

APRIL 2024

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

*for all entrance tests*

## BEST CLASSES FOR LAW ENTRANCE

MH CET

SLAT

CUET

LSAT

CULEE

NMIMS

BVP CET

*and more..*

### **"Guru Gyan"**

**Dear Students,**

I want to talk to you about two superpowers that can change your life: perseverance and hard work. These aren't just fancy words you hear in speeches; they're the secret to achieving all your dreams.

Perseverance is all about pushing through even when things get tough. It's not giving up when you face obstacles, failures, or disappointments. It's having the courage to keep moving forward, knowing that every setback is an opportunity to learn and grow. As Nelson Mandela once said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

And let's not forget hard work! It's like the fuel that powers your dreams. It's putting in the effort, day in and day out, to make progress towards your goals. As Thomas Edison famously put it, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." So, roll up your sleeves, get ready, and go after what you want with all your heart.

Sure, the road to success might have bumps, potholes, and unexpected challenges, but that's what makes the journey so incredible. Each step you take, each challenge you conquer, makes you stronger and more resilient.

So, my friends, don't be afraid to dream big and work even bigger! Embrace perseverance and hard work as your best buddies on this exciting adventure called life.

Now, go out there and show the world what you're made of! You've got this!

**Vishishta Nayak**

**(Faculty)**

**Yes Academy for CS|Law (Pune)**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### IOCL, Panasonic Energy ink pact for lithium-ion cell JV



State-owned refiner Indian Oil Corporation and Panasonic Group company Panasonic Energy Co. have signed a binding term sheet to draw framework of their proposed joint venture (JV) to manufacture cylindrical lithium-ion cells in India.

This initiative is driven by the anticipated expansion of demand for batteries for two- and three-wheel vehicles and energy storage systems in the Indian market.

The two companies are engaged in a feasibility study on utilization of battery technology for facilitating the transition to clean energy in India. They aim to finalise details of their collaboration by the summer of this year.

### VEDANTA'S BALCO, FIRST INDIAN COMPANY TO BE CERTIFIED WITH ASI PERFORMANCE STANDARD



Chhattisgarh-based Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has emerged as the first Indian company to achieve the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification for the manufacture and supply of a wide range of primary aluminium products at its facility in Korba.

The ASI Certification program was developed through an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process and is the only comprehensive voluntary sustainability standard initiative for the global aluminium value chain.

### HAL DELIVERS TWO DORNIER 228 PLANES TO GUYANA



The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has delivered two Dornier 228 planes to the Guyana Defence Force.

The planes arrived at Cheddi Jagan International Airport last evening aboard two Boeing C-17 Globemaster military transport planes.

The Dornier 228 aircraft is well-known for its versatility and reliability, making it an ideal choice for a wide range of military and civilian applications.

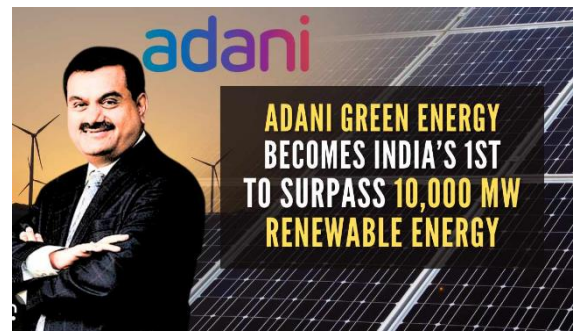
With its rugged design and superior performance capabilities, the Dornier 228 is well-suited for various missions, including surveillance, reconnaissance, medical evacuation, and transport operations.

#### **About Guyana**

- **Capital** – Georgetown
- **Currency** – Guyanese Dollar
- **Prime Minister**- Mark Phillips

- **President**- Mohamed Irfaan Ali
- **Continent** – South America

### ADANI GREEN ENERGY BECOMES FIRST COMPANY IN INDIA TO SURPASS 10,000 MW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY



Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest and one of the world's leading renewable energy (RE) companies, has surpassed 10,000 megawatts (MW) of operational portfolio, delivering reliable, affordable, and clean power to the national grid.

AGEL's operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.

#### **Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL)**

- **Founded** – 2015
- **Headquarters** – Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** – Vineet Jain



## INDIA TO BUILD FIRST COMMERCIAL CRUDE OIL STRATEGIC STORAGE



India plans to build its **first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30**, granting the operator the freedom to trade all of the stored oil.

Allowing a fully commercial SPR **mirrors the model adopted by countries such as Japan and South Korea**, which allow private lessees, mostly oil majors, to trade the crude.

So far, India has allowed only partial commercialization for its three existing SPRs in southern India, which have a combined capacity of 36.7 million barrels.

## BRITANNIA NUTRICHoice LAUNCHES HEALTH MONITORING APP NUTRIPLUS IN INDIA



In a bid to deepen engagement with consumers, biscuit brand Britannia **NutriChoice has launched** the health-tech app '**NutriPlus**'.

The app has been designed in partnership with Aktivio Labs, and enables monitoring of health and wellness metrics.

The NutriPlus app harnesses evidence-based technology and has been built with an aim to democratise health monitoring in the country.

## INDIA TO STOP IMPORTING UREA BY END OF 2025



According to the **Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya**, **India will stop importing urea by the end of 2025** due to an increase in local production capacity with the commissioning of new fertilizer plants.

India is a big importer of Urea and meets around **30%** of its 35 million tonnes of annual urea requirement **from imports**.

**FSSAI LAUNCHES EXTENSIVE AWARENESS &  
SENSITIZATION PROGRAM TARGETING  
MAJOR MARKETS**



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched an extensive awareness and sensitization program targeting major markets in the New Delhi.

The awareness campaign will focus particularly on the detection and mitigation of pesticide residue and contaminants in food products.

During the programme, the food business operators were sensitized about the importance of organic farming, raw material testing, ill effects of pesticide residues, artificial ripening and wax coating using unapproved chemicals.

**INDIA EYES 100 GW NUCLEAR POWER BY  
2047: AEC**



India aims to increase its nuclear power production to 1 lakh MW by 2047, a significant jump from the current 8,000 MW.

This goal was highlighted by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman A K Mohanty at the release of a report on energy transitions.

