

# Weekly One Liners 15th to 21st of July 2024

## Wimbledon 2024 Final, Check Complete Winners List

**Carlos Alcaraz** defended his Wimbledon title as he defeated **Novak Djokovic** 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 in the **Wimbledon 2024 final**. At 21, Alcaraz is the youngest player in open era to win men's singles at Wimbledon and Roland Garros in the same year. On Women's Category, **Barbora Krejčíková** defeated **Jasmine Paolini** in their Wimbledon 2024 singles showdown, at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

[Here is the winner's list of Wimbledon 2024](#)

Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up	Score
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic	6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4)
Women's Singles	Barbora Krejčíková	Jasmine Paolini	6-2, 2-6, 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski	Santiago Gonzalez & Giuliana Olmos	6-4, 6-2
Women's Doubles	Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe	Not provided
Men's Doubles	Patten & Heliovaara	Max Purcell & Jordan Thompson	6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (11-9)

## Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog

The Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog, the **apex public policy think tank of the Union government**, following changes in the council of ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson, with **economist Suman K Bery** continuing as the vice-chairperson. The reconstituted NITI Aayog includes **four full-time members** and **15 Union Ministers**, including those from BJP allies, serving as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

### Leadership and Full-Time Members

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Economist Suman K Bery
- **Full-Time Members**
  - VK Saraswat (Former ISRO DG and Scientist)
  - Ramesh Chand (Agricultural Economist)
  - Dr. VK Paul (Paediatrician)
  - Arvind Virmani (Noted Economist)

### Ex-Officio Members from the Cabinet

- **Rajnath Singh** (Defence)
- **Amit Shah** (Home)
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Agriculture)
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** (Finance)

## Special Invitees

- **Nitin Gadkari** (Road Transport and Highways)
- **JP Nadda** (Health)
- **HD Kumaraswamy** (Heavy Industries and Steel, from JD(S))
- **Jitan Ram Manjhi** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, from HAM)
- **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh** (Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, from JD(U))
- **Virendra Kumar** (Social Justice and Empowerment)
- **Rammohan Naidu** (Civil Aviation, from TDP)
- **Jual Oram** (Tribal Affairs)
- **Annpurna Devi** (Women and Child Development)
- **Chirag Paswan** (Food Processing Industries, from LJP(RV))
- **Rao Inderjit Singh** (Statistics and Programme Implementation)

## Background

NITI Aayog, established in 2015, replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission. This restructuring aims to incorporate a broader range of expertise and representation, including significant input from NDA allies.

## AIFF awards 2024 Announced

The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 season. The top honours went to **Lallianzuala Chhangte** and **Indumathi Kathiresan**, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.

### Men's Player of the Year: Lallianzuala Chhangte

**Lallianzuala Chhangte**, the 27-year-old winger from **Mumbai City FC**, secured the AIFF Men's Player of the Year award for the second consecutive time. This achievement makes him only the fifth player to win the award multiple times. Chhangte's exceptional performance included:

- Scoring 11 goals and providing 7 assists in all competitions for Mumbai City FC
- Being the highest-scoring Indian in the Indian Super League (ISL)
- Scoring against Qatar in Doha during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June 2024

### Women's Player of the Year: Indumathi Kathiresan

**Indumathi Kathiresan**, the 30-year-old midfielder, became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win the AIFF Women's Player of the Year award. Her accomplishments include:

- Winning the 2023-24 Indian Women's League (IWL) title with Odisha FC
- Scoring 5 goals in the IWL and winning the Best Midfielder award
- Scoring against Estonia in the Turkish Women's Cup in February 2024

**Promising Players of the Year**

**Men's Category: David Lalhlansanga**

**David Lalhlansanga**, the 22-year-old striker from Mohammedan Sporting, was named the AIFF Promising Men's Player of the Year. His impressive record includes:

- Scoring 34 goals across various competitions (I-League, Calcutta Football League, and Durand Cup)
- Helping Mohammedan Sporting win the I-League and Calcutta Football League titles
- Earning his first national team call-up in May 2024 for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

**Women's Category: Neha**

18-year-old winger **Neha** received the AIFF Promising Women's Player of the Year award for her outstanding performances, including:

- Scoring 2 goals in India's SAFF U19 Women's Championship triumph
- Contributing 3 goals in Haryana's run to the Senior Women's National Football Championship final
- Scoring for HOPS FC in the IWL and being part of the senior India squad for international friendlies

**Coaching Excellence**

- **Men's Coach of the Year:** Khalid Jamil (Jamshedpur FC)
- **Women's Coach of the Year:** Sukla Dutta (India U-19 team and Sreebhumi FC)

**Other Notable Awards**

- **Referee of the Year:** Ramachandran Venkatesh
- **Assistant Referee of the Year:** Ujjal Halder

**Table of AIFF Award Winners for 2023-24**

Category	Winner
Men's Player of the Year	Lallianzuala Chhangte
Women's Player of the Year	Indumathi Kathiresan
Promising Men's Player of the Year	David Lalhlansanga
Promising Women's Player of the Year	Neha
Men's Coach of the Year	Khalid Jamil
Women's Coach of the Year	Sukla Dutta
Referee of the Year	Ramachandran Venkatesh
Assistant Referee of the Year	Ujjal Halder

**State Association Awards**

The AIFF also recognized various state football associations for their contributions to the sport:

- **Most Successful MA (Club Competitions):** Indian Football Association (West Bengal)
- **Most Successful MA (NFC Competitions):** All Manipur Football Association
- **Best MA – Supporting Women's Football:** Punjab Football Association

- **MA with most player registrations (men's):** Kerala Football Association
- **MA with most player registrations (women's):** Western India Football Association (Maharashtra)

**Special Recognition**

Special awards were given to state governments and associations for their support in hosting various AIFF events:

- Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh Football Association
- Government of Odisha and Football Association of Odisha
- Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council

**National Affairs**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **INS Towers** at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members. [\(Click to read the complete article\)](#)
- The Centre has strengthened the authority of the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir** through amendments to the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**. The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments. [\(Click to read the complete article\)](#)
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has achieved a significant milestone on **social media platform X, surpassing 100 million followers**. This milestone solidifies his position as the **most followed global leader on X**, far ahead of other world figures such as **US President Joe Biden, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed, and Pope Francis**. [\(Click to read the complete article\)](#)
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** on July 14, inaugurated the **Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence** in all 55 districts of the state from **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Many dignitaries, including the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav** and Union Minister **Smt. Savitri Thakur** were present on the occasion. [\(Click to read the complete article\)](#)

