
CURRENT AFFAIRS
SEPTEMBER 2024

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NATIONAL NEWS

Central Government sets up 23rd Law Commission of India

- The Union government set up the 23rd Law Commission for three years, from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027.
- It will identify laws that have become obsolete and can be repealed.
- The commission will conduct audits of laws that affect the poor and provide its views on any law that the Law and Justice Ministry conveys.
- The chairperson and members could be serving judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts or 'other category of persons'. Usually, the chairperson of the commission is a retired judge.
- The Law Commission is a non-statutory body.

Key Points

Union Law Minister — Arjun Ram Meghwal

India conducts 'Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas' to assess the preparedness of the Pandemic under One Health Mission

- The 'Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas' (Virus War Exercise) was conducted in Ajmer district, Rajasthan, to assess pandemic preparedness.
- The drill simulated a mock zoonotic disease outbreak to test real-world response scenarios.
- It aimed to evaluate pandemic preparedness by assessing the readiness and response capabilities of the National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT).

Doordarshan celebrates 65 years of Broadcasting Excellence in India

- Doordarshan, India's public service broadcaster, celebrated its 65th anniversary on September 15, 2024.
- To commemorate this milestone, DD National telecasted a special programme, "Dil Se Doordarshan, DD@65", a grand gala event hosted by renowned Master Jaiveer Bansal & Anil Singh, Ventriloquist featuring performances by eminent artists like Shri Pramod Kumar, International Magician & Mentalist and also a Guinness Book of Records holder.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting owns Doordarshan.

Key Points

CEO of Doordarshan — Mayank Kumar Agrawal
 Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting — Ashwini Vaishnaw

Quality Council of India (QCI) approves the National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad

- As a part of the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), the National Test House (NTH), Northern Region, Ghaziabad, has been provisionally approved by the Quality Council of India (QCI) as a Certification Body for type certification of drones.
- This significant milestone aligns with the Government of India's push towards fostering a robust and globally competitive drone ecosystem under the Drone Rules 2021.
- The NTH evaluates drone models to ensure compliance with applicable national and international standards.
- NTH is offering its drone certification services at a highly competitive fee of ₹1.5 lakh for the certification process, which is the lowest in the industry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Brunei

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Brunei for his two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.
- It is the first-ever bilateral trip by an Indian PM to the Southeast Asian nation at the invitation of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.
- His visit coincides with the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between India and Brunei.
- He visited the renowned Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Brunei, one of the most iconic structures in the region. The Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque is named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei — the father of the current Sultan, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, and is considered as the Architect of Modern Brunei.
- PM Modi inaugurated a new Chancery of the Indian High Commission.

Key Points

Capital — Bandar Seri Begawan
 Prime Minister — Hassanal Bolkiah

UP Govt to build Vedic-3D Museum in Varanasi

- Uttar Pradesh government will construct a Vedic-3D Museum in the main building of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi.
- The state-of-the-art museum will be dedicated to Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature.
- It will showcase the evolution of Vedic literature, highlighting the 16 Sanskars, 64 arts, and 18 Vidya Sthans as well as contributions of Indian sages and serve as a platform to revive the tradition of 'Shastrartha'(spiritual discourse).

'Aparajita' Bill–West Bengal Assembly Passes Historic Anti-Rape Bill

- The West Bengal Assembly has unanimously passed the Aparajita Bill, a significant anti-rape legislation aimed at fast-tracking punishments for rape and crimes against women.
- The 'Aparajita' bill is named in tribute to a 31-year-old trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical Centre and Hospital.
- This bill provides for the death penalty for rape and sexual offences for those convicted if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state. In addition, it stipulates a life sentence without parole for those convicted of rape.
- With this move, West Bengal becomes the first state to amend central laws dealing with rape, gang rape and sexual crimes against children.

Key Points

West Bengal's Chief Minister — Mamata Banerjee
West Bengal's Governor — C. V. Ananda Bose

Telangana signs MoU for the establishment of World Trade Centre within its Artificial Intelligence (AI) City

- Telangana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Trade Centres Association (WTCA) to establish the World Trade Centre within its ambitious AI City.
- The WTC AI City will feature 1 million square feet of built-up space, housing companies at the forefront of AI and emerging technologies.
- The campus will offer world-class office spaces, trade services, training facilities, retail and entertainment zones, co-living spaces, a luxury hotel and primary healthcare facilities—all in line with the vision of Telangana's leadership to develop an integrated mini-smart city that embodies a "walk-to-work" concept.

Maharashtra declares desi cows as 'Rajyamata-Gomata'

- The Maharashtra government declared the desi breed of cows as 'Rajyamata-Gomata' (mother of the state) for cultural, nutritional and agricultural significance.
- The cabinet also cleared the proposal to provide a grant of ₹50 per day per desi cow to "gaushalas".
- BAPS Swaminarayan, an organisation which works in cultural, spiritual, cow service and anti-addiction spheres, was allotted 10 acres of land in Dhule district.

Key Points

Maharashtra's Chief Minister — Eknath Shinde
Maharashtra's Governor — C.P. Radhakrishnan

Shankh Air: India's newest airline receives NOC from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry

- Shankh Air, owned by Shankh Aviation Private Limited, has received a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry. However, it still needs clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the aviation regulator.
- This NOC is valid for three years and will allow the airline to begin its operations. It will launch its flight services with a fleet of new Boeing 737—800NG aircraft.
- It will be the first scheduled airline to launch from Uttar Pradesh. The airline is led by the entrepreneur and chairman Sharvan Kumar Vishwakarma.

Key Points

Union Civil Aviation Minister — Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu

PM Modi inaugurates ₹11,200 crore projects in Maharashtra via video conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth ₹11,200 crore in Maharashtra through a video conference
- He inaugurated the Pune Metro section from District Court to Swargate, marking the completion of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-1). The underground segment, which stretches between District Court and Swargate, has been developed at a cost of approximately ₹1,810 crore.
- In addition, he laid the foundation stone for the Swargate-Katraj extension of Pune Metro Phase-1, which will cost around ₹2,955 crore.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Bidkin Industrial Area, a significant project covering 7,855 acres under the

National Industrial Corridor Development Program, located 20 km south of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. This project, developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, is expected to become a vibrant economic hub in the Marathwada region, with an overall project cost exceeding ₹6,400 crore, set to be developed in three phases.

- Furthermore, PM Modi inaugurated the revamped Solapur Airport, which is poised to enhance connectivity and accessibility for tourists, business travellers, and investors. The updated terminal building is expected to serve nearly 4.1 lakh passengers annually.
- Additionally, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for a memorial dedicated to Kranti Jyoti Savitribai Phule's first girls' school at Bhidewada.

India elected to Globe Network Steering Committee

- India has been elected to the fifteen-member steering committee of the GlobE Network following a multi-stage voting process during a plenary session in Beijing, China.
- The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) is an initiative launched under the G20 framework to address international corruption and financial crime.
- India's election to the steering committee will allow it to actively contribute to the global efforts in combating corruption and facilitating asset recovery.
- The GlobE Network provides a platform for international cooperation, enhancing the ability of member countries to address cross-border corruption and financial crime.
- The GlobE network was officially launched on June 3, 2021, during a UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS). The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) serves as the Central Authority for GlobE Network in India, while the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) represent India as member authorities.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates 5G Open Ran Testing Lab at CDoT, Bangalore

- Minister of Communications Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated a 5G O-RAN testing lab at the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Bengaluru Campus. He later inaugurated the "Tejas Centre of Excellence for Wireless Communications" at their Bengaluru Headquarters.

- The 5G O-RAN testing lab will benefit Startups, Academia and the industry by testing various components of the 5G open RAN system developed by them.
- The lab will facilitate the development of a complete Indian end-to-end 5G ecosystem in the areas of core, access, transport, cloud, orchestration and security.

India celebrates the seventh Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 in September

- The seventh edition of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 was kicked off in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel.
- The inauguration began with the plantation drive "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," a symbolic representation of the connection between environmental sustainability and nutrition.
- 'Poshan Maah 2024' is a nationwide celebration that promotes nutrition awareness and drives action towards building a healthier India. This year's ongoing Poshan Maah focuses on critical themes- Anemia Mukh Bharat, Tech-Driven Solutions, Intensified Jan Andolan and Complementary Feeding.
- The top five performing states in terms of activities to date are- Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh unveils a commemorative coin to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Central Silk Board (CSB)

- The Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, unveiled the commemorative coin, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the Central Silk Board (CSB) at Mysuru on September 20, 2024.
- The CSB has marked 75 years of dedicated service to advancing India's silk industry.
- The CSB was set up based on the recommendations of the Silk Panel by the Imperial Govt. on March 8, 1945, to examine the development of the silk industry, the Government of Independent India enacted the CSB Act 1948 on September 20, 1948.
- Accordingly, the CSB, a statutory body, was set up under an Act of Parliament of 1948 to shape the Sericulture Industry on April 9, 1949.
- The CSB is the sole organisation for comprehensive sericulture Research & Development (R&D) and coordinates development programs across states and UTs.

Centre and Tripura signs Peace Agreement with Insurgent Groups

- The Union government and the State of Tripura signed a peace agreement with the representatives of two major insurgent groups—the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All-Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) to end violence in the northeastern state.
- 328 insurgents will give up arms and the government has earmarked ₹250 crore to develop areas where the two insurgent groups operated, particularly pockets dominated by tribal populations.

