

<b>Category</b>
<a href="#"><u>Awards and Honours</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Appointments</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Banking &amp; Finance</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Indian Affairs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>State Affairs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>International Affairs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Business News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ranks</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Foreign Relation</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Defence News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Science and Tech News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Books News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sports News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Obituary News</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Important Days and Themes</u></a>

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## Awards and Honours

<b>Awardee Name</b>	<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Vineet Jain	ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023	The distinguished Exchange4Media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 was bestowed upon Vineet Jain, managing director of the Times Group, in recognition of his immense impact on Indian television news.
Meena Charanda	‘International Culture Award’ 2024	In 2024, the esteemed “International Culture Award” was bestowed upon Professor Meena Charanda, who serves as Principal of Kalindi College within Delhi University.
REC Limited	SKOCH ESG Award	The ‘Renewable Energy Financing’ category of the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 was presented to REC Limited, a prominent NBFC and Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Dr. Nikesh Jain Madhani	Glamour & Lifestyle Award 2024	Mr. Nikesh Jain Madhani, a prominent figure in the business world, was presented with a prestigious award by the actresses Mahima Chaudhary and Preeti Jhangiani.
GAIL	CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Barauni	The Barauni-Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL) was the proud recipient of the esteemed 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award in the category of “Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects” from GAIL (India) Limited.
Aleksei Navalny and Yulia Navalnaya	Freedom Prize	The Ludwig Erhard Summit, a major German event, will give the Freedom Prize of the Media to the late Russian activist Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital	'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024	The 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024 was presented to the research team of Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, which was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS).
George Lucas	Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival	In recognition of George Lucas's significant contributions to the film industry, the honorary Palme d'Or will be bestowed upon him at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
Avantika Vandanapu	South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard	The origin of Hyderabad Actress Avantika Vandanapu, who is of Indian and American descent, has been presented with the distinction and title of "South Asian Person of the Year" by Harvard University.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Mamta G. Sagar	Prestigious World Literary Prize	Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist who lives in Bengaluru, Mamta G. Sagar has recently been awarded the coveted World Literary Prize by the World Organization of Writers (WOW).
Adwaita Nayar	2024 Young Global Leader	The World Economic Forum has named Adwaita Nayar a “2024 Young Global Leader.” Nayar is the co-founder of Nykaa and the CEO of Nykaa Fashion.
Amitabh Bachchan	Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award	The important news is that this year, the prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award will be given to the famous Hindi film star Amitabh Bachchan.
Kaushik Rajashekara	International Fellowship by the Engineering Academy of Japan	The esteemed Engineering Academy of Japan has made Kaushik Rajashekara, a well-known professor at the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston, an International Fellow.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Pavuluri Subba Rao	Aryabhata Award for Astronautics Contribution	As the founder, CEO, and chairman of Ananth Technologies, Pavuluri Subba Rao has been given the coveted “Aryabhata Award” by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI).
Mohammed Salem	World Press Photo Of The Year	The jury awarded this the Photo of the Year award as it “evokes an emotional reflection in every viewer.
Ratan Tata	KISS Humanitarian Award 2021	During an event at his home in Mumbai, Ratan Tata, the famous businessman and humanitarian who is Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was given the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
Randeep Hooda	Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award	The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award was given to actor Randeep Hooda at an event held at Mumbai’s Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

India Today's AI anchor Sana	Global Media Award for 2024	It was announced that Sana has been awarded the Global Media Award for 2024 by the International News Media Association (INMA).
Gina Justus	2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards	Gina Justus, a dedicated teacher from Our Own English High School, Sharjah Girls' Branch, wins the MENA regional 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards.
K.V. Kamath	Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) presented an honorary doctorate	K.V. Kamath, who is the Chairman of Jio Financial Services Ltd. and the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.
Hema Malini and Saira Banu, along with other prominent personalities	Prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award	The award ceremony will take place on 31 August 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Alok Shukla	Goldman Environmental Prize 2024	Alok Shukla, a well-known environmental activist and the convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, has been chosen to receive the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in the year 2024.
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## Appointments

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Joyshree Das Verma	New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation	Joyshree Das Verma will serve as the 41st FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) National President for the 2024–25 academic year. In Southeast Asia, FLO stands as the longest-running chamber of commerce run entirely by women.
Moushumi Basu	New President of JNU Teachers Association	In a statement, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA) announced the appointment of new officers for the 2024–2025 academic year.
Atul Mehra	Axis Capital as MD & CEO	The executive leadership team at Axis





## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		Capital has welcomed Atul Mehra to the position of managing director. The final permission is pending his appointment. Axis Capital's investment banking and institutional equities operations will be under Mehra's supervision.
Sanjay Nayar	New ASSOCHAM President	Sanjay Nayar has been named the next president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and industrial of India (ASSOCHAM), a significant industrial chamber.
Rajeev Singhal	Tata International – MD	Rajeev Singhal has been named the new Managing Director (MD) of Tata International, the worldwide trade and distribution arm of the Tata Group. Starting April 1, 2024, Singhal will be officially appointed to the new role. He takes over for Anand Sen, who Tata International said superannuated (retired) on March 31, 2024.
Meenesh Shah	Chairman of NCDFI	The new Board of Directors has been chosen by the National



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), which is the largest dairy cooperative in the country.
Srinivas Pallia	Wipro - CEO	Srinivas Pallia has been appointed as Wipro CEO
Manoj Panda	New Finance Commission Member	Manoj Panda's choice fills a spot in the Sixteenth Finance Commission, which means it can start doing its job. Panda, a well-known economist who used to run the Institute of Economic Growth, became a full-time member.
Harendra Singh	Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team Until 2028 Olympics	The Indian senior women's hockey team has chosen Harendra Singh, a former hockey player who won the Dronacharya award, to be their coach.
Jayaraj Shanmugam	Head of Global Airport Operations	Air India has appointed Jayaraj Shanmugam, an industry veteran with 25 years of experience spanning across airlines, airports, and telecom industries, as the Head of Global Airport Operations.
Lindy Cameron	UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India	As the first woman to hold the position of high



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, a notable graduate of Oxford University and a former chief executive officer of the National Cyber Security Centre in the United Kingdom, has been appointed.
Sushil Sharma	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN Limited	From a pool of nine candidates who were interviewed by the PESB selection panel, Sharma emerged as the frontrunner. Sharma is now functioning as Director (Projects) inside the business.
Vandita Kaul	Secretary, Department of Posts	Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul, a seasoned worker with a lot of experience in banks and financial services, has been named Secretary of the Department of Posts.
Aniruddha Bose	Director of National Judicial Academy	This was announced by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud of the Supreme Court at a ceremony on April 10. The NJA was created in 1993 and is run by the Supreme Court.
Kristalina Georgieva	IMF Managing Director	It has been announced that Kristalina Georgieva has been reappointed to the



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		position of Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new term that will begin on October 1, 2024, and last for 5.
Nalin Negi	BharatPe CEO	Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Nalin Negi has been promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the fintech company BharatPe.
Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah	Kuwait's New Prime Ministe	After Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah quit, Kuwait's Emir chose Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to be the new Prime Minister.
Sanjana Sanghi	SPACE - Brand Ambassador	SPACE India's goal to make space education more available fits nicely with Sanjana's dedication to education and social activism.
Saurabh Garg	Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	Central Government has given IAS officer Saurabh Garg the extra job of Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI).



