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Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Tiger Woods	USGA Honor	Tiger Woods, the golfing legend, has been presented with the highest accolade bestowed by the USGA, the Bob Jones Award. In addition to his outstanding dedication to the game's traditions and integrity, he achieved incredible success on the course.
Dr Pradeep Mahajan	Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024	Dr. Pradeep Mahajan, who founded StemRx Hospital and Research Centre and served as its chairman and managing director (CMD), and StemRx Bioscience Solutions, were both honored with the esteemed Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024 for their outstanding contributions to the field of regenerative medicine.
Amitav Ghosh	Erasmus Prize 2024	The Erasmus Prize 2024 has been bestowed upon Amitav Ghosh, an Indian writer, by the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation.
Riken Yamamoto	2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize	Yokohama, Japan-born architect Riken Yamamoto has taken home the most prestigious award in



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		architecture: the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
Mr. Srinivasan Swamy	2024 IAA Golden Compass Award	While in Penang, Malaysia, for the 45th IAA World Congress, Mr. Srinivasan Swamy—who is presently RK Swamy Ltd.’s chairman and managing director—was honored.
Ratan Tata	PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Philanthropy Work	Former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata has won the esteemed PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award.
Dr. Uma Rele	Maharashtra Gaurav Award	The distinguished Principal of Mumbai’s Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Uma Rele, has been bestowed the recognized Maharashtra Gaurav Award.
PM Modi	Order of the Druk Gyalpo	Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a two-day state visit to Bhutan. This comes as both countries are working to overcome their border issue and Beijing is trying to forge diplomatic ties with the Himalayan kingdom.
Bina Agarwal and James Boyce	Global Inequality Research Award	James Boyce and Bina Agarwal have been presented with the inaugural “Global Inequality Research



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		Award” in recognition of their ground-breaking work in the field of global inequality research, particularly as it pertains to social and environmental inequality.
Michel Talagrand	2024 Abel Prize	The 2024 Abel Prize will be presented to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France, by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. In recognition of his “groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics,” Talagrand has bestowed the esteemed honor.
Vijay Jain	Times Power Icon 2024 Award	The managing director of Star Estate, Vijay Jain, was presented with the esteemed Times Power Icon 2024 Award at a glitzy ceremony that was recently hosted in Noida by The Times Group.

Appointments



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Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Shehbaz Sharif	Pakistan's Prime Minister	Shehbaz Sharif was chosen as Pakistan's prime minister by the National Assembly on March 3, 2024. Sharif has served as prime minister twice before, first from April 2022 to August 2023, and this is his second time in office.
Nayanthara	Slice – Ambassador	The mango-flavored drink Slice has just revealed that renowned actress Nayanthara will be its newest brand ambassador. By working together, we hope to deepen Slice's connection with its customers and confirm that it is still the best mango drink on the market.
Rajendra Prasad Goyal	Chairman And MD Of NHPC Limited	A leading hydropower business in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India, Rajendra Prasad Goyal has just taken on the additional responsibilities of Chairman and Managing Director in addition to his role as Director (Finance) of NHPC.
Satyendra Kumar Singh	Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh	The new anti-corruption ombudsman of Madhya



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		Pradesh, Lokayukta, is Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh. On Sunday night, in Raj Bhavan, under the auspices of Governor Mangubhai Patel, he took the oath of office.
AS Rajeev	Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission	On 9th February 2024, the Honorable President of India appointed AS Rajeev to the position of Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.
Deepak Ballani	ISMA Director General	In his new role as Director General, Mr. Deepak Ballani joins the Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA).
Gyanesh Kumar & Sukhbir Sandhu	New Election Commissioners	Appointed as new Election Commissioners are Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu by a three-member body headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury informed the media of this conclusion following the committee's meeting on March 14, 2024.
Rahul Singh	CBSE Chief	As part of a high-level bureaucratic shakeup at the federal level, Rahul



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		Singh, a senior official, has been appointed chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
Jaideep Hansraj	President of 'One Kotak'	Jaideep Hansraj, who is currently the MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, has been appointed Group President – One Kotak by Kotak Mahindra Bank.
Navneet Sehgal	Prasar Bharati Board Chairman	The Prasar Bharati Board has elected Navneet Kumar Sehgal, a retired bureaucrat, as its new head. The seat remained unfilled for four years following A Surya Prakash's retirement in February 2020, when he reached the upper age requirement for the job of 70.
B Sairam	Chairman and Managing Director of NCL	Managing Director (CMD) and Chairman (NCL) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) B Sairam has been appointed. NCL is the principal subsidiary of Coal India Limited, which is headquartered in Singrauli. This position is now being filled by Sairam.



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Arvind Kapil	Poonawalla Fincorp CEO	Arvind Kapil has been named Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Poonawalla Fincorp, a prominent NBFC.
Kumar Venkatasubramanian	P&G India CEO	Kumar Venkatasubramanian has been named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of P&G India, a prominent fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) firm, with effect from May 1, 2024.
Simon Harris	Ireland's New Prime Minister	After Leo Varadkar's unexpected departure, Irish politician Simon Harris is now considered a heavy favorite to succeed him as Taoiseach, or prime minister of Ireland.
Govind Dholakia	New Chairman of Surat Diamond Bourse	Gujarati Rajya Sabha member Govind Dholakia has been named chairman of the Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB). Vallabhbbhai Patel (Lakhani), the former chairman, resigned the day before this appointment.
Prof Jayant Murthy	Honoured with Asteroid Name	The International Astronomical Union (IAU), a global organization responsible for naming celestial objects, has bestowed a



