

Weekly One Liners 15th to 21st of January 2024

Emmys Awards 2024, Complete List Of Winners

The **Emmy Awards 2024** marked another spectacular event in television history, celebrating outstanding achievements in the TV industry. The **Emmy Awards 2024** ceremony showcased the best and brightest in television. With many shows vying for the top honours, the event was a testament to contemporary television's diverse and dynamic nature. HBO's "Succession" led the nominations, indicating the show's significant impact on audiences and critics alike. **This is the**

75th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Anthony Anderson, the veteran actor who spent several years as the star of ABC's "black-ish," scored several laughs and appreciative applause as he started his hosting gig at the 75th Emmy Awards.

[Here's the complete List of Emmys Awards 2024](#)

The **Emmy Awards 2024** was a night of celebration for television excellence. This year's ceremony saw a wide array of talent and shows recognized for their remarkable contributions to the industry. Below is a comprehensive overview of the winners across various categories.

Category	Winner(s)
Drama Series	Succession
Comedy Series	The Bear
Lead Actress in a Drama Series	Sarah Snook (Succession)
Lead Actor in a Drama Series	Kieran Culkin (Succession)
Limited or Anthology Series	Beef
Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Ali Wong (Beef)
Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Steven Yeun (Beef)
Variety Special (Live)	Elton John Live: Farewell from Dodger Stadium
Directing for a Drama Series	Mark Mylod (Succession)
Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Lee Sung Jin (Beef)
Writing for a Drama Series	Jesse Armstrong (Succession)
Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Paul Walter Hauser (Black Bird)
Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Lee Sung Jin (Beef)
Talk Series	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
Writing for a Variety Series	Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
Outstanding Competition Program	RuPaul's Drag Race
Writing for a Comedy Series	Christopher Storer (The Bear)
Directing for a Comedy Series	Christopher Storer (The Bear)
Supporting Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Niecy Nash-Betts (Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story)
Scripted Variety Series	Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
Lead Actor in a Comedy Series	Jeremy Allen White (The Bear)
Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series	Ebon Moss-Bachrach (The Bear)
Supporting Actor in a Drama Series	Matthew Macfadyen (Succession)
Supporting Actress in a Drama Series	Jennifer Coolidge (The White Lotus)
Lead Actress in a Comedy Series	Quinta Brunson (Abbott Elementary)
Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series	Ayo Edebiri (The Bear)

ICC Players of the Month for December 2023, Pat Cummins and Deepti Sharma Shine

The cricketing world witnessed outstanding performances in December 2023, and the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** duly recognized the brilliance of **Australia's Pat Cummins and India's Deepti Sharma**. In a month that showcased cricketing prowess across formats, Cummins and Sharma stood out,

earning the prestigious **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards**.

1. Pat Cummins: A Bowling Maestro

Australia's skipper, Pat Cummins, capped off a stellar year with the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December. Cummins played a pivotal role in Australia's Test series triumph against Pakistan, displaying exceptional leadership and bowling prowess.

- **Dominant Test Series Performance:** Cummins led from the front in Australia’s Test series victory over Pakistan, contributing significantly to their successful campaign in 2023.
- **Inspiring Melbourne Spell:** The highlight of Cummins’ month came in the second Test against Pakistan in Melbourne, where he showcased his bowling mastery by taking ten wickets. His crucial five-for in the second innings, including the prized wicket of Mohammed Rizwan, secured a dramatic victory for Australia.
- **Accolades and Nominations:** Cummins, who played a key role in Australia winning the World Test Championship and the Men’s Cricket World Cup in 2023, is now nominated for the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy in the ICC Awards 2023.

2. Deepti Sharma: Multi-Format Brilliance

India’s Deepti Sharma made history by winning her maiden ICC Women’s Player of the Month award for December. Sharma’s exceptional performances across all three formats, especially against England and Australia, earned her this well-deserved recognition.

- **T20I and Test Brilliance:** Sharma began the month with solid contributions in T20Is against England, setting the stage for a remarkable Test performance. In the Test against England, she scored 67 runs and showcased her bowling prowess with a stunning nine-wicket haul.
- **Test Triumph Against Australia:** Deepti continued her exceptional run in the Test against Australia, top-scoring with a crucial 78 runs, contributing significantly to India’s eight-wicket victory.
- **Consistent ODI Performances:** The subsequent ODI matches against Australia witnessed more brilliance from Sharma, including a remarkable five-for in one encounter.

US Leads 2024 Military Rankings, India Fourth, Bhutan Ranks Lowest

The **Global Firepower’s Military Strength Rankings for 2024** offer a comprehensive assessment of military capabilities worldwide. The rankings, encompassing 145 countries, take into account more than 60 factors, including troop numbers, military equipment, financial stability, geographic location, and available resources. The culmination of these factors results in a PowerIndex score, providing a nuanced perspective on global military strength.

Top 10 Most Powerful Militaries

The top 10 countries with the most powerful militaries in the world, according to Global Firepower’s rankings for 2024, are as follows:

Sno.	Country	Power Index
1	United States	0.0699
2	Russia	0.0702
3	China	0.0706
4	India	0.1023
5	South Korea	0.1416
6	United Kingdom	0.1443
7	Japan	0.1601
8	Turkey	0.1697
9	Pakistan	0.1711
10	Italy	0.1863

These rankings reflect the culmination of various factors, showcasing the strengths and capabilities of each nation’s military.

