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MONTHLY — Current Affairs

October, 2024

NATIONAL NEWS

AIX Connect complete Merger with AI Express

The Air India Group announced that it has completed the merger of AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with Air India Express (AIX), establishing it as its low-cost division. The DGCA stated that all aircraft from AIX Connect have been seamlessly transferred to AIX's Air Operator Certificate, ensuring that the combined entity's airline operations proceed without interruption. An updated air operator certificate was issued to signify the completion of the consolidation.

Foot notes:

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced the successful completion of the merger between AIX Connect and Air India Express.
- This merger marks a significant milestone in airline consolidation in India.
- The DGCA has granted the necessary regulatory approval for the merger.
- All aircraft from AIX Connect have been seamlessly transferred to AIX's Air Operator Certificate (AOC).
- This ensures that the operations of the combined entity continue without disruption, providing a safe and smooth experience for passengers.

Classical Language Status Granted to Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese

The Union Cabinet granted classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit. This move, which addresses long-standing demands, underscores India's rich linguistic heritage and seeks to preserve and promote these ancient languages.

Foot notes:

- The concept of "Classical Languages" was introduced in 2004, with Tamil being the first to receive the status.
- Criteria for classical status include ancient texts over 1500-2000 years old, a rich literary heritage, and a distinct literary tradition.
- In 2024, the Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) under Sahitya Akademi confirmed that Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali meet the criteria, leading to their inclusion.
- The decision mainly affects Maharashtra (Marathi), Bihar, Assam (Assamese), West Bengal (Bengali), and regions with Pali and Prakrit speakers like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Recognition of these as Classical Languages promotes cultural exploration and preservation.

India Becomes Russia's No. 2 Supplier of Restricted Technology

India has become the second-largest supplier of restricted critical technologies to Russia, supplying microchips, circuits, and machine tools essential to Russia's economy and military during its war efforts. Only China surpasses India in these exports. Indian exports of restricted items surged to \$95 million in July 2024, up from \$60 million in previous months.

Foot notes:

- Officials reported that almost 20% of the sensitive technology used in Russia's military - industrial complex comes from India.
- India is the second-largest supplier of sensitive technologies to Russia, after China.
- Nearly 20% of the technology used in Russia's military-industrial complex comes from India, according to officials.
- US and EU restrictions mainly target technologies found in Russian weaponry or crucial for their production.
- Some officials expressed concern over India's limited response when the issue was raised.

HAL Becomes 14th Maharatna Company

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been granted Maharatna status, becoming the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to achieve this esteemed classification from the Government of India. This announcement, made on October 12, increases HAL's operational autonomy and financial capabilities, enabling the company to invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to Rs. 5,000 crore in foreign ventures without requiring government approval.

Foot notes:

- For Q1 FY25, HAL reported a net profit of 1,437.2 crore, marking a 76.5% increase from 814.2 crore in the same period last year.
- Revenue grew by 11% year-on-year, showcasing strong financial health.
- The Maharatna status grants HAL increased autonomy in decision-making.
- It allows HAL to pursue mergers, acquisitions, and strategic investments without prior government approval.
- This status is vital for boosting HAL's ability to compete globally and undertake major projects in the defence sector.

Nikita Porwal Crowned Femina Miss India 2024

Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh has won the title of Femina Miss India 2024 at the 60th edition of the prestigious beauty pageant, held at Famous Studios in Mumbai. The competition featured 30 contestants, representing all 29 states and one Union Territory. Nikita's exceptional performance earned her the crown and the chance to represent India at the upcoming Miss

World pageant.

Foot notes:

- Nikita Porwal was crowned Femina Miss India 2024 by Nandini Gupta, the 2023 winner, while Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia placed the Miss India sash on her.
- The pageant celebrated talent and beauty, creating a memorable moment for Nikita and her supporters.
- Nikita is from Ujjain, a city known for its rich mythology and cultural heritage.
- Growing up in this environment nurtured her curiosity, critical thinking, and passion for storytelling.
- She completed her schooling at Carmel Convent Senior Secondary School.
- Nikita is pursuing higher education at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, combining academics with her artistic aspirations.

PM Modi Honored with Guard of Honor in Laos Visit

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Laos for the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and 19th East Asia Summit, welcomed by Laos Home Minister Vilawong Budkham with a ceremonial guard of honor. The visit aims to enhance bilateral ties and celebrate the tenth anniversary of India's Act East Policy, focusing on future cooperation strategies.

Foot notes:

- The East Asia Summit will address challenges to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India shares deep cultural ties with the region, particularly with Lao PDR, rooted in Buddhism and the Ramayana.
- PM Modi looks forward to meetings with Lao PDR leadership to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance engagement with ASEAN countries.
- He will hold a bilateral meeting with Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone.
- The ASEAN-India Summit will assess progress in India-ASEAN relations and define future cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

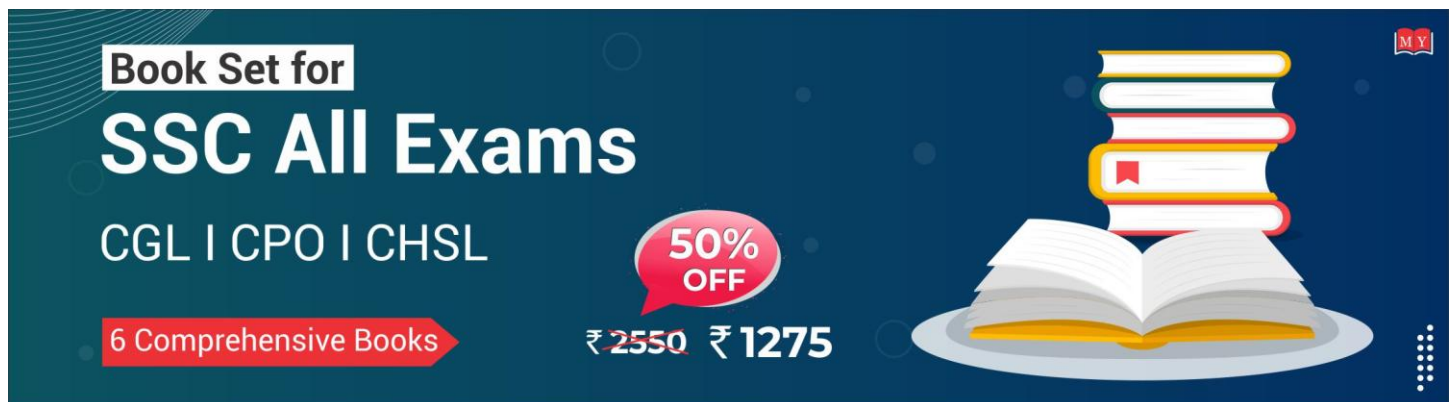
Abu Dhabi Crowned World's Richest City in Sovereign Wealth Funds

As of October 2024, Abu Dhabi has been declared the world's richest city in terms of sovereign wealth, with an estimated capital of \$1.7 trillion. Other major cities, including Oslo, Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh, and Hong Kong, collectively manage two-thirds of the global sovereign wealth fund. This milestone underscores Abu Dhabi's financial strength and strategic

investments.

Foot notes:

- Abu Dhabi is the world's richest city in sovereign wealth, managing \$1.7 trillion as of October 2024.
- Global sovereign wealth fund assets total \$12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024.
- Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) are state-owned entities managing reserves for economic stabilization, future savings, and social programs.
- Their main objectives are long-term capital growth, revenue diversification, and economic stabilization.

**Russia is Largest crude supplier to India**

India's imports of Russian crude increased by 2.5% from April to September compared to the same period last year, reinforcing Russia's position as the largest seaborne crude supplier to India. Russia holds a 39% share of India's crude supply, followed by Iraq at 18% and Saudi Arabia at 13%.

Foot notes:

- Total oil imports to India increased by 4% this year, indicating a rise in demand.
- Russian oil supplies to India grew by 6.4% month-on-month in September, reaching 1.88 million barrels per day.
- As the third-largest oil consumer globally, India imports over 85% of its oil needs from more than 30 countries.
- Discounted crude prices from Russia significantly boost refiners' demand, according to analyst Serena Huang from Vortexa.
- The top three suppliers (Russia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia) have retained their rankings but have lost about 0.5% of their market share compared to last year.

About Russia:

Capital: Moscow

Currency: Russian Ruble

Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin

STATE NEWS

Centre of Excellence Inaugurated by BCCI in Bangalore

The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) has inaugurated state-of-the-art facilities known as the Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru, also referred to as the New National Cricket Academy to enhance cricketing infrastructure. This world-class facility, envisioned by Board Secretary Jay Shah, aims to nurture the future of cricket.

Foot notes:

- The Centre of Excellence features 45 outdoor net pitches for practice, organized into nine clusters.
- Pitches include Mumbai red soil, Mandya soil, Kalahandi black cotton soil, and concrete, all separated by safety nets imported from the UK.
- The South Pavilion is a G+2 structure covering 45,000 square feet.
- It includes one of the largest dressing rooms, nearly 3,000 square feet, equipped with a jacuzzi, lounge, massage room, kit room, and restrooms.
- The facility will also feature a Hall of Fame, showcasing India's rich cricketing legacy and the importance of cricket culture and values in the country.

About Bangalore:

Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah

Governor: Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot

PM Modi inaugurates Gaushala with Bio-CNG plant in M.P

On Gandhi Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Lal Tipara Gaushala with a Bio-CNG plant in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The plant, set up in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation, can produce three tonnes of natural gas daily from 100 tonnes of cow dung. Modi also launched development projects worth Rs 685 crore.

Foot notes:

- It is India's first modern, self-reliant gaushala.
- The Bio-CNG plant will also produce 20 tonnes of high-quality organic manure.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will assist with plant operation and maintenance.
- The Gaushala was developed at a cost of Rs 32 crore from IOC's CSR fund.
- One hectare of land is reserved for future expansion.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav attended the inauguration virtually from Bhopal.

The Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed

The Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed 'Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University', as Eknath Shinde announced. The decision pays tribute to Ratan Tata, a renowned industrialist and philanthropist, who died at the Breach Candy Hospital. The state Cabinet also passed a resolution urging the central government to honour Ratan Tata with Bharat Ratna.

Foot notes:

- Tata is recognized as a key figure in Indian industry, significantly contributing to various sectors and supporting skill development.
- Apoorva Palkar, the university's founding vice-chancellor, stated that renaming Kaushalya Vidyapeeth honors Tata's legacy.
- This renaming aligns with the institution's mission to equip industries with skilled manpower and empower future professionals.
- The initiative also aims to strengthen Maharashtra's position in supplying skilled workers to the country.

Telangana Women and Child Welfare Minister D. Anasuya Sitakka launched 'Rojgar Portal' for the disabled

Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya inaugurated the Telangana Handicapped Job Portal at the secretariat on Monday. She also handed out appointment orders to 10 individuals registered with the women's welfare directorate helpline. "Physical disabilities are beyond our control, which is why we launched this online job portal to provide job opportunities for disabled individuals, so they don't have to visit offices," she said.

Foot notes:

- The Telangana Handicapped Job Portal, accessible at pwdjobportal.telangana.gov.in, connects individuals with disabilities to job opportunities in private organizations based on their qualifications.
- Minister Danasari Anasuya handed appointment orders to 10 candidates for roles in the Directorate of Women's Welfare helpline.
- The government is allocating 5% of welfare funds to support disabled individuals and working toward a 4% job reservation for them in the private sector.
- The online portal allows disabled people to apply for jobs without physically visiting companies, with companies hiring based on qualifications.
- The Minister encouraged the disabled community to stay united and report any challenges they encounter.

About Telangana:

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma

Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy

Odisha adjudged 'Best State' in 5th National Water Awards

Odisha has been recognized as the 'Best State' in the 5th National Water Awards for its outstanding water conservation efforts in recent years. Uttar Pradesh took second place, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared the third spot. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, CR Paatil, announced the winners at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, on Monday. In addition, Odisha's Balangir district was named the Best District in the East Zone, and Puri secured second place in the Best Urban Local Body category.

Foot notes:

- Odisha has built around 53,000 water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, along with 10,800 reuse and recharge structures.
- The state has renovated 11,000 traditional water bodies and carried out watershed development in 68,700 locations.
- 21,000 wastewater treatment plants have been constructed.
- Renovation of 1,800 km of drainage channels has recovered 39,000 hectares of agricultural land from water logging.
- Over 90,900 hectares of irrigated land have been converted to micro-irrigation systems, benefiting 87,000 farmers.
- Odisha has planted 9 crore trees as part of intensive afforestation efforts.

About Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Bird: Indian roller

Official language: Odia

Senior BJP Leader Nayab Singh Sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister

BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second time on Thursday, October 17. The oath-taking ceremony, held in Panchkula, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other senior BJP leaders. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Saini. Several cabinet ministers, including Anil Vij, Vipul Goyal, Mahipal Dhandha, and Krishan Lal Panwar, were also sworn in during the event.

Foot notes:

- Massive security arrangements were made for the swearing-in ceremony in Panchkula, attended by around 50,000 people at Dussehra Ground, Sector 5.

- Notable attendees included Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai, and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.
- Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Manohar Lal Khattar were also present at the ceremony.

About Haryana:

Chief Minister: Nayab Singh Saini

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrassas to strengthen the educational curriculum and support students' academic growth. The board is planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department to formalize the change. This initiative will impact over 70,000 students, with discussions already underway and a formal proposal drafted.

Foot notes:

- The UMEB plans to sign an MoU with the state's Sanskrit department to introduce Sanskrit in 416 madrassas.
- In addition to Sanskrit, the board is considering adding computer studies to the curriculum.
- The introduction of the NCERT syllabus has led to over 95% student success this year.
- UMEB chairperson Mufti Shamoon Qasmi believes Sanskrit will further enhance students' educational growth.
- Arabic is already taught in over 100 madrassas and integrating both Arabic and Sanskrit aims to create a diverse linguistic environment.
- Waqf board chairperson Shadab Shams aims to transform 117 registered madrassas into model institutions promoting national values and modern education.

About Uttarakhand:

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisen (Summer)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Bihar Government to Establish Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as State's Second Tiger Reserve

The Bihar government is set to establish the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) as the state's

second tiger reserve. With the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) already at capacity, the government is finalizing plans to translocate some tigers to KWLS. The sanctuary covers an area of 1,504.96 square kilometers. Currently, VTR is home to 54 tigers. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has granted in-principle approval for developing KWLS into a tiger reserve during its 12th technical committee meeting.

Foot notes:

- Kaimur district's geography is crucial for establishing a tiger reserve, featuring two distinct regions: the hilly Kaimur plateau and the plains along the Karmnasa and Durgavati rivers.
- These diverse landscapes provide a variety of habitats, making Kaimur an ideal location for tiger conservation.
- The district has significant forest cover, including the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, which spans 986 sq km, and a total forest area of 1,134 sq km.
- Kaimur's strategic location near Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh highlights its importance as a potential wildlife corridor between states.

About Bihar:

Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Capital: Patna

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary, Nagi Dam Bird Sanctuary

UP awarded 2nd 'Best State' by President Murmu

Uttar Pradesh secured second place in water conservation and management at the National Water Awards, presented by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. Banda district from UP was also recognized as the best district in the North Zone for its outstanding efforts in water management. Odisha claimed the top spot among states, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared third place. The event opened with the traditional 'Jal Kalash' ceremony.

Foot notes:

- President Droupadi Murmu commended the award winners for their significant contributions to water conservation, emphasizing their role in inspiring future generations.
- She highlighted the effective execution of the Jal Jeevan Mission by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which focuses on access to safe drinking water as a fundamental right.

- The President called for collective efforts from the public and government to achieve a "water secure India," advocating for Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) in every home.
- President Murmu and Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil acknowledged Uttar Pradesh's success in providing tap water to every household and its innovative water conservation strategies, particularly in Bundelkhand and Vindhya.
- In 2023, UP set a record by providing tap water connections to over 17,900 villages, marking the fastest implementation of the Har Ghar Nal Se Jal scheme.

About UP:**Capital:** Lucknow**Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath

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BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

Paytm Receives NPCI Approval to Onboard New UPI Users

The National Payments Corporation of India has approved Paytm to onboard new UPI users, following earlier restrictions. This approval is significant after the Reserve Bank of India imposed limits on Paytm Payments Bank Limited for new UPI user onboarding. Paytm can now facilitate UPI transactions through SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank as a Third-Party Application Provider.

Foot notes:

- One97 Communications Ltd, Paytm's parent company, has received NPCI approval to resume onboarding new UPI users.
- The approval, given in a letter dated October 22, is contingent on following NPCI's procedural guidelines.
- Paytm's onboarding was paused earlier in 2024 due to RBI directives.
- The company had requested NPCI's permission to resume onboarding in August.

HDFC Life Recognized for Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

HDFC Life has been honored by Avtar and Seramount as one of the Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI), recognized for creating supportive environments for women in the BFSI sector. HDFC Life also received the 'Exemplars of Inclusion' award in the Most Inclusive Companies Index (MICI) for its efforts in fostering inclusion for women, PwD, LGBTQ+, and diverse communities.

Foot notes:

- HDFC Life emphasizes the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in its organizational culture, promoting equal opportunities for all.
- The company fosters an environment of equality, encouraging individuals to express themselves, grow, and excel in their fields.
- Vibhash Naik, Chief Human Resources Officer, expressed pride in receiving dual recognition, highlighting that these accolades reflect HDFC Life's commitment to Excellence, People Engagement, Integrity, Customer Centricity, and Collaboration.
- He stressed that employee happiness and growth are key to the company's success, aligning with their motto "Sar Utha Ke Jiyo" for both customers and staff.

About HDFC:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1994

AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS

Adani and Google form Partnership to advance Clean Energy

In a new sustainability partnership, Adani Group will supply renewable energy from its upcoming solar-wind hybrid project in Khavda, Gujarat, to Google starting in 2025. Set to begin commercial operations in Q3 2025, the Khavda project is part of the world's largest renewable energy facility. Adani will leverage its expertise in large-scale renewable projects to provide customized energy solutions that support Google's carbon-free energy goals and reduce the carbon footprints of industrial clients.

Foot notes:

- **Adani's Renewable Energy Strategy:** Expanding in wind, solar, hybrid, and energy storage sectors. Focuses on decarbonizing the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors.
- **Google's Sustainability Goals:** Aims for 24/7 carbon-free energy across global operations. Committed to reducing Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions by 50% by 2030.

- **Power Consumption Agreement (PCA):** Adani Green Energy signed a PCA for 61.4 MW of energy from the Khavda project. Strengthens Adani's role in India's green energy transition.

BEL and Israel Aerospace form Joint Venture Company

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna defence PSU, has collaborated with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defence company, to create a joint venture named BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd. This joint venture, registered in Delhi, will act as the single point of contact (SPOC) for providing long-term product support to the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems used by India's defence forces. BEL, which is headquartered in Bengaluru, will play a key role in this initiative.

Foot notes:

- **Purpose:** Advanced air and missile defence system designed to counter various aerial threats.
- **Key Features:** Includes an Advanced Phased Array Radar, mobile launchers, and interceptors with sophisticated RF seekers.
- **Comprehensive Support:** Offers complete life cycle support, including technical and maintenance services for MRSAM systems.
- **Strengthening Collaboration:** Leverages the strengths of both BEL and IAI to enhance support for the Indian military's defence infrastructure and strategic objectives.

About BEL:

CEO: Manoj Jain

Headquarters: Bangalore

Founded: 1954

Indian Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary Gina Raimondo signed MOU

India and the United States have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains. The agreement aims to leverage the strengths of both countries for the exploration, extraction, processing, recycling, and related activities of critical minerals. It was signed by India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo during the 6th India-US Commercial Dialogue in Washington, DC.

Foot notes:

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal spoke about the MOU at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.
- He held individual meetings with William E. Conway Jr. of Carlyle Group and Julian Nebreda of Fluence Energy during the dialogue.

- At the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), he discussed India's aim to become a leading manufacturing destination and strengthen ties with global supply chains.
- The partnership focuses on fostering open supply chains, technology development, and investment flows.

India, Nepal and Bangladesh Sign Trilateral Agreement for Electricity Export

India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have signed a trilateral agreement to trade 40 megawatts of electricity, marking Nepal's first opportunity to sell electricity to a third country. The deal, finalized in Kathmandu on October 3, was signed by Kulman Ghising of the Nepal Electricity Authority, Mohammad Rezaul Karim of the Bangladesh Power Development Board, and Renu Narang of India's NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam.

Foot notes:

- The signing of the agreement was witnessed by Nepal's Energy Minister Deepak Khadka.
- State Minister for Energy Purna Bahadur Tamang, and Bangladeshi Water Resources Minister Syeda Rizwana Hasan.
- Bangladesh will import 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal, transmitted through Indian territory due to the lack of direct connection between Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Nepal plans to sell 144,000 MWh of electricity annually from mid-June to mid-November at a rate of 6.4 US cents per unit.
- Officials from all three countries hailed the agreement as historic, with Minister Khadka calling it a significant milestone for Nepal's energy sector development.

BPCL Partners with Mumbai Port Authority to launch India's first Green Fuel Ecosystem

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mumbai Port Authority and the Mumbai Port Sustainability Foundation (MPSF) to develop a state-of-the-art green fuel ecosystem at Mumbai Port. This initiative marks a significant step in India's transition to cleaner energy, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the country's climate goals. The press statement emphasized the commitment of BPCL and MPSF to promote sustainable practices in line with India's environmental stewardship.

Foot notes:

- The agreement was signed in the presence of G. Krishnakumar, BPCL's chairman and managing director; Rahul Tandon, business head (I&C) of BPCL and Rajiv Jalota,
- chairperson of the Mumbai Port Authority.
- The MoU was formalized during the inauguration of the Cruise Bharat Mission, led by

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

- Krishnakumar stated that the MoU aligns with BPCL's commitment to sustainability and aims for net zero emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2040.
- He emphasized that promoting sustainable energy solutions like LNG and EV for the maritime sector reflects BPCL's social responsibility and partnership with the communities it serves.

India Signs Host Country Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance

Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER) of the Ministry of External Affairs, and Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) between India and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) today. The Union Cabinet approved the signing and ratification of the HCA, which will allow GBA to establish its Secretariat in India with both Indian and international staff.

Foot notes:

- The HCA will grant GBA necessary legal status, including immunities and privileges under the United Nations (Privilege & Immunities) Act of 1947, facilitating its operations in compliance with Indian laws.
- The GBA, a unique multi stakeholder initiative, was launched during India's G20 Presidency by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and leaders from eight other countries
- India has emerged as the beacon of renewable energy and has already the International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarters in Gurugram.

India Launches First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel 'Samarthak'

On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy achieved a key milestone with the launch of „Samarthak,“ the first ship under the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai. Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, launched the vessel, with Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, presiding over the ceremony. This launch underscores the Navy's dedication to indigenous shipbuilding, supporting the Government of India's „Aatmanirbhar Bharat“ and „Make in India“ initiatives.

Foot notes:

- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with L&T Shipyard to build two MultiPurpose Vessels (MPVs).
- The project aims to strengthen the Indian Navy's operational capabilities using advanced indigenous technologies.
- It is designed for various roles, including ship towing, target launching/recovery,

operating uncrewed autonomous vehicles, and testing indigenous weapons and sensors.

- The launch of „Samarthak“ highlights the Navy’s commitment to indigenous shipbuilding and collaboration with private shipyards for enhanced national security.

DEFENCE NEWS

India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2024 begins

The Eighth edition of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise, KAZIND-2024, began today in Uttarakhand. The Indian Armed Forces, represented by a battalion from the KUMAON Regiment, comprise 120 personnel. This exercise aims to improve joint military capabilities for counter-terrorism operations, focusing on semi-urban and mountainous terrains. It will also promote the sharing of best practices and enhance defence cooperation, interoperability, and camaraderie between the two armies.

