the second rank followed by Zurich.
- Globally, Mumbai is ranked at 136th position and New Delhi at 164th position. Chennai is ranked at 189th position and Bengaluru at 195th position.
- The report ranked 226 cities based on the cost of more than 200 items, including transportation, food, clothing, and entertainment.

India becomes the world's third-largest domestic aviation market

- According to data compiled by aviation analytics firm Official Airline Guide (OAG), India is now third in the aviation market after airlines such as IndiGo and Air India have expanded their fleet size to cater to the surge in air passengers.
- The data show India's domestic airline capacity doubled in the last 10 years from 7.9 million seats in April 2014 to 15.5 million in April 2024.
- The world's largest domestic aviation market is the U.S. followed by China.

Uttar Pradesh leads India in compressed biogas production

- According to a report by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), Uttar Pradesh could create 24% of India's CBG (Compressed BioGas).
- Towns like Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, and Saharanpur are key areas for making CBG because it has a lot of feedstock.

Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2024

- According to the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2024, India ranked 176th among 180 countries.

This is a mild improvement from the last EPI, in which India came at the bottom.

- This index is released by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia Center for International Earth Science Information Network.
- The 2024 EPI has 58 indicators, including biodiversity, air pollution, air and water quality, waste management, emission growth rates, projected emissions, etc., under the three main heads of ecosystem vitality, environmental health and climate change.

Virat Kohli tops celebrity rankings with a brand value of \$227.9 million

- According to Kroll's 'Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023: Brands, Business, Bollywood'- Cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top position in brand value, now reaching \$227.9 million, surpassing Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, who holds the second spot with \$203.1 million.
- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has claimed the third position with a brand value of \$120.7 million due to the success of three blockbuster hits in 2023, marking his comeback among India's top five celebrity endorsers since 2020.
- The report ranks India's most influential celebrity brands by assessing their brand values derived from endorsements and social media presence.
- The combined brand value of the top 25 Indian celebrities reached \$1.9 billion in 2023, marking an 18% increase from the previous year.

India is the world's second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide

- According to 'Earth System Science Data', India is the world's second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide after China. Nitrous oxide emissions largely come from nitrogen fertilizer usage and animal manure.

- In 2020, India accounted for nearly 11% of global man-made N₂O emissions, second only to China, which contributed 16%.

Global Peace Index

- According to the Global Peace Index, Iceland is the most peaceful country, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand and Singapore. Iceland has topped the list since 2008.
- India was ranked 126 out of 163 countries, with an overall score of 2.31. In previous rankings, it stood at 139 in GPI 2020 and 141 in GPI 2019.
- Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- The index is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- GPI provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating 163 independent states and territories. This report highlights the trends, results and economic impacts of violence across the world, offering valuable insights into the current state of peace and the factors influencing it.

Infosys ranks among the top 100 most valuable brands in the world

- According to Kantar's annual 'BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report,' Infosys was ranked the 74th most valuable brand in the world and the 20th most valuable global B2B technology brand.
- It has been named in the '100 most valuable brands' of the world for the third consecutive year.

Gautam Adani reclaims the title of Asia's richest man with a net worth of \$111 bn

- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani, chairman of multinational conglomerate the Adani Group, has reclaimed the title of the richest person in Asia with a net worth of \$111 billion.
- Ambani stands at 12th rank with a net worth of \$109 billion.
- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Bernard Arnault is currently the richest person in the world with a net worth of \$207 billion. He is followed by Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos with a total wealth of \$203 billion and \$199 billion respectively.

Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI)

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released an Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) dashboard that tracks 174 economies globally for AI readiness.
- India ranks at the 72nd position, with Bangladesh (0.38) at 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) at 92 and China (0.63) at 31.
- Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest-rated AEs, with India categorised as an EM with a 0.49 rating.
- Each country's rating is analysed based on its digital infrastructure, human capital, labour policies, innovation, integration and regulation.
- The Index has categorised each country into Advanced Economy (AE), Emerging Market Economy (EM) and Low-Income Country (LIC).