India's second largest butterfly species discovered in Madurai, Tamil Nadu

- India's second largest butterfly species, Southern Birdwing, has been found on the satellite campus of 'The American College' between Chathirapatti and Kadavur on New Natham Highway in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- The Southern Birdwing butterfly is also called the 'Sahyadri Birdwing'. It is primarily found in the Western Ghats and some parts of the Eastern Ghats.

Gensol-Matrix consortium wins ₹164 crore for the first bio-hydrogen project

- Solar Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) and electric mobility solutions company Gensol Engineering, along with green hydrogen infrastructure developer and natural gas aggregator Matrix gas and Renewables, have emerged as the lowest bidder for the EPC of India's first biomass to green hydrogen project.
- The consortium will develop the ₹164 crore project, which seeks to establish a 25 tonne per day (TPD) bio-waste processing facility, producing 1 TPD green hydrogen infrastructure.
- In this case, the pre-gasification plasma-induced radiant energy-based gasification system technology will be utilised.

CISCoM inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad

- A Centre for In-Situ & Correlative Microscopy (CISCoM), a one-of-its-kind centre in the country, focusing on cutting-edge microscopy characterisation, has been inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH).
- The centre, supported by the DST-SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute) grant, will

enable real-time characterisation across multiple length scales for fundamental and industrial R&D.

- This initiative aims to bring together scientists from a broad range of scientific disciplines, including physical sciences, chemistry, biology and pharmaceutical studies, to address common scientific goals that can only be addressed by using sophisticated microscopy techniques.

Chandrayaan-3 detects historic 250 seismic signatures on the Moon

- Chandrayaan-3 has made a historic first by detecting over 250 seismic signals from the Moon's south pole, including 50 unique signals that could be linked to moonquakes, an equivalent of the earthquake on the lunar soil.
- This marks the first seismic data collection from this part of the lunar surface and the first since the Apollo missions.
- The Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA), mounted on the Vikram lander, conducted this pioneering experiment at coordinates of 69.37 degrees south and 32.32 degrees east.
- ILSA is the first lunar instrument to capture ground accelerations in this region, utilising sensors manufactured with cutting-edge silicon micromachining technology.

III Partners with ICMR for India's first Zika Vaccine

- The Indian Council of Medical Research has started work on a vaccine against the Zika virus, in collaboration with vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL).
- It will develop the country's first codon de-optimised live attenuated vaccine against Zika — and Phase I clinical trial is likely to start soon.
- Zika is mostly a mosquito-borne viral infection transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. It can also be transmitted to the foetus during pregnancy through sexual contact, blood transfusion and organ transplantation.
- The disease is usually mild and requires no specific treatment. However, it is more serious when infection occurs during pregnancy, which may cause microcephaly and other congenital malformations in the infant, preterm birth and even miscarriage.

Port Blair Renamed Sri Vijaya Puram

- The Central government renamed Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island's capital, Sri Vijaya Puram.

- Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in the freedom struggle and the A&N Islands' unique role. The Andaman & Nicobar served as the naval base of the Chola Empire. It also hosted the first unfurling of our Tiranga by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- Sri Vijaya Puram is located on the east coast of South Andaman Island. It is the gateway to more than 500 pristine islands. It is also a commercial hub and houses government establishments of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It offers water-based activities like snorkelling, scuba diving and sea cruises for tourists.

India launches its centre for maritime arbitration- Indian International Maritime Dispute Resolution Centre (IIMDRC)

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), with the India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC), launched the new India International Maritime Dispute Resolution Centre (IIMDRC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It is a major step in India's efforts to strengthen its dispute resolution infrastructure in the maritime sector. It will strengthen India's position as a global hub for maritime dispute resolution.

Pune Airport to be renamed after Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj

- The Maharashtra government approved the proposal to rename Pune Airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Airport. The proposal will now be forwarded to the Centre for final approval.
- Sant Tukaram Maharaj, also known simply as Tukaram, was a revered 17th-century Hindu saint and poet from Maharashtra. He played a key role in the Bhakti movement, particularly through his devotional poetry, known as Abhanga, which centres around devotion to Vithoba, a form of Lord Krishna worshipped in Pandharpur.

India unveils COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM – POWER (CSIRT-POWER) facility

- Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM – POWER (CSIRT-POWER) facility at Northern Regional Power Committee, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi.

- It is a significant step forward in the mission to protect one of the most vital components of our national infrastructure—our power infrastructure.
- The National Cyber Security Policy, in collaboration with CERT-In, initiated the creation of a specialised Computer Security Incident Response Team for the power sector (CSIRT-Power).

President Droupadi Murmu unveils new flag and insignia of Supreme Court

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court at an event meant to mark the 75 years of establishment of the top court.
- The flag of the Supreme Court features the Sanskrit shloka: 'Yato Dharmstato Jayah', which means "where there is Dharma, there is victory."
- The insignia of the Supreme Court is navy blue. It has an image of the Supreme Court building at its centre, with the Ashok Chakra positioned above it.
- The Ashok Chakra represents the dharma chakra or "wheel of the law." This symbol is inspired by the Sarnath Lion Capital, which was created by the third-century BC Mauryan Emperor Ashoka.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp celebrating the 75 years of the Supreme Court of India. The stamp was unveiled during the inaugural session of the District Judges Conference held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Key Points

Supreme Court Chief Justice	—	Dr D Y Chandrachud
Union Minister of Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	—	Arjun Ram Meghwal

PM Modi launches three PARAM Rudra Supercomputers in India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched three PARAM Rudra supercomputers, a significant step in India's push for scientific and technological advancement under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- The supercomputers, developed indigenously at a cost of ₹130 crore, have been deployed in Pune, Delhi and Kolkata to drive pioneering research across multiple scientific disciplines.
- The Giant Metre Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune will use the new system to explore astronomical phenomena such as Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs).

- In Delhi, the Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) will enhance research in material science and atomic physics. At the same time, the S N Bose Centre in Kolkata will focus on areas such as physics, cosmology and earth sciences.

Mankidia Community Granted Habitat Rights in Odisha Forests

- The Mankidia community was officially granted habitat rights over local forested areas under the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, commonly known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA).
- The Mankidia community is the sixth Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Odisha to receive habitat rights. It is a semi-nomadic group of the Bihor tribe, known for their traditional rope-making skills and trapping and eating monkeys.
- The rights allow the community to freely engage in traditional activities, such as hunting and food gathering.

Swachh Bharat Mission enter its next decade and Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2024 launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014 and 2024 marks the tenth year of this mission.
- SHS 2024 was nationally rolled out at a mega event in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, with the theme 'Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata'.
- Under the three pillars of SHS 2024, Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari, and Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs, over 11 lakh events have been planned across the nation.

PM Modi flags off India's first Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail (Vande Metro), which will operate between Ahmedabad and Bhuj.
- It will cover a 360-kilometre distance in 5 hours and 45 minutes at a top speed of 110 km/h, making stops at nine stations.

Key Points

Union Minister of Railways — Ashwini Vaishnaw

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Cabinet approves ₹18,036 Crore Mumbai-Indore Rail Line Project

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a new railway line project under the Ministry of Railways with a total cost of ₹18,036 crore.
- The proposed new line between Indore and Manmad will provide direct connectivity and improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.
- The project is a result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, which has been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services.
- The project covers six districts in two states, i.e., Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, and will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 309 Km.

Union Cabinet approves the National Centre of Excellence for Animation

- The Union cabinet approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation,

Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai as a not-for-profit company.

- The centre will follow a hub and spoke model with the centre as the hub and other centres as its spokes.
- Industry bodies, such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), will be the central government's partners for this institute.

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches AgriSURE Fund

- In a significant development for the agricultural sector, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the AgriSURE Scheme in New Delhi.
- AgriSURE-Agri Fund for Start-ups & Rural Enterprises will support startups and 'agripreneurs' by providing equity and debt capital.
- It is a capital fund of ₹750 crore, which has contributions from the Government of India (₹250 crore), NABARD (₹250 crore) and ₹250 crore mobilised from banks, insurance companies and private investors.

- It is an innovative fund that is a pioneering step toward revolutionising the agricultural landscape in India with a focus on technology-driven, high-risk, high-impact ventures.

India to launch BHASKAR to transform Startup Ecosystem

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry will launch the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative under the Startup India program.
- BHASKAR is a platform designed to centralise, streamline and enhance collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers and government bodies.

Key Points

Union Commerce Minister — Piyush Goyal

Cabinet approves extension of PM-AASHA Schemes for Farmers

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) schemes to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.
- The Government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) & Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently.
- PM-AASHA will now have the components of the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Key Points

Union Agriculture Minister — Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches “White Revolution 2.0” to further strengthen India’s dairy sector

- In a major push to transform India’s dairy cooperative sector, Union Minister Amit Shah unveiled ‘White Revolution 2.0’, a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering women farmers and creating job opportunities.
- The programme focuses on four key areas - empowering women farmers, enhancing local milk production, strengthening dairy infrastructure and boosting dairy exports.

- He also launched the nationwide rollout of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards for dairy farmers and the installation of micro-ATMs at dairy cooperative societies. Additionally, he released standard operating procedures for the computerisation of 67,930 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).
- Under White Revolution 2.0, the government aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50% over the next five years.

India’s first Fashion Forecasting Initiative ‘VisioNxt’

- Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh launched VisioNxt, a bilingual web portal and India-specific Fashion Trend Book Paridhi 24 × 25.
- VisioNxt is a Fashion Forecasting Initiative of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). It was conceived and established at NIFT Delhi (Creative Lab) and NIFT Chennai (Insights Lab) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in 2018.
- The initiative, now centralised in Chennai, focuses on delivering trend insights and forecasting for the Indian fashion and retail market. It also offers various trend-related consultancy services, academic courses, workshops, etc.

