

# Weekly One Liners 08th to 14th of January 2024

## Golden Globes Awards 2024: Here is the full list of winners

The **81st Golden Globe Awards** are set to be presented in a lavish event at **The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, USA**. This year's ceremony is anticipated to be highlighted by **Greta Gerwig's widely popular film Barbie** and **Christopher Nolan's hit movie Oppenheimer**. Barbie is at the forefront with nine nominations, including Best Picture Musical or Comedy, and acting nods for Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, along with three nominations for its original songs.

Meanwhile, Oppenheimer has received eight nominations, featuring Best Picture Drama and nominations for actors Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr., and Emily Blunt. In terms of television, Succession leads with nine nominations, including nods for its cast members Brian Cox, Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook, and Kieran Culkin.

### Here's the complete list of Golden Globes Awards 2024

'Oppenheimer' and 'Poor Things' win big at the 81st Golden Globe Awards, while shows 'Succession' and 'The Bear' also made headlines. Check the complete list in tabular form:

Category	Winner
Best Film – Drama	Oppenheimer
Best Actress – Drama	Lily Gladstone, Killers of the Flower Moon
Best Film – Musical or Comedy	Poor Things
Best Actor – Musical or Comedy	Paul Giamatti, The Holdovers
Best TV Series – Drama	Succession
Best Actress in a TV Series – Drama	Sarah Snook, Succession
Best TV Series – Musical or Comedy	The Bear
Best Limited Series, Anthology Series or TV Movie	Beef
Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	Barbie
Best Original Song	What Was I Made For? by Billie Eilish and Finneas (Barbie)
Best Original Score	Ludwig Göransson, Oppenheimer
Best Actor – Drama	Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
Best Actress – Musical or Comedy	Emma Stone, Poor Things
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer
Best Animated Film	The Boy and the Heron
Best Actor in a TV Series – Drama	Kieran Culkin, Succession
Best Actress in a TV Series – Musical or Comedy	Ayo Edebiri, The Bear

Category	Winner
Best Non-English Language Film	Anatomy of a Fall
Best Performance in Stand-Up Comedy on TV	Ricky Gervais, Ricky Gervais Armageddon
Best Actor in a TV Series – Musical or Comedy	Jeremy Allen White, The Bear
Best Screenplay	Justine Triet and Arthur Harari, Anatomy of a Fall
Best Supporting Actor in a TV Series	Matthew Macfadyen, Succession
Best Supporting Actress in a TV Series	Elizabeth Debicki, The Crown
Best Actor in a Limited Series, Anthology Series or TV Movie	Steven Yeun, Beef
Best Actress in a Limited Series, Anthology Series or TV Movie	Ali Wong, Beef
Best Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr, Oppenheimer
Best Supporting Actress	Da'Vine Joy Randolph, The Holdovers

## RBI's Financial Stability Report (FSR) – December 2023: Key Highlights

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released the 28th issue of the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)**, offering a comprehensive evaluation of the Indian financial system's resilience and potential risks. The report, based on the findings of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**, sheds light on both global and domestic economic conditions.

### Key Highlights of FSR Dec 2023

#### Global Economic Challenges:

- The global economy faces multifaceted challenges, including the prospects of slowing growth, elevated public debt, economic fragmentation, and geopolitical conflicts.

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**Resilience of the Indian Economy:**

- Despite global challenges, the Indian economy and financial system exhibit resilience, supported by robust macroeconomic fundamentals, healthy financial institution balance sheets, moderate inflation, improved external sector position, and ongoing fiscal consolidation.

**Commercial Banks' Health:**

- Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) showcase strength with a Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 16.8% and a Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 13.7% in September 2023.
- SCBs' Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio hits a multi-year low at 3.2%, with Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) at 0.8% in September 2023.

**Macro Stress Tests:**

- Stress tests project SCBs' compliance with minimum capital requirements, projecting a system-level CRAR of 14.8%, 13.5%, and 12.2% in September 2024 under baseline, medium, and severe stress scenarios.

**Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs):**

- NBFC sector resilience improves with a CRAR of 27.6%, GNPA ratio at 4.6%, and Return on Assets (RoA) at 2.9% in September 2023.
- High-risk stress scenario in the NBFC sector warrants monitoring due to increased inter-bank exposure, although system failure is not anticipated.

**Credit and Deposit Growth:**

- Credit growth remains robust, and deposit growth gains momentum in the Indian financial system.
- NBFCs contribute significantly to credit growth, particularly in personal loans and loans to the industry, with improved asset quality.

**Concerns and Contagion Risks:**

- Risks in the NBFC sector are assessed to be higher, and contagion risks may increase due to heightened inter-bank exposure.
- Recent risk weight adjustments in retail loan categories may impact NBFC credit growth at sectoral and sub-sectoral levels.

**Overall System Stability:**

- The Indian financial system, while stable, faces heightened global uncertainty, requiring continuous monitoring to detect any undue risk build-up.
- Prudent management of exposures and building financial buffers is emphasized to address potential challenges.

**Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs): Key Characteristics and Role****Characteristics of NBFCs:**

- **Legal Framework:** NBFCs are entities registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

- **Financial Activities:** They engage in diverse financial activities, including loans, advances, and the acquisition of securities.

**Exclusions from Principal Business:**

- **Scope:** NBFCs exclude institutions primarily involved in agriculture, industrial activity, trading, or the purchase/sale of immovable properties.