10 Countries with the Least Powerful Militaries

In contrast, the report also highlights the countries with the least powerful militaries, emphasizing the diversity of global military capabilities. The bottom 10 countries in the rankings for 2024 are:

Sno.	Country
145	Bhutan
144	Moldova
143	Suriname
142	Somalia
141	Benin
140	Liberia
139	Belize
138	Sierra Leone
137	Central African Republic
136	Iceland

Understanding the challenges these nations face and the factors contributing to their lower military rankings provides insight into the complex dynamics of global security.

A blue promotional card for SBI Clerk Mains preparation. It features the SBI logo at the top right, the text 'SBI Clerk Mains 90+ Total Tests | ebooks' in the center, and 'Test Series' at the bottom. There are also some faint icons of books and a checkmark.

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024 recognized the most exceptional talents in football. Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati emerged as the best players, with several others receiving prestigious honours. The ceremony, held in London, celebrated players, coaches, and teams for their achievements in the 2023 season.

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024: Key Winners and Highlights

1. Men’s Player of the Year: Lionel Messi

- Lionel Messi, playing for Argentina and Inter Miami, won the Best FIFA Men’s Player award, edging out Erling Haaland in a tiebreaker.
- Messi and Haaland both scored 48 points, but Messi received more points from national captains.
- Messi is the first footballer to win this award three times.

2. Women’s Player of the Year: Aitana Bonmati

- Aitana Bonmati, from Barcelona and the Spanish national team, claimed the Best FIFA Women’s Player award.
- Bonmati had an extraordinary year, winning the World Cup, Spanish League, Spanish Super Cup, and the Champions League with Barcelona.
- She made history by winning all the titles she contested in a season and being voted the best player in all of them.

3. Men’s Coach of the Year: Pep Guardiola

- Pep Guardiola, the coach of Manchester City, was named the Best Men’s Coach.
- Under his leadership, Manchester City achieved a historic treble, including their first Champions League.

4. Women’s Coach of the Year: Sarina Wiegman

- England coach Sarina Wiegman received the women’s best coach award, tying the record for most wins in this category.

5. Men’s and Women’s Goalkeeper of the Year: Ederson and Mary Earps

- Ederson, from Manchester City and Brazil, was awarded the Best Men’s Goalkeeper.
- Mary Earps, representing Manchester United and England, won the Best Women’s Goalkeeper award.

6. FIFA Puskas Award: Guilherme Madruga

- Guilherme Madruga, from Botafogo-SP, won the FIFA Puskas Award 2023 for his spectacular overhead kick.

7. FIFA Special and Fair Play Awards

- Brazilian football legend Marta received The FIFA Special Award.
- The Brazil men’s national team earned the FIFA Fair Play award for their stand against racism.

8. FIFA Fan Award

- The FIFA Fan Award 2023 went to Argentinian fan Hugo Daniel “Toto” Iniguez.

FIFA FIFPro World 11s

Men’s World XI:

- Goalkeeper: Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid/Belgium)
- Defenders: Kyle Walker, Ruben Dias, John Stones (all Manchester City)
- Midfielders and Forwards: Bernardo Silva, Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City), Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid), Lionel Messi (Inter Miami), Erling Haaland (Manchester City), Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain), Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid).

Women’s World XI:

- Goalkeeper: Mary Earps (Manchester United/England)
- Defenders: Olga Carmona (Real Madrid), Lucy Bronze (Barcelona), Alex Greenwood (Manchester City)
- Midfielders: Kiera Walsh (Barcelona), Alessia Russo (Arsenal), Lauren James (Chelsea).

PM Modi Unveils Ram Mandir Stamps: A Historic Moment in Indian Culture

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** recently launched a series of **commemorative postage stamps** dedicated to **Ayodhya’s Ram Temple**, marking a significant cultural event in India. This gesture not only honours the Ram Temple but also emphasizes the international appeal of Lord Ram across various societies.

Overview of the Commemorative Stamps

Design and Elements

- The collection comprises six distinct stamps, each featuring key figures and symbols associated with Lord Ram’s narrative, including the **Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri**.
- The designs incorporate essential elements related to Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, showcasing the temple, the revered **Choupai ‘Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari,’ the sun, the Saryu River,** and the sculptures in and around the temple.
- Each stamp is adorned with gold leaf detailing for the sun rays and the Choupai, adding a majestic touch.

Global Appeal

- The launch includes a 48-page book featuring stamps issued by over 20 countries, such as the **US, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, Cambodia,** and organizations like the **United Nations**.
- This collection is intended to showcase Lord Ram’s global popularity and influence across different societies.

Cultural Significance

- The stamps reflect the five physical elements of nature — **sky, air, fire, earth, and water, known as ‘Panchabhutas.’**
- These designs establish harmony and are symbolic of the universal principles that Lord Ram represents.

Ram Mandir: A Symbol of Faith and Unity

The Ram Mandir, located in Ayodhya, holds immense religious and cultural significance in India. The temple is dedicated to Lord Ram, a major deity in Hinduism and a central figure in the Indian epic Ramayana. The construction and consecration of the Ram Mandir have been long-awaited events, celebrated by millions across the nation and the world.

Pran Pratishtha Ceremony

- The Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Mandir is a monumental event, with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest**.
- Over 7,000 attendees, including politicians, celebrities, industrialists, and saints, are expected to participate in this historic ceremony.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024, Full List Of Winners

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 was declared, with the awards set to be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a formal event at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on January 22.

This year, 19 children from various parts of the country have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. The Ministry of Women and Child Development revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will engage with the recipients on January 23. Additionally, these children will be featured in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2024.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024, Full List Of Winners

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees include one child each in the fields of Bravery, Science & Technology, and Innovation; four in Social Service; five in Sports; and seven in Art and Culture. The group, as per the Ministry's press release, consists of 9 boys and 10 girls from 18 different States and Union Territories.

