

# Weekly One Liners 26th to 1st of September 2024

## Gol Approves Unified Pension Scheme for Government Employees

In a significant move to enhance retirement benefits for government employees, the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. This new scheme is set to benefit approximately **23 lakh government employees** and will serve as an alternative to the existing National Pension System (NPS).

### Background

The decision comes after a thorough review of the current pension system. In 2023, the finance ministry established a committee led by finance secretary TV Somanathan to evaluate the National Pension System for government employees. The NPS, which has been in effect since April 1, 2004, will now coexist with the newly introduced UPS.

### Key Features of the Unified Pension Scheme

#### Assured Pension

One of the most notable features of the UPS is the **assured pension**. Employees who have completed a minimum qualifying service of 25 years will be entitled to a pension that is **50% of the average basic pay** drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation. This provision ensures a stable and substantial income for retirees.

For those with shorter service periods, a proportionate plan has been put in place. Employees with a minimum of 10 years of service will also be eligible for pension benefits, albeit at a reduced rate commensurate with their years of service.

#### Family Pension

The UPS also introduces an **assured family pension**. In the unfortunate event of an employee's death, their family will receive a pension at the rate of **60% of the employee's pension**. This provision offers crucial financial support to the families of deceased government employees.

#### Minimum Pension Guarantee

To ensure a basic standard of living for all retirees, the UPS establishes a **minimum pension of Rs. 10,000 per month**. This benefit is available to employees who have completed a minimum of 10 years of service and have reached superannuation.

#### Inflation Protection

Recognizing the impact of rising costs on retirees, the UPS includes provisions for **inflation indexation**. This feature applies to the assured pension, assured family pension, and the minimum pension. Additionally, **Dearness Relief** will be provided based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW), similar to the benefit extended to current service employees.

#### Lump Sum Payment

Upon superannuation, employees will receive a **lump sum payment** in addition to their gratuity. This payment will be calculated as **1/10th of the monthly emoluments** (pay plus Dearness Allowance) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six months of service. Importantly, this lump sum payment will not reduce the quantum of the assured pension.

#### Eligibility and Implementation

The Unified Pension Scheme is set to take effect from **April 1, 2025**. However, its benefits will extend retroactively to those who have already retired or will retire up until March 31, 2025, with arrears being provided.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted that the scheme will positively impact approximately **23 lakh government employees**.

#### Transition from NPS to UPS

Current subscribers to the National Pension System will have the option to **switch to the UPS** from the next financial year. This flexibility allows employees to choose the scheme that best suits their retirement planning needs.

## Paralympic Games Begin

**French President Emmanuel Macron** declared the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games open on Wednesday evening at Place de la Concorde. This is the **first time** that **France** has hosted the **Paralympic Summer Games**, and is also the first time that a **Paralympics opening ceremony** has taken place outside a stadium, in the heart of the host city.

#### Aim of this ceremony

"The aim of this ceremony is **to change the way we look at people with disabilities**, and to oppose all preconceived opinions on these issues, but not in a vain and sterile opposition," said Thomas Jolly, artistic director of the Paris 2024 ceremonies.

#### Participatory athletes

Around **4,400 athletes** from a record 168 delegations will participate in the **11-day competition across 22 sports** starting from August 30, with **Eritrea, Kiribati and Kosovo** making their **Paralympic debuts**.

#### China's delegation

China's delegation entered with wheelchair fencer **Gu Haiyan** and weightlifter **Qi Yongkai** carrying the flag together. China has sent a delegation of **284 athletes – 126 males and 158 females** – to compete across **302 events in 19 sports**. Among them, 95 are first-time Paralympians.

**India's Participation in the 2024 Paralympics**

India has been steadily increasing its presence in the Paralympic Games, and the 2024 edition is no exception. The Indian contingent comprises over **60 athletes** competing in a diverse range of sports, including athletics, powerlifting, shooting, archery, badminton, and table tennis. This year, there is a special focus on athletics and badminton, where Indian athletes have shown considerable promise.

**84 athletes for the Paris 2024 Paralympics, from India**

India has announced a contingent of **84 athletes for the Paris 2024 Paralympics**, marking the largest delegation the country has ever sent to the event. Scheduled to take place **from August 28 to September 8**, this year's team includes **32 women**, a significant increase from the **14 women** who participated in the **Tokyo 2020 Paralympics**, where India sent a **total of 54 athletes**.

