

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Senegal top court confirms Faye's election victory**

Senegal's Constitutional Council has confirmed the Presidential election victory of opposition candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye, paving the way for his inauguration as the country's fifth President.

**2.72 Lakh Premature Deaths Occur in Bangladesh Annually Due To Pollution**

According to the report released by the World Bank, over 272,000 premature deaths occur in Bangladesh per year due to air pollution, unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene, and lead exposure.

**Portugal's minority government takes oath.**

Portugal's centre-right minority government of Prime Minister Luis Montenegro was sworn in amid doubts it can survive beyond this year as it faces the most fragmented parliament in 50 years of democracy.

**Nepal Endorses the BIMSTEC Charter**

The BIMSTEC Charter was endorsed in the lower house of the Federal Parliament of Nepal. A majority in the lower house supported the proposal seeking endorsement of the BIMSTEC Charter. BIMSTEC charter can only be enforced after its endorsement by parliament.

**Taiwan Earthquake: Nine dead, 900 injured**

At least nine persons were killed and more than 900 injured by a powerful earthquake in Taiwan that damaged dozens of buildings and prompted tsunami warnings that extended to Japan and the Philippines before being lifted.

**Zimbabwe declares drought disaster.**

Zimbabwe has declared a state of disaster over a devastating drought that's sweeping across much of southern Africa, with the country's President saying it needs \$2 billion for humanitarian assistance.

**Ugandan Constitutional court rejects bid to nullify anti-gay law**

Uganda's Constitutional Court has upheld an anti-gay law that allows the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality." Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has signed the bill into law in May last year.

**Philippines to hold joint naval drills with U.S., Japan, Australia**

The Philippines will hold joint naval drills with the United States, Japan and Australia, as the four countries deepen military ties to counter China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

**World Bank says, about 10 million people are at risk of slipping into poverty in Pakistan.**

The World Bank's biannual Pakistan Development Outlook report has painted a bleak economic picture of Pakistan, cautioning that over 10 million more people are at risk of descending into poverty in the cash-strapped country.

**UNHRC adopts Landmark Resolution for Intersex Rights**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has voted to adopt a resolution designed to protect the rights of intersex people, the first initiative of its kind that diplomats and rights groups described as a landmark moment for human rights.

The resolution calls on states to combat discrimination, violence and harmful practices against persons with innate variations in sex characteristics and address their root causes.

**UNHRC Demands Israel Be Held Accountable for Possible War Crimes**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted a resolution calling for Israel to be held accountable for possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

**NATO Celebrates 75 Years of Collective Defence Across Europe and North America**

Foreign Ministers have gathered at the NATO Headquarters on 4 April 2024 to mark 75 years since the signing of the Alliance's founding document, the North Atlantic Treaty. The alliance's founding treaty was signed on April 4, 1949, in Washington.

**Mexico breaks ties with Ecuador.**

Mexico's government ended diplomatic ties with Ecuador after police broke into the Mexican Embassy to arrest former Ecuadorian vice president Jorge Glas.

**UNGA President lauds digitalisation, infrastructure investment in India**

UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis has lauded India's use of digitalisation that has helped achieve financial inclusion and poverty reduction, underlining that this gives the country a "comparative advantage" and its lessons can be shared with the global community.

**South Korea launches its 2nd military spy satellite**

South Korea's second spy satellite was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea was to launch five spy satellites by 2025.

**UNSC Refers Palestinian Application to Become Full UN Member To Committee**

The United Nations Security Council President has referred the Palestinian Authority's application to become a full member of the world body to the committee on the admission of new member. Malta's U.N. Ambassador Vanessa Frazier proposed to the committee to consider the application.

**Turkey puts Export Restrictions on Israel Until Gaza Ceasefire**

The Turkish Trade Ministry has said that it will restrict exports of a wide range of products to Israel, including steel and jet fuel, until a ceasefire is declared in Gaza. This is Turkey's first significant measure against Israel after six months of war.

**South Korea held Parliamentary Elections**

South Korea held Parliamentary elections for its 300-member National Assembly. The election comes nearly two years after conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol won the 2022 Presidential election defeating Lee Jae-myung of the Democratic Party by just 0.73 per cent – the slimmest margin in South Korean history.

**India sends defence attachés to African nations, Armenia, Philippines**

In a sign of expanding focus on military diplomacy, India is set to send Defence Attachés (DA) to a number of its missions in Africa for the first time. Indian missions in countries such as Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Djibouti are being discussed as part of the process.

**EU parliament adopts stricter asylum and migration rules.**

The European Parliament approved a landmark overhaul of the European Union's asylum and migration rules. European lawmakers endorsed the regulations and policies that make up the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

**Israel deploys ship-mounted defence system C-Dome for first time**

Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome, against a "suspicious" target that entered the country's airspace near the southern city of Eilat. The C-Dome is a naval version of the Iron Dome air defence system used to shield against rocket and missile attacks.

**Mali's junta bans the media from reporting on political activities.**

Mali's ruling junta or Military ruler has banned the media from reporting on activities of political parties and associations, a day after suspending all political activities in the country until further notice.

**Ukraine's parliament passes a controversial law for Army mobilisation.**

Ukraine's Parliament passed a controversial law that will govern how the country calls up new soldiers at a time when it needs to replenish depleted forces who are increasingly struggling to fend off Russia's advance.

**Iran launches drones in first-ever full-scale military assault on Israel**

Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel, in an unprecedented attack that came as a response to an Israeli raid on the Iranian consulate in Syria two weeks ago.

**Second batch of Indian military personnel leaves Maldives**

The second batch of Indian military personnel manning a helicopter gifted by India to the Maldives has left the island nation as demanded by its President Mohamed Muizzu.

**Nigeria launches world's first full shot against meningitis.**

African Nation Nigeria has rolled out the world's first vaccine against all strains of meningitis. Nigeria has become the first country in Africa's "meningitis belt" to introduce the new Men5CV or 'MenFive' meningitis vaccine.

**Croatia's ruling conservative party wins parliamentary vote.**

Croatia's ruling conservatives have convincingly won a highly contested parliamentary election but will still need support from far-right groups to stay in power. The prime minister, Andrej Plenković's Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) has won 60 seats in the 151-member assembly.

**USA vetoes resolution backing full U.N. membership for Palestine**

The United States has vetoed a widely backed U.N. resolution that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for the state of Palestine.

**Maldives Court Overturns Former President Prison Sentence**

Maldives High Court has overturned former President Abdulla Yameen's 11-year prison sentence on money laundering and bribery charges and ordered a retrial.

**Sweden becomes 38th country to join NASA's Artemis Accords**

Sweden has officially joined the Artemis Accords, becoming the 38th country to pledge its commitment of outlined principles such as transparency, interoperability, and the peaceful use of space.

**US House passes \$95bn bills in aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan**

The Lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives passed \$95bn legislative package providing security assistance to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

**President Mohamed Muizzu's Party Wins Maldives Polls**

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's party the People's National Congress (PNC) has secured a thumping victory in the island nation's parliamentary election held on Sunday.

**UK's PM says first migrant flight to Rwanda will leave in 10-12 weeks**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's latest effort to send some migrants to Rwanda finally won approval from Parliament, hours after he pledged deportation flights would begin in July.

**Ecuadorians vote in favour of referendum to extradite mafia bosses.**

Majority of Ecuadorian voters have approved a referendum paving the way for the extradition of organised crime bosses. Some 65 percent of valid votes were marked "yes" on the matter of extradition, and 35 percent marked "no."

**US senate clears \$95bn aid package for Ukraine, Taiwan and Israel**

The US Senate has approved a \$95bn (£76bn) foreign aid package that includes military support for Ukraine and Taiwan. It includes \$61bn in military aid for Ukraine, which the US says can start being delivered to the war-torn nation "within days".

**EU Parliament adopts new rules to improve air quality by 2030**

The European Parliament has adopted stricter legally binding air pollution limits that must be complied with by 2030. The new rules set stricter 2030 limits and target values for pollutants with a severe impact on human health, including particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), NO2 (nitrogen dioxide), and SO2 (sulphur dioxide).

**Floods kill 38 in Kenya, destroy farmlands, property**

The death toll from the ongoing floods in Kenya has hit 38, with over 110,000 people displaced. Property, including farmlands and road networks worth millions of shillings, have been destroyed.

**Papua New Guinea appoints first defence adviser to India**

In an important step in taking forward defence cooperation between India and Papua New Guinea (PNG), PNG appointed its first defence adviser Col Edison Napyo to India.

**USA President Joe Biden Signs Bill To Ban Tiktok**

USA President Joe Biden has signed the bill that could ban TikTok. China's ByteDance has been given nine months to remove the tik-tok app from the market or sell the app to a US company.

**U.S. announces new Patriot missiles for war torn Ukraine**

The U.S. will provide Ukraine additional Patriot missiles for its air defence systems as part of a massive \$6 billion additional aid package. The missiles will be used to replenish previously supplied Patriot air defence systems.