Sr.No.	Name	State	Category
1	Aaditya Vijay Bramhane (posthumous)	Maharashtra	Bravery
2	Anushka Pathak	Uttar Pradesh	Art & Culture
3	Arijeet Banerjee	West Bengal	Art & Culture
4	Armaan Ubhrani	Chattisgarh	Art & Culture
5	Hetvi Kantibhai Khimsuriya	Gujarat	Art & Culture
6	Ishfaq Hamid	Jammu & Kashmir	Art & Culture
7	Md Hussain	Bihar	Art & Culture
8	Pendyala Laxmi Priya	Telangana	Art & Culture
9	Suhani Chauhan	Delhi	Innovation
10	Aryan Singh	Rajasthan	Science & Technology
11	Avnish Tiwari	Madhya Pradesh	Social Service
12	Garima	Haryana	Social Service
13	Jyotsna Aktar	Tripura	Social Service
14	Saiyam Mazumder	Assam	Social Service
15	Aaditya Yadav	Uttar Pradesh	Sports
16	Charvi A	Karnataka	Sports
17	Jesicca Neyi Saring	Arunachal Pradesh	Sports
18	Linthoi Chanambam	Manipur	Sports
19	R Surya Prasad	Andhra Pradesh	Sports

National Affairs

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurates the new campus of the **National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN)** at Palasamudram in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district. The event is scheduled for January 16, marking a significant development in the region's educational infrastructure. NACIN, spread over 500 acres, is dedicated to capacity building in indirect taxation and narcotics control administration. This national-level, world-class training institute will train officials from the Indian Revenue Service (Custom & Indirect Taxes), central allied services, state governments, and partner nations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for **five lithium blocks in Argentina**, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022. India has taken a crucial step towards reducing its ₹24,000 crore lithium import dependency, primarily sourced from China. The deal finalized between **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** and **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)**, an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**, inaugurated the **5th Edition of the Meghalaya Games** in Tura, Meghalaya. In her address, the President highlighted the tremendous potential for the development of sports and sportspersons in the North East region, citing its rich tradition of a strong sports culture. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India is set to **launch a year-long festival**, seeking global connections through the celebration of Ramayan and its cultural significance. Coinciding with the Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration, it marks the commencement of a cultural extravaganza **uniting the world through Ramayana**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Kashi Ropeway in Varanasi**, inspired by the theme of **Lord Shiva**, is set to be a landmark project combining spirituality and modern transportation. This article provides an overview of this unique initiative, intended to enhance the travel experience in one of India's most sacred cities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has recently unveiled a new clothing range called '**Sanatan Khadi Vastra**' at its flagship store in Connaught Place, New Delhi. This launch aligns with the broader vision of promoting Khadi as a symbol of national pride and sustainable fashion. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a remarkable development for **India's wildlife conservation**, the first-ever confirmed sighting of the rare **Tibetan Brown Bear (scientific name: Ursus arctos pruinosus)** was recorded in the high altitudes of **North Sikkim**. This discovery, made by the joint efforts of the Sikkim Forest Department and WWF-India, marks a significant addition to the country's mammal diversity and highlights the ecological richness of the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister for Civil Aviation **Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia** inaugurated **Wings India 2024**, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad. This event marks a significant milestone in the Indian aviation sector, highlighting its growth and future potential. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a noteworthy development aimed at strengthening cultural ties, the **Government of India**, under the **New Education Policy**, has decided to include **Farsi (Persian)** as one of the **nine classical languages of India**. This announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a two-day visit to Iran, highlighting the cultural, literary, and linguistic connections between Iran and India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Ministry of Education in India** has announced new guidelines for coaching centres. These guidelines come in response to growing concerns about student welfare, unregulated growth of private coaching, and rising cases of student suicides and other incidents linked to coaching centres. Students below **16 years old cannot be enrolled**, and admission is allowed only for post-secondary school examinations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, marked a historic day in Solapur, Maharashtra, by laying the foundation stone for **8 AMRUT projects and dedicating over 90,000 completed houses under PMAY-Urban**. The event also witnessed the distribution of PM-SVANIDHI benefits to 10,000 beneficiaries, showcasing the government's commitment to inclusive development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- **Pench Tiger Reserve** in Maharashtra has made history by securing recognition as **India's inaugural Dark Sky Park**, marking its position as the fifth in Asia. This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the reserve's unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of the night sky and creating an optimal setting for astronomy enthusiasts. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a spectacular display of talent, Madhya Pradesh emerged as the undisputed overall champion at the **first-ever Beach Games 2024** hosted in Diu. The landlocked state secured an impressive total of 18 medals, including 7 golds, showcasing the depth of its athletic prowess. The competition, unfolding from January 4-11 at the pristine **Ghoghla Beach**, featured 1404 young athletes from 28 states and Union Territories engaging in various disciplines. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Kerala Drug Control Department** has taken a proactive step to combat the growing threat of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** through **Operation Amrith** (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health). This initiative **aims to curb the overuse of antibiotics** in the state by conducting surprise raids in pharmacies and detecting over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Tamil Nadu**, a lively state in South India renowned for its cultural richness and traditional festivities, kicked off the **Jallikattu competition** in the village of Avaniyapuram within Madurai district. The spirited audience erupted with cheers as the traditional and widely-loved sport unfolded. Jallikattu, a highlight of the Pongal harvest festival held in the second week of January, is poised to extend its excitement over a **three-day period** with Avaniyapuram hosting the first day, followed by Palamedu on the second day and Alanganallur on the third. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a momentous event, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated **three pivotal infrastructure projects** in Kochi, Kerala, signaling a significant stride towards transforming India's ports, shipping, and waterways sector. These projects, **collectively worth over Rs 4,000 crore**, align with the Prime Minister's vision to enhance the nation's maritime capabilities and foster self-sufficiency. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **SMPP (Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa)** introduces a **75-meter-wide space around the temple**, referred to as the **heritage corridor**. This expansive area has been meticulously divided into **nine distinct zones**, each serving a specific purpose aimed at **enhancing the overall experience for visitors and preserving the cultural heritage** surrounding the Shree Jagannath Temple. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move to boost fish production and promote sustainable fishing, Union Fisheries Minister **Parshottam Rupala** inaugurated an artificial reef project in **Vizhinjam, Kerala**. This initiative aims to double the income of fishermen by enhancing fish stocks and contributing to the economic well-being of the local fishing community. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Arunachal Pradesh**, nestled in the northeastern part of India, boasts a vibrant cultural mosaic and unparalleled biodiversity. The **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** serves as a testament to this diversity, bringing together communities, traditions, and conservation efforts. Let's delve into the intricacies of this festival, explore the Nyishi tribe, and uncover the conservation initiatives contributing to the region's ecological balance. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Andhra Pradesh government** is set to unveil the **world's tallest statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the esteemed architect of the Indian Constitution, in a grand ceremony today in Vijayawada. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- After a hiatus of nine years, **Moh-Juj**, the traditional buffalo fights, have made a comeback in **Assam**. This revival, held during the Magh Bihu festival in mid-January 2024, marks a significant cultural reclamation in Assam. The Assam Government's approval, along with strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensures a balance between cultural preservation and animal welfare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the **47th International Kolkata Book Fair** on January 18, amidst a drizzle that posed challenges for last-minute preparations for several stall owners. Despite the weather, the event kicked off at the **Boi Mela Prangan in Central Park, Salt Lake**, marking an early start compared to the previous edition when the gates opened on January 30. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Assam government** recently launched a financial assistance scheme, the **Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan (MMUA)**, with the aim of empowering rural women entrepreneurs. The program is designed to **provide financial assistance to women** who aspire to embark on their entrepreneurial journey independently, beyond their association with Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative introduces unique conditions, focusing specifically on the number of eligible children for the beneficiaries. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The beautiful town of **Udhampur** witnessed a glorious spectacle today as the sacred precincts of the **Jagannath Temple** came alive with the vibrant celebrations of the much-anticipated '**Gole Mela**.' Devotees from Udhampur district and beyond flocked to the temple to partake in this annual religious and cultural extravaganza. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards its ambitious goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the signing of **19 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** during his visit to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. Accompanied by Industries Minister Uday Samant and senior officials, Shinde expressed his determination to lead the state towards economic prosperity. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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International Affairs