**Participation from India in three new sports**

For the first time, India will compete in **three new sports: para-cycling, para-rowing**, and blind judo, expanding its participation to a total of 12 sports. In total, the **Paris 2024 Paralympics** will feature 22 sports.

**Some of the top Indian athletes for Paralympics 2024**

- **Avani Lekhara** (Shooting): After her historic gold and bronze medal wins in Tokyo 2020, Avani is a strong contender in the 10m Air Rifle event.
- **Sumit Antil** (Javelin Throw): The world record holder and gold medalist from Tokyo will be aiming to defend his title.
- **Pramod Bhagat** (Badminton): As one of the leading para-shuttlers globally, Pramod is set to shine in the men's singles SL3 category.
- **Ekta Bhyan** (Club Throw): Ekta, who has consistently performed well at international events, will be looking to add a Paralympic medal to her accolades.

**2024 Paralympic Games Mascot: "Phryge"**

The 2024 **Paris Paralympic Games** introduced a vibrant and meaningful **mascot named "Phryge."** The mascot represents the spirit of revolution and freedom, embodying the values of the Paralympic movement—determination, inclusivity, and the triumph of the human spirit.

**Phryge: The Symbol of the 2024 Games**

- **Inspiration:** The mascot is inspired by the Phrygian cap, a symbol of liberty and freedom that has deep historical roots in France. This symbol has been reimagined in a modern, dynamic form, reflecting the innovative and inclusive spirit of the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- **Design:** Phryge is characterized by its bold colors, predominantly red, with an approachable and energetic appearance. Its design is intended to resonate with both children and adults, promoting the message that sports can unite people and break down barriers.

- **Message:** The mascot's mission is to encourage everyone to get involved in sports, regardless of their abilities, and to celebrate diversity and the strength of the human spirit. Phryge stands as a reminder that the Paralympic Games are not just about competition but about inclusion, resilience, and the power of sport to change lives.

**Phryge's Role During the Games**

Throughout the **2024 Paralympic Games**, Phryge will be a prominent figure, appearing in various promotional materials, events, and fan interactions. The mascot will engage with audiences worldwide, bringing the excitement of the Paralympics to life and fostering a sense of community and shared values.

- **Involved in educational programs:** Phryge will also be involved in educational programs aimed at promoting the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality. Through these initiatives, the mascot will help spread the message that everyone, regardless of their physical abilities, has the potential to achieve greatness.
- **Adds a unique and culturally significant element:** The introduction of Phryge as the mascot for the **2024 Paris Paralympics** adds a unique and culturally significant element to the games, further emphasizing the event's commitment to inclusivity and celebration of human potential.

**National Affairs**

- **India's** space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of **RHUMI-1**, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On India's inaugural **National Space Day**, the nation witnessed a significant educational milestone with the release of 'Sapno ki Udaan', an innovative e-magazine. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** distributed **certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis** in a function organised at **Jalgaon in Maharashtra**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has decided to create **five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh**, said home minister **Amit Shah** on August 26. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Union Government** has introduced **new 2024 guidelines** aimed at improving the handling of public grievances, focusing on citizen empowerment and streamlining the redressal process. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Union **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the new **GST Bhawan in Udaipur**, located in the **Hiran Magri area**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, India has announced the results of its **online human rights photography competition – 2024** organized in **collaboration with MyGov**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- **Teghbir Singh**, a five-year-old boy from Ropar, Punjab, has etched his name in the annals of mountaineering history. Teghbir has become the **youngest Asian** to successfully scale **Mount Kilimanjaro**, Africa's highest peak, standing at an impressive **5,895 meters** above sea level. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** earlier on August 28, chaired the meeting of the **44th edition of PRAGATI**, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** is set to commission **India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, INS Arighat (S-3), at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability. This submarine, armed with **750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles**, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** awarded **Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira**, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)**. This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given the green light to 12 new project proposals under the **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **On National Sports Day in New Delhi**, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, launched the **"Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- August 30, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Maharashtra to lay the foundation stone of the Vadhvan Port project and address the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024** in Mumbai. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Army** has launched the **first phase of Project NAMAN**, aimed at providing dedicated support and services to **Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will flag off three new **Vande Bharat trains** around 12:30 pm on August 31. "These new Vande Bharat trains shall provide the people of the region the **world-class** means to travel with speed and comfort and will cater to **three states – Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka**." ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### States in the News