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		rare honor upon an Indian scientist.
Luis Montenegro	Portugal's Prime Minister	The center-right Democratic Alliance (AD) leader Luis Montenegro was appointed prime minister after eight years of Socialist rule in Portugal. Problems arise for his minority government, nevertheless, because he will not ally with the extreme right-wing Chega party.
Neeraj Chopra	Eveready's New Brand Ambassador	Neeraj Chopra, the current men's javelin throw world champion and reigning Olympic gold winner, has been named the new brand ambassador for Eveready Industries India (EIL), a prominent battery brand.
Abhay Thakur	Next Envoy to Myanmar	The MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) announced on March 26. Abhay Thakur joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1992.
Hansha Mishra	Director in UPSC	Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi, Hansha Mishra is an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) from the 2010 batch.



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Nidhu Saxena	MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra	The decision by the central government to select Nidhu Saxena as the MD & CEO of the Bank of Maharashtra is a noteworthy step. Commencing on 27 March 2024, this appointment will remain in effect for three years.
PR Sreejesh and Camila Caram	Co-Chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee	The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has chosen former Indian men's hockey team captain and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Chile's Camila Caram as co-chairs of the FIH Athletes Committee. The FIH released this statement on March 27, 2024.
Mohammad Yousuf Wani	Additional Judge of J&K and Ladakh High Court	The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh appointed Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani to the position of Additional Judge. Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh bestowed the oath at Srinagar.



Banking & Finance

Kotak Life Introduces Non-Linked Par Product Kotak G.A.I.N

The introduction of Kotak G.A.I.N., the newest product from private sector life insurer Kotak Life Insurance, garnered a lot of attention. People looking for a way to save for the future or have a reliable source of income could be interested in this non-linked participating product. Kotak G.A.I.N offers powerful security for clients' loved ones and attempts to fulfill varied financial needs with its unique features and flexibility.

Important Functions and Choices

With a yearly premium requirement of Rs 50,000, Kotak G.A.I.N. makes sure that investors from all walks of life can participate, regardless of their financial situation.

Policyholders are required to be at least 90 days old when the policy is issued to be eligible to receive coverage. Flexible and offering alternatives for long-term financial planning, the policy matures between the ages of 40 and 85.

Policyholders can tailor their investing plan to their tastes and long-term objectives with the help of the product's three different possibilities.

Sidbi gets \$24.5 million from GCF for 'Avaana' fund

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has secured \$24.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its inaugural anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at \$120 million. This funding marks a significant milestone in climate finance and sustainability initiatives within India.

GCF, a pivotal component of the Paris Agreement, approved SIDBI's ASF project and committed the investment during its 38th board meeting in Rwanda on March 5.

The ASF project's primary objective is to invest in early-stage companies leveraging technology-led innovation to drive climate solutions and sustainability in India.

SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd, in collaboration with Titan Company Ltd, Presented Titan SBI Card

Titan Company Ltd. and SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. are pleased to announce the Titan SBI Card, a premium retail credit card with unrivaled perks for cardholders. Cashbacks, gift vouchers, and reward points are the main features of this card, which offers advantages of more than ₹2,00,000 each year.



Choices for Enrollment

- The official SBI Card website now offers digital enrollment, so interested parties can apply for the Titan SBI Card in a jiffy using SBI Card SPRINT.
- Titan also offers enrollment in-store, so any prospective cardholder can easily enroll.

Platform and Fee Details

- The Titan SBI Card has a small signup cost of ₹2,999 and an annual renewal fee of the same amount.
- Availability on RuPay and VISA payment platforms guarantees user convenience and broad acceptance.

DBS Bank India announces \$250 million lending support for start-ups, ‘new economy’ companies

DBS Bank India showcased its commitment to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in India’s flourishing start-up ecosystem by announcing a lending commitment of USD 250 million for new-age start-ups.

Even if they are becoming stronger, India’s more than 100,000 start-ups and 100 unicorns still face a huge obstacle when trying to get funding.

An overview of the initiative:

- DBS Bank India has set aside USD 250 million to assist new businesses with start-up loans.
- Highlights companies who are redefining industry standards by utilizing innovative technologies.
- Attempts to resolve the persistent problem of lack of access to funding for new businesses in India.

Modern System for Evaluating Risk:

- Using a combination of classic measures and cutting-edge analytical technologies, it evaluates potential dangers.
- Makes ensuring that start-up funding is evenly distributed.



Insurance Sector Attracts Massive Rs 54,000 Crore FDI in 9 Years

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) totaling Rs 53,900 crore has poured into India's insurance industry during the past nine years, from 2014 to 2024, according to Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. Currently, the country is home to 70 insurance companies.

Permitting Individuals and International Teams

Following the advice of the R.N. Malhotra committee, which was established by the government in 1993 to reform the insurance sector, the sector was opened to the private sector in the year 2000. A 26% ownership cap was initially in place for foreign corporations. After that, in 2015, the FDI limit was raised to 49%, and in 2021, it was raised to 74%. Insurance intermediaries were allowed full foreign direct investment in 2019 by the government.

Axis Mutual Fund Partners with Enparadigm for AI-Generated Learning Program

Enparadigm, an industry pioneer in artificial intelligence (AI) powered experiential learning solutions, has partnered with Axis Mutual Fund, a renowned Mumbai-based asset management company. This partnership aims to help Axis MF workers at all levels improve their performance and productivity through personalized learning paths.

