

Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th of March 2024

Finland Tops Happiness Rankings for 7th Year, Afghanistan Ranks Last

The **World Happiness Report** is an annual survey conducted by the United Nations. It ranks countries based on factors like **life satisfaction, GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.**

For the seventh year in a row, **Finland** has been named the **happiest country** in the world. Other **Nordic countries** like **Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden** also ranked among the top 10 happiest nations.

World's 10 Happiest Countries in 2024

| Rank | Country |
|------|-------------|
| 1 | Finland |
| 2 | Denmark |
| 3 | Iceland |
| 4 | Sweden |
| 5 | Israel |
| 6 | Netherlands |
| 7 | Norway |
| 8 | Luxembourg |
| 9 | Switzerland |
| 10 | Australia |

Afghanistan Remains the Unhappiest Country

At the bottom of the list is **Afghanistan**, which has been plagued by a **humanitarian crisis** since the **Taliban** regained control in 2020.

Notable Changes in Rankings

- The **United States** and **Germany** dropped out of the top 20 happiest countries for the first time, ranking 23rd and 24th, respectively.
- Costa Rica** and **Kuwait** entered the top 20 at positions 12 and 13.
- The report noted that the happiest countries no longer include any of the world's **largest countries.**

India's Ranking and Factors Affecting Life Satisfaction

- India** ranked **126** in the happiness index, the same as the previous year.
- Factors like **marital status, social engagement, and physical health** also influence life satisfaction among older Indians.
- Satisfaction with living arrangements** emerges as a critical factor, reflecting the strong desire among older Indians to age in place and maintain autonomy and social bonds.

India has the second-largest older population globally, with 140 million individuals aged 60 and above, trailing only China. The report said that older Indian men, particularly those in higher age brackets, presently married, and those with an education, tend to report greater life satisfaction compared to their counterparts.

Among older Indians, factors such as dissatisfaction with living arrangements, perceived discrimination, and poor self-rated health are linked to lower life satisfaction. Education level, social caste, and contentment with living arrangements also play a significant role in life satisfaction.

Happiness Trends

- The sharpest decline in happiness since 2006-10 was observed in **Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Jordan.**
- The biggest increases in happiness were reported in the Eastern European countries of **Serbia, Bulgaria, and Latvia.**
- Happiness inequality** increased in every region except Europe, which the report described as a "worrying trend".

Factors Contributing to Finland's Happiness

According to a happiness researcher from the University of Helsinki, some key factors contributing to Finland's happiness include:

- Close connection to nature**
- Healthy work-life balance**
- Attainable understanding of success** (not solely focused on financial gain)
- Strong welfare society**
- Trust in state authorities**
- Low levels of corruption**
- Free healthcare and education**



Generational Differences in Happiness

The report found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in most regions of the world, except for:

- **North America**
- **Australia**
- **New Zealand**

In these regions, happiness among groups under 30 has dropped dramatically since 2006-10, with older generations now happier than the young.