- India is set to launch its **first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933'**, alongside an email service under the name **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra)**. Scheduled for launch by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report **drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian government** has released the first tranche of **USD 2.5 million** to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its **annual contribution of USD 5 million** for the year **2024-25**. The **UNRWA**, which has carried out direct relief and works **programmes for registered Palestinian refugees** since **1950**, is making efforts to keep up its functioning in the middle of the **Israel-Hamas war in Gaza**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- India has announced a **fresh list of 346 military hardware** items that will only be procured from state-run domestic manufacturers after a ban on their import kicks in under a staggered timeline. This is part of a broader initiative to boost domestic defence industries and reduce import dependence. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** recently inaugurated Asia's inaugural health research-related **"Pre-clinical Network Facility"** at Faridabad's **Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI)**. This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as **Asia's first and the 9th globally** to handle BSL3 pathogens. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Ministry of Education** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education. This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a significant move to bolster India's international relations, **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar** embarked on a two-day visit to Mauritius on July 16 and 17, 2024. This visit marked a crucial step in reinforcing the strong bonds between India and Mauritius, two nations with deep historical and cultural ties. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- India has successfully completed its **4th periodic review** by the **Human Rights Committee** under the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** in Geneva, showcasing its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, launched in September 2023 by key G20 members including India, the United States, and Brazil, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development. The Indian government is preparing to sign a headquarters agreement with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The theme of the **India Mobile Congress 2024, 'The Future is Now'**, was unveiled on July 19 by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region on July 18. The theme signifies how India stands at the heart of the technological evolution and **IMC 2024** bringing together global leaders, **visionaries, pioneers**, and innovators to collaborate and actively shape the technologies transforming our world today, where the future isn't just a concept, it's happening. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an event on **18th July 2024**, named **"Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam"**. Celebrating Achievements, Inspiring Excellence to felicitate best performers under **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Yojana** and **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
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- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a **Mini-Ratna PSU** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved a notable milestone by advancing to the **Scheduled 'A' category** of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). This upgrade from **'Schedule B'** was announced by the Ministry of Railways in an office memorandum dated July 19, 2024. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Three training institutes of DoT**– National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (**NTIPRIT**), the National Institute of Communication Finance (**NICF**) and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (**WMTDC**) have been merged **into a single administrative entity**, named **'National Communications Academy' (NCA)** with immediate effect. The Minister of Communications (MoC) approved the merger of these entities on the recommendation of the **Committee for Organisational Reforms**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### States in the News

- **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha** emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about the historical background of **Kharchi Puja** and its **fourteen deities**. The inauguration of the traditional festival at the **Chaturdash Devta temple** in old Agartala's Khayerpur on June 14. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval on July 12, to rationalise the provisions for **zero electricity bills for domestic consumers** by restricting subsidy to **'one family, one meter'** and interlinking power connections with ration cards. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established **Uttarakhand's first bird gallery** at the Nature Education Centre, **Jolly Grant, in Dehradun** on July 15. This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state's feathery inhabitants. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a significant stride towards enhancing digital healthcare infrastructure, the Uttarakhand government has successfully integrated its **eSwasthya Dham portal** with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. This integration marks a crucial step in improving health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered **Char Dham Yatra**, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **July 16**, marks the **official beginning of Sawan** accompanied by the vibrant **Harela festival** celebrated across **Uttarakhand**. This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's **agriculture and culture**, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Indore** on July 14, set a new **Guinness World Record** in the category of **"the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours"** by planting **more than 11 lakh saplings**. Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** stated that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than **11 lakh saplings in a single day**. The programme was **organised by the state government**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a bid to tackle **unemployment among the youth**, the **Government of Maharashtra** has unveiled the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana** (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme). It **aims** to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- The first confirmed death due to **Chandipura virus infection in Gujarat** was reported as a **four-year-old child from Mota Kanthariya in Aravalli**. The confirmation came from Pune's National Institute of Virology. The virus, initially reported in north Gujarat, has spread to new areas, raising concerns about a potential outbreak with 14 deaths in two weeks and 26 suspected cases under investigation. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Scientists from Hyderabad's **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** have revealed a historic collision between **India and East Antarctica over a billion years ago**. Their findings, including a hidden ridge in **Andhra Pradesh's Darsi and Addanki regions**, suggest significant geological shifts. Seismic data reprocessing uncovered Proterozoic sediment layers, shedding new light on India's eastern coast evolution. Published in the **Journal of Pure and Applied Geophysics**, this research enriches the understanding of ancient Indian subcontinent ties to Antarctica. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the **'Best Performing State'** under the **Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme**, which supports urban street vendors with collateral-free loans up to ₹50,000. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced this accolade, with Assam securing the second position in the **'Best Performing States – Innovation and Best Practices Award'** category. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** launched a unique programme to provide financial assistance to the **Civil Services aspirants from Telangana**, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with **₹1 lakh for preparation**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### International Affairs