- In a groundbreaking election, Taiwanese voters have chosen **William Lai Ching-te**, a pro-sovereignty candidate from the **Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)**, as their president, marking a significant departure from China. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Denmark** witnessed a historic moment on January 14 as **King Frederik X ascended the throne**, succeeding his mother, **Queen Margrethe II**, who formally abdicated after an impressive 52 years as the monarch. The capital brimmed with anticipation and excitement as large crowds gathered to witness this significant event in the nation's history. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Bernardo Arévalo** was officially sworn in as the **President of Guatemala on January 15, 2024**, overcoming months of political challenges and efforts to derail his inauguration. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF) 2024** kicked off on January 15 in Davos, Switzerland, where global leaders are slated to address a peculiar concern known as **Disease X**. This enigmatic term refers to an illness triggered by an unidentified yet potent microbial threat. A panel of the World Health Organization (WHO) is set to collaborate with other health officials to deliberate on this mysterious health menace. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China's Betavolt**, a cutting-edge startup, has introduced a groundbreaking nuclear battery that claims to provide **uninterrupted electricity for 50 years** without the need for charging or maintenance. The miniaturization of atomic energy sets this battery apart as the first of its kind globally, challenging conventional views on nuclear technology. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels** have intensified their attacks on ships in the **Red Sea**, citing revenge against Israel for its actions in Gaza. This has prompted the **US and UK** to launch strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, leading to concerns about a broader regional conflict. The attacks have disrupted global trade routes, raising fears of a significant impact on the world economy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **China faces a demographic crisis as its population dropped for the second year in a row in 2023**. This decline is attributed to a falling birth rate and an increase in deaths, especially after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. China's total population stood at **1.4 billion**, with the country falling behind India as the world's most populous nation. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, in collaboration with the Government of Denmark, has introduced a groundbreaking initiative in Ukraine, the establishment of **"green rooms"** at the National Police headquarters in **Zaporizhzhia Oblast**. This innovative project aims to create a safe and supportive environment for effective communication between law enforcement officers and child survivors or witnesses of crime. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards sustainable development, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **European Union (EU)** have allocated grants totaling over **US\$420,000** (approximately 1.6 million PGK) to support initiatives aimed at combating deforestation, improving food and nutrition security, and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These grants are set to benefit communities across six districts in **Enga Province, Papua New Guinea**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a strategic partnership, the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has joined forces with Altair, a global technology leader specializing in simulation, **high-performance computing (HPC)**, and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. Together, they are set to inaugurate the cutting-edge eMobility Simulation Lab within the Department of Engineering Design at IIT Madras. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