Foot notes:

- The Indian Armed Forces are represented by 120 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the KUMAON Regiment, along with additional personnel from other services and the Indian Air Force.
- The Kazakh contingent mainly includes personnel from the Kazakhstan Land Forces and Airborne Assault Troopers, highlighting their commitment to strengthening bilateral military relations.
- KAZIND has been an annual exercise since 2016, facilitating tactical knowledge sharing and improved coordination between the two nations' military forces.
- The joint drills focus on counter-terrorism strategies, peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.

Arti Sarin became 1st Woman Officer as DG of AFMS

Surgeon Vice-Admiral Arti Sarin became the first woman to assume the role of Director-General of the Armed Forces Medical Services, responsible for military medical policies, the Defence Ministry announced. Sarin has served in all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces, starting as a Lieutenant in the Army, advancing to Surgeon Vice-Admiral in the Navy and also serving as an Air Marshal in the Air Force.

Foot notes:

- Surgeon Vice-Admiral Arti Sarin will oversee medical policy matters for the armed forces.
- She is an alumna of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) and was commissioned in December 1985.

- Sarin holds an MD in radiodiagnosis from AFMC and a Diplomate National Board in radiation oncology from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.
- She also received training in gamma knife surgery from the University of Pittsburgh.
- She was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in July 2024.

Safran Set to Launch Its First Electronics Unit in India

French defence conglomerate Safran Group plans to establish its first Defence Electronics unit outside France in India. This decision emerged during a strategic dialogue between India's NSA Ajit Doval and top French officials, including Emmanuel Bonne and Fabien Mandon. France will collaborate with India on advanced materials and metallurgy for military and civilian engine components.

Foot notes:

- The unit will focus on producing sensors and vital electronic components for military platforms, although the exact location is yet to be determined.
- French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation SA is also expanding in India by acquiring land in Jevar, Uttar Pradesh, for a maintenance, overhaul, and repair (MRO) facility for Rafale fighters and civilian aircraft.
- These developments highlight the strengthening defence and aerospace partnership between India and France.



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Kaksar Bridge Renamed in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj

Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu in honor of Capt. Amit Bhardwaj's sacrifice during the Kargil War. The renaming ceremony was attended by key military and civil officials, including CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and Major General K. Mahesh, SM.

Foot notes:

- Dr. Akhoun praised the Indian Army's contributions in Kargil, including education and humanitarian efforts through the Sadbhavana Scheme.
- Capt. Bhardwaj's sister, Sunita Dhonkaria, inaugurated a memorial at the bridge in his honor.

- Capt. Bhardwaj, from the 4 JAT Battalion, died heroically during a 1999 rescue operation against infiltrators in Kaksar.
- The bridge renaming serves as a lasting tribute to his courage and service.

ICMR signed MOU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed an MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) to promote sustainable energy in India's healthcare and research sector. Under this agreement, NVVN will install and maintain rooftop solar panels at 15 ICMR institutes, with a total capacity of 4,559 KW.

Foot notes:

- The project includes a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement, supporting India's renewable energy goals and positioning ICMR as a leader in green energy adoption in healthcare research.
- This initiative aligns with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision and aims to reduce ICMR's carbon footprint and energy costs.
- Seven ICMR institutes have already adopted solar power under previous initiatives.
- The new MoU will expand solar energy efforts to more ICMR institutes.
- It supports the government's goal of adding 50 GW of renewable energy annually.
- Contributes to India's mission of becoming a global clean energy leader by 2030.

Maharashtra & SAI Sign MoU for National Centre of Excellence

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between the Government of Maharashtra and the Sports Authority of India to establish a National Centre of Excellence in Kandivali, Mumbai, in the presence of Union Minister Piyush Goyal. Goyal emphasized the Central Government's efforts to enhance India's performance at global sports events and expressed confidence that India will host the 2036 Olympics, highlighting the Centre's significant role in achieving this goal.

Foot notes:

- The Sports Authority of India plans to develop international-standard sports infrastructure on a 37-acre leased land for 30 years at a nominal rate of Rs. 1 per annum.
- Sports Authority of India plans to develop modern sports infrastructure of international standards at the said land parcel of 37 acres which has been leased for 30 years at the rate of Re. 1 per annum to SAI.
- The proposed Centre of Excellence will feature: Modern athlete hostel buildings, A central kitchen and dining area for athletes, An international-standard hockey turf with a

flood lighting system, A multipurpose sports hall, A high-performance sports science center for injury prevention

Bank of Baroda onboards Sachin Tendulkar as Global Brand Ambassador

Bank of Baroda has signed cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as its global brand ambassador. This partnership aligns with shared values of excellence and trust, as the bank embarks on its next phase of transformation and growth. The bank's first campaign named 'Play The Masterstroke' will also feature the cricketing legend.

Foot notes:

- **Consumer Education:** Focus on financial literacy and fraud prevention programs.
- **Engagement Programs:** Involvement in customer and employee engagement initiatives.
- **New Product Launch:** Bank of Baroda introduced the 'bob Masterstroke Savings Account', a premium savings account.
- **Target Audience:** The account is tailored for clients seeking high-end banking services.
- **Key Features:** It offers best-in-class features, reliability, and focuses on long-term

Financial planning.

RITES & Etihad Rail Sign MoU for Railway Infrastructure Development

RITES Limited signed a MoU with Etihad Rail to enhance cooperation in developing railway infrastructure and services in the UAE. The MoU was signed by RITES CMD Rahul Mithal and Etihad Rail CEO Shadi Malak. The MoU focuses on the supply and leasing of rolling stock, consultancy, project management, and operation. It includes capacity analysis of rail corridors to improve efficiency.

Foot notes:

- MoU includes capacity analysis of UAE rail corridors to improve efficiency and trade routes.
- Focus on innovation and advanced IT for train operations, passenger management, and maintenance.
- Supports India's vision for the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC), linking India to Europe via the Middle East.
- Collaboration on rolling stock supply/leasing, consultancy, project management, and services like repair and maintenance.
- Aims to modernize and enhance railway services in the UAE and the region.

The Indian Navy signed MoU with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

To enhance the welfare of Naval Civilians, the Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance. This initiative is a significant aspect of

2024, designated as the "Year of Naval Civilians." It reflects the Navy's commitment to financial security and inclusivity for its civilian workforce by providing affordable life insurance options, including term insurance, to protect families in case of untimely death.

Foot notes:

- The agreement with Bajaj Allianz offers Naval Civilians voluntary life insurance options at competitive rates.
- The policy provides immediate financial relief to families in case of the employee's death or other covered events.
- This initiative addresses a key concern of the workforce.
- Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla highlighted the partnership's importance, noting that the tailored insurance products demonstrate the Navy's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for civilian.

India-Oman Naval Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr Strengthens Ties

The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman successfully wrapped up their bilateral naval exercise, "Naseem-Al-Bahr," off the coast of Goa. Taking place from October 13 to 18, 2024, the exercise included participation from the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikanth and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, alongside the Royal Navy of Oman vessel RNOV Al Seeb. The primary goal of the exercise was to enhance interoperability through professional exchanges, joint drills, and complex naval maneuvers. It fostered cooperation and understanding between the two navies, reaffirming India's commitment to regional maritime security and collaboration.

Foot notes:

- **Harbour Phase** (October 13-15): Involved professional exchanges, Subject Matter Expert (SME) discussions, planning sessions, sports events, and social engagements to build camaraderie and mutual respect.
- **Sea Phase** (October 16-18): Featured complex naval operations to enhance interoperability and maritime skills.
- **Naval Operations:** Gun firings at surface inflatable targets, Close-range anti-aircraft firings, Maneuvers and Replenishment at Sea Approaches (RASAPS).
- **Collaboration Boost:** Indian Navy personnel spent a day on RNOV Al Seeb, enhancing cooperation and joint learning.
- **Outcome:** The exercise was deemed a major success, achieving its goals of mutual understanding, operational synergy, and best practices exchange. It also reaffirmed India's commitment to strong maritime partnerships in the Indian Ocean Region.

Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps Holds 'Swavlamban Shakti' Exercise

The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command is currently conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi, aiming to enhance combat capabilities by incorporating niche and emerging technologies. The XXI Corps, also known as Sudarshan Chakra Corps, is a strike corps headquartered in Bhopal. The exercise focuses on integrating New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's operational strategies, ensuring readiness for evolving warfare scenarios, and prioritizing critical technologies for future development.

Foot notes:

- Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI was launched in the presence of Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, General Officer Commanding of Sudarshan Chakra Corps.
- A key initiative to promote collaboration between the Indian Army and the defense industry.
- Focuses on boosting indigenous defense manufacturing, especially in drone and anti-drone technologies.
- Provides a platform for young entrepreneurs and MSMEs to showcase and validate their capabilities.

India-Singapore Joint Military Training Exercise 2024

On 21st October 2024, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) commenced their 12th Joint Military Training (JMT) exercise at Air Force Station Kalaikunda in West Bengal. The bilateral phase is scheduled from 13th to 21st November 2024, with the objective of strengthening cooperation between the two air forces.

Foot notes:

- **Focus Areas:** Advanced air combat simulations, joint mission planning, and debriefing sessions to improve performance and learning.
- **Interoperability Goal:** Enhance coordination between IAF and RSAF for seamless joint operations and boost combat readiness.
- Largest contingent ever, including aircrew from F-16 and F-15 squadrons.
- Diverse fleet including Rafale, Mirage 2000 ITI, Su-30 MKI, Tejas, MiG-29, and Jaguar aircraft.
- Established under a bilateral defence cooperation agreement, the JMT exercise has been conducted annually since its inception.
- This year's JMT follows RSAF's participation in Ex-Tarang Shakti, further deepening the relationship between the two air forces.

India-Germany Conduct First Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

The Indian Navy's INS Delhi and the German Navy's frigate Baden-Württemberg, accompanied by the tanker Frankfurt Am Main, conducted their inaugural Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Indian Ocean. The exercise featured cross-deck flying, underway replenishment, weapon firing, and tactical maneuvers, aimed at improving naval interoperability. The MPX seeks to bolster maritime relations between India and Germany.

Foot notes:

- The Indian Navy's Destroyer INS Delhi, German Navy's Frigate Baden-Württemberg, and Tanker Frankfurt Am Main conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Indian Ocean.
- The exercises included cross-deck flying operations, underway replenishment, weapon firing, and tactical maneuvers.
- This inaugural MPX aims to strengthen maritime connections and interoperability between India and Germany's navies.
- INS Delhi is a lead ship of guided missile destroyers in the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet, while Baden-Württemberg is the lead ship of the German Navy's F125 class frigates, and Frankfurt Am Main is a Berlin-class replenishment ship.
- The exercise featured advanced maritime operations with the German Navy's Sea Lynx helicopter, showcasing professionalism and commitment to collaboration.
- The MPX reinforces strong bilateral naval ties and the Indian Navy's dedication to fostering partnerships with navies worldwide.

NTPC & Indian Army to Set Up Solar Hydrogen Microgrid in Ladakh

NTPC and the Indian Army have partnered to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid in Chushul, Ladakh. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the project's foundation stone through video conferencing. This green hydrogen microgrid will replace diesel generators, providing sustainable energy for off-grid Army posts and is designed to operate reliably even in harsh winter conditions.

Foot notes:

- **Microgrid Design:** NTPC has developed an innovative microgrid system that will generate 200 kW of power year-round using hydrogen for energy storage.
- **Replacement of Diesel Generators:** This project aims to replace existing diesel generators in remote Army locations at an altitude of 4,400 meters, where temperatures can drop to -30°C .
- **Long-term Maintenance:** NTPC will maintain the microgrid for 25 years, ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply for soldiers in challenging environments.

- **Advantages of Solar-Hydrogen Microgrid:** The system integrates renewable energy, offers stable power in adverse conditions, reduces carbon emissions, and promotes a cleaner energy ecosystem with scalability for various applications.
- **Self-sufficiency in Ladakh:** Given Ladakh's high solar irradiance and low temperatures, the project enhances energy self-sufficiency and eliminates reliance on fuel logistics in remote areas.
- **Additional Initiatives:** NTPC has initiated a trial run of a hydrogen bus in Leh, along with plans for a hydrogen fueling station, a solar plant, and five fuel cell buses for intracity routes in Leh to support its renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals.

GRSE launches 7th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

The seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), Abhay, was launched on October 25 at L&T, Kattupalli. Built by GRSE, Abhay is part of an eight-ship contract with the Ministry of Defence, set to replace the older Abhay-class ASW corvettes. With over 80% indigenous materials, the project supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat, boosting local production, employment, and self-reliance in defense shipbuilding.

Foot notes:

- **Vessel Series:** The ship is the seventh in an eight-ship ASW SWC series, part of a 2019 contract between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and GRSE.
- **Replacement Initiative:** Arnala-class ships will replace the existing Abhay-class ASW corvettes in service with the Indian Navy.
- **Operational Capabilities:** Designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, these vessels also conduct Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine-laying activities.
- **Specifications:** Each 77-meter-long and 10-meter-wide warship is engineered for subsurface surveillance, capable of tracking surface and underwater targets, and conducting coordinated anti-submarine operations with aircraft.
- **Performance:** The ASW SWCs are waterjet-propelled, reaching speeds up to 25 knots, providing agility in tactical situations.
- **Armament:** Equipped with an advanced anti-submarine warfare suite, including lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, mines, a 30 mm Close-in Weapon System (CIWS), and 12.7 mm Stabilized Remote-Control Guns.
- **Surveillance Systems:** Fitted with Hull Mounted Sonar and Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar for comprehensive underwater detection and engagement in anti-submarine operations.

- **INS Abhay:** The lead vessel of the Abhay-class ASW corvettes, commissioned in 1989, is set for decommissioning after 35 years of service, making way for the new technologically advanced ASW platforms.

SPORTS NEWS

Indian weightlifter Maibam Martina Devi shatters national record

Competing at the junior world championships, teenage Indian weightlifter Maibam Martina Devi made headlines by breaking the senior national record in clean and jerk, as well as in total lift, in the women's +87kg weight category with an impressive performance in Leon. The 18-year-old from Manipur also improved her own junior national record in the snatch. However, she did not finish on the podium in any of the three categories.

Foot notes:

- This lifted her to sixth place in the competition, a significant achievement for an 18-yearold competing against some of the best junior weightlifters globally.
- India's Martina Devi Maibam set two national records in the women's +87kg event at the
- IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2024 in Leon, Spain.
- The 18-year-old Indian weightlifter lifted a total of 237kg (101kg in snatch and 136kg in clean and jerk) to secure sixth place.

Jasmine Shekar wins 13th Leg of Women's Pro Golf Tour

Jasmine Shekar stumbled on the last two holes in the third and final round but still claimed victory by two strokes in the 13th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at Golden Greens Golf Club on Friday. The 19-year-old secured her first title after starting the day with a four-shot lead heading into the 17th hole. Both Hitaashee Bakshi and Ridhima Dilawari finished with par on the final three holes, allowing Jasmine to triumph with a score of 2-under 214.

Foot notes:

- Jasmine and Ridhima shared the 36-hole lead.
- Jasmine started strong with birdies on the 3rd and 6th holes. She ended the front nine at 1-under despite a double bogey on the 7th
- She birdied the 9th and then the 11th to extend her lead. After five pars, Jasmine bogeyed the 17th and 18th holes.

Gulveer Singh bags gold in men's 5000m at Yogibo Athletics Challenge Cup

Indian athlete Gulveer Singh has achieved another significant milestone by setting a new national record in the men's 5000m at the Yogibo Athletics Challenge Cup, part of the World Athletics Continental Tour in Niigata, Japan. He recorded an impressive time of 13:11.82 to

win the gold medal, breaking his previous record from earlier this year by more than seven seconds.

Foot notes:

- Gulveer Singh's recent achievement solidifies his status as one of India's top long-distance runners.
- In June 2024, he broke Avinash Sable's 5000m national record of 13:18.92 set in 2023 at the Portland Track Festival.
- His consistent improvement reflects his dedication and focus.

Carlos Alcaraz Wins First China Open Title, Defeating Jannik Sinner

Carlos Alcaraz claimed his first China Open title with a thrilling victory over world No. 1 Jannik Sinner. In a fiercely contested match, Alcaraz battled back from a set down to win 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), earning his fourth ATP title of the year and the 16th of his career.

Foot notes:

- Carlos Alcaraz defeated world No. 1 Jannik Sinner in a thrilling final lasting 3 hours and 21 minutes, ending Sinner's 14-match winning streak.
- **First Set:** Alcaraz led 3-1 but lost in a tiebreak after Sinner saved set points, marking Alcaraz's first dropped set of the week.
- **Second Set:** Alcaraz broke Sinner's serve at 5-4 to win and force a third set.
- **Final Set:** Alcaraz came back from 0-3 in the tiebreak to secure victory, showcasing great resilience.
- Alcaraz will return to world No. 2, maintaining his strong 2024 form.

Parth Mane won double gold at the ISSF Junior World Championship

Parth Mane claimed the title of World Junior Champion by winning the air rifle gold medal at the World Junior Shooting Championship in Lima, Peru. He triumphed over China's Huang Liwanlin by a narrow margin of 0.7 points. Despite trailing before the final shot, where the Chinese competitor had scored a perfect 10.9, Parth delivered a 10.6 on his last shot, while Huang managed only 9.6, securing the gold for Mane.

Foot notes:

- Mane delivered an impressive performance in the 24-shot final, scoring 250.7.
- He narrowly defeated China's junior Asian champion, Huang Liwanlin, by 0.7 points.
- Braden Peiser from the USA won the bronze medal. Victor Lindgren of Sweden, a silver medallist at the Paris Olympics, finished in fourth place.
- India was on top of the medals table with five gold and three bronze. China was second with two gold and a silver.

Mumbai Clinches 15th Irani Cup Title

The Irani Cup title has finally returned to Mumbai after a 27-year drought. Under the leadership of Ajinkya Rahane, the reigning Ranji champions drew the match against the Rest of India, securing victory thanks to their first-innings lead in the five-day contest.

Foot notes:

- **First Innings:** Mumbai invited to bat first after losing the toss. Shreyas Iyer and Captain Ajinkya Rahane formed a solid partnership. Mumbai ended their innings at 537 all out.
- **Second Innings:** Rest of India batted, with Abhimanyu Easwaran scoring a valiant 191. He received support from Dhruv Jurel, who scored 93. Rest of India finished their innings with 416 runs.
- **Third Innings:** Mumbai, after taking the first-innings lead, scored 329 runs, losing 8 wickets. Lower-order batter and spinner Tanush Kotian scored a commendable century.
- **Winner:** Mumbai (based on first-innings lead)
- **Player of the Match:** Sarfaraz Khan (for his double century in the first innings)

UP team won 14th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2024

Uttar Pradesh Hockey triumphed over Haryana 7-3 to become the champions of the 14th Hockey India Sub-Junior Men National Hockey Championship, held at the Sector 42 Sports Complex. The undefeated UP team dominated the one-sided final to secure their victory.

Foot notes:

- Uttar Pradesh Hockey became champions after defeating Hockey Haryana 7-3 in the final of the 14th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship.
- Ujjwal Pal was the standout player, scoring four goals (12', 24', 35', 47').
- Rahul Yadav added two goals (5', 26'), while Shahrukh Ali contributed one goal (53').
- For Hockey Haryana, Chirag scored two goals (10', 58') and Happy added one (52').
- Earlier, Hockey Punjab claimed third place by beating the Hockey Association of Odisha.

Indian trio wins team Gold medal at ISSF Junior World Championship 2024

The Indian trio of Raajwardan Patil, Mukesh Nelavalli, and Harsimar Singh Rattha clinched the team gold medal in the 25m Men's Rapid Fire Pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Championship 2024, held in Lima, Peru.

Foot notes:

- Raajwardan Patil and Mukesh Nelavalli reached the individual final but finished fourth and fifth, respectively.
- Patil scored 579-17x in the qualifiers to place third, while Nelavalli shot 579-15x for fourth.
- Harsimar Singh Rattha ranked 13th with a score of 564-10x.

- The Indian team secured gold with a combined score of 1722-42x, defeating France (1701- 44x) and Poland (1701-36x).
- USA and Italy each won two gold medals, along with silver and bronze medals.

Divanshi Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol for India

Divanshi scored 35 in the final win against Italy's Cristina Magnani, having qualified for the final in fifth place with a score of 577. Alongside Tejaswani and Vibhuti Bhatia, she also secured the team gold, contributing to India's medal tally. Additionally, the 25-metre sports pistol event brought two more gold medals, with Mukesh Nelavalli winning the junior men's individual gold and the team gold alongside Suraj Sharma and Padhyumn Singh.

Foot notes:

- Divanshi achieved a remarkable victory in the women's 25m pistol event, scoring 35 in the final to defeat Italy's Cristina Magnani by two points.
- She had a tough road to gold after missing seven of her first 15 targets in the individual final, putting her in sixth position initially. She recovered brilliantly, hitting 16 of her next 20 to move up to second with three more series of five shots remaining in the 10-series final.
- In the 10th and final series, Divanshi matched her score of four hits from the ninth series, securing her victory.
- She qualified for the final by finishing fifth with a score of 577 in the precision and rapidfire rounds, each consisting of 30 shots.

'Raksha Kandasamy' won the Croatia International and Belgium Junior Tournament Titles

Young Indian badminton player Raksha Kandasamy extended her impressive streak by securing consecutive titles at the Croatian International and Belgium Junior tournaments. The 16-year-old showcased her dominance by remaining undefeated in both events, winning all five of her matches on her path to victory.

Foot notes:

- Raksha Kandasamy defeated England's Leona Lee 21-9, 21-5 to win the Croatian International final in Samobor on Sunday.
- In the semifinals, she overcame Bulgaria's Stefani Stoeva 21-14, 21-23, and in the quarterfinals, she beat Poland's Joanna Rudna 21-11, 21-10.
- In the Belgium Junior tournament, Raksha dominated Belgium's Tammi van Wonterghem 21-5, 21-8 in the quarterfinals.
- Ireland's Siofra Flynn put up a tough fight in the semifinals, but Raksha won 21-8, 19-21, 25-23.

- Raksha secured the Belgium Junior title by defeating Germany's Gloria Poluektov 21-14, 10-21, 22-20 in the final in Herstal.

India's Great Virat Kohli Achieved the Fastest 27000 Runs Milestone

Virat Kohli became the fastest cricketer to reach 27,000 international runs, surpassing the previous record held by Sachin Tendulkar. He achieved this milestone during the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur.

Foot notes:

- The 35-year-old Virat Kohli has reached 27,000 runs across all formats, entering an elite group of batters that includes Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, and Kumar Sangakkara.
- He surpassed Tendulkar's record to become the fastest batter to reach 27,000 runs, achieving the milestone in just 594 innings.
- This is 29 innings quicker than Tendulkar, who reached the same milestone in 623 innings in 2007.
- Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara achieved the mark in 2015 during his 648th innings.
- Ricky Ponting reached the milestone in his 650th innings for Australia.



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Animesh Kujur wins 200m gold in Indian Open U23 Athletics

Odisha sprinter Animesh Kujur claimed his second gold medal at the Indian Open U23 Athletics Competition. He won the men's 200m final with a meet record time of 20.65 seconds, surpassing his previous record of 20.87 seconds set in 2023. This victory followed his 100m dash win just earlier, where he secured his first gold with a time of 10.40 seconds.

Foot notes:

- Animesh Kujur from Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High Performance Centre (HPC), won gold in both the 100m and 200m events.
- His dominant performances in both sprints earned him the Best Athlete (Male) award at the tournament.

About Odisha:

Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Governor: Raghubar Das

India breaks World record with fastest 50,100 and 200 in Test Cricket History

India set a new record for the fastest team fifty in Test cricket, reaching the milestone in just three overs on day four of the second Test against Bangladesh, surpassing England's previous record. Rohit Sharma was eventually bowled by Mehidy Hasan Miraz after scoring 23 off 11 balls. Earlier in July, England broke a 30-year-old record by reaching 50 runs in 4.2 overs against the West Indies at Trent Bridge.