- **K.P. Sharma Oli** on July 15 was sworn in as **Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time**. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister on July 14, by **President Ram Chandra Paudel** to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Philippines** has been chosen to host the board of the **"Loss and Damage"** fund created by **U.N.** talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming. Last month, the **World Bank's board** approved a plan for the bank to act as interim host of the fund for four years. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- A new **high-quality malaria vaccine** developed by the **Serum Institute of India** and the **University of Oxford** is officially being rolled out in **Africa**. With this, **Côte d'Ivoire** has become the **first country in West Africa** to start administering **R21/Matrix-M**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- **President Paul Kagame** has secured a decisive victory in **Rwanda's 2024 presidential election**, capturing 99.15% of the votes, as reported by the National Electoral Commission. This marks his fourth consecutive term in office. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Roberta Metsola**, a prominent **Maltese politician**, has secured a historic **second term as President of the European Parliament**, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history. Known for her leadership and advocacy, Metsola garnered significant support from EU politicians, receiving **562 out of 623 votes in her favor**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **annual Kataragama Esala festival** is being **celebrated in Sri Lanka**. Devotees who started their **Pada Yatra** in May have reached Kataragama completing a **journey of over 500 kilometres** across difficult terrain on foot from as far afield as **Jaffna in Sri Lanka's northern peninsula**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Belarus has announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from **35 European countries** to stay in the country for up to **90 days per year**. This policy, effective from July 19, 2024, is seen as an attempt by Minsk to ease tensions with the West, following recent geopolitical shifts and ongoing sanctions. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)** has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of **Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**. This accession marks Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The government and Netflix India have partnered to create opportunities for voice-over artists, especially women, to enhance their skills and find better opportunities in the media and entertainment sector. The **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and Netflix India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch "**The Voicebox**," a program to train voice-over artists in **multiple languages** including English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Gujarati. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** announced the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for the establishment of the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at the latter. This initiative **formalised on July 3, 2024**, marks a significant **step towards institutionalising BIS's** collaboration with leading academic and research establishments across India. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Books and Authors

- **Tim Walker**, an award-winning designer-turned-author, has recently published a historical fiction novel titled "**The Prisoner of Bhopal**." This book, aimed at young readers, commemorates the 40th anniversary of one of India's most devastating industrial disasters – the **Bhopal gas tragedy**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a significant event that bridges the worlds of politics and literature, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently met with renowned author and development activist **Dr. R Balasubramaniam**. The occasion was marked by a special gesture from the Prime Minister, who signed a copy of Dr. Balasubramaniam's latest work, "**Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi**." ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- Jio Financial Services has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition from a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** to a **Core Investment Company (CIC)**. Following this announcement, the company's shares saw an increase of over **2% on the NSE**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** June 28, approved **\$1.5 billion** in financing for a second operation to help India accelerate the **development of low-carbon energy**. The operation will seek to promote the development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In June 2024, India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) reached an estimated **USD 65.47 billion, marking a 5.40% increase from June 2023**. Meanwhile, total imports for the month were estimated at USD 73.47 billion, a 6.29% rise compared to the same period last year. For the April-June 2024 quarter, total exports were estimated at USD 200.33 billion, reflecting an 8.60% growth, while total imports stood at USD 222.89 billion, up 8.47% from the previous year. The merchandise trade deficit for the quarter increased to USD 62.26 billion from USD 56.16 billion in April-June 2023. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In June 2024, **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** showed a provisional annual inflation rate of **3.36% compared to June 2023**, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors. The overall **WPI for all commodities rose to 153.9 (base year 2011-12=100)**, marking a month-on-month increase of **0.39% from May 2024**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- In its latest **World Economic Outlook**, the IMF has increased **India's GDP growth** forecast for the ongoing **fiscal year to 7%**, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections. This upward revision reflects improved consumption prospects, particularly in rural areas, supporting India's economic trajectory. However, the IMF retained a slower **growth rate of 6.5%** for the following fiscal year. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a **444-day term deposit scheme, "Amrit Vrishti"**, with an **interest rate of 7.25 per cent**. This scheme is available to domestic and non-resident Indian customers and will be effective **July 15, 2024**. India's largest bank will offer an additional **0.50 per cent** to senior citizens on the scheme. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** on July 17, maintained **India's GDP growth** forecast at **7 per cent** for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections. The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its **GDP growth projections** for India to **7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent** projected in April. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **loan of USD 240.5 million** to finance rooftop solar systems in India, aiding the government's efforts to expand energy access through renewable energy. The ADB announced on July 17, that this financing will support **tranches 2 and 3** of the **Multitranches Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Program**, initially approved by **ADB in 2016**. In 2023, the program was restructured to **focus specifically on deploying residential solar rooftop systems**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Continuing with its endeavor to increase the **contribution of bancassurance** and its pursuit to provide life insurance coverage to all **by 2047**. **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India has tied-up with one of the best technologically advanced and promising banks in the country, **IDFC First Bank Ltd**, under **Corporate Agency Arrangement**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust **7% GDP growth** for India in the **fiscal year 2024-25**. The survey, conducted in July 2024, reflects optimism among participating economists about the country's economic prospects, though caution is advised due to global headwinds and inflationary pressures. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has established a committee to review the **fee structure of white-label ATMs (WLAs)**. This panel aims to evaluate current policies and recommend a balanced and sustainable model for all stakeholders. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