- Renowned author **M.J. Akbar**, along with co-author **K. Natwar Singh**, launched a new book titled **"Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns."** This book was unveiled at a significant event hosted by **Nripendra Misra**, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library Society, at the Prime Minister's Museum and Library at the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The book **"An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy,"** authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **"Conversations with Aurangzeb"** is a novel by **Tamil literary icon Charu Nivedita**, translated into English by **Nandini Krishnan**. This book represents a unique fusion of historical narrative and satirical commentary, offering readers a fresh perspective on both historical and contemporary themes. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **FCI marks its 60th anniversary**, with Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** praising India's food self-sufficiency as a remarkable achievement in human history. On January 14, 2024, Goyal emphasized the FCI's crucial role in preventing hunger for every citizen in the world's most populous country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In December 2023, the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** surged to a **nine-month high of 0.73%**, marking a significant rebound from the negative zone observed from April to October. This positive trajectory, a continuation from November's 0.26%, was primarily driven by notable increases in food prices, according to a statement by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move to bolster support for **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, Yes Bank has introduced SmartFin, an advanced **digital Supply Chain Finance (SCF) platform** developed in collaboration with Veefin Solutions. The initiative reflects Yes Bank's commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing its digital offerings, particularly in the realm of working capital efficiencies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In response to the evolving dynamics of the global oil market, the Indian government has decided to slash the **windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil**, effective January 16. The tax, levied as the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), has been reduced from Rs 2,300 per tonne to Rs 1,700 per tonne. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bengaluru-based **space tech startup Pixxel** marked a significant milestone on January 15 with the inauguration of its cutting-edge spacecraft manufacturing facility, named "**MegaPixxel**." The 30,000 sq ft facility is poised to revolutionize satellite production capabilities in India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Home Affairs in India has revoked the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020**, registration of the **Centre for Policy Research (CPR)** in New Delhi, alleging violations. The leading public policy research institution, spearheaded by Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's daughter, Yamini Aiyar, has faced government scrutiny for purportedly breaching FCRA regulations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a draft framework for the establishment and recognition of **self-regulatory organizations (SROs) in the fintech sector**. The draft rules aim to strike a balance between fostering innovation within the industry and ensuring regulatory priorities are met for consumer protection and risk containment. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Telangana government are jointly establishing the **19th Centre of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR)** in Hyderabad. The WEF-Telangana Centre, slated for launch in February 2024, will be the world's inaugural thematic center dedicated to health tech and life sciences. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move aligned with Reserve Bank of India guidelines, **Karnataka Bank (KBL)**, a prominent private sector bank, and **Clix Capital**, a rapidly growing NBFC, have joined forces through the **Yubi Co.lend Platform**. This digital co-lending partnership targets the Indian MSME sector, a key driver of the country's GDP and employment growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant turn of events, the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has not only staged an impressive comeback but has also surpassed the market capitalization of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. This article explores the recent surge in LIC's share price, its journey since listing, and the factors contributing to its remarkable revival. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** has recently issued a circular stating the removal of **Aadhaar** from the list of acceptable documents for proof of **date of birth (DoB)** for correction and updation purposes. This decision, effective from January 16, 2024, follows a directive from the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** and aligns with the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which does not recognize Aadhaar as proof of date of birth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Taiwanese tech giant **Foxconn**, a long-time Apple Inc. partner, is diversifying from China and joining forces with **HCL Group** to establish a chip packaging and testing facility in India. Foxconn's subsidiary, **Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development**, will invest \$37.2 million for a 40% stake, with the remaining held by HCL. This strategic move comes amidst Foxconn's increased investments in India, motivated by geopolitical tensions with China. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