QS World University Ranking 2025

- In the latest edition of the QS World University Ranking, 61% of Indian universities' ranking has improved, with IIT Bombay gaining the top spot in India. It has climbed from 149 rank to 118 in the 2025 rankings.
- IIT Bombay is followed by IIT Delhi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru with the two institutes ranked second and third in India, respectively.
- Globally, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the 'best institute in the world' position for the 13th time this year.

World Investment Ranking

- According to a report released by the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India slipped seven ranks to fifteen in the World Investment Ranking in 2023 as foreign direct investment inflows fell 43% to \$28 billion.
- However, despite the fall in global rankings according to value, India remained one of the top destinations in terms of greenfield project announcements and international project deals.
- The US attracts the highest FDI at \$311 billion, followed by China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

EVENTS

First International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit

- The first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 was held in Kochi, Kerala. It was a three-day conference organised by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the National Dairy Development Board and the International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- The theme was 'Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying.'
- It featured deliberations bringing together leaders and experts from the global dairy sector.

50th G-7 Summit 2024

- The 50th G-7 summit was held from June 13-15, 2024

at Borgo Egnazia in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy. This summit marked the 50th anniversary of the group.

- The leaders decided to promote concrete G-7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives.
- G-7 nations committed to promoting the IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor), which aims to create a comprehensive transportation network, comprising rail, road, and sea routes, connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- G-7 is a group of the most developed and advanced economies in the world. The member countries are France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and Canada.

AWARDS

Siddhesh Sakore named land hero by UNCCCD

- Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer and the founder of AGRO RANGERS, from Maharashtra, has been named Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- He was awarded for his innovations in natural farming and waste management.
- UNCCD announced the names of ten land heroes on World Desertification and Drought Day.

Vinod Ganatra becomes the first Indian honoured with 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'

- Globally acclaimed film-maker Vinod Ganatra has become the first Indian to be conferred the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to films.
- He has bagged 36 national and international awards, including the 'Janakinath Gaur Award' from Doordarshan for his children's programme, 'Baingan Raja.'

- He became the only Indian filmmaker to receive the 'Liv Ullmann Peace Prize', in Chicago, for his Gujarati film, 'Harun-Arun'.

Sahitya Akademi announces Yuva Puraskar winners for 2024

- The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, commonly referred to as the Yuva Puraskar, is a prestigious literary honour bestowed by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.
- The Yuva Puraskar aims to recognise young writers under 35 for their exceptional literary works in one of the 24 major Indian languages.
- This year's Yuva Puraskar for English was awarded to K Vaishali for her memoir Homeless: Growing Up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India (Yoda Press), and the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for English, to Nandini Sengupta for her book The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animals from Indian History (Hachette India).
- The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has been awarded for seven novels, six books of poetry, four stories, five short stories, one play, and one historical fiction.

Yuva Puraskar winners

Language	Name of the Writer	Book
Assamese	Nayanjyoti Sarma	Jaal Kota Jui (Short stories)
Bengali	Sutapa Chakraborty	Deraje Halud Ful, Gatajanma (Poetry)
Bodo	Rani Baro	Saikhlum (Short stories)

Dogri	Heena Choudhary	Ek Rang Tere Range Chaa (Poetry)
Gujarati	Rinku Rathod	To Tame Raaji? (Ghazal)
Hindi	Gaurav Pandey	Smritiyon Ke Beech Ghiri Hai Prithvi (Poetry)
Kannada	Shruthi BR	Zero Balance (Poetry)
Kashmiri	Mohd Ashraf Ziya	Aene Baedas (Articles)
Konkani	Adwait Salgaonkar	Pedanyacha Samaaram (Essays)
Maithili	Rinki Jha Rishika	Nadi Ghati Sabhyata (Poetry)
Malayalam	Shyamkrishnan R	Meeshakkallan (Short stories)
Manipuri	Waikhom Chingkhinganba	Ashiba Turel (Poetry)
Marathi	Devidas Saudagar	Usvan (Novel)
Nepali	Suraj Chapagain	Canvas Ko Xitiz (Poetry)
Odia	Sanjay Kumar Panda	Hu Baieaa (Short stories)
Punjabi	Randhir	Khat Jo Likhno Reh Gaye (Poetry)
Rajasthani	Sonali Suthar	Sudh Sodhun Jag Angane (Poetry)
Santhali	Anjan Karmakar	Jangbaha (Poetry)
Sindhi	Geeta Pradeep Rupani	Paper Parya (Articles)
Tamil	Lokesh Raghuraman	Vishnu Vandhar (Short stories)
Telugu	Ramesh Karthik Nayak	Dhaavlo (Short stories)
Urdu	Javed Amber Misbahi	Stepney (Short stories)