He said the breeder reactors would contribute 3 GW of nuclear power, while 17.6 GW would come from light water reactors built with international cooperation and another 40-45 GW would come from the pressurized heavy water reactors.

**INDIA SECURES SECOND OVERSEAS PORT:  
SITTWE AGREEMENT APPROVED BY MEA**



After **Chabahar**, India has gained the rights to operate a **second overseas port, Sittwe, in Myanmar.**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved a proposal for India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of the entire port **located on the Kaladan River.**

IPGL is a company 100 per cent owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

### **TATA LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE**



Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Tata Sons' wholly-owned subsidiary, has launched **India's first private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A,** in collaboration with **Satellogic.**

The satellite was **launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, by SpaceX.**

The satellite was assembled at TASL's facility in Karnataka. Elon Musk's SpaceX launched a

total of 11 satellites in its maiden Bandwagon flight.

### **GUJCOST DESIGNATED AS NODAL CENTRE FOR ISRO'S START PROGRAMME**



The **Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)** has been designated as the **Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)** programme by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The START programme, a brainchild of ISRO, offers an introductory-level online training platform.

Encompassing a vast spectrum of space science research areas, including planetary exploration, astronomy, heliophysics, atmospheric science, and microgravity research.

Under the START programme, **GUJCOST will host live classes,** serving as the central hub for knowledge dissemination. Additionally, four Regional Science Centres located in Rajkot, Patan, Bhavnagar, and Bhuj will play a pivotal

role in coordinating and facilitating the programme, thereby amplifying its reach across the region.

### About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

- **Founded** – 15 August 1969
- **Headquarters** – Bangalore, Karnataka
- **Founder / 1st Chairman** – Vikram Sarabhai
- **10th Chairman** – S Somanath

### CITROËN BECOMES THE FIRST MULTINATIONAL CARMAKER TO EXPORT EVS FROM INDIA



French carmaker Citroën became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market.

Initial shipment of 500 units of the Made-in-India Citroën ë-C3 to Indonesia was ceremonially flagged from Kamarajar Port.

The move aligned with Citroën's global ambitions of democratising electric mobility to increase the adoption of sustainable and clean modes of transportation.

### ELECTION COMMISSION INTRODUCES HOME VOTING FOR ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced home voting for the first time in a Lok Sabha Election.

This initiative aims to make voting easier for elderly citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Now, voters above 85 years of age and PwDs with 40% benchmark disability can choose to vote from home.



**'CLEANMAX TEAMS UP WITH APPLE TO  
DRIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY ADOPTION IN  
INDIA**



CleanMax, a leading renewable energy company, has partnered with tech giant Apple to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy solutions across India.

Under this partnership, CleanMax has successfully installed 14.4 megawatts of rooftop solar installations spanning six industrial sites across the nation.

These installations are forecasted to curtail approximately 207,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions throughout their operational lifespan.

**PM INAUGURATES 2550TH BHAGWAN  
MAHAVEER NIRVAN MAHOTSAV ON  
OCCASION OF MAHAVEER JAYANTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

During the event, the PM released a commemorative stamp and coin to mark the occasion.

Bhagwan Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankar, illuminated the path of peaceful co-existence and universal brotherhood through Jain principles like Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity) and Aparigraha (Non-attachment).

### AIR INDIA SIGNED CODESHARE PACT WITH JAPAN'S ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS



Air India has entered into a codeshare partnership with Japan's All Nippon Airways.

With the codeshare, effective for travel from May 23, Air India and All Nippons Airways passengers can fly to their desired destination by combining those flights between India and Japan with a single ticket.

Air India will add its 'AI' designator code on ANA's flights between Tokyo Haneda and Delhi as well as Tokyo Narita and Mumbai.

### INDIA FOURTH LARGEST ARMS SPENDER IN WORLD IN 2023: SIPRI



According to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India was the fourth largest military spender in the world in 2023 after the United States, China and Russia.

The Indian expenditure on military 2023 was \$83.6 billion. In 2022 also India was the fourth largest military spender in the world.

The Indian government has increased its military spend in recent years. In the interim Union Budget of 2024-25 the government of India allocated Rs 6.21 lakh crore for defence spending.

### NABARD UNVEILS CLIMATE STRATEGY 2030



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on the occasion of Earth Day.

The comprehensive strategy aims to address India's escalating need for green financing.

Despite the pressing demand, where India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion

by 2030, current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.

NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is structured around four key pillars to address this demand:

- (i) Accelerating Green Lending across sectors
- (ii) Playing a broader Market-Making Role
- (iii) Internal Green Transformation of NABARD
- (iv) Strategic Resource Mobilization.

#### About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- **Founded** – 12 July 1982
- **Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** – K V Shaji

#### India's ecommerce market will be world's third largest by 2030



India's e-commerce landscape is poised for a monumental gain by 2030, a report by

investment promotion and facilitation agency Invest India has claimed.

Forecasting a substantial surge to \$325 billion by 2030, the report added that the nation's digital economy is expected to reach an impressive \$800 billion by the same time.

Currently valued at \$70 billion, India's online shopping makes up approximately 7 per cent of the country's total retail market, therefore presenting a huge opportunity for growth.

#### IREDA GETS 'NAVRATNA' STATUS



Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was granted 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises.

A non-banking financial institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, IREDA is engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy.

The Indian government grants Navratna status to premier public sector undertakings (PSUs), empowering them to execute significant investments of up to ₹1,000 crore without requiring approval from the central authority.

### OTHERS

- Defence exports have touched a record Rs 21,083 crore (approx. US\$ 2.63 Billion) in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, a growth of 32.5% over the last fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore.
- Press Trust of India (PTI) has joined Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Partnership (3PFC) programme to identify, review and rate content as misinformation across Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.
- Bank of Maharashtra has appointed Subhasish Roy as chief risk officer for a period of 3 years on contractual basis.
- In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata) including Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in the just-concluded financial year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 million tonnes of cargo.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd plans to invest about ₹1.5 trillion through 2030 to develop the world's largest renewable energy plant with 30-gigawatt capacity at the Khavda renewable energy park in Gujarat.
- The sitars and tanpuras of Miraj, a small town in Maharashtra's Sangli district known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, have been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Air India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have signed a pact to develop the Bengaluru airport as an aviation hub, encompassing the construction of a dedicated domestic lounge, expansion of international services, and establishment of a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility.
- Swiggy has launched a new initiative 'Swiggy Pawlice' for finding missing pet.
- The India government gifted 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations, spread across different districts of Nepal, and working in the field of health and education respectively.
- The 2nd edition of the Janakpurdham Cultural Festival was organized by the Embassy of India in Nepal coinciding with the Bikram Sambat Nepali New Year 2081.
- India exported electronics goods worth \$29.12 billion in 2023-24 (FY24), up 23.6 per cent compared to a year ago, even as the country's total exports contracted 3 per cent.