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Dinesh Kumar Tripathi	Next Chief of the Naval Staff	Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, who is currently the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, has been named by the Indian government as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
Santhosh Viswanathan	Intel - region head	Computer chip maker Intel announced, Santhosh Viswanathan will head the India region business as its Managing Director (MD).
Nalin Prabhat	Director-General of NSG	The Cabinet's appointments committee has accepted two important appointments in India's top security agencies. This is a big step forward.
Keki Mistry	HDFC Life Chairman	Banker Deepak S. Parekh has quit as chairman and non-executive director of HDFC Life Insurance, starting April 18, 2024.
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador Citroen India	The French car company Citroen has hired cricket legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
Edison Napyo	Papua New Guinea's first Defence Advisor to India	India and Papua New Guinea have had official ties since 1976, and



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		their relationships are warm and friendly.
Gita Sabharwal	UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia	António Guterres, who is Secretary-General of the UN, has named Gita Sabharwal of India as the new UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia.
Naima Khatoon	First Woman Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)	Interestingly, the selection happened at this time because the AMU Vice-Chancellor is a very important person in the Muslim community, both in India and around the world.
Prabowo Subianto	Indonesia's President-Elect Amid Controversy	After the country's highest court turned down challenges to Prabowo Subianto's landslide win from two losing presidential candidates, the country's electoral commission officially named him as the president-elect.
Narsingh Yadav	Chairman of WFI Athletes Commission	The United World Wrestling (UWW), which is in charge of the sport around the world, told the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) what they had to do.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Rabi Sankar	RBI Deputy Governor	There will be a one-year term for T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) starting May 3, 2024, thanks to approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
Amitabh Chaudhry	Axis Bank - MD & CEO	Along with Chaudhry, Meena Ganesh and Gopalaraman Padmanabhan have also been re-appointed as independent directors for another four years each.
Arun Alagappan	Executive Chairman of Coromandel International	One of the most prominent providers of agri-solutions, Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL), has recently announced a substantial leadership transfer.
Yuvraj Singh	ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador	Yuvraj Singh, a legendary figure in the sport of cricket in India, has been selected to serve as an ambassador for the future ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024, according to an announcement made by the International Cricket Council (ICC).



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Manoj Kumar	Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)	As of the date of his assumption of office, Kumar has been appointed to the position of Chief Vice Officer of the JNPA for an initial period of three years.
Sunil Kumar Yadav	Director of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	It has been announced that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has welcomed a new member to its core leadership team.
Gary Kirsten	Pakistan ODI and T20I head coach	Jason Gillespie, a former Australian pacer, will take over the post of head coach for Test cricket.
Praveen Ranjan	Director in the Department of Expenditure	As a member of the Indian Defence Accounts Services (IDAS) who graduated in 2010, Praveen Ranjan was recently promoted to the position of Director in the Department of Expenditure within the Ministry of Finance.
Sarvadanand Barnwal	Director in the Department of Land Resources	It has been announced that Sarvadanand Barnwal, who was a member of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) in the year 2010, has been given the position of Director in the





		Department of Land Resources.
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## Banking & Finance

### SIDBI Partners with KarmaLife to Offer Micro Loans for Gig Workers

In order to provide microloans to independent contractors, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has collaborated with the financial technology platform KarmaLife. The two companies are teaming up to make it easier for gig workers to get loans without all the red tape by using KarmaLife’s smartphone technology.

#### Gig Workers’ Ease of Access to Loans

Gig workers now have easy access to financial aid thanks to KarmaLife’s smartphone app, which removes the usual barriers to microloans.

Gig workers working in diverse economic operations might have their liquidity demands met by this simplified process.

#### Encouraging Access to Financial Services

The goal of the collaboration between SIDBI and Onion Life Private Limited’s technology platform KarmaLife is to help gig workers gain access to formal institutional loans and so enhance their financial inclusion.

The initiative’s goal is to help gig workers financially and encourage their entrepreneurial spirit by making the loan application procedure easier.

### SBI Card MILES Launches Three Travel-Focused Credit Card Variants

SBI Card has made three versions of its SBI Card MILES travel credit card to meet the wants of a wide range of travelers.

The three versions—SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES—are made to give travelers, from those who fly a lot to those who just like the idea of it, a range of benefits.

#### Key Points and Advantages

**Annual Fees:** The SBI Card MILES has annual fees that range from Rs 1,499 to Rs 4,999, which do not include taxes.



You can get up to six travel credits for every Rs 200 you spend on travel and up to two travel credits for every Rs 200 you spend on other things.

You can turn these credits into air miles or hotel points from partner brands, or you can use them to book flights and hotels straight through the SBI Card website or mobile app.

**Faster Rewards:** When users book a trip, they get faster rewards, which helps them make more money.

**Lounge Access:** People who have a card can use airport bars, which makes their travels easier and more comfortable.

## HDFC Bank Becomes First Private Bank to Open Branch in Lakshadweep

Private lender HDFC Bank has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a presence in the Union Territory.

This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in Lakshadweep by offering a wide range of services with a focus on personal banking and digital banking solutions.

The branch will provide customized digital solutions, including QR-based transactions for retailers, to cater to the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in the region.

## SBI Life Launches IdeationX: Pioneering Life Insurance Innovation

IdeationX is a new and innovative program launched by SBI Life Insurance to encourage life insurance innovation.

This program pushes future business leaders from top schools to come up with creative ways to meet the changing needs of insurance customers.

### Using business schools to spark new ideas

IdeationX asks students from top business schools across the country to think outside the box and come up with new ways to handle life insurance.

### Success with the First Edition

More than 1000 students from well-known B-Schools like NIA, NIRMA, SIES, KJ Somaiya, IMI, BML Munjal, IMT, and XIME took part in the first event.

After a tough screening process, 320 students made it to the final round, where they were split into eight teams of five.



## Airtel Payments Bank Launches NCMC-enabled Debit and Prepaid Cards

Together with NPCI and RuPay, Airtel Payments Bank has released debit and prepaid cards that are in line with NCMC.

These cards are meant to help India's "One Nation, One Card" program. People with savings accounts can get bank cards that work with NCMC, and people who use wallets can get prepaid cards.