**Regulatory Oversight:**

- **Primary Regulator:** NBFCs are primarily regulated and governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Additional Oversight:** Some NBFCs may fall under the regulatory purview of other authorities like the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), etc.

**Operational Limitations:**

- **Demand Deposits:** NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
- **Payment and Settlement System:** They are not part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.
- **Deposit Insurance:** Deposit insurance facility is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

**Contribution to Financial Inclusion:**

- **Bridge Gap:** NBFCs play a crucial role in bridging the gap between traditional banks and customers.
- **Access to Credit:** Their presence is significant in areas where traditional banks have limited reach, contributing significantly to financial inclusion and access to credit.

**Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**

- **Establishment:** The FSDC was established in 2010 with the objective of strengthening and institutionalizing mechanisms for maintaining financial stability.
- **Leadership:** The ex-officio chairman of FSDC is the Finance Minister.
- **Mandate:** The council aims to enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote the overall stability and growth of the financial sector in India.

**Financial Stability Report 2023: Key Highlights (June)**

The 27th Financial Stability Report for June 2023, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), outlines the global economic scenario and underscores India's resilience despite prevailing challenges.

**Global Economic Landscape:**

- **Challenges:** Heightened uncertainty globally due to banking fragility, geopolitical tensions, and persistent but moderating inflation.

**Indian Economic Resilience:**

- **Strengths:** India's economy and financial system display resilience, buoyed by robust macroeconomic fundamentals and sustained growth momentum.

- **Positive Indicators:** Current account deficit closure, increased forex reserves, ongoing fiscal consolidation, and a robust financial system contribute to India's sustained growth path.

**Banking System Strength:**

- **Historical Highs:** Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) achieve historic highs in Capital-to-Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 17.1% and Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio at 13.9% in March 2023.
- **Improved Asset Quality:** SCBs witness a 10-year low in Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio at 3.9%, and Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) ratio declines to 1.0% in March 2023.

**Macro Stress Tests:**

- **Capital Adequacy:** SCBs are projected to comply with minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios.
- **System-level CRAR:** March 2024 projections stand at 16.1%, 14.7%, and 13.3% under baseline, medium, and severe stress scenarios, demonstrating resilience.

**EAM S. Jaishankar Boosts India-Nepal Relations in Two-Day Visit**

In a diplomatic triumph, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar concluded his two-day visit to Nepal, solidifying ties through various initiatives and agreements. The pivotal event of the visit was the **7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting**, culminating in a landmark accord for India to import **10,000 MW of hydroelectricity** from Nepal over the next decade.

**1. Key Agreements**

- The 7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting resulted in a significant pact: India will import 10,000 MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal over the next decade.

**2. Reconstruction Aid**

- India announced a financial package of **Nepali Rs 1,000 crore (USD 75 million)** for rebuilding infrastructure in areas affected by the 2015 earthquake.
- Inaugurated jointly by Jaishankar and Nepal's N P Saud, post-quake reconstruction projects include schools, health facilities, and cultural heritage sites.

**3. Transformative Ties**

- Jaishankar highlighted the transformation in India-Nepal relations, emphasizing connectivity in physical, digital, and energy realms as a foundation for collaboration.
- Tribhuvan University Central Library in Kathmandu was inaugurated, symbolizing strengthened people-to-people linkages.

**4. Shared Responsibilities**

- EAM Jaishankar emphasized the shared responsibilities in building ties and commended India's post-2015 earthquake efforts, including funding for 50,000 houses.

**5. Treaty Review**

- Both sides reviewed various aspects of bilateral relations, including the **1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship**, security matters, and boundary-related issues.

**6. The 'HIT' Formula**

- Referring to PM Modi's 2014 visit, Jaishankar recalled the 'HIT' formula for India-Nepal relations: **Highways, Iways (Information ways), and Transways (Connectivity)**.

**7. Power Trade Agreement**

- A long-term power trade agreement was signed, aiming to increase Nepal's power export to India to 10,000 MW within the next 10 years. Currently, Nepal's electricity capacity is around 2,600 MW.

**Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Announced the National Sports Awards 2023**

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2023**, honouring individuals and institutions that have excelled in their respective fields. The awards ceremony, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, witnessed the presentation of various awards to sportspersons, coaches, and entities for their outstanding contributions to sports in the country.

**National Sports Award 2023**

**President Droupadi Murmu** has conferred the **Arjuna Awards** to various sports personalities at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**. The second-highest athletic honour in India, the Arjuna Award, is given for demonstrating leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline along with good performance over the preceding four years.

Several athletes across various sports were selected for the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023, including World Cup star Mohammed Shami, Asian Games heroes Ojas Pravin Deotale, shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Parul Chaudhary. The Sports Ministry in December had declared nominees for the annual sports awards, confirming the prestigious Khel Ratna honour for badminton players Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and the Arjuna award for 26 sports persons.

**Full list of National Sports Awards 2023**

Here is the complete list of winners who got National Sports Awards, for his/her remarkable contribution to their respective sports:

Name	Sport
Mohammed Shami	Cricket
Pawan Sehrawat	Kabaddi
Ritu Negi	Kabaddi
Vaishali Rameshbabu	Chess
Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics
Parul Chaudhary	Athletics
Krishan Bahadur Pathak	Hockey
Sushila Chanu	Hockey
Sunil Kumar	Wrestling
Antim Panghal	Wrestling
Aditi Gopichand Swami	Archery
Ojas Pravin Deotale	Archery
Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis
Mohammad Hussamuddin	Boxing
Esha Singh	Shooting
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting
Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu
Diksha Dagar	Golf
Harinder Pal Sandhu	Squash
Sheetal Devi	Para-Archery
Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian
Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian Dressage
Nasreen Shaikh	Kho-Kho
Pinki Singh	Lawn bowls
Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy	Blind cricket
Prachi Yadav	Para Canoeing

**Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:**

- Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (badminton)

**Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2023:**

- Ganesh Prabhakaran (mallakhamb), Mahavir Saini (para athletics), Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess), Shivendra Singh (hockey).