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde**, has approved the implementation of a **revised National Pension Scheme (NPS)** for state government employees on the lines of the **Centre's Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The state of **Assam** has officially recorded the presence of **mithun (Bos frontalis)** for the first time. This discovery comes generations after the semi-wild, gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribal communities in the state's hill district of **Dima Hasao**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant move ahead of the October 2024 **Legislative Assembly election**, Maharashtra has become the first state to adopt the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** for its employees, just hours after the central government introduced the scheme. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant move to boost religious tourism and cultural heritage, the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have announced plans to develop a new religious circuit called the **'Shri Krishna Gaman Path'**. This initiative aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, tracing the footsteps of one of Hinduism's most revered deities. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** has allocated **Rs 53.21 crore** annually to fund the **'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'**, aimed at supporting the education and well-being of children from vulnerable families. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has introduced the **Digital Media Policy, 2024**, which incentivizes **social media influencers** to promote state initiatives, schemes, and achievements through various online platforms. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched its first indigenously developed **Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap'**, in **Goa**. **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth**, who presided over the event, emphasized the need for industry partners to contribute towards India becoming fully self-sufficient (Aatmanirbhar) in defense production and a net exporter. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On the occasion of **National Sports Day**, Bihar took a significant leap forward in its commitment to sports development. **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** inaugurated a trio of state-of-the-art facilities in **Rajgir**, marking a new chapter in the state's sporting history. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Cyclone Asna** has formed over the **Kutch coast in Gujarat** and adjoining areas of **Pakistan**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** said on August 30. The **cyclonic storm** – a rare land-originating one in August and headed to the **Arabian Sea** – is expected to move further away from the western coast in the next 48 hours. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**International Affairs**

- **North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** recently unveiled a new type of “suicide drone,” with state media reporting that he personally oversaw a performance test of the weaponry. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and Indonesia** have reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism, including addressing the misuse of new and **emerging technologies by terrorists**. During the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on **Counter-Terrorism held in Jakarta**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at **Millennium Plaza Dubai**, marking the **114th birth anniversary** of the esteemed humanitarian. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Typhoon Shanshan** made landfall on **Japan’s southwestern main island of Kyushu** on August 29. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Singapore Airlines on August 30, said it has received **approval from the Indian government** for the foreign direct investment as part of the proposed merger of **Vistara with Air India**. This deal will create one of the **world’s largest airline groups**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **WHO** has declared **Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district** as **Nepal’s first ‘healthy city’ and second healthiest city in Asia**. Since 2014, **Dhulikhel Municipality** has implemented various programmes to achieve the status. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **United Nations** has allocated **\$100 million** from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** to address **critical humanitarian needs in 10 countries** across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Caribbean. Acting UN humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya emphasized the dire need for this funding, noting that a lack of resources is hindering aid agencies from providing essential life-saving assistance. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- In a significant development, the **Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)** and the **Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **August 26, 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **United States and Peru** have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in the sector of critical minerals. The memorandum, **signed in Lima**. It aims to boost governance, investment, and global supply chain security for critical mineral resources. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and Malaysia** have very close **political, economic and socio-cultural relations**. To further strengthen this relationship, **India and Malaysia** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- **National Security Adviser** to the Prime Minister of India, **Ajit Doval**, participated in the signing of the Founding Documents of the **Colombo Security Conclave**. The signing event marked a significant step in regional security collaboration among India, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Books and Authors**