NICL AO
Generalists
Pre & Mains
100+ Total Tests

Test Series

- **L&T Construction's railways** strategic business group has clinched a significant contract valued between ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 crore for a pivotal segment of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. The 'mega' order, received from a Japanese agency overseeing the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR)**, entails the construction of 508 route km of high-speed electrification works. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, a prominent name in the global IT services sector, has achieved a significant milestone by being rated the second most valuable IT services brand in the world, according to the **2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking by Brand Finance**. This achievement underscores TCS's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global expansion, positioning it as a leader in the technology industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB)** has announced the initiation of 'Build for Billions', a startup accelerator program centered around financial inclusion for the informal economy. This innovative program has been launched in partnership with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and Union Bank of India**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards fostering international digital transactions, **Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)** have joined hands to propel UPI payments beyond the borders of India. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities is poised to revolutionize the way Indian travellers engage in financial transactions abroad. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a major development at the World Economic Forum 2024, the Adani Group unveiled plans to invest Rs 50,000 crore over the next decade in establishing a **1 GW hyperscale data centre in Maharashtra**. The conglomerate's flagship company, Adani Enterprises Ltd, and the Maharashtra government formalized this commitment through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, **HDFC Bank Ltd**, India's largest private sector lender, is actively pursuing its **first branch in Singapore**. Following its significant merger with Housing Development Finance Corp. last year, HDFC Bank is looking to expand its global footprint. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **ICICI Bank Canada**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited, has introduced its latest mobile banking app, '**Money2India (Canada)**,' providing Canadian customers with a seamless platform for 24/7 fund transfers to any Indian bank without the necessity of opening an account with ICICI Bank Canada. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, **Tata Sons Private Limited** has successfully utilized its Right to Match card, retaining the prestigious title sponsorship of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** for the upcoming five seasons, spanning **2024 to 2028**. This development follows the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) release of an Invitation to Tender (ITT) for Title Sponsor Rights in late December 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In celebration of its silver jubilee year, **Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)**, Asia's first listed depository, took a significant step towards inclusivity and accessibility in the capital market landscape. SEBI Chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** launched two groundbreaking multi-lingual initiatives at the silver jubilee function held on January 17. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Unveiled by LIC Chairman **Siddhartha Mohanty**, the new **Jeevan Dhara II plan** offers a non-participating, individual savings, deferred annuity option. The plan provides life cover during the deferment period and boasts a higher annuity rate at advanced ages. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- In a significant development, **Vice Admiral AN Pramod** assumed the pivotal role of **Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)** on January 15, 2024. A distinguished alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course at Naval Academy, Goa, Vice Admiral Pramod was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1990. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty** officially assumed the prestigious position of **Commandant at the Indian Naval Academy** on January 15, 2024. A seasoned officer with a remarkable career, Vice Admiral McCarty brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this significant role. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **The RuPay Prime Volleyball League (PVL)** has taken a significant stride in its marketing and promotion efforts by appointing the acclaimed Bollywood actor **Hrithik Roshan** as the brand ambassador for its third season. This development marks a notable merger of sports and entertainment, promising to enhance the visibility and appeal of the league. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Senior IPS officer **Daljit Singh Chaudhary** has been appointed as the **Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. This appointment is a significant development in the administrative reshuffling within India's internal security apparatus. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **PepsiCo India**, in a strategic realignment, has appointed **Jagrut Kotecha** as its new CEO, succeeding **Ahmed El Sheikh**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- India's Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh**, has recently approved a groundbreaking scheme aimed at **providing insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. This move is designed to address the inherent risks associated with the challenging tasks these workers undertake in remote and hazardous areas. The scheme is **expected to offer financial security and welfare to the families of casual paid labourers** who play a crucial role in building infrastructure in the country's farthest frontiers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Union Minister of State for Defence, **Ajay Bhatt**, marked a historic moment on January 14, by flagging off the indigenously developed **Astra air-to-air missiles**. The ceremony took place at the **Kanchangbagh unit of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in Hyderabad**, signifying a crucial step towards the missile's induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN)** joined forces for the maiden bilateral exercise named **'Ex-Ayutthaya'** in December 2023. This maritime collaboration, symbolizing the invincible spirit, holds profound significance as it connects the ancient cities of **Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand**, reflecting shared historical narratives and rich cultural ties dating back centuries. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Army**, in a groundbreaking collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, is spearheading the development of **cutting-edge military-grade software**. This partnership aims to harness the power of technology for bolstering national defense capabilities, focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and healthcare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Deepa Bhandare**, associated with **Shri Datta Cooperative Sugar Factory (SSK) in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur**, emerged as a trailblazer as she clinched the prestigious **Best Environment Officer Award** at the ceremony. The award, conferred by VSI Chairman Sharad Pawar, marks a historic moment as Bhandare becomes the only woman in the long and illustrious history of Maharashtra's sugar industry to receive this accolade. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking moment, Second Lt. **Madison Marsh**, an officer in the U.S. Air Force, was crowned **Miss America**, marking the **first time an active-duty service member has clinched this prestigious title**, as confirmed by the Air Force. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **REC Limited**, a prominent **Maharatna Public Sector Unit** and a leading **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** under the **Ministry of Power**, has been honored with the prestigious 'Plaque' at the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The recognition is in the 'Financial Services Sector (Other than Banking and Insurance)' category for the financial year 2022-23. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a glittering ceremony at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Awards, **FIFA President Gianni Infantino** was bestowed with the prestigious **International Sports Personality of the Year award**. The event, inspired by the love of sport exhibited by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has been recognizing outstanding achievements in the realm of sports since its inception in 2009. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Chief Justice of India and current Rajya Sabha MP, **Ranjan Gogoi**, is set to be honored with the prestigious **'Assam Baibhav' award**, the highest civilian award in Assam. This announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, who highlighted Gogoi's significant contributions to the **field of justice and jurisprudence**. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 10. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- At the prestigious Wings India Awards 2024, both the **Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru and the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi** were jointly awarded the **'Best Airport of the Year'**. This accolade celebrates world-class operators and individuals who have significantly contributed to the aviation industry, especially during challenging times. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Skyways Air Services Pvt Ltd** has been recognized for its outstanding cargo services at the prestigious **Wings India Awards held in Hyderabad**. This recognition is a testament to Skyways Air Services' commitment to excellence in the aviation cargo sector. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** has secured Switzerland's agreement to host a **global peace summit** aimed at resolving the conflict sparked by Russia's incursion into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Switzerland, known for its neutrality and past mediation roles, will facilitate talks to find a resolution. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **IndoSpace**, a leading player in industrial and logistics real estate, has solidified its commitment to **Tamil Nadu's economic development** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) valued at **Rs 2000 crore**. This landmark agreement was unveiled during the **Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024**, a prestigious event attended by key dignitaries, including MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023** has commenced today on January 17, marking the beginning of a four-day extravaganza celebrating the achievements of India in the frontier areas of science and technology. Organized by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Govt. of India, and coordinated by the **National Innovation Foundation-India**, IISF 2023 aims to foster scientific temperament, acknowledge achievements, and spread awareness among the Indian populace. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, India has unveiled the **“Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality.”** The initiative has gained support from influential entities, with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Invest India joining as crucial partners. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- In a significant stride towards poverty alleviation, a recent NITI Aayog report reveals that **24.82 crore people in India** have successfully moved out of **multidimensional poverty** from 2013-14 to 2022-23. The decline is remarkable, dropping from **29.17% to 11.28%** during this period. The multidimensional poverty index assesses deprivations across health, education, and standard of living using 12 sustainable development goals-aligned indicators. At the state level, **Uttar Pradesh takes the lead** with 5.94 crore people escaping poverty, followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore and Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In the recently unveiled **Edelman Trust Barometer 2024**, India emerges as a global frontrunner in trust, topping the charts in confidence in businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, the nation secures the 4th spot for media trust and the 5th position for trust in the government. The comprehensive survey, encompassing over 32,000 respondents across 28 countries, highlights a pattern where developing nations outpace their developed counterparts in overall trust perception. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The startup ecosystem in India witnessed a significant boost as **Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** emerged as the **best-performing states in the Startup Ranking for 2022**. The rankings, released by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, highlight the commendable initiatives undertaken by these states to foster the growth of startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs. **Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana** were also recognized as top performers in this dynamic landscape. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- **Real Madrid** played against **Barcelona** and won 4-1. This big game was part of the Spanish Super Cup final and happened on January 14, 2024. It took place in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic moment for Indian cricket, **Rohit Sharma**, the captain of Team India, etched his name in the record books by becoming the **first men’s player to feature in 150 T20 International matches**. This milestone was achieved during the second T20I against **Afghanistan** at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, marking a remarkable feat in Rohit’s illustrious career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Australia’s Shaun Marsh**, a renowned name in international and domestic cricket, has announced his retirement from all forms of the sport. This article provides a comprehensive overview of his career and the impact he has had on the game. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa**, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion **Ding Liren from China**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** has created history by becoming the first batsman to score five centuries in T20 Internationals (T20Is). This milestone was achieved during the third T20I match against Afghanistan in Bengaluru on January 17, 2024. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking development for women’s cricket, **Sue Redfern from England** is set to become the **first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire** to officiate in a bilateral series. This historic moment is scheduled to take place during the upcoming WT20I between Australia and South Africa, marking a significant step forward for gender inclusivity in cricket officiating. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Asia Olympic Qualifiers** witnessed a remarkable display of skill and precision from Indian shooters, with **Yogesh Singh** emerging as the star of the event. Singh not only **secured the individual gold medal** in the **men’s 25m centre fire pistol** competition but also led the Indian trio to clinch the team gold. Additionally, other Indian shooters showcased their talent in different categories, contributing to the nation’s successful campaign. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Carlos Sainz**, at the age of 61, has made history by winning the **Dakar Rally for the fourth time**. His latest victory in the 2024 rally marks him as the oldest winner of this gruelling race. Sainz, also known as **‘El Matador’**, is renowned for his extraordinary skills and endurance in one of the most challenging motorsport events in the world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant move towards uplifting **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to **release ₹540 crore**, the inaugural tranche of funding, for pucca homes under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)** on January 15. This disbursement, part of the recently launched **PM-JANMAN package**, aims to foster the comprehensive development of PVTG habitations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The state of **Chhattisgarh**, inspired by the successful implementation of the 'Aarthik Sarkari Ladli Bahna Yojana' organized by the Madhya Pradesh government, has recently launched a new scheme known as **Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024**. Under this initiative, the government aims to provide economic assistance of **one thousand rupees to women every month**, amounting to a total annual financial aid of **12,000 rupees**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move to enhance the efficiency of the **Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system** and streamline traffic at Toll Plazas, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced the '**One Vehicle, One FASTag**' initiative. This strategic measure aims to curb the prevalent practice of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or **linking multiple FASTags to a specific vehicle**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The launch of the **e-SAKSHI mobile application** marks a significant advancement in the administration of the **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in India**. This digital initiative, spearheaded by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), aims to transform the way MPs engage in and manage development projects within their constituencies. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a progressive move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, the state of **Himachal Pradesh** has unveiled the ambitious '**My School-My Pride**' campaign under the '**Apna Vidyalay**' programme. This initiative is set to revolutionize the quality of education in government schools, providing a holistic approach to student growth and development. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