Union Cabinet accepts recommendations of High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections

- The Union Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- It recommended conducting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously in the first phase. In the second phase, it recommended conducting local body elections (panchayat and municipalities) within 100 days of general elections.
- It suggested a common electoral roll for all elections.
- Elections were held simultaneously between 1951 and 1967.

Cabinet approves implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29

- The Union Cabinet approved the Department of Rural Development’s proposal for “Implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29”.
- The financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of a 62,500 km road for providing new connectivity to eligible 25,000 unconnected habitations

and construction/upgradation of bridges on the new connectivity roads.

- The total outlay of this scheme will be ₹70,125 crore.
- PMGSY-IV road alignment planning will be undertaken through the PM Gati Shakti portal.

Union Cabinet approves expansion of AB PM-JAY for all aged 70 and above

- The Union Cabinet approved a major expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). Under this decision, all senior citizens aged 70 and above will receive health coverage, regardless of their income.
- This expansion is set to benefit around 4.5 crore families, including 6 crore senior citizens, by providing them with free health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family. With this approval, every senior citizen in this age group will have access to the scheme's benefits, regardless of their socio-economic status.

Union Cabinet approves Seven Schemes to Boost Farmers' Incomes and Improve

- The Union Cabinet approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of ₹14,235.30 crore. These are:
 - I. **Digital Agriculture Mission:** It has a total outlay of ₹2,817 crores.
 - II. **Crop science for food and nutritional security:** It has a total outlay of ₹3,979 crore and will prepare farmers for climate resilience and provide for food security by 2047.
 - III. **Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences:** It has a total outlay of ₹2,291 crore and will prepare agriculture students and researchers for current challenges.
 - IV. **Sustainable livestock health and production:** It has a total outlay of ₹1,702 crore and aims to increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy.
 - V. **Sustainable development of Horticulture:** It has a total outlay of ₹1129.30 crore and is aimed at increasing farmers' income from horticulture plants.
 - VI. **Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra** with an outlay of ₹1,202 crore.
 - VII. **Natural Resource Management** with an outlay of ₹1,115 crore.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal, launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission

- Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' from the Mumbai port onboard the cruise ship 'Empress'.
- It aims to excel in India's vision to become a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.
- The Cruise India Mission will be implemented in three phases, beginning from October 1, 2024, up to March 31, 2029.

Union Cabinet approves the development of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which will be a significant step towards the Government's vision of establishing & operating the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and towards developing capability for Indian Crewed Landing on the Moon by 2040.
- NGLV will have three times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to LVM3 and will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.
- The total outlay of the mission is ₹8240.00 crore and includes the development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, Programme Management and Launch Campaign.

DST and the British Council launch the Women in Space Leadership programme

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with the British Council, has introduced the 'Women in Space Leadership Programme' (WiSLP).
- This initiative aims to establish a leadership framework to assist institutions in enhancing gender-inclusive policies and practices, specifically within space sciences and related fields.
- WiSLP will be developed with input from experts in India, with Coventry University acting as the delivery partner.
- The programme will focus on building the capacity of 250 early career researchers (ECRs), helping them to take on leadership roles and address gender biases and barriers. It will include provisions for networking, awareness-building and peer mentoring.

Government launches Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack to offer Blockchain-as-a-Service with a geographically distributed infrastructure designed to support various permissioned Blockchain-based applications.
- MeitY also unveiled the NBFLite-Lightweight Blockchain Platform, Praamaanik - an innovative blockchain-enabled solution for verifying mobile app origin and the National Blockchain Portal.
- NBFLite, a Blockchain sandbox platform, has been developed especially for startups/academia to rapidly prototype applications, carry out research, and build capacity. These technologies have been developed under MeitY support by collaborating efforts of C-DAC, NIC, IDRBT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad and SETS Chennai.

Union Cabinet approves ₹2,000 crore Mission Mausam Initiative

- The Union Cabinet approved Mission Mausam with a budget outlay of ₹2,000 crores over two years.
- It is an ambitious initiative of the Government of India and aims to make India 'Weather Ready' and 'Climate Smart'.
- The mission seeks to exponentially enhance the country's weather and climate observations, understanding, modelling and forecasting, leading to better, more useful, accurate and timely services. The Mission will be implemented during 2024-26.

Union Cabinet approves PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) for the implementation of a scheme titled 'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme' for the promotion of electric mobility in the country.
- The scheme has an outlay of ₹10,900 crore over two years.
- It will offer green solutions and promote electric mobility and the installation of electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS).

Union Govt launches 'Rangeen Machhli' app for the ornamental fisheries sector

- To address the growing demands of the ornamental fisheries sector, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has helped the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) develop the Rangeen Machhli mobile app.
- The new app offers a comprehensive guide to help novice and professional fishers in the ornamental fish industry.
- The app has multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to a broader audience.
- The user can easily find nearby aquarium shops by using the Find Aquarium Shops tool, which allows users to connect with local businesses.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Angkor Wat named the most photogenic UNESCO site in Asia

- Angkor Wat in Cambodia was named the most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia by Times Travel.
- Angkor Wat is a major temple in the Angkor Archaeological Park, which is located in northwest Siem Reap province.
- The list also includes the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall of China and Hampi in India, to name a few.

Iran Unveils 'Shahed-136B', a powerful suicide drone

- Iran has showcased the Shahed 136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile. The Shahed 136B drone is the latest

Iran-made drone and was showcased at the Armed Forces military parade. It is the new one-way attack drone, also known as a 'kamikaze' drone.

- The Shahed-136B drone is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres.
- Iran also unveiled its "Jihad" single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km.

Earth welcomes Temporary 'Mini-Moon' 2024

- Earth will briefly host a new visitor, asteroid 2024 PT5, from September 29 to November 25, 2024.

- The asteroid originated from the Arjuna asteroid belt, where rocks have orbits similar to Earth's.
- NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) first detected the asteroid on August 7, 2024.
- It is about 33 feet wide and it will not complete a full revolution around Earth, but its path will be slightly altered by Earth's gravity before moving on.
- Although it won't be visible to the naked eye, professional telescopes will capture images of its journey past the stars.

Scientists discover New Blood Group System MAL

- A team of scientists led by Louise Tilley from the United Kingdom's NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the University of Bristol has discovered a new blood group, MAL.
- This will solve a 50-year-old mystery surrounding the AnWj blood group antigen, which was first identified in 1972.

'Ocean-24' Russia and China massive naval exercises

- The Russian military launched massive naval and air drills spanning across both hemispheres and including China in joint maneuvers.
- The "Ocean-24" exercise spans the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, the Mediterranean, Caspian and Baltic Seas and involves over 400 warships, submarines and support vessels, more than 120 planes and helicopters and over 90,000 troops.

NASA's DART mission may have created the 'first human-made' meteor shower

- On September 26, 2022, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully crashed a vending machine-sized spacecraft into asteroid moonlet Dimorphos.
- The mission was called the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) and it may have now resulted in the first 'human-made' meteor shower.
- Rocky debris blasted away from a football stadium-sized asteroid, Dimorphos, during the DART mission could create the first human-made meteor shower known as the Dimorphids.

US, Britain, EU to sign first legally binding international Artificial Intelligence (AI) treaty

- The United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union (EU) signed the first legally binding international treaty- Framework Convention on

Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

- The AI Convention, which has been in the works for years and was adopted in May after discussions between 57 countries, addresses the risks AI may pose while promoting responsible innovation.

World Experiences Hottest Northern Hemisphere Summer

- According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), the summer of 2024 has officially been declared the hottest on record for the Northern Hemisphere.
- This unprecedented heat wave has raised alarm bells among climate scientists and policymakers worldwide, as it underscores the intensifying impact of global warming.

Saturn's rings set to 'disappear' briefly in March 2025

- According to NASA, the majestic rings of planet Saturn, which span about 2.82 lakh kilometres in width, are set to disappear for a brief period in 2025.
- This event is caused by the alignment of Saturn's rings with Earth's line of sight.
- Saturn, tilted at an angle of 26.73 degrees, takes about 29.4 Earth years to complete one orbit around the Sun. As Saturn moves along its orbit, the orientation of its ring's changes relative to Earth.
- Scientists explain that every 13 to 15 years, the rings align edge-on from our perspective, making them appear almost invisible. This rare phenomenon last occurred in 2009.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) completed the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant

- The United Arab Emirates has reached a significant milestone in its energy sector by completing the Arab world's first nuclear power plant.
- Once fully operational, the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Abu Dhabi is expected to supply 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.

Key Points

Capital	—	Abu Dhabi
President	—	Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Algeria joins BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)

- Algeria has officially joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB). The decision was finalised during a meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, led by NDB chief Dilma Rousseff.

- The BRICS New Development Bank, established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, provides an alternative to traditional international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF.

Iran launches second satellite- Chamran-1

- Iran successfully launched a research satellite- Chamran-1, into space by the Qaem-100 satellite carrier.
- It weighs 60 kg and was put into a 550-kilometre orbit and its first signals were received.
- The solid fuel carrier was designed and built by the Aerospace Force of the Revolutionary Guards.
- The primary mission is to test hardware and software systems to demonstrate orbital manoeuvring technology in height and phase. Earlier, the Sorayya satellite had been launched into a 750 km orbit in January 2024.