Personalized Educational Programs

Personalized Educational Paths: Enparadigm will design unique educational programs to meet the requirements of Axis Mutual Fund's entry-level, middle-level, and upper-level workers.

Personal effectiveness, sales strategies, management abilities, data analytics, digital transformation, and business acumen are some of the qualities that this program will aim to improve.

Airtel Payments Bank Unveils A New Way To Pay with Smart Watch

The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch is the latest innovation in contactless payment technology, developed in partnership with Noise and Mastercard. Customers in metropolitan



areas would benefit greatly from the ease and accessibility that this revolutionary wearable will provide to digital transactions.

Benefits of Wearable Technology

The Tap and Pay function allows users to make contactless payments effortlessly from their smartwatch.

A breeze to set up: the smartwatch may be bought using the Airtel Thanks app by customers who have savings accounts with Airtel Payments Bank. New users can sign up for an account digitally through the app, place an instant watch order, and activate it in under a minute.

YES Bank Partners with the Indian Olympic

Association for the Paris Olympics

Team India's Official Banking Partner for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris will be YES Bank, thanks to a strategic alliance with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The Indian Olympic team and their families will receive full assistance thanks to this partnership.

Introducing the Campaign: "Milkar Jitayengey"

The 'Milkar Jitayengey' campaign is YES Bank's way of showing solidarity and resolve to win.

This campaign is a perfect example of the cooperative attitude that permeates YES Bank and the Indian Olympic Association as they rally around Team India's Olympic effort in Paris.

IndusInd Bank launches Indus PayWear, an all-in-one tokenize wearable

'Indus PayWear,' a new service from IndusInd Bank and Mastercard, allows customers to use their debit and credit cards through tokenized wearables. Customers will benefit from increased payment options, ease, and security with this cutting-edge solution.

Important Factors:

Quick and Safe Financial Deals:

- Removes the need for physical cards or payment apps by enabling tap-and-pay transactions at contactless point-of-sale terminals worldwide.
- Makes purchasing easy and secure for users.
- A ring, a watch clasp, and stickers are all part of the versatile wearables collection, which aims to meet the needs of a wide range of customers.



- Reasonably priced, starting at 499 to 2,999 rupees.
- Do-It-Yourself configuration: The wearable device's card configuration is made easy with a specialized smartphone app.
- Using the app, customers may easily switch between cards.
- Improved Safety: For each purchase, it substitutes unique "tokens" with real card information using cutting-edge tokenization technology.
- Guarantees the security of all wearable transactions.
- Associated with the underlying debit or credit card, Indus PayWear provides rewards and security benefits for purchases.

Government of India and ADB Sign \$23 Million Loan Agreement to Strengthen Fintech Ecosystem in India

A \$23 million loan arrangement has been finalized by the Union Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the fintech landscape within the country. Improved access to high-quality fintech education and innovation is a primary goal of the partnership, with a focus on GIFT-City in Gujarat.

Terms of the Loan

At the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, the \$23 million loan arrangement was formally sealed by the Central Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Strengthening India's fintech ecosystem is the main goal of this agreement.

SBI partners with Aurionpro for its transaction banking platform

The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a substantial agreement with Aurionpro Solutions to license, deploy, and support iCashpro+, an innovative platform for transaction banking and cash management.

This esteemed contract boasts a value of almost Rs 100 crore and comprises a 12-month staggered delivery of licensing and implementation followed by a 6-year maintenance and support period.

Approximately Rs 100 crore is the estimated value of the license and implementation.

- The project will be carried out in stages over twelve months.



- Integration with SBI's Payments Hub and other internal and external platforms, as well as their core banking systems, would be a priority during implementation.
- Support and Maintenance: Six years of support and maintenance after implementation.
- Make sure the iCashpro+ platform will always work and is reliable.
- Quick handling of any problems that crop up throughout the operation.

Indian Affairs

India's Second Spaceport to come up in Tamil Nadu

In Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for India's second spaceport. In addition to advancing India's space program, the ambitious Rs 950 crore facility will enhance the current spaceport in Andhra Pradesh.

Optimal Site for Launch Efficiency

The new 2,233-acre site in the coastal area of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu was selected because of its advantageous location, which should result in more efficient launches. Compared to locations inland, its coastal location offers higher fuel savings.

Launch speeds are increased by utilizing Earth's rotation, achieved by positioning near the equator.

In addition to the tight launch trajectories that are achievable from Sriharikota spaceport, the spaceport's site allows for the placement of satellites in multiple orbits. With this two-pronged strength, India will further solidify its position as the world leader in small satellite launches.

India Receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion'

Award

The remarkable 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Award has been bestowed upon India by the esteemed Measles and Rubella Partnership. The exceptional measures taken by India to combat the spread of rubella and measles have earned them this prestigious accolade.

This honor was bestowed upon the recipient on March 6, 2024, in the United States of America, at the headquarters of the American Red Cross.

On behalf of the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the award was received by Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India.



Concerning the Collaboration on Rubella and Measles

The American Red Cross, BMGF, GAVI, US CDC, UNF, UNICEF, and WHO are among the organizations that make up the Measles and Rubella Partnership. Their mission is to lessen the number of people killed by measles and to stop the spread of rubella.

Electoral Bonds: BJP Tops the List with Highest

Receipt

Anyone or any organization can contribute to political parties anonymously through the 2018 Electoral Bonds program. A new report by the Election Commission of India (ECI) details the sums received by different parties via this channel, shedding light on the money trail in Indian politics.