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc has become the third largest producer of silver globally.
- The 34th Seng Khihlang festival concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya.  
The Seng Khihlang festival holds immense significance for believers who follow the Khasi Indigenous Faith. It is a time of unity and celebration, and is under the stewardship of the Seng Khasi Sein Raij.

## बूझो तो जानें

Done with National Affairs? Isn't our own country more interesting than you thought it to be? Here's a little reward for you! Solve this riddle and send us your answers to our Instagram page [yesdaily\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/yesdaily_official) and the best answers will be selected for our special prize. (Answer to the previous riddle: Russia)

In citrus fruits or tablets we're found,  
In oranges, lemons, and juices renowned.  
For health and vigor, we're always  
praised,  
In supplements or foods, our essence  
raised.

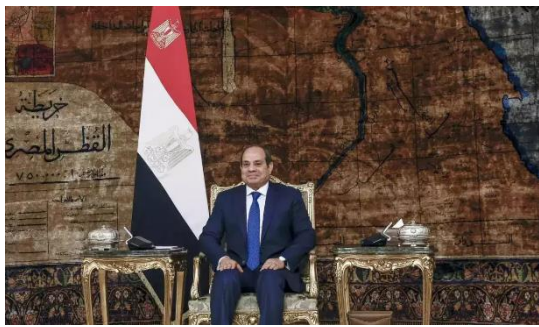
Defender of immunity, strong and bright,  
In winter's chill or summer's light.  
Guess my name, a friend to thee.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### INDIA'S RANK REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 42

#### IN INTERNATIONAL IP INDEX 2024



**Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi** Sworn in as **Egyptian President** for his third term

Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in as the president of Egypt for a third term. He will remain the president **until 2030**.

The **Egyptian President has a six-year term**. President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi took the oath of office at the headquarters of the Egyptian Parliament in the New Administrative Capital.

#### **About Egypt**

- Capital- Cairo
- Currency- Egyptian pound
- Continent – Africa, Asia
- President – Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

### JAPAN LAUNCHES E-VISA FOR INDIAN TOURISTS



Japan has officially launched its **e-Visa program** for several countries, including India.

This **single-entry visa grants a validity of up to 90 days and is specifically designed for travellers planning to enter Japan by air and holding an ordinary passport**.

For individuals seeking short-term tourism in Japan, the process of obtaining a visa has been streamlined through the introduction of electronic visas (e-Visas) via the Japan e-Visa system.

## **AJIT DOVAL LEADS THE INDIAN DELEGATION**

### **AT SCO MEETING**



The **Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval** led the Indian delegation at the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The **19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the SCO member states** was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

He also met Kazakhstan President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, the current Chairman of SCO.

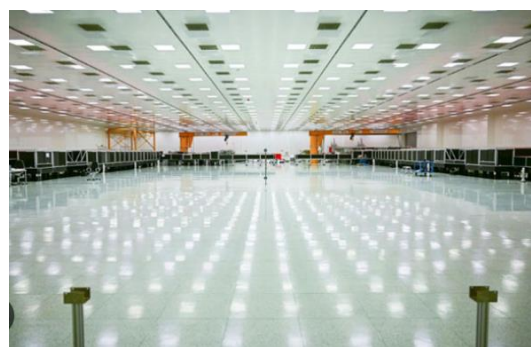
President Tokayev advocated adopting a Cooperation Programme to counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism for 2025-2027 and the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029.

### **About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- **Founded** – 15 June 2001
- **Headquarters** – Beijing, China
- **Secretary General** – Zhang Ming (China)

- **Member Countries** – 9 (Iran, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan)

## **ROMANIA UNVEILS WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LASER**



A research centre in **Romania** has recently unveiled **"the world's most powerful laser"**, which is based on the inventions of **2018 Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland**.

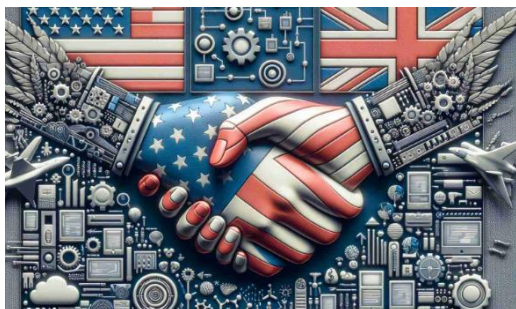
The laser, as per the Romanian research centre, is expected to revolutionize everything from the health sector to space exploration.

### **About Romania**

- **Capital**- Bucharest
- **Currency** – Romanian Leu
- **Official language**- Romanian
- **Continent**- Europe



### U.S. AND BRITAIN FORGE ALLIANCE TO ENHANCE AI SAFETY



The United States and Britain have joined forces to bolster the safety measures surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) amidst concerns over upcoming advanced AI iterations.

This collaboration aims to collectively develop advanced AI model testing procedures, aligning with commitments made during the AI Safety Summit held at Bletchley Park.

Both countries are establishing government-led AI safety institutes.

### 57 Companies Account For 80% Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Since 2016



According to a report released by thinktank 'InfluenceMap'. Just 57 companies are

responsible for 80% of the world's carbon emissions from fossil fuels and cement since 2016.

These 57 companies are involved in the production of oil, gas, coal and cement in the world.

Although governments pledged in Paris to cut greenhouse gases, the analysis reveals that most mega-producers increased their output of fossil fuels and related emissions in the seven years after that climate agreement, compared with the seven years before.