**Dhyan Chand Lifetime Award**

- Kavita (kabaddi), Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey).

**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:**

- Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (winner),
- Lovely Professional University, Punjab (1st runners-up),
- Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (2nd runners-up).

**Six Nations Top Global Passport Ranking, With Access To 194 Destinations**

In a significant development, **France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain** share the **top spot** in the quarterly ranking of the world's most powerful passports. Enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to an impressive **194 destinations**, this marks a **historic high since the inception of the Henley Passport Index 19 years ago**.

**Triumphant Rise of Europe: Second and Third Positions**

**Japan and Singapore**, holding the top position **for the past five years**, now see a triumphant rise for Europe. **Finland and Sweden, tied with South Korea**, secure the **second spot** with easy access to 193 destinations. Following closely, Austria, Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands claim the third position, providing access to 192 destinations.

**Global Passport Rankings: Fourth and Fifth Positions**

The **fourth position** is collectively held by **Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom**, with access to 193 destinations. **Greece, Malta, and Switzerland** secure the **fifth spot**.

**Noteworthy Improvements: Australia, New Zealand, Czechia, and Poland**

**Australia and New Zealand** have advanced their standings, now sharing the **sixth position** with **Czechia and Poland**. **The United States and Canada, along with Hungary**, are tied in **seventh place**, boasting visa-free access to 188 destinations.

**India's Passport Ranking in 2024: Position 80 with Access to 62 Countries**

**India** secures the **80th position**, with visa-free access to 62 countries. The global passport landscape showcases varying degrees of accessibility, highlighting the significance of diplomatic relations and international cooperation.

**World's Most Powerful Passports for 2024: A Snapshot**

The ranking underscores the evolving dynamics of global travel and the importance of diplomatic ties in facilitating international mobility.

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Rank	Countries	Destinations
1	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain	194
2	Finland, South Korea, Sweden	193
3	Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands	192
4	Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom	193
5	Greece, Malta, Switzerland	190
6	Czech Republic, New Zealand, Poland	189
7	Canada, Hungary, United States	188
8	Estonia, Lithuania	187
9	Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	186
10	Iceland	185

The ranking underscores the evolving dynamics of global travel and the importance of diplomatic ties in facilitating international mobility.

#### Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore and Surat Share Cleanest City Title

In a prestigious ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the **Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023** witnessed President Droupadi Murmu conferring accolades to 13 distinguished awardees across various cleanliness categories.

#### Cleanest City Title: Indore and Surat Joint Winners

Indore, for the remarkable **seventh consecutive time**, secured the cleanest city title. However, this year, it shared the honors with Surat, marking a unique joint victory. The President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the awards at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

#### Top Performers in Other Categories

- **Cities with Population under 1 Lakh:** Sasvad, Patan, and Lonavala claimed the top three spots.
- **Cleanest Cantonment Board:** Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh emerged as the top performer.
- **Cleanest Ganga Towns:** Varanasi and Prayagraj received recognition as the best and cleanest Ganga towns.
- **Best Performing States:** Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh secured the top three awards for their outstanding performance.
- **Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher:** Chandigarh received the award for the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher.

#### Swachh Survekshan 2023 Highlights

- The President launched the **Swachh Survekshan 2023 dashboard** during the ceremony.
- A total of 110 awards were bestowed, celebrating excellence in cleanliness initiatives.
- The theme for the Cleanliness Survey 2024 is **“Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.”**
- The ceremony was attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and other dignitaries.

#### Key Statistics and Achievements

- Data revealed that 4,447 urban local bodies participated in Swachh Survekshan 2023, making it the world’s largest cleanliness survey.
- The survey received an impressive 12 core citizen responses, reflecting widespread public engagement.

#### National Affairs

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced a significant government investment of **Rs 60,000 crore by 2047** in the development of river cruise tourism and eco-friendly vessels. This initiative aims to boost tourism, enhance water transport, and create employment opportunities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India**, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), created history by hosting the **inaugural meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata**. This significant event, spearheaded by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal**, brought together representatives from waterway states, central government officials, and experts aboard the MV Ganga Queen. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Health Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** recently inaugurated ‘**Prasadam**,’ the **nation’s first healthy and hygienic food street**, in a grand ceremony at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Hyderabad’s Begumpet Airport** is set to host the aviation extravaganza, **Wings India 2024, from January 18 to 21**, marking the country’s most significant civil aviation event. Jointly organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Indian Industry (FICCI)**, this four-day biennial spectacle promises to be a showcase of cutting-edge aviation technology and machinery. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- This December, **India’s 43rd Antarctic expedition**, led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, welcomed scientists from **Mauritius and Bangladesh** onboard, marking a significant step in international polar research collaboration. This initiative stems from the maiden **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference** held in 2022, which laid the groundwork for scientific partnerships among member nations. This conference facilitated joint endeavors in oceanographic and hydrographic studies, paving the way for further cooperation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Nashik, Maharashtra**, recently hosted the prestigious **27th National Youth Festival from January 12 to 16, 2024**. This significant event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The festival, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrated youthful talent and skills across the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### States in the News