A Huge Lead for the BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cashed in electoral bonds totaling an astounding ₹6,060.5 crore between April 12, 2019, and January 24, 2024, as revealed by the ECI's data. By a wide extent, the BJP was the biggest beneficiary of these funds, as they constituted an astounding 47.5% of the total electoral bonds cashed during this time.

Extraordinary Recipients

In second and third place, respectively, were the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) with ₹1,609.5 crore (12.6% of the total) and the Indian National Congress (INC) with ₹1,421.9 crore (11.1%), after the BJP.

Significant sums were also distributed to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Biju Janata Dal (BJD), and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), with ₹1,214.7 crore (9.51%), ₹775.5 crore (6.07%), and ₹639 crore (5%), equally.

India's First Underwater Metro Train Service

Launched in Kolkata by PM Modi

In a historic moment for India's urban development and infrastructure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first underwater metro train service in Kolkata. Howrah and Salt Lake, the sister cities of the capital of West Bengal, are going to be better connected thanks to this service, which is a big part of the Kolkata Metro's East-West track.

An Engineering Wonder: The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade Section

Notable for its tunneling beneath the Hooghly River, the 16.6 km Howrah Maidan-Esplanade portion includes the underwater metro track.



With its three subterranean stations, the metro is set to showcase remarkable engineering and technological achievements as it is scheduled to traverse a 520-meter section beneath the river in a mere 45 seconds.

The project, which had successful testing runs in April 2023, was inaugurated with the presence of luminaries such as Bengal Governor Dr. CV Ananda Bose, Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari, and others. The historic event was made more lively by the attendance of children from several schools on the maiden metro voyage.

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

The prestigious National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024 was won by the talented Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana. The news broke at the final session in New Delhi, where Duggal received the top prize for his outstanding performance.

Preeminent Accolades for Young Achievement

- Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana Won First Prize!
- Tamil Nadu's Vaishna Pitchai took second place.
- Honorable Mention: Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan

The fact that these exceptional people were recognized shows how diverse and gifted the country is since they came from all over the country.

“Viksit Bharat” Vision by the year 2047

The importance of young people in achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047, dubbed “Viksit Bharat,” was stressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who addressed the audience. He lauded the youth for their fresh ideas and steadfast commitment to nation-building.

NAMASTE Scheme

A combined effort by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme seeks to do away with the risky practice of manually cleaning septic tanks and sewers.

From Fiscal Years 2023–24 through 2025–26, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) will administer a program that aims to provide various benefits to individuals employed by the sewer and septic tank industry. The program's budget is 349.73 crores.



Kiren Rijiju gets additional charge after Pashupati

Kumar Paras resigns from Union cabinet

Former Union minister and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) president Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned from the Union Cabinet after his party was not included in the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) seat-sharing deal in Bihar for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

As a result, Kiren Rijiju was given the extra responsibility of being minister of food processing industries and President Droupadi Murmu accepted his resignation.

As a result of his party's exclusion from the NDA's seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, Paras resigned from his position in the Union Cabinet.

The decision was made because the RLJP, which is headed by Chirag Paswan, Paras's nephew, was not given any seats.

The extra responsibility of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which had been held by Paras, was transferred to Kiren Rijiju by President Murmu on the recommendation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

State-related Affairs

Kerala Welcomes 'Iris' its first generative AI teacher

A humanoid instructor named Iris has been presented to a school in Kerala, which is a big deal in the world of educational technology.

Designed in tandem with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris is a forerunner in the movement to open education to a wider audience through increased engagement, interactivity, and accessibility.

A Perspective on Education from the Future

The Thiruvananthapuram-based KTCT Higher Secondary School, run by the Kaduvayil Thangal Charitable Trust, is the pioneering school in Kerala to bring on board an artificial intelligence-enhanced educator.

This program is an offshoot of the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) initiative, which was started in 2021 by NITI Aayog to improve after-school programs in all of India's schools.



Iris is an artificial intelligence (AI) entity that can generate new knowledge and lead students in collaborative classroom discussions. Iris is a multipurpose and priceless teaching tool because of its trilingual capability, which allows it to answer a broad variety of inquiries.

Tamil Nadu Makes History with India's Second Privately Developed Rocket

Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, a space startup based in Tamil Nadu, is getting ready to launch their first rocket, the Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

This launch is going to be historically significant. For India, this launch represents many watershed moments in its space program.

Launchpad for Private Enterprises in India

The Agnibaan SOrTeD launch will be a watershed moment for India's space industry as it will be the country's first launch from a private launchpad.

The Power of a Semi-Cryogenic Engine

India will be showing its propulsion technology breakthroughs with its maiden rocket launch fueled by a semi-cryogenic engine.

The First Engine Ever to Be 3D-printed in a Single Piece

Another impressive achievement by Agnikul Cosmos, showcasing indigenous invention and engineering prowess, is the world's first single-piece 3D printed engine.

Kerala to launch India's first government-backed OTT platform

Kerala, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of CSpace, India's maiden government-backed Over-The-Top (OTT) platform.

The much-anticipated unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event.

CSpace, a brainchild of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC), represents a significant leap towards democratizing content consumption.

With an amalgamation of informative and entertaining content meticulously curated for the masses, CSpace promises to redefine the digital entertainment experience for viewers across the nation.



World's First Om-Shaped Temple Inaugurated in Rajasthan

In the Rajasthani village of Jadan, in the Pali region, the first-ever temple built in the distinctive Om shape was opened. Spanning 250 acres, this architectural marvel will have a strong visual presence that can be seen from space and is sure to draw tourists.