In the database of 122 of the world's biggest historical climate polluters, the researchers found that 65% of state entities and 55% of private-sector companies had scaled up production.

### ZIMBABWE LAUNCHED NEW GOLD-BACKED CURRENCY TO TACKLE INFLATION



Zimbabwe's central bank has launched a new "structured currency" backed by gold to

tackle sky-high inflation and stabilise the country's long-floundering economy.

The new currency – called Zim Gold (ZiG) – will be backed by foreign currencies, gold and precious minerals, John Mushayavanhu, the governor of Zimbabwe's Reserve Bank.

The move is aimed at fostering "simplicity, certainty, predictability" in Zimbabwe's financial affairs, and he also presented the new banknotes that come in eight denominations ranging from one to 200 ZiG.

### INDIA RANKS THIRD WITH 67 UNICORNS: HURUN GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2024

NUMBER OF UNICORNS  
BY COUNTRIES

1.		United States	703
2.		China	340
3.		India	67
4.		United Kingdom	53
5.		Germany	36
6.		France	27
7.		Israel	26
8.		Canada	25
9.		Brazil	18
10.		South Korea	18



India ranked third on the global list of unicorns but was far behind the US and China who had 703 and 340 high growth start-ups respectively.

UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.

India has a total of 67 unicorns in the list, as per a report by The Hurun Research Institute, according to which drop-outs from the chart in 2023 were Byju's and PharmEasy.

In total, there are a total of 1,453 unicorns in the world as one unicorn is made every two days over the last year.

### IRAN LAUNCHES OPERATION 'TRUE PROMISE' AGAINST ISRAEL



Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have stated that Operation 'True Promise' is a response to Israeli actions and is part of their strategy to punish Israel for its perceived crimes.

The attack was in response to the April 1 Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that killed seven IRGC members, including two generals in charge of leading operations in Syria and Lebanon, along with six other people.

## WORLD CYBERCRIME INDEX: INDIA AT 10TH;

### TOPPED BY RUSSIA

**CYBERCRIME INDEX**  
Ranking countries by cybercrime threat level

Ranking	Country	WCI score	Ranking	Country	WCI score
1	Russia	58.39	11	Iran	4.78
2	Ukraine	36.44	12	Belarus	3.87
3	China	27.86	13	Ghana	3.58
4	United States	25.01	14	South Africa	2.58
5	Nigeria	21.28	15	Moldova	2.57
6	Romania	14.83	16	Israel	2.51
7	North Korea	10.61	17	Poland	2.22
8	United Kingdom	9.01	18	Germany	2.17
9	Brazil	8.93	19	Netherlands	1.92
10	India	6.13	20	Latvia	1.68

India ranked number 10 in cybercrime, with frauds involving people to make advance fee payment being the most common type, according to new research that surveyed cybercrime experts around the world.

An international team of researchers has compiled the 'World Cybercrime Index' that ranks roughly 100 countries and identifies key hotspots according to various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft and scams.

Russia topped the list, and was followed by Ukraine, China, the US, Nigeria and Romania.

## 8 INDIANS NAMED IN TIME'S 100 MOST

### INFLUENTIAL LIST 2024



Eight individuals of Indian descent, including Alia Bhatt, Ajay Banga, and Sakshi Malik, have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 most influential people of 2024.

The list features a diverse array of leaders from various sectors, including finance, entertainment, technology, activism, and academia.

The list includes politicians, business leaders, artists, icons, movie stars, athletes, and scientists who have made significant impact in their fields. The overall list contains four categories: Leaders, heroes, artists, and thinkers.

- **Ajay Banga**- President of the World Bank
- **Alia Bhatt**- Actor
- **Sakshi Malik**- Wrestler
- **Dev Patel**- Actor

- **Priyamvada Natarajan**- Professor in Astrophysics
- **Asma Khan**-Indian-born British restaurateur and cookbook author
- **Jigar Shah**-Director of the US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office
- **Satya Nadella**- Executive chairman and CEO of Microsoft

A small wildcat called the clouded tiger cat is about the same size as a housecat.

It has a spotted coat that helps it blend in with its surroundings.

### OTHERS

### A NEW SPECIES CLOUDED TIGER CAT FOUND IN BRAZIL'S RAINFOREST



A new tiger species has been recently discovered in the dense rainforests of Brazil.

Named the clouded tiger cat (Leopardus pardinoides), this cat may be small but it is significant for biodiversity and conservation.

- The European Union (EU) and India have launched an Expression of Interest (EoI) for startups working in Battery Recycling Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs) for a matchmaking event.
- The Airports Council International (ACI) World, a global organization which measures and assesses airport standards—ranked Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport as the tenth busiest airport in the world in 2023.
- Nigeria has become the first country in the world to roll out the “revolutionary” new Men5CV vaccine against meningitis.



## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### UAE'S MASDAR TO HOST WORLD FUTURE

#### ENERGY SUMMIT



Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC – Masdar, the UAE's clean energy powerhouse, will host the World Future Energy Summit (WFES).

Taking place from April 16 to 18 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), WFES is the world's leading business event for future energy, clean technology and sustainability, with a packed programme of events, activations, discussions and forums.

### TRI-SERVICE CONFERENCE 'PARIVARTAN

#### CHINTAN' HELD IN NEW DELHI



Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts held in New Delhi.

It is the first-ever conference of the Heads of all Tri-Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three Services.

Officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding and experience recommended measures to achieve the desired "Joint and Integrated" end state with celerity.

### FRANCE HOSTS THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE



An international humanitarian conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries was held in the French capital, Paris.

Objective – To raise funds for the people of Sudan who have been caught in a war between Sudan's army and the rebel paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces.

The conference was organized in response to the United Nations' funding appeal on 7 February 2024.

France, Germany and the European Union organized the International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries.

## BANKING & FINANCIAL

### GST COLLECTION RISES 11.5% TO ₹1.78

#### LAKH CRORE IN MARCH



India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for March 2024 reached ₹1.78 lakh crore (1,78,484 crore), the second-highest collection ever, according to the data released by the Ministry of Finance.

### WORLD BANK PROJECTS INDIA'S ECONOMY

#### TO GROW AT 7.5% IN 2024



The Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2024, the World Bank has said, revising its earlier projections for the same period by 1.2 per cent.