## Appointments/Resignations

- The Indian government has made a significant move in the telecommunications sector by appointing **Robert Jerard Ravi** as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**. This appointment, effective from July 15, 2024, marks a new chapter for the state-run telecom operator. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Paytm Payments Bank**, an associate entity of **One97 Communications (OCL)**, has appointed **Arun Kumar Bansal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)** and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **West Bengal government** on July 15 reinstated senior IPS officer **Rajeev Kumar** as the Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal. Mr. Kumar will replace **Sanjoy Mukherjee**, who was appointed the State's DGP at the directions of the Election Commission of India during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Supreme Court** now has **two more judges** after **President Droupadi Murmu** cleared the appointments of **Justice N Kotiswar Singh** and **Justice R Mahadevan**. The appointments were announced by **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** July 16. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Former **Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Manoj Saunik**, has been appointed as the next Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA). He will succeed **Ajoy Mehta**, whose term ends in September 2024. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **HSBC Holdings Plc** has appointed its **Chief Financial Officer Georges Elhedery** as its **next CEO**, the bank said on July 17, opting for continuity as it tries to kickstart growth. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- European Parliament lawmakers **re-elected Ursula von der Leyen** to a second five-year term as **President of the European Union's** executive commission. Von der Leyen secured a comfortable majority, preventing a potential leadership vacuum. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Shri Vivek Johri**, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), presented a set of **Time Release Studies (TRS)** conducted by the department. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has awarded the **Taxnet 2.0 project to Bharti Airtel Ltd**. This project aims to provide advanced network connectivity, facility management services, and video conferencing services to the **Income Tax Department (ITD)**. Bharti Airtel was chosen through an open tender process for this critical project, which marks a significant advancement over the **current Taxnet 1.0 project**. The new system aims to enhance the digital infrastructure of the ITD by providing secure, reliable, and seamless connectivity services. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- **Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra** has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to the United States**, as confirmed by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** on Friday. Kwatra will assume his new role shortly, filling the position that has been vacant since **Taranjit Sandhu's retirement in January 2024**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni** has submitted his resignation citing personal reasons. **Manoj Soni's resignation** has not been accepted yet. The resignation of **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairperson** comes five years before the termination of his tenure and a year after taking charge. His tenure is slated to end in **2029**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Defence News