Foot notes:

- Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal employed an aggressive, T20-style approach.
- They achieved the fastest fifty in Test cricket history, reaching 50 runs in just 3 overs against Bangladesh.
- The record was set on the fourth day of the second Test at Green Park, Kanpur.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal contributed 30 runs off 13 balls, while Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten with 19 runs from 6 balls.

India won seven medals at the Junior World Wushu Championships 2024

The Indian team won seven medals at the Junior World Wushu Championship in Brunei, claiming two gold, one silver and four bronze medals. Aryan secured gold in the Boys' Junior 48 kg category, defeating China's Gong Huanran, while Shaurya earned gold in the Boys' 48kg (children) category by beating Iran's Alireza Zamani.

Foot notes:

- The Indian team won seven medals, including two golds, at the Junior World Wushu Championship in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.
- Aryan claimed gold in the Boys' Junior 48 kg category, defeating China's Gong Huanran.
- Nang Mingbi Borphukan earned a silver medal in the Taolu Jian Shu C Group event.
- Tanish Nagar (56kg) won bronze after losing to Uzbekistan's Abdulkhamid Odilov.
- Abhijeet (60kg), Divyanshi (60kg women), and Yuvraj (42kg) also took home bronze Medals.

Indian Pair Clinches Bronze in ISSF Junior World Championship

At the ISSF Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru, the Indian duo of Gautami Bhanot and Ajay Malik secured a Bronze medal by defeating Croatia 17-9 in the Air Rifle mixed event. China claimed the Gold in this event, overcoming France. In the Air Pistol mixed event, India earned another Bronze as Lakshita and Pramod triumphed over Kanishka Dagar and Mukesh

Nellavani 16-8. With these victories, India maintained its lead in the championship, boasting a total of five medals—two Gold and three Bronze.

Foot notes:

- The ISSF Junior World Championship, India's young shooters secured two bronze medals.
- India's total medal count now stands at five (two gold, three bronze), keeping them at the top of the standings.
- In the mixed pistol event, both Indian pairs placed third and fourth in qualification, setting up a bronze medal match between them.

Indian Pair Clinches Bronze in ISSF Junior World Championship

Rohit Sharma officially launched his new cricket academy in Rashin, Karjat, Maharashtra, drawing enthusiastic support from fans. Accompanied by Maharashtra Cricket Association president Rohit Pawar, Sharma shared his vision for the academy as a training ground for future cricket stars, expressing hope that talents like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, and Jasprit Bumrah will emerge from it.

Foot notes:

- Team India captain Rohit Sharma inaugurated the Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Cricket Academy and Sports Complex in Rashin, Karjat Taluka, enhancing rural sports development.
- The event, led by Karjat-Jamkhed MLA Rohit Pawar, drew a large crowd of enthusiastic cricket fans.
- Rohit Sharma connected emotionally with the audience, praising the region and its potential to nurture future cricketers.
- MLA emphasized region's importance and necessity for ongoing development of sports infrastructure.

Inter Miami Wins 3-2 against Columbus in Major League Soccer

Lionel Messi scored twice to lead Inter Miami to a 3-2 victory over the defending MLS champion, the Columbus Crew, securing the Supporters' Shield for the best regular season record. Messi had been quiet until the 45th minute, when he put Inter ahead by chesting down a long ball into the box, benefiting from a fortunate bounce off Crew defender Malte Amundsen before finishing the play.

Foot notes:

- Messi's victory marked his 46th major trophy, extending his record as the player with the most trophies in men's soccer history.

- This Supporters' Shield is his second trophy with Inter Miami, adding to the Leagues Cup title the team won shortly after his arrival in 2023.
- Argentina star bags his record-extending 46th trophy and gives Inter Miami a chance to secure a home advantage in the upcoming MLS playoffs.

Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to scale Mt. Shishapangma in China

Arjun Vajpai, an Indian mountaineer, becomes the first Indian to scale Mt. Shishapangma in China. This summit marks his eighth successful climb of an 8000-meter peak. The 30-year-old reached the summit of Mt. Shishapangma in Tibet, marking his eighth successful ascent of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 meters. In 2010, at just 16 years old, Arjun became the youngest person to summit Mt. Everest.

Foot notes:

- A list of the 8 peaks that Arjun has successfully climbed: Mt. Everest (2010), Mt. Lhotse (2011), Mt. Manaslu (2011), Mt. Makalu (2016), Mt. Cho Oyu (2016), Mt. Kangchenjunga (2018), Mt. Annapurna (2023) Mt. Shishapangma (2024).
- He now aims to climb the remaining six peaks above 8,000 meters, which would make him the first Indian to achieve this milestone.
- He dedicates this summit to all who aspire to push beyond traditional expectations.

Harmanpreet Kaur Sets National Record at IWLF Weightlifting Event

At the IWLF National Weightlifting Championships, Harmanpreet Kaur set a new national record in the 76 kg senior women's category. Competing at the Rainbow Khelo India Residential Academy in Nagrota Bagwan, Himachal Pradesh, she lifted 127 kg in clean and jerk, with a total lift of 223 kg.

Foot notes:

- Rakhi (215kg: 92kg+123kg) won silver and Heena (211kg: 88kg+123kg) won bronze.
- Muthupandi Raja (men's 61kg) broke national records in total and clean and jerk at the national weightlifting meet.
- Sufna Jasmin made history by setting national records in snatch and total in the women's 45kg category.
- G. Ravishankar set a new Junior national record with a combined lift of 311 kg, surpassing the previous 304 kg record

India Awarded Hosting Rights for ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

India has been awarded the hosting rights for the ISSF Junior World Cup next year by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). The event is in New Delhi for the season-ending World Cup Final, where top shooters compete.

Foot notes:

- He highlighted India's growing importance in shooting sports, noting the talent of its athletes and the country's efforts to improve infrastructure and accessibility.
- Hosting prestigious events like the World Cup Final reflects India's dedication to the sport.
- A team of 23 Indian shooters will compete at the Dr. Karni Singh Ranges starting Tuesday.
- NRAI President Kalikesh Singh Deo credited India's rising profile in shooting to a collaborative effort, fostering a strong ecosystem from grassroots to elite training facilities.

Tanya Hemanth Wins Women's Singles Title at Bendigo International

Tanya Hemanth clinched the women's singles title at the Bendigo International Challenge in Australia, defeating Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong. This is Tanya's third international title and first of 2024. In men's doubles, the Indian pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi lost to Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Po Li-Wei.

Foot notes:

- Seeded second, Tanya beat sixth seed and world No. 98 Tung Ciou-tong with scores of 21-17, 21-17 in the final, which lasted 41 minutes.
- The 21-year-old, currently ranked 71st in badminton, has now secured three international titles, including the 2022 India International and the 2023 Iran Fajr International.
- In the semi-finals, Tanya overcame world No. 106 Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore with a score of 15-21, 21-18, 21-15, in a match lasting just over an hour.
- In the round of 16, she triumphed over Tsai Hsin-Pei of Chinese Taipei 21-17, 21-10, and Yuelin Zhang of Australia 21-12, 21-11 in the opening round.

Jannik Sinner Defeats Djokovic to Win Shanghai Masters Title

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner defeated Novak Djokovic in straight sets to claim the Shanghai Masters title on Sunday, marking his tour-leading seventh title of the season. Sinner outperformed the 24-time Grand Slam champion with a score of 7-6 (4), 6-3 in just 1 hour and 37 minutes, never facing a break point throughout the outdoor hard-court tournament. He recorded eight aces and 22 winners compared to Djokovic's four aces and 12 winners.

Foot notes:

- Djokovic aimed for his 100th tour-level title and a fifth Shanghai title; only Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) have reached the century mark in men's tennis.
- The 23-year-old is now 8-2 against top-five opponents on hard courts this year, with both losses to Alcaraz, who attended the final.

- Djokovic, 37, was playing in China for the first time in five years and had also lost to Sinner in the Australian Open semifinals.
- His only title of the year came at the Paris Olympics, where he defeated Alcaraz for the gold medal.

Akhil Sheoran Wins Bronze medal in 50m rifle at ISSF World Cup Final

Akhil Sheoran secured the bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event, defeating Paris Olympics gold medallist Liu Yukun. Hungary's Istvan Peni clinched the gold. This marks India's 2nd medal in the year-ending ISSF World Cup. India had won a silver medal through Sonam Maskar in women's 10m air rifle. India's Simranpreet Kaur, who also made the eighthshooter final, finished sixth.

Foot notes:

- Akhil Sheoran won the bronze in men's 50m rifle 3-positions, beating Paris Olympics gold medallist Liu Yukun, who finished fourth.
- Akhil stated the bronze kick-started his preparations for upcoming competitions, including the 2026 Asian Games.
- Despite securing a Paris Olympic quota last year in Baku, an injury during the Olympic Selection Trials in New Delhi and Bhopal caused him to lose his spot in the Paris-bound team.
- The 29-year-old, part of India's gold medal-winning team at last year's Asian Games, finished third with a score of 452.6.

Vivaan Wins Silver, Naruka Claims Bronze at Shooting World Cup

Vivaan Kapoor secured a silver medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup, scoring 44 in the final. Anant Jeet Singh Naruka earned a bronze in men's skeet with a score of 43, adding to India's tally. India's medal count at the event reached four, including prior wins by Sonam Maskar and Akhil Sheoran.

Foot notes:

- Vivaan scored 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to enter the six-man finals.
- Rajasthan's 26-year-old Naruka shot 43 in the final, securing third place.
- Italy's Tammaro Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti won gold and silver with scores of 57 and 56.
- Naruka qualified for the final with a score of 121 out of 125.
- Akhil Sheoran earned bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
- Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan finished fourth in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics, losing the bronze medal match to China.

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi secured WR Chess masters title

India's Arjun Erigaisi claimed victory at the WR Chess Masters Cup, defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the finals held in London yesterday. After two drawn classical games, Arjun maintained his calm under time pressure and secured the win with black in the tiebreaker. This triumph in the 16-player knockout tournament places Arjun at the top of the FIDE Circuit. His next challenge will be the European Chess Club Cup, which begins this Sunday in Serbia.

Foot notes:

- Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi won the WR Chess Masters title by defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the Armageddon game after two drawn classical matches in the final.
- Arjun showed exceptional form throughout the event, securing the winner's prize of 20,000 Euros.
- He defeated his friend R Praggnanandhaa in the semifinals of the knockout tournament.
- Earlier in the event, Arjun achieved a 2-0 victory over England's Sivananda Bodhana, the youngest player to compete in the Chess Olympiad for her country.

Milestone Man Virat Kohli Crosses 9000 Test Runs

Batting legend Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian to surpass 9,000 runs in Test cricket during the third day of the opening match against New Zealand. He joined an elite group that includes Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265), and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122). The 35-yearold reached the landmark after scoring a half-century in India's second innings. In a recent series against Bangladesh, Kohli also became the fastest to reach 27,000 international runs, doing so in just 594 innings.

Foot notes:

- Virat Kohli surpassed the 9,000 Test runs mark during India's second innings, reaching the milestone after scoring a half-century while batting at No. 3.
- This was Kohli's first time batting at No. 3 in eight years.
- He had previously scored a nine-ball duck in the first innings.
- Despite the early failure, Kohli bounced back with a strong performance in the second innings, aiding India in overcoming the first-innings deficit.
- Kohli ranks fourth among Indian players for the highest Test runs, trailing behind Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, and Rahul Dravid. He achieved this milestone in his 116th Test match.

Gurpreet Pal Win Gold at ACO World Chess Championship

Indian FIDE Master Gurpreet Pal Singh clinched gold at the ACO World Chess Championship in Crete, Greece. Singh, who has coached talents like Grandmaster Sahaj Grover, triumphed in the nine-round event, competing against players from 29 countries.

Foot notes:

- Gurpreet, a coach of Grandmaster and former under-10 world champion Sahaj Grover, competed in a nine-round tournament with participants from 29 countries. He scored seven points out of nine.
- After winning his first game, he was held to a draw by Germany's Ralph Ennerbach.
- Gurpreet then achieved five wins and four draws to secure his final score.

Pubudu Dasanayake Named Mentor of Nepali Cricket Team

Pubudu Dasanayake appointed as mentor for Nepal's cricket team in ICC World Cricket League-2. The triangular series (Nepal, USA, Scotland) will be held in the USA from Oct 25 to Nov 4. Nepal's first match is against the USA on Oct 27, followed by matches against Scotland on Oct 29 and Nov 4.

Foot notes:

- Nepal's cricket team will play its first match against the USA on October 27, followed by a match against Scotland on October 29, and a second match against the USA on November 2. They will compete against Scotland again on November 4 in their fourth and final match.
- Dasanayake previously coached Nepal's national team from 2011 to 2015, leading them from ICC World Cricket League Division Four to Division One and achieving historic qualification for the 2014 ICC T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.
- He returned as head coach in December 2021 after Dav Whatmore's resignation but stepped down in July 2022 due to family reasons.
- After leaving the Nepal team, Dasanayake briefly coached Canada's national team but is no longer in that role.
- He has recently been signed as the head coach for the Janakpur Bolts in the Nepal Premier League.

Mayank Yadav become 3rd Indian bowler to bowl a maiden over in T20 International

India's T20I debutant Mayank Yadav became the third Indian bowler to bowl a maiden over in his first match during the game against Bangladesh on 6 October in Gwalior. He delivered the maiden in the sixth over and took his first international wicket, dismissing Mahmudullah in the eighth over. His fastest delivery was clocked at 149.9 kmph.

Foot notes:

- Lucknow Super Giants acquired Mayank Yadav in February 2023 for 20 Lakhs. Missed the 2023 season due to injury but made his IPL debut in 2024 against Punjab Kings, taking 3 wickets for 27 runs.
- His fastest delivery in IPL 2024 was 156.7 kmph against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

- Played 4 IPL matches, taking 7 wickets at an average of 12.14, with a best figure of 3/14.
- For India, Varun Chakravarthy took 3 wickets, Arshdeep Singh 2, and Mayank Yadav and Washington Sundar 1 wicket each in their match against Bangladesh.

Angad Cheema wins Vizag Open in playoff against Aman Raj

Angad Cheema won his second PGTI title at the Vizag Open after an 11-year gap, defeating Aman Raj in a playoff with a tournament total of 16-under 268. Aman Raj shot the day's best score of 6-under 65, leveling with Angad and forcing the playoff. Cheema's victory earned him a 15 lakh prize, pushing him to third in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

Foot notes:

- Angad, who had six top-10 finishes this season, including two runner-up spots, faced a strong challenge from Aman Raj.
- Raj's late surge with a six-under 65, the best score of the day, brought him level with Cheema at 16-under, forcing a playoff.
- Cheema sealed the win by sinking an eight-foot birdie putt in the playoff.
- He earned a cheque for INR 15 lakh, moving him from fourth to third in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.
- Angad Cheema, after several near wins in recent years, expressed relief over his victory, saying, "It's a great relief and a monkey off my back to finally win after so long."
- The 34-year-old golfer celebrated this long-awaited triumph.

Vaishnavi Pawar won silver medal in U-18 at Asian Youth Archery Championship

Indian archer Vaishnavi Pawar, backed by Punit Balan Group, helped the Indian team win silver in the recurve U-18 women's category at the 2024 Asian Youth Archery Championship in Taipei. Alongside teammates Pranjal Tholiya and Jannat, Vaishnavi excelled under pressure, often taking the first shot, as they defeated South Korea in a semi-final shoot-off.

Foot notes:

- The Indian team faced a tough final against the hosts, trailing 2-4.
- They leveled the match, forcing a shoot-off but eventually settled for silver.
- Vaishnavi, taking the lead shot, showed great composure under pressure, contributing to the team's success.

Pankaj Advani Wins Singapore Open Snooker Title

Pankaj Advani claimed the Songhe Singapore Open title with a 5-1 win over Jaden Ong. He beat Thailand's Dechawat Poomjaeng 4-3 in the quarterfinals. Advani dominated the final, sealing the win with a 74-6 score in the last frame, and will defend his world billiards title in Doha in November 2024.

Foot notes:

- Indian snooker ace Pankaj Advani won the prestigious Songhe Singapore Open title with a 5-1 victory over local favorite Jaden Ong.
- In the quarterfinals, Advani defeated Thailand's former IBSF world champion Dechawat Poomjaeng in a thrilling match, winning 4-3.
- The final started intensely, with the first two frames fiercely contested, but Advani made impressive comebacks to lead 2-0.
- Advani's strong performance in the third frame further extended his lead, although Ong managed to win one frame to stay in the match.

Rethin and Vaidehe crowned champions at Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship

Unseeded Rethin Pranav from Tamil Nadu and top-seeded Vaidehee Chaudhari from Gujarat won the men's and women's singles titles at the 29th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship.

Foot notes:

- Rethin Pranav won the men's singles final against Nitin Kumar Sinha, scoring 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, after entering as a lucky loser.
- Vaidehee Chaudhari claimed the women's singles title by defeating Maaya Revathi R with scores of 6-3, 6-3, marking her second victory at the Fenesta Open.
- Both winners received trophies at a ceremony with attendees including Mr. Saket Jain, Mr. Rohit Rajpal, Mr. Balram Singh, and Mrs. Prerna Bhambri.
- Para-athlete Pranav Soorma, a silver medalist at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, was present to motivate the athletes.

Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast officially announced her retirement

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar has officially retired from professional competition after 25 years in the sport. She stepped back due to the physical demands on her body. Dipa is a celebrated figure in gymnastics, having made history as the first Indian woman to win a bronze medal in vault at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, followed by another bronze at the 2015 Asian Championships.

Foot notes:

- Dipa Karmakar achieved a landmark feat at the 2016 Rio Olympics by becoming the first Indian female gymnast to qualify for the final vault event, finishing in fourth place.
- In 2021, she showcased resilience by winning a gold medal at the Asian Gymnastics Championships in Tashkent, despite career setbacks.
- Dipa has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri, Arjuna Award and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

- He will now focus on mentoring and supporting young athletes, ensuring her legacy continues to shape Indian gymnastics for years to come.

Sarthak clinches his maiden National crown

Pune's Sarthak Chavan, 17, made history by becoming the youngest to win the Open class title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship. He secured the crown with his eighth win in nine races at the Madras International Circuit, ensuring an unassailable lead in the points tally.

Foot notes:


- 17-year-old Sarthak Chavan became the youngest champion in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category with his eighth win of the season.
- He tactically followed teammate Chiranth Vishwanath before overtaking on the final lap.
- Sarthak's win gave him a 57-point lead, securing the title with one race remaining.
- Veteran Rajini Krishnan finished third, adding to his impressive career podiums.

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Coco Gauff won China Open Tennis Tournament title

Coco Gauff clinched victory in the 2024 China Open final, defeating Czech player Karolina Muchova 6-1, 6-3 in just 76 minutes. At 20 years old, the sixth-ranked American and last year's US Open champion became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years and the second American to win the tournament, following Serena Williams. She has now won eight singles titles in her career, with an impressive 8-1 record in finals and a perfect 7-0 record in hard-court finals in the Open era.

Foot notes:

- Coco Gauff hit 24 winners in a dominant performance to win the Beijing trophy.
- This victory adds to her Auckland Classic win earlier this year.
- Gauff has now secured her second WTA 1000 title, following her 2023 Cincinnati victory, where she also defeated Muchová in the final.

India tops medal tally with 21 medals in ISSF Junior World Championship 2024

India topped the medal tally at the 4th ISSF Junior World Championships 2024, securing a total

of 24 medals: 13 gold, 3 silver and 8 bronze. Italy finished second with 13 medals (5 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze), while Norway placed third with 10 medals (4 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze). The championships, organized by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), took place in Lima, Peru, from September 26 to October 7, 2024. A total of 553 shooters from 53 countries participated, with India sending the largest contingent of 61 shooters.

Foot notes:

- **First Medal:** Kanak opened India's medal account with a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol individual event.
- **First Individual Gold:** Mane Parth Prakash secured India's first individual gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event.
- **Mukesh Nelavalli:** Won a total of six medals: one individual gold, three team golds, and two individual bronzes.
- **Individual Medals:** Indian shooters won 15 individual medals: 5 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze.
- **Team Medals:** In team events, India achieved 11 medals: 8 gold and 3 bronze.

About ISSF:

Presidents: Vladimir Lisin

Headquarters: Munich, Germany

Founded: 1907

India to Host World Pickleball Championship Series for the First Time

Mumbai will host the World Pickleball Championship (WPC) Series from November 12-17, 2024. The event, organized by the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA), will feature 650 players from 6-7 countries including Australia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Poland, and Singapore.

Foot notes:

- **Milestone for Indian Sports:** The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) will host the World Pickleball Championship (WPC) Series in India for the first time.
- **Event Details:** The championship will take place in Mumbai from November 12th to 17th, 2024.
- **Global Participation:** Approximately 650 players from 6-7 countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Poland, and Singapore, are expected to participate.
- **Success of Indian Teams:** Indian teams previously secured Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals at the WPC legs in Vietnam and Bali.
- **Significant Sporting Event:** The WPC will feature international teams competing in various categories, attracting pickleball enthusiasts worldwide.

AIPA President: Arvind Prabhoo

Founder Pickleball Global: Jan Papi

Telangana Teams Secure Bronze at 34th Junior National Throwball Championship 2024

The 34th Junior National Throwball Championship 2024 concluded successfully at the University College of Science, Saifabad, Hyderabad, showcasing exciting matches and strong performances from the Telangana teams. Organized by the Telangana Throwball Association, the event featured intense competition from participants nationwide.

Foot notes:

- **Bronze Medals:** Both the Telangana Boys and Girls teams won bronze medals in their respective categories.
- **Dignitaries Present:** The event was attended by several dignitaries, Dr. Subeer Khan, MD of SSMPE (chief guest) Mr. Naresh Mann (Secretary General of Throwball Federation of India), Sai Krishna, CEO of Budds Buddy.
- **Boys' Category:** Telangana Boys' team won the third-place play-off against Madhya Pradesh with scores of 15-09 and 15-11.
- **Girls' Category:** The Girls' team defeated Kerala in their play-off with scores of 15-11 and 15-13, securing their podium finish.

St. Lucia Kings clinches first CPL title

After an 11-year wait, the Saint Lucia Kings won their first Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title on September 6, defeating the defending champions, Guyana Amazon Warriors, in a thrilling final. This victory made Saint Lucia the fifth team to win the CPL, ending their status as the only original franchise without a title. The Kings had a long history in the CPL without success. In 2023, they finished third but were eliminated in the playoffs. However, this year, they delivered a remarkable performance to secure the championship.

Foot notes:

- **Key Partnership:** Roston Chase (39*) and Aaron Jones (48*) formed an 88-run fifth-wicket partnership to lead the Saint Lucia Kings to victory.
- **Challenging Start:** The Kings were struggling at 51/4 and needed 66 runs from the last 30 balls.
- **Strong Finish:** Chase and Jones scored 47 runs in the 16th and 17th overs, reaching the target with 11 balls to spare. The match ended on a wide bowled by Imran Tahir.
- **Bowling Performance:** Saint Lucia's bowlers restricted Guyana to 102/7 after 18 overs, but the Warriors finished with 138 runs.
- **Captain's Praise:** Post-match, captain Faf du Plessis commended the team's resilience and consistent performance, highlighting their belief in the squad's depth.

India Women's Tennis Team Secures 1st-Ever Medal at Asian Championship

The Indian women's table tennis team has guaranteed its first medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships after defeating South Korea 3-2 in the quarterfinals. Ayhika Mukherjee emerged as the star of the match, overcoming her world ranking of 92 to defeat World No. 8 Shin Yubin & World No. 16 Jeon Jihee. Ayhika Mukherjee and Manika Batra gave India a strong start with a 2-0 lead.