UIIC 2024
Administrative Officer
Generalist
50+ Total Tests
Test Series

Science and Technology News

- In a groundbreaking initiative, researchers at the **University of Oxford in the United Kingdom** have commenced the **first-in-human vaccine trials for the deadly Nipah virus**. This initiative is a significant step forward in addressing the severe impact of the virus on various Asian countries, including India. The trials will be conducted on 51 individuals aged 18 to 55 and are led by the Oxford Vaccine Group. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map, known as **I-STEM**, is set to embark on a groundbreaking initiative named '**Samavesha**.' This ambitious project, spearheaded by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, aims to **transform research collaboration in the country** by facilitating easier access to scientific facilities and laboratories. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has been at the forefront of technological innovation, contributing significantly to various fields. One such noteworthy development is the second-generation '**Distress Alert Transmitter**' (**DAT-SG**), a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities. Operational **since 2010**, the DAT-SG has become a crucial tool for fishermen at sea, allowing them to send emergency messages and receive real-time acknowledgments. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, MeitY Secretary S Krishnan inaugurated the **India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG)** and a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in **Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors** in Kerala. The Digital University Kerala (DUK) (formerly IIITMK) and CMET, Thrissur, play crucial roles as technical partners in establishing these pioneering centers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant industry shift, **Apple Inc.'s iPhone** has outpaced **Samsung Electronics Co. devices**, securing the title of the best-selling smartphone series in 2023. This marks the first time since 2010 that Samsung has conceded the top spot in the smartphone market. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Japan** is poised to join an exclusive group of nations that have successfully landed on the Moon. The **Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)**, developed by the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**, is scheduled to touch the lunar surface on January 20, 2024. This mission marks a significant milestone in Japan's space exploration endeavours and offers a unique opportunity to advance lunar science. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- **Indian Army Day** is a special day celebrated on **January 15** every year. In 2024, it will be celebrated on Monday, January 15. This day is important because it marks the anniversary of the Indian Army getting its first Indian chief in 1949. This chief was **General K.M. Cariappa, who took over from the British**. The theme for Indian Army Day in 2024 is **"In Service of the Nation."** This means that the Indian Army is always ready to serve and protect our country. Their motto is **"Service Before Self,"** showing that they always think of the country first. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In 2024, **Makar Sankranti**, a Hindu festival marking the Sun's entry into Capricorn, occurs on **January 15**. Celebrated based on solar cycles, this festival is distinctive in Hindu traditions, symbolizing the end of winter and the beginning of longer days, coinciding with the month of Magha. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Pongal festival**, also known as Bhogi Pongal, is a vibrant and auspicious harvesting festival widely celebrated in India. This four-day festival holds immense significance in the southern state of **Tamil Nadu** and marks the beginning of Uttarayan, symbolizing the end of winter and the onset of the harvest season. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant declaration in 2021, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** proclaimed **January 16 as National Startup Day**, marking a pivotal moment in India's recognition and celebration of its burgeoning startup ecosystem. Since then, various initiatives and events have unfolded, underlining the government's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Kokborok Day**, observed annually on **January 19th**, is a significant cultural event in Tripura, India. The 2024 celebration marks the 46th anniversary of Kokborok's recognition as an official language of the state alongside Bengali and English. This day celebrates the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the Tripuri people. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Munawwar Rana**, a celebrated Urdu poet, passed away at the age of 71 due to cardiac arrest in Lucknow. He had been enduring a prolonged illness, including throat cancer, kidney, and heart-related ailments. He was receiving treatment at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in Lucknow. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The Indian classical music fraternity mourns the loss of **Dr. Prabha Atre**, a revered classical vocalist and a luminary of the Kirana Gharana, who passed away in Pune at the age of 91. Known for her multifaceted contributions to the world of music, Dr. Atre's passing brings an end to a glorious chapter in the history of Indian classical music. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Malayalam music director **K J Joy** has passed away in Chennai. **He was 77 years old**. Joy, is known as the first 'techno musician' in the Malayalam film music world for his use of instruments like the keyboard in the 1970s. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor **VK Saxena** inaugurated the much-anticipated **'Patang Utsav'** at **Baansera**, the city's first bamboo-theme park located at Sarai Kale Khan on the scenic banks of the Yamuna River. The two-day festival, organized by the Delhi Development Authority, **promises a visual feast as over 30 professional kitists from diverse states**, including Rajasthan, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Lakshadweep, and Gujarat, showcase their artistic prowess in the sky. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- As the devoted city of Ayodhya eagerly counts down to the grand opening of the **Ram Temple on January 22**, a spectacular celebration is set to unfold. In a remarkable display, the **world's largest lamp, standing at an impressive 300 feet**, will illuminate the city at **5:00 p.m. on Friday, adding a dazzling touch to the festivities**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- As the **Ram Mandir in Ayodhya** gears up for its **Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony**, it has received two unique offerings: the **world's largest lock, weighing 400 kg, and a colossal 1,265 kg laddoo Prasad**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

Comprehensive Book List on India's Budget and Economy

1. "India's Economic Policy: Preparing for the Future" by Arvind Panagariya
2. "Indian Economy: Performance and Policies" by Uma Kapila
3. "Budget 2023-24: Unraveling India's Fiscal Priorities" by Economic Times
4. "The Indian Fiscal System: A Comprehensive Guide" by M. L. Mathur
5. "India's Economic Reforms and Development: Essays for Manmohan Singh" edited by Isher Judge Ahluwalia
6. "Economic Survey of India" by Ministry of Finance, Government of India

7. "The Budgetary Process in India" by Bimal Jalan
8. "India's National Budget: A Blueprint for Growth" by C. Rangarajan
9. "Fiscal Policy in India: Trends and Trajectory" by Montek Singh Ahluwalia
10. "Indian Economy: Problems of Development and Planning" by D. Mishra
11. "Budget and Economic Survey: Decoding India's Financial Landscape" by Rajiv Mehrishi
12. "India's Economic Development: Strategies for the New Millennium" by S. P. Gupta
13. "Public Finance in India" by R. K. Lekhi
14. "Economic Policies and Performance in India" by Deepak Nayyar
15. "India's Economic Challenges" by Bibek Debroy
16. "Goods and Services Tax: Journey of One Nation, One Tax" by Arun Jaitley
17. "Economic Reforms in India: From First to the Second Generation and Beyond" by Jagdish Bhagwati
18. "Budgetary Politics in India" by Sudipta Adhikari
19. "India's Fiscal Federalism" by Y. V. Reddy and Sajal Lahiri
20. "Economic Planning in India: Issues and Challenges" by K. N. Raj
21. "Financial Inclusion in India: Policies and Practices" by R. K. Uppal
22. "Indian Financial System: Structure and Functions" by H. R. Machiraju
23. "Economic Development in India: Challenges and Prospects" by Amartya Sen and Jean Drèze
24. "Monetary Policy in India: A Modern Macroeconomic Perspective" by Urjit R. Patel
25. "India's Trade Policy: A Comprehensive Analysis" by Biswajit Dhar