- The Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, revealed its ambitious vision for the state to achieve a **\$1 trillion economy by 2030** during the **Global Investors Meet** in Chennai on January 7. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Mulugu district of Telangana** has become the stage for an unexpected archaeological revelation following the devastating floods in July 2023. Amidst the aftermath of the natural disaster, a team of amateur historians stumbled upon a **collection of paleolithic quartzite tools** that have not only captivated the local community but also pushed back the understanding of human habitations in Telangana and central India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has recently introduced a comprehensive social welfare scheme named **“Yogyasree.”** The initiative aims to provide free training modules for **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal**, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations. This move comes ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, reflecting the government’s commitment to educational empowerment. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the heart of **Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district**, a unique culinary tradition has thrived for centuries. Locally known as **‘Kai Chutney,’** this savoury delight is crafted using red weaver ants, scientifically identified as **Oecophylla smaragdina**. These ants, infamous for their painful sting, are harvested from the lush forests of Mayurbhanj, including the renowned Similipal forests, Asia’s second-largest biosphere. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chhattisgarh Government will launch the **Ramlala Darshan Scheme**, a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The decision was made during a state cabinet meeting held in Raipur. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Maharashtra government has established a crucial new wildlife habitat in Sangli district, aptly named the **Atpadi Conservation Reserve**. Spanning a compact 9.48 sq. km, this reserve prioritizes the protection of the endangered ‘canid’ family, including wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **27th National Youth Festival in Nashik**, Maharashtra, on January 12th, 2024. This annual event honors the inspiring ideals of Swami Vivekananda and empowers young minds across the nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Naveen Patnaik**, achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of the **Malkangiri airport** in the southwestern region of the state. This strategic initiative is designed to **enhance connectivity and foster development in the tribal-dominated areas**, marking a crucial step forward in the region’s progress. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant stride towards bolstering Gujarat’s infrastructure, the **Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB)** inked an agreement during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, pledging a substantial \$500 million loan to the Gujarat government. This financial infusion is earmarked for the **Mukhayamantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, a pivotal project in the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Government of Maharashtra** has recently declared the establishment of a new Conservation Reserve in the Atpadi region of Sangli district, named the **‘Atpadi Conservation Reserve’**. This significant development is a step forward in the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### International Affairs

- **Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** has been re-elected for a fifth term, marking a significant milestone in the country’s political landscape. The ruling Awami League, under Hasina’s leadership, has triumphed once again, securing more than half of the parliamentary seats. This victory reaffirms Sheikh Hasina’s position as the world’s longest-serving female head of government. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Vietnamese electric vehicle giant **VinFast Auto Ltd** made a significant announcement on Sunday, revealing plans to establish an integrated **electric vehicle facility in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu**. With an eye on breaking into the world’s third-largest automobile market, the automaker confirmed its commitment to invest a staggering **\$2 billion** in the state. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A groundbreaking development in agricultural technology has emerged from the **laboratories of Linkoping University in Sweden**. Scientists have unveiled an **electrically conductive “soil”** engineered to foster exceptional growth in crops, particularly barley seedlings, **marking a potential 50 per cent surge in growth within a mere 15-day period**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tropical Cyclone Alvaro** made landfall in southwest **Madagascar** on January 1st, 2024, marking the first significant cyclone impact on the island nation in the ongoing 2023-2024 cyclone season for the **southwest Indian Ocean region**. This season, spanning late October to May, has brought unprecedented challenges to the region, with Alvaro being the latest cyclone to wreak havoc. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political move by appointing **Gabriel Attal as the new prime minister of France**. At 34 years old, Attal not only becomes the youngest prime minister in the country’s history but also the **first openly gay official to hold this prestigious position**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The United States, led by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, has identified several nations as **'Countries of Particular Concern'** due to severe violations of religious freedom. This decision aligns with the **International Religious Freedom Act of 1998**, emphasizing the commitment to advancing freedom of religion globally. **China, North Korea, Pakistan, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Myanmar** have been labeled as 'Countries of Particular Concern.' Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam are placed on the 'Special Watch List' for tolerating severe religious freedom violations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Singapore's Changi Airport** has once again been crowned the **World's Best Airport for the year 2023**, according to the prestigious awards presented by the air transport research firm, Skytrax. After losing the title in the past two years to Qatar's Hamad International Airport, Changi Airport reclaimed its status as the best in the world, marking the **twelfth time** it has received this coveted accolade. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)** declared that the year gone by was the hottest on record, significantly surpassing previous temperatures and potentially marking the **warmest period in the last 100,000 years**. The announcement sheds light on the alarming trajectory of global warming, with each passing month breaking climate records and raising concerns about the consequences for the planet. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant political development, Bhutanese voters have overwhelmingly chosen **Tshering Tobgay as their Prime Minister for a second term**. The **People's Democratic Party (PDP)**, led by Mr. Tobgay, secured a landslide victory, winning nearly two-thirds of the seats in the recent election, as announced by the election commission on January 10. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **South Korea's parliament** made history by passing a groundbreaking bill that **bans the eating and selling of dog meat**. This move marks the end of a centuries-old practice that has been increasingly criticized in the face of growing support for animal welfare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and Maldivian President **Mohamed Muizzu** recently held significant talks, culminating in the signing of **20 key agreements** that span various areas of cooperation. The leaders announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, demonstrating the mutual commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations between the two nations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China** has recently sent a groundbreaking astronomical satellite named **Einstein Probe (EP)** into space on a mission to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe. The satellite, **shaped like a lotus in full bloom**, employs innovative **X-ray detection technology** inspired by