United Nations adopts Pact of Future to alter governance

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a “Pact for the Future” designed to address 21st-century challenges, including climate change, conflict and human rights.

- The adoption will help pave the way for greater international cooperation for our common future.
- The Pact covers a broad range of themes, including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations and the transformation of global governance.

Key Points

UN Secretary-General — Antonio Guterres

NATO to establish Northern Land Command in Eastern Finland

- NATO will set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border next year to lead land force operations in northern Europe during conflicts.
- This decision follows Finland’s recent NATO membership after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- The command will operate with Finland’s existing land force command in Mikkeli.
- Finland joined the NATO alliance last year in response to neighbouring Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine that began in 2022 and is organising the alliance’s presence on its territory.

INDIA AND WORLD

India and South Africa sign Submarine Rescue Cooperation Agreement

- In a significant milestone to develop bilateral naval cooperation, the Indian Navy and the South African Navy have signed an Implementing Agreement (IA) that ensures the safety of the South African Navy’s submarine crew in times of distress or accident.
- Under this agreement, the Indian Navy will provide assistance by deploying its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) when required, further strengthening the collaborative ties between the two navies.
- This partnership reinforces the longstanding maritime relationship between India and South Africa.

US announces Semiconductor Partnership with India

- The US Department of State will collaborate with India’s Semiconductor Mission, under the Union Electronics and IT Ministry, to explore opportunities for expanding and diversifying the global semiconductor ecosystem.

- The partnership aims to create a more resilient, secure and sustainable semiconductor value chain worldwide.
- The initiative falls under the US International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) fund, established by the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act of 2022.
- The fund provides \$500 million — \$100 million per year over five years, starting in 2023, to the department to ensure the adoption of secure and trustworthy networks and ensure semiconductor supply chain security.

India’s First Astronaut to ISS Set for Ax-4 Mission

- Two Indian astronaut-designates, Group Captains Shubhanshu Shukla and Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, are undergoing training in the US for the Axiom Space Ax-4 mission. ISRO has assigned Shukla to the Ax-4 mission, while Nair will be the backup candidate.
- The mission will be launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

- It will mark India's second human spaceflight sponsored by the government in the last four decades, after Rakesh Sharma.

India and UAE sign landmark Civil Nuclear Energy Agreement

- India and the UAE have inked a pact that provides a framework for giving services for the operation and maintenance of nuclear plants in the emirate.
- The MoU was signed by Bhuwan Chandra Pathak, Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Mohamed Al Hammadi, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) of the UAE.
- The NPCIL is a Public Sector Enterprise of the Department of Atomic Energy and operates all civil nuclear power plants in the country.
- The ENEC is wholly owned by the Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company PJSC, which in turn is wholly owned by the government of the UAE.

Key Points

- UAE's Capital — Abu Dhabi
- UAE's President — Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

India and Singapore sign agreement on Semiconductor Partnership

- India and Singapore signed a key bilateral pact to partner and cooperate in the field of semiconductors, as the two countries elevated their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership".
- The agreement focuses on talent development, knowledge sharing, and building a resilient semiconductor supply chain between the two nations.
- It will support India's growing semiconductor industry while facilitating Singapore's ecosystem of semiconductor companies and related supply chains.

Key Points

- Singapore's Prime Minister — Lawrence Wong

India signs agreements for Clean and Fair Economy in IPEF

- India has signed two more agreements under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), focusing on clean energy, anti-corruption, and trade transparency, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day US visit for the Quad summit.

- These agreements, aimed at creating a "clean" and a "fair economy", are expected to enhance India's sustainability efforts and strengthen its collaboration with other IPEF members.
- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) was launched in Tokyo by the US and other Indo-Pacific countries on May 23, 2022.
- The group consists of 14 partner countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Structured around four pillars—trade, supply-chain resilience, clean economy, and fair economy—the IPEF aims to foster economic growth and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India is now a signatory to three out of the four pillars under the IPEF. India ratified the agreement on supply chain resilience (pillar II) earlier in February 2024 and maintains observer status for trade (pillar I) as the current terms are seen as less favourable for the country.

India launches Operation Sadbhav to provide Humanitarian Assistance to Typhoon Yagi affected countries

- India has launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance to typhoon Yagi-affected countries – Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.
- India sent urgent relief materials to Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam to assist them in dealing with the impact of the major typhoon.
- These countries are reeling under massive floods after Asia's most powerful storm this year hit the three countries.

India signs high seas treaty for fair, equitable sharing of benefits

- India has signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, which seeks to promote the conservation of marine genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- The agreement, or the High Seas Treaty, is an international accord under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- The treaty addresses the growing concerns over the long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas.
- It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity through international cooperation and coordination.

IDB and UNDP Partner to Enhance Climate Data Sharing in Latin America and the Caribbean

- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have entered into a significant agreement to improve the collection and sharing of critical climate and weather data.
- This collaboration will bolster efforts to support climate adaptation and enhance regional climate coordination across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Under this agreement, the IDB gains access to financing through the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), which provides essential funding and technical assistance to countries for improving weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information services.

India and Bhutan Deepen Cooperation on Food Safety and Regulatory Standards

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducted a bilateral meeting with the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) on the sidelines of the Global Food Regulators Summit.
- This agreement underscores a mutual commitment to enhancing food safety, aligning regulatory frameworks, simplifying the food import procedure and fostering technical collaboration.
- The Agreement aims to recognise the official control exercised by BFDA over food business operators (FBOs) by the FSSAI.

Key Points

Bhutan's Capital	—	Thimphu
Prime Minister	—	Tshering Tobgay

India seeks Modifications to Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan

- India has formally notified Pakistan, seeking amendments to the Indus Water Treaty due to the significant changes in circumstances and a lack of cooperation from Pakistan.
- India had also sent a notice to Pakistan in January 2023 seeking an amendment to the 1960 treaty.
- The treaty between India and Pakistan was signed on September 19, 1960, in Karachi by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistan President Mohammed Ayub Khan after nine years of negotiations arranged by the World Bank.

India joins US-led security finance network to secure critical minerals

- India has officially joined the US-led Minerals Security Finance Network, an initiative aimed at strengthening global cooperation in securing critical mineral supply chains.
- The Minerals Security Finance Network is a new initiative emerging from the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a framework established by the US in 2022. The network aims to bring together institutions from the Indo-Pacific region and Europe, promoting cooperation, information exchange and co-financing.

FINANCE, ECONOMY & BANKING

SBI Foundation launches the third Asha Scholarship Program for Students

- SBI Foundation has launched the third edition of its flagship Asha Scholarship Program, through which 10,000 meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds nationwide will receive financial support.
- As part of the program, students from Class 6 to the postgraduate level can avail of scholarships ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹20,00,000 in a year.

Key Points

SBI Chairman	—	Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
SBI Foundation	—	Sanjay Prakash
MD & CEO		
SBI Foundation	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) celebrated its seventh foundation day on September 1, 2024.

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication and has 100% equity owned by the Government of India. It was launched on September 01, 2018.
- The fundamental mandate of India Post Payments Bank is to remove barriers for the unbanked & underbanked and reach the last mile by leveraging the Postal network comprising 1,61,000+ Post Offices (1,43,000 in rural areas) and 190,000+ Postal employees.

Key Points

IPPB CEO	—	Vineet Pandey
Headquarters	—	New Delhi

Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani's \$10 Billion Chip Project in India

- The Adani Group plans to invest ₹83,947 crore with Israeli partner Tower Semiconductor in setting up a chip manufacturing plant in Maharashtra. Adani group is led by Gautam Adani.
- The project will manufacture 40,000 wafers (a thin slice of semiconductor material that is used in fabricating integrated circuits) per month in Phase 1 and 80,000 wafers per month after Phase II.

Mastercard launches Payment Passkey Service in India

- Mastercard, a global technology in the payments industry, announced the worldwide launch of its new Payment Passkey Service to make online shopping more secure and easier than ever.
- This service has debuted in India as a pilot with some of the nation's largest payment players including, payment aggregators Juspay, Razorpay and PayU, online merchants such as Bigbasket and banks such as Axis Bank.

Bandhan Bank launches Avni Savings Account for Women

- Bandhan Bank has launched a new savings account named 'Avni,' specifically designed for women.
- The Avni savings account aims to empower women by offering personalised financial and lifestyle solutions, along with a host of attractive benefits.

Key Points

Chairman	—	Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha
MD & CEO	—	Ratan Kumar Kesh
Headquarters	—	Kolkata, West Bengal

Airtel Payments Bank Enhances security with AI-Powered Face Match

- Airtel Payments Bank launched Face Match; a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities.
- This feature utilises advanced machine learning algorithms to assess potential threats and activate facial recognition verification when necessary.
- Face Match works by analysing various factors, including user behaviour, transaction patterns, location data, historical information and device signals. If a user's activity triggers a predetermined threat score, Face Match is activated, requiring the user to verify their identity through a selfie.

Key Points

MD & CEO	—	Anubrata Biswas
Headquarters	—	New Delhi

HDFC Bank aims to boost the income of 5 lakh marginal farmers by 2025 under 'Parivartan'

- HDFC Bank aims to boost the income of 500,000 marginal farmers earning less than ₹60,000 annually by 2025 as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, Parivartan.
- The announcement comes as HFDC commemorates 10 years of Parivartan, which has already positively impacted the lives of over 10 crore people across India.
- Since its inception in 2014, Parivartan has expanded to become one of India's largest CSR programs, operating in 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- It has made significant strides in key areas such as education, skill development, healthcare, and financial inclusion, aligning its efforts with 9 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key Points

HDFC's Headquarters	—	Mumbai
Chairman	—	Atanu Chakraborty
CEO	—	Sashidhar Jagdishan

CCI approved Merger of Tata Motor Finance into Tata Capital

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of Tata Motors Finance Limited (TMFL) with Tata Capital Limited (TCL).
- The merger will consolidate the Tata Group's financial services and increase TCL's market share in vehicle financing. The combined entity will be a major player in India's non-banking financial company (NBFC) space.