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's first integrated oil palm processing unit, operated by **3F Oil Palm**, marking a significant stride in the nation's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils. Situated in **Arunachal Pradesh's Roing**, this project aligns with Mission Palm Oil under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Ahead of announcing the dates for the upcoming **Lok Sabha elections**, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar introduced a new mobile application called '**Know Your Candidate**' (KYC). This app will enable voters to find out if any electoral candidate in their constituency has any criminal records. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital** in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, **Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen**. This restaurant is being hailed as the **first Ayurvedic Kitchen in India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Pashupati Kumar Paras**, former Union minister and president of the **Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP)**, resigned from the Union Cabinet following his party's exclusion from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In response, President **Droupadi Murmu** accepted his resignation and appointed **Kiren Rijiju** with an additional charge as the **Minister of Food Processing Industries**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary of India's Department of Telecommunications, led a significant delegation to Geneva for strategic meetings at the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Headquarters from March 18-20. The aim was to enhance collaboration and explore innovative initiatives in telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **GoodEnough Energy** has announced that it will start operations at **India's first battery energy storage gigafactory** in the northern region of **Jammu and Kashmir** by **October 2023**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Haiti is facing a severe **crisis** due to escalating **gang violence**. Armed **gangs** have launched **attacks** in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince, prompting India to launch **Operation Indravati** to **evacuate** its nationals to the Dominican Republic. Similarly, the **US** has airlifted more than 15 Americans to Santo Domingo. ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- **Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the Governor of **Telangana**, has **resigned** from her position on Monday, March 18, 2024. According to sources, she is likely to **contest** the **Lok Sabha elections** from the state of **Tamil Nadu**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated India's first **indoor athletics stadium** and **indoor aquatic centre** at the **Kalinga stadium** in **Bhubaneswar**. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new **indoor diving centre** in the stadium complex. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The Election Commission** has launched a special campaign in **Himachal Pradesh** to boost voter turnout in **414 polling stations** with less than **60% voting** during the last **Lok Sabha polls**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan** has been given the **additional responsibility** as the **in-charge governor of Telangana**. This comes after **Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned** from her constitutional post as the **Telangana Governor**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The city of **Begusarai in Bihar** is the **most polluted city in the world**, according to the **World Air Quality Report 2023** released by **IQAir**, a Switzerland-based organization. The report states that out of the **top 100 most polluted places globally**, **83 are from India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh police force** is set to adopt the advanced **Trinetra app 2.0**, a **cutting-edge digital platform** that promises to revolutionize **crime prevention and investigation** in the state. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tamil Nadu is set to witness a historic event as one of its space startups, **Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited**, prepares to launch its first rocket, **Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SORTeD)**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**. This launch marks several significant milestones in India's space exploration journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bihar Diwas 2024**, celebrated on **22nd March 2024 in India**, holds immense historical and cultural significance for the state of Bihar. It commemorates the **founding of Bihar as a separate state in 1912**, marking its separation from the **Bengal Presidency**. The inception of **Bihar Diwas dates back to 2010**, when the state government initiated the celebrations to honor **Bihar's 112th statehood anniversary**. Since then, Bihar Diwas has evolved into a vibrant occasion, reflecting the essence of Bihar's rich heritage and traditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** clinched victory in the recent election with a commanding lead of **76.1% of the vote**, as per preliminary results. This win marks Putin's continued dominance in Russian politics, now extending his tenure to a total of 24 years in power. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a move to boost its **tourism industry**, the government of Nepal has officially declared **Pokhara**, a city in the Gandaki province, as the **tourism capital** of the Himalayan nation. The declaration was made during a special ceremony held at the **Barahi Ghat** on the shores of the **Phewa Lake**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vaughan Gething**, who currently serves as the **Economic Minister of Wales**, has been elected as the new **leader of the Welsh Labour Party**. His victory marks a **historic milestone** as he becomes the **first ever Black person to lead a European country**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **New Zealand government** has announced a **ban on disposable e-cigarettes or vapes**. The move comes less than a month after the country repealed a law that aimed to phase out **tobacco smoking**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia** have forged the AUKUS partnership to bolster trilateral security and construct **nuclear-powered submarines** for the Royal Australian Navy. This landmark agreement signifies a significant advancement in defense collaboration among the three nations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Simon Harris**, a prominent figure in Irish politics, has emerged as the sole candidate in the race to become Ireland's next prime minister following the unexpected departure of **Leo Varadkar**. At 37 years old, Harris is poised to become the **youngest prime minister in Ireland's history**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and **Europol** have entered into a significant **Working Arrangement** aimed at combating crime and fostering cooperation between the two agencies. This collaborative effort underscores the necessity of global partnerships in addressing modern-day challenges posed by transnational crime networks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tech Mahindra** and **IBM** have joined forces to inaugurate a **Synergy Lounge** in **Singapore**, aimed at accelerating digital adoption for enterprises across the **Asia-Pacific region**. This collaboration seeks to leverage next-gen technologies to drive innovation and offer unique solutions to various industries. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Startup Mahakumbh 2024**, a groundbreaking initiative led by industry giants such as ASSOCHAM, Nasscom, Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation, TIE, and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association, is set to unite over 1,000 startups, 50 unicorns, 500 incubators, and 5,000 delegates from 23 countries. This three-day event, supported by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, aims to foster innovation and collaboration across various sectors, featuring prominent figures like Amitabh Kant, Sivasubramanian Ramann, and Falguni Nayar. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SANY India**, a top construction equipment manufacturer, has forged a strategic partnership with **J&K Bank** to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region. The collaboration aims to offer accessible financial solutions to customers, facilitating the acquisition of advanced machinery for infrastructure projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange** reserves witnessed a significant surge, marking a third consecutive increase in the week ended **March 8, 2024**. This surge propelled the reserves to reach a two-year high of **\$636.1 billion**, showing the highest weekly increase since **July 14, 2023**, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In an effort to advance cancer care in India, Axis Bank has pledged a significant contribution of **₹100 crore to the National Cancer Grid (NCG)**, in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre. This partnership aims to bolster research, innovation, and digital health adoption in oncology over the next five years. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tata Sons, aiming to alleviate its debt, plans to sell **0.65% equity in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore**. This move precedes a potential IPO, with related stocks rallying. TCS dividends, contributing 95% of FY23 revenue, highlight its strategic importance within Tata's asset portfolio. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made its **largest gold purchase since July 2022**, acquiring 8.7 tonnes of gold. This brought the **RBI's gold holding to 812.3 tonnes**, up from 803.58 tonnes in December 2023. The central bank's move is aimed at diversifying its forex reserves and hedging against foreign currency risks. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL)** has solidified a strategic partnership with **Elephant House**, a prominent Sri Lankan beverage manufacturer. This collaboration aims to introduce, market, distribute, and sell Elephant House brand beverages throughout India, thereby augmenting RCPL's beverage offerings. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In FY 2023-24, Gross Direct Tax collections soared to **Rs. 22,27,067 crore**, marking an 18.74% increase from the previous year. Net collections rose by over 19.88%, with Advance Tax contributions hitting **Rs. 9,11,534 crore**, up 22.31%, showcasing robust economic growth. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a notable increase, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments soared to **\$3.47 billion in February 2024**, marking a significant rise from the \$2.82 billion recorded in February 2023, and an increase from \$2.18 billion in January 2024. This data, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), highlights a growing trend in India's financial commitments abroad. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **YES Bank** has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the **Paris Olympics 2024**. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- According to **Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi**, the **insurance sector** in India has received a massive **Rs 53,900 crore as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the last **9 years** (between December 2014 and January 2024). There are currently **70 insurance companies** operating in the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **RBI** imposed fines on **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (Rs 1.31 crore)** and **DCB Bank (Rs 63.6 lakh)** for non-compliance with directives on 'Interest Rate on Advances'. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Airtel Payments Bank**, in collaboration with **Noise and Mastercard**, introduces a pioneering solution for contactless payments through the **Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch**. This innovative wearable aims to revolutionize digital transactions, offering convenience and accessibility to urban customers. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Axis Mutual Fund**, a prominent asset management firm based in Mumbai, has teamed up with **Enparadigm**, a leader in AI-driven experiential learning solutions. This collaboration aims to provide tailored learning journeys to enhance the performance and productivity of Axis MF employees across various levels. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In February 2024, the **All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Agricultural Laborers and Rural Laborers** remained stable, with figures of 1258 and 1269, respectively, based on the 1986-87=100 index. However, there were notable fluctuations observed among constituent states. Eight states saw a decline in the CPI-AL, while seven experienced a similar trend in the CPI-RL, with two states showing no change. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA)** has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**. This recognition was bestowed upon by the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, highlighting GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's **power landscape**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is gearing up to introduce the **BhashaNet** portal during the upcoming **Universal Acceptance (UA) Day**. This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between **NIXI** and the Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In **January 2024**, the index of mineral production in the mining and quarrying sector stood at **144.1**, indicating a **5.9% increase** compared to January 2023. The cumulative growth for **April-January 2023-24** over the corresponding period of the previous year is recorded at **8.3%**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **DBS Bank India** announced a lending commitment of **USD 250 million** for new-age start-ups, demonstrating its dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in India's thriving start-up ecosystem. With over **90,000 start-ups** and more than **100 unicorns** in India as of 2024, access to capital remains a significant challenge for these companies despite their growing resilience. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd**, in collaboration with **Titan Company Ltd**, proudly presents the **Titan SBI Card**, an exclusive shopping credit card designed to offer unparalleled benefits to its users. With a focus on cashbacks, gift vouchers, and reward points, this card promises benefits worth over **₹2,00,000** annually. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- PolicyBazaar, a prominent player in insurance and financial services, has unveiled plans to diversify its offerings by establishing a wholly owned subsidiary named '**PB Pay Private Limited.**' This subsidiary, approved by the Board of Directors on March 20, 2024, aims to specialize in **payment aggregation services**, both domestically and internationally, subject to regulatory clearances. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Retired bureaucrat **Navneet Kumar Sehgal** has been appointed as the new **chairperson** of the **Prasar Bharati Board**. The position had been **vacant for four years** after **A Surya Prakash** retired in **February 2020** after turning **70**, the upper age limit for the post. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has appointed **Jaideep Hansraj**, the current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as the **Group President – One Kotak**, effective from **April 1, 2024**. This move signifies a strategic shift towards optimizing the Group's financial conglomerate model and enhancing customer offerings through collaborative efforts across subsidiaries. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Senior bureaucrat **Rahul Singh** has been appointed as the **chairperson** of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, as part of a **senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle** effected by the **Centre**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Poonawalla Fincorp**, a notable NBFC, has chosen **Arvind Kapil**, a seasoned retail banking expert from HDFC Bank, as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Kapil will commence his five-year term on June 24, 2024, succeeding **Abhay Bhutada**, who opted for early retirement. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Vinay Kumar**, an **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch**, has been named as the **next Ambassador of India to Russia**. Kumar is currently serving as the **Ambassador of India to Myanmar**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Leading **FMCG company P&G India** has announced the appointment of **Kumar Venkatasubramanian** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective from **May 1, 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Election Commission of India has made a significant decision regarding the leadership of the West Bengal police force. **Vivek Sahay** has been replaced by **Sanjay Mukherjee as the new Director General of Police (DGP)** for the state of West Bengal. This decision comes amidst a series of changes in key positions within the state administration, particularly in light of past incidents and the upcoming elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has elected **M V Rao**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the **Central Bank of India**, as its new **Chairman**. The decision was taken during the IBA's managing committee meeting. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Naveen Jindal**, Chairman of **Jindal Steel and Power**, has been unanimously elected as the **President** of the **Indian Steel Association (ISA)** by the apex committee, which is the governing body of the ISA. He took charge on Thursday, succeeding **Dilip Oommen**, CEO of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Microsoft** named British AI pioneer **Mustafa Suleyman** as the head of its **AI division**. Suleyman, who co-founded **Google's DeepMind**, will now report directly to Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ashwani Kumar**, Partner at Victor Forgings in Jalandhar, has been **unanimously elected** as the new **President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Mariam Mammen Mathew**, CEO of Manorama Online, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA)** for a two-year term starting April 1, 2024. She succeeds **Tanmay Maheshwari**, Managing Director of Amar Ujala. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB)** has appointed **Govind Dholakia**, a **Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat**, as its new **chairman**. This appointment comes a day after the previous chairman, **Vallabhbhai Patel (Lakhani)**, resigned from his position. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the **Tenth edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** between the **Indian Army** and **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**. The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from **18-27 March 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- A joint military exercise called **Tiger Triumph-24** between **India** and the **United States** started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the **Eastern Seaboard** (East Coast) of India. The main purpose of this exercise is to improve **cooperation** between the two countries' armed forces for **humanitarian assistance** and **disaster relief** operations. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized **technology unit** called **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)** to research and evaluate **next-generation communication technologies**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Indian defence industry** is expanding its reach to the **Caribbean** region. The **Guyana Defence Force (GDF)** plans to purchase two aircraft from **India** with a loan of **\$23.27 million** from the **Export-Import Bank of India**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Army has raised its **first squadron**, the **451 Aviation Squadron**, to operate the newly acquired **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters**. The squadron was formally established on **March 15** at **Jodhpur**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Navy is all set to participate in the second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT-2024)**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from **21-29 March 2024**. The Indian Naval Ships **INS Tir** and **INS Sujata** will represent India in this trilateral exercise. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful landing of **Pushpak, India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**, during the RLV-LEX-02 landing experiment at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga on March 22, 2024. This accomplishment marks a continuation of ISRO's success in space exploration and technology advancement. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Uday Bhatia** and **Manasi Gupta** from India were honored with the prestigious '**Diana Memorial Award**' on **14 March 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Thodur Madabusi Krishna, a **renowned Carnatic musician**, has been chosen as the **Sangita Kalanidhi** awardee for 2024. This award, considered the **Oscar equivalent** for Carnatic music, is given away by the **Music Academy** in Chennai. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noted **Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma** has been selected for the prestigious **33rd Saraswati Samman** for the year 2023. He won the award for his **novel in verse 'Roudra Sathwikam'** published in 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Raksha Mantri Trophy** for the **Best and Second Best Command Hospitals** of the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** for the year 2022 was awarded on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi. The **Command Hospital (Southern Command), Pune** was judged as the **Best Command Hospital**, while the **Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow** was the **Second Best** for 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Dr. Uma Rele, the esteemed **Principal of Nalanda Nriyta Kala Mahavidyalaya** in Mumbai, has been conferred with the prestigious **Maharashtra Gaurav Award**. The honour was bestowed upon her by Maharashtra Industrial Minister