**Burkina Faso's Military Forces Killed 223 Civilians Including Babies And Many Children**

Human Rights Watch in a report published said that the military forces in Burkina Faso killed 223 civilians, including babies and many children, in attacks on two villages accused of cooperating with militants.

**US sets up board to advise on safe, secure use of AI**  
USA sets up board to advise on safe, secure use of AI. The chief executives of OpenAI, Microsoft and Google are among the high-profile members of a new federal board created to advise the U.S. government on the "safe and secure" development of artificial intelligence.

**Iraq Passes Law Criminalising Same-Sex Relationships**  
Iraq's parliament has passed a law criminalising same-sex relationships. The Law bans same-sex relations with maximum of 15 years in prison, and mandates at least seven years in prison for anybody who promotes homosexuality or prostitution.

**World Economic Forum convenes Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development in Riyadh**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development has hosted 1,000 global leaders from 92 countries on April 28-29 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to support global dialogue and find actionable, collaborative and sustainable solutions to shared global challenges.

**El Salvador's congress approves changes to reform constitution**

El Salvador's Congress, which is controlled by President Nayib Bukele's New Ideas party has approved a change to an article of the Constitution to facilitate larger constitutional reforms without having to wait until after the election of a new legislature.

**China releases fourth list of 30 more names for places in Arunachal Pradesh**

China has released a fourth list of 30 new names of various places in Arunachal Pradesh amid its stepped-up assertions in recent weeks to re-emphasise its claim over the Indian State.

## NATIONAL

**GI tags approved to over 60 products from across India**  
Geographical Indication (GI) tags have been given to over 60 products from across India, including the famous Banaras Thandai. This is the first time such a large number of GI tags have been given at a go. Six traditional crafts from Assam have bagged the GI tag.

**IAF's biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' held at in Jaisalmer**

The Indian Air Force has conducted its biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district. The exercise continued till April 10.

**Bharat Biotech, SII's arm Bilthoven Biologicals to collaborate for oral polio vaccine**

Bharat Biotech and Bilthoven Biologicals B.V. (Bbio), the Netherlands-based subsidiary of Serum Institute of India, have signed an agreement to produce in India oral polio vaccines (OPVs) made with drug substances sourced from the Dutch firm.

**64 Indian construction workers left for Israel**

The first batch of Indian construction workers bound for jobs in Israel during the conflict there were flagged off by Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon and government officials.

**President Droupadi Murmu Dedicates CAR-T Cell Therapy To Nation At IIT Bombay**

President Droupadi Murmu has dedicated CAR-T Cell Therapy to the nation at IIT Bombay. The CAR-T Cell Therapy (used to treat cancer patients) has been developed in India by IIT Bombay-incubated Company Immunoadoptive Cell Therapy (ImmunoACT).

**New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime Missile Successfully Flight-Tested In Odisha**

The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have conducted the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

**India to allow Exports of Essential Goods To Maldives Despite Strained Ties**

India has allowed limited exports of essential commodities, including sugar, wheat, rice, and onions, to the Maldives, even as ties between both nations remained tense amid rising Chinese influence.

**Centre to separately record parents' religion during registration of childbirth.**

According to the Model Rules drafted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, while registering the birth of a child, parents will now be required to separately record the religion of both the child's father and mother. These Rules will have to be adopted and notified by State governments before they are implemented.

**Chief Of Defence Staff chairs Tri-Service Conference Parivartan Chintan**

Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts was held in New Delhi. The day long discussions was chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.

**Centre notifies plan to delist centrally protected monuments.**

The Ministry of Culture has declared its intention to delist 18 protected monuments as they have "ceased to be of national importance."

**Delhi's Qutub Minar illuminates in remembrance of Rwanda Genocide of 1994**

The Qutub Minar Monument in Delhi was lit up with the colours of the Rwandan national flag on April 7 in solidarity with the people of the east-African nation in remembrance of the 100-day massacre that claimed the lives of 8,00,000 people in 1994.

**Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the U.S.**

The state-run Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) became the third Indian shipyard to enter into a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MRSA) with the U.S., which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships.

**Skymet forecasts normal monsoon for India**

Private weather forecasting agency Skymet has said that India is expected to see a normal monsoon in 2024. As per Skymet, monsoon rains are expected to be 102% of the long-period average of 868.6 mm for the four-month period.

**Karnataka High Court quashes Centre's ban on 23 'ferocious' dog breeds**

The High Court of Karnataka quashed a circular issued by the Central government on March 12 banning 23 breeds of 'ferocious and dangerous' dogs.

**IIM-Ahmedabad among world's top 25 for management**

IIM-Ahmedabad is among the top 25 institutions globally for business and management studies, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject. Jawaharlal Nehru University is the highest-ranked university in India and is ranked at 20th position globally for development studies.

### **Ashish Chauhan, Zoho Sridhar Vembu appointed as UGC members for 3 years**

The Union government has notified the appointment of National Stock Exchange CEO and managing director Ashish Kumar Chauhan and Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu as members of the University Grants Commission (UGC), taking the body's strength to eight members from just four.

### **Government directs to remove beverages from 'health drinks' category.**

The Central government has asked all the e-commerce companies to remove drinks and beverages, including Bournvita, from the health drinks category from their portals.

### **India-Uzbekistan's Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK' held in Uzbekistan**

The fifth edition of the 'Dustlik' Joint Military Exercise between India and Uzbekistan was held in Termez District, Uzbekistan, from April 15.

### **Indian Army successfully conducts field trials of anti-tank guided missile system.**

The Indian Army has successfully carried out field trials of indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) weapon system, paving way for its induction into the force's armoury.

### **India, Mauritius Sign Protocol to Amend Tax Treaty**

India amended the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius to prevent misuse for tax evasion or avoidance. The amended pact has included the Principal Purpose Test (PPT).

### **India Likely to Experience Above-Normal Monsoon Rainfall This Year: IMD**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted India is likely to receive above normal rainfall during the upcoming June-September southwest monsoon season. This is the first time, after a gap of eight years, that the IMD has forecast "above normal" rains in the country.

### **29 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh.**

At least 29 Maoists were killed in an operation by security forces along the Kanker-Narayanpur border in Chhattisgarh's Bastar.

### **INS Talwar captures 940 kgs narcotics in Western Arabian Sea**

Indian Naval frigate INS Talwar on deployment in the Western Arabian Sea for maritime security operations under the ambit of the Bahrain-based Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) has apprehended a suspicious dhow and recovered 940 kgs of narcotics.

### **DRDO successfully test fires indigenous long range subsonic cruise missile.**

The DRDO has conducted a successful flight test of a long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

### **State-of-the-art Submersible Platform SPACE inaugurated at Kerala's Idukki**

A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated at Kerala's Idukki district. SPACE, set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for Indian Navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.

### **India delivers first batch of BrahMos to Philippines**

India has delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Philippines. Philippines is acquiring the systems under the Horizon 2 of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Programme.

### **Uttar Pradesh now has the most GI-tagged items in the country**

Six more products from Uttar Pradesh have recently been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The GI Registry awarded the certification to the Banararas Tiranga Barfi and the five other Uttar Pradesh products.

With these six new additions, Uttar Pradesh retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of 75.

### **DRDO Hands Over Indigenous Flight Control Modules To HAL For LCA Tejas Mk-1A Variant**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over the first batch of indigenous leading-edge actuators and airbrake control modules to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

### **Indian Navy conducts mega exercise on East Coast**

The Indian Navy has 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 Leher' witnessed participation of ships, submarines, aircraft and special naval forces.

### **All cases of organ transplants to be given unique NOTTO-ID**

The Union Health Ministry has issued a directive to eliminate commercial dealing in organs, especially those involving foreign citizens. As per the directive, all cases of organ transplants, whether from a living or deceased donor, will be allocated a unique National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)-ID for both the donor and the recipient.

### **Indian nationals can now apply for multiple-entry Schengen visa with longer validity.**

The European Union has adopted specific rules on issuing multiple entry visas to Indian nationals. As per new rules, Indian nationals can now be issued long-term multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years after having obtained and lawfully used two visas within the previous three years.

### **Two Indian women Navy officers return after historic transoceanic expedition.**

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel INSV Tarini have returned to her base port at Goa on April 21 after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months by two women officers. The expedition was undertaken by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, women officers of the Indian Navy.

### **ISKCON Collaborates with NSDC For Skill Development**

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) will provide vocational training to tribal and underprivileged youth across multiple states.

### **Patanjali Ayurved issues another 'bigger' public apology after Supreme Court rap**

Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna of Patanjali Ayurved have got a fresh apology published in leading newspapers for misleading advertisements of Patanjali's medicinal products. This time, the apology was bigger in size after the Supreme Court pulled up the duo for not "prominently" displaying it previously.

### **Health Ministry constitutes task force on brain healthcare**

The Union Health Ministry has constituted a national task force to devise effective strategies for surveillance, prevention, and treatment of brain diseases.

### **Germany allows India to buy small arms from its firms**

In a major relaxation, Germany has granted licence to India to purchase small arms from German companies. It has also significantly simplified the licensing requirements for the sale of military equipment to India.

### **Supreme Court thumbs-up for EVMs**

The Supreme Court of India has rejected a batch of petitions seeking 100% cross-verification of vote count in electronic voting machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) paper slips. It has also declined a plea to bring back paper ballots for the voting process.

### **Nagaland prepares ground to hold civic polls with 33% reservation for women**

The Nagaland Cabinet has approved the elections to the urban local bodies (ULBs) with 33% of the seats reserved for women. It will be the first-ever municipal elections in the State with a quota for women.

### **India sends holy Sarayu water to Sri Lanka for consecration ceremony of Seetha Amma temple**

India has initiated the process of sending sacred Sarayu river water to Sri Lanka for the consecration ceremony of Seetha Amma Temple, dedicated to Goddess Sita. The consecration ceremony of Seetha Amma Temple will take place on May 19, 2024.

### **Centre releases disaster relief funds for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**

Weeks after the governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka moved the Supreme Court seeking relief funds for calamities such as Cyclone Michaung, floods and drought in 2023, the centre has ordered the release of ₹3,730.32 crore towards relief assistance for natural calamity from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

### **Voting Begins For First Phase of Lok Sabha Elections**

The voting for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections has begun. A total of 102 Parliamentary constituencies which include 11 Lok Sabha seats reserved for ST and 18 seats reserved for SC are going to polls in this phase. These constituencies are spread over 17 states and four Union Territories.

## **BANKING & ECONOMY**

### **Chinese smartphone giant takes on Tesla**

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi has launched its first electric vehicle (EV) and started taking orders. The standard SU7 model would be priced at 215,900 yuan (\$29,872; £23,663) and the Max version would cost 299,900 yuan.

### **India's forex reserves rise by \$140 million, hit fresh peak of \$642.63 billion.**

India's forex reserves increased by \$140 million to touch its all-time high of \$642.631 billion during the week ended March 22, 2024.

### **Microfinance industry's loan portfolio grows by 21% to touch ₹3.93 lakh crore.**

According to latest data compiled by Sa-Dhan, the microfinance industry's loan portfolio grew robustly 21 per cent as December 2023 to touch ₹3.93 lakh crore.

### **India accounts for 20% of upcoming regasification capacity in Asia Pacific**

India, the world's fourth largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, is expanding its natural gas infrastructure by adding 24 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of capacity accounting for around 20 per cent of the total regasification capacity being added in Asia Pacific.

### **National Fertilizers gets Navratna status**

Centre-owned National Fertilizers Ltd has said the Department of Public Enterprise has granted "Navratna" status to the company. The term 'Navratna' refers to a select group of top-performing Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that have been granted greater autonomy and financial powers by the Centre in recognition of their performance.

### **Centre sets coal production target of producing 170 million tonnes for FY25**

The Union government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the current financial year.

### **Dividend receipts from CPSEs exceed revised estimates by 26% to ₹63,000 cr**

The Centre's dividend receipts from Central Public Sector Enterprises, CPSEs have exceeded the revised budget estimate by 26 per cent to about ₹63,000 crore, with PSU companies like Coal India, ONGC, Powergrid and GAIL making handsome payouts in the current fiscal.

### **Centre To Allow Up To 100 % FDI For Space Sector**

The Centre has notified amended rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act to operationalise its decision to allow up to 100 per cent FDI for the space sector.

### **March witness's 2nd-highest gross GST revenue of ₹1.78 lakh crore**

India's gross GST revenues hit their second highest level of ₹1,78,484 crore in March 2024. This lifted the total tally from the indirect tax for 2023-24 to a little over ₹20.18 lakh crore, indicating an 11.6% growth from the previous year's kitty.

### **SEBI updates complaint redressal system for investors**

The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new version of its complaint redressal system, SCORES 2.0, to strengthen investor complaint redress mechanism in the securities market.

### **Value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation decline to ₹8,202 crore: RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that the total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes was announced, declined to ₹8,202 crore at the close of business on March 29, 2024.

### **OpenAI Removes Sam Altman's Ownership Of Its Startup Fund Axios**

According to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), OpenAI has changed the governance structure of its venture capital fund "Axios" that backs AI startups, so its high profile chief executive Sam Altman no longer owns or controls the fund.

### **RBI celebrates 90 years ceremony.**

Prime minister Narendra Modi was delivering the keynote address at the central bank's 90th anniversary event in Mumbai. Established in 1935, the RBI serves as the country's central bank and operates under the regulatory framework outlined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, along with the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.

### **Indian Oil, Panasonic Energy ink pact for lithium-ion cell JV**

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.

### **World Bank projects Indian economy to grow at 7.5% in 2024.**

The World Bank in its latest South Asia Development Update has stated that the Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.5% in 2024, revising its earlier projections for the same period by 1.2%.

### **Centre allows export of 1 lakh tonnes of onion to neighbouring countries.**

The Centre has allowed exports of 99,500 tonnes of onions, mainly sourced from Maharashtra to six neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka despite the ban on shipments.

### **IREDA grants Highest Loan Sanctions And Disbursements**

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has achieved record-breaking annual loan sanctions and disbursements in the financial year 2023-24. During this period, it has sanctioned loans totalling ₹37,354 crores and disbursed loans amounting to ₹25,089 crores.

### **Realty sector captures over \$1 bn from institutional investors in Q1 CY24**

Institutional investments in the Indian real estate sector crossed \$1 billion in the first quarter of 2024, signalling a steady and positive start to the year, reported Colliers India.

### **Paradip Port emerges as largest Indian major port in cargo throughput in FY24**

Paradip Port in Odisha has emerged as India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes by clocking 145.38 million tonne cargo throughput in FY24, surpassing Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.

### **India's Coal and Lignite Production Hits All-Time High of Over 1 Billion Tonnes For Financial Year 2023-24**

For the first time ever, India's coal and lignite production has crossed one Billion tonnes owing to favourable support from the Central government resulting in capacity expansion, coal and lignite production has grown by more than 70 per cent over the last 10 years.

### **Tamil Nadu tops in electronics exports**

Tamil Nadu is India's largest exporter of electronic goods in FY23, accounted for 30% of all electronic goods exports from India in FY24. The State is in fact a late entrant in this sector, with Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka already dominating electronic goods exports until FY22.

### **India to build first commercial crude oil strategic storage**

India plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage as part of efforts to shore up stockpiles as insurance against any supply disruption. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), has invited bids for constructing 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka.

### **Top 4 EV manufacturers sell over 50% vehicle in March '24**

The Indian electric two-wheeler segment registered highest monthly sales in March 2024 over the year earlier period, with top four original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) accounting for more than 50% of total sales. Ola Electric, TVS Motor, Bajaj Auto and Ather Energy cumulatively sold 1.12 lakh out of 1.36 lakh units.

### **BMW Group, Tata Tech to form JV to set up automotive software hub in India.**

BMW Group and Tata Technologies Ltd., have signed an agreement to form a joint venture (JV) to establish an automotive software and IT development hub in Pune, Bengaluru and Chennai.

### **HDFC Bank loan book crosses ₹25 lakh crore in Q4**

Private sector lender HDFC Bank loan book has crossed ₹25 lakh crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The bank's gross advances aggregated to ₹25.08 lakh crore as of March 31, 2024.

### **RBI holds firm on rupee derivatives stance, defers norm implementation to May 3**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred the implementation of norms on exchange-traded currency derivatives (ETCDs) linked to Indian rupee until May 3 following concerns by investors. The norms were scheduled to take effect starting Friday.

### **Three banks get I-T demand notices for ₹770 cr.**

The Income Tax (I-T) Department has slapped Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Karur Vysya Bank and Indian Overseas Bank with demand notices for ₹770 crore for the assessment year 2022-23 on account of certain additions and disallowances.

### **RBI's Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy, keeps policy rate at 6.5%**

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50%. This is the 7th time that the rates have been kept on hold.

GDP growth for 2024-25 has been retained at 7%, lower than 7.6% last fiscal.

Retail inflation to average 4.5% this fiscal, lower than 5.4% in FY25.

### **RBI to allow foreign investors in IFSC to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds**

The RBI has decided to facilitate wider non-resident participation in the Sovereign Green Bonds by permitting eligible foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to invest in such bonds.

### **RBI to enable UPI for cash deposit facility**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to enable UPI for cash deposit facility. Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) deployed by banks enhance customer convenience while reducing cash-handling load on bank branches. The facility of cash deposit is presently available only through the use of debit cards.

### **WEF's Young Global Leaders 2024: RPSG Group's Shashwat Goenka among seven Indians join elite community**

Shashwat Goenka, Vice Chairman of the RPSG Group, has been recognised as a Young Global Leader for 2024 by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Apart from Goenka, Priya Agarwal Hebbbar, Non-Executive Director at Vedanta; Richa Bajpai, Founder and CEO of Campus Fund; Arjun Bhartia, Joint Managing Director at Jubilant Group; Adwaita Nayar, Chief Executive Officer, FSN E-Commerce Ventures (NYKAA); Sharad Vivek Sagar, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Dexterity Global, India; and Actress Bhumi Pednekar are among the Indians who have joined the WEF's Forum of Young Global Leaders.

### **Singapore, Denmark and U.S. are the best places in the world to conduct business**

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit business environment ranking, Singapore, Denmark and U.S. are the best places in the world to conduct business. The ranking is measured based off indicators such as inflation, cost of living, economic growth, and fiscal policies.

### **Indian Bank reported 12% growth in total business for FY24.**

Indian Bank has reported a 12% growth year-on-year in its total business for FY24 to ₹12.23 lakh crore. Total deposits of the bank rose 11% to ₹6.89 lakh crore.

### **Online gaming, casinos were top GST evaders in FY24: DGGI**

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), the intelligence wing under the Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue, has found that the majority of the alleged tax evasion was in sectors such as online gaming and casinos (₹83,588 crore), co-insurance/re-insurance (₹16,305 crore) and secondment (₹1,064 crore).

### **Adani Group to invest ₹2.3 lakh crore in renewable energy, manufacturing capacity.**

Adani Group will invest about ₹2.3 lakh crore through 2030 in the country's renewable energy expansion and solar and wind manufacturing capacity addition.

### **India's household debt levels reportedly touched an all-time high.**

India's household debt levels are reckoned to have touched an all-time high of 40% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by December 2023, as per a research report from leading financial services firm Motilal Oswal.

### **Air India-BIAL pact to make Bengaluru Premier aviation hub of south India**

Air India and the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have entered into an agreement intended to develop Bengaluru as a premier aviation hub for southern India.

### **Hyundai Motor and Kia Corporation signed an MoU with Exide Energy**

South Korean automotive majors Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Corporation have signed an MoU with Exide Energy, an arm of the listed Exide Industries, for the local manufacturing of EV batteries.

### **Paytm Bank MD & CEO Surinder Chawla resigns.**

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) Managing Director & CEO Surinder Chawla had given his resignation on account of personal reasons and to explore better career prospects, One 97 Communications Ltd. (OCL), the promoter of the bank said.

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

According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, in 2023 India had 67 unicorns, which is one less than 68 such startups last year. The US topped the list with 703 unicorns, up 37 from 2022, and China with 340 unicorns. India produced more offshore unicorns than any other country, co-founding 109 unicorns outside of India compared to 67 in India.

### **IndusInd Bank parent company to acquire 60% stake in Invesco India Asset Management**

IndusInd Bank parent company IndusInd International Holdings Ltd. (IIHL), a Mauritius-based investment holding company of the Hinduja Group, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management India Ltd.

### **OpenAI chief Sam Altman named a billionaire by Forbes Magazine**

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has been named a billionaire by the Forbes Magazine, with a large part of his wealth coming from personal investments in companies such as Reddit and Stripe, as well as property in California and Hawaii.

### **HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep**

HDFC Bank opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the first and only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.

### **ADB forecasts India's GDP growth at 7% in 2024-25, 7.2% next year**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asia Development Outlook report has upgraded India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for fiscal year (FY) 2024 ending on 31 March 2025 from 6.7% to 7% and 7.2% in FY2025.

### **India's GDP to grow 6.1% in 2024: Moody's Analytics**

Moody's Analytics has projected India's economy to expand 6.1% in 2024, lower than 7.7% growth clocked in 2023. It said output in India remains 4% lower than it would have been without the COVID pandemic and its various aftershocks — from supply snags to military conflicts abroad.

### **India uses peace clause fifth time, for rice subsidies given in 2022.**

India has, for the fifth time, has invoked the peace clause for exceeding the 10% ceiling on support it offered its rice farmers. The country informed the World Trade Organization

(WTO) that the value of its rice production in 2022-23 was \$52.8 billion while it gave subsidies worth \$6.39 billion, which comes out to 12.1% as against the permitted 10%.

### **India's retail inflation moderated to 4.85% in March.**

India's retail inflation moderated to a 10-month low of 4.85% in March from 5.1% in last month but food inflation remained at 8.52%.

### **Index of Industrial production rises to 5.7% in February.**

India's industrial production grew 5.7 per cent in February 2024. The factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 6 per cent in February 2023.

### **U.S. becomes Taiwan's largest export market.**

The United States has topped long-time leader China as Taiwan's main export market for four consecutive months due to a surge in demand for microchip products and AI technology.

### **IMF confirms Kristalina Georgieva as managing director for second 5-year term**

The International Monetary Fund's executive board has selected Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva to serve as managing director for a second five-year term, starting on Oct. 1 this year.

### **ADB says, Pakistan has the highest cost of living in Asia**

According to a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) report, Pakistan has the highest living cost in all of Asia with a 25% inflation rate and its economy may grow at the fourth lowest pace of 1.9% in the region.

### **Sanjay Shukla appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the National Housing Bank (NHB)**

Sanjay Shukla has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the National Housing Bank (NHB) by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau. Currently, he is the Managing Director and CEO of Housing Finance at Centrum India.

### **Wholesale price inflation rises to three-month high of 0.53% in March, 2024**

India's wholesale price inflation rose to a three-month high of 0.53% in March from 0.2% in February, with the food index rising 4.65%.

### **Goods exports hit 12-month high of \$41.68 billion in March, 2024**

India's goods exports hit a 12-month high of \$41.68 billion in March, although it constituted a 0.67% decline from last year's tally, while imports dropped 6% to \$57.3 billion last month. The goods trade deficit contracted to \$15.6 billion in March, the lowest in 11 months.

### **Byju's founder Raveendran to take over firm's daily operations**

Byju Raveendran, the founder of the edtech company Think and Learn, which owns the Byju's brand, will handle the firm's day-to-day operations following the resignation of CEO Arjun Mohan.

### **IMF upgrades India's GDP Growth Projection To 6.8% For FY 2024-25**

The International Monetary Fund, IMF in its World Economic Outlook report has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection to 6.8 percent for the financial year (FY) 2024-25.

### **India Allows Onion Export To Sri Lanka, Gives Additional Quota To UAE**

India has allowed limited shipments of onions to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sri Lanka, after banning its export in response to rising prices.

### **India's Exports Estimate To Reach 776.68 Billion Dollars In Financial Year 2023-24**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has said that India's overall exports are estimated to reach 776.68 billion dollars in financial year 2023-24, surpassing last year's highest record. The overall exports in the preceding financial year, 2022-23, was 776.40 billion dollars.

### **125 Advance Pricing Agreements Signed by CBDT In FY 2023-24**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has signed record number of 125 advance pricing agreements (APAs) in the financial year 2023-24.

### **UNCTAD report says Indian economy projected to grow 6.5% in 2024**

According to a report by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's economy is projected to grow by 6.5% in 2024.

### **Adani group invests ₹8,339 crore more in Ambuja Cements**

The Adani Group has pumped an additional ₹8,339 crore in Ambuja Cements, raising its stake in the company to 70.3%, to help the cement maker's manufacturing capacity.

### **ZEE withdraws from NCLT application to merge operations with Sony**

ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd has withdrawn its application, seeking implementation of the merger with Sony, filed before the National Company Law Tribunal Mumbai bench.

### **NPCI arm, SBI introduce NCMC recharge on Bharat BillPay**

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in association with State Bank of India (SBI), has onboarded SBI National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) on its Bharat BillPay platform for the convenience of travellers.

### **ITC Infotech to acquire cloud services firm Blazeclan for up to ₹485 crore**

ITC Infotech, the technology arm of the ITC Group, is set to acquire Pune-based cloud-services firm Blazeclan Technologies Pvt. Ltd. in an all-cash deal worth up to ₹485 crore.

### **Ashok Leyland signs pact with South Indian Bank for dealer financing**

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has entered into a pact with South Indian Bank Ltd. (SIB) through which the latter will provide inventory financing solutions to ALL dealers under its dealer finance programme.

### **India's pulses imports hit 6-year high in FY24, as red lentil purchases jump**

India's pulses imports in fiscal 2024 surged 84% year-on-year to their highest level in six years after lower production prompted India to allow duty-free imports of red lentils and yellow peas.

### **Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor gets bail in bank fraud case after four years**

A special court in Mumbai has granted bail to Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Mumbai, arrested Mr. Kapoor on March 7, 2020, for involvement in a ₹ 466.51 crore bank fraud.

### **Archer Aviation aims to start electric air taxi trials in India next year**

U.S.-based Archer Aviation aims to begin trials of its electric air taxi in India next year, ahead of a planned commercial launch in 2026, the company's chief executive said.

### **Airtel Payments Bank launches NCMC enabled debit and pre-paid cards**

Airtel Payments Bank has announced the launch of its eco-friendly NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards. The bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch these interoperable cards that are powered by RuPay.

### **IRDAI Removes Age Cap On Buying Health Insurance**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the age cap on purchasing health insurance policies, effective from April 1, 2024. Previously, individuals were restricted to buying new insurance policies only until the age of 65.

### **HDFC Bank Q4 net profit climbs 37% to ₹16512 crore**

HDFC Bank Ltd. net profit rose 37.1% to ₹16,512 crore, from ₹12,047 crore in the year-earlier period, aided by a 24.5% growth in net interest income (NII) at ₹29,080 crore.

### **Net direct tax collections exceed 2023-24 target**

India's net direct tax collections grew 17.7% in 2023-24 to hit ₹19.58 lakh crore, marginally surpassing the revised estimates for the year, owing to a surge in personal income taxes.

### **RBI approves appointment of Ajith Kumar KK as Dhanlaxmi Bank's MD & CEO**

The RBI has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar KK as the managing director and chief executive officer of Dhanlaxmi Bank. Kumar is set to succeed J.K. Shivan, whose term was set to end on 29 January 2024.

### **Cred gets RBI's in-principle approval for payment aggregator business**

Fintech start-up company Cred has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the payment aggregation (PA) business. Cred is the largest third-party app for credit card bill payments in the country.

### **UltraTech Cement to acquire India Cements' Maharashtra asset for ₹315 crore**

UltraTech Cement, an Aditya Birla Group company, will acquire a 1.1 million tonne per annum grinding unit and captive railway siding at Parli in Maharashtra from India Cements for ₹315 crore.

### **Indian Overseas Bank board approves plan to raise equity capital up to ₹5,000 cr in FY25**

Government lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is planning to raise paid-up equity capital for FY25 to a maximum extent of ₹5,000 crore.

### **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank's net profit in Q4 flat at ₹253 crore**

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB) has reported fourth-quarter standalone net profit remained flat at ₹253 crore from the year-earlier period due to employee benefit cost and advance provisioning for a non-performing asset (NPA).

### **MDH, Everest masala row: FSSAI to check quality of spices sold in India**

Food safety regulator FSSAI has started taking samples of spices in powder form of all brands, including MDH and Everest, from across the country in view of quality concerns flagged by Singapore and Hong Kong.

### **Reliance Industries Q4 PAT drops 1.8% to ₹18,951 crore**

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has reported consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024 dropped by about 2% to ₹18,951 crore from ₹19,299 crore in the year ago.

### **Adani Green crosses 10,000 MW Operating Portfolio, Largest In India**

Adani Green Energy Ltd has initiated 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the giant Khavda solar park in Gujarat that has made it the first company in India with over 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity.



**India's defence exports crossed all-time high of ₹21,000 crore**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that India's defence exports crossed ₹21,000 crore, approximately \$2.63 billion, for the first time. The recent figures indicated that the defence exports have grown by 31 times in the past 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14.

**PayU gets RBI's approval to operate as Payments Aggregator**

Digital financial services provider PayU had received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007.

**NABARD unveils Climate Strategy 2030 to mobilise green financing**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document which aims to address India's need for green financing.

**Indian Bank ties up with Tata Power Solar to boost solar energy adoption**

Indian Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations.

**RBI Barred Kotak Mahindra Bank From Onboarding New Customers Online**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, and from issuing fresh credit cards. However, the bank shall continue to provide services to its existing customers, including its credit card customers.

**IndusInd Bank successfully executes RBI's programmable CBDC pilot**

IndusInd Bank has announced the successful execution of the Reserve Bank of India's programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot, marking the first such instance by any bank in the country.

**AU Small Finance Bank launches multiple products like credit cards with exclusive features**

In a bid to increase fee income, AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched an array of products including Rupay credit card and ATM insurance. First time in Indian banking industry, AU SFB has launched ATM Insurance, for the convenience of customers to buy insurance through AU SFB's ATMs with their debit card.

**Razorpay enters into UPI infrastructure space, offers UPI Switch**

Fintech major Razorpay, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank, has entered into UPI infrastructure service by offering UPI Switch to its customers.

**REITs, InvITs mobilise ₹1.3 lakh crore in four years: RBI**

According to the Reserve Bank of India report, Investment vehicles for realty and infrastructure sectors REITs and InvITs have garnered ₹1.3 lakh crore in the past four years till March-end, and are expected to facilitate more pooled funds.

**Amitabh Chaudhry re-appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank till December 2027**

Axis Bank has announced the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer until December 31, 2027. The re-appointment, effective from January 1, 2025.

**Centre approves one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor Rabi Sankar**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, for a period of one year with effect from May 3, 2024.

**RBI tells Asset Reconstruction Companies to maintain ₹300 crore in net owned fund by FY26**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a 'Master Direction' for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) mandating them to maintain a minimum net owned fund (NOF) of ₹300 crore in a phased manner by FY26.

**TCS ties up with AWS to provide gen AI customer solutions**

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) had entered into a tie-up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to scale its customers' cloud transformation.

**Axis Bank reports fourth-quarter net profit of ₹7,130 crore**

Private lender Axis Bank has reported a fourth-quarter net profit of ₹7,130 crore after posting a net loss of ₹5,728.4 crore in the year-earlier period.

**Mark Zuckerberg owned Meta reports revenue jump**

Mark Zuckerberg owned Meta has reported quarterly revenue of \$36.46 billion, up by 27%, when compared to last year.

**Happiest Minds Technologies to acquire PureSoftware for ₹779 crore**

Happiest Minds Technologies signed definitive agreements to acquire 100% of the equity share capital of Noida-based PureSoftware Technologies Private Limited (PureSoftware) for a total purchase consideration of \$94.5 million (₹779 crore).

**Hitachi Payment Services announces launch of upgradable ATM**

Hitachi Payment Services, one of the leading names in payments and commerce solutions, has announced the launch of the India's first upgradable ATM. The upgradable ATM can be transformed into a high-performance cash recycling machine (CRM) at any point in time.

**NABARD partners with RBI Innovation Hub to fast-track digital agri lending**

The NABARD has partnered with Reserve Bank's arm RBIH to put in place a system which will enable faster processing of agricultural loans. NABARD will integrate its e-KCC loan origination system portal with the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.

**Swiggy gets shareholders' nod to raise over ₹10,400 crore via IPO**

Swiggy has received shareholders' approval for an initial public offering to raise ₹10,414 crore fund through issue of fresh equity shares and an offer for sale.

**India's services export grew faster than global average in 2023: UNCTAD data**

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, India's annual services export grew at 11.4% in 2023 against the global average of 8.9% and surpassed China which witnessed a 10.1% contraction in the year.

**Microsoft earnings jumped 17% on cloud boost, AI**

Microsoft's revenue rose 17% to \$61.9 billion for the March ending quarter on its cloud boost, some significant deals for the platform, and the wide selection of AI accelerators it offered.

**ICICI Bank Q4 net profit jumps 17.4% to 10,708cr**

ICICI Bank Ltd. reported a 17.4% year-on-year jump in standalone fourth-quarter net profit to ₹10,708 crore.

**YES Bank Q4 profit jumps to ₹452 crore**

YES Bank reported a net profit of ₹452 crore for Q4 FY24, up 123.2 per cent on year and 95.2 per cent on quarter.

**RBL Bank posts 30% profit on loan growth**

RBL Bank reported a 30 per cent rise in the post-tax net profit for the March quarter at ₹353 crore, driven by non-interest income.

**IDFC First Bank's net profit in declined by 10%**  
IDFC FIRST Bank reported 10 per cent decline in net profit at ₹724 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024.

**RBI set norms for voluntary conversion of SFBs into universal banks**

The RBI has come out with guidelines for the voluntary conversion of small finance banks (SFBs) into universal banks. The RBI stipulates that only listed SFBs will qualify. Those intending to convert must have a minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore. Also, the SFBs must have a scheduled status and a satisfactory track record of at least five years with a gross non-performing asset (NPA) of 3 per cent or less and a net NPA of 1 per cent or less in the past two financial years.

**AdaniConneX to raise \$1.44 Billion sustainability-linked financing**

AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, will raise to \$1.44 billion through a sustainability-linked construction financing framework.

**CII launches corporate governance charter for startups**  
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), a leading industry body, has come up with a Corporate Government Charter for startups to serve as a self-governing code for them in their compliance journey.

**IMF approves immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion loan tranche to Pakistan**

The IMF has approved an immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package and said the country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track.

**India's GDP growth may cross 7% this year: NCAER**  
The National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has said that India's GDP growth could surpass the central bank's 7% estimate for 2024-25, citing the forecast of an above-normal monsoon this year as well as upgraded hopes for global growth and trade volumes.

**Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024: Mukesh Ambani is richest Asian.**

The Forbes Business magazine has released its "Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024. Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, is at the top of the list in India with a net worth of \$116 billion. Ambani retained his position as the ninth richest person in the world and both India's and Asia's richest person. With \$35.5 Billion Net Worth, Savitri Jindal tops Forbes' list to become the richest woman in India Bernard Arnault and family, with a total net worth of \$233 billion, topped the list, followed by Elon Musk (\$195 billion), Jeff Bezos (\$194 billion)

**AWARDS**

**Annual Hockey India awards: 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. Shri Ashok Kumar won the prestigious Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

**India's Chandrayaan-3 team receives 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration**

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been presented with the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration in recognition of it raising the bar for space exploration.

**Mamta G. Sagar wins World Literary Prize**  
Mamta G. Sagar, a Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer, academic and activist, has won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her contributions to the world of literature.

**India's Gagandeep Kang wins 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been selected for the prestigious 2024 John Dirks Award in global health. She is the first Indian woman to get this award. The focus of Dr Kang's work has been on childhood diarrhoea disease and comprehensive studies, including the work on vaccines.

**Israeli mathematician Avi Wigderson wins 2023 Turing Award in computer science**

Israeli mathematician Avi Wigderson has won the 2023 A.M. Turing Award in computer science. The Turing Award is considered the highest honor in computer science, often called the "Nobel Prize of Computing." He is the only person ever to have won both the Abel Prize and the Turing Award.

**Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award 2024.**

Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with the prestigious third Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award for his remarkable dedication to the nation, its people, and society.

**13<sup>th</sup> European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2024: India Clinches 2 Silver, 2 Bronze Medals**

The Indian team has secured 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals at the 13<sup>th</sup> European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024 that was held in Tskaltubo, Georgia from April 11 – 17, 2024.

**Pavuluri Subba Rao gets Aryabhata award for contribution to astronautics.**

Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhata Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). He was also presented with ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title.

**Reuters' 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.

**2024 Laureus Sports Awards**

Tennis legend Novak Djokovic has won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year honour for a record-extending 5th time. The list of awardees includes:  
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award: Novak Djokovic  
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award: Aitana Bonmat  
Laureus World Team of the Year Award: Spain Women's Football Team  
Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award: Jude Bellingham  
Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award: Simone Biles  
Laureus Sport for Good Award: Rafael Nadal Foundation  
Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Diede de Groot  
Laureus World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: Arisa Trew

**COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber receives inaugural 'Global Energy Transition Impact Award'**

COP28 UN Climate Change Conference, Dubai President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber was honoured with 'Global Energy Transition Impact Award' by the World Energy Council for his leadership in advancing the energy transition through the delivery of the historic UAE Consensus.

### **Indian students bag NASA awards for Human Exploration Rover Challenge**

Two Indian students' teams from the New Delhi and Mumbai have won awards from the NASA for the Human Exploration Rover Challenge. The KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi-NCR has won the award in the "Crash and Burn" category of the annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) award. The Kanakia International School from Mumbai was given the "Rookie of the Year" award.

### **Gina Justus Wins 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award**

Gina Justus, a teacher at Our Own English High School, Sharjah Girls' Branch, has been named the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards. Justus, from Kerala, has been working in the UAE since 2005 and was recognised for her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity.

## **PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)**

### **Gopichand Thotakura**

Gopichand Thotakura, an entrepreneur and pilot, has been selected as one of the six crew members for Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin New Shepard -25 (NS-25) mission. This makes 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.

### **Jagjit Pavadia**

Jagjit Pavadia, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been re-elected to the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

### **Prabowo Subianto**

Indonesia's Electoral Commission has formally declared Prabowo Subianto as President-elect in a ceremony, after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates.

### **Gita Sabharwal**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia.

### **Ishaq Dar**

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has been appointed as the country's Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Dar, a chartered accountant and a veteran politician, belongs to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party.

### **Hamza Yousaf**

Scotland's First Minister, Hamza Yousaf, has stated that he will resign as First Minister and from the leadership of the Scottish National Party (SNP) following days of political drama that unfolded after he ended the 'Bute House' power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens.

### **Katrin Jakobsdottir**

Icelandic Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir has announced her resignation and said that she will run for President. Iceland will hold a vote on June 1 to elect its new head of state.

### **Peter Pellegrini**

Peter Pellegrini has become Slovakia's new President, and succeeded Zuzana Čaputová, the country's first female head of State. Mr. Pellegrini becomes Slovakia's sixth President since the country gained independence after the split of Czechoslovakia in 1993.

### **Judith Suminwa Tuluka**

Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi has appointed the country's first-ever female prime minister, naming planning minister Judith Suminwa to the role.

### **Sheyphali B Sharan**

Senior Information Service Officer Sheyphali B Sharan has taken over the charge of Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau. A 1990 batch IIS officer, Ms Sharan assumed the charge following the superannuation of Manish Desai.

### **Nalin Prabhat**

Nalin Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG). He is currently posted as Additional Director-General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**

Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi has assumed command of the Indian Navy as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff. He succeeds Admiral R. Hari Kumar who retires upon superannuation after over 40 years of service.

### **Rakesh Mohan**

The World Bank Group has appointed former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Rakesh Mohan as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel. The panel will focus on strategic issues for the World Bank Group in relation to their objectives, research agenda and actions.

### **Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah**

Kuwait's Emir has appointed Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as new Prime Minister of Kuwait. This decision follows the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on 7th of this month, shortly after being designated to form a government.

### **Astrid Schomaker**

The UN has appointed Astrid Schomaker as the next Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Schomaker has been a career official with the EU commission for 30 years.

### **Srinivas Pallia**

Wipro's Board of Directors approved the appointment of Srinivas Pallia as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company. Pallia steps into this role succeeding Thierry Delaporte.

### **Krishna Ella**

The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) has announced that Krishna Ella, co-founder and executive chairman of Bharat Biotech, will be the association's new president for two years from April 2024.

### **Meenesh Shah**

The apex body of dairy cooperatives, National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), in its Board elections, unanimously elected NDDB chief Dr. Meenesh Shah as the Chairman.

### **Russ Cook**

Britain's Extreme marathon runner Russ Cook has completed his run across the entire length of Africa in Tunisia after travelling through 16 countries in a 352-day journey running a total of over 16,000 kilometres.

### **O.J. Simpson**

O.J. Simpson, the American football star and actor who was acquitted in a sensational 1995 trial of murdering his former wife but was found responsible for her death in a civil lawsuit has died at the age of 76.

### **Truong My Lan**

Vietnamese property tycoon Truong My Lan, chair of major developer Van Thinh Phat was sentenced to death in one of the biggest corruption cases in history, with an estimated \$27 billion in damages.

### **Peter Higgs**

Peter Higgs, the UK scientist who won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for describing the Higgs boson (God particle)—a theoretical particle that explains where mass comes from and advances man's understanding of how the world is constructed, has died at the age of 94.

### **Derek Underwood.**

Derek Underwood, the greatest spin bowler in England's Test history, has died at the age of 78. Underwood, who claimed 297 wickets in 86 Tests between 1966 and 1982, played his entire first-class career at Ken.

### **K.G. Jayan**

Legendary Carnatic musician and singer KG Jayan has passed away at the age of 89. In 2019, the Union government awarded Jayan the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in the country.

## **SPORTS**

### **Miami Open 2024: Bopanna-Ebden clinch title**

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matt Ebden have won the men's doubles crown at the 2024 Miami Open.

### **Golf: Keita Nakajima is the winner of the Hero Indian Open**

Japan's Keita Nakajima completed his start to finish run at the \$2.25 million 57<sup>th</sup> Hero Indian Open with a final round of 1 over par 73 and a tournament total of 17 under 271 at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurgaon.

### **Football: Arsenal beats Chelsea to win Women's League Cup**

Arsenal striker Stina Blackstenius has scored the winner in extra time as it beat Chelsea 1-0 in the Women's League Cup final at the Molineux Stadium.

### **Tennis: Jannik Sinner tops Grigor Dimitrov for Miami Open title**

Italian professional tennis player Jannik Sinner has won the 2024 Miami Open with 6-3, 6-1 victory over 11<sup>th</sup> seed Grigor Dimitrov.

### **Miami Open 2024: Collins beats Rybakina to claim title**

American tennis player Danielle Collins has beaten fourth seed Elena Rybakina to win the Miami Open final 7-5 6-3 and claim the title on home soil in her farewell season.

### **MS Dhoni becomes First Indian Wicketkeeper To Score 7,000 T20 Runs And Complete 300 Dismissals**

Chennai Super Kings' wicket-keeper MS Dhoni had made history by becoming the first Indian keeper to score 7,000 runs in T20 cricket. Dhoni also broke another record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the T20 format, reaching 300 during the game.

### **Mirabai Chanu Becomes the only Indian Weightlifter To Qualify For Paris Olympics**

Mirabai Chanu has become the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year after competing successfully at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand.

### **Spain Masters 2024 Badminton Tournament: Kean Yew Loh & Ratchanok Intanon are winners**

Kean Yew Loh of Singapore has won the Men's title at the Spain Masters 2024 Badminton tournament. In the Women's Singles, Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand has lifted the crown.

### **Asian Athletic Commission nominates Shiny Wilson as member.**

The Asian Athletic Commission has nominated Shiny Wilson, a former multiple Asian Games medallist in 400m and 800m and a four-time Olympian, as one of its members. The period of appointment is for four years (2024-2028).

### **2024 Paris Olympics: Bilquis Mir is India's First Female Jury Member**

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, 2024.

### **Indian Shuttlers Clinch Titles at Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge Tournament**

Indian shuttlers Anupama Upadhyaya and M. Tharun have clinched Women's and Men's singles titles, at Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge tournament in Astana.

### **Kohli becomes first batter in IPL history to reach 7500 runs**

Virat Kohli became the first-ever batter in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to reach the milestone of 7500 runs. Kohli now has over 7,500 runs at an average of more than 37 with 52 half-centuries and a record seven hundred in the cash-rich league.

### **Ankita Raina in partnership with Chia Yi Tsao clinch women's doubles title in Japan**

Anita Raina in partnership with Chia Yi Tsao of Taiwan beat Madeleine Brooks and Eudice Wong Chong 6-4, 6-4 in the double's final of the \$40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Kashiwa, Japan.

### **Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins 2024 Japanese Grand Prix**

Red Bull's F1 driver Max Verstappen has claimed the 2024 Japanese Formula One Grand Prix. With this win, he became only the second driver to win three consecutive Japanese Grands Prix alongside seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher.

### **Tennis: Serbia's Novak Djokovic, becomes oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history**

Serbia's Novak Djokovic has officially become the oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history, a record previously held by Roger Federer. Djokovic with 24 Majors, is 36 years and 321 days old now.

### **Tennis: Italy's Matteo Berrettini wins Marrakech Open**

Italian professional tennis player Matteo Berrettini has defeated defending champion Roberto Carballes Baena 7-5, 6-2 to win the ATP Marrakech Open, his first title on the ATP Tour in two years.

### **Hubert Hurkacz beats Pedro Martinez to win first clay-court ATP tournament, Estoril Open 2024**

Polish tennis player Hubert Hurkacz has won the ATP 250 tournament in Estoril in Portugal, beating Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-4 in the final.

### **India's Aishwarya Mishra's 400m bronze at 2023 Asian Championships to be upgraded to silver**

Indian athlete's Aishwarya Mishra's 400m bronze medal at the 2023 Asian Championships will be upgraded to silver as original second-place finisher Farida Soliyeva of Uzbekistan failed a dope test.

### **IPL 2024: Mumbai Indians Becomes First Team To Win 150 T20 Matches**

Mumbai Indians have scripted history by becoming the first team to win 150 games in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Their 150<sup>th</sup> victory came against the Delhi Capitals, as they defeated the Rishabh Pant-led team by 29 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

### **World Athletics to award \$50,000 prize money to Olympic winners**

Gold-medallists in 48 athletics events of this year's Paris Games will be awarded \$50,000 by World Athletics. Total prize pot of \$2.4 million set aside from International Olympic Committee's revenue for World Athletics.

**Asian Wrestling Championships: Udit claims silver**

India's 19-year-old Udit has won the silver medal in the men's 57kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**Football: Al-Hilal crushes Al-Ittihad to lift Saudi Super Cup**

Brazilian forward Malcom had scored twice to help Al-Hilal ease to a 4-1 victory over Al-Ittihad and claim the Saudi Super Cup title in Abu Dhabi.

**Doubles title for Arjun and Jeevan in Mexico**

Third seeds Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan beat second seeds Piotr Matuszewski and Matthew Romios 7-6(5), 6-4 in the doubles final of the \$82,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

**Indian grapplers Radhika and Shivane Pavar won silver and bronze respectively**

Indian grapplers Radhika won silver in the 68kg category while Shivane Pavar won bronze in the women's 50kg category at the 2024 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**Tennis: Stefanos Tsitsipas wins Monte Carlo Masters for third time**

Greek professional tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas has completed a Monte Carlo Masters trophy hat-trick on Sunday, holding off Casper Ruud 6-1, 6-4.

**Golf: Scottie Scheffler wins second Augusta Masters title in three years**

Top-ranked golfer Scottie Scheffler has dominated a back-nine shootout to capture his second Masters title, taking a four-stroke victory at Augusta National.

**Football: Leverkusen win maiden Bundesliga title**

Leverkusen beat Werder Bremen 5-0 to win football's Bundesliga with five games remaining, ending Bayern's run of 11 consecutive titles.

**Lithuania's Mykolas Alekna breaks discus throw world record set in 1986 with 74.35m effort**

Lithuanian Mykolas Alekna has broken the men's discus throw world record with a 74.35m effort at the Ramona Throws Festival in Oklahoma. He Mykolas broke the record throw of German athlete Jurgen Schult, who achieved a best of 74.08m on June 6, 1986.

**ISL-Bagan beats Mumbai, claims League Winner's Shield**

Mohun Bagan SG team defeated Mumbai City FC to win 2-1 in the final league fixture of ISL-10 and claim its maiden League Winner's Shield.

**Asian Wrestling Championships 2024: Anju, Harshita Shine settles for Silver Medals**

India's wrestlers Anju and Harshita have bagged silver medals each at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Anju impressed in the women's 53kg category, while Harshita did well in the women's 72kg division.

**Paris 2024 Olympics Torch Lit In Ancient Olympia**

The torch for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games was lit in ancient Olympia in a traditional ceremony, marking the final stretch of the seven-year preparations for the Games' start on July 26.

**Pat Cummins, Nat Sciver Brunt named as Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World**

Australian skipper Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt have been named as the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World in the 2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

**Former World No. 1 Badminton player Kento Momota announces retirement**

Japan's two-time world champion Kento Momota is retiring from international badminton aged 29, ending a top-level career that never recovered from a car crash four years ago.

**K.L. Rahul surpasses M.S.Dhoni to become the keeper with most fifties**

K.L. Rahul surpassed MS Dhoni's record for most fifties by a wicketkeeper in IPL history. Rahul hit his 25th half-century against CSK, moving one ahead of MS Dhoni, who held the record with 24 half-centuries.

**F1 Chinese GP: Max Verstappen wins the race**

Red Bull's Max Verstappen has won Formula One's first Chinese Grand Prix in five years, McLaren's Lando Norris finishing second to deny Red Bull the one-two.

**Tennis: Casper Ruud win Barcelona Open**

World number six Casper Ruud has defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-3 to win the Barcelona Open.

**FIDE Candidates 2024: India's D Gukesh becomes youngest Candidates champion.**

India's 17-year-old Grandmaster D Gukesh has scripted history by winning the Candidates Chess Tournament to become the youngest ever challenger to the world title, bettering a record created by the legendary Garry Kasparov 40 years ago.

**Football: Inter Milan seals their 20th Italian title**

Inter Milan had sealed their 20th Italian title after beating AC Milan 2-1 and creating an unassailable lead at the top of the league with their sixth straight derby victory.

**Golf: Scottie Scheffler wins PGA Tour's RBC Heritage**

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler has continued his dominance by winning the storm-delayed RBC Heritage in South Carolina for his fourth win in five starts.

**Golf: Nelly Korda enters record books with fifth straight LPGA Tour win**

Nelly Korda has equalled an LPGA record by winning her fifth tournament in a row as she claimed the first women's major of the year at the Chevron Championship.

**Archery World Cup 2024 Begins in Shanghai**

The Archery World Cup 2024 has begun in Shanghai, China. India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam finished second in the women's compound qualification round at Stage I. She shot a score of 711 to finish behind Andrea Becerra of Mexico, who had a score of 713.

**Former World No. 1 Garbine Muguruza announces retirement from tennis.**

Former Wimbledon champion Spain's Garbine Muguruza has announced her retirement from tennis. She also won the French Open in 2016.

**International Cricket Council names Usain Bolt as T20 World Cup ambassador**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named sprint legend Usain Bolt as the ambassador of the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29, 2024.

**ASIAN U-20 ATHLETICS: Deepanshu claims gold, Rohan wins silver**

India's Deepanshu Sharma and Rohan Yadav have won a gold and silver in the men's javelin throw at the Asian under-20 athletics championships in Dubai.

**Indian golfers Aditi, Diksha set to participate in Paris Olympics**

Indian women golfers Aditi Ashok ranked 46 and Diksha Dagar ranked 138 are set to participate in the 2024 Paris Olympics whereas Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar also have a strong chance of making it to the Games.

**Narsingh Yadav elected chairman of WFI's seven-member athletes' panel**

Former wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav has been elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission, completing a process that was mandated by the sport's world governing body.

### **21st Asian U20 Athletics Championships: Ekta Dey, Ranvir Singh & Anurag Singh Kaler Claims Gold**

Ekta Dey has claimed gold in the women's 3,000 metre steeplechase with a time of 10:31.92 seconds at the 21st Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Dubai. Ranvir Singh was victorious in the men's competition. Anurag Singh Kaler won gold in the men's shot-put event.

### **World Shooting Para Sport Tournament, Changwon, S.Korea: Mona Aggarwal wins Gold Medal In Women's 10m Air Rifle**

In Para-Shooting, Indian para-shooter Mona Aggarwal has claimed a gold medal in women's 10m air rifle while Amir Ahmed Bhatt has secured a silver in 25m pistol at the World Shooting Para Sport tournament in Changwon, S.Korea.

### **Archery World Cup: India win compound men, women team gold**

India men's and women's compound teams produced dominant displays to win gold medals at the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai. The women's team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur trounced Italy 236-225 in the women's compound team event to open their account with a gold.

### **Yuvraj Singh named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh as an ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador. He joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as the first ambassadors to be announced.

### **Moto GP: Bagnaia wins thrilling Spanish Grand Prix**

Francesco Bagnaia has won his third straight Spanish Grand Prix. Marc Marquez, a six-times MotoGP champion, finished second for Gresini Racing at the Circuito de Jerez, with VR46 Racing's Marco Bezzecchi third.

### **Velavan Senthil Kumar Wins His Eighth Professional Squash Association Tour Title**

India's Velavan Senthilkumar has won his eighth Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour title by winning the Batch Open, a PSA Challenger event, at the Societe Sportive du Jeu de Paume in Paris.

### **Divith Reddy Adulla and Sharvaanica A S are World Cadet Rapid 2024 U-8 Open and U-10 Girls Champions**

India's Divith Reddy Adulla has scored 10/11 to clinch Gold at World Cadet Rapid Under-8 Open. Meanwhile, Sharvaanica has won a Gold medal in the Under-10 Girls Rapid.

### **Asian Carrom Championship: Indian Players Captured Both Men's And Women's Doubles Titles**

Indian players captured both the Men's and Women's doubles titles at the 6th Asian Carrom championship in Male, Maldives. In Men's doubles final, K Srinivas and Mohammed Ghufuran took down Ismail Azmeen and Hassan Nazim of the host country. While in women's doubles, India's Aakanksha Kadam and Shainy Sebastian has beaten compatriots, Rashmi Kumari and K Nagajothi in the final.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **India's Samudra Paheredar Reaches Vietnam on Overseas Deployment**

Indian Coast Guard's Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) "Samudra Paheredar" with an integral helicopter has arrived at the Ho Chi Minh port of Vietnam as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to ASEAN countries. The visit is part of India ASEAN Initiative for Marine Pollution.

### **Microsoft, OpenAI plan \$100 billion supercomputer called 'Stargate'**

IT giant Microsoft and OpenAI are working together on building an artificial intelligence supercomputer called "Stargate" that could cost as much as \$100 billion.

### **Dubai Plans World's Largest Airport Terminal At Al Maktoum International**

Dubai has revealed plans for the construction of the world's largest airport terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport. Upon completion, the Airport will have a staggering capacity for 260 million passengers annually. The new terminal, with an estimated cost of \$35 Billion, will boast 400 aircraft gates.

### **South Korea Nuclear fusion reactor runs at 100 million degrees C for 48 seconds.**

South Korean scientists have set a new world record using the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) device, an "artificial Sun" nuclear fusion reactor. The scientists generated plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds during tests between December 2023 and February 2024.

### **Devika, India's AI software Engineer**

Mufeed VH (Hamzakutty), the founder of Lyminal and Stition.AI, has created an open source passion project called Devika. Devika is the Indian version of 'Devin' the pioneering 'AI software engineer' developed by Cognition Labs in the US.

### **Tata deploys its TSAT-1A satellite in space on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket successfully carried the Tata TSAT-1A satellite in space for a successful deployment. It has been revealed that the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has successfully deployed its sub-metre optical satellite in space.

### **Indian-born British-American novelist Salman Rushdie to release 'Knife' memoir**

Indian-born British-American novelist Salman Rushdie has released his memoir "Knife" recounting the harrowing experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and how he overcame the near-fatal ordeal.

### **Population Decline in Greece Reaches Alarming Levels**

In Greece, a new report has stated that the population decline in the country has reached alarming levels, and it could become the world's first country to suffer "population collapse". Greece's birth rate fell by 30 per cent from 2011 to 2021 to under 84,000 per year, slipping below the death rate.

### **India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000**

According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period.

### **India among 12 nations responsible for 60% of mismanaged plastic waste**

According to The Plastic Overshoot Day report by Swiss non-profit EA Earth Action, India is among the twelve countries responsible for 60 percent of the planet's mismanaged plastic waste. Global plastic waste generation has risen by 7.11 per cent since 2021. The world is estimated to have generated 220 million tons of plastic waste this year, 70 million tons of which will end up polluting the environment.

### **UAE witnesses Heaviest Rainfall On Record In 75 Years**

The United Arab Emirates has been hit by the heaviest rainfall event ever recorded in the country, surpassing all data collected since 1949. The downpour affected numerous regions across the UAE over the past 24 hours.

### **Indian Army General Manoj Pande launched State-Of-The-Art IT Lab in Uzbekistan**

In a significant step forward in strengthening the bilateral ties between India and Uzbekistan, General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff, has inaugurated a high-tech IT Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces.

### **Delhi's IGI airport is the 10th busiest airport in the world: Airports Council International (ACI)**

According to new rankings by ACI, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) in Delhi was among the top 10 busiest airports in the world. It ranked 10<sup>th</sup> on the list. Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) is the world's busiest passenger hub in 2023.

### **8 Indians features on TIME's '100 most influential people of 2024' list**

Several Indians and people of Indian origin have made it to Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of 2024, including actor Alia Bhatt and wrestler Sakshi Malik. Others include Jigar Shah, Priyamvada Natarajan, Dev Patel, Satya Nadella, Ajay Banga and Asma Khan.

### **Qatar's Hamad replaces Singapore's Changi as world's best airport**

Doha's Hamad International Airport (HIA) has been crowned the world's best airport at the annual Skytrax Awards, dethroning the 12-time champion, Singapore Changi Airport.

### **WHO says human cases of bird flu an enormous concern**

The World Health Organization has voiced alarm at the growing spread of H5N1 bird flu to new species, including humans, who face an "extraordinarily high" mortality rate.

### **Intel Builds World's Largest Neuromorphic System to Enable More Sustainable AI**

Intel has built the world's largest neuromorphic system. Code-named Hala Point, this large-scale neuromorphic system, initially deployed at Sandia National Laboratories, utilizes Intel's Loihi 2 processor, aims at supporting research for future brain-inspired artificial intelligence (AI), and tackles challenges related to the efficiency and sustainability of today's AI.

### **Nearly 66K Indians took oath of American citizenship in 2022: CRS report.**

According to the latest USA Congressional report, as many as 65,960 Indians have officially become U.S. citizens, making India the second-largest source country for new citizens in America after Mexico.

### **Scientists develop sodium battery that can be charged in seconds.**

South Korean researchers have developed a high-power hybrid sodium-ion battery that can be charged in seconds, in a potential breakthrough that could be consequential for the way critical minerals are required for technological innovations.

### **Active Volcano In Antarctica Spewing 80gm Of Gold Dust Worth \$6,000 Every Day**

Mount Erebus, one of the most active volcanoes on Earth, emits approximately 80 grams of gold every day, valued at about £5,000 (or \$6,000, approximately). Situated in Antarctica, Mount Erebus, the southernmost active volcano on Earth, is releasing minute fragments of crystallised gold along with gas, steam, and rock,

### **UNHCR launches fund to shield refugees and other displaced people from climate shocks**

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency has launched the UNHCR Climate Resilience Fund, seeking to boost the protection of refugees and displaced communities who are most threatened by climate change.

### **China launches 3-member crew to its space station**

China launched a three-member crew to its orbiting space station as part of its ambitious program that aims to put astronauts on the moon by 2030. The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China atop a Long March 2-F rocket.

### **Indian, Russian firms awarded management of Sri Lanka's Matta International Airport**

A joint venture between an Indian and a Russian firm have been awarded the management of Sri Lanka's Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota. The USD 209 million facility was once dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.

### **China unveils first of the 8 Hangor-class submarine developed for Pakistan**

China has launched the first of the eight Hangor-class submarines to be built for its all-weather ally Pakistan to provide it with state-of-the-art warships, adding a new dimension to their growing bilateral military cooperation.

### **World Autism Day 2024 observed on April 2**

World Autism Day is observed on April 2 every year globally, aimed at spreading awareness regarding autism.

### **National Handmade Day 2024: 6<sup>th</sup> April**

National Handmade Day is celebrated every year on the first Saturday in April, in 2024 it falls on April 6. The theme for National.

### **World Health Day: 7<sup>th</sup> April**

World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The date of 7 April marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948. The theme for World Health Day 2024 is "My Health, My Right".

Handmade Day 2024 is 'Buy a Handmade Product'.

### **World Homeopathy Day: 10<sup>th</sup> April**

The World Homeopathy Day is observed annually on 10 April. The day denotes the birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann who is viewed as the founder behind homeopathy.

### **National Safe Motherhood Day: 11<sup>th</sup> April**

National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on April 11 to highlight the importance of maternal health and wellness and reduce maternal mortality rate in the country.

### **National Pet Day: 11<sup>th</sup> April**

National Pet Day, celebrated on April 11 every year, serves as a special occasion to cherish the unique bond shared between pets and their owners.

### **World Quantum Day: 14<sup>th</sup> April**

India is celebrating World Quantum Day on April 14, with a vision to establish itself as a global frontrunner in the realms of quantum science and technology.

### **World Chagas Disease Day: 14<sup>th</sup> April**

The World Health Organization (WHO) observes World Chagas Disease Day every April 14<sup>th</sup>. Chagas disease, also known as "silent or silenced disease", affects mainly poor people without access to health care.

### **World Veterinary Day 2024: 27<sup>th</sup> April**

The World Veterinary Day is Observed on the last Saturday of April in 2024 it's observed on 27<sup>th</sup> of April and has the theme 'Veterinarians are essential health workers.'

### **World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28<sup>th</sup> April**

The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.