According to the report, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1 per cent in 2025.

### BHARATPE TO LAUNCH ZEROPE APP



BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover will launch a new app called 'ZeroPe', an app designed for medical loans.

ZeroPe, currently in its testing phase, has been developed by Third Unicorn, according to its Google Playstore listing.

The ZeroPe app is set to provide instant pre-approved medical loans of up to Rs 500,000 in collaboration with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest. The service is exclusively available at partnered hospitals.

Grover's entry into this arena adds to a growing trend, with businesses like SaveIn, Qube Health, Arogya Finance, Neodocs, Fibe, Kenko, and Mykare Health already offering instant financing solutions for medical bills and elective treatments.

### OTHERS

- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the new version of SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0) on April 1.
- Fintech firm PhonePe has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote digital payments through UPI on the Himalayan country's payment processor Fonepay Network.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 percent from 6.7 percent earlier.
- Simon Harris was elected the youngest prime minister of the Republic of Ireland. At the age of 37, he is the youngest prime minister in Ireland
- Private lender HDFC Bank has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.
- Moody's Analytics has projected a slight uptick in the Indian economy's growth for calendar year 2024 to 6.1 per cent from 6 per cent in March this year.
- In a recent report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's economy is forecasted to grow at a rate of 6.5 percent in 2024.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.8% from 6.5% on the back of strong domestic demand and a rising working-age population.
- With a view to widen the market and foster adequate protection from healthcare expenses, insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of 65 years for individuals buying health insurance policies.
- Banker Deepak S Parekh resigned from the post of chairman and non-executive director of HDFC Life Insurance.
- French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador in India.
- Reliance Jio become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, ahead of China Mobile.



## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

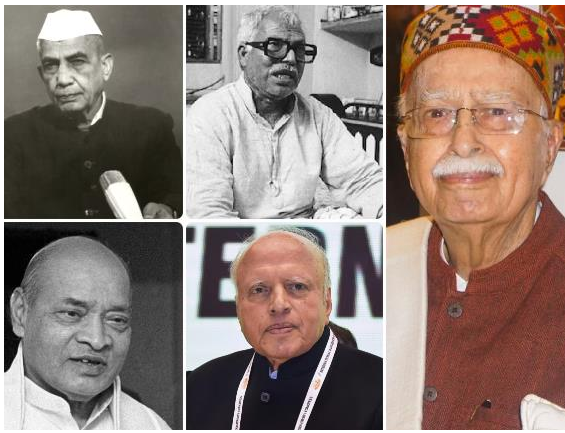
- **Union Asset Management Company** has appointed **Madhu Nair** as the **Chief Executive Officer**.
- **Sheyphali B. Sharan** has assumed charge as the **Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau** upon the superannuation of Manish Desai.
- **Axis Capital** has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- Former KKR India Chief Executive **Sanjay Nayar** has assumed charge as **President of industry chamber Assocham**.
- President **Felix Tshisekedi** of the African country of the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the **nation's first female prime minister**.
- **Santosh Kumar Jha** has assumed the role of **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL)**.
- Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** has been roped in by the **Election Commission** of India to urge the youngsters to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- The World Bank Group has appointed former RBI deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** member of the **Economic Advisory Panel**, according to a statement released by New Delhi-based think tank **Centre for Social and Economic Progress**.
- The **National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)** elected **Meenesh Shah** as the Chairman.
- Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Love Kumar** has been appointed as **Inspector General in Special Protection Group (SPG)**.
- A close ally of populist Prime Minister Robert Fico beat a pro-Western career diplomat to become Slovakia's new President, and succeed **Zuzana Čaputová**, the country's first female head of State.
- IT giant **Wipro** has appointed **Srinivas Pallia** as its **new CEO**, following the resignation of Thierry Delaporte.
- The Delhi High Court has appointed its former judge, **Justice Najmi Waziri** as the **head of the internal departmental committee** tasked with protection of forests in the national capital.
- Former Indian Hockey player and Dronacharya awardee **Harendra Singh** has been selected by Hockey India as **the coach of the senior national women's hockey team**.
- A former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, **Jagjit Pavadia** has been re-elected to the Vienna-based **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**.

- Olympic bronze medalist and six times World champion boxer **C. Mary Kom** stepped down as the Chef-de-Mission for the **Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics** citing “personal reasons”.
- Senior IPS officer **Anurag Kumar** has been appointed as the **Joint Director in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.
- Supreme Court Justice **Aniruddha Bose** has been appointed as the **new director of the National Judicial Academy (NJC) Bhopal**.
- **Sanjana Sanghi** has been appointed as **Brand Ambassador of SPACE India**. SPACE India is the registered Space Tutor of ISRO, creating impact through its education and outreach programs for schools that involve students’ participation in national and international competitions for citizen science projects with ISRO and NASA.
- Kuwait’s Emir has appointed **Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah** as the **new Prime Minister of Kuwait**.
- Fintech major **BharatPe** has appointed **Nalin Negi** as its **chief executive officer**, after more than a year after he took over as interim CEO and CFO.
- The **International Monetary Fund’s** executive board selected Bulgarian economist **Kristalina Georgieva** to serve as **managing director** for a second five-year term, starting on Oct. 1, 2024.
- **Bramha Kumar** has been appointed as **India’s next Ambassador to Republic of Zimbabwe**.
- Vice-Admiral **Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed the **next Chief of Naval Staff**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of **Ajith Kumar K.K** as the **Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank** for three years.
- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Nalin Prabhat** has been appointed as the **Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG)**.
- OpenAI has hired **Pragya Misra**, 39, its first official in India, in order to **handle government relations**.
- Professor **Naima Khattoon** has been appointed as the **Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Gita Sabharwal** of India as the **United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia**.
- **Indonesia’s** electoral commission formally declared **Prabowo Subianto** president-elect after the country’s highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of **RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar** for one year from May 3 this year.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India legend **Yuvraj Singh** as an **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador**.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend **Sana Mir** as the **ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier**.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed **Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar** as **Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister**.
- Retired **Justice Dinesh Kumar** took charge as the **Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for a four-year term**.