2024 Kavli prize awarded in Astrophysics, Nanoscience and Neuroscience

- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has announced the 2024 Kavli Prize Laureates in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience.
- David Charbonneau of Harvard University, and Sara Seager, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were awarded for Astrophysics.
- Robert Langer of MIT, Armand Paul Alivisatos of the University of Chicago, and Chad Mirkin of Northwestern University were awarded for Nanoscience.
- Nancy Kanwisher (MIT), Winrich Freiwald (Rockefeller University), Doris Tsao (University of California, Berkeley) were awarded for Neuroscience.
- The Kavli Prize is a partnership among The Kavli Foundation, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

Renowned wildlife Filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu awarded with V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

- Subbiah Nallamuthu was conferred with V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions to wildlife filmmaking.

- The prestigious Dr V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award is presented in every Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). It carries a cash award of 10 lakh rupees, a trophy and a citation.
- The award is instituted in memory of legendary filmmaker V Shantaram.

Sanya Malhotra wins best actress award at the New York Indian Film Festival for 'Mrs'

- Sanya Malhotra has bagged the best actress award at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival 2024 for her role in the movie 'Mrs'.
- 'Mrs' is reportedly the Hindi remake of the critically acclaimed Malayalam film, 'The Great Indian Kitchen'. The movie has been described as a captivating account of a woman's strength and resilience, focusing on the journey of Richa, portrayed by Sanya Malhotra.

C-DOT wins UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE 'Champion' Award

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, was awarded UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award for the project "Mobile-Enabled Disaster

Resilience through Cell Broadcast emergency Alerting”, recognised under AI, C-7, E-environment, in the category of ‘Benefits in all aspects of life - E-environment”.

- The C-DOT’s mobile-enabled Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform is an end-to-end solution for near real-time delivery of life-saving emergency information to mobile phones through cellular networks.

SEBI bags the ‘Best Conduct of Business Regulator’ award by The Asian Banker

- SEBI bagged the ‘Best Conduct of Business Regulator’ award in the Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker for its role in enhancing the regulatory framework for securities markets in India.
- The Asian Banker creates platforms to build a greater sense of community amongst players in the financial services industry, from traditional banks and digital disruptors to fintechs and platform players.
- It also publishes rankings and ratings of institutions, people and processes to establish high standards in the delivery of finance products and solutions.

Nar Singh and Rohini Lokhande won the Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award

- The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced the Dilip Bose Award for lifetime achievement to coach Nar Singh.
- A new lifetime achievement award for women coaches has been created by AITA and the first award in this category will be presented to the 69-year-old Rohini Lokhande. She has trained thousands of players in different age groups and has helped many to qualify as coaches.

NIMHANS bags the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organisation

- National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has been awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, recognises individuals, institutions and/or governmental or non-governmental organisations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

Dr Usha Thakur awarded 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman in the Hindi Samvad Event

- Dr Usha Thakur was awarded the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman in a Hindi Samvad event organised by the Embassy of India in Nepal, recognising her contribution in the development of Hindi literature.
- She has translated more than 40 literature into Hindi and Nepali and strengthened the Hindi language. This award is given by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Gudleppa Hallikeri award for Siddalinga Pattanashetti

- Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti has been chosen for the prestigious Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024 by the Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation, Hosaritti (Haveri District).
- Hallikeri was a notable Indian freedom fighter from Karnataka, known for founding the Gandhi Grameena Gurukul and using nonviolent protests.

Mumbai’s super cop Krishna Prakash honoured with Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award

- Krishna Prakash, head of Mumbai Police’s elite counter-terrorism unit, Force One, has received the prestigious Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award.
- He is a two-time Guinness World Record holder who achieved his third record for initiating the maximum number of letters through postcards to Lord Ram, enabling the common man’s direct connection with the divine.