- On July 14, 2024, **Visakhapatnam** hosted the prestigious **Fleet Awards Function** to honor the **Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements** over the past year. **INS Delhi** was recognized as the **Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet** for its outstanding performance and operational prowess. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar** arrived at Hamburg, Germany on **17 July 24** for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include **professional exchanges** between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of **INS Tabar** will also engage in community service. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** on July 12, won the **Golden Sand Master award** at an international championship in **Russia**. The event, **International Sand Sculpture Championship** was **organised from July 4-12 in St Petersburg** at the iconic **Peter and Paul Fortress**. The **world's 21 master sculptors** participated in the event. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been awarded the prestigious **2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**. This accolade not only highlights India's progress in sustainable farming but also places Andhra Pradesh on the global map for its pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust**, has been honoured with the **"Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024."** This esteemed accolade was presented at the **Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024**, at the **Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon**. The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- The **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**, the world's first scientific body dedicated to space science research, has recognized the outstanding contributions of two Indian space scientists at its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea. **Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**, one of India's most senior space scientists, received the esteemed **Harrie Massey Award**. **Anil Bhardwaj**, the director of the Ahmedabad-based **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, was awarded the **Vikram Sarabhai Medal**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, the renowned **Nobel Peace Prize** laureate and Guatemalan human rights activist, has been honored with the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2020**. This prestigious accolade recognizes her lifelong commitment to advocating for **Indigenous rights** and promoting peace and social justice. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Ram Charan**, the superstar known for his stellar performance in the global blockbuster "RRR", is set to be the guest of honor at the prestigious **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024**. This recognition comes as a testament to his significant contributions to Indian cinema and his rising international profile. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** presented the award during the **96th Foundation Day celebrations** of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- **India** will host the first **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit** in November alongside the **International Film Festival of India in Goa**. I&B Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **IIT Delhi and Prasar Bharati** will host the **two-day Robot Competition 'DD-Robocon' India 2024** from July 13, at **Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi**. The event will host more than **750 students** from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is set to make history as it holds its **Annual Conference** in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024. This marks the **first time** the prestigious event will be hosted in the **Asian region**, highlighting the growing importance of Asian cricket on the global stage. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi** successfully concluded its **Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti** on July 15, 2024, celebrating Sushruta Jayanti. The three-day event, beginning on July 13, honored Sushruta, the father of surgery, with a series of live surgical demonstrations and expert discussions. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- India is hosting the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time**, alongside the **2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in New Delhi**. From July 14 to 23, young professionals from around the world will gather to enhance their skills in heritage preservation and sustainable development. The forum, organized by the **Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India**, focuses on integrating global heritage concepts with local Indian heritage management. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **India** is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on **civil aviation on September 11 and 12**, with representatives from **around 40 countries**, including **China and Pakistan**. The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, under the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**, hosted **SYNCHN 2024 on July 14th, 2024**. This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- A milestone event in space exploration, the **45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** commenced in **Busan, South Korea**. Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The Indian team, which participated at the **35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024** achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a **GOLD medal** and three students securing **SILVER medals**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

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## Ranks and Reports

- India's population is projected to peak at **1.7 billion in the early 2060s** before declining by **12%**, as predicted by the **United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024** report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- A recent study by Kantar reveals that **Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple** are ranked as the '**most inclusive' brands in India**. The Kantar Brand Inclusion Index 2024 highlights significant issues of discrimination and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Indian consumers. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- India should set an ambitious target of achieving **\$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030**, as stated in a recent **NITI Aayog report**. This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing. Currently, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components. The report, titled "**Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains**," also forecasts that India's electronics exports could reach \$240 billion, with domestic value addition expected to surpass 35%. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- India has **maintained its 124th position** in the latest FIFA men's rankings released. This comes as a small relief for the success-starved nation, which has been experiencing a downward trend in recent months. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