**the functioning of a lobster eye**. Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, this mission marks a significant step in unraveling the secrets of the cosmos. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **New Zealand's** veteran pace bowler **Tim Southee** has created history by becoming the first bowler to take **150 wickets in T20 Internationals**. This milestone was achieved during a T20 match against Pakistan, where New Zealand secured a convincing victory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has granted approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Republic of Guyana**. This MoU aims to **foster collaboration in the hydrocarbon sector**, covering various aspects of the value chain. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**, a leading engineering institute in India, is set to expand its horizons by establishing a new campus in **Kandy, Sri Lanka**. This move is a significant development in educational collaboration between India and **Sri Lanka**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant diplomatic move, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** and British Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** signed an unprecedented **security agreement** between their nations in **Kyiv**. The accord, as described by Zelenskiy, holds immense importance for Ukraine's security and signifies a robust alliance with the United Kingdom. The signed security accord is poised to remain **in effect until Ukraine becomes a member of NATO**, marking a strategic commitment between the two nations. Zelenskiy emphasized the historical significance of the agreement, underlining its potential impact on Ukraine's defense capabilities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Books and Authors**

- **General Manoj Mukund Naravane**, the former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled **“Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.”** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **General V.K. Singh (Retd.)**, Union Ministers of State (MoS), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) released the book **‘Sanskriti ke Ayaam’** authored by **Manorama Mishra.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**, heading the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), has recently unveiled an insightful book titled **“Modi: Energising A Green Future”**. This book, a significant addition to environmental literature, is published by Pentagon Press in collaboration with the **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, one of India’s leading energy exploration and production companies, achieved a significant milestone on January 7 by commencing the **first oil production from the deep-water KG-DWN 98/2 Block.** Located in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin off the Bay of Bengal on the **Kakinada coast**, this development marks a crucial step forward in India’s energy landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A recent report by **CBRE-CREDAI** sheds light on the landscape of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, revealing noteworthy trends and state-wise contributions. As of December 2023, the country boasts over 3 crore registered MSMEs, with **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh** jointly constituting nearly 40% of this vibrant sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, IndusInd Bank has launched the UPI-enabled **‘Samman RuPay Credit Card,’** exclusively tailored for government sector employees. This initiative aligns with the recent RBI permission allowing RuPay credit cards to integrate with UPI payment applications. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a positive development, **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** witnessed a nearly one percent surge in early trade on January 10, following the green light from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a finance company within **Gujarat’s GIFT City**, an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has sealed a significant media rights partnership with Viacom18, spanning the four-year period from 2023 to 2027. This exclusive agreement encompasses all FIH events, with the exception of the FIH Nations Cup. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a recent regulatory filing, **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** announced its board’s approval to acquire up to 10% stake in a new company promoted by the **National Housing Bank (NHB).** The investment is targeted towards residential mortgage-backed securities and will be made through equity contribution in one or more tranches. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The World Bank** reveals a surprising resilience in the global economy, though shadows loom over the future, anticipating a **third consecutive year of slowdown** in 2024. After a robust rebound to 6.2% in 2021, global growth waned to 3.0% in 2022 and further to 2.6% in 2023. Projections indicate a continued deceleration to 2.4% in 2024 before a modest recovery to 2.7% in 2025, notably below the 3.1% average of the 2010s. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The semiconductor industry in India is witnessing a significant boost as **Simmtech**, a South Korean firm, announced its plans to set up a manufacturing plant in **Sanand, Gujarat.** With an investment of Rs 1,250 crore, Simmtech aims to contribute to the creation of a **robust semiconductor ecosystem in the state.** This development was disclosed by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav, during the ongoing Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards fostering rural development and financial inclusion, the **Rural Development Ministry** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)** have joined hands through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The primary objective of this collaboration is **to streamline and facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs),** as announced in an official statement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced the UPI-PayNow linkage, facilitating direct remittances between India and Singapore. This collaboration, a result of close coordination between the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS),** aims to enhance financial inclusion and convenience in cross-border transactions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government has recently announced the **extension of the tenure of Michael Debabrata Patra as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for an additional year.** This marks the second time the government has decided to prolong his tenure, showcasing confidence in his leadership and expertise in steering critical departments within the RBI. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- **Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL)**, on January 12, revealed its plans to acquire a 100% stake in Capital Foods, renowned for brands such as **'Ching's Secret' and 'Smith & Jones,'** for a substantial ₹5,100 crore. The strategic acquisition is structured in phases, with an initial 75% equity shareholding secured upfront and the remaining 25% to be acquired over the next three years. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a recent announcement on January 12, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disclosed monetary penalties imposed on **Dhanlaxmi Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, and ESAF Small Finance Bank.** The move is part of the central bank's enforcement actions against rule violations in the banking sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India witnessed a sharp decline in its outward **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** commitments, dropping to \$2.25 billion in December 2023, as revealed by data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marks a significant downturn from the over \$4.12 billion recorded in December 2022 and a sequential decrease from \$4.0 billion in November 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- State Bank of India (SBI), the largest bank in the country, has introduced a special fixed deposit scheme known as the **SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD).** This initiative aims to gather funds dedicated to supporting environmentally-friendly projects, contributing to the development of a green finance ecosystem in India. The launch aligns with the government's ambitious goal of achieving net carbon neutrality by 2070. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, Walmart-owned fintech firm **PhonePe** has appointed **Ritesh Pai** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its international payments business.** This development aligns with India's ambition to globalize the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), attracting interest from countries like Japan, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, France, and the United Kingdom. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a recent bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre has announced several key appointments, signifying a strategic realignment of responsibilities. Among the notable changes, Senior IAS officer **Samir Kumar Sinha** has been appointed as **Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Indian government has named IAS officer **Senthil Pandian C** as the **ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva.** This appointment follows the conclusion of **Brajendra Navnit's term as India's ambassador to the WTO on March 31, 2024.** ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, **Sheel Vardhan Singh**, the former Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), has been appointed as a **member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).** The decision was conveyed through a personnel ministry order, marking a notable milestone in Singh's distinguished career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, India's premier ports and logistics company, has announced significant changes in its leadership structure, marking a new era in its corporate journey. APSEZ has promoted its **CEO Karan Adani** to the role of Managing Director. This move signifies a shift in responsibilities, with Karan Adani stepping into a role previously held by **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the Adani Group. Gautam Adani will now serve as the 'Executive Chairman' of APSEZ, reflecting a focus on strategic oversight and global growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, **Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey**, a seasoned diplomat from India, officially assumed the role of **Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).** This appointment marks a crucial chapter in the organization's leadership, with Ambassador Pandey succeeding Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rear Admiral Upal Kundu**, an esteemed alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, has recently taken over as the **Chief of Staff at the Southern Naval Command (SNC).** This seasoned naval officer brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, particularly in anti-submarine warfare (ASW). ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- **India's headline retail inflation** surged to a **four-month high of 5.69% in December**, disclosed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on January 12. Despite exceeding November's 5.55%, it fell short of economists' 5.9% prediction. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) showcased a month-on-month decrease of 0.3%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Experian**, a global leader in information services, has appointed **Manish Jain** as the Country Managing Director for its operations in India. This appointment marks a significant step in the company's efforts to strengthen its leadership team and expand its market presence in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Defence News