GRSE wins ‘Sustainable Governance Champion Award’ at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit 2024

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. has been honoured with the ‘Sustainable Governance Champion Award’ at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.
- This recognition highlights GRSE’s unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.

Indian American Bruhat Soma wins the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Bruhat Soma, a seventh-grader, won the US National Spelling Bee champion title along with a Scripps Cup trophy and a USD 50,000 check after acing a 90-second spell-off against the second runner-up, 12-year-old Faizan Zaki from Texas.

- Bruhat spelt 29 words correctly in the tiebreaker, surpassing Zaki by nine.

Indian writer Sanjana Thakur wins the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

- Sanjana Thakur, a 26-year-old writer from Mumbai, won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "Aishwarya Rai".
- She will receive a cash prize of £5,000 and was named the overall winner of the prize after having won the prize for the Asia region.

Arundhati Roy wins Pen Pinter Prize for 'unflinching, unswerving' writing

- Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy was honoured with the Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her "unflinching and unswerving" writings.
- The prize, established in 2009 by the charity English PEN, defends freedom of expression and celebrates literature in memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright Harold Pinter.
- The prize is awarded annually to a writer of outstanding literary merit who is a resident of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth.

SPORTS NEWS

India won the T20 World Cup 2024

- India beat South Africa by 7 runs and lifted the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 for the second time after 2007.
- Virat Kohli was named the 'Player of the Match' and Jasprit Bumrah was named the 'Player of the Tournament'.
- Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz finished the tournament with the most runs – 281 and Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi was the joint-highest wicket-taker along with India's Arshdeep Singh – 17 wickets.

Rohit Sharma becomes first batter to hit 200 sixes in T20Is

- Rohit Sharma becomes the first player to hit 200 sixes in T20Is during the T20 World Cup 2024.
- New Zealand's Martin Guptill is closest to his record with 173 sixes.

Rohit Sharma becomes the first cricketer to hit 600 sixes in international cricket.

- Rohit Sharma, known as the 'Hitman,' made history by becoming the first cricketer to hit 600 sixes in international cricket.
- He is the first Indian and the second player globally, after Chris Gayle, to hit 100 sixes in ICC white-ball tournaments (T20 and ODI).
- This record was made in India and Ireland match that was played at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, USA.

U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

- Indian wrestlers won 11 medals, including four gold, two silver, and five bronze in the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024.

- All four gold medals were won by the Indian women's team- Dipanshi – Gold in 46kg, Muskan – Gold in 53kg, Rajnita – Gold in 61kg, and Mansi Lather – Gold in 69kg.
- The championship was held in Amman, Jordan.

India Joins World Boxing (WB)

- The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) joined World Boxing (WB), a newly formed body after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to recognise the International Boxing Association (IBA).
- The IOC had previously warned that any boxer whose National Federation adheres to the IBA would be excluded from the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028. The IOC's stance was further reinforced after the IBA announced prize money for Olympic medalists at the Paris Games.

Key Points

President of BFI — Ajay Singh

Taiwan Athletics Open 2024

- India won seven medals -three golds, three silvers and one bronze at Taiwan Athletics Open 2024.
- The 2024 Taiwan Athletics Open is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze event held in Taipei, Taiwan.
- D.P. Manu won the gold medal in the javelin throw with his throw of 81.58 meters. Nayana James won the gold medal in the women's long jump. Ankesh Chaudhary won the gold medal in men's 800 meters.

French Open 2024

Title	Winner
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek
Men's Doubles	Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic
Women's Doubles	Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova
Mixed Doubles	Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin

2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat to be held in Noida, UP

- MotoGP Bharat will be hosted in Noida, UP from 2025 until 2029.
- The Uttar Pradesh government will collaborate with Spain's Dorna Sports and Indian partner Fairstreet Sport for the event.
- MotoGP is the pinnacle of World Championship Road Racing.