## AWARDS

### PRESIDENT CONFERS BHARAT RATNA TO LAL KRISHNA ADVANI AND FOUR OTHERS



The President of India, Droupadi Murmu conferred India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, on the former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao, former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani, former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur and famous agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan.

Except for Lal Krishna Advani, the Bharat Ratna to Chaudhary Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao, Karpoori Thakur, and M.S. Swaminathan were awarded posthumously.

This year, the government conferred Bharat Ratna on five people. This is the highest number in a year for Bharat Ratna and the

maximum since 1999 when four people were conferred with Bharat Ratna.

Only two foreigners, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan of Pakistan, also known as Frontier Gandhi and former South African President Nelson Mandela, have been conferred this award.

Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was conferred the award in 1987, and Mandela in 1990.

The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954.

### HARDIK SINGH AND SALIMA TETE NAMED THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR 2023



Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for 2023 among men and women respectively at the sixth annual Hockey India awards.

With a total prize pool of ₹7.56 crores, the awards saw teams and individuals felicitated for their achievements in the past year.

### NEERAJ SHARMA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS “MEDAL OF HONOUR” AT CONSULAR DAY

2024



**Neeraj A Sharma**, the Honorary Consul General of The Republic of Palau in India, was honored with the esteemed “**Medal of Honour**” by the **Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique-India (HCCD-India)** during the annual Consular Day event held at the ITC Grand Chola in Chennai.

The Consular Day 2024 event, organized by HCCD-India, was a gathering of distinguished guests, representing elite individuals and the international fraternity.

### CHANDRAYAAN 3 TEAM OF ISRO RECEIVES JOHN L JACK SWIGERT JR AWARD



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **Chandrayaan -3 mission team** was awarded **2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award** for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.

This award is **given by** the US-based non-profit organisation **Space Foundation** to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery.

The Indian Consul General of India in Houston, D C Manjunath, received the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award on behalf of the ISRO’s Chandrayaan -3 team.



**GAGANDEEP KANG AWARDED FOR WORK  
ON 2 ENTERIC DISEASES IN CHILDREN**



India's **Dr Gagandeep Kang** has been awarded the **2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for her achievements in global health research.

This was part of the Gairdner Foundation's announcement of its 2024 Canada Gairdner Award winners, that **recognised some of the world's most significant biomedical and global health research** and discoveries.

Dr Kang was awarded for "extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial **research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course**, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally.

**ADWAITA NAYAR NAMED YOUNG GLOBAL  
LEADER IN WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S  
CLASS OF 2024**



**Adwaita Nayar**, the co-founder of **Nykaa** and **CEO of Nykaa Fashion**, has been inducted into the esteemed **World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders Community** as part of the Class of 2024.

Comprising 90 remarkable individuals, this group of changemakers is at the forefront of shaping the future and fostering positive change through their innovative endeavors.

### MOHAMMED SALEM WINS 2024 WORLD

#### PRESS PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD



Reuters photographer **Mohammed Salem** has won the prestigious **2024 World Press Photo of the Year award** for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.

The picture was taken on October 17, 2023, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave.

### RATAN TATA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS KISS

#### HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2021



Industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata**, chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honoured with the **prestigious KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Humanitarian Award 2021**.

The award ceremony was held at his residence in Mumbai, marking a significant recognition of his commitment to social development and exemplary corporate leadership.

### OTHERS

- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with

the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.

- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award in recognition of his contribution to the public good and humanity.
- Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu, who is best known for playing

Karen Shetty in the musical comedy Mean Girls (2024), has been honoured with the "South Asian Person of the Year" award and title by Harvard University.

- Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award.

## SPORTS

### JANNIK SINNER CLINCHES MEN'S SINGLE TITLE OF MIAMI OPEN TENNIS



Italy's **Jannik Sinner** has won the Men's Singles title of **Miami Open tournament** in the United States.

Second seed Sinner defeated 11th seed Bulgarian player Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-1 in the final.

Sinner's third title of the season means he will move to a career-high second in the ATP world rankings, ahead of Spain's Carlos Alcaraz.

### BINDYARANI DEVI BAGS BRONZE IN WEIGHTLIFTING WORLD CUP



Commonwealth Games medallist weightlifter **Bindyarani Devi** won a bronze medal at the **IWF World Cup 2024 in Phuket, Thailand**.

Devi is a **first Indian to win Bronze Medal** in Weightlifting World Cup 55kg event.

### BILQUIS MIR BECAME INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE JURY MEMBER AT PARIS OLYMPICS



**Bilquis Mir** from Jammu and Kashmir is set to create history as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at this year's Summer

**Olympics in Paris**, scheduled from July 26 to August 11.

Bilquis Mir, **water sports** promoter, developer, athlete, jury member of Indian **Kayaking** and Canoeing association has been nominated as the member of the jury to officiate at the Paris Olympics games.

She is the first person from India to be appointed as a jury member at the Paris Olympics.

### **MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS JAPANESE GRAND PRIX**



Triple world champion **Max Verstappen** romped to victory at the **Japanese Grand Prix**, leading team-mate Sergio Perez to a dominant one-two finish for **Red Bull**.

Verstappen failed to finish in Australia a fortnight ago but he was in control for the entire race at Suzuka after starting from pole and claimed his third win from four grands prix this season.

### **RASHMI KUMARI WINS NATIONAL WOMEN'S CARROM TITLE**



Three-time World Champion **Rashmi Kumari** beat K Nagajothi 25-8, 14-20, 25-20 in the women's final of the **51st National carrom championship** organized by the Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association.

It was a record 12th national women's singles title for Rashmi, employed as the Chief Manager at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

### **RADHIKA WINS SILVER MEDAL AT ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024**





India's 23-year-old wrestler **Radhika** has won the **silver medal** in the women's 68kg category at the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.**

Radhika defeated Kazakhstan's Albina Kairgeldinova 12-2 in the quarter-finals before securing a 2-0 win over Gulnura Tashtanbekova of Kyrgyzstan in the semis to enter the gold medal bout.

### INDIA FINISHES ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 WITH 9 MEDALS



The senior Indian wrestling team finished their campaign at the **20th Asian Wrestling Championship by winning nine medals – 4 silvers and 5 bronzes.**

A total of 30 Indian men and women wrestlers competed in the championship.