Uday Sawant and Minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the realm of **Indian classical dance**, particularly **Bharata Natyam**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has created history by becoming the first **non-Bhutanese** to receive the '**Order of the Druk Gyalpo**', **Bhutan's highest civilian award**. He received this prestigious honour from **Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** during his two-day state visit to Thimphu. The 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' is a **lifetime achievement award** and is considered the **pinnacle of Bhutan's honour system**. Only four eminent personalities have received this award since its institution. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has been honored with the prestigious **Aviation Week Laureates Award** for its remarkable achievements in the **Chandrayaan-3 mission**. **Sripriya Ranganathan**, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Bina Agarwal** and **James Boyce** have been awarded the first "**Global Inequality Research Award**" for their significant contributions to understanding global inequalities, specifically in the areas of social and environmental inequalities. The **laureates** will be invited to receive their awards and present an overview of their work at conferences in Paris in the fall and spring of 2024. These conferences will be organized in conjunction with **Sciences Po's Social-Ecological Transitions (SET) initiative**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India is set to host the prestigious **World Telecom Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024**, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), along with the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024. These events aim to foster global collaboration, drive telecom reforms, and showcase India's technological prowess. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The fourth edition of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum** convened in New Delhi on March 19, 2024, with a focus on enhancing interactions among SCO Member States' startups, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and nurturing young talent. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **India and Brazil** recently held their inaugural '**2+2**' **defence and foreign ministerial dialogue**, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations. The talks aimed to deepen cooperation across various sectors, emphasizing energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India's position on the **DHL Global Connectedness Index** has seen a notable rise, reflecting its burgeoning role in the global economy. From ranking **67th in 2022**, India has advanced to the **62nd position in 2023**, underscoring its increasing significance in the realm of globalization. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** released its **State of the Global Climate 2023** report, revealing unprecedented levels of climate change indicators. These indicators underscore the urgent need for global action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has released its **Global Trade Update report**, outlining the state of global trade in 2023 and projections for 2024. Despite a 3% dip in global trade to **\$31 trillion in 2023**, a rebound is expected in 2024 amid geopolitical uncertainties and logistical challenges. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** organized an exhibition cricket match to promote **voter education and inclusivity**. The match was played between the **Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team** and the **Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team** on **March 16, 2024**, at **Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the final of the **Indian Wells ATP tournament** on Sunday, **Carlos Alcaraz** of Spain defeated **Daniil Medvedev** of Russia in straight sets, with a score of **7-6 (7/5), 6-1**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the women's **long jump** event at the **3rd Indian Open Jumps Competition**, **Nayana James** from Kerala recorded a **personal best mark of 6.67m** to secure the **gold medal**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal** will be the **Indian team's flagbearer** for the upcoming **Paris 2024 Olympics**. The announcement was made by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian **star paddler G. Sathiyam** has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the **first-ever Indian** to win a **men's singles trophy** at a **WTT Feeder Series** event. This historic moment took place in **Beirut, Lebanon**, where Sathiyam triumphed over his compatriot **Manav Thakkar** with a **3-1 (6-11 11-7 11-7 11-4)** victory in the final of the **WTT Feeder Beirut 2024**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the **PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In October of this year, **NASA** will embark on its **Europa Clipper mission**, aiming to explore **Jupiter's moon Europa** in search of signs of life. Scientists are particularly interested in a potential salty lake hidden beneath its icy crust. As part of this mission, NASA plans to send a unique message to Europa, symbolizing human curiosity and creativity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Researchers have uncovered a monumental discovery on **Mars**—a colossal volcano named **Noctis Volcano**. Standing at an impressive **29,600 feet** tall and stretching approximately **450 kilometers** in width, this massive volcano lies just south of Mars' equator within the **Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus** region. The finding, made possible by data from a suite of missions including NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the ESA's Mars Express, unveils a hidden geological marvel. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- With the **Lok Sabha elections** approaching in India, Meta unveils its strategy to tackle the growing threat of **AI-generated fake content** that could influence the electoral process. In response to concerns raised by the Election Commission of India regarding the **spread of misinformation**, Meta announces its comprehensive plan to safeguard the integrity of the elections. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** has developed **SAKHI**, a revolutionary app aimed at aiding astronauts during the **Gaganyaan space flight mission**. SAKHI, or Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction, offers indispensable support across various critical aspects of the mission. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The European Space Agency's **Gaia space telescope** has made a groundbreaking discovery, uncovering two ancient streams of stars named **Shiva and Shakti**. Led by **Khyati Malhan** of the **Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA)** in **Germany**, this revelation significantly enhances our understanding of the **Milky Way's** origins. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- Ordnance Factories Day is observed every year on **March 18th**. This year, it falls on a Monday. Ordnance Factories Day is a special day celebrated in India to honour the **Indian Ordnance Factories** that provide **arms and ammunition** to the **Indian Armed Forces**. These factories play a vital role in keeping our country and its people safe. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated every year on **March 20th**. This special day aims to spread awareness about the **importance of happiness** in our lives. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On **March 20th**, the **United Nations** celebrates **French Language Day**. This is one of the six official languages celebrated by the UN each year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Sparrow Day** is an annual observance held every year on **March 20th** to raise global awareness about the household sparrow and its alarming population decline. The idea of World Sparrow Day was conceived by the **Nature Forever Society (NFS)** of India and the **Eco-Sys Action Foundation** based in France. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **March 20th, 2024**, marks the celebration of **Navroz 2024**, an ancient festival deeply rooted in **Persian culture** and celebrated by millions worldwide. As the first day of **spring** and the beginning of the year in the Iranian calendar, Navroz holds significant cultural and spiritual importance for people of Persian or Iranian descent, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the renewal of nature. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On **21st March** every year, we observe the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. This day reminds us about the **negative consequences** of racial discrimination. The theme for 2024 is “A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent”. ([Read Complete Article](#))