OECD revises India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.7%

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated that the Indian economy will likely log faster growth at 6.7 % in FY25 compared with 6.6% projected earlier.
- On the inflation front, the OECD expects prices to rise faster, at 4.5%, compared with its May projection of a 4.3% increase.
- However, it noted that prices would likely inch towards the RBI's mid-point target of 4% in FY26.

UPI mandatory for bids up to ₹5 Lakh in Public Debt Issues

- From November 1, 2024, SEBI mandated that individual investors applying for IPOs and other public issues up to ₹5 lakh must now use UPI (Unified Payments Interface).
- This move significantly simplifies the process, making it quick, efficient and user-friendly.
- The new rules will be mandatory for investors applying for public issues of debt securities via intermediaries, such as stock brokers, syndicate members, registrars, or depository participants.

Key Points

- SEBI's Headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra
- SEBI's Chairperson — Madhabi Puri Buch

Moody's upgrades India's economic growth forecast to 7.1% for 2024

- Moody's has revised its calendar year (CY) 2024 growth forecast for India to 7.1%, from its earlier estimates of 6.8% in June, as it expects growth in the Asia-Pacific region to outpace the global economy.
- It, however, kept its India growth forecast for CY 2025 unchanged at 6.5%

ADB retains India's Economic Growth Forecast at 7% for FY24, 7.2% for FY25

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects sustained strong growth for India's economy, forecasting a 7% increase in gross domestic product (GDP) for the financial year 2024 (ending March 31, 2025) and 7.2% for FY2025.
- The projections were outlined in the bank's Asian Development Outlook report for September 2024.
- The ADB maintains a positive outlook for the industrial and services sectors, along with private investments and urban consumption for both FY2024 and FY2025.

Key Points

- Headquarters — Philippines
- President — Masatsugu Asakawa

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscriber base expands to 6.9 crore, corpus at ₹35,149 crore

- About 7 crore people have subscribed to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), whose corpus has swelled to ₹35,149 crores.
- APY is a low-cost pension scheme that offers a guaranteed minimum pension of ₹1,000—5,000 per month from the age of 60 years onwards (depending on the contributions by the subscribers).

Finance Ministry to sell 6.78% stake in GIC Re for ₹4,700 Crore

- The Union Ministry of Finance will dilute a 6.78% stake in public-sector reinsurance company General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) Re to garner around ₹4,700 crore.
- The government is selling the stake to raise funds and contribute to the disinvestment fund.

Labour Ministry Partners with Amazon to Ignite Job Opportunities for Youth

- Amazon India has signed a pact with the Labour and Employment Ministry to post available work opportunities at Amazon and its staffing agencies on the National Career Service (NCS) portal.
- The MoU is initially set for two years and marks a significant step toward enhancing employment accessibility in India. This partnership aims to connect individuals with career prospects that match their skills and qualifications.
- The job seekers registered on the NCS portal will be able to explore and apply for a wide variety of job roles across Amazon's corporate offices and operations network that align with their skills and aspirations.

Key Points

- Union Labour Minister — Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

DEFENCE NEWS

India unveils first Mountain tank 'Zorawar' after trials

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the preliminary automotive and firing trials for India's new light tank, Zorawar.
- It is a 25-tonne tank and was developed from scratch in two years.
- Zorawar has been successfully developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

Key Points

DRDO Chief — Samir V Kamat
L&T Chairman and MD — SN Subrahmanyam

Indian Navy commissions 'Vinetra'

- A state-of-the-art submarine escape training facility named "Vinetra" was commissioned at INS Satavahana in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The facility has a five-meter escape tower integrated with a diving basin. This advanced training site will provide both basic and refresher training to submarine crews, equipping them with vital escape procedures in a submarine emergency.

Key Points

Chief of the Naval Staff — Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

Exercise 'AIKYA' conducted in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Southern Command of the Indian Army and Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA), conducted "EXERCISE AIKYA," an Integrated Symposium cum Table Top Exercise (TTEx) on disaster management, in Chennai.
- This two-day event brought together key stakeholders from across Peninsular India to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities.
- "Aikya," meaning "Oneness" in Tamil, reflects the exercise's aim to integrate India's Disaster Management community.

Key Points

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

DRDO & IIT Delhi develop ABHED Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), along with researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat). The jackets have been developed at the DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT, Delhi.

- These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material. The design configuration is based on the characterisation of various materials at high strain rates, followed by appropriate modelling and simulation in collaboration with DRDO.
- The armour plates for the jackets have passed all necessary R&D trials as per the protocols. The jackets meet the highest threat levels and are lighter than the maximum weight limits stipulated in the respective General Staff Qualitative Requirement of the Indian Army.
- With the minimum possible weight of 8.2 kgs and 9.5 kgs for different BIS Levels, these modular-design jackets having front & rear armours provide 360° protection.

India-France Bilateral Naval exercise Varuna conducted

- The 22nd edition of India and France's bilateral maritime exercise Varuna was conducted in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Indian naval ship Tabar and long-range maritime surveillance aircraft P-8I participated in the exercise. The French side was represented by frontline ship FS Provence, submarine Suffren, fighters MB339 and helicopters NH90, Dauphin.

India Successfully tests Agni-4 Ballistic Missile in Odisha

- India successfully launched the Agni-4 ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- The successful test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.
- The first pre-induction night launch of the new generation ballistic missile, Agni Prime, was flight-tested in June 2023 by DRDO from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

Indian Navy acquires 500 Sonobuoys

- The Indian Navy has procured approximately 500 anti-submarine warfare sonobuoys valued at US\$52.8 million for launch from 24 Sikorsky MH-60R helicopters, of which six aircraft have so far been delivered.
- The move has reflected Indian concerns over China's intensifying naval capabilities and sustained incursions of its submarines in the Indian Ocean.

DRDO, Indian Navy successfully test VL-SRSAM Missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the flight test of the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- The flight test was carried out from a land-based vertical launcher, targeting a high-speed aerial target flying at a low altitude. The missile system successfully tracked and engaged the target.
- This test aimed to validate multiple updated elements of the weapon system, including the Proximity Fuse and Seeker.
- The performance of the system was meticulously tracked and confirmed by various instruments such as the Radar Electro-Optical Tracking System and telemetry deployed at ITR Chandipur.

Indian Air Force (IAF) completes Eastern Bridge VII Exercise

- IAF completed Exercise Eastern Bridge VII with the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) at the RAFO airbase in Masirah.
- The IAF contingent returned to India after participating in a comprehensive series of training missions, which featured the participation of MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft from IAF, F-16 and Hawk from RAFO.
- Exercise Eastern Bridge VII was aimed at strengthening military cooperation and enhancing the interoperability of both forces.

Indian Army & Indian Air Force ink MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, to enhance the skills and capability building of their personnel.
- The MoU will enable the two services to acquire higher expertise in logistics.
- It will ensure the development of in-house expertise on various facets of logistics operations and contribute effectively towards the national development plans, PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022.

World War 2 (WW2) veteran Lance Naik Charan Singh turns 100 and the Indian Army celebrates his centennial birthday

- Lance Naik Charan Singh (retd), a World War II veteran who served the Army for 17 years and received the prestigious Burma Star Award, has turned 100.
- The Army celebrated his centennial birthday at his home in Dekwala village, Ropar, Himachal Pradesh, marking a century of extraordinary life and service.
- His distinguished military career saw him serve with the Army Service Corps during World War II. His service took him from Singapore to Lahore and eventually to Yol Cantonment in Himachal Pradesh.
- He was born on September 7, 1924, and he joined the Indian Army on August 26, 1942
- After 17 years of valiant service, he retired from the Indian Army on May 17, 1959.

India launches Malpe and Mulki Anti-Submarine Warfare Ships

- In a significant milestone for India's maritime defence capabilities, the Indian Navy launched two indigenously constructed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs) – Malpe and Mulki.
- These were built at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) for the Indian Navy.
- The Mahe class ASW Shallow Water Crafts have been named after ports of strategic importance along the coast of India and will look to carry forward the glorious legacy of the erstwhile minesweepers, which were their namesake

India-Oman Joint Military exercise AL NAJAH

- The fifth edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH was conducted at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- Exercise AL NAJAH has been held biennially since 2015, alternating between India and Oman.
- The last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan.
- The Joint Exercise aims to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise focused on operations in the Desert environment.