These cards are made from eco-friendly e-PVC material and can be used for a variety of payment methods, such as online shopping and using public transportation.

They also offer better security with EMV Chip protection.

The NCMC Enabled Card All-in-One Travel Solution has the following main benefits: You can use the card easily for metros, buses, tolls, and parking when you're not online.

**Flexible Use:** The card can be used for a wide range of transactions, from shopping in stores to buying things online, getting tickets, and paying for gas.

**Flexible Payment Options:** You can choose from different ways to pay for your rides, such as buying passes or paying per ride.

**Better security:** Use the highly secure EMV Chip-protection tool to make sure you are safer.

## Top Indian Banks in Asia-Pacific Region: S&P Global Report

A new study from S&P Global says that State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank are three Indian banks that are among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region based on their assets.

### State Bank of India (SBI):

- SBI, which is India's biggest business bank, came out on top of the list of Indian banks in 2023.
- With assets worth \$780.05 billion, it moved up from 20th place in 2022 to 21st place in 2023.

### HDFU Bank

- HDFC Bank, which is India's biggest private bank, moved up a lot, from 46th place in 2022 to 33rd place in 2023.
- With \$464.34 billion in assets, the merger with the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) in 2023 helped this rise.



### ICICI Bank

- The second-largest private sector bank in India, ICICI Bank, made its appearance on the list by getting the 48th spot.
- Its presence shows how much the bank's assets have grown, which is a big deal.

## Axis Bank overtook Kotak Mahindra Bank to become 4th largest bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank has now lost its position as the fourth largest banking company on Dalal Street to rival Axis Bank in terms of market value.

This is despite the fact that Kotak Mahindra Bank enjoys a larger valuation premium on risk management and overall governance practices.

This is a result of the RBI's recent prohibition on the facilities of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

When measured by market value, the three most valuable banks in India are HDFC bank, State Bank of India, and ICICI bank.

## NABARD Launches Climate Strategy 2030 for Green Financing

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) released its Climate Strategy 2030 on Earth Day to help India get the green money it needs.

The strategy's goal is to get money for projects in the country that will help fight climate change, adapt to it, and make it stronger.

### India's Gap in Green Financing

Green financing needs to add up to over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, which means India needs about \$170 billion a year.

As of 2019-20, India had only gotten about \$49 billion in green funding. Most of that money was set aside for mitigation.

Only \$5 billion was set aside for adaptation and resilience, which shows that the private sector wasn't very involved because it was hard for businesses to get loans and make money.

### About the Climate Strategy 2030 from NABARD

#### Four main ideas form the basis of the strategy:

- Speeding up green loans in all areas
- Taking on a bigger role in making markets



- The greening of NABARD from the inside
- Strategic gathering of resources

The project strengthens NABARD's dedication to caring for the environment and makes it a key player in India's move to a strong and long-lasting economy.

### Indian Affairs

## India's First AI-Based Film 'IRAH' Trailer Unveiled

The first Hindi film from India to focus on AI, "IRAH," had its trailer and song launch in Mumbai, coinciding with the increasing interest in the topic. Notable actors such as Rajesh Sharma, Rohit Bose Roy, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandarry are part of the film's stellar cast.

Big Films Media and Sam Bhattacharjee's "IRAH" is slated to premiere in theaters across the country on April 4, 2024, according to Iamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution. Performer and composer Sameer Sen was in attendance.

### Investigating AI's Shadow Side

The "IRAH" teaser shows the shadowy side of AI, showing how it can be used inappropriately and have disastrous consequences.

The film's release date—April 5, 2024—coincides with Rohit Bose Roy's birthday—the 5th of April—and he has stated his enthusiasm for the project, in which he plays a crucial role.

## India's First Multi-Purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project Inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

India has taken a big step forward in renewable energy with the start of its first green hydrogen trial project.

It will be located at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.

The project, which is being led by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), wants to make green hydrogen using clean energy sources.

### A Look at the Project

A 20Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr electrolyzer and a 25kW fuel cell capacity-based green hydrogen pilot plant are part of the project.



It is the first green hydrogen generation plant in the country that can be used for more than one thing. It makes energy and coats NJHPS's high-velocity oxygen fuel (HVOF).

### Using renewable energy sources

The project uses clean energy from SJVN's 1.31 MW solar power plant in Wadhwa, Himachal Pradesh, and an alkaline electrolyzer to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen.

With this integration, hydrogen generation can go on for a long time.

## 22 New Products Added to Geographical Indication (GI) Registry

In March 2024, the Geographical Indication (GI) registry of India added 22 new products from the states of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Meghalaya. These products are now protected under the GI tag, which recognizes their unique qualities and geographical origin.

### Assam

The state of Assam saw the inclusion of 12 products in the GI registry:

- Asharikandi terracotta craft
- Pani Meteka craft
- Sarthebari metal craft
- Jaapi (bamboo headgear)
- Mishing handloom products
- Bihu dhol
- Bodo Dokhona (traditional attire of Bodo women)
- Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men)
- Bodo Eri silk
- Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf)
- Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument)
- Bodo Sifung (a long flute)

### Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh had five products added to the GI registry:

- Banaras Thandai, a drink made by blending milk with a mix of nuts, seeds and spices
- Banaras Tabla
- Banaras Shehnai
- Banaras Lal Bharwamirch
- Banaras Lal Pedra



### Tripura

Two products from Tripura were granted GI tags:

- Pachra-Rignai (traditional dress worn on special occasions)
- Matabari Peda (a sweet preparation)

### Meghalaya

Three products from Meghalaya were added to the GI registry:

- Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving
- Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery
- Meghalaya Chubitchi (alcoholic beverage)

## 125 Years of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

Located in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, is the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO), a solar observatory. It is among the world's oldest solar observatories, having been in operation since 1899, and has spent more than 125 years at the forefront of solar study.

Now celebrating 125 years of operation, the observatory is run by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.

### Past Events

After the Great Drought of 1876–1878, in the late 19th century, India realized it needed a solar observatory. In 1792, the British East India Company founded the Madras Observatory to record astronomical observations.

However, to investigate the connection between solar activity and India's monsoon patterns, a separate solar observatory was considered necessary.

## Adani's Vizhinjam Port Approved as India's First Transshipment Hub

Vizhinjam Port, which is owned and operated by Adani Group and is located in Kerala, has been granted permission by the government to function as India's first transshipment port.

This designation is crucial because it makes it possible for cargo to be transported from larger vessels to smaller ones, which contributes to India's ambition of becoming a manufacturing hub at the international level.



Ports located outside of India, such as those in Colombo and Singapore, are currently responsible for the handling of a significant amount of India's transshipment goods. Particularly noteworthy is the approval of the government for transshipment operations. It is a significant achievement for India's marine industry that the Ministry has given its approval for Adani's Vizhinjam Port to operate as a transshipment center. This approval must be granted to develop customs facilities at the port, which will ultimately result in more efficient operations.