## Sports News

- In a thrilling finale to Euro 2024, **Spain** secured their **fourth European Championship** trophy with a nail-biting 2-1 victory over **England** at the **Olympiastadion** in Berlin. This win cements Spain's status as the most successful nation in the tournament's history and marks their third title in the last five editions. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a **riveting finale** of the World Championship of Legends 2024, **India Champions** clinched a memorable victory against their arch-rivals **Pakistan Champions** by five wickets. The match, held at **Edgbaston** on July 13, 2024, showcased the enduring spirit of cricket and the fierce competition between these two cricketing powerhouses. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- In a move that marks the conclusion of an illustrious international career, **Thomas Müller**, the German football icon, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of **Euro 2024**. This decision brings to a close a chapter that has spanned over a decade, leaving an indelible mark on German and world football. ([Click to read the complete article](#))



- **Cricketer Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot to become **India's most valued celebrity**, boasting a brand value of **\$227.9 million in 2023**. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of **\$237.7 million in 2020**, as reported by Kroll's **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, one of the most successful franchises in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, has announced a significant expansion of its global presence with the establishment of its third international **Super Kings Academy** in Sydney, Australia. This move not only enhances CSK's international profile but also reinforces the franchise's long-standing connection with Australian cricket. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- The second regional event of the '**Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman**' campaign, under the aegis of **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)**, is scheduled to take place in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on the 16th of July 2024**. This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic. The campaign aims to promote understanding of the Constitution and raise awareness about legal rights. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is set to unveil a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the landscape of agricultural and animal husbandry research in India. The '**One Scientist-One Product**' programme, scheduled for launch on July 16, marks a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to advancing agricultural science and technology. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** announced the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' for boys in the state after announcing the '**Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana**' for girls. The latter aims to provide **monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to eligible women**. Speaking in **Maharashtra's Pandharpur** on the occasion of **Ashadhi Ekadashi**, Shinde reportedly said the state government does not differentiate between boys and girls and that the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' scheme will solve the **unemployment issue**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, India has marked a significant achievement in the global coal mining sector. The **Gevra and Kusmunda coal mines**, operated by **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions among the world's largest coal mines. These mines, located in **Chhattisgarh's Korba district**, have been recognized as the **2nd and 4th largest coal mines** globally by **WorldAtlas.com**, producing over 100 million tons of coal annually and contributing about 10% to India's total coal production. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- **Lok Sabha Speaker** sets up the **Business Advisory Committee** for the new session. The Committee includes members such as **Sudip Bandhyopadhyay, Gaurav Gogoi, Dayanidhi Maran, PP Chaudhary, and Anurag Thakur**, among others. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "**The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)**" to **Venus**, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space. The transmission was made possible through **NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN)**, from their **Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California**. Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Elon Musk** said on July 16, said that he would move the **headquarters of two of his businesses**, the social media platform X and the **rocket manufacturer SpaceX**, to Texas, escalating an increasingly contentious **fight with California**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- NASA has achieved a significant milestone with the discovery of **six new exoplanets**: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. This brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Important Days News

- **World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15th**, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. This day serves as a global platform to **highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills** essential for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. As we approach the 2024 celebration, the theme "Youth Skills for Peace and Development" takes center stage, emphasizing the crucial role of young people in fostering peace and driving sustainable development. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The **96th Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Foundation and Technology Day** is observed on 16th July at the Dr. C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi. **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, lead the inauguration. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Every year on **July 17**, the global community comes together to observe the **World Day for International Justice**. This significant day is dedicated to promoting **international criminal justice** and honouring the ongoing fight against **impunity** for the most serious crimes affecting the international community. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

- Every year on **July 18th**, the world unites to celebrate **Nelson Mandela International Day**, honouring the life and enduring legacy of one of history's most inspiring figures. This day serves not only as a commemoration but as a **global call to action**, encouraging individuals and communities worldwide to embody Mandela's spirit of service and dedication to social justice. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **International Chess Day**, celebrated annually on **July 20th**, is a worldwide commemoration that honours the ancient game of **chess** and its profound impact on global culture, education, and intellectual development. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **International Moon Day**, observed annually on **July 20th**, is a United Nations-designated international day that commemorates humanity's achievements in lunar exploration. This day marks the anniversary of the first human landing on the Moon as part of the **Apollo 11** mission and serves to raise awareness about sustainable Moon exploration and utilization. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Obituaries News