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India**, in a significant advancement, introduced **'Ugram,' an advanced 7.62 x 51 mm calibre assault rifle**. This rifle, embodying a blend of indigenous design, development, and production, was unveiled in Pune by Dr. Shailendra V. Gade, Director General of Armament and Combat Engineering Systems at the DRDO. This development marks a key achievement in collaboration with the private sector, specifically with Hyderabad-based Dvipa Armour India Private Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** marked its presence in the Pacific, on **January 9th, 2024**, with the arrival of a **P-8I aircraft at Guam, USA**. This deployment signals the navy's participation in the fourth edition of **Ex Sea Dragon 24**, an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise spearheaded by the US Navy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has embarked on a crucial **three-day visit to London**, emphasizing the multifaceted dimensions of the **India-UK Defence Partnership**. The visit aims to foster high-level discussions covering a broad spectrum of defence, security, and industrial cooperation issues between the two nations. Accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Defence, Singh's itinerary includes meetings with top UK officials, industry leaders, and engagements with the Indian diaspora. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian Navy** has recently acquired its first indigenous **medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, the Drishti 10 Starliner unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)**. This marks a significant development in enhancing the navy's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. Manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace in collaboration with Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems, the drone offers versatility and advanced features. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- In a significant step towards modernization and operational efficiency, the **Indian Army has declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."** This move underscores the Army's commitment to leveraging technology as a catalyst for transformative change, enhancing operational and logistic capabilities through in-house expertise, and working in collaboration with the domestic defence industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The Indian and Japanese Coast Guards** have recently conducted a successful joint exercise named **'Sahyog Kaijin'** off the coast of Chennai. This exercise is a part of the ongoing collaboration between the two countries under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in 2006. The joint exercise, which commenced on January 8, focused on enhancing interoperability and sharing best practices in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and pollution response at sea. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the **New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile**. The test, conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, showcased the system's capability to intercept high-speed unmanned aerial targets at very low altitudes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has recently unveiled the recipients of the prestigious **'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar'** for the year **2023**. These awards are a testament to the commendable contributions made by corporate entities, Sports Control Boards, NGOs, and sports bodies at the State and National levels towards the promotion and development of sports in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR)**, located in Hyderabad, has recently been awarded the prestigious Platinum certification by the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** under its **Green Campus Rating program**. This accomplishment highlights NICMAR Hyderabad's commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly practices in its campus operations and infrastructure. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a heart-touching ceremony, **President Draupadi Murmu** posthumously conferred the prestigious **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** upon **Savita Kanswal**. The award, presented to her father Radheshyam Kanswal, is a testament to Savita's exceptional achievements in the field of mountaineering. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Summits and Conferences News**

- At the **Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024**, Denmark unveiled the **Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI)**, a pivotal initiative under the **Green Strategic Partnership (GSP)** signed between India and Denmark in 2020. The GFAI aims to accelerate collaboration in the sustainable energy solutions sector, aligning with the joint global objective of carbon neutrality. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous event, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show** in Gandhinagar, alongside esteemed guests including President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, President José Ramos-Horta of Timor Leste, and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel. The grand affair, held at Mahatma Mandir, is a precursor to the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic milestone for India, the nation is set to chair the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024**. This significant announcement was made by Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, on January 9, underlining the nation's growing influence and commitment to global cultural and natural heritage conservation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous event, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated '**Indus Food 2024**' at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida. Commending India's diverse food industry, Goyal emphasized its global potential and underscored the need for technological innovation in the culinary landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Gensol Engineering**, a prominent player in the sustainable energy sector, has embarked on a significant venture by entering into a strategic partnership with the **Government of Gujarat**. This collaboration is a pivotal step towards advancing the country's journey towards a sustainable future. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formalized as part of the investment promotion activities associated with the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024**, signifying a landmark agreement between the two entities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- During the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit**, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined ambitious projections for India's economic growth. Currently the world's fifth-largest economy at USD 3.4 trillion, India aims to become the third-largest by 2027-28, reaching a GDP of over USD 5 trillion. Sitharaman expressed confidence that even with conservative estimates, India's economy could soar to USD 30 trillion by 2047. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Ranks and Reports**