### State-Related Affairs

#### UP Leads with Most GI-Tagged Products

When it comes to the quantity of Geographical Indication (GI) recognized items in India, the state of Uttar Pradesh in the north has surpassed all others.

After 15 additional goods were added, Uttar Pradesh now has 69 GI-tagged products, more than half of what Tamil Nadu has.

With an impressive 30 recognized products, the holy city of Varanasi has become a frontrunner in the manufacturing of GI-tagged goods.

This is the most from any one geographical location. Products bearing the GI mark are guaranteed to be authentic artifacts that showcase a particular culture, society, or craft.

#### Announcing UP's Latest GI-Tagged Products

Products from Uttar Pradesh that have recently been added with GI tags are:

- Banaras Thandai (a refreshing milk-based drink)
- Banaras Tabla (a popular Indian percussion instrument)
- Banaras Shehnai (a traditional wind instrument)
- Banaras Lal Bharwamirch (red chili peppers)
- Chiraigaon Karonda (a fruit variety from Varanasi)
- Banaras Lal Peda (a sweet delicacy)
- Banaras Mural Painting (a traditional art form)
- Jaunpur Imarti (a sweet dish)
- Mathura Sanjhi Craft (a traditional art form)
- Bundelkhand Kathiya Gehu (a wheat variety)
- Pilibhit Bansuri (a type of flute)
- Sambhal Bone Craft
- Chitrakoot Wooden Craft & Toys
- Moonj Craft
- Rampur Patchwork





### **Varanasi's Diverse Offerings**

Varanasi, in particular, has secured Geographical Indication for its famous Banaras Thandai and other regional products, expanding its portfolio to 30 GI-tagged items. Notable additions like the Banaras Tabla, Lal Peda sweets, and Jaunpur Imarti have further enriched the region's diverse offerings.

### **Centers for Global Capability in India**

Separately, product management is undergoing a revolution at India's global capability centers, which are emphasizing collective ownership and competitive salaries.

The increasing reliance on data-driven methodologies and a product-centric attitude underscore India's rising profile in the realm of technology innovation and talent recruiting.

### **DICV's 2024 Market Objectives**

New rigid heavy-duty trucks and trucks with Automated Manual Transmission are among the items that Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) plans to introduce in 2024, targeting certain market sectors. Growth is anticipated in the second half of the year, notwithstanding the obstacles in the current quarter.

## Chandigarh University topped QS World University Ranking by Subjects

According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, Chandigarh University is ranked among the top 100 institutions in the world in two disciplines, while it is ranked first in India in three subjects among private universities.

Among the private universities in India, Chandigarh University achieved the highest ranking in three different fields: hospitality management, petroleum engineering, and social sciences and management.

## GMR Hyderabad International Airport Receives Skytrax Award for 'Best Airport Staff'

The 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award was given to GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL).

On April 17, the news was made public at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany.

It was clear from the thorough audits and reviews that the airport's staff provides excellent service in many areas, as shown by this award.



# Longte Festival Celebrated by Arunachal Pradesh's Nyishi Tribe

Longte festival, which is one of the most important cultural festivals for the Nyishi people in Arunachal Pradesh, is celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Nyishi people.

At Longte, unlike many other tribal celebrations, the sacrifice of animals is not permitted. Instead, altars are decorated with bamboo ornaments and white feathers that are used for ornamentation.

### The most important points

- The Longte festival is an important traditional event for the Nyishi tribe, which is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is distinguished by its one-of-a-kind custom of eliminating the practice of animal sacrifice and substituting symbolic ornaments made of feathers and bamboo for the sacrifice of animals.
- There is a significant amount of cultural legacy that is associated with the Nyishi population, which is the largest ethnic group in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The agricultural tactics that they employ, in particular the cultivation of Jhoom, as well as the traditional longhouses that they name Namlo, have earned them a reputation.
- Additional Festivals in Arunachal Pradesh The state of Arunachal Pradesh is home to a wide range of festivals that, collectively, showcase the state's rich cultural heritage.
- Events such as the Losar Festival, Torgya Festival, Saka Dawa, and Nyokum Yullo are among the most noteworthy celebrations. Each of these festivals has its distinctive traditions and significance.

## International Affairs

### World's Most Powerful Laser Developed in Romania

The most potent laser in the world was created at a research facility in Romania as part of the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) initiative of the European Union.

The laser, run by the French corporation Thales Group, promises dramatic improvements in several sectors, including space exploration and healthcare, by utilizing ideas that have won Nobel Prizes. The laser is kept at a research facility close to Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

### Nobel Prize-Winning Technology



The Romanian facility uses chirped pulse amplification (CPA) laser technology, which is based on the innovations of Canadian Donna Strickland and Frenchman Gérard Mourou. Their innovative work in utilizing laser power to create cutting-edge precision devices earned them the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics.

## Nigeria Becomes First Country to Roll Out New Meningitis Vaccine

In a groundbreaking move, Nigeria is the first country to use the new Men5CV vaccine, which targets five strains of meningococcal bacteria and is approved by the WHO.

This important step forward in history holds a lot of promise for fighting meningitis, which is a major threat in Africa, especially in Nigeria.

The Gavi-funded spread of the vaccine is an important step toward the WHO's goal of getting rid of meningitis by 2030.

### **Getting rid of meningitis in Africa**

Nigeria's plan is especially important because the country is in the African Meningitis Belt, a region where meningitis attacks are common.

Last year, there were 50% more cases in the region, which shows how important it is to have effective intervention methods right away.

## Dubai Breaks Ground on 'World's Largest' Airport Project

With 400 terminal gates and five parallel runways, Dubai is beginning on an ambitious project to build the world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport.

This airport would have an exceptional capacity to accommodate 260 million people annually and will be the largest airport in the world.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the driving force behind this project, which exemplifies Dubai's dedication to fostering innovation and enhancing global connectivity.

### **Integration of the City with a Vision**

In addition to its role as a transportation hub, Al Maktoum International Airport is envisioned as a metropolis that encompasses all aspects of Dubai South.

The goal of Sheikh Mohammed is to make it the "world's airport," which would allow it to blend in perfectly with urban life, commercial activity, and international trade relationships.



## What can be the possible Impact of the Iran-Israel Conflict on Global Politics?

Israel has been at war with Iran for a long time, but their latest attacks with drones and missiles are a big step up in the war.

A hit by Israeli planes on Iran's consulate in Damascus killed several members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

This conflict has now turned into open aggression. The situation puts the stability of the area at risk and has bigger effects on politics around the world.