Foot notes:

- Manika Batra, ranked 29, won against 16th-ranked Jeon Jihee 12-14, 13-11, 11-5, 5-11, 12-10, giving India a 2-0 lead.
- Sreeja Akula, ranked 26, lost to Lee Eunhye in straight games 6-11, 10-12, 8-11, allowing Korea to stay in the match.
- Yubin evened the score with a tough 13-11, 11-4, 6-11, 7-11, 12-10 win over Manika.
- In the deciding match, Ayhika Mukherjee defeated Jihee 7-11, 11-6, 12-10, 12-10, sealing the victory for India.

Joe Root becomes England's Highest Run Scorer in Test match

Joe Root become England's all-time leading run-scorer in Test cricket, moving into fifth place overall. He achieved this milestone by scoring his 35th Test century during the first Test against Pakistan in Multan. Joe has accumulated 12,578 runs in 147 Tests, which is still 53 matches fewer than Sachin Tendulkar, who holds the record with 15,921 runs.

Foot notes:

- Joe Root surpassed Alastair Cook's retired total of 12,472 runs by scoring 71 runs during England's first innings on day three of the first Test against Pakistan.
- He went on to achieve his 35th Test century, finishing the day unbeaten on 176 runs.
- At 33 years old, Root moved into fifth place on the all-time Test run-scorers list in his
- 147th match.

Indian Sailors Shine with Seven Medals at Mussanah Race Week in Oman

Indian sailors won seven medals at Mussanah Race Week in Oman, including 1 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze. India dominated the Optimist Girls U-15 category. Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan won gold with 28 points. Kommaravelly Lahari secured the silver medal.

Foot notes:

- Shashank finished 2nd with 14 net points, just behind Oman's Abdulatif Ziyad Al Qasim, who won with 12 net points after topping three races.
- Shashank won two races (1st and 6th) but a 9th place in the second race impacted his gold chances.
- Akshat took bronze with 29 net points after seven races.
- In the ILCA-4 girls U-16 category India's Soumya Singh Patel claimed silver with 39 net

points. Shagun Jha secured bronze with 49 net points. UAE's Marwa Al Hammadi won gold with 31.5 net points.

- In the ILCA-6 girls U-19 category, Maanya Reddy narrowly missed gold, finishing second with 74 net points, while UAE's Camelia Al Qubaisi won with 77 points.

Andres Iniesta Announces Retirement from football

Spanish football maestro Andrés Iniesta announced his retirement after a remarkable 22-year career. He represented both the Spanish national team and FC Barcelona, one of the world's top clubs.

Foot notes:

- He was part of the squad that won the 2008 UEFA European Championship.
- He contributed to Spain's triumph in the 2012 UEFA European Championship..
- **Total Appearances:** 674 matches for FC Barcelona.
- **Goals and Assists:** Scored 57 goals, Provided 135 assists.
- **Champions League:** Won 4 titles (2006, 2009, 2011, 2015).
- **Club World Cup:** Won 3 titles (2009, 2011, 2015).
- **La Liga Titles:** Secured 9 championships (2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019).
- **European Super Cups:** Claimed 3 titles (2009, 2011, 2016).

Harmanpreet Kaur climbs to 12th spot in T20I rankings

India's women's cricket captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, has climbed four positions to reach the 12th spot in the T20I batting rankings. She joins Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, and Jemimah Rodrigues as the fourth Indian woman cricketer in the top 20, holding 610 rating points. Meanwhile, Shreyanka Patil has made a significant jump of nine places, landing at 29th in the T20I bowling rankings.

Foot notes:

- Veteran off-spinner Deepti Sharma has dropped two places to rank fourth.
- Seamer Renuka Singh Thakur has maintained her position at fifth.
- The rankings were released during the ongoing T20 World Cup.
- Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal made history by briefly becoming the first from her country to top the rankings.
- She surpassed long-time No. 1 Sophie Ecclestone before ultimately finishing in second place.

Madhavendra & Divi won 37th National U-11 Chess Championship 2024

Madhavendra Pratap Sharma from Madhya Pradesh clinched the national title in the boys'

category, while Divi Bijesh from Kerala won the girls' category. He is the second-seeded player in the boys' category, scored 10 points out of 11 rounds to win the gold medal.

Foot notes:

- He achieved this by winning 9 consecutive matches and drawing the last two, marking his second national title.
- He won the National Under-9 title in 2022 and the Asian Under-10 title in 2023.
- In this year's National Under-19 competition, he finished in fourth place.
- Aadvik Agrawal from Maharashtra secured second place with 9.5 points, while Aarav from Tamil Nadu took third.
- In the girls' category, fourth-seeded Divi Bijesh from Kerala won the National Under-11 title with 9.5 points, based on a better tie-break.

Spanish Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal Retires

Rafael Nadal, the 22-time Grand Slam champion, has announced his retirement from professional tennis. His final tournament will be the Davis Cup finals in November in Malaga, concluding an illustrious journey. He boasts 92 ATP singles titles, including 36 Masters titles and an Olympic gold medal, and is one of three men to achieve the Career Golden Slam in singles.

Foot notes:

- Rafael Nadal's career is highlighted by numerous records and accolades, cementing his status as a tennis icon.
- His legacy includes unmatched sportsmanship and passion for the game.
- Nadal's contributions will be remembered for generations.
- He holds 22 Grand Slam titles, the most in tennis history.

Arshdeep Singh ranked 10th in ICC T20I for Bowlers

Fast bowler Arshdeep Singh has been rewarded for his impressive start in the T20I series against Bangladesh by breaking into the top 10 of the ICC Twenty20 International cricket rankings for the first time. Arshdeep climbed from No. 16 to No. 8 in the bowling rankings, updated on Wednesday, October 9. His previous best was No. 13, but a strong performance in Gwalior on Sunday, October 6, propelled him to his career-high ranking.

Foot notes:

- Arshdeep Singh played a key role in India's seven-wicket win over Bangladesh, taking three wickets for just 14 runs in 3.5 overs.
- He dismissed Litton Das and Parvez Emon early, disrupting Bangladesh's start.
- Arshdeep won the Player of the Match award for his outstanding bowling performance.
- He rose eight places to No. 8 in the ICC T20I bowler rankings, reaching a career-high

rating.

Bollipalli-Kadhe wins first ATP 250 Titles in Almaty

The pair of Rithvik Choudhary Bollipalli and Arjun Khade won the Almaty Open men's doubles title. The Indian pair fought with Colombia's Nicolas Barrientos and Skander Mansouri of Tinusia 3-6 7-6 14-12 to win their first ATP 250 title. Nagal, an Olympian and India's top singles player lost 6-4 7-6(2) against James Duckworth of Australia in the qualifiers in Basel.

Foot notes:

- It was the maiden ATP doubles title for both players, and the win will move them into the top 100 of the world rankings on Monday.
- The title earned them \$54,780 and 250 ATP points, while the runner-up team received 150 points and \$29,310.
- The second set was tightly contested, with no service breaks until 6-6, and the Indian pair won the tie-breaker.
- Kadhe and Bollipalli saved five championship points and fought back from 6-9 down in the super tiebreak to claim the victory in 1 hour and 41 minutes.
- Earlier, Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti were knocked out in the first round, and the fourth-seeded pair of N. Sriram Balaji and Guido Andreozzi were eliminated in the semifinals.

New Zealand clinches historic Test win in India after 36 years

New Zealand secured their first Test win on Indian soil in 36 years, defeating the hosts by eight wickets on the final day of the opening match in Bengaluru. With a target of 107, the Black Caps overcame a fierce opening spell from Jasprit Bumrah (2/29 in 8 overs). Will Young (48) and Rachin Ravindra (39) put together an unbeaten 75-run partnership for the third wicket, guiding New Zealand to victory in 27.4 overs and giving them a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Foot notes:

- New Zealand's last Test win in India was in 1988 at Wankhede, Mumbai, where they beat India by 136 runs. India won that series 2-1.
- The second Test of the current series will be held in Pune from 24 October.
- India collapsed for 46 in 31.2 overs, their lowest-ever home Test total, with five batters dismissed for ducks.
- This was the first time India failed to cross 50 runs in a home Test innings. The previous lowest home Test total for India was 75 against the West Indies in 1987.

- India's overall lowest Test score remains 36, recorded against Australia in Adelaide in 2020.

Bala Devi Becomes First Indian Woman to Score 50 International Goals

Ngangom Bala Devi, born on February 2, 1990, has made history in Indian football by becoming the first Indian woman to score 50 international goals. As a forward for the Manipur Police and the Indian national team, Devi's journey showcases her commitment and vital contributions to women's football in India. Her recent milestone was celebrated after scoring against Pakistan in the 2024 SAFF Women's Championship, further establishing her as a trailblazer in Indian sports.

Foot notes:

- Bala Devi began her football career in Manipur, showcasing her talent in various youth tournaments.
- She started professionally with New Radiant WSC in the Maldives in 2014.
- She made headlines by signing with Rangers in Scotland, becoming the first Indian woman to score in a European professional league.
- National Team Contributions: A key player for the Indian national team since 2005, she has participated in many international tournaments, including the SAFF Women's Championship and the Asian Games.
- Achievements: Recognized as AIFF Women's Player of the Year for her impressive 16 goals during the 2014 SAFF Championship.
- Dual Commitment: While pursuing her football career, she also serves as a police inspector in Manipur, demonstrating her dedication to both sport and community.
- Impact: Her journey from local fields to international arenas highlights the growing recognition and support for women in sports, motivating aspiring athletes to chase their dreams.

Kagiso Rabada, most Lethal Bowler in the 300-Wicket Club

Kagiso Rabada reached 300 Test wickets in the fewest deliveries ever, becoming the only bowler to achieve this milestone in under 12,000 deliveries. He accomplished the feat 785 balls faster than the previous record holder, Waqar Younis. Rabada's strike rate of 39.2, as of the end of Bangladesh's first innings in the ongoing Test in Mirpur, is the best among the 39 bowlers with 300-plus Test wickets. Dale Steyn follows with a strike rate of 42.3.

Foot notes:

- Rabada's bowling average against the lower order (Nos. 8-11) is the best among 31 bowlers with at least 30 such wickets in the past 10 years, with a strike rate of 17.54 balls per wicket.
- Bumrah's average of 11.35 is the second-best against lower-order batters.
- Against the top seven batters, Rabada averages 27.17, ranking seventh among 42 bowlers with at least 60 such wickets in the last decade.
- The six bowlers ahead of him are Kyle Jamieson, Bumrah, James Anderson, Vernon Philander, Pat Cummins, and Morne Morkel.
- Rabada, with 11,817 deliveries to 300 wickets, surpassed Waqar Younis as the fastest bowler to reach this milestone in terms of balls bowled.

Deepika Kumari secures Silver Medal at Archery World Cup

India's top recurve archer, Deepika Kumari, claimed her fifth silver medal at the World Cup Final after a 0-6 loss to China's Li Jiaman in the gold medal match. Returning to the competition after a three-year break following the birth of her daughter in December 2022, the four-time Olympian was seeded third among the eight archers. Despite a smooth run to the semifinals, the pressure of the final seemed to affect Deepika against fourth-seed Li Jiaman, a team silver medalist from the Paris Olympics. This was Deepika's ninth appearance at the World Cup Final, where she has also won a bronze.

Foot notes:

- The Archery World Cup final featured eight male and female archers in recurve and compound categories.
- Deepika defeated Yang Xiaolei of China 6-0 in the quarterfinals, followed by a narrow win over Mexico's Alejandra Valencia in the semifinals.
- This is Deepika's sixth Archery World Cup medal, her first since becoming a mother in 2022. She has been a runner-up five times and won bronze in 2018.
- Five Indian archers competed at the World Cup final, including Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who lost in the quarterfinals of the compound category.
- In men's compound, Prathamesh Fuge lost the bronze medal match to Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands.
- Olympians Dhiraj Bommadevara and Priyansh were knocked out in the quarterfinals of men's recurve and compound archery, respectively.

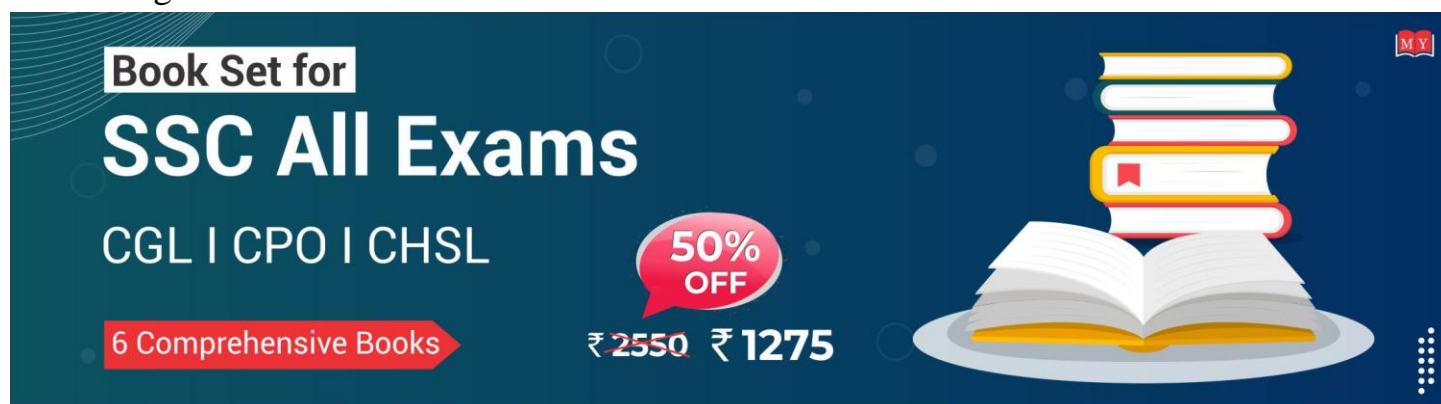
Railways Clinch Women's Hockey Title

The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) women's team claimed a thrilling 3-1 victory over Indian Oil Ltd in the final of the 4th Hockey India Senior Women Inter-Departmental National Championship 2024, held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Hockey Stadium in

New Delhi. RSPB's win came in an intense match that saw both teams level until the fourth quarter. Railways' captain Navneet Kaur scored a crucial goal to give her team the lead, and Salima Tete sealed the win with a final strike, securing a 3-1 victory.

Foot notes:

- The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won the 4th Hockey India Senior Women Inter-Departmental National Championship 2024 with a 3-1 victory over Indian Oil Ltd.
- The winner's trophy was presented by Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Runner-Up trophy by V. Satish Kumar, CMD of Indian Oil.
- Salima Tete of Railways was named Player of the Match for her crucial final goal.
- Individual awards: Best Goalkeeper: Deepa Sharma (CBDT), Best Defender: Ishika Chaudhary (Indian Oil), Best Midfielder: Neha (Railways), Best Forward: Preeti Dubey (SAI), Top Scorers: Mumtaz Khan (Indian Oil) & Navneet Kaur (Railways), Best Player of the Tournament: Jyoti (Indian Oil)
- The tournament, sponsored by Indian Oil, showcased top women's hockey talent and caught the attention of national team selectors.

**Lakhan Singh Won Gold Medal in National Para Swimming Championship 2024**

The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship commenced on Sunday in Goa, highlighting remarkable talent and determination from athletes nationwide. Competitors from various states have come together to vie for prestigious titles, showcasing resilience and athleticism. In the men's S4 100m freestyle, Rajasthan's Lakhan Singh claimed the gold medal with a notable time of 3:04.50, followed by Odisha's Kamalkant (silver) and Haryana's Balraj (bronze).

Foot notes:

- Odisha's Narhari won gold in the S5 100m freestyle with a time of 1:54.73, with Lakshmarao from Andhra Pradesh taking silver and Shams Aalam from Bihar securing bronze.
- Maharashtra's Chaitanya Vishwas claimed gold in the S6 100m freestyle, clocking 1:15.64, followed by Rajendra Singh from Uttarakhand and Chaitonya from Odisha.

- Para-swimming is adapted for athletes with physical disabilities, with categories based on the type and level of disability.
- The championship highlights the exceptional abilities of para-athletes and promotes inclusivity, inspiring future generations and raising the profile of Para-sports.

Charles Leclerc Secures Ferrari's First U.S. Grand Prix Victory Since 2018

Charles Leclerc delivered an outstanding performance at the United States Grand Prix, securing Ferrari's first victory at the event since 2018. Meanwhile, Max Verstappen of Red Bull strengthened his lead in the F1 season championship with a podium finish, taking advantage of a late penalty given to McLaren's Lando Norris.

Foot notes:

- **Norris' Strategy Fails:** Lando Norris attempted to build a five-second gap to offset his penalty but missed the target by 4.1 seconds. He remarked, "Max drove well," despite frustrations over track limits.
- **Penalty Controversy:** McLaren's Andre Stella criticized the stewards, saying they "interfered with a beautiful piece of motorsport" as both drivers went off track.
- **Hamilton's Disappointment:** Lewis Hamilton retired after spinning into gravel on the second lap, marking his first-ever race failure in the U.S.
- **Russell's Comeback:** Starting from the pit lane due to a crash, George Russell fought back to finish sixth, thanking his team for their quick work.
- **Constructors' Championship Impact:** Ferrari's 1-2 finish, with Carlos Sainz in second, reduced their gap to Red Bull in the constructors' standings to just eight points.

Karnataka wins 24th National Para-Swimming Championship 2024

The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship ended on a high note, with Karnataka claiming the overall championship title with 392 points. Maharashtra closely followed in second place with 378 points, while Rajasthan secured third with 248 points. The competition featured 518 swimmers, including 360 men and 158 women, competing across various categories. Notably, 231 of the participants were first-time competitors, showcasing the growing popularity of para-swimming nationwide.

Foot notes:

- The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship highlighted the inclusivity and growing reach of para-sports in India.
- A total of 518 swimmers participated, including 360 men and 158 women, with 231 first-time competitors, reflecting expanding opportunities for para-athletes.

- Swimmers from 28 states took part, and 21 states won medals, showcasing the talent and competitive spirit across the nation.
- Karnataka won the overall championship with 392 points, Maharashtra followed with 378 points, and Rajasthan secured third place with 248 points.
- The event's success underscores India's commitment to nurturing para-sports and building a more inclusive sporting culture.

Rishabh Pant climbed to 6th Spot in ICC Test Ranking

Rishabh Pant climbed to the sixth spot in the ICC Test rankings for batters after his impressive 99 against New Zealand, surpassing Virat Kohli, who dropped to eighth. Yashasvi Jaiswal remains India's highest-ranked batter at fourth, while Rohit Sharma fell two places to be joint 15th with Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne.

Foot notes:

- Rishabh Pant scored a counter-attacking 99 in the second innings against New Zealand in Bengaluru, but India lost the match.
- Pant has been in excellent form since returning to Test cricket after recovering from a serious car accident, marking his comeback with a century in the Bangladesh Test.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal is India's highest-ranked batter at No. 4.
- Captain Rohit Sharma dropped two spots, now ranked joint 15th with Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne.
- Joe Root of England continues to lead the batting rankings by a significant margin.

Vishvajit More Wins Bronze at Under-23 Wrestling World Championship

Vishvajit More claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg Greco-Roman category at the U-23 Wrestling World Championship, defeating Adam Ulbashev 14-10. Ali Abdollah Ahmadi Vafa won the gold medal, while Rashad Mammadov took silver. In the women's 59 kg category, Anjly advanced to the final after a 4-0 victory over Aurora Russo and will face Solimiia Vynnyk of Ukraine.

Foot notes:

- A total of 664 wrestlers are competing in Tirana, including 240 in men's freestyle, 240 in Greco-Roman, and 184 in women's freestyle.
- India has won only two gold medals in the history of the U23 World Wrestling Championships: Aman Sehrawat (men's 57 kg) in 2022 and Reetika Hooda (women's 76 kg) last year.
- Reetika competed under the United World Wrestling flag last year due to a sanction on the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

- In addition to Reetika's gold, Indian wrestlers secured eight more medals last year, consisting of two silver and six bronze.
- This year's competition is expected to be tougher, as Iran, the third-most successful country in the event's history, returns after missing the previous edition.

Ravichandran Ashwin become highest wicket-taker in ICC WTC

In a remarkable display during the second Test against New Zealand in Pune, Ravichandran Ashwin achieved a new milestone by becoming the highest wicket-taker in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC). Starting the match just one wicket shy of Australian spinner Nathan Lyon, who led with 187 wickets, Ashwin's exceptional bowling performance allowed him to surpass Lyon, concluding the day with 189 WTC wickets.

Foot notes:

- Ashwin entered the match with 186 WTC wickets and quickly made an impact by dismissing New Zealand captain Tom Latham for 15 runs, marking the ninth time he had removed Latham in his Test career.
- He followed up by taking the wickets of Will Young (18) and in-form Devon Conway (76), with both dismissals aided by sharp catches from wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.
- With these three wickets, Ashwin not only surpassed Nathan Lyon in the WTC but also moved ahead of him in the all-time Test wicket-takers list, boasting 531 wickets in 104 Tests compared to Lyon's 530 in 129 Tests.
- Washington Sundar, returning to Test cricket after three years, delivered a stellar performance, taking 7 wickets for 59 runs and helping bowl New Zealand out for 259 on day one.
- Ashwin's achievement as the highest wicket-taker in the WTC underscores his consistency and skill since the tournament's inception in 2019, excelling in various conditions and enhancing his legacy as one of India's all-time great spinners.

Indian Football Team Climbs to 125th in FIFA Rankings

The Indian men's football team has made slight progress in the FIFA rankings, moving up one spot to 125th, according to the latest update released on Thursday. This improvement is credited to their resilient 1-1 draw in a recent international friendly against Vietnam. Under new coach Manolo Marquez, the team is still seeking its first win, with one loss and two draws since his tenure began. Nonetheless, India's points have risen to 1133.78, boosting their position in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) standings to 22nd, now just ahead of Vietnam.

Foot notes:

- **Top FIFA Rankings:** Argentina remains in the lead with 1883.5 points, followed by France, Spain, England, and Brazil in the top five.

- **Ranking Changes:** Portugal and Italy made slight gains, while the Netherlands and Colombia saw drops.
- **India's Performance:** Under Coach Marquez, India has two draws and one loss, maintaining their FIFA ranking but needing improvement.
- **AFC Standings:** India ranks 22nd in Asia, up one position, reflecting competitiveness in the AFC.
- **Busy International Window:** October 2024 saw intense activity with 32 World Cup qualifiers, 47 Africa Cup qualifiers, 79 Nations League matches, and 17 friendlies, leading to numerous ranking shifts.

Phoebe named captain of Sydney Thunder in WBBL

Phoebe will lead the Sydney Thunder this season, making her the youngest full-time captain in WBBL history at 21 years and 193 days old. Previously, Hannah Darlington held the record for the youngest player to captain a WBBL match, stepping in for Rachael Haynes in 2021 at just 19 years and 262 days, also with the Thunder. Phoebe takes over the captaincy from Heather Knight, who led the team last year but is currently working to regain full fitness for the first game and will miss the latter part of the season due to international commitments.

Foot notes:

- Phoebe made her WBBL debut on October 18, 2019, scoring 26 runs off 22 balls and followed it with a record 52, becoming the youngest player to achieve a half-century in WBBL history.
- She scored a total of 187 runs in 11 matches that season, solidifying her position in the team. To date, Phoebe has played 63 matches, amassing 1,212 runs with an average of 24.24 and a strike rate of 111.91.
- Last season, she achieved a personal best of 68 runs and totaled 309 runs over 14 matches, marking her highest season performance.
- In international play, Phoebe has quickly become a regular across formats since her debut in December 2022, averaging 40.75 in white-ball formats.
- She has scored 326 runs from 16 T20I innings at a strike rate of 148.18 and accumulated 652 runs from 19 innings, including two centuries and two fifties.
- The Thunder will begin their 10th WBBL campaign against the Hobart Hurricanes on October 28, followed by a rematch at North Sydney Oval on October 31.