Leading International Project

As the first of its kind on a global scale, this revolutionary undertaking is a watershed moment in the history of temple building. The 'Om Aakar' temple is a monument to the cultural and architectural wealth of the area, designed in the Nagara style popular in northern India.

International Affairs

France Enshrines the Right to Abortion in Its Constitution

On March 4, 2024, France made history by becoming the first country in the world to constitutionally protect abortion.

A combined vote of the two chambers of parliament resulted in the decision, with 780 votes in favor and 72 against. The vote was conducted beneath the ornate dome of Versailles Palace, which is located outside of Paris.

A "guaranteed freedom" in France is abortion, as stated in the amendment. An important step in guaranteeing the protection and upholding of women's reproductive rights was the decision to write the right to abortion into the Constitution.

The French Constitutional Amendment

With this decision, "the law determines the conditions in which a woman has the guaranteed freedom to have recourse to an abortion" was written into Article 34 of the French constitution, securing the right to abortion.

The independence of women's bodies and their ability to choose their reproductive health care are fundamental rights that this amendment seeks to safeguard.

Abortion in France: A Legal Tragedy



Despite widespread outrage, a law passed in 1974 in France guaranteed women the right to abortion. By committing abortion to the constitution, we have further solidified its legal protection and made it very difficult for future administrations or courts to repeal this right.

Panama Officially Joins International Solar Alliance

Panama has formally joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a major milestone for renewable energy initiatives worldwide. An official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Randhir Jaiswal, announced this landmark.

A major step forward in the worldwide movement towards a more environmentally friendly future, Panama's admittance demonstrates the nation's dedication to using renewable energy.

The Dedication of Panama to Solar Power

Abhishekifs, the Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) of the MEA, received the Instrument of Ratification from Panama's Ambassador Yasiel Burillo in New Delhi, concluding the formal ratification process.

This action demonstrates Panama's commitment to cooperating within the ISA framework, collaborating with fellow member nations to harness the immense power of solar energy.

Thanking Panama for their involvement, Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED & MER) at the MEA, emphasized the importance of international cooperation in driving advances in renewable energy and expressed thanks for their support.

Vaughan Gething Becomes First Black Leader of a European Country

The newly elected leader of the Welsh Labour Party is Vaughan Gething, who is presently the Economic Minister of Wales. He becomes the first Black person to head a European country, marking a historic milestone with his triumph.

Background and Early Years

A child of Welsh and Zambian descent, Gething entered this world in 1974 in Zambia. When he was two years old, his family relocated to Wales. However, his father faced work discrimination, so the family eventually returned in England.

He was a union lawyer and a graduate of Aberystwyth and Cardiff universities. As president of the Wales National Union of Students and the Wales Trades Union Congress, Gething made history as the first Black president of either organization.



World's First 3D-Printed Mosque in Saudi Arabia

The first mosque ever constructed utilizing 3D printing technology was inaugurated in Jeddah not long ago, marking a significant milestone in the city's history.

Abdulaziz Abdullah Sharbatly's wife, the Saudi businesswoman Wajnat Abdulwahed, commissioned the construction of the mosque in his honor in the Al-Jawhara neighborhood of Jeddah.

Portfolio of Fursan Real Estate and National Housing Co.

The National Housing Co. revealed the unique mosque, which is part of their portfolio, in front of prominent government officials and business executives.

Built with cutting-edge 3D printers from Guanli, a famous Chinese manufacturer of 3D printing technology, the 5,600-square-meter mosque was spearheaded by Abdulwahed, a prominent figure in Fursan Real Estate.

Foreign Relations

India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT 24) Concludes

On March 28, 2024, at Nacala, Mozambique, the second session of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise, IMT TRILAT 24, came to a successful conclusion.

During this week-long exercise, the navies of Tanzania, Mozambique, and India worked together to improve their maritime cooperation and interoperability.

Important Points from IMT TRILAT 24's Harbour Phase (March 21–24, 24):

- Port Maputo and Zanzibar hosted intensive training sessions aboard the INS Sujata and INS Tir, respectively.
- Classes covered topics such as medical lectures, damage control, firefighting drills, communication protocols, and the Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) procedure.
- Highlighting the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) demonstration and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) procedures.

Transition to the Sea (beginning on March 24):

- The ships INS Tir and INS Sujata were escorted by sea riders from the Mozambique and Tanzanian fleets.



- The Tanzanian naval vessel Fatundu and the Mozambique naval ship Namatili conducted joint operations.
- Joint EEZ monitoring off Mozambique and Tanzania, simulated VBSS drills, and night movements.

Business News

India And South Korea To Boost Cooperation In New Tech And Semiconductors

The announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul, to strengthen the strategic alliance between the two countries by increasing collaboration in important new areas.

As co-chairman of the meeting with Cho Tae-yul of South Korea, Jaishankar emphasized the fruitful and extensive conversations that took place on a range of topics, such as defense, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people contacts.

Growth of Strategic Alliances

- S. Jaishankar, India's minister of external affairs, recently stressed the importance of deepening and broadening the country's strategic alliance with South Korea.
 - Critical and emerging technology, semiconductors, and environmentally friendly hydrogen are some of the areas of focus.
 - Progress in trilateral collaboration was brought up by both parties.
 - Discussions centered on shared interests in regional and global politics as well as recent events and difficulties in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in India in 2015, the two countries' ties were transformed into a unique strategic alliance.
 - Increases in commerce, investment, defense, and collaboration in science and technology.
 - The desire to broaden the scope of existing partnerships to include new and developing technology, semiconductors, environmentally friendly hydrogen, etc.
- Strive to bring the two countries' relations up to date and modern.