- **Aparna Vastarey**, a cherished **Kannada actress** and the familiar voice behind Namma Metro's announcements, has **passed away at the age of 57**. She succumbed to lung cancer on July 11, with her husband breaking the news to her fans via social media. He disclosed that Aparna was in the advanced **fourth stage of cancer** at the time of her death. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- The stationery industry in India lost a pioneer with the passing of **Subhash Dandekar**, the founder of the iconic brand **Camlin**. At the age of 86, Dandekar left behind a legacy that transformed the landscape of stationery and art supplies in the country. His vision and leadership not only built a household name but also contributed significantly to India's industrial and social development. ([Click to read the complete article](#))



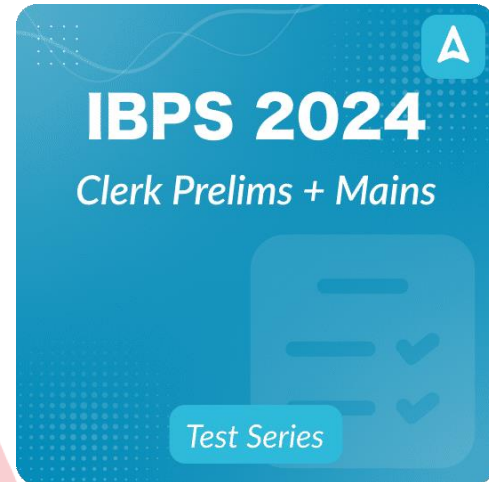
### Miscellaneous News

- **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police**. Despite facing rejection and discrimination from coaching centers, Kashyap persevered and cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest and largest urban tunnel** project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. This Rs. 16,600 crore project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Ratings agency ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to AAA/Stable from AA+/Stable. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to AAA/Stable. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by **Rs 7.10 or 0.47%**. ([Click to read the complete article](#))
- **Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom) has inaugurated a **centre of excellence** on "**Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G**" at **IITM Research Park, Chennai**. This is a **sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India** and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. **Shri Sanjeev Kumar Bidwai**, Sp DGT, **Tamil Nadu** was among those present at the occasion. ([Click to read the complete article](#))

### Static Takeaways

- Capital of Goa: Panaji (Executive Branch)
- Goa CM: Pramod Sawant
- Goa Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
- State Bird: Flame-throated bulbul
- Capital of Tripura: Agartala
- Tripura Governor: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
- Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha
- Tripura as union territory: 1 November 1956
- State Bird: Green imperial pigeon

- Headquarters of World Bank: Washington, D.C., United States
- World Bank was founded: July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States
- CFO of World Bank: Anshula Kant
- President of World Bank: Ajay Banga
- Founders of World Bank: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White
- Headquarters of the ICAR: New Delhi;
- ICAR Established: 16 July 1929;
- ICAR Director: Himanshu Pathak.
- UGC Founded: November 1956;
- UGC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- UGC Chairman: Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar.
- Rwanda Capital: Kigali
- Rwanda Currency: Rwandan franc
- Rwanda President : Paul Kagame
- Mauritius Capital: Port Louis;
- Mauritius Currency: Mauritian Rupee;
- Mauritius Prime Minister: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.
- Committee on Space Research Location: Paris, France;
- Committee on Space Research President: Pascale Ehrenfreund;
- Committee on Space Research Established: 1958.
- International Chess Federation President: Arkady Dvorkovich;
- International Chess Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Chess Federation Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France.
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Headquarters: Vienna, Austria;
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Founded: 13 December 1958;
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Head: Director; Aarti Holla-Maini.



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