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Tejinder Singh	Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS)
TV Somanathan	Cabinet Secretary of India
Amrit Mohan Prasad	Director General of SSB
Atishi Marlana	Chief Minister of Delhi
Kumar Tuhin	India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Girish Chandra Murmu	Chair of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command
Alia Bhatt	Global ambassador, L'Oreal
Bharath Sesha	Managing Director, Philips
Sharath Kamal	Ambassador of International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation
Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Finance Secretary
Randhir Singh	First Indian President of Olympic Council of Asia
Kalikesh Singh Deo	National Rifle Association of India President
Amit Shah	Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language
Anurag Garg	Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
Amrit Mohan	Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
Alok Ranjan	Director, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)
Amit Garg	Director, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
Jitendra J Jadhav	Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency
Justice MS Ramachandra Rao	Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court
Justice KR Shriram	Chief Justice of Madras High Court
Justice Suresh Kumar Kait	Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court
Justice Manmohan	Chief Justice of Delhi High Court
Justice Rajiv Shakdher	Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court
Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar	Chief Justice of Kerala High Court
Justice Tashi Rabstan	Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh High Court
Jafar Hassan	Prime Minister of Jordan
Anura Kumara Dissanayake	President of Sri Lanka
Dr. Harini Amarasuriya	Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Shigeru Ishiba	Prime Minister of Japan
Michel Barnier	Prime Minister of France
Abdelmadjid Tebboune	President of Algeria
Ashok Raj Sigdel	45 th Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS) of the Nepali Army

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy	Kuldeep Gupta
Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An Inseparable Bond	D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari
Khaki Mein Sthitapragya: Memories and Experiences of an IPS Officer	Anil Raturi
LARA: The England Chronicles	Brian Lara

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Sitaram Yechury	Politician & Communist Party of India (CPI) Leader
Dr. K. Chellappan	Eminent English professor and translator
A.G. Noorani	Lawyer
Aruna Vasudev	Indian filmmaker and critic
Jayanta Pushilal	Table tennis coach
Keki N. Daruwalla	Indian Poet and short story writer (English)

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Dame Maggie Smith	British Actress
Luis Ayala	Sportsperson (Tennis player)
Alberto Fujimori	Politician and President of Peru

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
September 1—7	National Nutrition Week	Nutritious
September 2	World Coconut Day	Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value
September 5	International Day of Charity	
September 5	Teacher's Day (India)	
September 7	International Vulture Awareness Day	Protecting Nature's Cleaners
September 7	International Day of Police Cooperation	Police Integrity, Accountability, and Oversight
September 8	International Literacy Day	Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace.
September 8	World Physical Therapy Day	Low Back Pain (LBP) and the role of physiotherapy in its management and prevention

September 9	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	Changing the Narrative of Suicide
September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day	Honouring the Sacrifices of those who Defended Forests and Wildlife
September 11	Digvijay Diwas	
September 14	World First Aid Day	First Aid and Sports
September 14	Hindi Diwas	Hindi – Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence
September 15	National Engineer Day	Innovating for a Sustainable Future
September 15	International Day of Democracy	Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance
September 16	International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South	
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety
September 18	World Bamboo Day	Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Time to act on dementia, Time to act on Alzheimer's
September 21	International Day of Peace	Cultivating a Culture of Peace
September 22	World Rhino Day	Keep the Five Alive
September 22	World River Day	Waterways of Life
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	Sign up for Sign Language Rights
September 24	World Gorilla Day	
September 26	World Contraception Day	A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Peace
September 28	World Rabies Day	Breaking Rabies Boundaries
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information	Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector
September 29	World Heart Day	Use Heart for Action
September 30	International Translation Day	Translation, an art worth protecting: Moral and Material rights for Indigenous Languages

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

Telangana, Tamil Nadu Top in GSDP Growth

- According to the analysis of data based on the recent estimates put out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan have
- These states have achieved impressive economic growth, surpassing the national average GDP growth rate of 8.2%.

97% of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022 reported from 13 states

- According to the latest government report under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, about 97.7% of all cases of atrocities against SCs in 2022 were reported from 13 states. Of 51,656 cases registered under the law for SCs in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number at 12,287 followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- The majority of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) were also concentrated in 13 states, which reported 98.91% of all cases in 2022. Of the 9,735 cases registered under the law for STs, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number at 2,979 followed by Rajasthan and Odisha.

India emerges as the World's Top Plastic Polluter

- A new study by the University of Leeds, published in Nature Journal, revealed India as the biggest contributor to plastic pollution.
- Annually, a staggering amount of 57 million tons of plastic pollution are generated, which infiltrate every space of the planet.
- India topped the list, producing 9.3 million tons of plastic waste, double that of populous countries like China, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

India Achieves Tier 1 Status in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

- India has achieved Top Tier-1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024 published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- India scored 98.49 out of 100, becoming one of the 'role-modelling' countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.

- The GCI is a global tool used to measure how committed different countries are to cybersecurity. The assessment is based on five pillars: Legal Measures, Technical Measures, Organisational Measures, Capacity Development, and Cooperation

Southern States in India contribute to 30% of the country's GDP

- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — have emerged as major contributors to India's GDP, with their collective contribution of 30% of the country's GDP.
- In contrast, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have seen their GDP contributions decline notably. Uttar Pradesh's share dropped from 14% in 1960-61 to 9.5%. Meanwhile, Bihar, despite being the third-most populous state, contributes just 4.3%.
- A working paper from the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has revealed significant disparities in the economic performance of Indian states.

Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024

- Kerala has emerged as a leader in food safety in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024, followed by Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, and Nagaland.
- This annual ranking, released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), evaluates the food safety performance of Indian states and union territories.
- The index is based on the performance of the State/UT on five significant parameters, namely, Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing — Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

Asia Power Index Report 2024

- In a major shift, India surpassed Japan to become the third-largest power in the Asia Power Index, reflecting its increasing geopolitical stature.
- Sydney-based Lowy Institute released this index and ranked the United States at the first position with a score of 81.7. It is followed by China (72.7), India (39.1), Japan (38.9), Australia (31.9) and Russia (31.1).
- The index has cited economic growth, future potential and diplomatic influence as key factors for India's rise.

Kerala tops Urban Governance Index in India

- According to a two-year-long study conducted across several cities in India by the Praja Foundation, Kerala has secured first rank in the Urban Governance Index (UGI) with a score of 59.31 out of a possible score of 100 in various metrics.
- The UGI examines how well Indian cities are administered.

India ranks 39th in Global Innovation Index 2024

- India has achieved a significant milestone in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, securing the 39th position among 133 global economies.
- This is a remarkable improvement from India's 81st position in 2015. The index evaluates the innovation performance of around 133 global economies, showcasing their strengths and weaknesses in fostering innovation.
- GI is published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and acts as a valuable benchmarking tool for policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders.

Time's World's Best Companies 2024

- Indian IT firm HCLTech has been named the no.1 India-headquartered company in TIME magazine's World's Best Companies 2024 list.
- The World's Best Companies 2024 ranking highlights companies that lead in employee satisfaction, revenue growth, and sustainability.

- This year's list, compiled by TIME magazine, identifies firms that excel in creating positive work environments, achieving impressive financial results and demonstrating a commitment to sustainable practices.

World Talent Ranking 2024: Switzerland leads, India drops to 58th position

- India's ranking at the IMD's World Talent Ranking 2024 has fallen to 58 from 56 last year. This year, it had a talent score of 40.47.
- The ranking assesses nations based on their ability to develop, retain, and attract highly qualified domestic and international talent, thereby gauging their long-term value-creation capabilities.
- The index was topped by Switzerland, followed by Singapore and Luxembourg.

India emerges as World's Second-Largest 5G Smartphone Market

- According to a new report from Counterpoint Research, India has emerged as the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones, trailing only behind China.
- 5G smartphones are becoming increasingly prominent across various price ranges in India.
- China maintains the leading position with a 32% share of the global 5G smartphone market, while India holds 13%. The US has fallen to third place with a 10% market share.

EVENTS

India hosted COP9 Bureau and Fund Committee Meetings

- India hosted the second Formal Meeting of the COP9 Bureau and the third Formal Meeting of the Fund Approval Committee under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport in New Delhi.
- India is the Vice-Chairperson of the COP9 Bureau. The meeting served as a vital platform for countries and international organisations to deliberate on key issues concerning anti-doping, the development of fair sports practices, and global collaboration in upholding the principles of integrity in sport.

Global Aerospace Summit 2024, Abu Dhabi

- The 2024 edition of the Global Aerospace Summit was hosted at St. Regis Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

- It provided a platform for the C-level leaders, experts and specialists from across the aviation, aerospace, space and defence sectors.

The 19th Divya Kala Mela inaugurated in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

- The 19th edition of Divya Kala Mela was officially inaugurated in Visakhapatnam by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri S. Abdul Nazeer.
- The Divya Kala Mela provides a powerful platform for Divyang artisans, emphasising its unique role in bringing various sections of society together.
- It featured vibrant, high-quality products from nearly 100 Divyang artisans representing 20 states/UTs, including handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery and packaged foods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated SEMICON India 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate SEMICON India 2024 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- It showcased India's semiconductor strategy and policy to position the country as a global semiconductor hub.

2024 Edition of Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable

- The 2024 Edition of the Chief Science Advisers Roundtable (CSAR) took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France.
- This roundtable was co-organized by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO.
- The CSAR was conceptualised and launched as a Sherpa-track initiative during India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

- The roundtable was co-chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Professor Ajay Kumar Sood and Assistant Director-General of the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO Dr Lidia Brito.

Sixth Quad Summit

- The sixth QUAD summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware, in the United States.
- QUAD is a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and is a diplomatic partnership among Australia, India, Japan, and the US.
- US President Joe Biden hosted PM Modi, Australian PM Anthony Albanese, and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 7.5 million US dollars' worth of support for sampling and detection kits and vaccines to fight cervical cancer as part of India's vision of "One Earth One Health". Also, the leaders agreed to reform the UN Security Council.