AWARDS NEWS

Natural Star Nani Wins IIFA Best Actor Award

The IIFA Utsavam 2024 took place in Abu Dhabi, celebrating South Indian and Bollywood cinema. The event highlighted the announcement of award winners. The night was glamorous, featuring stars like Mani Ratnam, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Chiranjeevi, Nandamuri Balakrishna, AR Rahman, Rana Daggubati, and Venkatesh Daggubati. Bollywood celebrities in attendance included Shahid Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Kriti Sanon, Karan Johar, and Aishwarya Rai.

Foot notes:

- Natural Star Nani has solidified his status as a top Tollywood actor by winning major awards for his performance in 'Dasara'.
- He received the Filmfare Award for Best Actor (Telugu), the SIIMA Award, and the IIFA Award for his role as Dharani.
- Directed by Srikanth Odela, 'Dasara' has captivated both audiences and critics.
- The film's gritty portrayal of coal mine life highlights Nani's intense performance as its core strength.

Kutluru village wins National Adventure Tourism Award

Kutluru village, located in the picturesque Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada, has gained national acclaim by winning the Best Tourism Village Award in the Adventure Tourism category. This esteemed recognition was awarded during the Best Tourism Village Competition 2024, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Foot notes:

- The award ceremony took place at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, led by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar for World Tourism Day celebrations.
- Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat presented the award to Kutluru.
- Harish Dakaiah Pujari, Shivraj Anchan, and Srinivas, Joint Director of the State Tourism Department, accepted the award on behalf of the village.
- Dignitaries included Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu and Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, along with senior tourism officials.
- Winners in eight categories were honored with certificates for their contributions to sustainable tourism development.

Shah Rukh Khan Wins IIFA 2024 'Best Actor'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan bagged the trophy of Best Actor in a Leading Role for his actionpacked performance in 'Jawan' at IIFA 2024. His movie also starred Deepika Padukone and Vijay Sethupathi.

Foot notes:

- SRK made his return to the silver screen in January 2023 with Siddharth Anand's 'Pathaan'.
- In the film, SRK took on an action-packed role, impressing audiences.
- This marked SRK's first major hit after a four-year break following box office disappointments like 'Zero' and 'Jab Harry Met Sejal'.
- The International Indian Film Academy Awards reiterated the grand resurgence of one of Bollywood's biggest superstars.

Kalasha Naidu Receives Asia Icon 2024 Award

Kalasha Naidu, the internationally acclaimed youngest social worker, has earned yet another prestigious recognition: the Asia Icon Award 2024. She was honored for her exceptional contributions to social service through the Kalasha Foundation. As the founder of the foundation, Dr. Kalasha Naidu was recognized for her remarkable work in education, healthcare, and medicine on a global scale.

Foot notes:

- Kalasha Naidu received the award from Shri. Maithripala Sirisena, Former President of Sri Lanka, becoming the youngest recipient in the social services category.
- Special guests included Colombo Governor Senthil Thandaman, Foreign Minister Taraka Balasurya, and Youth Affairs Minister Rohana Dishannayake.
- Through the Kalasha Foundation, Dr. Naidu provides student scholarships to talented individuals lacking financial means.
- Known as the youngest social worker since age five, she has continued her dedicated social work.
- Hopes are high for her continued success in social service.

Rajshree Birla honoured with 25th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 2024

The 25th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence 2024 was presented to Smt. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Vice President of India. The event, held at the Vice President's residence in New Delhi, was attended by Shri Anil Shastri, LBSIM Board members, corporate and public service dignitaries, and LBSIM Director Prof. Praveen Gupta, along with faculty and staff.

Foot notes:

- The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence is an annual honor recognizing individuals for significant contributions in their fields, reflecting the values of service, integrity, and leadership inspired by Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's former Prime Minister.

- The Aditya Birla Centre has led initiatives in healthcare, education, sustainable livelihoods and infrastructure development.
- These efforts have positively impacted millions in India's rural areas across 9,000 villages.

JSPL Honored with Prestigious CSR Journal Excellence Award 2024

Leading steelmaker Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. (JSPL) has received the esteemed CSR Journal Excellence Award 2024 for its exceptional contributions to promoting and developing sports in India. The award was presented during the 7th edition of the ceremony held in Mumbai. This recognition highlights the company's significant efforts, through its social arm, Jindal Foundation, to nurture sports talent and improve sports infrastructure, especially at the grassroots level.

Foot notes:

- The Jindal Foundation has built 20 playgrounds, two sports complexes, and one sports hostel for underprivileged athletes.
- The Sports Hostel in Barbil provides free accommodation, nutrition, education, and intensive sports coaching for tribal and disadvantaged athletes.
- Many athletes supported by JSP have achieved success, winning medals at national and international sporting events.

About JSPL:

Founded: 1979

CEO: Shri O.P. Jindal

Headquarters: New Delhi

WHO-trained journalist wins road safety prize at Ghana's National Journalism Awards

Jonathan Donkor, a WHO-trained journalist, won first prize in the road safety category at the 2023 Ghana Journalism Association's national awards. His investigative report for the Ghanaian Times on the impact of used tyres on road crashes exposed significant gaps in data, regulation, and enforcement regarding used and imported tyres.

Foot notes:

- **Africa's Growing Risk:** Africa has rising road deaths, the fastest in the world, linked to used vehicles, according to the WHO.
- **Award Ceremony:** Over 300 entries were submitted, and winners were announced in Accra.
- **WHO's Role:** The investigation is part of the Road Safety Reporting initiative under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Global Road Safety Initiative, providing tools and training for journalists.

- **Second WHO-Trained Journalist Award:** Follows an earlier award for disability inclusive transport reporting in Vietnam.
- **Donkor's Acknowledgment:** Grateful for training from WHO and Science Africa in reporting on this critical issue

Veteran Actor Mithun Chakraborty to be honored with Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Veteran Bollywood actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty has been selected for India's most prestigious cinematic honor, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the news on X earlier today, praising Mithun Da's extraordinary career, which has served as an inspiration to generations.

Foot notes:

- Mithun Chakraborty will receive the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 70th National Film Awards.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the award recognizing Mithun Da's iconic contribution to Indian cinema.
- Mithun Chakraborty made his debut in 'Mrigayaa' (1976), earning a National Film Award for Best Actor.
- His 1982 film 'Disco Dancer' made him a dancing sensation across India.
- Recently honored with the Padma Bhushan, Mithun Da will be the 54th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, instituted in 1969.

Rajkumar Hirani Receives National Kishore Kumar Award in Khandwa

Rajkumar Hirani was honored with the National Kishore Kumar Award in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, on the 37th death anniversary of Kishore Kumar. The award, presented by MP's Cabinet Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, is given annually by the Directorate of Culture, Madhya Pradesh Government since 1997. Hirani paid tribute to Kishore Kumar at his Samadhi before the ceremony, in the singer's birthplace.

Foot notes:

- Rajkumar Hirani, scriptwriter, director, and producer, received the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Award for 2023.
- The award was presented in Khandwa, Kishore Kumar's birthplace, by MP Minister Vijay Shah on Sunday.
- The event commemorated Kishore Kumar's death anniversary; he passed away on October 13, 1987, and his last rites were held in Khandwa.
- Hirani expressed his admiration for Kumar, stating it was an honor to receive an award named after his favorite singer.

ISRO Chief S. Somnath Wins IAF World Space Award

In a significant acknowledgment of India's advancements in space exploration, Dr. S. Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has received the esteemed International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award for the outstanding success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The award ceremony took place in Milan, Italy, highlighting India's notable contributions to lunar exploration and its rising stature in the global space community.

Foot notes:

- Dr. Somanath's leadership was crucial in ensuring the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, addressing challenges faced by the previous Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- The mission showcased India's technological capabilities and yielded valuable scientific data, including the detection of sulfur and other elements in lunar soil.
- The success of Chandrayaan-3 has inspired a new generation of scientists and engineers in India, increasing interest in space exploration and STEM fields nationwide.
- It has also facilitated international collaborations, positioning India as a key player in the future of space exploration.

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Nobel in Economics 2024 Awarded to Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson received the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics for their research on how institutions shape prosperity. Their model explains political institution formation with three key components. The Nobel Prize in Economics was first awarded in 1969, in memory of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite.

Foot notes:

- Nobel laureates Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson pioneered research on the historical roots of economic disparities, focusing on colonialism.
- Their work highlights how colonial strategies led to extractive institutions, still present in many low-income nations.
- They emphasize that political institutions are key to shaping national wealth.

- Their dynamic model shows ruling elites make political reforms, like expanding voting rights, in response to threats.
- The model suggests that more inclusive governments drive economic development, supported by growing evidence.

Karnal artist Aditi Anand wins UK Illustration Award

Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old artist from Haryana, won the Emerging Illustrator category at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum's Illustration Awards for her artwork Marigolds. The artwork, addressing child labour in India, was selected from over 2,000 entries and earned a GBP 3,000 prize. Marigolds will be displayed at the V&A Museum in London until September 2025.

Foot notes:

- Aditi Anand, 25, from Anglia Ruskin University, won an award for her artwork Marigolds.
- The artwork will be displayed at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Design Museum in London until September 2025.
- Marigolds was selected from over 2,000 entries and won a GBP 3,000 prize.
- The piece, set in India, addresses the theme of child labour and lost childhoods.
- Inspired by Indian flower markets, it portrays a mother teaching her child to make marigold garlands for sale.
- Judges praised the use of color, contrasting the beauty of the flowers with the harsh realities of child labour.

Lionel Messi Honored as the First Recipient of the MARCA America Award

Messi was honored as the first recipient of the MARCA America Award, presented by the Spain-based media company. The award celebrates his illustrious career, featuring a record 46 titles for club and country, along with over 56 individual awards. The ceremony took place at Chase Stadium, where numerous figures gathered to recognize Messi's remarkable achievements as the "champion of champions."

Foot notes:

- Messi considers the 2022 World Cup win with Argentina his most cherished title, solidifying his legacy among football's greats.
- He has won trophies with Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain, and now Inter Miami, where he joined in July 2023.
- Despite being limited to 18 MLS matches due to injury and national team duties, Messi scored 17 goals and provided 15 assists.
- Messi helped lead Inter Miami to the 2024 Supporters' Shield, securing home-field

advantage for the MLS Cup playoffs starting next week.

President Murmu received an honorary doctorate in Algeria

President Droupadi Murmu received an honorary doctorate in political science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers. The doctorate was presented to Murmu by Kamal Baddari, Algeria's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. President Murmu highlighted India's commitment to providing quality education at affordable prices.

Foot notes:

- President Murmu emphasized India's commitment to providing affordable, quality education, especially for African students.
- She invited Algerian institutions to benefit from Indian government scholarships and educational programs, noting the success of ITEC alumni.
- Murmu highlighted education as a tool for neutralizing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities.
- She discussed India's technological advancements, noting that 36% of IT professionals are women, and Algeria's interest in digital payment systems and space exploration.
- Murmu referenced India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission, which will launch astronauts into space next year.

About Algeria:

Official languages: Arabic, Tamazight

President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Prime Minister: Nadir Larbaoui

Mohanji Receives Prestigious Humanitarian Award 2024

On September 19, 2024, in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mohanji, a global humanitarian leader, was honored with special recognition for his worldwide contributions at the 9th Conscious Companies Awards event. This esteemed annual ceremony celebrates ethical and visionary leaders whose efforts promote conscious leadership, align people, profit, and purpose, and support a better, more sustainable world.

Foot notes:

- Mohanji received a special award for his global humanitarian leadership, recognizing his teachings on compassion, kindness, and non-violence.
- His impact has reached thousands of lives in over 90 countries, and his core philosophy, "Be You," empowers individuals to adopt conscious living practices.
- This prestigious award recognizes visionary leaders who foster conscious leadership, aligning people, planet, profit, and purpose for the benefit of all.

SJVN Wins Two Awards for HR Excellence at SHRM India 2024

SJVN has been conferred two prestigious awards in the SHRM India HR Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Enterprises category. SJVN Executive Director Chandrashekhar Yadav received the awards during the 13th SHRM India Annual Conference 2024, which was held in New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- The awards highlight SJVN's leadership in nurturing its workforce, contributing significantly to the company's success.
- SJVN is committed to a people-centric approach and aims to set new benchmarks in people management.
- Extensive benefit schemes and wellness programs emphasize the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of employees, boosting morale and job satisfaction.
- SHRM India is the Indian branch of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), one of the largest HR organizations globally.
- Established to advance the HR profession in India, SHRM India offers resources, networking opportunities, and professional development tools for HR practitioners.

About SJVN:

Founded 1988

Headquarters Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Chairman & MD: Sushil Sharma

Pradeep Gandhe to receive Shivchhatrapati Lifetime Achievement Award

The Maharashtra government has announced that badminton player Pradeep Gandhe will be honored with the 'Shivchhatrapati' state sports award for lifetime achievement for 2022-23, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the sport.

Foot notes:

- Pradeep Gandhe is an Indian badminton player. He was the national doubles champion and bronze medalist in mixed doubles twice.
- The state government announced awards for 29 sportspersons excelling in various sports, including athletics, badminton, chess, shooting, boxing, fencing, hockey, kabaddi, wrestling, and more.
- Eight 'divyang' players have also been selected for these prestigious awards.

Scientist Gary Ruvkun Receives Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for Discovery of microRNA

Gary Ruvkun, a professor at Harvard Medical School, has been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering microRNAs, small RNA molecules that regulate

gene activity. He shares the prize with collaborator Victor Ambros from UMass Chan Medical School. Together, they identified the first animal microRNAs and showed their role in turning off essential developmental genes.

Foot notes:

- Dr. Victor Ambros is a professor of natural science at UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester.
- Dr. Gary Ruvkun is a genetics professor at Harvard Medical School and a researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- MicroRNAs are critical regulators of gene activity and of the proteins that these genes make.
- Gene regulation by microRNA is an ancient mechanism that occurs in multiple organisms.

John Hopfield & Geoffrey Hinton won 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics

Scientists John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton were awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics for their groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that enable machine learning in artificial neural networks, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The prize includes a sum of 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million), which is shared among the winners if there are multiple recipients.

Foot notes:

- Hinton, known as the "Godfather of AI," holds Canadian and British citizenship and works at the University of Toronto, while Hopfield is American and works at Princeton.
- The Nobel committee stated that the laureates applied concepts from physics to create methods underpinning modern machine learning.
- Ellen Moons highlighted their work in designing artificial neural networks, which function as associative memories and detect patterns in large datasets, influencing daily life through facial recognition and language translation.
- While celebrating the scientific achievements, Moons also emphasized the ethical responsibility in managing AI's rapid development.
- Hinton, who shares concerns about AI's future, left Google to freely discuss the risks posed by the technology he helped pioneer.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024 goes to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper

David Baker won half of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on computational protein design, while the other half was awarded jointly to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their breakthroughs in protein structure prediction.

Foot notes:

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prizes for Physics and Chemistry.
- The Nobel Foundation partners with Karolinska Institute for the Medicine Nobel, Swedish Academy for the Literature Nobel, Norwegian Nobel Committee for the Peace Nobel.

- The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is the 116th awarded, with 115 previous prizes and 194 Recipients between 1901 and 2023.

South Korean author Han Kang wins 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature

Han Kang, a South Korean author, has been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for her "intense poetic prose" that addresses historical traumas and highlights the fragility of human life. Han mentioned plans for a quiet celebration with her son, and the prize includes an award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) and a medal, to be presented on December 10.

Foot notes:

- Han Kang's Nobel Prize is a major achievement for South Korean and global literature.
- Her work highlights themes of trauma, memory, and identity, connecting across cultures.
- The award emphasizes the importance of marginalized voices in literature.
- Han's writing, rooted in Korean history, explores universal questions of humanity and violence.
- The Swedish Academy's selection reflects growing appreciation for unconventional storytelling and deep psychological themes.

Shabana Azmi honoured with Excellence in Cinema Award

At the 2024 Mumbai International Film Festival (MAMI), Shabana Azmi was honored with the Excellence in Cinema Award. The award was presented by legendary actress Waheeda Rehman. The award aimed to celebrate Azmi's 50 years in films. Shabana Azmi shared a heartfelt moment with Waheeda Rehman from the MAMI Festival stage.

Foot notes:

- Shabana Azmi began her film career with Shyam Benegal's 'Ankur' in 1974 and has since excelled in both parallel and mainstream cinema.
- She is celebrated for her performances in films like 'Arth' (1982), 'Mandi' (1983), 'Masoom' (1983) and 'Fire' (1996).
- Azmi has won five National Film Awards and numerous international honors, solidifying her status as one of India's greatest actors.
- At the 2024 Mumbai International Film Festival, she was honored with the Excellence in Cinema Award, presented by Waheeda Rehman, marking her 50-year career.
- Azmi continues to work in film, theatre, and streaming platforms, using her art to address social issues and inspire future generations.

MAHE Wins Prestigious FICCI Award for "Best University of the Year"

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has been awarded the prestigious FICCI "Best University of the Year – Established Category" at the 19th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2024. The award ceremony was held at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, where it was presented by Lyndy Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India, in the presence of

Ms. Jyothi Vij, Director General of FICCI, and Dr. Vidya Yerwadekar, Pro Chancellor of Symbiosis International University.

Foot notes:


- Dr. Narayana Sabhahit, Pro Vice Chancellor of Technology and Science at MAHE, accepted the award on behalf of the university, accompanied by a distinguished delegation from MAHE.
- This delegation included Prof. Vinod Kamath from MIT Manipal, Dr. Gurudutt Nayak from TAPMI Manipal, Ms. Hilda Cornelio from MAHE Manipal, Ms. Archana Nayak, Assistant Director of Marketing from MAHE Manipal, and Ms. Divyadarshini K, Assistant Director from MAHE Bengaluru.
- The award recognizes universities for excellence in academic performance, innovative practices, faculty development, student engagement, and societal contributions.
- MAHE's achievements in research, global collaborations, and infrastructure development contributed to this prestigious honor.
- The ceremony featured prominent figures from the higher education sector, policymakers, and global dignitaries, marking a significant event for attendees.
- MAHE's title as the “Best University of the Year” underscores its dedication to providing world-class education and fostering future leaders across various fields.

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Darasing Khurana Honored with Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award

Model-turned-actor Darasing Khurana has recently been awarded the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award. He is a strong advocate for mental health awareness and participated in a panel at the Global Mental Health Summit at Oxford University. Additionally, he has been appointed as the Global Mind Health Ambassador.

Foot notes:

- Darasing Khurana emphasizes the importance of actionable plans to effectively address mental health issues.

- He focuses on youth and cross-generational mental health awareness, highlighting the ongoing fight against mental health stigma globally.
- Growing up, he dreamed of reaching Oxford University; he received the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award, recognizing Indians who have made the country proud on a global stage.
- The day after receiving the award, he participated in a panel at the Global Mental Health Summit at Oxford University.
- Khurana, 32, also served as the keynote speaker at the Global Mental Health Summit 2024 held at the historic Oxford Union.
- He is heading to Samoa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), where he will moderate a mental health session with notable leaders, including Samoa's Prime Minister Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa and Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland.

Urmila Chaudhary Receives Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024

Urmila Chaudhary from Nepal has been awarded the Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024, presented by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken. This award recognizes six civil society leaders for their outstanding courage, leadership, and commitment to promoting racial equity, justice, and human rights. She is an abolitionist and labor activist who was rescued from child servitude at the age of 17. She co-founded the Freed Kamlari Development Forum and established 42 cooperatives to empower former bonded laborers. Currently, she is studying law to strengthen her fight against injustice.

Foot notes:

- The Kamalari system in the Western Terai of Nepal involved the sale of girls and young women into indentured servitude for one-year contracts to wealthier, higher-caste buyers.
- On September 10, 2006, the Supreme Court of Nepal declared the Kamalari practice illegal, entitling former kamlaris to government compensation, education, and rehabilitation.
- Despite the ruling, the interim government failed to implement it, allowing the practice to persist.
- The suspicious death of 12-year-old Srijana Chaudhary in March 2013 reignited the movement, leading to mass protests demanding an end to the practice.
- In June 2013, the government officially abolished the Kamalari system and agreed to a 10-point plan for compensation, rehabilitation, and justice for abuse victims.

Ministry of Mines conferred 'Adarsh Karmayogi Awards'

As part of Mission Karmayogi, the Mines Ministry awarded 13 top learners with the "Adarsh Karmayogi Awards" during the National Learning Week (19-25 October 2024). Recipients included employees from the Geological Survey of India, Hindustan Copper Limited, and the Indian Bureau of Mines. The awards were given to employees who completed over 100 courses on the iGOT Karmayogi portal.

Foot notes:

- The iGOT Karmayogi portal provides civil servants with flexible, wide-ranging training opportunities.
- Notably, lower-rung officials like Ms. Layeeka Sultana (131 courses) and Shri Manoj Kumar Meena (109 courses) completed numerous courses on the iGOT portal.
- By December 2023, 100% of Ministry of Mines employees were onboarded to the iGOT Karmayogi portal.
- The Ministry adopted a Capacity Building Program starting January 2024, completing three successful quarters.
- The Ministry of Mines achieved 100% course completion, earning recognition as a top performer by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).
- Indian Bureau of Mines ranked No. 1 among MDOs (500-1000 users), and Geological Survey of India ranked No. 2 (1000-10,000 users) in September 2024.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

IndusInd Bank Reappoints Sumant Kathpalia as MD & CEO

The board of IndusInd Bank has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a three-year term from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2028, subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders.

Foot notes:

- Sumant Kathpalia has over 36 years of banking experience with Citibank, Bank of America, and ABN AMRO.
- He joined IndusInd Bank 16 years ago and was key in its turnaround.
- Sumant has served as MD & CEO since March 24, 2020.
- The board's decision followed a recommendation from the Compensation, Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

About IndusInd Bank:

Founded: 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: S. P. Hinduja

Current MD & CEO: Sumant Kathpalia

Former Dutch PM Mark Rutte appointed as Secretary General of NATO

Former Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte officially assumed the role of Secretary-General of NATO in Brussels today, succeeding Norway's Jens Stoltenberg, who led the alliance since 2014. In his first press conference, Rutte urged allies to substantially boost defence spending to address NATO's challenges and called for stronger cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners.

Foot notes:

- NATO's 32 members appointed Mark after the Dutch politician secured the early backing of the United States, Germany and Britain.
- Mark Rutte began his career in 1992 in HRM at Unilever and its subsidiaries.
- He studied Dutch history at Leiden University and has been a guest teacher at the Johan de Witt group of schools in The Hague since 2008.
- He served as a member of the Dutch Parliament from January to May 2003.
- He was the leader of the liberal Dutch People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) from 2006 to 2023.

About NATO:

Founded: 1949

Headquarters: Brussels

Takuro Takeuchi Appointed as new CR of JICA India Office

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has appointed Takuro Takeuchi as the new Chief Representative of its India Office.

Foot notes:

- Mr. Takuro Takeuchi has over 27 years of experience at JICA, holding key leadership roles in various divisions.
- He recently served as the Senior Director of the General Affairs Division, contributing significantly to JICA's institutional strategy and management.
- His previous positions include Senior Director of South Asia Division 1, overseeing India, and Director of Human Resources and South Asia Division 4, responsible for operations in Bangladesh and Nepal.

RBI appoints Aviral Jain as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Aviral Jain as the new Executive Director (ED), who previously served as Regional Director for Maharashtra, will now oversee the legal and other departments. With over three decades of experience, his expertise spans areas such as

supervision, currency management, foreign exchange regulation, and human resource management.

Foot notes:

- Aviral Jain brings over 30 years of experience in supervision, currency management, foreign exchange regulation, and human resource management.
- Jain holds a postgraduate degree in economics and has earned certifications in AML/KYC and Capital Markets. He is also a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF).

About RBI:

CEO: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1935

Claudia Sheinbaum Takes Oath as Mexico's First Female President

Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico's new president on Tuesday, making history as the country's first female president and the first president of Jewish descent in a predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Her election victory comes 70 years after women in Mexico gained the right to vote.