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- Every year, we celebrate **World Forestry Day** on **March 21st**. In 2024, it falls on a **Thursday**. The **United Nations General Assembly** established World Forestry Day in **2012** to raise awareness about the vital role of forests and encourage efforts for their **conservation and sustainable management**. The theme for 2024 is “Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.” It highlights the critical role of **innovation and technology** in protecting our forests. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Nowruz** (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauruz) means “**new day**”. It marks the **first day of spring** and is celebrated on the day of the **astronomical vernal equinox**, which usually occurs on **March 21**. More than **300 million people** all around the world celebrate Nowruz. It has been celebrated for over **3,000 years** in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and other regions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year, **World Down Syndrome Day** is observed on **March 21**. In 2024, it falls on **Thursday, March 21**. **Down Syndrome** is a condition that can affect a person **physically and mentally**. It makes **communication and social interactions** challenging. In Down Syndrome, a person has an **extra chromosome** which affects how their body and brain develop. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- On **World Oral Health Day** on **20 March 2024**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** is calling for action in the **South-East Asia Region** and among partners to promote **oral health** and reduce the burden of **oral diseases**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **March 22**, we celebrate **World Water Day** to recognize the importance of **freshwater**. This year, the occasion holds extra significance amid the ongoing **Bengaluru water crisis**. The tech hub is facing severe **water shortage** due to failed monsoons and drying groundwater resources. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **March 23rd**, the **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated. This day marks the **establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** in 1950. The WMO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations**. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** is an **annual observation** celebrated on **March 24th**. In 2024, it falls on **Sunday, March 24th**. **Tuberculosis (TB)** is an **infectious disease** that mainly affects the **lungs**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Every year, on **March 24**, the **International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** is observed. This annual observance **honours the memory** of victims of severe human rights violations and promotes the importance of the **right to truth and justice**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Shaheed Diwas, or Martyr's Day**, is a solemn occasion observed in India to pay homage to the brave souls who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom struggle. Among the various dates commemorating sacrifices, **March 23 holds a significant place in history**. This date marks the execution of three iconic freedom fighters – **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar** – **by the British colonial government**. As the nation prepares to observe Shaheed Diwas on March 23, it's essential to reflect on the significance of this day and honor the legacy of these martyrs. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- The former member of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** and prominent **Buddhist Monk of Ladakh**, popularly known as **Lama Lobzang**, passed away this morning at his residence in **New Delhi**. He was **94** years old. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The beautiful **Dal Lake in Kashmir** witnessed an exciting event on March 18. **Formula-4 car racing** was held for the first time in the region. The sleek racing cars raced along the Boulevard road near the lake, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The Zabarwan Hills provided a stunning backdrop for the event. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking medical achievement, surgeons from **Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston** have performed the first **pig-to-human kidney transplant**. A **62-year-old man with end-stage renal disease** received a new kidney from a **genetically modified pig**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Static Takeaways

- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).

- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime Minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee;
- Nepal Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- President of Nepal: Mr Ram Chandra Paudel.
- Reliance Industries Owner: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani;
- Reliance Industries President: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Industries Founded: 1957, Maharashtra;
- Reliance Industries Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Chairperson: Satya Nadella (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).
- SBM Bank India Founded: 1st December 2018;
- SBM Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, India.
- NSDC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NSDC Founded: 31 July 2008;
- NSDC CEO: Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Bird: Indian paradise flycatcher;
- Madhya Pradesh Flower: White lily;
- Madhya Pradesh Formation: 26 January 1950;
- Madhya Pradesh CM: Mohan Yadav;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel.
- DRDO Date founded: 1958
- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO;
- Ghana Capital: Accra;
- Ghana Currency: Ghanaian Cedi;
- Ghana President: Nana Akufo-Addo.
- Zoological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata;
- Zoological Survey of India Founded: 1 July 1916;
- Zoological Survey of India Director: Dr. Dhriti Banerjee;
- Zoological Survey of India Founder: Government of India.
- Nicaragua Capital: Managua;
- Nicaragua Currency: Nicaraguan Córdoba;

- Nicaragua President: Daniel Ortega;
- Nicaragua Continent: North America.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- NATO Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.
- World Gold Council CEO: David Tait;
- World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky;
- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;
- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das, IAS (retd.);
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