### **Destabilization in the region**

- There is more instability in the Middle East right now because of the war between Iran and Israel.
- Both countries have a lot of power in the area, and if things get worse between them, it could affect nearby countries, either directly or through proxy battles.
- Some countries, like Syria, Lebanon (through Hezbollah), and even Saudi Arabia, could get involved in a bigger conflict.
- This could make the security situation in the area unstable and hard to predict.

### **Alignments in world politics**

- The conflict between Iran and Israel is likely to have effects that go beyond regional lines and change the way politics are done around the world.
- Since the US made it clear again that it will always back Israel, there may be changes in the way countries interact with each other as they decide whether to side with Israel or Iran.

## NATO Considers 100 Billion Euro Military Fund for Ukraine

To bolster military aid to war-torn Ukraine, NATO foreign ministers reached a strategic agreement. This is a long-term plan that extends over five years and includes a specific standing for a 100 billion Euro fund.

Kyiv views this as a unique gesture of support.

### **Combating the Aggression of Russia**

With its armed military forces, Russia attacked the Ukrainian zone in a well-planned operation among military aggression and hybrid warfare. Russian forces were supposed to wipe off Ukraine as a sovereign nation.



Russia was unable to launch any additional strikes on Ukraine because the international community stood in solidarity with the nation.

### Foreign Relations

## India-Nepal Joint Initiative to Promote Sanskrit Research and Education

Scholars and officials from both Nepal and India have worked together to improve Sanskrit education and research. The shared cultural heritage of Nepal and India is to be protected through this cooperation, which also seeks to enhance bilateral relations.

### Key Points of the Resolution

#### 1. Launch of Global Sanskrit Conference

The purpose of this proposal is to encourage collaboration and the exchange of knowledge among Sanskrit scholars from Nepal and India by way of an annual conference.

#### 2. Establishing a Sanskrit Study Center

The goal of this proposed research center is to transcribe and publish ancient Sanskrit texts, with an emphasis on Nepal's extensive library of unpublished manuscripts.

#### 3. Endorsement of Gurukuls for Future Success

Working together, the Maharshi Sandipani Veda Vidya Pratisthan in Ujjain and the Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan in Nepal will help gurukuls, Nepal's traditional educational institutions, flourish.

## India-Kuwait Relations Strengthened with Inaugural Hindi Radio Broadcast

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait announced that the first Hindi radio show would be aired in Kuwait.

This is a big step toward strengthening ties between India and Kuwait. The program will air every Sunday on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3.

It was started by Kuwait's Ministry of Information to show how close India and Kuwait are.

### Plan to make ties between the two countries stronger

- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait praised Kuwait's Ministry of Information for starting a Hindi show on Kuwait Radio.
- This has helped Indian and Kuwaiti culture mix and brought the two countries closer together.

### Indian people living in Kuwait



- The Indian community is the biggest group of foreigners living in Kuwait, with about 1 million members.
- Their efforts can be seen in many fields, such as engineering, medicine, finance, technology, and retail.

### Nandini’s Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)’s dairy brand, “Nandini,” has decided to sponsor the cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland for the 2024 T20 World Cup.

This is part of the KMF’s plan to strengthen its foreign presence. MK Jagadish, the managing director of KMF, says that the teams will wear the “Nandini” name proudly during the games.

#### Why the sponsorship is important

Jagadish explained the choice by saying that the funding would help spread Nandini’s name around the world since the dairy cooperative is already present in places like the US, the Middle East, and Singapore.

## Business News

### Microsoft and OpenAI Unveil \$100 Billion ‘Stargate’ AI Supercomputer

Microsoft and OpenAI, two of the most prominent names in technology, have announced intentions to build a supercomputer with artificial intelligence (AI) called “Stargate.”

This massive undertaking, with an estimated price tag of \$100 billion, signifies a giant leap for artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and capabilities.

The project will be funded mostly by Microsoft, with OpenAI providing its knowledge of artificial intelligence research and development.

Schedule: The long-term goal of the Stargate project is to finish by 2028, which will be the last of many supercomputers that the team has planned over the next six years.

Methodology: Stargate stands as the culmination of this partnership, forming the last stage of a well-orchestrated undertaking.



## Adani Green Energy Ltd Surpasses 10,000 MW Operating Portfolio: Leading India's Renewable Energy Sector

By adding more than 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity to its operating portfolio, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has accomplished a notable milestone. This achievement further establishes AGEL as the leading company in India's renewable energy market.

- Khavda Solar Park's 2,000 MW Solar Capacity Commissioned
- At Gujarat's Khavda solar project, AGEL has activated 2,000 MW of solar capacity.
- With this achievement, AGEL becomes the pioneering firm in India to surpass 10,000 MW in renewable energy capacity.

### Analysis of Operating Portfolio

**AGEL now has 10,934 MW in its operational portfolio, which includes:**

- solar power (7,393 MW), wind power (1,401 MW), and combined solar and wind power (2,140 MW).
- Results for FY24 AGENCY GENERAL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES (AGEL) successfully brought 2,848 MW of renewable energy capacity online during FY24.

### Aspirations for the Future

- By 2030, the corporation hopes to have installed 45 GW of renewable energy capacity.
- Projects developed by AGEL will reduce yearly CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 21 million metric tons and provide electricity to more than 5.8 million homes.

## Ranks

### China Surpasses India as Largest Importer of Russian Crude

China now imports more Russian crude oil by sea than India does. In March, China imported 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd), while India only imported 1.36 million bpd.



India is importing less because of restrictions and higher prices, which has caused this change.

### China's Imports Going Up

- China bought 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil by sea in March, more than India's 1.36 million bpd.
- China has become the biggest buyer of Russian crude oil that is shipped by sea, which is a big change.

### India's Import Patterns Are Changing

- India has recently cut back on importing Russian crude oil because of different sanctions and rising prices.
- India's imports fell short of China's in March, even though they went up 7% month-over-month. This shows that India is changing how it buys oil.

## Paradip Port Emerges as India's Top Cargo-Handling Port in 2023-24

With 145.38 MMT of cargo handled in fiscal year 2023-24, a 7.4 percent increase from the previous year, Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, surpassed Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, to become India's biggest cargo-handling major port.

### Results Accomplished

- Seaport for Coastal Ships
- Coastline shipping traffic handled 59.19 million metric tons.
- Coastal shipment of thermal coal totaling 43.97 million metric tonnes was managed.

### Maximizing Efficiency

- Among all major ports in India, achieved the highest productivity.
- Raised berth productivity to 3,314,050 metric tons.

### Efficiency in Cost

- Out of all the ports in India, it has the most favorable tariffs.
- As part of its strategy for growth, the company has frozen cargo handling tariff rates for the next three years, beginning in 2022.





## India Ranks Second in Hepatitis B and C Cases Worldwide

India has 3.5 crore cases of Hepatitis B and C, which is second only to China in terms of the number of infections, according to the WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report.