Ambani and Adani Join Forces: Reliance Buys Stake in Adani's Power Project

A historic first has occurred: Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, two of the wealthiest businesspeople in India, have banded together. A 26% interest in a power facility in Madhya Pradesh owned by Adani's company has been acquired by Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries.

The Pledge

- A wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power Ltd., Mahan Energen Ltd., would be acquired by Reliance Industries in the amount of 5 crore equity shares, or ₹50 crore.
- The stock is being purchased at its par value, which is ₹10 per share.

Information on Power Plants

- A thermal power station in Madhya Pradesh, India, run by Mahan Energen Ltd, has a capacity of 2800 MW.
- A 600 MW section of the power plant will be set aside for Reliance Industries as a Captive Unit under the terms of the agreement.

Reliance to buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore

The biggest private firm in India, Reliance Industries, has stated that it has paid Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million) to acquire Viacom 18 Media from Paramount Global, which is equivalent to 13.01% of the company's total shares. This major deal further establishes Reliance as a dominant player in the media industry and highlights the company's strategic positioning.

Specifics of the Agreement:

A legally binding agreement has been struck into by Reliance Industries to acquire the interest in Viacom 18 Media held by Paramount Global's subsidiaries.

Reliance has made a large investment with the transaction, which amounts to Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).



Tech Mahindra, and IBM collaborate to drive digital adoption

In a joint effort to hasten digital adoption for businesses in the Asia-Pacific area, Tech Mahindra and IBM have opened a Synergy Lounge in Singapore. The goal of this partnership is to provide different industries with innovative solutions by utilizing next-gen technologies. Tech Mahindra and IBM have announced the launch of a Singaporean Synergy Lounge. Located on the Tech Mahindra campus, the Lounge is an initiative to encourage businesses in the Asia-Pacific region to use next-generation technology.

Areas of Concentration and Technology:

- Artificial intelligence (AI), intelligent automation (IA), 5G, edge computing (EC), and cybersecurity (CS) will be the main topics covered in the Lounge.
- Businesses will get help putting these technologies into action so they can improve productivity and solve difficult problems.

Iconic Indian Brand Amul Launches Fresh Milk in the US

The legendary Amul brand is being brought to the United States for the first time by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), an organization that is making waves in the industry. Aiming to serve the Asian community and the Indian diaspora in the US, this growth is a big deal for the brand.

Satisfying Delights Worldwide

Four new varieties of GCMMF's fresh milk will hit store shelves in the United States over the next seven days. While GCMMF would be in charge of marketing and branding Amul fresh milk, MMPA would be in charge of collecting and processing the milk.

New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Washington, Dallas, and Texas are just a few of the big cities where you can find fresh milk at first. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) and the larger Asian community in the United States will constitute GCMMF's principal audience.



PepsiCo to invest \$400 million more in two new plants in Vietnam

A further \$400 million will be invested in Vietnam by the American food and beverage behemoth PepsiCo. Suntory PepsiCo Vietnam Beverage was one of more than sixty American companies whose representatives visited Vietnam last week and announced the decision.

Investment Information:

- **Site:** Two new factories will be constructed with the investment funds.
- **Renewable Energy:** In keeping with PepsiCo's environmental objectives, both facilities will be run by renewable energy.
- One facility, valued at more than \$300 million, will be situated in the southern part of Long An Province.
- A second facility, this one specializing in food processing, will be built in northern Ha Nam Province and will cost \$90 million.

Adani Green Energy operationalizes 126 MW wind power plant in Gujarat

The 300 MW wind power facility in Gujarat, owned by Adani Green Energy, has seen an extra 126 MW of capacity go live. This is a major achievement for the corporation, following the previous operationalization of 174 MW.

Important Aspects:

Deepening Our Investment in Renewable Energy:

- An AGEL subsidiary, Adani Wind Energy Kutchh Four Limited (AWEK4L), has put 126 MW of wind power production in Gujarat into service.
- The project's total capacity is currently 300 MW, including the previously operationalized 174 MW.
- A major contribution to the renewable energy industry, the project is anticipated to produce 1,091 million units of power per year, which will have an impact on the environment.
- As a bonus, it will help reduce yearly CO₂ emissions by about 0.8 million tonnes, further demonstrating AGEL's dedication to environmental responsibility.
- By managing India's biggest portfolio of renewable energy, with a total of 9,604 MW, AEL is further solidifying its position as a market leader.



- By bringing this wind power plant online, AGEL demonstrates its commitment to increasing its use of renewable energy sources.

Ranks

India Becomes Second-Largest Mobile Phone Producer Globally

By the conclusion of the decade, which runs from 2014 to 2024, India will have surpassed all other countries in mobile phone production. For the country's electronics manufacturing sector, this achievement signifies a major shift.

In 2014, the mobile phone business relied on imports to the tune of 78%; by 2024, it plans to achieve 97% self-sufficiency, according to the India Cellular and Electronics Association.

Imported mobile phones now account for just 3% of India's overall sales.

In this remarkable decade of growth, India's mobile phone output has reached an astounding 20 lakh crore rupees. The nation achieved a mobile phone production goal of 2.5 billion units during this time, but only managed to produce 2.45 billion.