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** warns of a slight increase in global unemployment this year, with the rate projected to reach 5.2%, up from 5.1% in 2023. This modest rise, outlined in the ILO's "World Employment and Social Outlook Trends: 2024" report, is primarily driven by job losses in advanced economies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Hyderabad**, the capital city of Telangana, achieved a significant milestone by **securing the ninth position** in cleanliness among cities with a **population exceeding one lakh** in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023. Additionally, **Siddipet**, a city in Telangana, proudly clinched the national award for being the **cleanest city in south India** within the 50,000-1 lakh population category. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Sports News**

- **Germany** beat top seeds **Poland** to clinch the United Cup on Sunday after **Alexander Zverev** and **Laura Siegemund** won the deciding mixed doubles tie over Hubert Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek. **The United Cup** final delivered a spectacle of tennis prowess, determination, and sportsmanship, leaving fans on the edge of their seats until the last point was played. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic moment for Indian sports, the accomplished equestrian athlete, **Divyakriti Singh**, has been conferred with the prestigious **Arjuna Award**, making her the first woman from Rajasthan to achieve this honour. The award was presented in a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Asian Shooting Championships 2024** in Jakarta, Indonesia, **Rhythm Sangwan** secured a **bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event**, obtaining a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India. This accomplishment marked **India's 16th shooting quota** for the upcoming Olympics, surpassing the previous record tally of 15 set for the Tokyo 2020 Games. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **9th Asian Winter Games**, set to illuminate the winter sports landscape in 2025, have officially entered an exciting phase with the unveiling of its core symbols – the slogan, emblem, and mascots. Embracing the spirit of unity and sportsmanship, the official slogan "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia" resonates deeply with the ethos of the Games. The heart and soul of the Games are personified in its mascots, "Binbin" and "Nini", two charming Siberian tiger cubs. The official emblem, aptly named "Breakthrough", is a creative masterpiece blending Chinese cultural elements with Olympic symbols. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India's young wrestling sensation, **Aman Sehrawat**, set the stage on fire at the **Zagreb Open 2024** by winning a **gold medal in the 57 kg category of the men's singles event**. The 20-year-old wrestler demonstrated his prowess by defeating China's Zou Wanhao 10-0 in the final, securing victory by technical superiority. This impressive win marked a stellar beginning for Sehrawat in the year 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant move to promote ethical practices in higher education, the **University Grants Commission (UGC) of India** has introduced **Mulya Pravah 2.0**. This new guideline comes as a response to surveys that highlighted unethical practices such as favouritism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination within various educational organizations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **ANUBHAV Awards Scheme**, initiated by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW)**, is an innovative platform for recognizing the contributions made by retired officials to nation-building during their tenure in government service. Launched in 2015 under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the scheme is a step towards documenting India's administrative history through written narratives by retired Central Government employees. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- In a monumental achievement, the **Peregrine-1 lunar lander**, operated by private firm Astrobotic, successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, marking the first American lunar mission in 51 years. Scheduled to land on February 23, the mission, conducted under **NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative**, aims to study the Moon's surface environment in preparation for upcoming human missions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Microsoft India** has unveiled the '**AI Odyssey**' initiative, aiming to train **100,000 Indian developers** in the latest AI technologies. Emphasizing AI as the future of innovation, Microsoft underscores India's leadership in tech talent. The program seeks to equip developers with skills essential for executing AI projects aligning with business goals. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries** has achieved a significant milestone in space exploration and national security with the successful launch of an **H-IIA rocket carrying Japan's Information-Gathering Satellite "Optical-8"**. This event marks a key development in Japan's aerospace capabilities and strategic surveillance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Important Days News