Hepatitis causes disease of the liver and is very dangerous to your health. It can even kill you. The study says that 254 million people around the world have Hepatitis B and 50 million have Hepatitis C.

### How to Understand Hepatitis

- There are five main types of hepatitis: A, B, C, D, and E. They are different in how they spread, how severe they are, and where they are most common.
- Even though they are different, all of these strains can cause liver cancer.

## Delhi's IGI Airport Ranks Among Top 10 Busiest Airports Globally

The Airports Council International (ACI) World just announced its list of the world's busiest airports for 2023.

The tenth spot went to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, which serves 7.22 crore people every year.

This is a big improvement from its 17th-place score in 2019, even though the COVID-19 pandemic made things harder.

### Trends in Ranking

- It's been a steady rise for IGI Airport, which went from being ranked 17th in 2019 to 10th in 2023, showing that it has been getting more and more passengers over the years.
- World Trends: The ACI study shows that US airports dominate the top 10 lists, with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport staying at the top.
- Dubai International Airport moved up to second place, and Tokyo Haneda International Airport went from sixteenth place in 2022 to fifth place, which is a big change.



# Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Mukesh Ambani is the sole Indian to be named one of the top ten billionaires in the world in the 38th Annual World's Billionaires List 2024, according to Forbes.

Bernard Arnault & family, owners of the French luxury conglomerate LVMH, topped the list, with Ambani ranked ninth.

**Nikhil Kamath:** The Youngest Indian Billionaire Forbes lists Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, who is 37 years old, as the youngest Indian billionaire.

### Counting Billionaires and Global Wealth

The Forbes study states that 2,781 individuals from 77 different nations are billionaires. The total wealth of the world's wealthiest individuals rose \$2 trillion from 2023 to 2024, reaching \$14.2 trillion.

### Nations Home to the Most Wealthy Individuals

- To start, 813 people in the US are billionaires, and their combined wealth is \$5.7 trillion.
- China comes in second, with a total of 406 billionaires and \$1.3 trillion in fortune.
- Third place goes to India, home to 200 billionaires and \$954 billion in total wealth.
- The country ranked fourth, boasting 132 billionaires.
- Rank five: Russia, home to 120 multibillionaires.

### Top 10 Billionaires in the World

- Bernard Arnault & family (France): \$233 billion
- Elon Musk (USA): \$195 billion
- Jeff Bezos (USA): \$194 billion
- Mark Zuckerberg (USA): \$177 billion
- Larry Ellison (USA): \$114 billion
- Warren Buffett (USA): \$133 billion
- Bill Gates (USA): \$128 billion
- Steve Ballmer (USA): \$121 billion
- Mukesh Ambani (India): \$116 billion
- Larry Page (USA): \$114 billion

### Top 10 Indian Billionaires

- Mukesh Ambani: \$116 billion (9th globally)
- Gautam Adani: \$84 billion (17th globally)
- Shiv Nadar: \$36.9 billion (39th globally)
- Savitri Jindal & Family: \$33.5 billion (46th globally)



- Dilip Shanghvi: \$26.7 billion (69th globally)
- Cyrus Poonawala: \$21.3 billion (90th globally)
- Kushal Pal Singh: \$20.9 billion (92nd globally)
- Kumarmangalam Birla: \$19.7 billion (98th globally)
- Radhakrishna Damani: \$17.6 billion (107th globally)
- Lakshmi Mittal: \$16.4 billion (113th globally)

### India Tops WADA's Doping Offenders List in 2022

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report from 2022 states that, in terms of the percentage of doping offenders, India ranks first. Among the 4,064 samples taken from Indian athletes, 127 (or 3.26 percent) came back positive for prohibited substances.

This exemplifies a worrying pattern in Indian sports and the necessity of taking drastic action to combat doping.

#### **Excessive Testing and Unfavorable Results**

The overall number of samples evaluated increased by 6.4% from the previous year, according to the report. There was an increasing problem on a global scale in 2022, as the percentage of Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) increased from 0.65% in 2021 to 0.77%.

#### **Analyzing Differently**

When compared to other prominent sporting nations, India's doping offenses were higher than those of France, Italy, Russia, and the USA. When compared to India, China tested more samples, but the proportion of negative results was smaller.

### IIT Bombay ranks 45th in QS World University Rankings 2024.

IIT Bombay ranks 45th globally in engineering, and tops in South Asia in QS World University Rankings 2024.

#### **The institute has been ranked:**

- 64 – CS and IT
- 30 – Data Science and AI
- 42 – Civil Engineering,
- 64 – Chemical Engineering,
- 63 – Electrical/Electronics Engineering,



57 – Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering

25 – Mining Engineering.

Subhasis Chaudhuri – Director IIT Bombay

### Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024: India ranks third with 67 unicorns.

- According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, India has become the first country in the world to see a decrease in the number of unicorns created since 2017.
- The number of unicorns in India in 2023 was 67, which is one fewer than the number of such firms that existed in 2022.
- The United States of America, is second, with 703 unicorns
- China comes in third with 340 unicorns.
- The United Kingdom and the European Union came in at number four and number five, respectively, on the list.
- The aggregate value of all of the world's unicorns has reached five trillion dollars today.

### India Emerges as Fourth-Largest Exporter of Digitally Delivered Services: WTO Report

According to a report on Global Trade Outlook and Statistics that was published by the World Trade Organization (WTO), India has now risen to the position of being the fourth largest exporter of services that are delivered digitally.

More than a quarter of the country's share of international trade in services has significantly expanded in recent years. India's exports of digitally provided services were predicted to reach \$257 billion in 2023, representing a 17% increase from the previous year's total.

India has surpassed Germany in the rankings as a result of this increase; nonetheless, it is still less advanced than the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Ireland put together.

Over the last twenty years, there has been a substantial rise in the number of services that are given digitally. These services include professional services in the fields of education, gaming, and streaming music and films.



### Skytrax World Airport Awards: Doha's Hamad is the world's best airport.

Doha's Hamad International wins Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024, beating 12-time winner Singapore Changi.

Indian airports show mixed results: Delhi remains at 36th, Mumbai drops to 95th, Bengaluru climbs to 59th, and Hyderabad improves to 61st in global rankings.

#### World's Best Airports of 2024:

- Doha Hamad
- Singapore Changi
- Seoul Incheon
- Tokyo Haneda
- Tokyo Narita
- Paris CDG

### Reliance Jio emerges world's largest mobile operator in data traffic

Year-on-year, the overall traffic on the Jio network has increased by 35.2%, reaching 40.9 Exabytes. This represents a significant growth.

108 million of Jio's users are on the True5G Standalone network, which accounts for 481.8 million of the company's total subscriber base as of March 2024.