Productive Industrial Environment

The expansion of India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem is exemplified by this outstanding accomplishment. The nation is now able to produce its own mobile phones, greatly reducing its dependency on foreign suppliers.

As a result of the government's efforts to build a strong manufacturing sector, India is now the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.

India has become a leading worldwide participant in the mobile phone business, thanks to its decreased reliance on imports and massive manufacturing volumes. This has boosted the country's economy and advanced its technology.

Finland Tops Happiness Rankings For 7th Year, Afghanistan Ranks Last

The World Happiness Report is an annual survey conducted by the United Nations. It ranks countries based on factors like life satisfaction, GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.

For the seventh year in a row, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world.

Other Nordic countries like Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden also ranked among the top 10 happiest nations.



World's 10 Happiest Countries in 2024

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Sweden
5	Israel
6	Netherlands
7	Norway
8	Luxembourg
9	Switzerland
10	Australia

Afghanistan Remains the Unhappiest Country

At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan, which has been plagued by a humanitarian crisis since the Taliban regained control in 2020.

Begusarai Tops Global List of Most Polluted Cities

According to the World Air Quality Report 2023 published by IQAir, a Swiss group, the most polluted city in the world is Begusarai, a city in Bihar.

Among the world's 100 most polluted locations, 83 are located in India, according to the research. The most polluted cities in India are Begusarai, Guwahati, Delhi, and Mullanpur (Punjab), in that order.

Ranked Third Worst for Pollution, India

India is one of the most polluted countries in the world. Out of 134 nations, it ranks third, just behind Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The research emphasized that India's PM_{2.5} level of 54.4 µg/m³ is about ten times greater than the yearly threshold set by the WHO. Pollutants in the 2.5-micron size range are known as PM_{2.5}.



India Remains the World's Largest Arms Importer: SIPRI Report

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported on Monday, March 11, 2024, that India remains the world's greatest armaments importer, with Russia being its main supplier despite a diminishing share.

Indian Arms Imports

India imported 9.8% of world weaponry in 2019–2023. Despite government efforts to enhance domestic defense manufacturing and procurement, arms imports rose 4.7 percent between 2014-18 and 2019-23.

Indian Import Trends

Russia's share of Indian weaponry shipments is declining. Russia supplied 36% of India's weaponry imports during the study period, the lowest share since 1960-64. As India buys military equipment from France and the US and Russia focuses on domestic needs throughout the Ukraine war, this trend is projected to continue.

India imported 33% of its armaments from France and 13% from the US. India's recent purchase of 31 armed MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones from the US for \$3.9 billion and 26 Rafale-M jets from France for \$6 billion may enhance their proportion in the next five years.

India Jumps 14 Ranks on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index

The UNDP Human Development Report 2023–2024 states that India has achieved remarkable strides in eliminating gender disparities. The country's standing on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 is 14 spots higher than it was in the previous year.

India received a score of 0.437 in the GII 2022, placing it 108th out of 193 nations.

Compared to 2021, when the country ranked 122 out of 191 with a score of 0.490, this is a considerable improvement. India has made great strides towards gender equality over the last decade, as shown by its steadily improving rank in the GII.



Hurun Research Institute Report: Mumbai Surpasses Beijing as Asia's Billionaire Capital

The most recent research from the Hurun Research Institute in Shanghai states that, in a significant change, the capital of Asia's billionaires is now Mumbai rather than Beijing. The tremendous success of this endeavor is indicative of the growing economic situation in Mumbai and of India's growing role in the global distribution of wealth.

Report from the Hurun Research Institute: Important Findings – The Rise of Mumbai:

Mumbai has 92 billionaires, making it the third most populous city in Asia in terms of billionaires, after New York (119) and London (97).

Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries and Gautam Adani of Adani Group are two notable individuals who are pushing Mumbai's billionaire status.

94 new billionaires were created in India in 2023, the largest number since 2013 because of the country's strong economy, which grew at a rate of 7.5%.

Defence News

Indian Navy at Exercise Cutlass Express 2024

A large-scale naval drill known as drill Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24) was recently participated in by the Indian Navy. From February 26th through March 8th, 2024, this exercise took place in Port Victoria, Seychelles.

The Role of India

Ship INS Tir, commanding the First Training Squadron, represented the Indian Navy. INS Tir was commanded by Capt. Anshul Kishore, a senior officer of the First Training Squadron.

In the presence of leaders from African countries, India, and the United States, the exercise was opened by the President of the Seychelles, Wavel Ramkalawan.

The international maritime exercise known as Exercise Cutlass Express is spearheaded by the United States Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet and sponsored by the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM).

Strategic waters off the coast of East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean are the primary targets of this exercise, which aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and security.

Friendly navies from East African, West Indian Ocean, European, and North American nations as well as several international organizations are participating in the exercise. Its stated goal is to improve member states' interoperability, or capacity to cooperate.



Indian Army contingent departing for the joint military exercise “Exercise Lamitiye – 2024”

The tenth annual Joint Military Exercise “LAMITIYE-2024” between the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) and the Indian Army is underway, and a group of Indian soldiers have left for Seychelles today to take part. The Seychelles will play host to the exercise from March 18th to the 27th, 2024.

Exercise Lamitiye: What Is It?

- A friend is “LAMITIYE” in Creole.
- This training exercise brings together the Seychelles Defense Forces and the Indian Army every two years.
- The Seychelles have hosted the exercise every year since 2001.
- In the drill, 45 soldiers from the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) and the GORKHA RIFLES (Indian Army) would take part.