The men's wrestlers participated in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events while the women's team participated only in the freestyle events.

The 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was **held in the Kyrgyzstan capital, Bishkek.**

### INDIA'S GUKESH D BECOMES YOUNGEST TO WIN CANDIDATES CHESS TOURNAMENT



In Chess, 17-year-old Indian prodigy, **Dommaraju Gukesh** from Chennai made history as the **youngest-ever player to win the FIDE Candidates tournament in Toronto.**

In the final round, Gukesh held fellow title contender Hikaru Nakamura of USA to a draw with black pieces but his fate was sealed on the other board where Ian Nepomniachtchi and Fabiano Caruana battled for 109 moves before draw.

**Gukesh became the youngest-ever Candidates Tournament champion,** beating Garry Kasparov's record, who was 20 years when he won this tournament in 1984.

### MAX VERSTAPPEN WON CHINESE GRAND PRIX



Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the first Chinese Grand Prix in five years, the fifth round of the 2024 Formula 1 World Championship, in Shanghai.

Verstappen's commanding performance saw him cross the finish line a staggering 13.7 seconds ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren, who secured second place.

### SAURAV GHOSAL RETIRES FROM PROFESSIONAL SQUASH



India's finest men's squash player Saurav Ghosal has announced his retirement from professional squash after completing a glittering 22-year journey although he would continue representing the country at multi-discipline events for some more time.

Besides winning two gold medals in team events of Incheon and Hangzhou Asian Games, Ghosal has three Commonwealth Games medals and also bagged the yellow metal in the 2022 World Doubles Championships in mixed doubles in Glasgow.

### USAIN BOLT NAMED ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2024 BRAND AMBASSADOR



Legendary Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt has been named by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the ambassador for the 9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup, which will be hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America jointly from 1 to 29 June 2024.

### INDIAN MEN'S TEAM BAG HISTORIC GOLD IN ARCHERY AFTER 14 YEARS



The Indian men's recurve team has won a historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 by defeating the world-champion South Korean team for the first time ever.

The gold medal ended a 14-year gold medal drought at the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup.

The Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin

Jadhav defeated the World no.1 ranked South Korean team in the final.

The Indian team defeated South Korea's team consisting of World and Asian Games champions Lee Wooseok and Olympic champions Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53) to win a gold medal after 14 years.

### OTHERS

- Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain.
- Yuzvendra Chahal became the first bowler to pick up 200 wickets in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Narsingh Pancham Yadav was elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission.

## DEFENCE

### IAF'S 10-DAY MEGA EXERCISE 'GAGAN SHAKTI' BEGINS



The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to commence a 10-day exercise to **test its capabilities and preparedness for high-intensity operations.**

During the exercise, known as '**Gagan Shakti-2024,**' the IAF will mobilize all its bases and assets across the country. The exercise is being conducted at various locations across the country, including the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer.

It was **last held in 2018,** during which the IAF completed over 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air manoeuvres.

### INS SHARDA AWARDED "ON THE SPOT UNIT CITATION" FOR ANTI-PIRACY OPS



Navy Chief **Admiral R Hari Kumar** has **awarded** an '**On-the-spot Unit Citation**' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations at sea.

The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian and 8 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel "Omari" which was held hostage by pirates off the east coast of Somalia.

### INDIAN COAST GUARD INAUGURATES AQUATIC CENTRE IN TAMIL NADU





Indian Coast Guard's DG Rakesh Pal has inaugurated the **Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam, Tamil Nadu.**

This is as part of his four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry.

The visit aimed to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region, with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.

#### **COASTAL SECURITY EXERCISE 'SAGAR KAVACH' CONDUCTED OFF LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS**



A two-day exercise **involving all maritime security agencies of the country** was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands.

The primary objective of the exercise was to validate the effectiveness of the coastal security mechanism in dealing with asymmetric threats emanating from the sea.

#### **DUSTLIK 2024' JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN**



The 5th edition of the **'Dustlik' joint military exercise** between **India and Uzbekistan** begins in Uzbekistan.

The 14-day exercise will be conducted in Termez District of Uzbekistan from 15 to 28 April 2024.

During the 14-day exercise, soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan will undergo comprehensive joint training sessions.

The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the two countries was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. **The training exercise focused on sharing best practices in subconventional operations under UN mandates.**



**INDIA DELIVERS 1ST BATCH OF BRAHMOS  
SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILES TO  
PHILIPPINES**



India has delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, in reflection of the growing military ties between the two countries amid China's military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea.

The supplies came over two years India signed a \$375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the weapon systems.

Under the January 2022 deal, India will supply three batteries of the missiles, their launchers and related equipment. It was the first export of the BrahMos missile by India.

**INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTED EXERCISE  
POORVI LEHAR ON EAST COAST**



The Indian Navy carried out an extensive exercise along the East Coast as part of efforts to check its preparedness to meet any maritime security challenges.

The exercise 'Poorvi Lehar' witnessed participation of ships, submarines, aircraft and special naval forces.

The exercise was aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### PILOT GOPI THOTAKURA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN SPACE TOURIST TO FLY WITH BLUE

#### ORIGIN



Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984.

Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

### RUSSIA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES ANGARA A5 ROCKET



Russia has successfully launched the Angara-A5 rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

The Angara family of rockets, developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets, is central to Russia's strategy to secure its independence in accessing outer space and to reduce reliance on the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

### INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO DEBRIS-FREE SPACE MISSIONS BY 2030



India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.

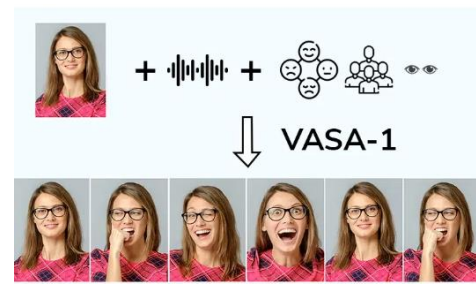
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath made the declaration at the 42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meet.

This initiative aims to achieve debris-free space missions by all Indian space actors, governmental and non-governmental, by 2030.