Within three years, the monthly data usage of each individual increased from 13.3 GB to 28.7 GB.

In addition to his role as Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance, Mukesh Ambani

#### Defence News

### VSHORAD: Indian Army Develops Indigenous Shoulder-Fired Missiles

The Indian Army is working on two projects worth more than Rs 6,800 crore to make Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) weapons in India.

These shoulder-fired missile systems are being made to protect against air threats along the borders with Pakistan and China.

Through these local routes, the Army hopes to get more than 500 launchers and about 3,000 missiles.



### **VSHORADS Project: Laser Beam Riding**

- The first project, worth Rs 4,800 crore, is to make a VSHORADS that can ride on a laser beam.
- This project is being worked on by a defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in Hyderabad and a private sector company in Pune.
- Drones, fighting planes, and helicopters from the enemy will not be able to get through the system.
- The Army will be in charge of this project, and the Indian Air Force will also get some of the 1,200 missiles and 200 launchers that are being made.

### **The Infra-Red Homing VSHORADS from DRDO**

- The second project is being worked on by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to create a VSHORADS that uses infrared to find its way.
- This system is being made by DRDO and its partners in research and production, Adani Defence and I-Comm.
- The DRDO has already tried the system with a tripod and is now making it smaller so that it can be launched from the shoulder.

## Indian Navy & UK's Royal Navy conduct a Joint Exercise

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Argus and Lyme Bay of the United Kingdom, along with the Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri, took part in a maritime exercise to increase maritime cooperation and interoperability.

To facilitate the sharing of best practices and knowledge between the two fleets, the exercises they participated in included tactical manoeuvres, boarding operations, and helicopter operations.

The rising bilateral defense cooperation between India and the United Kingdom is also brought to light by this.

## India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's 'Dosti-16' Held in Maldives

According to Maldivian Defense Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon, the troika will come together during the trilateral exercise 'Dosti' to tackle "shared maritime security concerns



through collaboration,” emphasizing the significance of “collaboration and interoperability” among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka.

### **Engagement and Goals**

In the exercise “DOSTI-16,” the Indian Coast Guard ships Samarth and Abhinav, the Sri Lankan Naval ship Samudura, and Bangladesh are all taking part, with the latter serving as observers.

‘Dosti,’ according to Sri Lanka, is a trilateral exercise that which the Coast Guards of India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka will participate in to foster goodwill, increase mutual operational capability, foster cooperation, and develop interoperability.

## Indian Coast Guard Inaugurates Aquatic Centre at Mandapam, Tamil Nadu

Director General of the Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal opened the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Center at ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu.

This was part of his four-day trip to the marine force’s bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry.

The purpose of the trip was to look at operational readiness and infrastructure growth in the area, with a focus on making sure the seas are safe, secure, and clean.

### **Getting involved with officers and staff**

DG Rakesh Pal met with officers and staff during his visit to talk about his plans for safety and security at sea.

### **Take a look at the ICG Station Krishnapatnam**

DG Rakesh Pal also stopped by ICG Station Krishnapatnam as part of his tour. There, he talked to officers and staff about building projects and looked at maps.

## Science related Affairs

## Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) Launches India’s First Privately-Built Sub-Metre Resolution Surveillance Satellite

Together with Satellogic, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) successfully launched TSAT-1A, India’s first privately built sub-meter precision earth observation satellite.

This important achievement starts a new era in India’s space efforts and gives the country better monitoring tools.

### **Details on the launch and collaboration**



TASL and Satellogic worked together to make sure that the launch of TSAT-1A from Florida's Kennedy Space Center on Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on April 7 went smoothly.

TSAT-1A was put together at TASL's Vemagal site in Karnataka. It will be able to take high-resolution optical satellite images in both multispectral and hyperspectral modes.

### India's First Gene Therapy for Cancer Launched

The first cancer gene therapy in India was launched on April 4, 2024, at IIT Bombay, by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu. Known as "CAR-T cell therapy," this revolutionary medicine has made great strides in the fight against cancer.

#### Low-Cost and Easy Access to Care

At the event, President Murmu spoke highly of the therapy, praising its accessibility and affordability as signs of hope for humanity. She spoke with conviction about the breakthrough treatment's ability to breathe fresh life into many cancer sufferers' struggles.

### Euvichol-S : WHO Approves New Oral Cholera Vaccine

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently gave the green light to Euvichol-S, a new oral cholera vaccine made in South Korea by EuBiologics Co., Ltd.

The new vaccine works about the same as older cholera vaccines, but its makeup is simpler, which makes it easier to make and cheaper.

It is believed that this prequalification will increase the supply of oral cholera vaccines (OCV) around the world and help fight the current rise in cholera outbreaks around the world.

#### More on Euvichol-S A vaccine

- Another vaccine made by EuBiologics is Euvichol-Plus, but Euvichol-S is a simpler form of it.
- The new formula cuts down on the amount of parts in the vaccine while keeping its ability to protect against important cholera serogroups.
- This makes things easier, which lowers the cost and difficulty of production and lets more be made more quickly.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, EuBiologics, and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) all worked together to make Euvichol-S.





## Meta Launches Advanced AI Assistant Powered by Llama 3

Meta AI, the company that makes Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, has been released by Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Meta AI is built into Meta’s famous social media and messaging apps and is powered by the company’s newest AI model, Llama 3.

The goal is to give users a free, highly intelligent AI experience.

### **Meta AI’s Features and What It Can Do**

Meta AI has many advanced features that are meant to make exchanges with users better and make it easier to get information. Here are some important skills:

- The AI assistant is built to work with Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger, so users can reach it directly from these apps.
- Real-time information retrieval lets the assistant answer questions with the most up-to-date knowledge.
- GenAI is an artificial intelligence that lets people take pictures by giving it text.
- Being able to start talks and reply to posts right from your Facebook feed.
- You can get to the meta.ai page to have a specific desktop experience.
- Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, has big plans for Meta AI. He wants to make it the smartest AI that everyone can use.

## Korean Fusion Reactor ‘Artificial Sun’ Sets New Record

Using their “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor, the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) apparatus, South Korean scientists have achieved a new world record.

They produced plasma temperatures of one hundred million degrees Celsius for forty-eight seconds during tests carried out between 2023 and 2024.

### **Extremely Hot Conditions**

An astounding seven times hotter than the Sun’s core—which is about 15 million degrees Celsius—is the reached temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius.

### **Exploring Fusion Energy**

By fusing two atoms to release tremendous quantities of energy, nuclear fusion seeks to imitate the process that drives the Sun and other stars. Fusion is an exciting new alternative to fossil fuels since it can produce endless energy without contributing to climate change.



## Microsoft unveiled Phi-3-mini, its smallest AI model

When it comes to small language models (SLMs), Microsoft has described the Phi-3 as a family of open artificial intelligence models that are the most competent and cost-effective models currently available.