Exercise Purpose

Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations, the primary objective of the Exercise is to improve interoperability, or the capacity to cooperate, in Sub-conventional Operations, which are defined as operations other than traditional combat, in a semi-urban setting.

Science related Affairs

IIT Delhi And Israel Aerospace Industries Join Forces For Applied Research

A major step forward in applied research has been announced by IIT Delhi—a partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). In a formal release from IIT Delhi, the cooperation is highlighted as an example of IAI’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts in India. The two organizations will work together on projects, training programs, and research consulting to improve technology and innovation.

A Shared Dedication to Progress

A shared dedication to using research to drive innovation and progress in technology is at the heart of the relationship.

In keeping with IIT Delhi’s commitment to ground-breaking research, both organizations seek to influence India’s technology scene.



SAKHI: The Lifeline for Gaganyaan Crew

For the Gaganyaan space flight project, the innovative SAKHI app was created by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). In several crucial areas of the mission, SAKHI (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction) provides invaluable support.

Advice on Technical Matters

With SAKHI, astronauts have digital access to training manuals and technical documents, saving them time and effort by doing away with the need for bulky manual documentation.

Vital Signs Tracking

Monitoring Your Health in Real Time: The app keeps tabs on vital signs like the astronauts' oxygen saturation, heart rate, and blood pressure. To make sure they're healthy throughout the trip, it also notifies them when to eat, how much water to drink, and when to sleep.

Book News

A book on Indian modern art “The Gems of Indian Art” launched

“The Gems of Indian Art” is the new book that chronicles the vast collection of modern and contemporary Indian art owned by Harish Khullar.

At a watershed point in India's creative landscape, Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Shri S.P.S. Baghel introduced this nearly 300-page book.

An Ideal For Collectors

The book details the illustrious history and outstanding quality of Harish Khullar's collection, which is lauded all over the world. The indefatigable work of the Khullar family is on full display here, beginning with Harish and continuing with his son Gaurav and grandson.

In a nation where private art collections are still in their infancy, their collection displays a profound love for Indian art and serves as an example to others.

‘Phool Bahadur’ – The First Magahi Novel in English

The English translation of the first Magahi novel, ‘Phool Bahadur,’ was launched at the Dibrugarh University International Literary Festival that took place from March 19th to the 21st, 2024. Renowned writer Abhay K. of Nalanda, Bihar, did the translation.



Where the Story Began

Originally published in 1928, “Phool Bahadur” was authored by Jayanath Pati. Readers weren’t fond of it at first, even though it was the first Magahi novel.

But now that Abhay K. has translated it into English, it has been rediscovery and is becoming famous. During the editing process of “The Book of Bihari Literature,” the translator came across this literary treasure.

Parshottam Rupala released a Book on Sagar

Parikrama at Rajkot, Gujarat

In Rajkot, Gujarat, Shri Parshottam Rupala, the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy, released a book and film called “Sagar Parikrama” at the Engineering Association. Dignitaries like Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, who is the Union Minister for State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy, and Dr. L. Murugan were present at the ceremony.

The Sagar Parikrama Yatra Journal

In an effort to provide a comprehensive account of the Sagar Parikrama Yatra, this book will cover all twelve stages of the pilgrimage and their associated events, including the maritime route, cultural and geographical excursions, and significant impacts.

Included in its seven chapters are the origins of Sagar Parikrama, a synopsis of the trip around the East and West coasts, and important conclusions.

The cultural, religious, and traditional fishing legacy of India’s coastal fishermen, as well as the difficulties they confront, are explored in this book.

In addition, a film documentary documents the entire Sagar Parikrama, including the events, activities, and interactions between the Union Minister and recipients, highlighting the difficulties that were encountered.

A book titled “From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond” by S. Raman

“From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond,” S. Raman’s autobiography, provides a first-person narrative of his extraordinary rise from the ranks of SBI clerk to Canara Bank chairman and managing director, as well as a full-time member of SEBI. Integrity, professional difficulties, and financial systemic troubles are all dancing partners in this novel.



Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Spain	UEFA Women's Nations League	
Max Verstappen	Saudi Arabian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix after starting in first place. In the 2024 Formula One season, it was Red Bull's second consecutive one-two finish.
Carlos Sainz	Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen, the current Red Bull world champion, retired for the first time in two years during the event, adding drama to an already dramatic race.

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Laxminarayan Ramdas	Former Indian Navy Chief
Lama Lobzang	Prominent Tribal Leader
Louis Gossett	Legendary Actor



Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month	March month	
Zero Discrimination Day	March 01	
World Seagrass Day	March 01	
World Wildlife Day	March 03	Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
World Hearing Day	March 03	
National Safety Day	March 04	Safety for a Sustainable Future
International Women’s Day	March 08	Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
International Day of Women Judges	March 10	Women in Justice, women for Justice
World Plumbing Day	March 11	
No Smoking Day	March 13	Protecting children from tobacco industry interference
Celebrating Pi Day	March 14	
World Consumer Rights Day	March 15	Fair and responsible AI for consumers
Ordnance Factories Day	March 18	
World Sparrow Day	March 20	
World Oral Health Day	March 20	
World Poetry Day	March 21	



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2024

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21	
World Down Syndrome Day	March 21	
World Meteorological Day	March 23	At the Frontline of Climate Action
International Day for the Right to the Truth	March 24	
World Tuberculosis Day 2024	March 24	Yes! We can end TB
World Theatre Day	March 27	
World Piano Day	March 28	
International Day of Zero Waste	March 30	

