

## International

### 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Awarded to David Baker, John Jumper & Demis Hassabis

Scientists David Baker, John Jumper, and Demis Hassabis have won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for breakthroughs in predicting and designing the structure of proteins. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced half of the prize to David Baker for computational protein design and the other half jointly to John Jumper and Demis Hassabis for protein structure prediction. David Baker built entirely new kinds of proteins, and John Jumper and Demis Hassabis developed an artificial intelligence (AI) model to solve a 50-year-old problem: predicting proteins' complex structures.

### Hurricane Milton: Over 5 Million Residents Urged to Leave Florida

In the USA, ahead of Hurricane Milton, more than 5 million residents on Florida's western coast were urged to leave the densely populated coastal area. The hurricane is feared to bring multiple weather hazards such as high winds, deadly storm surge, tornadoes, and heavy rain. The state is facing its largest-ever evacuation of emergency healthcare facilities due to Hurricane Milton.

### North Korea Announces Complete Separation From South Korea

North Korea has announced to completely separate its territory from the South by cutting off all road and rail links and building fortifications on its side. Its military said the North would permanently shut off and block the southern border. The Korean People's Army said that the move is a response to the grave situation in which the imminent danger of war is escalating day by day along the southern border.

### 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits Kicked off in Vientiane

The 44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and related summits kicked off in Vientiane, Laos. The summits under Laos' ASEAN chairmanship this year are themed 'ASEAN: Enhancing connectivity and resilience.' Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith and Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone welcomed delegates from the ten Southeast Asian countries, along with Timor-Leste as an observer, and leaders from around the world.

The three-day event will feature related summits, including the 27th ASEAN-China Summit, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEAN-China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 19th East Asia Summit.

### Red Panda Program of Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo Selected as Finalist for WAZA Conservation Award

The Red Panda Program of Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been selected as a finalist for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Conservation Award 2024. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has undertaken several habitat restoration initiatives in collaboration with various institutions and the Government of India. Between 2022 and 2024, nine captive-bred red pandas (seven females and two males) were released into Singalila National Park in West Bengal.

The winner of the WAZA Award will be announced on the 7th of next month at the 79th WAZA Annual Conference in Australia's Taronga Zoo.

### World Post Day Celebrated on October 9

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October to highlight the postal sector's role in daily life and global development. October 9 also marks the anniversary of the

establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss capital, Bern. This year, the theme is '150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations.'

## National

### Renowned Industrialist & Padma Vibhushan Awardee Ratan Tata Passes Away

Renowned industrialist, philanthropist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ratan Tata passed away in Mumbai at the age of 86. He had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital and was in critical condition. Tata became chairman of the autos-to-steel conglomerate in 1991 and ran the Tata Group, founded by his great-grandfather more than a hundred years ago, until 2012. During the 21 years Ratan Tata led the Tata Group, revenues grew over 40 times, and profits over 50 times.

### Centre Approves Supply of Fortified Rice to Reduce Anaemia & Micro-Nutrient Deficiency

The Centre has approved the continuation of the supply of free fortified rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes from July 2024 to December 2028. The initiative would reduce anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency, and the total financial implication will be 17 thousand and 82 crore rupees, with 100 percent funding provided by the Central Government.

Rice fortification involves the addition of fortified rice kernels enriched with micronutrients like iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 as per standards prescribed by the FSSAI.

## Business and Economy

### RBI Monetary Policy: Repo Rate Remains Unchanged at 6.50%

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50

percent for the tenth time in a row. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 percent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate at 6.75 percent. The RBI has maintained the status quo on the benchmark interest rate since February 2023. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also decided to change the monetary policy stance to 'neutral' and to remain clearly focused on a durable alignment of inflation with the target, while supporting growth.

### India, Nepal Sign B2B Framework Agreement to Develop Petroleum Infrastructure

Nepal and India have reached the B2B Framework Agreement regarding the development of petroleum infrastructure in Nepal. Recently, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) inked a Business-to-Business (B2B) Framework Agreement in New Delhi. By implementing these projects, transporting petroleum products from India to land-linked Nepal will become convenient, which will significantly reduce costs for the Nepal Oil Corporation by minimizing reliance on tank trucks.

### RBI Enhances Transaction Limits on UPI 123, UPI Lite

To encourage wider adoption of the unified payments interface (UPI), the RBI has announced an increase in transaction limits on UPI123 and UPI Lite. The RBI has increased transaction caps for UPI123Pay and UPI Lite to boost UPI use. The UPI123Pay cap was raised from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000, while UPI Lite's wallet limit is up from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000, and the per-transaction limit is now Rs. 1000.

The RBI also decided to introduce beneficiary account name look-up facility for RTGS and NEFT transactions.

## **RBI to Create Data Repository to Integrate Climate Risk Information**

The RBI has proposed to create a data repository, namely the Reserve Bank – Climate Risk Information System (RB-CRIS), in two parts, to bridge the gap in climate-related data that is currently available in a fragmented manner.

The first part will be a web-based directory, listing various data sources such as meteorological and geospatial, which would be publicly accessible on the RBI's website.

## **Hyundai Announces India's Largest Ever IPO of Over ₹27,000 Crore**

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) has announced India's largest ever initial public offer (IPO) of ₹27,870 crore on Wednesday. Bids for the IPO will be open between October 15 and October 17.

The IPO consists of an offer for sale for 14.2 crore equity shares by the promoter and involves no fresh issue of shares. The proceeds of the offer will be received by the promoter firm. The price band has been fixed between ₹1,865 and ₹1,960 a share.

## **Sports**

### **Asian Table Tennis C'ships: Indian Women's Team Makes History With First-Ever Bronze Medal**

The Indian women's team made history by securing a historical bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. This is the country's

first-ever medal in the women's team category. During the semifinals, India registered a 1-3 loss to Japan, while in the other semifinal, China lost to Hong Kong by 3-0. In this competition, both losing semi-finalists are awarded bronze medals.

### **Women's T20 World Cup: India Beats Sri Lanka**

India registered their biggest-ever margin of victory in Women's T20 World Cup history, beating Sri Lanka by 82 runs in the Group 'A' match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Cricket. Opting to bat first, the Indian women scored 172 runs. Chasing a target of 173 runs, Sri Lanka were all out for 90 runs in 19.5 overs.

### **India Wins 3-Match T20 Series Against Bangladesh**

In men's cricket, India claimed a resounding 86-run victory over Bangladesh in the second T20 International, sealing the three-match series 2-0 with a game to spare. Chasing a target of 222 runs, Bangladesh made 135 for nine wickets in 20 overs. Earlier, after being put into bat, India made 221 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.