Norway Chess Titles

- Magnus Carlsen has won his sixth Norway Chess title after beating GM Fabiano Caruana in armageddon.
- Ju Wenjun claimed the title with 19 points by defeating Lei Tingjie in the women's category,

Real Madrid wins 15th Champions League title

- Real Madrid won the UEFA Champions League title by defeating Borussia Dortmund at Wembley Stadium.
- They have created history by winning it for the 15th time.

Tata Communications secures five-year broadcasting deal with World Athletics

- Tata Communications has entered into a five-year agreement with World Athletics to provide broadcasting services. It will start the global coverage of premier events starting from the Tokyo World Championships.
- The World Athletics Championships is an event that regularly draws a global viewing audience of one billion people.

Shruti Vora becomes the first Indian to win three-star GP in dressage.

- Shruti Vora has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a three-star Grand Prix equestrian event, FEI Dressage World Cup held in Lipica, Slovenia.
- She is the first to finish first at a Grand Prix-3, or CDI-3, in any equestrian event.

- In dressage, star ratings are awarded based on the difficulty and stature of the events. A five-star rated Grand Prix is considered the toughest in the sport.

Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third Consecutive Year

- Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Canadian Grand Prix 2024 and claimed his third title for the consecutive year.
- The Canadian Grand Prix 2024 was held at the iconic Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. It is also known as the AWS GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2024.

Sumit Nagpal wins his sixth ATP Challenger Tennis title

- Sumit Nagpal etched his name in history by winning the prestigious Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany.
- He defeated Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland to win his sixth ATP Challenger title.
- The ATP Challenger Tour Tennis Tournament is organised by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

India to host the 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- India will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025.
- The tournament, set to feature 24 teams for the first time, will be the 14th edition of the Junior Hockey World Cup.
- The last edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup took place in 2023 in Malaysia.

Key Points

President of Hockey India — Dr. Dilip Tirkey

Puja Tomar becomes the first Indian to win in UFC

- Puja Tomar made history as the first Indian to win a fight in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC),

defeating Brazil's Rayanne dos Santos at UFC Louisville 2024.

Archery World Cup 2024

- The Indian Archery team won four medals- one gold, one silver, and two bronze at the Archery World Cup 2024.
- The event was organised by the World Archery and its stage three concluded in Antalya, Turkey. The Archery World Cup 2024 is being organised in four stages. The fourth stage will be held in Tlaxcala, Mexico in October 2024.
- Dhiraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals. Priyansh won the silver in the men's compound event.

BWF Australian Open 2024

- Lee Zii Jia from Malaysia won the BWF Australian Open 2024 after defeating Naraoka Kodai of Japan.
- With this, he secured his second title of the season.

Spanish Grand Prix 2024

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix for the third year in a row after defeating McLaren's pole-sitter Lando Norris.

Paavo Nurmi Games 2024

- Neeraj Chopra won gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 in Turku, Finland.
- Nurmi Games is a World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level) event.

FIDE U-20 World Chess Championship 2024

- Divya Deshmukh from Nagpur, India, clinched the FIDE Under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship.
- With this, she became the fourth Indian woman to win the title after Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, and Soumya Swaminathan

Shafali Verma breaks record for fastest double century in women's Tests, becomes second Indian to breach 200-run mark

- India women's team's star opener, Shafali Verma, became the fastest double centurion in the history of women's Test cricket.
- She recorded the feat during the one-off Test against South Africa in Chennai.
- This makes her only the second Indian woman to record a double century in the longest format after Mithali Raj.

Cricket Legend Kapil Dev takes the helm of Indian Professional Golf

- Kapil Dev has taken over as president of the Professional Golf Tour of India, the apex body for the men's domestic game.
- Kapil Dev is fondly known as the 'Haryana Hurricane' for his exceptional all-round cricketing skills.

Cummins creates history with second consecutive T20 World Cup hat-trick

- Australia cricketer Pat Cummins created history in St Vincent when he became the first player to register a hat-trick in consecutive ICC Men's T20 World Cup matches.
- He registered a hat-trick over two overs against Bangladesh.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma announce retirement from T20 Cricket

- Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have announced their retirement from T20Is after lifting the T20 World Cup 2024.
- However, they will still play for India in ODIs and Test Matches.