AWARDS

International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) Awards 2024, Abu Dhabi

Best Film	Animal by Sandeep Reddy Vanga
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan, Jawan
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji, Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra, 12th Fail
Best Supporting Actor	Anil Kapoor, Animal
Best Supporting Actress	Shabana Azmi, Rocky Rani
Best Actor in Negative Role	Bobby Deol, Animal
Best Story	Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani
Best Story (Adapted)	12th Fail
Best Music	Animal
Best Lyrics	Siddharth-Garima, Satranga, Animal
Best Singer Male	Bhupinder Babbal, Arjan Valley, Animal
Best Singer Female	Shilpa Rao, Chaleya
Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema	Jayantilal Gada, Hema Malini
Achievement on Completing 25 years in Cinema	Karan Johar

2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- The 2024 SASTRA (Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology, Research Academy) Ramanujan Prize was awarded to Alexander Dunn from the Georgia Institute of Technology, US.

- SASTRA Institute is based out of Tamil Nadu. It has instituted the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize of \$10,000 to be given annually to a mathematician not exceeding the age of 32 for outstanding contributions in an area of mathematics influenced by the late Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan.

- The age limit has been set at 32 because Ramanujan achieved so much in his brief life of 32 years.

Hayao Miyazaki wins 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki has won the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- He is an acclaimed film director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli.
- The award is named after the former President of the Philippines and “honour the greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia”, covering fields such as community service and arts.
- The award is often referred to as Asia’s Nobel Prize.

Gujarat Leads Awards at Global Renewable Energy Expo

- Gujarat emerged as the top achiever in renewable energy, with an installed capacity of approximately 29 GW, earning the highest achiever award at the fourth Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024)

French President Emmanuel Macron presented with the Olympic Order in gold.

- French President Emmanuel Macron has been awarded the Olympic Order in recognition of his support for the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- The award was presented by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach at an official ceremony held at the Elysée Palace in Paris.

ICMR wins 2024 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has received the prestigious 2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task

Emmy Awards 2024

- The 76th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. These awards honour excellence in primetime television programming.

Outstanding drama series	Shogun
Outstanding comedy series	Hacks
Outstanding limited or anthology series	Baby Reindeer
Outstanding lead actor in a drama series- Hiroyuki Sanada	Shogun
Outstanding lead actress in a drama series- Anna Sawai	Shogun
Outstanding lead actor in a comedy series- Jeremy Allen White	The Bear
Outstanding lead actress in a comedy series- Jean Smart	Hacks
Outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or movie-Richard Gadd	Baby Reindeer
Outstanding lead actress in a limited or anthology series or movie-Jodie Foster	True Detective: Night
Outstanding supporting actor in a drama series- Billy Crudup	The Morning Show

Force Award for achievements in advancing multi-sectoral action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health and the broader NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its successful actions in multiple sectors over the years.

Ministry of Women and Child Development receives National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) for Poshan Tracker initiative

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has received the National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) for the Poshan Tracker initiative.
- The Poshan Tracker, a cutting-edge ICT application, plays a vital role in this process, enabling timely identification and tracking of growth issues. It helps children with real-time Monitoring & evaluation of children’s nutritional growth.

RINL awarded the prestigious CII-GBC National Energy Leader Award for the Sixth Consecutive Year

- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has once again set a remarkable benchmark in energy efficiency and conservation, by bagging the prestigious National Energy Leader Award from the Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (CII-GBC).
- This is the sixth consecutive year that RINL has received this accolade, underlining the company’s unwavering commitment to sustainable energy practices.

Outstanding supporting actress in a drama series- Elizabeth Debicki	The Crown
Outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series- Ebon Moss-Bachrach	The Bear
Outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series- Liza Colon-Zayas	The Bear
Outstanding supporting actor in a limited or anthology series or movie- Lamorne Morris	Fargo
Outstanding supporting actress in a limited or anthology series or movie- Jessica Gunning	Baby Reindeer
Outstanding reality-competition program	The Traitors
Outstanding scripted variety series	Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
Outstanding talk series	The Daily Show
Outstanding writing for a drama series- Slow Horses, Negotiating With Tigers	Will Smith
Outstanding writing for a comedy series- Hacks, Bulletproof	Lucia Aniello, Paul W Downs & Jen Statsky
Outstanding writing for a limited or anthology series or movie- Baby Reindeer	Richard Gadd
Outstanding writing for a variety special	Alex Edelman: Just For Us
Outstanding directing for a drama series- Shogun, Crimson Sky	Frederick EO Toye
Outstanding directing for a comedy series- The Bear, Fishes	Christopher Storer
Outstanding directing for a limited or anthology series or movie- Ripley	Steven Zaillian

Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards

- The Swachh Vayu Survekshan awards are given to cities that have made the most progress in improving air quality and implementing action plans to reduce pollution.
- “Swachh Vayu Survekshan” is an initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to rank cities based on the implementation of activities approved under the city action plan and air quality in 131 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities.
- Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards were presented to the best performing NCAP cities under Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra; Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.

Prasanthi Ram, an Indian-origin lecturer, wins Singapore Literature Prize for ‘Nine Yard Sarees’

- Prasanthi Ram, an Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University, won the Singapore Literature Prize for English fiction for her short story, ‘Nine Yard Sarees’.

- The short story cycle is about generations of a Tamil Brahmin family dispersed across Singapore, Sydney, New York and Connecticut.

Rajbhasha Kirti Award

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances was awarded the Rajbhasha Kirti Award 2024 for the best performance in the Official Language, Hindi, in the category of Ministries / Departments with less than 300 personnel.
- The Department monitors the proper implementation of the Union’s official language policy in its sections and its attached offices/autonomous bodies.
- There is a joint Hindi Advisory Committee of DARPG, DoPT and DoP&PW to monitor the implementation of the Official Language Policy in the Ministry.

Aishwarya Rai wins Best Actress Award

- Aishwarya Rai won the best actress award in a Leading Role (Critics) at SIIMA 2024 in Dubai.
- The actress won the award for her performance in Mani Ratnam’s movie Ponniyin Selvan: II (2023). She played Nandini’s role in the movie.

Chiranjeevi enters Guinness World Records, recognised as most prolific star in Indian film industry

- Hyderabad, Megastar K Chiranjeevi received the Guinness World Records certificate as the most prolific film star in the Indian film industry.
- He has performed 24,000 dance moves in 537 songs in his 156 films in 45 years.

Pratyasa Ray awarded with Ekalabya Puraskar

- Pratyasa Ray, a rising star in swimming, was selected for the prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024.
- Ekalabya Puraskar was instituted by a charitable body, IMPaCT (Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust

(IMPACT), in 1993 and managed by IMFA. It is the most prestigious sports award in Odisha.

Deepak Nitrite Chairman & Managing Director, Deepak C Mehta, honoured with ICC Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023

- Visionary industrialist and leader Deepak C Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Deepak Nitrite Limited, has been conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at the 59th ICC Annual Awards Function in Mumbai.
- This distinguished accolade recognises Mehta's remarkable and sustained contribution to India's chemical manufacturing sector over several decades.

SPORTS NEWS

India wins historic double team gold at FIDE Chess Olympiad 2024

- India's chess masters have created history by winning team gold medals in both men's and women's competitions at the 45th International Chess Federation (FIDE) Chess Olympiad in Budapest.
- In the finals, the men's team defeated Slovenia and the members of the team were Gukesh Dommaraju, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi.
- In the finals, the women's team defeated Azerbaijan and the members of the women's team were Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Divya Deshmukh, and Vantika Agrawal.

Vithya Ramraj breaks P.T. Usha's 39-year-old 400m Hurdles Meet Record

- R Vithya Ramraj eclipsed PT Usha's 39-year-old meet record in the women's 400m hurdles with a time of 56.23 seconds at the 63rd National Open Athletics Championships.
- The previous record was set at 56.80 seconds by the legendary Indian athlete P.T. Usha in 1985.

14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024

- Punjab won the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024 after beating Uttar Pradesh.

- The finals were held at Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, Punjab.

Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2024

- Indian men's hockey team won their fifth Asian Champions Trophy after defeating China 1-0 in the final.
- The final was held at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir, China.
- With this, India has won the most Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy. The first edition of the Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy was played in 2011.

Malaysia's iconic Shah Alam Stadium demolished

- Malaysia's iconic Shah Alam Stadium, which once had a capacity of 80,000 people, has been demolished due to safety concerns and years of poor maintenance.
- The stadium, once one of the largest in the world, was declared unsafe in 2020.

Jasprit Bumrah completes 400 international wickets

- Jasprit Bumrah claimed the 400th wicket in his international career, comprising Test, ODI and T20I cricket. He equalled the number of wickets claimed by former England bowler Andrew Flintoff. While Flintoff achieved the feat in 227 matches, Bumrah did it in 196.
- The list is topped by Sri Lankan legend Muthiah Muralidaran. He claimed 1,347 wickets in 495 matches. For India, Anil Kumble holds the record for the most wickets in international cricket. The former leg-spinner took 956 wickets in 403 matches.

Anuya Prasad wins air pistol gold in World Deaf Shooting Championship

- Anuya Prasad won the women's air pistol gold with a 10.3 last shot to beat Sofia Olenych of Ukraine by 0.1 point.
- Ukrainian Halyna Mosina finished third with 208.5 (554) points.
- India's Pranjali Dhumal qualified with a world record of 568 but finished fourth in the final behind another Halyna.