Foot notes:

- The new president, a former climate scientist with a doctorate in energy engineering, will make her first trip to Acapulco.
- Acapulco is a resort city on Mexico's Pacific coast.
- Mexico remains one of the most conservative countries in Latin America, with its 65 presidents since independence from Spain all men.

About Mexico:

President: Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

Government: Presidential system, Federal republic

Udhayanidhi Stalin Took Oath as Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu

Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, has been sworn in as the new Deputy Chief Minister following a cabinet reshuffle that included several changes in membership. Udhayanidhi made his debut as a producer with the film *Kuruvi* (2008), which featured Vijay and Trisha, and he also produced two films directed by K. S. Ravikumar: *Aadhavan* (2009) and *Manmadhan Ambu* (2010).

Foot notes:

- Udhayanidhi Stalin, born on November 27, 1977, is the grandson of the late Karunanidhi and the son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

- He is an Indian politician, film producer, and former actor, currently serving as the 3rd Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, making him the youngest to hold this position.
- He entered politics in 2019 as the Youth Wing Secretary of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party under his father's guidance.
- In his new role, he will also manage the planning and development portfolio alongside his existing responsibilities.

About Tamil Nadu:**Chief Minister:** M K Stalin**Capital:** Chennai**Governor:** R. N. Ravi**Anura Maddegoda appointed as New BASL President****Foot notes:**

- The Bar Council of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has appointed Anura Maddegoda, as the new President and Razik Zarook as the Deputy President.
- BASL Secretary Chathura Galhena announced that these appointments follow the resignations of former President Kaushalya Nawaratne and former Deputy President Nalinda Indatissa.
- Anura Maddegoda has been a President's Counsel since 2017 and brings over 40 years of legal experience. He worked in the Attorney General's Department for nearly 20 years.

About Sri Lanka:**Capitals:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**President:** Anura Kumara Dissanayake**Official languages:** Sinhala, Tamil**Justice Manmohan sworn in as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court**

Justice Manmohan took the Oath of Office as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court in the capital, administered by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, with the new Chief Minister of Delhi also present at the ceremony. Chief Justice Manmohan is set to retire on December 16, 2024, and will serve until the end of his tenure. High Court judges have security of tenure until the age of retirement, which is 62 years.

Foot notes:

- Justice Manmohan is an alumnus of Campus Law Centre.
- He enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1987 and became a Senior Advocate in 2003.
- He was elevated to additional judge of the Delhi High Court on March 13, 2008, and became a permanent judge on December 17, 2009.

- On November 9, 2023, he was appointed acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

M V Shreyams Kumar elected as INS president

M.V. Shreyams Kumar has been elected as the president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) during its 85th annual general meeting, which was held via video conferencing. He succeeds Rakesh Sharma of the Aaj Samaj newspaper.

Foot notes:

- M.V. Shreyams Kumar is the Managing Director of Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Company.
- He has served as a Rajya Sabha MP and has been a two-time MLA from Kerala, affiliated with Janata Dal (United).
- He played a significant role in expanding Mathrubhumi's publications, launching nine of its fourteen editions.
- He facilitated the launch of platforms catering to the Malayalee diaspora in West Asia and other countries.
- The 41-member executive committee includes prominent members such as Shivendra Gupta (Business Standard), S Balasubramanian Adityan (Daily Thanthi) and Pratap G Pawar (Sakal).

About Indian Newspaper Society :

Established: 1939

Headquarters: New Delhi

New President: M V Shreyams Kumar



The advertisement is for the PSSSB CLERK 2024 Test Series. It features a blue background with a white circular inset on the right showing a student writing. On the left, there is a list of features: 65+ Full Length Mock Tests, Latest Exam Pattern, and English & Punjabi Medium. A red speech bubble in the center indicates a 50% discount. Below this, the price is shown as ₹ 639 crossed out and ₹ 319. A 'BUY NOW' button is at the bottom left. The top left has the Indian emblem and the text 'PSSSB CLERK 2024 Test Series'. The top right has a small 'MY' logo.

JioCinema Appoints YouTube's Ishan Chatterjee as CBO

Ishan Chatterjee former YouTube executive, appointed as Chief Business Officer (CBO) of JioCinema. Main objective is to drive revenue growth and oversee overall monetization of the platform. It will boost JioCinema's digital offerings in the rapidly expanding video streaming market. It's part of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries' efforts to strengthen JioCinema's position.

Foot notes:

- Ishan has been appointed as Chief Business Officer at JioCinema, where he will oversee monetization efforts, including revenue generation from sports and initiatives for small and medium-sized businesses in sports and entertainment.
- He has over two decades of industry experience, most recently as Managing Director at YouTube India, where he played a key role in the platform's growth and strategic direction.
- Ishan's previous roles include positions at Google, McKinsey, and Hindustan Unilever.
- He is an alumnus of The Wharton School and St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
- Ishan will collaborate closely with Kiran Mani as part of JioCinema's leadership team to drive the platform's next phase of growth.

Senior IAS officer 'Anurag Jain' appointed as Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government has named 1989-batch IAS officer Anurag Jain as the new chief secretary of the state. Jain, 59, had been on central deputation since May 30, 2020. He was recently relieved from his position as secretary in the Union Ministry of Road, Transport, and Highways by the central government.

Foot notes:

- Anurag Jain served as joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office a decade ago and twice as secretary to former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- He also held the positions of acting chairman and acting managing director of the Export Import Bank of India from December 2013 to February 2014.
- Anurag is set to retire in August 2025 and is the senior most IAS officer in the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Chief Minister: Dr. Mohan Yadav

IndiGo Appoints Isidro Porqueras as Chief Operating Officer

IndiGo operates approximately 14,000 flights weekly and holds a 62% market share in the domestic airline sector as of August 2024. Isidro Porqueras' appointment as Chief Transformation Officer was crucial, coinciding with IndiGo's April 2024 order for 30 A350-900 wide-body aircraft from Airbus. In June 2023, IndiGo placed a record order for 500 A320neo family planes from Airbus, the largest in history, with deliveries anticipated between 2030 and 2035.

Foot notes:

- IndiGo has appointed Isidro Porqueras as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO), starting November 1, 2024, pending regulatory approvals.
- Porqueras joined IndiGo as Chief of Transformation in April 2024.
- He brings over 25 years of experience in the aviation industry.
- Prior to IndiGo, he led operations at the Spanish low-cost airline Volotea.

About IndiGo :

Founder : 2006

Headquarters: Gurgaon

CEO: Pieter Elbers

L Satya Srinivas Appointed as GeM CEO

The Indian government has appointed L Satya Srinivas, currently Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, as the new CEO of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). This follows the appointment of former CEO P K Singh as Secretary of the Ministry of Renewable Energy. Srinivas, a 1991 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes), will oversee online procurement for all central government ministries and departments. The GeM portal, launched on August 9, 2016, aims to streamline and improve the public procurement process.

Foot notes:

- P K Singh, former head of the GeM initiative, has moved to a new role as Secretary in the Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- This transition reflects the government's commitment to strengthening leadership in important sectors.
- The GeM portal has transformed government procurement since its launch, offering a digital platform for purchasing goods and services.
- It promotes transparency and efficiency in the procurement process for various government entities.

Subhash Prasad Gupta Appointed as High Commissioner to St. Vincent

Subhash Prasad Gupta, currently India's Ambassador to Suriname, has been concurrently appointed as the next High Commissioner to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He is a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

Foot notes:

- Subhash Prasad Gupta is currently India's Ambassador to Suriname.
- He has been concurrently appointed as the next High Commissioner to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2006 batch.

IRFC Welcomes Manoj Kumar Dubey as New CMD and CEO

Manoj Kumar Dubey previously held the positions of Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer at the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR). He has an impressive background in financial management and strategic operations.

Foot notes:

- Manoj Kumar Dubey expressed pride in leading IRFC during a pivotal time for India's growth.
- He stressed aligning IRFC with Prime Minister Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.
- He acknowledged improvements under PM Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- 14,985 km of new tracks added in the past decade, surpassing countries like France.
- Total track length more than doubled, from 14,000 km (2004-2014) to over 31,000 km.

Mahela Jayawardene Reappointed as Head Coach of Mumbai Indians

Mumbai Indians have reappointed former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene as their head coach ahead of IPL 2025. Jayawardene takes over from Mark Boucher, under whom the franchise finished last in IPL 2024. Jayawardene had previously served as Mumbai's head coach from 2017 to 2022.

Foot notes:

- Mumbai Indians have reappointed Mahela Jayawardene as head coach for IPL 2025, replacing Mark Boucher, who oversaw a last-place finish in IPL 2024.
- Jayawardene previously served as the head coach from 2017 to 2022.
- After his first tenure, he became the global head of performance in 2022, overseeing coaching and scouting for all four franchise teams: Mumbai Indians (IPL), MI Emirates (ILT20), MI Cape Town (SA20), and MI New York (MLC).
- He is recognized as one of the most successful coaches in T20 cricket, having led Mumbai to three IPL titles during his first term.

Omar Abdullah sworn in as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, marking the first elected government in the union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Abdullah, who is serving his second term as chief minister. He is the third generation of the Abdullah family to hold the position, following his grandfather Sheikh Abdullah and father Farooq Abdullah.

Foot notes:

- Omar Abdullah was unanimously elected as leader of the NC Legislature Party.
- He previously served as chief minister from 2009 to 2014, when J&K was still a fullfledged state.
- The National Conference won 42 out of 90 seats in the recent elections, while ally Congress secured six.
- Together, NC and Congress have a majority in the 95-member assembly, with five members to be nominated by the LG.
- J&K was bifurcated into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, in 2019.

Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai appointed as DGMS Navy

Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai, SM, VSM assumes charge as Director General Medical Services (Navy) on 14 Oct 24. The Flag Officer was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on 30 Dec 1986. An alumnus of the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College Pune, she has specialized in Pathology and super specialized in Oncopathology from the prestigious AIIMS, New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- Surgeon Vice Admiral Sahai was appointed as Director General Medical Services (Navy).
- She was the first woman Commandant of AMC Centre & College, Lucknow, and O i/C Records.
- Sahai is the first woman officer elected as Col Commandant of the Army Medical Corps.
- An Armed Forces Medical College (Pune) alumnus, she specialized in pathology and oncopathology at AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Sahai served as Professor and Head of Lab Sciences at AHRR Army Hospital and Base Hospital Delhi Cantt.

Aishath Azeema Appointed as Maldives Envoy to India

Senior diplomat Aishath Azeema is set to replace Ibrahim Shaheeb as the top Maldivian envoy to India. Azeema, who joined the foreign service in 1988, has served as the Maldivian ambassador to China from June 2019 to September 2023. She also previously served as deputy ambassador of the Maldives to the UK. Shaheeb was appointed in October 2022.

Foot notes:

- Aishath Azeema was appointed as the High Commissioner of Maldives to India, succeeding Ibrahim Shaheeb.
- Shaheeb served as High Commissioner to India from November 2022, during President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's administration.
- Before his role in India, Shaheeb was the Maldives' Ambassador to Singapore for a year.

- His diplomatic career began in 1991, and he served as Chief of Protocol in 2018.
- Ambassadors and High Commissioners are appointed for three-year terms under the Foreign Service Act.

S Paramesh Appointed as New Indian Coast Guard Chief

The Centre appointed Additional Director General S. Paramesh as the new chief of the Indian Coast Guard. Paramesh will take over following the demise of former DG Rakesh Pal. With over three decades of service, Paramesh has held several key posts, including Deputy Director General (Operations and Coastal Security), and commands of major ICG vessels.

Foot notes:

- S. Paramesh has served in the Indian Coast Guard for over three decades, excelling in both command and staff roles.
- He commanded key vessels such as the Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel „Samar“ and the Offshore Patrol Vessel „Vishwast“.
- He also served as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Regional Headquarters (East), overseeing operations along India’s eastern seaboard.
- He is an alumnus of the National Defence College (NDC) and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), giving him strong expertise in field operations and strategic planning.

Partha Pratim Sengupta appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years. He replaces Chandra Sekhar Ghosh, the founder MD and CEO, who resigned on July 9, 2024. Ratan Kesh is currently serving as the interim MD and CEO.

Foot notes:

- Sengupta has nearly four decades of experience in the banking sector, having held leadership positions at the State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- At SBI, he held various leadership roles in retail and corporate banking, including Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer.
- Sengupta also managed regional operations as Chief General Manager of the Kolkata Circle, covering West Bengal, Sikkim, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The bank has maintained a net interest margin of 7.6% in both quarters of FY25 and Q4 of FY24.

About Bandhan Bank:

Headquarters: Kolkata

Founded: 2001

Founder: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Rashmika Mandanna Appointed as National Brand Ambassador for Cyber Safety

Film actor Rashmika Mandanna has been appointed as the national brand ambassador of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to tackle the growing threat of cyber crimes. Her appointment follows her own experience with a deep fake video, highlighting the importance of raising public awareness about cyber safety.

Foot notes:

- As the national brand ambassador for I4C, Rashmika Mandanna will lead campaigns to educate the public on cyber crime.
- Focus areas include Deepfake technology, Cyber bullying, Financial frauds, Online scams.
- With 44.2 million Instagram and 4.9 million X followers, Mandanna can reach a wide audience, making her a key figure in promoting cyber safety.

Kamal El Mernissi appointed as CBD Officer of Biotalys

Biotalys (Euronext Brussels: BTLS), an AgTech company focused on developing protein-based biocontrol solutions for sustainable crop protection, has appointed Kamal El Mernissi as Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO). Kamal brings expertise in the latest technological advancements and trends in the industry, having collaborated with key players in the field. Reporting to Biotalys CEO Kevin Helash, Mr. El Mernissi will spearhead efforts to establish partnerships with major agricultural stakeholders to leverage the AGROBODY Foundry™ technology platform for developing innovative biofungicides and bio-insecticides with new modes of action.

Foot notes:

- He has also worked in sales and marketing roles at leading companies such as DELL and SIKA.
- Kamal holds an Engineering Diploma in Agriculture from the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute in Morocco and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley.
- His appointment as Chief Business Development Officer is effective October 17, 2024.
- Kamal, along with other Biotalys management team members, will represent the company at the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting in Basel from October 21 to 23.

About Biotalys:

CEO: Kevin Helash

Headquarters: Belgium

Dr. K Laxman appointed as National Election Officer of BJP

The BJP high command has appointed OBC Morcha leader Dr. K. Laxman as the national

returning officer for its organisational elections, marking the first time a leader from South India has been given this responsibility. Naresh Bansal, Rekha Varma, and Sambit Patra have also been named as co-returning officers. Speaking to „Deccan Chronicle“, Dr. Laxman stated that the organisational election process would take around four months, with the returning officers' team overseeing the process at all levels.

Foot notes:

- The process of electing the next BJP president will gain momentum after the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections conclude on November 23.
- State BJP units are currently electing their office-bearers, who will then vote for the party president.
- Although the president's name is usually decided by the BJP high command in consultation with the RSS leadership, the party follows the formal process of electing its office-bearers.

About BJP:

President: J. P. Nadda

Founders: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L. K. Advani

Founded: 1980

Thomas Tuchel appointed as Head Coach of England Men's Football team

Thomas Tuchel is set to take on one of the toughest coaching roles in sports as the new head coach of the England men's national team. This marks Tuchel's first international coaching role, having previously managed clubs like Mainz, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, and Chelsea, where he won the UEFA Champions League in 2021. His most recent position was with Bayern Munich, which he left at the end of last season.

Foot notes:

- As England's head coach, Thomas Tuchel will be supported by Anthony Barry, his assistant at Chelsea and Bayern Munich.
- Anthony Barry, who recently assisted Portugal at the 2023 European Championships, will join Tuchel's coaching staff.
- Tuchel will be the third foreign coach for England, following Sven-Goran Eriksson from Sweden and Fabio Capello from Italy.

Sourav Ganguly appointed as Director of Cricket at JSW Sports

Former BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly has been named the Director of Cricket at JSW Sports, overseeing cricketing properties like Delhi Capitals (IPL, WPL) and Pretoria Capitals (SAT20 League). He scored 11363 runs in his ODI career which stands at 9th position in the world for most runs scored in ODI matches.

Foot notes:

- Sourav Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, working with coach Ricky Ponting.
- He later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after serving as BCCI president.
- The management of Delhi Capitals' IPL and WPL teams will rotate every two years between GMR Group and JSW Group.
- GMR Group will manage IPL operations for the next two years, while JSW Sports will handle the WPL team.
- Sourav Ganguly has been honored with prestigious awards, including the Arjuna Award for Cricket and the Padma Shri.

Acko Appoints Sandip Goenka as CEO of ACKO Life

Acko has appointed Sandip Goenka as the CEO of its newly launched life insurance division, ACKO Life. As a founding member of the division, Sandip has played a crucial role in establishing the direct-to-consumer (D2C) life insurance business. With over 20 years of experience in life, health, general insurance, and consulting, he brings valuable expertise to enhance growth and operational efficiency. Sandip previously served as CFO at Exide Life Insurance and held leadership roles at TATA AIA and EY. His knowledge in actuarial sciences, mergers and acquisitions, and cross-cultural business management will be vital for Acko Life's expansion.

Foot notes:

- **Focus Areas:** Offers innovative, customer-centric life insurance products tailored to the evolving needs of Indian consumers.
- **Leadership Expertise:** Sandip has over 20 years of experience in life, health, general insurance, reinsurance, and insurance consulting.
- **Product Strategy:** Emphasizes operational efficiency, product development, financial performance, and long-term growth.
- **Company Vision:** Acko aims to leverage technology to enhance its life insurance offerings, prioritizing customer satisfaction and corporate governance.
- **Global Experience:** Leadership benefits from expertise in markets like India, the UK, and Singapore.
- **Expansion Plans:** ACKO Life is poised for growth under Goenka's leadership, focusing on strategic business management and investor relations.

Hemang Badani appointed as Delhi Capitals Head Coach

Former India batter Hemang Badani has been named the new head coach of Delhi Capitals (DC) for IPL 2025. In addition, DC has appointed former India batter Venugopal Rao as their

director of cricket. Badani previously served as head coach of Chepauk Super Gillies, leading them to four TNPL titles, one of which was shared. He also played a pivotal role in the development of young talents like R Sai Kishore, the current Tamil Nadu captain.

Foot notes:

- From 2021 to 2023, Hemang Badani served as the fielding coach and later as the batting coach for Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- He guided the Jaffna Kings to two consecutive titles in the Lankan Premier League.
- He was the batting coach for Sunrisers Eastern Cape, who won the inaugural SA20 title.
- Most recently, Badani was the head coach of Dubai Capitals, leading them to the ILT20 final this year.

Alok Verma Appointed Director in-charge of SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant

Alok Verma is the new Director in-charge of Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) Rourkela Steel Plant. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) Panel. As Director-in-charge, Verma will oversee the plant's operations, project implementation and marketing.

Foot notes:

- As Director-in-charge of Rourkela Steel Plant, Alok Verma will serve as a member of the Board of Directors and report to the Chairman.
- He will oversee the overall operations of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and ensure its efficient functioning, along with the associated mines.
- Verma will be responsible for achieving corporate objectives and performance targets.
- His duties include overseeing project implementation at the plant and associated mines, as well as managing marketing and sales of products produced.

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**Prakash Man Singh Raut appointed as new Chief Justice of Nepal**

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel appointed Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice following Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha's retirement at age 65. The oath of office was

administered at Sheetal Niwas attended by high-ranking officials, including the Vice President and Prime Minister.

Foot notes:

- The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Vice President Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Speaker Devraj Ghimire and National Assembly Chairman Narayan Prasad Dahal.
- He was recommended for the Chief Justice post by the Constitutional Council on September 16. His appointment follows the retirement of Chief Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 65.
- Pankaj Agrawal Given Additional Charge as Secretary of MoRTH Pankaj Agrawal, Union Power Secretary (IAS: 1992: MP), has been assigned the additional charge of Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

M. Rajeshwar Rao Reappointed as RBI Deputy Governor

The Central Government has re-appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for one year, effective October 9, 2024, or until further notice. Rao initially took on the role in September 2020 for three years and received a one-year extension in 2023. He joined the Reserve Bank in 1984 and has extensive experience in various aspects of central banking.

Foot notes:

- Rajeshwar Rao has served as the Banking Ombudsman in New Delhi.
- He has worked in the Reserve Bank's regional offices in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, and New Delhi.
- He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and an MBA from the University of Cochin.
- He is a Certificated Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

Nestle India Appoints Manish Tiwari as New MD

Nestle India has announced that Manish Tiwary, former country manager of Amazon India, will take over as Managing Director from August 1, 2025, following the retirement of current MD and Chairman Suresh Narayanan on July 31, 2025. Narayanan will step down after 26 years with the company. The appointments were nominated by Nestle SA, the Swiss parent company.

Foot notes:

- Manish Tiwary, a Director at Amazon Digital Services and More Consumer Brand, will step down on October 30, 2024.
- He is an IIM Bangalore alumnus with nearly 30 years of experience in e-commerce and consumer goods.
- He joined Amazon in 2016 after a 20-year career at Unilever.

- Manish Tiwary is a seasoned business executive with nearly 30 years of experience in ecommerce and consumer goods.

Ajit Vinayak Gupte appointed as India's Ambassador to Germany

Ajit Vinayak Gupte, currently India's Ambassador to Egypt, has been appointed as the next Ambassador to Germany, the Ministry of External Affairs announced. A 1991 batch IFS officer, Gupte previously served as Ambassador to Denmark from November 2017 to March 2021. He will assume the new role soon.

Foot notes:

- Ajit Vinayak Gupte studied Chinese (Mandarin) and handled China-related roles, including as Under Secretary (1995-1998) and in postings to Hong Kong (1998-2000) and Beijing (2000-2004).
- He served in Dhaka, Bangladesh (2004-2008) as First Secretary/Counsellor.
- He was Deputy Director General at ICCR (2008-2010), promoting India's cultural diplomacy.
- From 2010 to 2014, Gupte was Deputy Chief of Mission in Berlin and acted as Charge d'Affaires for 9 months.
- He held the roles of Joint Secretary (Haj) and Joint Secretary (Development Partnership Administration) from 2015 to 2017.

About Germany:

Capital: Berlin

Official language: German

President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Sanath Jayasuriya appointed as new head coach of Sri Lankan men's cricket team

Sanath Jayasuriya has been appointed as the head coach of Sri Lanka's men's team until the 2026 T20 World Cup, after initially serving in an interim role since July. His successful tenure, which included Sri Lanka's first ODI series win against India in 27 years, a Test victory against England away after 10 years, and a 2-0 home Test series sweep over New Zealand, earned him the full-time position.

Foot notes:

- Key player in Sri Lanka's 1996 ODI World Cup-winning team. Served as Member of Parliament from 2010-2015.
- Played 445 ODIs, scoring 13,430 runs at an average of 32.36. Hit 28 centuries and 68 half-centuries.
- His first assignment as head coach will be the forthcoming limited-overs matches against West Indies, in Dambulla andallekele.

Yorkshire Appoints Anthony McGrath as Men's Head Coach

Yorkshire has appointed Anthony McGrath as their new men's head coach, taking over from former West Indies cricketer Ottis Gibson. McGrath, 49, has signed a five-year contract and returns to his home county, where he developed as an all-rounder and earned 28 caps for England, including four Test matches. He began his coaching career at Yorkshire after retiring in 2013 and later moved to Essex, where he initially served as assistant coach to Chris Silverwood.

Foot notes:

- **Coaching Career at Essex:** McGrath became head coach of Essex after Chris Silverwood left for the England role, leading the team to a Championship and T20 Blast double in 2019 and the Bob Willis Trophy in 2020.
- **Recent Achievements:** Under his guidance, Essex finished second in Division One and were T20 Blast finalists in 2023.
- **Expanded Role:** In 2023, McGrath took on additional responsibilities as director of cricket following a management restructuring.
- **New Role at Yorkshire:** McGrath will lead Yorkshire, who have been promoted back to Division One after their relegation in 2022 and a 48-point deduction in 2023 due to a racism scandal.