Language models, also known as LMs, are artificial intelligence systems that have been trained on enormous amounts of text data to comprehend and generate content that is similar to that produced by humans.

SLMs, which stand for Small Language Models, are more lightweight and efficient than LLMs, which stand for Large Language Models, and thus require less processing resources.

## Book News

### The Book Titled “The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond” Released

Within the ever-changing landscape of legal discourse, the book “Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond,” which was edited by Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh, stands out as a remarkable exploration of the intricate relationship that exists between two seemingly unrelated realms: the realm of spirituality and the realm of human law. Through its in-depth exploration of the intricate relationship that exists between these two fundamental foundations of human civilization, this ground-breaking study provides a perspective that is both invigorating and illuminating.

### The book, ‘India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda’ by Bhimeswara Challa

“India—the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda,” by Bhimeswara Challa, will be launched at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) site in Hyderabad.

This is a big moment in the intellectual conversation about the future of the country. With his background as a UN official, Challa offers a unique point of view and a convincing, high-minded plan for India’s rise to power.

“**Passionate plea for a new, resurgent India**” is what the author calls this book. It’s a call to action for people who don’t want to accept things as they are and want a better future for the country.



Challa's writing goes into great detail about important issues that are often lost in the noise of election campaigns. It forces readers to face the real problems that could determine India's future as a country.

### Sam Pitroda's New Book 'The Idea of Democracy'

In his new book, "The Idea of Democracy," acclaimed author Sam Pitroda examines the situation of democracy and the difficulties it may face in nations such as the US and India. Notable figures from the literary world, including Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, were present at the book launch event.

So-called democratic triumph and its liberal collapse are paradoxes that Pitroda explores in his book. It delves deeply into what democracy is, how it functions, the principles it must embody, and the factors and protections that can ensure liberal democracy's survival.

The book's stated goal is to start discussions about democracy and how young people, in particular, can help ensure its continued existence and growth in the future.

### A book titled 'Heavenly Islands of Goa' released by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

The Governor of Goa, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, has started an amazing literary journey to teach people about the state's natural history through many fascinating books.

"Heavenly Islands of Goa," his most recent work, shows how much he cares about protecting and promoting the state's less well-known parts.

#### **Taking a look at Goa's bird paradise**

Pillai's book "Heavenly Islands of Goa" is an interesting look into the birds that live in Goa. What did you know? Goa is home to an amazing 482 of India's 1,360 native and migratory bird types.

Birds have made Goa their home thanks to the large group of islands that have made it a great place for them to live alone.

### A Book Titled "The Winner's Mindset," Authored by Shane Watson

In late 2014, the cricketing world witnessed one of its greatest tragedies unfold on the field.



Shane Watson, the talented Australian all-rounder, was among the players present at the Sydney Cricket Ground when Phillip Hughes was struck by a bouncer during a Sheffield Shield match.

The promising opener, who had represented Australia in 26 Tests and 25 ODIs, tragically passed away two days later.

This traumatic incident left a profound impact on Watson, as he grappled with the fear that the same fate could befall him – all it could take is just one ball.

However, Watson overcame this emotional turmoil and emerged as an even better cricketer, a testament to his resilience and mental fortitude.

### Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Novak Djokovic	World No. 1 in ATP Rankings History	His incredible record continues this week as he starts his 419th week at the top of the world rankings. At the age of 36 years and 321 days, Djokovic will become the oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history on Sunday, April 9, 2024, surpassing Roger Federer's record.
Jannik Sinner	won the Miami Open to become the World No 2	The Miami Open was Jannik Sinner's second Masters 1000 title, and he won it with ease by defeating Grigor Dimitrov by a score of 6-3 and 6-1.
Maharashtra Men's and Women Team	National Kho Kho Champion	While competing in the 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24, the Maharashtra team emerged victorious in



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		both the men's and women's categories, so establishing themselves as the uncontested champions.
Arjun Erigaisi	Chess - Climbs to No. 9 in the World	Arjun Erigaisi of India has surpassed all other chess players to become the top player in the world, according to the most recent FIDE rankings. Erigaisi is the ninth best player in the world with a standard rating of 2756. His placing in the top ten of the Open standard list is a first for him.
Rashmi Kumari	National Women's Carrom Title For The 12th time	She has shown skill and steadiness that have never been seen before. K Nagajothi gave the three-time World Champion a tough match in the women's final, but she won with scores of 25-8, 14-20, and 25-20.
Rohit Sharma	Became the first Indian to hit 500 T20 sixes	India as well as Mumbai In Twenty20 cricket, the best batter in India, Rohit Sharma, made history by becoming the first Indian player to hit 500 sixes.
Takshvi Vaghani	World Record for the Lowest Limbo Skating Over 25 Metres	The 6-year-old genius from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, broke the rules



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		of human agility on April 18, 2024, by flying across a 25-meter distance while only 16 cm (6.29 in) above the ground.
Max Verstappen	Chinese Grand Prix Victory	As expected, Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing won the long-awaited Chinese Grand Prix by a huge margin.
Prachi Yadav	ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship	A total of two gold medals were awarded to Prachi Yadav at the ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship 2024, which was held in Tokyo, Japan.

### Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Juan Vicente Pérez	World's Oldest Man
R.M. Veerappan	most trusted lieutenant of late MGR
Peter Higgs	Discoverer of the 'god particle'
Jack Alabaster	Former New Zealand Legspinner
Jack Clarke	Former Cricket Australia (CA) chair
Derek Underwood	Legendary English Cricketer



## Important Days

<b>Days</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Themes</b>
Prevention of Blindness Week 2024	1st to 7th April	
World Autism Awareness Day	April 02	
United Nations Observes International Mine Awareness Day	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Protecting Lives, Building Peace
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	April 06	
National Library Day	April 06	
National Handmade Day	April 06	
World Health Day	April 07	
World Homeopathy Day	April 10	
National Safe Motherhood Day	April 11	
World Parkinson's Day	April 11	
International Day of Human Space Flight	April 12	
Siachen Day	April 13	
International Turban Day	April 13	
World Art Day	April 15	A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

World Hemophilia Day	April 17	Equal access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorder
World Heritage Day	April 18	Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter
World Liver Day	April 19	
National Civil Service Day	April 21	
International Mother Earth Day	April 22	Planet vs. Plastics
Hanuman Jayant	April 23	
World Book and Copyright Day	April 23	
World English Day	April 23	
National Panchayati Raj Day	April 24	
International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	April 24	
World Malaria Day	April 25	Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	April 26	
World Intellectual Property Day	April 26	IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity
World Veterinary Day	April 27	Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers





## CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

World Day for Safety and Health at Work	April 27	
International Dance Day	April 29	
International Jazz Day	April 30	