Sangram Singh becomes the first Indian male wrestler to win a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fight

- International wrestler and Commonwealth Heavyweight Wrestling champion Sangram Singh made a triumphant debut in MMA.
- This remarkable feat marks the fastest win ever recorded by an Indian fighter in the 93 kg division and is a significant milestone for Indian sports, particularly in the world of MMA.

2024 Hangzhou Open Tennis: Jeevan & Vijay Sundar win the doubles title

- Indian duo Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won the Hangzhou Open 2024 title after beating German pair Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens in the men's doubles final.
- This is their first ATP title together as a pair.
- The Hangzhou Open Tennis Championship was held in Hangzhou, China.

Siddhartha Aggarwal becomes the oldest Indian to swim across the English Channel solo

- Siddhartha Agarwal became the oldest Indian swimmer to swim across the English Channel (between England and France).
- He took 15 hours and six minutes to complete the distance of 42 km.

NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) claims Historic Durand Cup Title

- The NorthEast United FC defeated 17-time winner Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) by 4-3 to clinch its maiden Durand Cup.
- The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup was held across four cities: Kolkata, Kokrajhar (Assam), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), and Shillong (Meghalaya).

- The Durand Cup is the oldest football tournament in India and Asia.

Diamond League Final- Neeraj Chopra wins the silver

- Neeraj Chopra finished second for the second consecutive year with a best throw of 87.86m.
- He missed out on the Diamond League title by just 0.01m as he finished second.
- Anderson Peters won the Diamond Trophy in 2024, which was held at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels.

Deepali Thapa Makes History as the First Schoolgirl Champion

- Indian boxer Deepali Thapa has made history by becoming the first-ever Asian Schoolgirl Champion in Al Ain, UAE.
- Her victory led India to secure seven female titles at the Asian Championships.
- In the 33 kg weight category, Thapa defeated Ukraine's Liudmyla Vasylychenko in the final.

Lord's to host the 2025 final ICC World Test Championship (WTC)

- The ICC World Test Championship Final will take place at Lord's Cricket Ground from June 11 to 15, 2025, with the reserve day on 16 June.
- Lord's is often referred to as the 'Home of Cricket.'

Syria won the fourth Intercontinental Cup Football Championship

- Syria defeated India 3-0 in the last round-robin match to win the fourth Intercontinental Cup men's football championship.
- The tournament was held at the GMC Balayogi Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) organised this year's Intercontinental Cup, which saw participation from three teams: India, Syria, and Mauritius.

Bihar's Rajgir to Host 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy

- The Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 hockey tournament will be hosted in Rajgir, Bihar.
- The tournament will take place at the newly constructed Rajgir Hockey Stadium, where India will defend their title against teams from China, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, and Korea.

PARALYMPICS 2024

- The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games were held from August 28 to September 8, 2024, in Paris, France.
- China (221) topped the medal tally, followed by Great Britain (124) and the United States (105) and second and third positions, respectively.
- Paralympics 2024 was India's most successful stint, with India winning 29 medals—7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India finished at the 18th place in the overall medal tally.
- Gold medal-winning archer Harvinder Singh and sprinter Preeti Pal were India's flag bearers for the closing ceremony of the Paris Paralympics 2024.

Name of the Athlete	Sports	Medals	Record (If any)
Harvinder Singh	Archery (Men's Individual Recurve Open Archery)	Gold	First Indian archer in the history of the Paralympics to win the gold medal
Sumit Antil	Athletics (Men's Javelin Throw F64)	Gold	First Indian male para-athlete to defend his title and is a double gold medalist
Dharambir	Athletics (Men's club throw F51 event)	Gold	Set an Asian record with his throw of 34.92 m
Praveen Kumar	Athletics (Men's high jump T64)	Gold	Set a new Asian record of 2.08 metres
Navdeep Singh	Athletics (Men's Javelin Throw F41)	Gold	
Nitish Kumar	Badminton (Men's Singles SL3)	Gold	
Avani Lekhara	Shooting (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1)	Gold	First Indian woman to win two gold medals at the Paralympic Games.
Nishad Kumar	Athletics (High jump T47 category)	Silver	
Yogesh Kathunia	Athletics (Para Discus Throw F56 category)	Silver	
Sachin Khilari	Athletics (Shot put F46)	Silver	
Pranav Soorma	Athletics (Men's Club Throw F51 category)	Silver	
Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Silver	
Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Silver	Only Indian para-badminton player to win medals at the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics Games.
Manish Narwal	Shooting (P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1)	Silver	
Ajeet Singh	Athletics (Men's javelin F46)	Silver	
Rakesh Kumar & Sheetal Devi	Shooting (Mixed team compound open archery)	Bronze	
Preethi Pal	Athletics (Women's T35 category-100m and 200m events)	Bronze (2)	First Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at a single Paralympic Games.

Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics (Women's 400m T20 class)	Bronze	First intellectually impaired Indian athlete to win a Paralympic medal
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Bronze	Triple Paralympics medalist
Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics (Men's javelin F46)	Bronze	
Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics (Shot Put F57)	Bronze	
Simran	Athletics (Women's 200m T12 class)	Bronze	
Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Bronze	
Nithya Sresivan	Badminton	Bronze	
Kapil Parmar	Judo (Men's -60kg J1)	Bronze	First Indian to win a Paralympic medal in judo
Mona Agarwal	Shooting (R2 Women 10m Air Rifle SH1 event)	Bronze	
Rubina Francis	Shooting (P2 10 m air pistol SH1 event)	Bronze	First Indian woman to clinch a Paralympics medal in pistol shooting by winning a bronze

QUICK POINTS (NEWS IN SHORT)

- Maharashtra will establish a Tribal University in Nashik, Maharashtra. It will have 80% reservation for students from tribal communities.
- India's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vultures was inaugurated in Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur forest division, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet approved Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd. to establish a new semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat. It will be India's fifth semiconductor facility and is part of the country's efforts to build a robust semiconductor ecosystem.
- Karnataka launched the 'Nambike Nakshe' scheme (faith map) that allows property owners to build homes on a plot measuring up to 50 × 80 square feet by obtaining online approvals, thus eliminating the requirement to visit the BBMP office.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Subhadra Yojana, the Odisha government's scheme to transfer ₹10,000 per year for five years to eligible women beneficiaries in the state between the ages of 21 and 60.
- The Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) has launched India's first comprehensive cancer multi-omics data portal that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients, integrated with clinical outcomes.
- India has launched its first CO₂-to-Methanol pilot plant in Pune with a capacity of 1.4 TPD, developed through a collaboration between IIT Delhi and Thermax Limited. It was supported by the Department of Science and Technology, aiming to enhance Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technologies and promote methanol-blended diesel to reduce crude oil imports.
- The Telangana State government has decided to celebrate September 17th, the day on which Hyderabad State was integrated into the Indian Union in 1948, as the Telangana Praja Palana Day, the Day of People's Governance.
- India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility will be established in Odisha at an investment of ₹620 crore. It will be developed by RIR Power Electronics Limited.
- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet allocates ₹5000 crore for MSME credit guarantee fund, focusing on job creation and infrastructure development.
- Madhya Pradesh government has launched the 'Brindavan Gram' scheme to transform selected gram panchayats into model villages with a focus on cow

conservation, rural development, and an increase in milk production.

- The Telangana government has launched the 'Telangana Darshini' educational tour program to provide students with immersive learning experiences outside their classrooms.
- Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena launched the Dust Free Drive across the cities to combat Air Pollution across the city.
- Kaziranga National Park in Assam has achieved a remarkable 86% reduction in rhino poaching since 2016.
- Rajasthan government approved 33% reservation for women in the police force by deciding to amend the State Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989.
- Sharjah has launched the world's first trade licence issued entirely through Artificial Intelligence (AI), which enables entrepreneurs and investors to complete the entire licensing process in less than five minutes.
- Zimbabwe plans to cull 200 elephants to feed communities facing acute hunger after the worst drought in four decades.
- Taiwan has officially recognised same-sex marriages between Taiwanese and Chinese partners. In 2019, Taiwan was the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage.
- Thailand becomes the first Southeast Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage and the third Asian country after Taiwan and Nepal.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a new \$7 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan to boost Pakistan's ailing economy.
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has become the first country in the world to be officially verified as having eliminated leprosy.
- The port city of Volos in central Greece declared a state emergency following an inundation of dead fish that residents say could threaten their livelihoods.
- A national memorial for Queen Elizabeth II will be built in St James's Park, London, near The Mall and Buckingham Palace.
- Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full-time member.
- Europe's top court ruled against Apple in the tech giant's ten-year court battle over its tax affairs in Ireland. It must pay 13 billion euros in taxes.
- The Taiwanese Ministry of National Defence plans to purchase over 1,000 additional Stinger missiles from the US, aiming to enhance its defence capabilities amid rising tensions with China.
- OpenAI has released a new AI model called 'o1' that is capable of solving complex problems faster than a human can, owing to its reasoning capabilities, which are better than other AI models previously developed by Microsoft-backed firms. It has also released a smaller, cheaper version of the o1 called o1-mini.
- Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited have formed a new partnership to enhance India's defence capabilities with the C-130J Super Hercules.
- Dassault Aviation of France has announced the incorporation of a subsidiary company in India, Dassault Aviation MRO India (DAMROI), Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It is dedicated exclusively to the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO).
- Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. has joined forces with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to improve plastic waste management in Mormugao, Vasco.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to surpass ₹10 lakh crore in annual revenue.
- India has officially selected Kiran Rao's Laapata Ladies as its entry for the 2025 Oscars in the Best International Feature Film category.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide ₹530 crore in financial aid to improve drinking water infrastructure across 12 cities in Tripura.