Prasanth Kumar Re-elected as President of AAI

Prasanth Kumar, CEO of GroupM Media India, has been re-elected as president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for 2024-25. This decision was made during the AAAI's annual general meeting in Mumbai. The AAAI, established in 1945, is a not-forprofit trade association representing advertising agencies. He also served as vice-president of AAAI from 2020 to 2022.

Foot notes:

- With over two decades of experience in advertising, Kumar is a veteran at GroupM and has previously worked with Pepsi, The Hindu, The Media Edge, and McCann Erickson.
- **Vice-President Appointment:** Rana Barua, Group CEO of Havas India, South East & North Asia, has been re-elected as Vice-President, marking his third term. Leadership Goals: Barua and Prasanth Kumar aim to drive advancements in the advertising industry.
- **New Board Members:** Other newly elected board members include Sam Balsara, Tanya Goyal, Tapas Gupta, Vishandas Hardasani, Mohit Joshi, Santosh Kumar, Kunal Lalani, Rohan Mehta, Chandramouli Muthu, Vikram Sakhuja, Kalyan Sarkar, and K Srinivas.

About AAAI:

President: Francesca Rossi

Founded: 1979

Noel Tata elected as Chairman of Tata Trusts

Noel Tata has been appointed as the chairman of Tata Group's philanthropic arm, Tata Trusts. With this appointment, Noel becomes the 11th chairman of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the 6th chairman of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust. He is the son of Naval H. Tata and Simone N. Tata and the half-brother of Ratan Tata. Noel Tata was already serving as a trustee of both the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, which together own a 66% stake in Tata Sons.

Foot notes:

- Noel Tata's leadership includes expanding Trent Limited from one store in 1998 to over 700 stores today.
- He holds a degree from Sussex University and completed the International Executive Programme at INSEAD.
- His long-standing connection with the Tata Group and role in Tata Trusts made him the leading candidate for chairman after Ratan Tata's death.
- Noel Tata's reserved leadership style contrasts with the public persona of his late halfbrother, Ratan Tata.
- His appointment aligns with the 2022 amendment ensuring no individual holds both the chairman roles of Tata Trusts and Tata Sons simultaneously.

Prabowo Subianto Becomes President of Indonesia

Prabowo Subianto, former special forces commander, assumed office as the 8th President of Indonesia. He won the February 14 election with nearly 60% of the vote, emphasizing policies like free meals for schoolchildren. Indonesia, the world's third-largest democracy and most populous Muslim-majority nation, now sees leadership under the 73-year-old.

Foot notes:

- Prabowo Subianto was inaugurated as Indonesia's eighth president, completing his rise from an ex-general accused of human rights abuses to the nation's leader.
- The 73-year-old took his oath on the Quran in front of lawmakers and foreign dignitaries, while thousands of supporters cheered him in Jakarta.
- Leaders from over 40 countries, including the UK, France, the US, Saudi Arabia, and China, attended the ceremony.
- Prabowo, a former defense minister, had been a longtime rival of outgoing President Joko Widodo, running against him in 2014 and 2019.
- He was sworn in with his vice president, 37-year-old Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Widodo's son, with Widodo endorsing Prabowo over his former party's candidate.

About Indonesia:

President: Prabowo Subianto

Capital: Jakarta

Priyadarshini Gaddam appointed as NMDC Director

NMDC Limited, formerly known as the National Mineral Development Corporation, is an Indian state-controlled mineral producer, with 72.43% ownership by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Steel's administrative control. The company is engaged in the exploration of various minerals, including iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, and graphite.

Foot notes:

- NMDC is India's largest iron ore producer and exporter, with an annual production exceeding 35 million tons.
- It operates three fully mechanized iron ore mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.
- NMDC also runs India's only mechanized diamond mine in Panna, Madhya Pradesh.
- After discussions, the PESB recommended Priyadarshini Gaddam for the post of Director (Personnel) at NMDC Limited (Schedule 'A').

About NMDC:

Founded: 1958

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Abhyuday Jindal Appointed as President of Indian Chamber of Commerce

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a national business association, has appointed Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited, as its new president. The announcement was made during the ICC's annual plenary session in New Delhi on Friday. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who served as the chief guest, emphasized the tourism sector's potential. He encouraged the chamber to leverage its network to promote India as a global tourism hub and to connect local talent with international opportunities.

Foot notes:

- Abhyuday Jindal, a Boston University graduate in Economics and Business Management, has a strong background in project management, supply chain optimization, and strategic leadership.
- As Managing Director of Jindal Stainless, he has overseen major improvements in operational efficiency and led the company's shift towards sustainability and growth.
- His commitment to the principles of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and community development will shape his leadership at ICC.
- He aims to bring a dynamic approach to policy advocacy and industry collaboration during his tenure.

About Indian Chamber of Commerce:**Headquarters** - Calcutta**Established** – 1925**Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar Appointed as Chairperson of NCW**

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar, former Maharashtra Women's Commission chief (2016-21), has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Commission for Women. She succeeds Rekha Sharma, whose second term ended in August, and becomes the ninth chairperson. Rahatkar's tenure begins immediately, according to the official appointment notification.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment & Tenure:** Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar's appointment as chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) is effective immediately for a three-year term or until she turns 65.
- **Key Initiatives:** Introduced digital literacy programs and launched "Saad," a publication on women's issues.
- **Political Background:** Served as Mayor of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (2007-2010), focusing on healthcare and infrastructure projects.
- **Education:** Holds a bachelor's degree in Physics and a master's degree in History from the University of Pune.
- **Authorship & Recognition:** Authored books like 'Vidhikhit' (on women's legal issues) and 'Aurangabad: Leading to Wide Roads'; received the National Law Award and Savitribai Phule Award for contributions to women's empowerment.
- **NCW Overview:** Established in 1992 under the NCW Act, 1990, the NCW is an autonomous body focused on protecting and promoting women's rights in India.

Journalist Mushfiqul Fazal Ansarey appointed as ambassador to Bangladesh

The Bangladesh government appointed journalist Mushfiqul Fazal Ansarey as an ambassador abroad for a three-year term, with the rank of senior secretary, as per a UNB report. The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification confirming his appointment, requiring Ansarey to cut ties with any profession, business, or government organization for the duration of his term. While the country of his posting has not yet been revealed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will soon provide details. Ansarey recently returned to Bangladesh from the US on September 12, after nearly a decade in exile.

Foot notes:

- Mushfiqul Fazal Ansarey is a Washington DC-based journalist who returned to Bangladesh on September 12 after nearly a decade in exile.
- He gained recognition as a correspondent covering State Department press briefings.

- Ansarey currently serves as the Executive Editor of 'South Asia Perspectives', a foreign policy magazine, and as Editor and White House Correspondent for 'JustNewsBD'.
- He also covers the UN, State Department, and Pentagon, and is the Executive Director of the non-profit Right to Freedom (R2F).
- Additionally, Ansarey is a permanent correspondent at the UN headquarters and previously worked as an assistant press secretary to former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Official language: Bengali

President: Mohammed Shahabuddin



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Ajay Kumar Singh appointed as DGP of Jharkhand

The Election Commission appointed Ajay Kumar Singh as the new Director General of Police for Jharkhand, replacing Anurag Gupta, who was removed due to past election-related misconduct. Singh, a 1989-batch IPS officer, was selected from a panel of three IPS officers recommended by the state government.

Foot notes:

- Ajay's appointment resolved a dispute over the DGP post, following the Supreme Court's dismissal of a contempt petition against the Jharkhand government and Neeraj Sinha in January 2023.
- A Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud had directed the state to act on UPSC requisitions regarding the DGP appointment.
- He is an Indian politician and member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- He represents the Harraiya constituency in Basti district as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- Ajay began his political career in the 17th Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (2017).
- In the 2017 elections, he contested against Raj Kishor Singh, a three-time MLA and former Cabinet minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government.

Justice Yayha Afridi appointed as Pakistan's Chief Justice

Pakistan's Special Parliamentary Committee has selected Justice Yayha Afridi as the next Chief Justice, following a recent change in appointment procedures due to the 26th Constitutional Amendment. His nomination was sent to the prime minister with a two-thirds majority, as confirmed by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar. The Chief Justice's term will be set at three years.

Foot notes:

- A parliamentary panel selected Justice Yahya Afridi as the next chief justice of Pakistan.
- The decision followed amendments to the constitution, particularly the 26th Constitutional Amendment, granting the panel authority to appoint the top judge.
- The selection was made from the three most senior Supreme Court judges.
- The amendment replaced the seniority-based appointment system with a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC).
- The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) boycotted the proceedings, following the PTI political committee's decision.

Luong Cuong appointed as President of Vietnam

Luong Cuong elected as President by the National Assembly during its 8th session with 91.67% of votes. He replaces To Lam and will serve until 2026. He pledges to fulfill duties assigned by the party, state, and people. Cuong joined the army in 1975, became a Major General by 2006, and later served as Chief of the General Department of Politics under the Vietnam People's Army.

Foot notes:

- Luong Cuong, a senior member of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), has been elected as Vietnam's President.
- The 8th session of the 15th National Assembly elected him with 91.67% of deputies voting in favor.
- Cuong succeeds To Lam, who remained president after being appointed general secretary of the CPV in August.
- The presidency in Vietnam is largely ceremonial, with duties focused on meeting foreign dignitaries.
- In his oath, Cuong pledged to fulfill his responsibilities to the party, state, and people.

Disney Appoints James Gorman as New Chairman

The Walt Disney Company has named James P. Gorman as its new chairman of the board, effective January 2, 2025. He will succeed Mark G. Parker, who is stepping down after nine

years in the role. Gorman, currently the executive chairman of Morgan Stanley, will leave that position on December 31, 2024. He also chairs Disney's Succession Planning Committee, which is responsible for identifying the company's next CEO. Parker, who is also Executive Chairman of NIKE, Inc., expressed his confidence in Gorman, saying, "James Gorman is a highly respected leader and has quickly become an invaluable voice on the Disney Board since joining earlier this year.

Foot notes:

- **New Chairman:** James P. Gorman, former CEO of Morgan Stanley, will succeed Mark Parker as chairman of Disney.
- **Parker's Departure:** Parker is leaving the board on January 2 after nine years of service.
- **Gorman's Role:** Currently the executive chairman of Morgan Stanley, he will step down from that position on December 31.
- **Succession Planning:** Gorman was appointed to lead Disney's succession planning in August.
- **Wall Street Norms:** He successfully transitioned leadership at Morgan Stanley by promoting an internal candidate while retaining other contenders.
- **Tenure at Morgan Stanley:** Gorman's departure concludes nearly two decades at the investment bank.

About Disney:

Founders: Walt Disney, Roy O. Disney

Founded: 1923

Headquarters: Burbank, California, US

Indian origin ' Prabhakar Raghavan' become Chief Technology Officer of Google

Prabhakar Raghavan has been appointed as Google's new Chief Technologist, replacing Nick Fox. Previously, Raghavan was Senior VP overseeing Google Search, Assistant, Geo, Ads, Commerce, and Payments. He holds a PhD from UC Berkeley and a Bachelor's degree from IIT Madras, and is a Fellow of ACM and IEEE.

Foot notes:

- Raghavan is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a former editor in chief of the Journal of the ACM.
- Before Google, he founded and led Yahoo Labs and served as Chief Strategy Officer at Yahoo.
- He also held leadership roles at Verity and IBM, focusing on algorithms, data mining, and machine learning.

- At Google, he previously expanded Google Apps into an enterprise solution, growing Gmail and Drive to over 1 billion users, and introduced AI features like Smart Reply and Smart Compose.

Vikram Dev Dutt Takes Charge as Coal Secretary

Vikram Dev Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has officially taken over as Coal Secretary. Previously serving as the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), he succeeds VL Kantha Rao, who was handling the role after Amrit Lal Meena became Bihar's Chief Secretary. With India's power demand expected to grow by 6-7% annually, Dutt now faces the crucial task of increasing coal production to meet the rising demands of the Power and Industrial sectors.

Foot notes:

- Amrit Lal Meena, former Coal Secretary, was repatriated to Bihar at the request of the state government.
- Vikram Dev Dutt's appointment as Coal Secretary comes as India plans to increase coal production to over 1 billion tonnes and add 80 GW of coal-fired capacity by 2032.
- This move is crucial to balancing the grid as renewable energy sources expand, ensuring stable power generation.

About Ministry of Coal:

Cabinet Minister: G. Kishan Reddy

Minister of State: Satish Chandra Dubey

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited appointed Barenia Senapati as Director of Finance

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has named Barenia Senapati as the Finance Director. Senapati is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and brings a wealth of experience across various financial areas, including accounting, financial planning, treasury management, pricing, and taxation.

Foot notes:

- Total oil imports to India increased by 4% this year, indicating a rise in demand.
- Russian oil supplies to India grew by 6.4% month-on-month in September, reaching 1.88 million barrels per day.
- As the third-largest oil consumer globally, India imports over 85% of its oil needs from more than 30 countries.
- Discounted crude prices from Russia significantly boost refiners' demand, according to analyst Serena Huang from Vortexa.

- The top three suppliers (Russia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia) have retained their rankings but have lost about 0.5% of their market share compared to last year.

About HAL:**Founded:** 1940**Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka, India**Chairman & MD:** DK Sunil**JP Morgan has appointed Pranav Chawda as the CEO**

India's central bank has approved the appointment of Pranav Chawda as the chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s local banking unit for a three-year term. Chawda, currently the head of commercial banking, will also take on the role of head of the corporate banking division, as stated by the US lender on Wednesday. This position became available after the resignation of former CEO Prabdev Singh, who stepped down before completing his term.

Foot notes:

- Pranav Chawda, a chartered accountant, began his career in 1995 as an assistant manager at Deloitte.
- He joined JPMorgan in 2019 as head of client banking and specialized industries, focusing on mid-sized, India-based companies.
- Previously, he served as managing director for institutional banking at DBS Bank in India.
- Chawda has been leading the commercial banking division at JPMorgan and will now expand his role to include heading the corporate banking entity.
- To enhance client experience, JPMorgan is integrating its commercial and corporate banking operations in India, aligning with a firm-wide initiative announced earlier this year.

About JP Morgan:**CEO:** Jamie Dimon**President:** Daniel E. Pinto**Headquarters:** New York, New York, United States**Founded:** 1871**JNU Professor Mazhar Asif Appointed Vice-Chancellor of Jamia**

Professor Mazhar Asif from Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of Languages has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia for a five-year term. The appointment, made by the President of India, is effective from the date he assumes office or until he reaches the age of 70. Asif also played a role in drafting the National Education Policy 2020.

Foot notes:

- Prof. Asif, a distinguished faculty member at Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of Languages, will take on the role of Vice-Chancellor for a five-year term.
- He has authored seven books, including Aitihasic Patabhumit Asomor Aitijyamandita Islamdharmit Sakal (History of Assamese Muslims) and Tarikh-e-Aasham (A Persian Chronicle).
- The Vice-Chancellor position at Jamia Millia Islamia had been vacant since Najma Akhtar's term ended on November 12, 2023, with Prof. Mohammad Shakeel serving as Officiating Vice-Chancellor since May 22, 2024.
- This is the first time an interim officer has held the top post for such an extended period, as previous appointments were typically made within six months.
- He is a member of the drafting committee for the National Education Policy, serves on the National Monitoring Committee for Education, and has experience in teaching for 27 years and 10 years in administration.

ICRISAT appointed Dr Himanshu Pathak as Director General

Dr. Himanshu Pathak has been appointed Director General-designate of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), announced by Governing Board Chair Professor Prabhu Pingali on October 18, 2024, at ICRISAT headquarters in Hyderabad.

Foot notes:

- Dr. Pathak currently serves as Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- He brings extensive experience in global agricultural research, key for addressing challenges in expanding drylands.
- Under his leadership, ICRISAT aims to build resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in Asia, Africa, and beyond.
- Professor Pingali expressed confidence in Dr. Pathak's strategic vision, noting that ICRISAT will continue to form strong alliances and innovate in global food security.
- The Governing Board thanked outgoing Director General Dr. Jacqueline Hughes for her leadership, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ICRISAT is dedicated to improving dryland farming and agri-food systems, addressing hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and environmental degradation in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and beyond.

About ICRISAT:

Founded: 1972

Headquarters: Patancheruvu

TransUnion appointed Madhusudan Kejriwal CEO for UK and Europe

TransUnion has appointed Madhusudan Kejriwal as the CEO for the UK and Europe. Kejriwal has extensive experience, having previously led the European business as interim CEO for the past year. He is set to take on his new role following Mark Horsey's interim leadership, with Horsey remaining on in an advisory capacity to ensure a smooth transition. Kejriwal's strategic leadership background and previous user experience with TransUnion services are expected to benefit the company's global solutions.

Foot notes:


- Kejriwal began his career at Capital One in Fraud & Credit Risk before spending 20 years at HSBC.
- At HSBC, he held several leadership positions, including EVP and Head of Consumer Products for HSBC Mexico, and MD for Group & UK Head of Cards and Personal Loans.
- He played a crucial role in guiding HSBC through significant challenges in various markets.
- Kejriwal has a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Economics and an MBA in Finance from IIM Bangalore.
- Kejriwal's previous experience as a user of TransUnion services positions him well to lead the company's global solutions for clients and consumers.
- His strategic leadership and extensive experience managing diverse teams make him a valuable addition to TransUnion.

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HSBC appointed Pam Kaur as its first female CFO

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Thursday. Justice Khanna, currently the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, will succeed CJI DY Chandrachud, who retires on November 10, 2024. Justice Khanna is set to assume office on November 11, 2024, following Chandrachud's recommendation. Union

Minister for Law & Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, confirmed the appointment, stating it was made under the powers conferred by the Constitution of India.

Foot notes:

- Justice Khanna was appointed to the Supreme Court from the Delhi High Court on January 18, 2019.
- He presided over several politically sensitive cases during his tenure, including bail applications for AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh in the Delhi liquor policy case.
- Justice Khanna's bench addressed issues related to electronic voting machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), rejecting a request for 100% VVPAT verification but urging the Election Commission of India to enhance safeguards.
- He also contributed to decisions by the constitution bench on matters such as Article 370 and the Electoral Bonds case.

About HSBC:

CEO: Noel Quinn

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Founded: 1865

Justice Sanjiv Khanna appointed as 51st Chief Justice of India

In a significant update from the judiciary, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), with his oath-taking ceremony scheduled for November 11, 2024. His appointment comes following a recommendation from CJI DY Chandrachud and has been confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu. Justice Khanna will serve as CJI until his retirement on May 13, 2025, resulting in a tenure of about 183 days.

Foot notes:

- **Legal Beginnings:** Justice Khanna started his legal practice in 1983, specializing in taxation, constitutional, and commercial law. He served as Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department and Standing Counsel (Civil) for Delhi.
- **Judicial Advancements:** He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005, became a permanent judge in 2006, and advanced to the Supreme Court in January 2019. He is the nephew of former Supreme Court judge Hans Raj Khanna, noted for his dissent in the ADM Jabalpur case.
- **Landmark Judgments:** Justice Khanna participated in significant rulings, including upholding the abrogation of Article 370, invalidating the Electoral Bonds scheme, and permitting divorce decrees for irretrievable marriage breakdowns under Article 142. He

has also presided over contentious cases related to political appointments and educational dress codes.

- **Judicial Philosophy:** Advocating for judicial restraint, Justice Khanna views a judge's role as a "keeper of law," emphasizing the importance of law over personal beliefs. His approach addresses systemic challenges within the judiciary, such as case delays and high litigation costs.

Former IPS A R Anuradha appointed as APPSC chairperson

Former IPS officer A R Anuradha has been appointed as the chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). She was chosen for her integrity, efficiency, and impartiality. Her leadership is expected to expedite the filling of job vacancies, addressing concerns of job seekers in the state. Anuradha's proven track record is anticipated to bring significant improvements to APPSC operations.

Foot notes:

- She has held prominent positions in the DG vigilance and enforcement department and served as SP and IG in several districts of united Andhra Pradesh.
- The state government selected Anuradha for her integrity and efficiency to revamp the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC).
- Her appointment is expected to speed up the process of filling job vacancies, benefiting numerous job seekers.
- Chosen for her impartiality and strong track record, Anuradha's leadership is anticipated to enhance APPSC's functioning significantly.

Sonam Kapoor becomes first Indian brand ambassador for Dior

Dior has named Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor as its new brand ambassador, a strategic move aimed at tapping into the burgeoning Indian market. With 35 million followers on Instagram, Kapoor will represent collections created by Maria Grazia Chiuri, Dior's creative director for womenswear.

Foot notes:

- Dior has hailed Sonam Kapoor as a "multitalented personality," embodying the brand's qualities of audacity, elegance, and poise, which evolve over time.
- This partnership emphasizes Dior's enduring cultural ties with India.
- Sonam's standout performance was in the biographical drama Neerja, portraying Neerja Bhanot, who saved many during a hijacking.
- She has a successful endorsement portfolio, collaborating with brands like L'Oréal Paris and IWC.

- At the recent Dior ready-to-wear show, she contributed to \$2.7 million in media impact value, part of Dior's total \$82.7 million impact at Paris Fashion Week, as reported by Launchmetrics.

Dr. Neena Malhotra Appointed Ambassador to Sweden

The Government of India has appointed Dr. Neena Malhotra as the new Ambassador of India to Sweden. Dr. Malhotra, a distinguished 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs. She has an impressive background, having previously held the position of Ambassador to Italy, the Republic of San Marino, and the United Nations Organizations in Rome. Dr. Malhotra earned her PhD from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi and is expected to take up her new position soon.

Foot notes:

- **Press Counselor Role:** Neena Malhotra served as a press counselor at the Consulate General in New York from 2006 to 2009.
- **2010 Lawsuit:** Malhotra and her husband, Jogesh Malhotra, faced a lawsuit in 2010 in the U.S. for alleged exploitation of their former maid, Shanti Gurung.
- **Living and Working Conditions:** The suit claimed Gurung was forced to sleep on the floor, work 16-hour days, and give uncomfortable daily massages to Neena Malhotra.
- **Passport Seized:** Gurung's passport was allegedly confiscated, and she was threatened with abuse by U.S. agencies if she attempted to leave.
- **Abusive Treatment:** Gurung reported inadequate food, weight loss, lack of winter clothing, and physical suffering due to her treatment.
- **Visa Misrepresentation:** Malhotra allegedly misrepresented Gurung's wages to the U.S. Embassy, presenting a \$7/hour contract for her visa but actually agreeing to pay around \$108/month with unmet wage promises.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1

The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year to raise awareness about the opportunities and challenges associated with aging populations. It aims to encourage families, community groups, and stakeholders to address the issues faced by older individuals.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide."

- The United Nations General Assembly declared October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons through resolution 45/106 in 1990.
- The day was first celebrated on October 1, 1991.
- In 1982, the World Assembly on Ageing adopted the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, which laid the groundwork for the International Day of Older Persons.

World Animal Day observed on 4th October

World Animal Day is a global event focused on raising awareness about crucial matters related to animal rights, welfare, and conservation. This annual observance serves as a strong reminder of our collective responsibility towards the numerous species that share our planet. As we near the 2024 celebration, it's vital to recognize the importance and significance of this day.

Foot notes:

- Theme for 2024: "The World Is Their Home Too".
- The 2024 theme delivers a strong message that aligns with environmental and ethical concerns which reinforces the idea that we share the planet with animals.
- Highlights the significance of living harmoniously with wildlife.
- It emphasizes animals' inherent right to a safe and secure environment.

World Rabies Day observed on 28th September

World Rabies Day is observed annually on September 28, with this year's theme being "Breaking Rabies Boundaries." Established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) in 2007 and recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), the date honors French scientist Louis Pasteur, who passed away on September 28, 1895, and developed the rabies vaccine. The day aims to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on both animals and humans.