With 54 spacecraft in orbit and numerous non-functional objects, ISRO has been actively taking measures to dispose of or remove space debris. Efforts include deorbiting spacecraft once their mission is complete and designing systems to minimize debris creation.

## MICROSOFT ANNOUNCES VASA-1 AI MODEL

### TO TURN IMAGES INTO VIDEOS



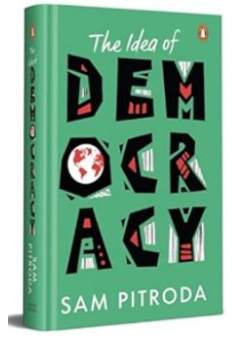
Microsoft has introduced a new VASA 1 AI model, a framework designed to generate lifelike talking faces for virtual characters, boasting appealing Visual Affective Skills (VAS).

With just a single static image and a speech audio clip, the company says its VASA-1 can create life-like short videos.

The model also gives several options to make changes to the video. Here is everything you need to know.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### THE LAUNCH SAM PITRODA'S RELEASED HIS NEW BOOK 'THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY'



Sam Pitroda has launched 'The Idea of Democracy', expressed concern over

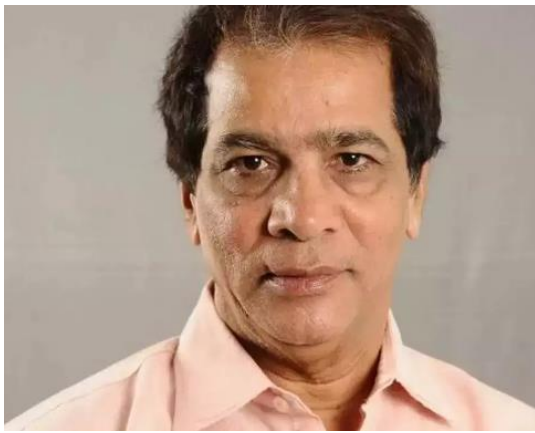
democracy's state in the US and India, highlighting 2024's global elections.

He discussed political challenges worldwide, including authoritarian regimes and social media's role in misinformation.

Highlighted cycle of elite regimes falling to public dissent, suggesting the current political-business elite facing rejection.

## OBITUARY

### RENOWNED TAMIL ACTOR VISHESHWARA RAO PASSES AWAY



Actor **Visheshwara Rao**, known for playing supporting roles in **Tamil films**, passed away at the age of 64 in Chennai.

Visheshwara Rao started his career as a child artiste at the age of six. He found popularity for playing the role of Laila's innocent father in Suriya's Pithamagan.

### M. VEERAPPAN PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 97.



He was **one of the most powerful Ministers in the Cabinet** led by late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran in the 1980s and a close associate of the matinee-icon turned politician.

**RMV, as he was called**, was also a member in the ministry of the late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, but was **expelled by her in 1995 after he shared a dais with actor Rajinikanth during the success celebrations of the film Baashha.**



**BRITISH PHYSICIST PETER HIGGS PASSES  
AWAY**



British physicist Peter Higgs died at the age of 94.

Peter Higgs gained fame for the discovery of 'Higgs-Boson Particle' i.e. 'God Particle'.

Under 'God Particle' it was helped to explain how the universe was created after the Big Bang.

Peter Higgs showed how bosons hold the universe together. Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013 for this discovery.

Higgs received several prestigious awards for his contributions to theoretical physics, including the Dirac Medal in 1997 and the Wolff Prize in Physics in 2004.

**LEGENDARY ENGLISH CRICKETER DEREK  
UNDERWOOD PASSES AWAY**



Derek Underwood, England and Kent's legendary spinner, has passed away at the age of 78.

The slow left-arm orthodox spinner was known for his pin-point accuracy during his playing career.

Regarded as England's best spinner in the post-World War II era, legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar hailed Underwood as one of the toughest bowlers the Indian batting legend ever faced.

**INDIA'S OLDEST AIR FORCE PILOT DALIP**

**SINGH MAJITHIA PASSES AWAY**



The oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia, died at the age of 103. Sardar Dalip Singh Majithia commanded the Indian Air Force in present-day Myanmar and then Burma during World War II.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 30 March – Rajasthan Diwas. On this day in 1949, 19 princely states and 3 states were merged to form the state of Rajasthan after a process that took eight and a half years.
- 1 April – Utkal Diwas
- On April 1, Odisha Day, also known as Utkala Divas, is celebrated to remember when Odisha became a state.
- 1 April – RBI Foundation Day
- 2 April – World Autism Awareness Day. Theme 2024 – **Empowering Autistic Voices**
- 1-7 April – Prevention of Blindness Week
- 5 April – National Maritime Day. Theme 2024 – **Navigating the future: safety first**
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has celebrated the anniversary of its establishment on April 4
- 6 April 2024 – National Handmade Day. Theme 2024 – **Buy a Handmade Product**
- 7 April – World Health Day. Theme 2024 – **My health, my right.**
- 8 April – National Zoo Lovers Day
- 9 April – CRPF Valour Day
- 10 April – World Homeopathy Day. Theme 2024 – **Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family**
- 1 April – National Safe Motherhood Day.
- 11 April – World Parkinson's Day
- 12 April – International Day for Street Children
- 14 April – Ambedkar Jayanti.
- 16 April – World Voice Day. Theme 2024 – **Educate. Celebrate**
- 16 April – Save the Elephant Day
- 18 April – World Heritage Day. Theme 2024 – **Discover and Experience Diversity.**
- 19 April – World Liver Day. Theme 2024 – **Keep your liver healthy and disease-free**
- 21 April – National Civil Service Day.
- 22 April – International Mother Earth Day. Theme 2024 – **Planet vs. Plastics**
- 23 April – World Book and Copyright Day.
- 24-30 April – World Immunization Week. Theme 2024 – **Humanly Possible**

- 24 April – National Panchayati Raj Day
- 25 April – World Malaria Day. Theme 2024 – **Accelerate the Fight Against Malaria for a More Equitable World**
- 26 April – World Intellectual Property Day. Theme 2024 – **IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity**
- 27 April – World Veterinary Day. Theme 2024 – **Veterinarians are essential health workers**
- 30 April – Ayushman Bharat Diwas

## NOTES:



