

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (MARCH 2024)

INTERNATIONAL

Sweden now officially becomes 32nd member of NATO.

Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO after it completed the accession process in Washington, amid increasing concerns about Russia's aggression in Europe following its invasion of Ukraine.

Iran votes in first Parliamentary election since 2022 protests

Iran began voting on March 1 in its first parliamentary elections since the mass 2022 protests over its mandatory hijab laws after the death of Mahsa Amini. Some 15,000 candidates are vying for a seat in the 290-member parliament.

Maldives Parliamentary elections rescheduled for April 21

The Maldives' Parliamentary elections has been rescheduled for April 21, after President Mohamed Muizzu ratified a Bill that allowed for the postponement of the polls citing Ramadan month from March 10, 2024 to April 9, 2024.

Panama becomes 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance

Panama has become the 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance. It handed over the Instrument of ISA Ratification, during the meeting of the Ambassador of Panama to India, Yasiel Burillo with Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Abhishek Singh in New Delhi.

Indian troops begin withdrawal from Maldives.

Indian troops stationed in the Maldives have begun withdrawing military personnel operating surveillance aircraft after the new pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu ordered them to leave.

Israel's war in Gaza kills more children than in four years of worldwide conflict.

The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has stated that more than 12,300 children were killed in Gaza between October 2023 and February 2024 compared to 12,193 children killed in global conflict from 2019 to 2023.

WTO Conference: China's IFD proposal blocked by India, South Africa block.

India, along with South Africa, have successfully blocked a key proposal led by China at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the third day of the conference. The proposal, known as the Investment Facilitation Development Agreement (IFD), is unlikely to be included in the final outcome document of the ongoing Ministerial Conference.

170 people killed in Burkina Faso attacks.

About 170 people were killed in attacks on three villages Komsilga, Nodin and Soroe in Yatenga province in northern Burkina Faso a week ago, as violence flares in the country.

France guarantees abortion as a constitutional right.

French lawmakers have approved a bill to enshrine abortion rights in France's constitution, making it the only country to explicitly guarantee a woman's right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy.

Haiti government declares state of emergency.

Haitian government has declared a state of emergency and a night-time curfew in a bid to quell a wave of violence

sparked by a gang assault on the capital city's main prison that allowed thousands of inmates to escape.

UN says record 8,500 migrants died in 2023.

The U.N. migration agency, the International Organisation for Migration has stated that a total of 8,565 migrants died on land and sea routes worldwide last year, a record high since it began tallying deaths a decade ago.

Bangladesh PM pitches for common currency for Muslim countries

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that the Muslim countries could introduce a common currency, like the European Union (EU), to boost trade and commerce among them.

Center-right Democratic Alliance (AD) wins Portugal general election

Luis Montenegro, the leader of Portugal's opposition centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) party, has claimed victory in the country's snap general election after a close-run race against the incumbent Socialists.

U.S. to offer first-of-its-kind resolution at UN seeking equal global access to AI

The United States is leading the first UN resolution on artificial intelligence, aimed at ensuring that the new technology is "safe, secure and trustworthy" and that all countries, especially those in the developing world, have equal access.

Voting For Russia's Presidential Elections Begins

The voting for the Presidential elections is taking place in Russia from March 15-17. People across Russia exercise their voting rights to elect their President for the next six years.

US House passes bill that could ban TikTok nationwide.

The US House of Representatives has passed a landmark bill that could see TikTok banned in America. It would give the social media giant's Chinese parent company, ByteDance, six months to sell its controlling stake or the app would be blocked in the US.

Niger Suspends Military Agreement With US

Niger's military government has announced that it has ended an accord with the US that allowed military personnel and civilian staff from the Department of Defense to operate in Niger.

EU announces USD 8 Billion Aid for Egypt

The European Union has announced an 8-billion-dollar aid package for cash-strapped Egypt as concerns increase that economic pressure and conflicts in neighbouring countries could drive more migrants to European shores.

Hong Kong Passes National Security Law

Hong Kong's Legislative Council has passed a new national security law that expands the government's power to crush dissent.

Canada halting arms shipments to Israel

Canada's foreign minister has said that Ottawa would stop future arms exports to Israel. The decision follows a House of Commons motion urging the cessation of military aid to Israel.

Centre-right leader Luis Montenegro invited to form new government in Portugal

Portugal's President has named Luis Montenegro, head of the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD), as the country's new Prime Minister and invited him to form a minority government after eight years of Socialist rule.

Russia and China vetoed U.S. resolution in UNSC calling for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Russia and China have vetoed a U.S.-sponsored U.N. resolution calling for "an immediate and sustained ceasefire" in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza to protect civilians and enable humanitarian aid to be delivered to more than 2 million hungry Palestinians.

Australia to provide \$3bn for construction of AUKUS submarines.

Australia is planning to provide 4.6 billion Australian dollars (\$3bn) to British industry to help support the construction of nuclear-powered submarines under the AUKUS deal. The submarines will be built in the South Australian city of Adelaide.

Islamic State group targets Russia concert hall, 60 dead, 145 injured

Over 60 people were killed, and 145 others were injured as a group of armed men, wearing combat fatigues, opened fire at a concert hall near Moscow.

Joe Biden signs \$1.2 trillion government funding bill, averting shutdown.

President Joe Biden has signed a \$1.2 trillion package of spending bills after Congress had passed the long overdue legislation just hours earlier, ending the threat of a partial government shutdown.

African nation Senegal to elect its next President after months of unrest.

African nation Senegal is heading to the polls to vote in a tightly contested presidential race marred by months of unrest that threatened democracy in one of West Africa's most stable nations.

UNSC demands immediate ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian Group Hamas in Gaza

For the first time, the UN Security Council has passed a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Myanmar polls may not be held nationwide: junta chief.

Myanmar's junta chief General Min Aung Hlaing has admitted that it may not be able to hold its next election nationwide, as the military struggles to contain escalating violence against its rule.

Brazilian & French Presidents announces a plan to invest 1.1 Billion Dollars In Amazon

The Brazilian and French Presidents have announced a plan to invest 1.1 billion dollars in the Amazon, including parts of the rainforest in neighbouring French Guiana. The money will be spread over the next four years to protect the rainforest.

Japan Approves Export Of Fighter Jets

The Japanese cabinet has approved the export of fighter jets to countries that Japan has signed defence pact with, and where there are no ongoing conflicts. The next-generation fighter jets which Japan is developing with Britain and Italy are expected to be deployed by 2035.

Thailand to legalize same-sex unions

Thailand's lower house of parliament has passed a marriage equality bill, in a landmark step that moves it closer to becoming the third territory in Asia to legalise same-sex unions.

ICJ orders Israel to allow food and medical aid into Gaza

The UN's top court International Court of Justice (ICJ) has unanimously ordered Israel to enable the unhindered flow of aid into Gaza in order to avert a famine.

Death Toll From Moscow Concert Hall Attack Rose To 143

Russian authorities have stated that the death toll from last week's Moscow concert hall attack increased to 143. Nearly 80 other people injured in the siege by gunmen remain hospitalized.

US President Biden Praises Indian Crew In Ship Collision

The United States President Joe Biden has praised the alertness of Indian crew onboard the 'Dali' ship, collided with a pillar of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland yesterday for their swift mayday call, potentially averting further casualties.

UN picks Saudi Arabia to lead women's rights.

Saudi Arabia has been chosen as the chair of the UN commission that is supposed to promote gender equality and empower women around the world.

NATIONAL

Cabinet approves PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana solar scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹75,021-crore package for the "PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana" to promote rooftop solar (RTS) installations in India. The scheme claims to be able to provide 300 units of free electricity every month to one crore households.

Cabinet approves three semiconductor proposals in Gujarat, Assam

The Union Cabinet has approved three proposals to set up semiconductor units in India, including two plants by the Tata Group in Gujarat and Assam, and one by the Murugappa Group-owned CG Power in Gujarat. A total of ₹1,26,000 crore will be invested in these three units.

Centre to auction 18 critical mineral blocks in second round

India will auction 18 critical mineral blocks as a part of its second round of mining auctions worth an estimated 30 trillion rupees (about \$362 billion).

Centre sets target for wheat procurement at 30-32 million tonnes in 2024-25 season

The food ministry has stated that the Central government has fixed a conservative target of wheat procurement in the range of 30-32 million tonnes during the 2024-25 rabi marketing season.

Defence Ministry signs 5 major capital acquisition contracts

The Union Defence Ministry has signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth over 39,125 crore rupees to further boost Make-in-India initiative.

5,000 FPO's registered on ONDC platform

The Union Agriculture Ministry said that around 5,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have registered on the Open Network for Digital Commerce, ONDC portal to sell their produce online.

Amit Shah inaugurated umbrella body for urban cooperative banks.

Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), an umbrella organisation for urban cooperative banks.

Centre notifies the historic Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023

The Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act) came into force on March 1, 2024. The new act provides an online system for registering newspapers and other periodicals in India.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates DefConnect 2024

To encourage indigenous defence innovation. India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated DefConnect 2024 event in New Delhi.

India likely to experience above-normal rain during Its Peak Monsoon Season this Year

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APCC) Climate Centre has forecast that India is expected to see above-

average precipitation from July to September, which is the country's peak monsoon season.

Indian Navy to commission newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter

Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter at INS Garuda in Kochi. The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334.

Ayushman Bharat PMJAY: UP emerges as the first State to issue five crore Ayushman cards

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the first State in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The State has issued 50,017,920 Ayushman cards and benefited 74,382,304 individuals.

Cuttack's silver filigree gets GI tag

Cuttack's famous 'Chandi Tarakasi' or silver filigree has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Ltd. (UTKALIKA) had filed an application, seeking GI tag for the famed silver filigree, on July 1, 2021.

Swedish SAAB starts work on new Carl-Gustaf manufacturing facility in India

Swedish defence company Saab has started the construction on its new manufacturing facility in India for its iconic Carl-Gustaf M4 weapons with a formal groundbreaking ceremony. The facility is being built in the State of Haryana at MET City at Jhajjar in Haryana.

Uttarakhand Cabinet nod for law to recover cost of damage to public property from rioters.

Uttarakhand Cabinet has given nod to the ordinance which aims to recover the damage of the public property done during riots and protests from the rioters and those involved in the act.

Lac bangles from Hyderabad secures GI tag

Hyderabad's iconic lac bangles has been honoured with the Registrar of Geographical Indications tag. This is the second GI tag for a Hyderabad product after haleem.

Naval Ships of India & Malaysia undertake maritime operations.

Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir have undertaken multifaceted maritime operations during the sea phase of Exercise Samudra Laksamana off Visakhapatnam.

Exercise Dharma Guardian Strengthens Military Ties Between India and Japan

The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force started on the 25th of February. Both troops are showcasing their abilities on the obstacle course during Exercise Dharma Guardian at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

DoT launches services to report, monitor spam and fraud calls.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched 'Chakshu', a platform for telecom users to report fraud or spam callers. The facility, available at sancharsaathi.gov.in/sfc, aims to allow citizens to proactively report suspected fraud communication.

India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant launched

Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless-Steel Sector at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar.

Google to restore all delisted Indian apps on its Play store

Google has agreed to restore all the recently de-listed Indian apps from its app market, Play Store. Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed this

after having a meeting with representatives from Google and the affected app developers over the issue.

India's first underwater metro rail service launched in Kolkata

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first-ever underwater Metro service. He unveiled the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor. The 4.8-km Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section has been built at a cost of ₹4,965 crores.

MoJS Partners with IISc Bangalore to Establish International Centre of Excellence for Dams

The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore for the Establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED).

Airbus ties up with IIM Mumbai for aviation training in India.

European multinational aerospace corporation Airbus has signed a contract with the Indian Institute of Management in Mumbai (IIM Mumbai) to provide aviation education to professionals and empower them with industry-ready skills through 'Airbus Beyond' programmes.

Centre approves continuation of subsidy under Ujjwala scheme for another year

The Central government has approved the continuation of 300 rupees targeted subsidy per cylinder to PM Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries till the 31st of March 2025. With this extension, over 10.27 crore beneficiaries will get subsidy directly in their accounts.

Centre approves ₹10,372 crore for IndiaAI mission.

The Union Cabinet has approved the comprehensive national-level IndiaAI mission with a budget outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore, to establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalysing artificial intelligence (AI) innovation through strategic programmes and partnerships across the public and private sectors.

Byrnihat is India's most polluted city

According to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Byrnihat, an industrial town near the Assam border, is India's most polluted city.

Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned

Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned, just days before the 2024 Lok Sabha election schedule was announced. His resignation has been accepted by President Droupadi Murmu with effect from March 9.

Kerala has the highest number of female passport holders in India.

Women from the Kerala State hold the highest number of passports issued in the country till 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Gujarat. Though Kerala has the highest number of total passport holders in the country with 98.92 lakh (including male and female), Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of male passport holders with 70.58 lakh.

Kozhikode, Kerala to get first cooperatives museum

Kozhikode, Kerala is set to get the first International Cooperative Museum (ICM) in India. The museum is a project of Karassery Service Co-operative Bank and is the brainchild of N.K. Abdurahiman, the bank's chairperson.

Odisha's toll in human-elephant conflict at its highest Odisha has recorded 149 human deaths in encounters with wild elephants in 2023-24, an all-time high. This surpasses the 148 deaths recorded in 2022-23.

Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar administered the oath of office.

India's President Droupadi Murmu has administered the oath of office of Chairperson, Lokpal to Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Khanwilkar served as a judge of the Supreme Court from 13th May 2016 to 29th July 2022.

Electoral bonds Scheme: Supreme court orders SBI to disclose anonymous political donations.

The Supreme Court of India has given SBI one day to disclose details of a controversial Electoral bonds scheme that allowed people and companies to make anonymous donations to political parties. The court has struck down the scheme last month, calling it "unconstitutional".

Under Mission Divyastra: India test-fires Agni-V ballistic missile with multiple warhead technology

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had successfully tested the firing of Agni-V ballistic missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology under Mission Divyastra. The MIRV technology means a single missile can carry multiple warheads.

Citizenship Amendment Act rules notified.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 that would enable the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed by the Parliament in 2019. The CAA will benefit thousands of Hindus, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, and seek citizenship of India.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and cabinet resign

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and his cabinet ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, have resigned.

Defence Ministry signs ₹200 crore contract for anti-drone systems under IDEX initiative

The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹200 crore contract with Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited (BBBS) for anti-drone systems for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF). This is the largest contract signed by the MoD under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (IDEX) initiative.

PM Modi launches one-stop portal for credit schemes for marginalised sections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) portal for credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society.

Uttarakhand's UCC Bill gets President approval

Uttarakhand has now become the first State in independent India to have a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Act after President Droupadi Murmu approved the State's UCC Bill, 2024. The Bill, which has kept tribals out of its ambit, has a complete ban on practices like halala, iddat, and talaq (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law).

Proposal to add three lakh NCC cadet vacancies approved

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for the expansion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) with the addition of three lakh cadet vacancies. This expansion is expected to cater to the increasing demand for the NCC from educational institutions throughout the country.

Bharat Shakti exercise tests tri-service fire power

Bharat Shakti, an integrated tri-service firepower and manoeuvre exercise was held in Pokhran, Rajasthan showcasing the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment across the three services.

Cabinet Gives Greenlight To India-UAE Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement

The Union Cabinet has approved the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) signed between India and UAE on February 13, aimed at operationalising the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

India & Dominican Republic signed New Trade Partnership

India and the Dominican Republic have signed the protocol for the establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) at Santo Domingo. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in trade, services, and industrial technologies.

Ram Nath Kovind-Led Panel Submits 'One Nation, One Election' Report To President

The high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election', chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind has submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu. The committee was set up in September 2023 to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies.

Home Minister Launches Digital Crime Management System

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Vocal For Local' Initiative To Promote Grassroots Entrepreneurship

NITI Aayog has launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative as part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme. The initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship. It is being implemented in partnership with Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platforms.

India, Singapore Sign MOU On Law And Dispute Resolution

India and Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the sphere of law and dispute resolution.

Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu appointed as new Election Commissioners

The Union government has notified the appointment of ex-bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as election commissioners. The appointments were necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Arun Goel from the ECI.

Govt To Launch Pilot Program of Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims

The central government is set to launch a pilot programme in Chandigarh that will offer cashless treatment to the victims of road accidents. Based on its outcome, the cashless treatment facility may be extended nationwide.

PM Distributes Loans Under PM SVANidhi Beneficiaries To One Lakh Street Vendors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme at JLN Stadium in Delhi and distributed loans to 1 lakh street vendors (SVs) including 5,000 SVs from Delhi as part of the scheme.

Central Govt Proposes Ban On Sale & Breeding Of Ferocious Dogs

The Centre has proposed a ban on the sale and breeding of ferocious dogs. The Animal Husbandry Ministry issued a directive to states and Union Territories to ensure prohibition on the sale, breeding, or keeping of as many as 23 dog breeds that are dangerous for human life. It said that breeds like Rottweilers, Pitbulls, and American bulldogs are under scrutiny.

Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Time Protocol For Dissemination Of IST In Mumbai

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the National Time Protocol (NTP) for dissemination of Indian Standard Time in Mumbai. This will provide Uniform and precise time information with milliseconds accuracy and will also increase the cyber security.

Lok Sabha Elections from April 19 in 7 Phases

The Lok Sabha polls will be conducted in seven phases beginning the 19th April. The counting will take place on 4th June. It announced the poll schedule for the General Election 2024 as well as for the assembly polls in four states in Sikkim, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh.

Akums launches sickle cell anaemia drug.

Delhi based pharmaceutical manufacturer Akums had launched the country's first indigenous hydroxyurea oral solution, which is used for the treatment of sickle cell disease in children.

Indian Army Departs for Seychelles to Participate In Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"

The Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise named "LAMITIYE-2024" between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces SDF.

PM Modi Distributes 1,000 Drones to Women's Self-Help Groups

Under the Namo Drone Didi Yojana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the distribution of agricultural drones to girls in villages. The initiative aims to challenge the traditional mindset that discourages women from driving even tractors, symbolizing a broader effort to economically and technologically empower women.

SC directs SBI to make complete disclosure of electoral bonds details by March 21

The Supreme Court of India has directed the State Bank of India to make a complete disclosure of all details related to electoral bonds, including the unique bond numbers that would disclose the link between the buyer and the recipient political party, by March 21.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates new Navy headquarters.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the first Headquarter building of the Indian Navy 'Nausena Bhawan' in Delhi Cantonment which is equipped with modern facilities and cutting-edge technologies.

Centre forms committee under V K Paul to look into Ayushman Bharat implementation.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced the formation of an expert committee to review the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The 16-member committee, chaired by Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health) at NITI Aayog, will oversee the progress of AB-PMJAY in terms of beneficiary identification, hospitalisation, and modes of implementation.

Indian Army raises elite unit to work on critical technologies.

The Indian Army has raised an elite unit Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group or STEAG that will undertake research and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies like 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and quantum computing for military use in view of the changing nature of the field.

SC directs States & UTs to give ration cards to 8 crores migrant workers.

The Supreme Court of India has directed all the states and Union territories (UTs) to provide within two months ration cards to migrant labourers registered on the e-shram portal for availing benefits of various schemes of the central government.

Pashupati Kumar Paras Resigns From Union Cabinet
Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party President, Pashupati Kumar Paras has resigned as the union cabinet minister. Union Minister Kiren Rijju was given the additional charge of Ministry of Food and Processing Industries in addition to his existing portfolio of the Ministry of Earth and Sciences.

Rajasthan launches first dedicated portal for real time information on water in dams, canals.

Rajasthan becomes the first State in the country to launch a dedicated portal that will provide real time information on the water level in dams and reservoirs and the quantity of water available in canals in different parts of Rajasthan.

IIT Kharagpur, Indian Navy partners for technology development

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and the Indian Navy have partnered to drive innovation through research partnership. The collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur.

EC Uploads Electoral Bonds Data with Unique Numbers on Its Website

The Election Commission has made public a data set of electoral bonds including their numbers that can help match their purchasers with the political parties that received the funds.

India's 21st Century Pushpak 'Viman' Successfully launched

Pushpak, an SUV-sized winged rocket dubbed the "Swadeshi Space Shuttle", has successfully landed on a runway in Karnataka, marking a major milestone in the country's attempt to enter the reusable rocket segment.

India commits financial support of ₹10,000 Cr to Bhutan over Next 5 Years

India has committed to provide support of ten thousand crore rupees to Bhutan over the next five years. The two countries exchanged several MoUs and signed agreements in the fields of energy, trade, digital connectivity, space and agriculture, and finalised the MoU on the establishment of rail links between the two nations.

India and Mauritania Hold First Foreign Office Consultations

India and Mauritania have held their first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Mauritania's national capital, Nouakchott. During the consultations, both delegations engaged in constructive discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest.

Operation 'Indravati' begins to evacuate Indians from Haiti to Dominican Republic

India has started "Operation Indravati" to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic owing to violent gang wars.

CBI, Europol sign Working Arrangement for cooperative relations.

The CBI and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) have signed a Working Arrangement, establishing cooperative relations between the law enforcement authorities of India and the Europol.

IAU approves 'Statio Shiv Shakti' as name for Chandrayaan-3 landing site

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) working group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the name 'Statio Shiv Shakti' for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.

EC Launches Saksham App To Facilitate Easier Voting For Persons-With-Disability

The Election Commission of India has announced that the voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities (pwd) with 40 % benchmark disability can vote from home. The Commission launched the Saksham App to facilitate easier voting for PWDs and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.

ISRO's POEM-3 mission accomplishes zero orbital debris mission.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved another milestone as the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) met its fiery end through a re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Resigns

The Law Commission Chairman, Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, has resigned from the commission after a 17-month tenure as the chairperson of the commission and will take oath as one of the three judicial members of the Lokpal.

India releases 2nd tranche of ₹500 crore to Bhutan

India has released the second tranche of ₹500 crore to Bhutan for the development of infrastructure related to the GyalSung Project.

India achieves 16% decline in new TB cases: India TB report 2024.

India's efforts to ensure early tuberculosis detection and treatment initiation, along with a host of community engagement efforts has resulted in a decline of 16% in TB incidence (new cases emerging each year) and a 18% reduction in mortality due to TB, since 2015.

Centre approves appointments of new NIA, NDRF, BPRD chiefs.

Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Rajeev Kumar Sharma has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research & Development. Piyush Anand was appointed as Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Centre notifies revised wages under the MGNREGS.

The Centre has notified the revised wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), with several States reporting a hike in wages by 8 to 10%. The hike ranged from ₹7 in Uttar Pradesh (2023- ₹230 - to 2024 rate of ₹237) to ₹34 hike in Goa (2023 wages ₹322 to 2024 wages ₹356).

Centre Extends Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh

The Central government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in eight districts of Nagaland and three districts of Arunachal Pradesh with effect from 1st of next month.

LCA Tejas Mk1A successfully Completes First Flight From HAL Facility In Bengaluru

Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A has successfully completed the first flight from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Bengaluru. The advanced variant of LCA, Mk1A aircrafts are equipped with advanced electronic RADAR, warfare, communication systems, and combat capabilities.

Skyroot successfully test fires Stage-2 of Vikram 1 space launch vehicle

Space-tech startup company Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250, at the propulsion testbed of the ISRO, at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

BANKING & ECONOMY

India's GDP grows at 8.4% in Q3

India's GDP has registered a robust growth of 8.4 per cent on an annual basis in the third quarter (October-December), as against a 8.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

Eight core infrastructure sector slows to 15-month low of 3.6% in January.

The growth of eight key infrastructure sectors has slowed to a 15-month low of 3.6% in January, driven by a contraction in fertiliser and refinery production along with base effects from 2023 when the core sectors had grown 9.7% in the same month.

SoftBank reduces its stake in Paytm to below 3%.

Japanese multinational investment holding company SoftBank Group has further reduced its stake in Indian payments firm Paytm to 2.83% from 5.01%.

China to offer a 2-billion-dollar loan to Pakistan.

China has agreed to extend a 2-billion-dollar loan to Pakistan, which was due in March, for another year. This extension comes at a crucial time for Pakistan's economy, which has been grappling with financial challenges.

GST collection increases 12.5 % to 1.68 lakh crore rupees in February.

A total of one lakh 68 thousand 337 crore rupees gross GST revenue has been collected during February 2024. This marks a robust 12.5% increase compared to that in the same month last year.

Centre releases another additional instalment of tax devolution of 1,42,122 crore rupees.

The Centre has released another additional instalment of tax devolution of 1,42,122 crore rupees to strengthen the hands of State Governments for financing various social welfare measures and infrastructure development schemes.

Flipkart launches its own UPI service.

E-commerce company Flipkart has launched its UPI service for online and offline payments within and outside its app. Powered by Axis Bank, Flipkart UPI will initially be available for Android users.

India accounts for 46% of all digital payments in the world

The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that digital transactions in India have grown 90-fold in 12 years. UPI transactions now account for 80% of all digital payments in India. Now, India accounts for nearly 46% of the world's digital transactions (as per 2022 data).

Svatantra Microfin gets ₹1,930 crore investment from Advent International and Multiples Private Equity

Kumar Mangalam Birla's daughter Ananya Birla's Svatantra Microfin Pvt. Ltd. has entered into a definitive agreement with Advent International and Multiples Private Equity for an investment of ₹1,930 crore, or \$230 million.

RBI approves merger of Fincare and AU Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. (Transferor Bank) with AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. (Transferee Bank). The effective date of the amalgamation shall be April 01, 2024.

Tata Motors to demerge into two listed companies.

Tata Motors Ltd.'s (TML) board has approved the demerger proposal of the company into two separate listed entities. One for its commercial vehicles and related investments business and the other for passenger and electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover and its related investments.

Bloomberg announces India's bonds inclusion in Emerging Market Index

Bloomberg has announced the inclusion of Indian G-Securities in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices from January 31 next year, a move that will bring down borrowing costs for the Central government.

Export of onions extended until further orders.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has said in a notification that the Export prohibition on export of onions valid till 31st March 2024, is extended until further orders.

IIT Madras partners with France's Starburst Accelerator SARL

French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL is partnering with IIT-Madras to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with a funding support of €100 million (100 Million Euros). IIT-Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programmes to ASD ecosystem in India.

Bank of India strengthens board

M. R. Kumar has been named as the Non-Executive Chairman of Bank of India. He will be responsible for overseeing the overall growth trajectory of the public sector lender.

RBI bars IIFL Finance from sanctioning, disbursing gold loans

The RBI has directed IIFL Finance Ltd. to cease and desist, with immediate effect from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/ securitizing/ selling any of its gold loans. Business restrictions have been imposed on

Singapore gives nod for Vistara-AI merger.

The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) has announced its conditional approval for the proposed merger between Air India and Vistara, more than a year after the deal was initially unveiled. The merger involves Singapore Airlines acquiring a 25.1% stake in Air India.

NBBL asked to start interoperable system for net banking in 2024

For quicker settlement of funds for merchants the RBI has asked NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) to implement an interoperable system for Internet Banking which should be introduced during the current calendar year. This would help in facilitating quicker settlement of funds for merchants.

NPCI partners with IISc for joint research on blockchain and AI technology

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the signing of a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for conducting joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

RBI asks card issuers to let customers choose card network

The RBI has directed card issuers, which include authorised payment system providers, banks and non-banks not to enter into any arrangement or agreement with card networks that restrains them from availing the services of other card networks.

RBI, Bank Indonesia sign MoU for use of local currencies

The RBI and the Bank Indonesia (BI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.

Moody's Investors Service upgrades India's FY24 GDP growth to around 8%

Moody's Investors Service has said that India's robust economic growth will continue, and its real GDP growth will accelerate to around 8% in 2023-24 from 7% in 2022-23.

Coal production in India reaches an unprecedented milestone, crossing 900 million tons (MT)

Coal production in India has reached an unprecedented milestone, crossing 900 million tons (MT) as on 6th March 2024. This has set the stage to approach the ambitious one-billion-ton target by 31st March.

FFS committed ₹9,500 crore for the promotion of new ventures in the country.

SIDBI chairman S Ramann said that the Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) has committed ₹9,500 crore for the promotion of new ventures in the country.

Indian consumers can use the UPI to pay Nepalese merchants.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Fonepay Payment Service, Nepal's largest payment network, announced the launch of UPI for cross-border transactions between India and Nepal.

Karnataka and Rajasthan unveil India's first critical mineral licence auctions.

Karnataka and Rajasthan have launched India's first auction of exploration licenses for critical and deep-seated minerals. The minerals include gold, copper, lithium, cobalt, nickel, silver, and other difficult-to-mine minerals.

India added 3.2 gigawatts (GW) of open access solar capacity in 2023

India achieved a record-breaking annual installation of solar open access, adding 3.2 GW, in the calendar year 2023, a marginal increase from the 3 GW installed in the previous year.

India signs trade agreement with European Free Trade Association

India has signed a \$100bn free trade agreement with a four-member European bloc EFTA and will lift most import tariffs on industrial products from these countries in return for the investment over 15 years. The EFTA comprises Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, all non-European Union nations.

Indian Oil set to join high table of F1 fuel producers.

After delivering back-to-back innovations in fuel grades, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has now set sight on the Grand Prix and will in the next three months start producing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1, motor racing.

India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.

India Cellular and Electronics Association has said that India is the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024. This sector has transitioned from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to 97 percent self-sufficiency.

SIDBI gets first green climate fund project worth \$120 mn.

Development bank SIDBI received approval from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its first anchored project, Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at USD 120 million.

Aditya Birla Finance to merge with parent company.

Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. has announced the amalgamation of Aditya Birla Finance Ltd., its wholly owned subsidiary, with itself to create a large unified operating non-banking finance company (NBFC).

Bank of Baroda unveils bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme

Bank of Baroda launched the bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme to raise deposits that would be deployed towards financing environment-friendly projects and sectors. The Bank is offering interest rates of up to 7.15% p.a.

Bitcoin hits record above \$71,000 as demand frenzy intensifies.

Cryptocurrency Bitcoin hit a record high on March 11 above \$71,000, as the surge in the biggest cryptocurrency showed no signs of slowing down.

Centre allows RBI to import gold without paying import levies.

The Union government has allowed its central bank RBI to import gold without paying import levies. Indian gold importers pay basic customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC).

Rajinder K. Babbar appointed as ED & CBO of Bandhan Bank

Bandhan Bank has announced the appointment of Rajinder Kumar Babbar as Executive Director and Chief Business Officer. He will oversee all business verticals including digital banking and treasury portfolio of the bank.

India's retail Inflation at 5.1% in Feb.

India's retail inflation has remained virtually unchanged at 5.09% in February, even as food prices paid by consumers resurged from 8.3% in January to 8.66% spurred primarily by vegetables, which rose at a seven-month high pace of 30.25%.

L&T Finance, JICA sign pact to support rural, peri-urban financing.

NBFC L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (LTFH) had signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.

Industrial output growth slows to 3.8% in January.

India's Industrial output expanded 3.8 percent year-over-year in January 2024 slower than the 4.2 percent in December.

Finance Ministry asks public banks for comprehensive review of their gold loan portfolio.

The Union Finance Ministry has directed all state-owned banks to review their gold loan portfolio as instances of non-compliance with regulatory norms have been noticed by the government. The circular was issued on the back of a rise in gold loans on a year-on-year basis.

Fino Payments Bank appoints two additional directors.

Payments Bank Fino Payments Bank has announced the appointment of two new members to its board. Anita Sudhir Pai and Neeta Mukerji, have been appointed as additional directors in the capacity of independent directors of the Bank.

IndusInd Bank launches India's first contactless payment wearable 'Indus PayWear'

Private bank lender IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of its contactless payment's wearable named as 'Indus PayWear', touted to be India's first all-in-one tokenizable wearable for both debit and credit cards.

India, ADB Sign \$181 Million Deal to Improve Livability, Mobility In Ahmedabad

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$181 million loan agreement, aimed at improving infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas, or the outskirts, of Gujarat's Ahmedabad city.

15,000 Indian Businesses Join Dubai Chamber In 2023

Indian companies are flocking to Dubai, with a staggering 15,481 new Indian-owned businesses joining the Dubai Chamber of Commerce in 2023. This surge represents a 38% year-over-year increase, solidifying Dubai's position as a prime destination for Indian investors.

Centre approves E-Vehicle Policy

The Central government has approved the E-Vehicle policy to promote India as a manufacturing destination. Under the policy, a company will be required to make a minimum investment of \$500 million or ₹4,150 crore.

Exports at 11-month high in February but imports crossed \$60 billion again.

India's merchandise exports grew 11.87% in February to hit an 11-month high of \$41.4 billion, while imports surged

at a faster pace of 12.2% to hit \$60.11 billion, owing to a sharp spike in gold imports which hit a four-month peak of \$6.15 billion.

Defence Ministry Signs Contract with HAL For MLU Of 25 Dornier Aircraft

The Defence Ministry has signed contract worth over two thousand 890 crore rupees with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for Mid Life Upgrade MLU of 25 Dornier Aircraft of Indian Navy in New Delhi.

RBI Bans Issuance of Co-Branded Credit Cards by Federal and South Indian Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has instructed South Indian Bank and Federal Bank to halt the issuance of all new co-branded credit cards due to regulatory deficiencies.

Centre Launches Alternate Auto Fuel Ethanol100

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri launched Ethanol100, an alternate auto fuel in New Delhi. Ethanol100, a cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline, is a blend of 92 to 94 percent ethanol, 4 to 5 percent motor spirit to provide colour to flame and 1.5 percent Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.

The Indian Patent Office granted 1,01,311 patents in past year.

The Indian Patent Office granted 1,01,311 patents in past year, which is a record high and the first time the office has granted more than one lakh patents in a year. This translates to 250 patents granted per working day. The office also received a record 90,300 patent applications in 2023.

Startup Mahakumbh Begins in New Delhi

Startup Mahakumbh, one of the biggest events showcasing the startup ecosystem of India will begin in New Delhi. The event will be held till 20th of this month at Bharat Mandapam. The event will have sector-focused pavilions including pavilions on AI, B2B, agritech, deeptech, climate tech, gaming, esports, fintech, incubators and accelerators.

Flipkart valuation declines over ₹41,000 crore in two years.

Flipkart's valuation has declined by \$5 billion or around ₹41,000 crore as of January 2024 compared to that in January 2022. Flipkart posted a net loss of ₹4,846 crore and consolidated net total income of ₹56,012.8 crore in FY23.

Adani Group to invest \$14 bn in FY25.

Adani group plans to invest more than ₹1.2 lakh crore (about \$14 billion) across its portfolio companies that range from ports to energy, airports, commodities, cement and media in fiscal year starting April.

Pakistan to request Fresh IMF Bailout Package of over \$8 Billion.

Pakistan will make a formal request to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a longer and larger bailout package under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) next month.

Tata Sons to sell IT major TCS shares worth up to \$1.13 billion.

Tata Sons, the holding arm of the Tata Group, plans to sell 23.4 million shares in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) worth up to \$1.13 billion. The shares represent 0.65% of TCS's shareholding. The sale is part of a block deal for ₹9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion)

Adani Group to Invest 70% Of Total Investments In Green Energy

The Adani Group is planning to invest more than 70 per cent of its total investments towards green energy, including renewable power, green hydrogen, and green evacuation transmission line. Adani is now building the world's largest renewable park at Khavda, Gujarat, spanning over 530+ square km area.

Kotak Bank appoints Jaideep Hansraj as President of 'One Kotak'.

Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Kotak Securities MD and CEO Jaideep Hansraj as Group President - One Kotak, with effect from April 1, 2024.

P&G India names Kumar Venkatasubramanian as new CEO

Procter & Gamble India has announced the appointment of Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO effective May 1, 2024. He is currently the CEO of P&G's business in Australia and New Zealand.

For the first time in 17 years, Bank Of Japan Ends Negative Rates, rises interest rates

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) has raised interest rates for the first time in 17 years, lifting its short-term rate to around zero to 0.1% from minus 0.1%.

Global Central banks use AI to assess climate-related financial risks

The global Central bankers have started using artificial intelligence to collect data for assessing climate-related financial risks, just as the volume of disclosures from banks and other companies is set to rise.

India can sustain 8% GDP growth: RBI bulletin.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its March 2024 Bulletin has stated that India can maintain 8% annual GDP growth, fuelled by a conducive macroeconomic configuration.

RBI imposes ₹1.32 cr. penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,31,80,000 on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act.

India's Direct tax collection crosses 97% of 2023-24 target

As per provisional figures released by the Finance Ministry, India's net direct tax collections have reached more than ₹18.9 lakh crore, more than 97% of the revised target for 2023-24 by March 17.

Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement on releasing last tranche of \$3 billion bailout

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached a staff-level agreement with the new Pakistani government on the final review of a \$3 billion bailout, paving the way for the release of the last \$1.1 billion tranche from the global lender.

New Zealand slips into its second recession.

New Zealand has entered its second recession in 18 months after the latest round of GDP figures confirmed its economy contracted in the last quarter of 2023. Its economy shrank by 0.1% in the quarter to December and 0.7% in per capita terms.

Indian investors led by JSW pick up 51% stake in Chinese auto major SAIC's India unit MG Motor

Chinese auto major SAIC Motor has divested a 51% stake in its subsidiary MG Motor India to Indian investors led by the steel to paints conglomerate JSW Group.

Gross Direct Tax Collection Registered Growth Of 18.74 % During Current Financial Year

India's Gross Direct Tax collection has registered a growth of 18.74 percent during the current Financial Year. Gross direct tax collection stands at over 22 lakh 27 thousand crore rupees.

Digital Payments increase as more Indians opt for UPI

India is seeing a surge in digital payments as more people are opting for online transactions. In February alone, transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) soared to an impressive ₹18.2 lakh crore, totalling 122 crore transactions. India sees an average of ₹40,000 to ₹80,000 crore in daily UPI transactions.

Real GDP growth may hit 8% this fiscal year, signals FinMin

The Union Finance Ministry has said that the India's economy may well end up growing by about 8% this fiscal, outstripping the 7.6% real GDP growth projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

M&M signs MoU with ATEL to access charging infrastructure.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Adani Total Energies E-Mobility Ltd.

IRDAI approves 8 principle-based regulations.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved eight principle-based regulations including the much-awaited Bima Sugam marketplace. Bima Sugam is an online platform where customers can choose a suitable scheme from multiple options given by various companies.

Naveen Jindal takes charge as president of the Indian Steel Association

Naveen Jindal, chairman, Jindal Steel and Power has taken charge as President of Indian Steel Association (ISA). He succeeds Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.

India's tech startup funding declines 51 percent in Q1 2024

Indian tech startup funding witnessed a decline of 51% in Q1 2024 (until 15th March) with \$1.6 billion raised from \$3.2 billion during the same period last year. India received fourth-highest funding, globally, while U.S. bagged the top spot with \$19.5 billion, followed by China (\$2.8 billion) and U.K. (\$2.5 billion).

In a first, Amul to launch fresh milk in U.S. within a week.

For the first time, Amul fresh milk will be available outside India, with the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) launching four variants of milk in the U.S. market within a week, to cater to Indian diaspora and Asian population.

Adani Ports acquires Odisha's Gopalpur Port for ₹3,500 crore.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group has announced the sale of its brownfield Gopalpur Port to Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd for an enterprise value of ₹3,350 crore.

Federal Bank launches Flash Pay through NPCI partnership.

In partnership with National Payments Corporation of India, Federal Bank has introduced the innovative RuPay Smart key chain, 'Flash Pay', which is the first of its kind in the industry and is enabled with NCMC technology.

Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun to step down

Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun has announced that he will step down by year-end, in a broad management shake-up brought on by the plane maker's sprawling safety crisis stemming from a January mid-air panel blowout on a 737 MAX plane.

Sri Lanka's Central Bank Slashes Policy Interest Rates By 50 Bps To Stimulate Growth

Sri Lanka's central bank Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has cut interest rates by 50 basis points. It reduced the Standing Deposit Facility Rate to 8.50 per cent and the Standing Lending Facility Rate to 9.50 per cent.

Hurun list: Mumbai has Asia's most billionaires now, not Beijing.

According to the Hurun Research's 2024 Global Rich List, Mumbai now has more billionaires than Beijing as it became Asia's billionaire capital for the first time.

Mumbai hosts 92 billionaires against 91 in Beijing, China has 814 billionaires overall compared to India's 271.

Globally, Mumbai now ranks third in terms of billionaires after New York, which has the most billionaires- 119 followed by London with 97, as per the list.

India growth forecast to 6.8% for FY'25: S&P

S&P Global Ratings agency has raised India's growth forecast for the next financial year to 6.8%.

Wipro GE Healthcare to invest ₹8,000 cr. manufacturing, local R&D over 5 years.

Wipro GE Healthcare, a leading global medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, has announced an investment of over ₹8,000 crore in manufacturing output and local R&D in the next five years in India.

India's forex reserves rose by \$32.9 bn on BoP basis in April-Dec. 23

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$32.9 billion during April-December 2023 on a balance of payments basis (excluding valuation effects) as against a depletion of \$14.7 billion during the year-earlier period.

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh leads India's post-pandemic growth.

According to SBI Research, the Indian economy has demonstrated resilience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the average real GDP growth surging to 8.1 per cent, out of the 235-basis point (bp) growth, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh emerged as frontrunners, contributing 56 and 40 bps respectively, while the remaining 90 bps stemmed from other states.

Centre plans to borrow ₹7.5 lakh crore from market in first half of FY25

The Centre has announced that it would borrow more than 53% of its budgeted gross market borrowings of ₹14.13 lakh crore for 2024-25 in the first half of the year.

ILO report says employment scenario in India grim.

As per the India Employment Report 2024 released by the ILO and the IHD, India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.

Federal Bank opens 29 branches, eyes credit growth

Private lender Federal Bank has opened 26 branches across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, placing it on track to reach a pan-India network of 1,500 branches as it ends fiscal year 2023-24.

RBI modifies norms for lenders having exposure into AIFs

The RBI has modified norms for regulated entities (REs) concerning their investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). As per the fresh directive, REs need to only set aside provisions to the extent of their investment in the AIF scheme which is further invested by the AIFs in a debtor's company and not the entire investment in the AIF scheme.

India's Core Sectors Register 3-Month High Growth Of 6.7 Percent in February.

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries of the country witnessed a three-month high growth of 6.7 per cent in February this year, in comparison to same period last year.

Adani Group starts \$1.2 billion copper plant

Gautam Adani-led group has announced the start of the first phase of the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat, which will help cut India's dependence on imports and aid energy transition.

EU probes Apple, Meta, Alphabet for 'non-compliance' under new digital law

The European Commission has opened its first "non-compliance" investigations against Alphabet, Apple and Meta under the Digital Markets Act, a law that is designed to stop Big Tech companies from cornering digital markets.

IRDAI retains LIC, GIC Re, New India Assurance as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

According to IRDAI, Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Company have been remained as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) and hence subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision.

Karnataka Bank approves allotment of equity share capital of ₹600 crore under QIP

The Committee of Directors of Karnataka Bank, in its meeting has approved the allotment of shares pursuant to the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), at a price of ₹227.00 per equity share (including premium of ₹217.00 per share), amounting to an aggregate of up to ₹600 crores.

Net claims of NRIs on India declined by \$12.2 bn. during Oct.-Dec. 2023

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, net claims of non-residents on India declined by \$12.2 billion during October-December 2023 to \$370.4 billion as at end-December 2023.

India's Akasa Air commences international operations

India's domestic carrier Akasa Air has started its international operations with its inaugural overseas flight departing from Mumbai to Doha, Qatar.

Govt updates list of banks authorised to import gold, silver during FY25

The Central government has updated the list of banks authorised to import gold and silver during 2024-25. As per the list, 11 banks, including HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been authorised by the RBI to import gold and silver for 2024-25 with effect from April 1.

Nidhu Saxena appointed MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra

The Ministry of Finance has appointed Nidhu Saxena as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Maharashtra.

Standard Chartered Bank sells entire 7.18% stake in CDSL for ₹1,266 crore

Standard Chartered Bank has sold its entire 7.18 per cent stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd for ₹1,266 crore through an open market transaction.

FPIs infuse over ₹2 lakh cr in equities in FY24

Foreign investors made a strong return by injecting more than ₹2 lakh crore into Indian equities in 2023-24, driven by optimism surrounding the country's robust economic fundamentals amidst a challenging global environment.

City Union Bank crossed ₹1-lakh cr. Total business milestone in FY24

City Union Bank(CUB) has achieved a milestone in FY24 as the bank's total business crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the first time.

Bengaluru and Mumbai lead in office space absorption: Cushman & Wakefield

According to Cushman & Wakefield, Bengaluru and Mumbai are the leading markets for office space absorption in India, with Bengaluru absorbing 3.6 million square feet (MSF) and Mumbai absorbing 2.5 MSF in the first quarter of 2024.

Russian central bank lends more Chinese yuan under currency swap operations

Russia's central bank had provided banks with 2.5 billion Chinese yuan for the equivalent 31.8 billion roubles under currency swap transactions.

AWARDS

96th Oscar Awards

The 96th Oscar Awards event was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California. Oppenheimer bagged six awards

Best Picture: Oppenheimer

Best Director: Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer

Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer

Best Actress: Emma Stone, Poor Things

Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer

Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, The Holdovers

Animated Feature: The Boy and the Heron

Cinematography: Oppenheimer

Editing: Oppenheimer

Original Score: Oppenheimer

Documentary Feature: 20 Days in Mariupol

International Feature: The Zone of Interest, United Kingdom

India's Amitav Ghosh Wins Erasmus Prize 2024

Indian writer Amitav Ghosh is the winner of this year's Erasmus Prize, for his writings on the planetary crisis and climate change.

India's RK Swamy's Srinivasan Swamy bags IAA Golden Compass Award

Srinivasan K. Swamy, CMD of integrated marketing services company RK Swami Ltd. has been presented with IAA Golden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.

President Confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards to Ninety-Four Eminent Artists

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the Years 2022 and 2023 to ninety-four eminent artists at a function in New Delhi. The awards were given in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts, puppetry and allied theatre art forms. Besides the Akademi Awards, President Murmu also bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) to seven eminent artists in the ceremony.

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana has won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024, while Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan the third prize.

Modi was awarded Bhutan's highest honour, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Bhutan's highest honour, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo', which was announced in 2021, to acknowledge India's role in ensuring Bhutan's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michel Talagrand wins 2024 Abel prize.

French Mathematician Michel Talagrand has won the 2024 Abel prize, also dubbed as the Nobel prize of mathematics, for his work on probability theory and describing randomness.

IndiGo wins 'Airline of the year' at Air Transport Awards 2024

IndiGo has been named as the 'Airline of the Year' at the Air Transport Awards 2024 held in Greece's Athens. The 2024 Air Transport Awards was organised in partnership with Hermes Air Transport Organisation and ATN – Air Transport News to recognize the contributions made in the aviation sector.

President Droupadi Murmu Presents Bharat Ratna to four posthumously.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Bharat Ratna on former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and

Chaudhary Charan Singh; former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur; and agronomist M.S. Swaminathan. All the four awards were conferred posthumously at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Krystyna Pyszkova

Krystyna Pyszkova from the Czech Republic won the Miss World 2024 title at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. She is the second Czech Miss World after Tatana Kucharova in 2006. Miss Lebanon Yasmina Zaytoun was the first runner-up.

Leo Varadkar

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar has announced that he will step down as leader of the country soon as a successor is chosen. Varadkar was the country's youngest-ever leader when first elected, as well as Ireland's first openly gay Prime Minister.

Kamal Kishore

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Kamal Kishore of India as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Sam Bankman-Fried

Sam Bankman-Fried, co-founder of the failed crypto exchange FTX, has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for defrauding customers and investors of his now-bankrupt firm.

Prabowo Subianto

Prabowo Subianto has been formally confirmed as Indonesia's next President, after beating two rivals who have promised to file a legal complaint over February's election.

Simon Harris

Simon Harris is set to become Ireland's youngest ever Prime Minister. The 37-year-old beats the previous record holder, predecessor Leo Varadkar, who was 38 when he took the top job in 2017.

Shehbaz Sharif

Shehbaz Sharif has sworn in as Pakistan's 24th Prime Minister, taking over the reins of the cash-strapped country for a second time since 2022.

Nikki Haley

Nikki Haley has suspended her US Presidential campaign, making former President Donald Trump the last Republican left in the race.

Julian Assange

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has been granted a temporary reprieve from being extradited to the U.S. from the U.K., after the British High Court ruled that he would not be extradited immediately.

Vinay Kwatra

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service of Vinay Mohan Kwatra as Foreign Secretary for a period of six months beyond 30.04.2024 i.e. up to 31.10.2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Bassirou Diomaye Faye

In Senegal, opposition leader Bassirou Diomaye Faye has been named as the country's next President.

Pavan Davuluri

Pavan Davuluri, an IIT Madras alumni, has been appointed the new head of Microsoft Windows and Surface. Mr Davuluri takes over from longtime product chief Panos Panay who left the department to join Amazon last year.

Asif Ali Zardari

Asif Ali Zardari became Pakistan's 14th President, after winning the 2024 elections. The Chief Justice of Pakistan has administered the oath of office to Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the Presidential Palace.

Vo Van Thuong

Vietnam's incumbent President Vo Van Thuong has resigned after only one year in office. The Vietnamese Communist Party has accepted his resignation citing shortcomings.

Vladimir Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin has won a historic fifth term, securing a landslide victory in the Presidential polls. He claimed another six-year term by getting 87 per cent of the vote with 80 per cent of the precincts counted. This victory has solidified his position as Russia's longest-serving leader, surpassing Josef Stalin.

Ariel Henry

Haiti's incumbent Prime Minister Ariel Henry has agreed to resign, the chair of the Caribbean group of countries has said, following weeks of mounting pressure and increasing violence in the country.

Anurag Agarwal

The 1998-batch IPS officer Anurag Agarwal has been appointed as the head of Parliament security. Currently an inspector general in CRPF, he has been appointed as joint secretary (security) for three years.

Sudha Murty

President Droupadi Murmu nominated Sudha Murty, the chairperson of Infosys Foundation, to the Rajya Sabha on International Women's Day. The president of India nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha for a six-year term for their contributions to arts, literature, sciences, and social services.

Nayab Singh Saini

BJP Chief Nayab Singh Saini has sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Haryana hours after Manohar Lal Khattar resigned along with his Cabinet that included three ministers from Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

Nepal incumbent Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has won a vote of confidence in Parliament as the country struggled to maintain political stability.

Kishor Makwana

BJP leader Kishor Makwana has taken charge as the new chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Makwana served as a joint spokesperson of the Gujarat unit of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). He is also a journalist and a columnist.

Navneet Kumar Sehgal

Former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal has taken charge as new Prasar Bharati Chairman. Mr. Sehgal is a 1988-batch retired bureaucrat of UP cadre. He is the successor of A Surya Prakash who completed his term as Chairman in 2020.

Soumendu Bagchi

Soumendu Bagchi, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1993 batch, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Iraq.

Abhilasha Joshi

Abhilasha Joshi, an Indian Foreign Service officer of batch 1995, has been appointed as the next envoy of India to Chile.

Sheetal Devi

The Election Commission of India has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as the National Icon in its National Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category.

Tamilisai Soundararajan R

Tamilisai Soundararajan has resigned as Telangana Governor and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor. Ms Soundararajan - the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Tamil Nadu unit before her governorship is planning to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

CP Radhakrishnan

Jharkhand current Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given the additional responsibility as the in-charge governor of Telangana, in place of Tamilisai Soundararajan, who resigned from her constitutional post.

Vinay Kumar

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has stated that Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1992 batch, was named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia. He currently holds the position of Ambassador of India to Myanmar.

Daniel Kahneman

Daniel Kahneman, the Nobel Prize-winning psychologist who pioneered theories in behavioral economics, has died. He was 90. Kahneman also wrote the best-selling book Thinking, Fast and Slow

Mulroney

Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney passed away. During his tenure he made a landmark free trade deal with the US and signed breakthrough environmental accords.

Louis Gossett Jr

Louis Gossett Jr., the second black man to win an Academy Award as best supporting actor, has died. Gossett, was also a producer, director, social activist and the founder of the Eracism Foundation to combat racism.

Swami Smaranananda Maharaj

The Chief of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Smaranananda Maharaj, died at 95 due to age-related ailments. Swami Smaranananda Maharaj took charge as the 16th president of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission.

SPORTS**Athletes in country to be issued digital certificates**

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has announced that the Centre will issue digital certificates to registered athletes across the country, a move which would ensure a transparent account of their participation and performance.

10th Pro-Kabaddi League final-Puneri Paltans claims its first crown

Puneri Paltan emerged victorious in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 final, defeating Haryana Steelers 28-25 in a nail-biting encounter at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad.

India ranked number one in the ICC World Test Championship

The Indian Men's Cricket Team has reached on top in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings, replacing New Zealand in the latest rankings issued.

Badminton player B.Sai Praneeth announces retirement

B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement from international badminton. In his 24-year-long career, he won a World Championships bronze medal and represented India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Indian Men's & Women's Table Tennis Teams Secure Historic Olympic Qualification

The Indian men's and women's table tennis teams made history as both the teams qualified for the Olympics for the first ever time on the basis of world rankings.

Sports Ministry revokes suspension of Paralympic Committee of India

The Sports Ministry has revoked the suspension of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) with immediate effect. The Sports Ministry said in a letter to the Paralympic Committee of India that the main ground for suspension is being addressed and PCI will be hosting the 2024 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup from 6th March to 15 March, 2024 at New Delhi.

South Africa's Marais Erasmus retires from umpiring career

South Africa's Marais Erasmus has retired from international umpiring after officiating in the second and final Test between New Zealand and Australia in Christchurch starting on March 8.

Khelo India medal winners now eligible for government jobs

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has stated that medal winners in all Khelo India competitions will now be eligible for government jobs as per a revised criterion.

India win Dharamsala Test match against England
India beat England by an innings and 64 runs in the fifth and final Test of the series against England in Dharamsala. This victory gives India a 4-1 series win.

French Open badminton tournament : Indian duo win Doubles title

Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have clinched their second French Open Men's doubles Badminton title. They registered a straight games victory over Yang Po-han and Lee Jhe-huei of Taiwan in the final. Satwik and Chirag had earlier won the title in 2022.

Santosh Trophy for seventh time

In the 77th National Football Championship, Services won the Santosh Trophy for the seventh time, beating Goa 1-0 in the Santosh Trophy final at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at Papum Pare District in Arunachal Pradesh.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins Saudi Arabian GP

Formula 1 driver Max Verstappen has won the 2024 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix for Red Bull.

Sailor Vishnu Saravanan wins Gold at Europa Cup 2024

India's sailor Vishnu Saravanan has won a gold medal in the men's one-person dinghy (ILCA7) category at the Europa Cup 2024 sailing meet held in Mallorca, Spain.

Sports Minister inaugurates unique talent hunt event, KIRTI

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated a unique talent hunt event, KIRTI in Chandigarh. The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification, KIRTI programme is aimed at athletes in the age group between nine to 18 years.

Youth World Boxing Cup: Team India wins 26 medals.

In the Youth World Boxing Cup, team India ended its campaign as runner-up in Budva, Montenegro. Team India has won 26 medals including 5 gold, 9 silver, and 12 bronze medals.

Yashasvi Jaiswal wins ICC Player of Month Award

India's Yashasvi Jaiswal was named the ICC 'Player of the Month' for February, 2023 following his prolific run in the Test series against England, which saw him score over 700 runs. Jaiswal also became only the second India batter after Sunil Gavaskar to hit 700+ runs in a series.

Indian pistol shooters win team gold in Para World Cup

India added a second gold medal to its tally in the Para Shooting World Cup with the Mixed 10m Air Pistol Standard (SH1) team clinching the top podium finish on day four of the competition. The team of Rudransh Khandelwal (364), Akash (346) and Sandeep Kumar

(340) aggregated 1050 to finish ahead of South Korea (1037), while China (1019) ended up third.

FIH World rankings: Indian men slip to fourth, women's team ranked ninth.

India has slipped a spot to the fourth position in the latest FIH men's world rankings with Germany taking the third place following their impressive run at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers. In the Women's Rankings, India is ranked ninth in the list headed by Netherlands.

Ravindra becomes youngest recipient of Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra has become the youngest recipient of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal after becoming the country's best male cricketer of the year.

Ashwin replaces Bumrah at the top of ICC Test rankings.

India's Off-spinner R Ashwin, who picked up 26 wickets in the recently concluded 5-match series against England, has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in bowling charts, pushing Jasprit Bumrah to the second spot.

Mumbai Beat Vidarbha To Win 42nd Ranji Title

Mumbai won their record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title, defeating Vidarbha by 169 runs on the final day of the 2023-24 season. This is Mumbai's first Ranji trophy win since 2015-16.

Women's Premier League Title: RCB Beat Delhi Capitals to claim title

In the Women's Premier League (WPL) Cricket Final, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) has defeated Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Tennis: Alcaraz beats Medvedev to win second straight Indian Wells title

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has successfully defended his Indian Wells crown with a 7-6(5) 6-1 win over Daniil Medvedev in the final.

Gulveer Singh breaks a 16-Year-Old National Record in 1000m race

Indian Athlete Gulveer Singh has broken a 16-year-old national record by over 20 seconds by clocking 27.41.81 in The Ten event at San Juan Capistrano in California. He finished second in the men's 10000m race.

ALL ENGLAND OPEN 2024: Indonesia's Jonatan Christie & Carolina Marin are winners.

Indonesia's Jonatan Christie has defeated Anthony Ginting to win badminton's All England Open in Birmingham. It was Christie's first World Tour Super 1000 triumph.

Spain's Carolina Marin has claimed the women's singles title as Akane Yamaguchi was forced to retire in the final.

Qatar and Morocco to host U-17 World Cups for next five years.

World football's governing body FIFA has announced that Qatar will host the U-17 boys' tournament for the next five editions from 2025 to 2029, while the U-17 girls' tournament will be held in Morocco.

Britain's top Olympian Laura Kenny retires from cycling.

Dame Laura Kenny, the Britain's most successful female Olympian has announced her retirement from cycling. She won five Olympic golds and seven World Championship titles in a distinguished career on the track.

India's TT player Sharath Kamal ranks 34th in ITTF rankings.

India's table tennis player Sharath Kamal has reclaimed the India No. 1 spot with a massive jump in the latest ITTF Rankings after his sensational run at last week's Singapore Smash. He has jumped from 88th to 34th in the men's singles rankings.

Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen ranks 13 In Men's Singles Category

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen has climbed five places to become the world number 13 in the men's singles category. The leap in the BWF ranking follows his impressive run at the French Open and the prestigious All England Open.

India's Sathiyam claims Men's Singles Title At World Table Tennis Feeder Beirut Tournament

India's table tennis player Sathiyam Gnanasekaran has won the Men's Singles title at WTT Feeder Beirut tournament in Lebanon. He defeated compatriot Manav Vikas Thakkar in the final.

Paris 2024 Olympics: Sharath Kamal Named As Flagbearer, Mary Kom To Be Chef De Mission

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that veteran table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be the Indian team's flagbearer for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics, while Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom has been named as the chef de mission for the Summer Games.

MS Dhoni Steps Down as CSK Captain, Gaikwad To Lead Franchise In IPL 2024

MS Dhoni has stepped down as the captain of Chennai Super Kings (CSK). CSK opener Ruturaj Gaikwad has been appointed as the new captain of the IPL team.

Sports Authority of India Releases Over ₹30.83 Cr Under New Khelo India Scheme

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has allocated funds of more than ₹30.83 crore for the financial year 2023-24, with an Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of INR 7,71,30,000 for 2571 Khelo India athletes for Quarter 4.

17th IPL Cricket Tournament Begins in Chennai

The seventeenth season of the Indian Premier League Cricket tournament has begun in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The season opener match was played between the defending champions Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.

Japan's Sakamoto wins figure skating world title.

Japan's Kaori Sakamoto becomes the first woman to win three straight titles at the Figure Skating World Championships since 1968.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz wins Australian Grand Prix 2024

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz has won the Australian Grand Prix 2024. Sainz, the only non-Red Bull driver to win a race last season.

BWF SWISS OPEN 2024: Carolina Marin & Lin Chun-Yi are winners

Spain's Carolina Marin beat Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the women's singles final of the BWF Swiss Open 2024 in Basel. Meanwhile, in the Men's category Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi has won the men's final.

United States Win Concacaf Nations League For the Third Time

Goals by Tyler Adams and Gio Reyna led the U.S. men's national team to a 2-0 victory over Mexico in the final of the Concacaf Nations League in Arlington, Texas, for a third consecutive title.

Sreeja Akula clinches WTT Feeder Beirut singles title

Indian paddler Sreeja Akula has won the women's singles title while Manav Thakar and Manush Shah claimed the men's doubles event at the WTT Feeder Beirut II in Beirut, Lebanon.

Bijay Chhetri, first Indian footballer to sign for Latin American club

Football defender Bijay Chhetri has joined Uruguayan football club Colon FC on loan until the year-end. Chhetri, thus became the first Indian footballer to sign for a Latin American club.

With Participation of 128 Players, India Makes New Guinness World Record In Kabaddi

India made history by making a Guinness World record with participation of 128 players, on The World Kabaddi Day. The history was written at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium of Panchkula in Haryana.

Sreejesh, Caram appointed co-chairs of new FIH Athletes Committee

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced that Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Chile skipper Camila Caram have been appointed co-chairs of the new FIH Athletes Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

India Ranks 113 in World Bank's Gender Equality Index

India's ranked improved to 113 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index, according to the 10th edition of the report.

Devin AI, the world's 'first fully autonomous' AI software engineer

US-based applied AI lab, Cognition, has introduced what it claims is the world's first AI software engineer "Devin". It has passed practical engineering interviews held by leading AI companies.

UNESCO names 18 sites to the Global Geoparks network.

The UNESCO Executive Board has endorsed the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network. This brings the total number of geoparks to 213 in 48 countries. The new geoparks are situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

Elon Musk's Grok-1.5 AI chatbot to be available next week

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup xAI's latest Grok-1.5 chatbot will be available on social media platform X next week. Grok-1.5, the enhanced version of its chatbot Grok, will be made available to early testers and existing Grok users on X in the coming days.

India ranked 134th in global human development index: UNDP report

India's ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) improved by one position in 2022 to 134 out of 193 countries ranked compared to 135 out of 191 countries in 2021.

G42 and Cerebras Systems Partnered To Build Supercomputer Condor Galaxy 3

Abu Dhabi's leading technology holding group, G42, has partnered with Cerebras Systems, a pioneer in accelerating generative AI, to build the supercomputer Condor Galaxy 3.

NASA To Carry 'Message In Bottle' To Jupiter's Moon Europa

US space agency NASA will carry 'message in a bottle' to Europa, one of Jupiter's moon in October this year. The mission dubbed as Europa Clipper mission will explore signs of life as Scientists chose predicts a salty lake under its icy crust.

India world's top arms importer between 2019-23: SIPRI

According to SIPRI, India was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-23 with imports having gone up by 4.7% compared to the period 2014-18. India accounted for a significant 9.8% of the total global arms imports.

BAPS Temple at Abu Dhabi Opens for Public on March 1

The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha or the BAPS, Hindu Mandir BAPS in Abu Dhabi, the Middle East's first traditional stone temple, has opened its doors to the public on March 1, 2024.

Russia launches Iran's imaging satellite 'Pars 1' into space.

Russia has launched Iranian imaging satellite named "Pars 1" into space. This satellite has the capability of sending high-resolution images of surface locations from its orbit 500 km above Earth.

World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' held from March 11-16

World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' organised by Sahitya Akademi was held from the 11th to 16th of March 2024. This festival commemorating 70 years of Sahitya Akademi witnessed the participation of more than a hundred renowned writers and scholars.

Mumbai is among the world's top 10 luxury real estate markets: Knight Frank

According to Knight Frank Wealth Report, India's financial city Mumbai is now among the top 10 luxury residential markets in the world and is ranked at number 8 globally in terms of price growth in luxury housing.

India ranks 108 on Gender Inequality Index 2022

India has been ranked 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437 on the Gender Inequality Index 2022. This report has been released by UNDP in their Human Development Report 2023/2024.

Hyderabad emerges as India's biryani capital: Swiggy's 2023 report.

According to How India Swiggy's 2023 report, Hyderabad has been crowned as India's biryani capital. Hyderabad witnessed the ordering of a whopping 13 million biryanis in the past 12 months. Bangalore was second with 10 million Biryani ordered in the last 12 months.

Finland is the world's happiest country for the seventh consecutive year in 2024

According to the UN-sponsored World Happiness Report 2024, Finland remained the world's happiest country for the seventh straight year. Meanwhile, Afghanistan stayed at the bottom of the 143 countries surveyed. India ranked 126th out of 146 countries in the 2024.

Buddha's Sacred Relics Returns To India from Thailand

The sacred relics of the Buddha and his disciples, Arhant Sariputta and Maha Moggallana, returned to India following a 25-day exhibition in Thailand.

Indian Parliamentary Delegation Heads To Geneva For 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh has led a seven-member Indian parliamentary delegation to attend the five-day 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) being organised in Geneva, Switzerland.

UNESCO puts 6 new Madhya Pradesh destinations on tentative list of World Heritage Sites

Six new sites from Madhya Pradesh have been added in the tentative UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites (WHS). The six sites include Gwalior Fort, the historical Dhamnar rock-cut caves and Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple in Bhojpur, the rock art site of Chambal valley, Khooni Bhandara-Burhanpur, Ramnagar and Mandla Gond sites.

New Zealand will ban disposable e-cigarettes.

New Zealand government will ban disposable e-cigarettes, or vapes, and raise financial penalties for those who sell such products to minors.

India, US Begin Bilateral Tri-Service HADR Exercise: Tiger Triumph – 24

A bilateral tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named "Tiger Triumph – 24" between India and the US has begun on the Eastern Seaboard in India and will continue till 31st of this month.

World's first 'Dragon Ball' theme park planned in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has announced that it will build a theme park based on the famed Japanese animated series Dragon Ball. The Dragon Ball theme park will feature rides and attractions inspired by Akira Toriyama's famed manga series.

India, Mozambique, Tanzania Joint Maritime Exercise Begins

From India INS Tir and INS Sujata participated in the forthcoming second edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Maritime Exercise scheduled from 21-29 March 2024.

UN Adopts First Global Artificial Intelligence Resolution

The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously adopted the first global resolution on artificial intelligence that encourages countries to safeguard human rights, protect personal data, and monitor AI for risks.

World Wildlife Day: 3rd March

World Wildlife Day celebrated every year on March 3. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2024, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".

International Women's Day being celebrated across country on March 8

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' with a focus on addressing economic disempowerment, while the campaign theme for this year is 'Inspire Inclusion'.

CISF Raising Day: 10th March

CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. The CISF Raising Day honours the founding of the paramilitary force. It was founded on March 10, 1969.

National Vaccination Day: 16th March

National Vaccination Day is observed in India on March 16th to recognize the efforts of frontline health care workers to ensure that every child gets vaccinated.

Global Recycling Day observed on March 18th

Global Recycling Day is observed annually on March 18th to celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

International Day for the Right to the Truth: 24th March

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

Tuberculosis Day is celebrated on March 24th Every Year

Every year on March 24th, the world celebrates Tuberculosis Day with an aim to increase public awareness about Tuberculosis and how to prevent its spread.

International Day of Zero Waste: 30th March

The United Nations has marked March 30th as the International Day of Zero Waste. This day aims to underscore the critical importance of enhancing global waste management and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns at every level of society.