Foot notes:

- The 2024 theme, "Breaking Rabies Boundaries," highlights the importance of advancing rabies prevention and control efforts beyond current practices.
- Preventable yet Deadly: Despite being preventable, rabies causes over 59,000 deaths each year, mainly in rural Africa and Asia.
- **Awareness and Education:** The day promotes public education on bite prevention, animal vaccination, and the need for prompt post-exposure treatment.
- **Global Target:** It supports the goal of eliminating human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030, aligning with broader public health objectives.

World Teacher's Day observed on 5th October

Every year on October 5th, the world unites to celebrate World Teachers' Day, a significant

occasion that acknowledges and honors the vital contributions of educators globally. This day highlights the profound influence teachers have on shaping individual lives and the broader fabric of society. Often viewed as second parents, teachers guide students through crucial developmental phases, imparting not just knowledge but also essential life skills and values.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** “Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education”
- World Teachers' Day was first established in 1994 by UNESCO.
- It is celebrated on October 5th to commemorate the signing of the status of teachers by UNESCO/ILO in 1966.
- The day aims to appreciate, assess, and improve the global education workforce.

World Students' Day observed on 15th October

World Students' Day, celebrated annually on October 15, marks the birth anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, honoring his immense contribution to education and his influence as a role model for youth. This day encourages students globally to dream big and strive to achieve their aspirations. In 2024, the theme, "Empowering Students to be Agents of Change," highlights the importance of responsibility, perseverance and the transformative power of education, aiming to inspire future leaders and innovators.

Foot notes:

- World Students' Day reflects Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's belief in education as a transformative tool.
- It encourages students to recognize their potential to shape the future and promotes lifelong learning and social responsibility.
- The celebration inspires students to dream big, stay determined, and pursue their goals with passion and commitment.
- It acknowledges students as future leaders and innovators, highlighting the role of education in building a better world.
- Dr. Kalam's famous quote, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," emphasizes his belief in education's transformative power.

World Anaesthesia Day observed on 16 October

World Anaesthesia Day, observed annually on October 16th, commemorates the first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia by William Morton in 1846, a breakthrough that revolutionized pain management in medicine. This day highlights the critical role of anesthesiologists in ensuring patient safety and comfort during surgeries and honors their expertise and dedication. It also raises awareness of the importance of anaesthesia in modern healthcare, recognizing its contribution to better surgical outcomes. The day celebrates

advancements in anaesthesiology and ongoing innovations that enhance patient care worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** "Workforce Well Being", shedding the spotlight on the vital link between anaesthesia workforce well-being and patient care.
- World Anaesthesia Day commemorates William Morton's successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia on October 16, 1846, at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- This event revolutionized surgical care and pain management, marking the birth of modern anaesthesia.
- The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) has organized this global observance since 1903.
- It promotes education, safety, and access to quality anaesthesia care, celebrating over a century of advancements in healthcare and pain relief.

World Teacher's Day observed on 5th October

Every year on October 5th, the world unites to celebrate World Teachers' Day, a significant occasion that acknowledges and honors the vital contributions of educators globally. This day highlights the profound influence teachers have on shaping individual lives and the broader fabric of society. Often viewed as second parents, teachers guide students through crucial developmental phases, imparting not just knowledge but also essential life skills and values.

Foot notes:

Theme: "Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education"

World Teachers' Day was first established in 1994 by UNESCO

It is celebrated on October 5th to commemorate the signing of the status of teachers by UNESCO/ILO in 1966.

The day aims to appreciate, assess, and improve the global education workforce.

World Habitat Day observed on 7th October

World Habitat Day, first observed in 1985, is celebrated on the first Monday of October to emphasize everyone's right to safe and decent housing. It calls on governments, communities, and individuals to improve housing conditions and create safer neighbourhood. The day highlights its history, significance, and theme to inspire action.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** "Engaging youth to create a better urban future"
- It focuses on the opportunities and challenges of rapid urban growth.
- The aim is to encourage the younger generation to participate in planning their current and future environments.
- It reminds us that everyone deserves a comfortable and secure home.

- The day also highlights the importance of environmental preservation amid increasing urbanization.

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on 8 October

As India gears up to celebrate the 92nd Indian Air Force Day on October 8, 2024, the nation comes together to honor the exceptional dedication and sacrifices of its air warriors. This important occasion highlights the Indian Air Force's (IAF) remarkable evolution from its modest beginnings to becoming one of the world's most powerful aerial forces.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** "Bhartiya Vayu Sena - Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar," meaning Potent, Powerful and Self-Reliant.
- **Focus:** The theme emphasizes the self-reliance and modernization of the IAF, reflecting India's vision for strong defence capabilities.
- **Main Celebrations:** Celebrations will take place at Marina Beach in Chennai, featuring an air show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Key Invitees:** Expected attendees include Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and other military and civil dignitaries.

World Postal Day celebrated on 9th October

Celebrated every year on October 9, World Post Day emphasizes the crucial role of the postal system in everyday life, global communication, and economic growth. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), founded in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland, Which laid the foundation for contemporary international mail exchange.

Foot notes:

- Theme: "150 Years of Enabling Communication and Empowering People across Nations."
- The UPU was established to enhance international mail services and unify postal systems, simplifying mail exchange between countries.
- World Post Day was proclaimed at the UPU Congress in Tokyo in 1969 to highlight the significance of postal services.

World Mental Health Day observed on 10th October

World Mental Health Day aims to prioritize mental health globally. Encourages open conversations and promotes mental well-being initiatives. Annual themes focus on raising awareness and the importance of mental health. It helps reduce stigma and motivate people to seek support.

Foot notes:

- It is observed to promote global mental health education and to spread awareness.

- It gives an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to discuss their work.
 - The theme of the World Mental Health Day 2024 is “Mental Health at Work.”
 - On October 10, 1992, World Mental Health Day was observed for the first time.
 - This day was started by Deputy Secretary General Richard Hunter.

World Statistics Day 2024 celebrated on 20th October

World Statistics Day is an international event held every five years to emphasize the importance of statistics in shaping societies, enhancing lives, and supporting informed decision-making. In 2024, the global community will celebrate this day on October 20th, highlighting the crucial role of statistics in advancing sustainable development, promoting transparency, and empowering policymakers worldwide. Its goal was to raise awareness of the essential role of reliable data and statistics in influencing global policies and contributing to national welfare. Held every five years, the 2024 celebration will mark the fourth observance of this event.

Foot notes:

- The theme for 2024 is anticipated to align with the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the importance of data in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- World Statistics Day 2024 will emphasize the role of data in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which tackle global issues like poverty, climate change, and gender equality.
- Effective measurement of progress towards the SDGs by 2030 requires dependable data and statistics.
- Needs comprehensive health data to monitor indicators like infant mortality rates and healthcare access.
- The celebration will highlight advancements in data collection and analysis, especially with the rise of big data and artificial intelligence (AI) for quicker and more accurate insights.

World Iodine Deficiency Day observed on 21st October

World Iodine Deficiency Day, also called Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed every year on October 21st. The day aims to increase awareness about the vital role of iodine in promoting good health and highlights the harmful effects of iodine deficiency, which continues to be a significant global public health concern. This article offers a comprehensive overview of iodine’s crucial function, the consequences of deficiency, and the national and international efforts to eliminate iodine deficiency. It also highlights the successes of various initiatives designed to ensure sufficient iodine intake worldwide.

Foot notes:

- Iodine deficiency is the leading cause of preventable intellectual disabilities worldwide, impacting physical growth and neurological development.
- Hypothyroidism occurs due to insufficient iodine intake, causing an underactive thyroid gland when daily intake falls below 10-20 mcg.
- **Goitre:** The earliest sign of iodine deficiency, marked by an enlarged thyroid gland as the body compensates for low thyroid hormone levels.
- **Adults:** Prolonged deficiency may cause hypothyroidism, cognitive decline, reduced productivity, and an increased risk of follicular thyroid cancer. Mild cases often manifest as goitre, treatable through improved diet.



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International Stuttering Awareness Day is celebrated on October 22

International Stuttering Awareness Day, observed annually on October 22, aims to raise awareness about stuttering, a speech disorder marked by disruptions in fluency such as involuntary word repetition and difficulty producing sounds or words. On this day, local, national, and global organizations hold events, media campaigns, educational activities, and provide online resources to highlight the challenges faced by millions of people living with stuttering.

Foot notes:

- Theme "The Power of Listening," promoting trust and understanding for people who stutter.
- Stuttering is a speech disorder caused by loss of speech control, resulting in interruptions or "disfluencies."
- It can involve physical strain in speech muscles, as well as anxiety, fear, and awkwardness in communication.
- Stuttering varies widely in type and severity, affecting about 1% of the global population, with 5% of children experiencing it at some point.

- Around 80% of children who stutter outgrow it, but those who continue into school age are likely to stutter for life.
- Stuttering is more common in males, with a male-to-female ratio of 4:1 in adults and 2:1 in children.
- Over 70 million people worldwide struggle with stuttering, and individualized approaches are essential for treatment.

23 October is celebrated as 'Mole Day'

Mole Day was first celebrated on October 23, 1980, by a group of chemistry teachers in an effort to inspire students and foster a love for chemistry. Mole Day aligns with National Chemistry Week, enhancing student engagement and interest in the subject. Chemistry clubs and teachers host activities like mole trivia, mole jokes, and mole-themed art, creating a fun and accessible learning environment. Mole Day honors Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}), a fundamental constant in chemistry.

Foot notes:

- **Engaging Environment:** Mole Day aims to create an interactive space for students to explore chemistry concepts through fun activities.
- **Growing Popularity:** The celebration has become widely recognized in schools across the U.S. and beyond, turning into an annual event in many educational institutions.
- **Variety of Activities:** Teachers incorporate games, experiments, and creative projects to make chemistry more accessible and enjoyable.
- **Recognized Occasion:** Mole Day is now a significant event in the science calendar, emphasizing the importance of chemistry in understanding our world.
- **Interactive Learning:** Mole Day 2024 offers hands-on activities and discussions that make chemistry concepts tangible, enhancing understanding and retention.

United Nations Day celebrated annually on October 24

United Nations Day, celebrated every year on October 24, marks the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945. This day serves as a global celebration of the UN's mission to promote peace, security, human rights, and development worldwide. In 2024, United Nations Day will again highlight the organization's critical role in addressing global challenges and fostering international cooperation.

Foot notes:

- The UN is dedicated to promoting peace and security, providing humanitarian aid, safeguarding human rights, and upholding international law.
- For over 75 years, the UN has been pivotal in fostering international collaboration, peace, and development.

- As we celebrate United Nations Day on October 24, 2024, we acknowledge the UN's importance in promoting peace and cooperation and reaffirm our commitment to justice, human rights, and development for all.

International Dwarfism Awareness Day celebrated on October 25

Observed annually on October 25, International Dwarfism Awareness Day shines a light on the lives and challenges of individuals with dwarfism, raising awareness of conditions like Achondroplasia. This day promotes understanding, inclusion, and the breaking of stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding people with short stature.

Foot notes:

- **Common Type:** Achondroplasia is the most prevalent type, affecting bone growth; over 300 conditions can cause dwarfism.
- **Life and Abilities:** People with dwarfism lead full lives, often have average intelligence, and can perform most tasks, though sometimes in unique ways.
- **Misconceptions:** Dwarfism is not an intellectual disability, nor do most people with it see it as a disability needing a cure.
- **Awareness Day:** International Dwarfism Awareness Day promotes inclusion, challenges stereotypes, and celebrates achievements of Little People.
- **Rights Protection:** The ADA protects individuals with dwarfism, ensuring equal treatment in work and other areas.
- **Universal Message:** Dwarfism can affect individuals of any background, and inclusion is a shared value.

OBITUARY NEWS

Former Minister Kumara Welgama passed away in Colombo

Kumara Welgama passed away while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Colombo. From 1984 to 2000, he was the chief organiser for the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in the Agalawatte electorate. He held key ministerial positions: Minister of Industrial Development (2007-2010), Minister of Transport (2010-2015) under SLFP-led governments.

Foot notes:

- Since 2020, he has led the New Lanka Freedom Party and contested elections in alliance with the Samagi Jana Balawegaya.
- He was born on April 5, 1950.
- Former Member of Parliament for the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, representing the Kalutara District.
- Elected to Parliament in 1984 as a member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

- His father was a well-known businessman involved in transportation, logistics and plantations.

Renowned Poet Keki N. Daruwala passed away

Keki N. Daruwala, a former IPS officer and celebrated poet who inspired many young writers, passed away at the age of 87 in New Delhi. He was also a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award. He joined the police force in 1958, rising through the ranks to become a special assistant on international affairs to former Prime Minister Charan Singh in 1979.

Foot notes:

- Keki N. Daruwala published his first poetry volume in 1970, followed by Apparition in April (1971), Crossing of Rivers (1976), and The Keeper of the Dead (1982), which won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984.
- He is Known for his down-to-earth nature and was regarded as a personal friend by many writers and never acted like a literary giant.
- He had a perspective that was both global and civilizational, characterized by his kindness, integrity, and philosophical vision.
- In 2015, following the murder of writer MM Kalburgi, he returned his Sahitya Akademi Award in solidarity with other writers.

Veteran Malayalam Actor Mohan Raj Passed away

Mohan Raj, the renowned Malayalam actor known as Keerikkadan Jose, has died at his home in Kanjiramkulam at the age of 70. He had been undergoing treatment for various ailments. Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cheriyan expressed their condolences, noting Raj's unique talent for character portrayal.

Foot notes:

- Actor Mohan Raj starred in over 300 films during his career.
- Mohan Raj made his debut in the 1988 film 'Moonam Mura', which starred Mohanlal.
- His last on-screen appearance was in the 2022 Mammootty movie 'Rorschach'.
- While known mainly for his villain roles, he also acted in Tamil and Telugu films and later took on comedic roles in television serials.
- Mohan Raj had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and diabetes and had relocated to Thiruvananthapuram for Ayurvedic treatment.

Indranand Singh Jha, Akashvani Darbhanga Radio Presenter passed away

Indranand Singh Jha, a renowned former radio presenter and compere at Akashvani Darbhanga, passed away at the age of 77 in his ancestral village, Chanaur, Darbhanga. Affectionately known as KhurKhur Bhai, Jha gained immense popularity for his rural radio talk program, „Gamghar“, which resonated with listeners throughout his career. His distinctive voice and

engaging style made him a cherished figure in radio broadcasting.

Foot notes:

- Indranand Singh Jha made significant contributions to Akashvani Darbhanga with his engaging programs.
- He amplified rural voices in media, entertaining, educating, and informing the local population.
- His work fostered community spirit and cultural pride through radio.
- Tributes from various organizations reflect the deep respect he earned over the years.

Veteran Actor Atul Parchure passed away

Renowned Marathi actor Atul Parchure passed away at the age of 57, following a brave twoyear battle with cancer. Celebrated for his remarkable versatility in theater, cinema and television, Parchure's legacy extends beyond his performances to his resilient spirit and unwavering positivity. He began his career in 1985 with the Marathi film „Khichdi“, marking the start of a long and successful journey in the entertainment industry.

Foot notes:

- Atul Parchure became a household name for his comic timing in numerous Marathi plays and films like „Vasu Chi Sasu“, „Navra Majha Navsacha“, „Priyatama“ and „Tarun Turk Mhatore Arka“.
- He gained widespread recognition on Hindi television through shows such as „Comedy Nights With Kapil“, „R K Laxman Ki Duniya“ and „Comedy Circus“.
- Parchure featured in notable Hindi films, including Salaam-E-Ishq, Partner, All the Best, hatta Meetha, Bbuddah...Hoga Terra Baap and Brave Heart.
- He courageously battled cancer, earning admiration from fans and colleagues.
- He spent his final days at H N Reliance Foundation Hospital, where he was admitted following a decline in health.

Liam Payne passed away in Buenos Aires

Liam Payne, a former member of boyband One Direction, has died after falling from the third floor of a hotel in Buenos Aires. He was 31. He recently celebrated his 31st birthday in the UK, sharing moments on his Snapchat.

Foot notes:

- Liam Payne was spotted in Argentina attending his former bandmate Niall Horan's concert on October 2, as seen in social media videos from the event.
- He was born in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, Payne is the youngest of three siblings and studied music technology at the City of Wolverhampton College.
- He is best known as a member of the renowned British boyband One Direction, which

also featured Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson, and Niall Horan.

- One Direction formed in 2010 after all members participated in the UK version of the reality competition show "The X Factor."

Two Athletes Die at Triathlon World Championships in Spain

Two athletes, one from Britain and the other from Mexico, tragically died on the first day of the Torremolinos-Andalucia Triathlon Championship Finals. Both athletes were competing in the age-group sprint event. British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its team members, without disclosing the individual's identity or cause of death. The Mexican Triathlon Federation identified the other athlete as 75-year-old Roger Mas Colomber.

Foot notes:

- British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its Age-Group Team members, part of the veteran competitors' sub-discipline.
- World Triathlon expressed condolences to the athletes' families, friends, and federations on social media.
- Local reports stated the British athlete was a 57-year-old man who died of a heart attack.
- Over 4,000 triathletes registered for this year's age-group event, from a total of more than 5,500 participants, according to the Spanish Triathlon Federation.

Veteran Bengali Actor Debraj Roy passed away

Veteran Bengali cinema and Doordarshan personality Debraj Roy passed away at 70, at a private hospital in Salt Lake on Thursday evening. He had been unwell for several months. Roy had collaborated with distinguished filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen. Early in his career, his captivating performance in Ray's film „Pratidwandi“ left a lasting impression on audiences and cinephiles.

Foot notes:

- Debraj Roy made his acting debut in Satyajit Ray's „Pratidwandi“ (1970) and gained wider attention with Mrinal Sen's „Calcutta 71“ (1971).
- He starred in several notable films, including „Dujone Milbo Abaar“, „Smriti Katha Bole“, „Jodi Kagoje Lekho Naam“, „Barodir Bramhachari Baba Lokenath“ and „Sri Ramkrishna Vivekananda“.
- His final film was „Bhoot Adbhoot“, released in 2014.
- Roy was also a popular newsreader for DDK Kolkata and performed in numerous radio dramas on Akashvani Kolkata.
- Throughout his career, he worked with celebrated directors like Tarun Majumdar, Bibhuti Laha, and Tapan Sinha, making a lasting impact on Indian cinema.

Christopher Ciccone passed away at age of 63

Christopher Ciccone, a multitalented artist, dancer, designer, and younger brother of Madonna, has passed away at the age of 63. A dancer from a young age, Ciccone played a significant role in his sister's rise to fame in the 1980s, appearing in music videos such as "Lucky Star," art directing her Blond Ambition World Tour, and serving as the tour director for The Girlie Show. He also directed music videos for artists like Dolly Parton and Tony Bennett.

Foot notes:

- In 2008, Christopher Ciccone published a bestselling autobiography, Life with My Sister Madonna, discussing their strained relationship, her romantic involvements, and tour memories.
- He supported Madonna's career for two decades by choreographing, directing, and designing for her.
- The twins, raised in Michigan, shared a close bond from a young age.
- In the late 1970s, Christopher moved to New York City to work closely with his sister, launching his extensive and diverse career.

National Icon Ratan Tata passed away

Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of one of India's biggest conglomerates, Tata Sons, has died at 86. He became chairman of the \$100 billion steel-to-software conglomerate in 1991 and ran the group founded by his great-grandfather more than a hundred years ago until 2012.

Foot notes:

- He served as the chairman of Tata Group and Tata Sons from 1990 to 2012.
- He founded the telecommunications company Tata Teleservices in 1996.
- In 2009, Ratan Tata fulfilled his promise to make the world's cheapest car accessible to the middle class. The Tata Nano, priced at Rs. 1 lakh, became a symbol of innovation and affordability.
- In 2004, he acquired Iconic British car brands - Jaguar and Land Rover

Dr. P. Venugopal, Former Director of AIIMS, passed away

Dr. P. Venugopal, former AIIMS Director and pioneer of cardiac surgery, conducted India's first heart transplant and over 50,000 surgeries. He introduced advanced cardiac surgery concepts to India and was renowned for his integrity and philanthropy. A Padma Bhushan awardee, he offered free surgeries to underprivileged patients and contributed to two super-specialty hospitals.

Foot notes:

- Venugopal was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1998 for his contributions to medicine.
- Co-authored a memoir, Heartfelt in 2023, chronicling his pioneering work in cardiac surgery.

- Trained over 100 cardiac surgeons globally and introduced stem cell therapy for heart repair.
- Cremated on October 9, 2024, at Lodhi Road Crematorium, survived by his wife Priya Sarkar and daughter Saiansha Panangipalli.
- His passing marks the end of an era in Indian cardiac surgery, but his legacy will continue to inspire.

US-based Turkish preacher Gulen passed away

Fethullah Gulen, the Turkish Muslim preacher whom Ankara accuses of orchestrating the failed coup in 2016, has died in the United States, where he had been residing. He was 83 years old. Gulen established a significant Islamic movement in Turkey and internationally, but in his later years, he faced allegations of plotting the coup against Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan.

Foot notes:

- Gulen was once an ally of Turkish President Erdogan, but they had a significant falling out.
- Erdogan blames Gulen for the 2016 coup attempt, where rogue soldiers used warplanes, tanks, and helicopters, resulting in around 250 deaths.
- He had been in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, living in Pennsylvania.
- Turkish authorities refer to Gulen's organization as FETO (Fethullah Terrorist Organization), accusing it of involvement in the July 2016 coup attempt.
- He condemned the coup attempt and denied the accusations against him.

Former Director General of AIR ' PK Bandyopadhyay' passed away

Former Director General of Akashvani News, PK Bandyopadhyay, passed away in Kolkata due to cardiac arrest. A former Indian Information Service officer, Dr. Bandyopadhyay had a long and distinguished career in Akashvani News, the Press Information Bureau, and other media divisions of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Foot notes:

- PK Bandyopadhyay was a prominent Indian Information Service officer, renowned for his leadership in broadcasting.
- He served as the Director General of All India Radio (AIR), where he played a key role in shaping the organization's policies and operations.
- He had an extensive career within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, contributing to various media initiatives.

- He was instrumental in modernizing broadcasting and enhancing the reach of AIR across India.
- Bandyopadhyay was involved in significant projects, including the dissemination of information during critical times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Renowned Physicist Rohini Godbole passed away

Padma Shri awardee Professor Rohini Godbole, a prominent physicist and advocate for gender equality in Indian science, passed away at 71. Set to turn 72 on November 12, she served on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet from 2007 to 2013. A trailblazing scientist and innovator, Godbole championed the inclusion of women in science, leaving an enduring legacy that will inspire future generations.

Foot notes:

- Academic Affiliation: Rohini Godbole was associated with the Centre for High Energy Physics at IISc Bengaluru for over 25 years.
- Educational Background: A Pune native, she studied at Sir Parashurambhau College and graduated from IIT Bombay.
- Scientific Views: Godbole emphasized that the standard model of fundamental particles is insufficient, urging the need for new science to explain antimatter.
- International Contributions: She was an esteemed physicist with global impact, contributing to accelerator designs at CERN, which were implemented in Geneva.
- Recognition: Dilip S. Joag of SPPU hailed her as an exceptional physicist with international influence.

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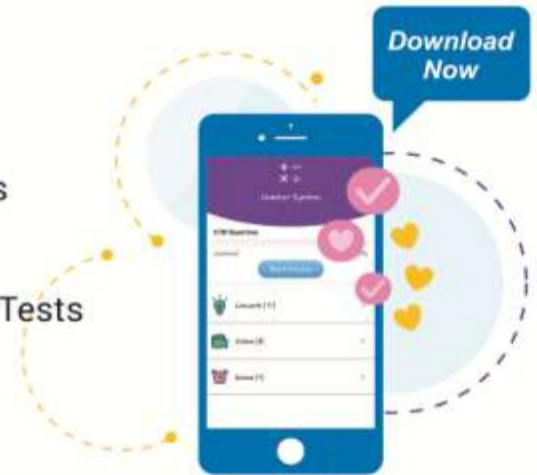
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