- Every year, **Earth's Rotation Day** is celebrated on **January 8**, and this year, the special day falls on a Monday. It's a day dedicated to recognizing the pivotal discovery of Earth's rotation on its axis. The concept of Earth's rotation dates back to ancient **Greece in 470 BC**. However, it wasn't until **1851 that French physicist Léon Foucault** provided concrete proof with his famous pendulum experiment. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The African National Congress (ANC)**, a pivotal force in South Africa's history, celebrates its **Foundation Day on January 8**, commemorating its establishment in **1912**. This day marks the ANC's enduring commitment to uniting African people and defending their rights and freedoms. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**, also known as **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day**, holds a significant place in the Indian calendar. Celebrated on **January 9**, it serves as a tribute to the contributions and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day also marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915, symbolizing the leadership that fueled India's freedom struggle. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **January 10th**, the world celebrates **World Hindi Day**, a day dedicated to recognizing the cultural significance and global influence of the Hindi language. It's a time to appreciate the richness of this language and its role in connecting diverse communities across the globe. In 2024, the theme of the World Hindi Day is "Hindi-Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence". ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, observed annually on **January 11**, serves as a poignant reminder of the need to address this global crisis and bring an end to the suffering endured by victims. In **2007, the United States Senate declared January 11 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**. **President Barack Obama further dedicated the entire month of January 2010** to raise awareness about this deeply rooted issue. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- January 11, 2024**, marks the **58th death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri**, the **second Prime Minister of India**. A man of simplicity, integrity, and dedication, Shastri's tenure left an indelible mark on the nation's history. As we reflect on his life and legacy, it's essential to remember the significant contributions he made to India's progress and the ideals he stood for. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, is set to orchestrate the **Startup India Innovation Week 2024**, spanning from **January 10th to January 18th**. This week-long initiative seeks to unite startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and stakeholders to celebrate and advance the Indian Startup Ecosystem, culminating in the National Startup Day on January 16th, 2024. Theme: 'Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential'.
- **National Road Safety Week**, a crucial initiative in India, is observed annually from **January 11 to 17**. The 2024 observance marks the **35th year** of this vital campaign. Aimed at raising awareness about road safety, this week-long event plays a significant role in educating citizens about responsible driving, pedestrian safety, and the need for improved road infrastructure. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **National Youth Day** observed every year on **January 12th in India**, is not just a day of celebration but a day of inspiration and reflection on the teachings and ideals of one of the greatest spiritual leaders and philosophers of India, **Swami Vivekananda**. **Swami Vivekananda, born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata**, was a key figure in the introduction of Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. He is best known for his stirring speech at the **1893 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago**, where he introduced Hinduism to the Western audience. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- **Franz Beckenbauer**, one of only three men to have won the **FIFA World Cup** as a player and as a manager, has died at the age of 78. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Indian classical music world mourns the passing of **Ustad Rashid Khan**, a towering figure who left an indelible mark on the **Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana and beyond**. At just 55, this musical prodigy succumbed to complications arising from prostate cancer, leaving a legacy that resonates with profound beauty and innovative spirit. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **German actor Christian Oliver**, known for his roles in films like Speed Racer and Valkyrie, met an untimely demise in a plane crash in the Caribbean. The 51-year-old actor, whose real name was Christian Klepser, was accompanied by his two daughters, Madita, 10, and Annik, 12. The **ill-fated flight was en route to St Lucia** after departing from the nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- **Kyrgyzstan**, a country nestled in the heart of Central Asia, has **officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol**, signifying a profound commitment to conservation and ecological balance. **President Sadyr Zhaparov**, through a signed decree, emphasized the snow leopard's role not only as a symbol of natural wealth and cultural prosperity but also as a vital indicator of the stability and health of the mountain ecosystems that cover a substantial portion of the global territory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, **Delhi's per capita income** surged by over 14%, reaching Rs 4,44,768 in the current fiscal year. The latest **Statistical Handbook-2023**, released by the Economic and Statistics department of the Delhi government, highlights the capital's outstanding socio-economic progress. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **International Purple Fest – Goa 2024**, India's inaugural inclusive festival for persons with disabilities, kicked off today and is set to captivate audiences until January 13. The festival, organized by the Office of the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, and supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, showcases unity and diversity in a spectacular display. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kerala teenager **Suchetha Satish** achieved a remarkable feat by setting a **Guinness World Record** during her performance at the 'Concert for Climate' in **Dubai** on November 24, 2023. Singing in an astounding **140 languages**, she captivated the audience and earned widespread acclaim for her musical prowess. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Ganga Sagar Mela** stands as a testament to the vibrant cultural and spiritual tapestry of India. Held annually in **Sagarwip, West Bengal**, this magnificent fair has earned the distinction of being the **second most popular mela** in the country, surpassed only by the revered **Kumbh Mela**. The festival draws a massive influx of devotees who converge to partake in rituals, seek spiritual purification, and celebrate with immense fervor. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



**Static Takeaways**

**List of 8 Wonders of the World**

S.No.	Wonder	Location	Description	Notable Features
1.	Great Wall of China	China	An extensive wall built to protect the Chinese states against invasions. Spanning over 13,000 miles, it's the largest man-made structure in the world.	Ancient defensive architecture
2.	Chichen Itza	Mexico	A complex of Mayan ruins famous for the Kukulcan Pyramid (El Castillo). This site exemplifies the Mayan-Toltec civilization in the Yucatán.	Mesoamerican pyramids, architecture
3.	Petra	Jordan	An archaeological city known for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Famous for the Al-Khazneh temple and its Hellenistic facades.	Nabatean architecture, historical significance
4.	Machu Picchu	Peru	An Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains with sophisticated dry-stone walls. Known for its historical connection with Inca civilization.	Inca architecture, panoramic views
5.	Christ the Redeemer	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	A towering statue of Jesus Christ atop the Corcovado Mountain, known for its Art Deco style. It's a symbol of Christianity and a cultural icon of both Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.	Symbol of peace and Christianity
6.	The Colosseum	Rome, Italy	An ancient Roman amphitheater, known for its vast scale and is considered one of the greatest architectural feats of the Roman Empire.	Roman architecture, historical importance
7.	Taj Mahal	Agra, India	A white marble mausoleum built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife. It's celebrated for its architectural magnificence and aesthetic beauty.	Mughal architecture, symbol of love
8.	Angkor Wat	Cambodia	A temple complex and the largest religious monument in the world. Originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu, it was transformed into a Buddhist temple in the 14th century.	Hindu-Buddhist architecture, archaeological site