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, **Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari** has launched the first comic book in a series dedicated to IAF heroes. This innovative approach to storytelling marks a significant step in the IAF’s efforts to connect with younger generations and foster a sense of pride and duty towards the nation. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has recently unveiled its latest offering in the term insurance segment – **Sampoorna Raksha Promise**. This innovative product is designed to provide enhanced financial security to policyholders and their families, addressing various aspects of life insurance needs. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Piramal Finance**, a subsidiary of **Piramal Enterprises Limited**, has partnered with the Central Bank of India to expand co-lending operations aimed at supporting underserved markets. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Amazon**, the global e-commerce giant, has announced the beta launch of **Rufus**, a cutting-edge **generative AI-powered conversational shopping assistant**, in India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Bharti Airtel** has unveiled a **new content partnership with Apple**, set to offer exclusive **Apple Music and Apple TV+** deals to customers in India later this year. As part of this collaboration, **Apple TV+** will be integrated into **Airtel’s Xstream** video-streaming service available through premium Wi-Fi and postpaid plans. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is projected to grow by **7.0 per cent to 7.1 per cent** in the first quarter of the **fiscal year 2024-25 (Q1FY25)**, according to the latest **SBI Ecowrap report released on August 26**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry. The bank’s commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious **2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards**, where it clinched **four coveted awards**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **ESAF Small Finance Bank**, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the **Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has unveiled its **fifth TCS Pace Studio in Manila, Philippines**, aiming to drive digital innovation across the **Asia-Pacific region**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- During Reliance Industries' 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** announced a groundbreaking development in the field of artificial intelligence. The company's telecom arm, **Reliance Jio**, is set to launch a comprehensive suite of AI tools and applications called '**Jio Brain**'. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Infosys** has expanded its **partnership with NVIDIA** to develop generative AI solutions tailored for telecom operators. Utilizing **NVIDIA's NIM inference microservices**, NeMo Retriever models, NeMo Guardrails, and Riva. Infosys aims to enhance telecommunication operations and customer service. Early results show significant improvements in latency and accuracy. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Moody's Ratings** has revised its real **GDP growth forecast for India**, raising it to **7.2% for the financial year 2024**, up from a previous estimate of **6.8%**, and to **6.6% for 2025**, from an earlier projection of 6.4%. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) presented a **dividend cheque of ₹3,662.17 crore** to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This follows the shareholder approval of a final dividend of **₹6 per share for 2023-24**, up from **₹3 per share** in the previous fiscal year. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted '**Navratna**' status to **four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**: NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of **Navratna CPSEs in India to 25**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties on two financial entities for regulatory non-compliance. **UCO Bank has been fined Rs 2.68 crore** for violating provisions related to current account openings, deposit interest rates, and fraud classification. Meanwhile, Cent Bank **Home Finance Ltd faces a Rs 2.1 lakh penalty** for failing to adhere to Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Mastercard** has globally debuted its **Payment Passkey Service in India**, aiming to enhance online shopping security and convenience. Unveiled at the **Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai**, this service, initially piloted with Indian payment leaders like **Juspay, Razorpay, and PayU**, along with banks such as Axis Bank, leverages biometric authentication—replacing traditional passwords and OTPs with more secure fingerprint or facial recognition methods. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

## Appointments/Resignations

- Union Minister **Chirag Paswan** was on August 25 re-elected as the **national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)** for the **next five years**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Texas Governor Greg Abbott** has appointed **Arun Agarwal**, a **Dallas-based Indian-American** entrepreneur, as the Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) Board of Directors. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Sanjeev Raina**, a **1987-batch ITBP officer**, has been appointed **Additional Director General (ADG) in the India-China LAC guarding force**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The National Association of Software and Service Companies (**Nasscom**), India's premier IT industry body, has announced a significant change in its leadership. **Sindhu Gangadharan**, the Managing Director of **SAP Labs India**, has been appointed as the new chairperson of Nasscom. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Jay Shah** has been elected unopposed as the new Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC), succeeding **Greg Barclay**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Centre has appointed senior IPS officer **B Srinivasan** as the new **Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The ACC has appointed **Satish Kumar** as the new **Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On August 28, 2024, **Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar**, NM, assumed duties as the Director General of Project Seabird, taking over from **Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In **Iran**, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson. At the suggestion of **Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian** and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, **Fateme Mohajerani** was appointed as the **first female government spokesperson**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Shriram Capital**, the holding company of the **Shriram Group**, has appointed Subhasri as its new **Managing Director and CEO, effective 1 September**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, a distinguished IPS officer of the 1990 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the new **Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)**. Simultaneously, the government has appointed **Rajwinder Singh Bhatti** as the **Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Dr. T.V. Somanathan**, a senior IAS officer of the **1987 Tamil Nadu cadre**, has assumed the role of **Cabinet Secretary** for the Government of India, **succeeding Rajiv Gauba** after his superannuation. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Defence News**

- The Indian Defence Ministry is finalizing a repeat order for **73,000 SIG 716 G2 patrol assault rifles from the US** to equip its frontline troops. This follows a **2019 procurement of 72,400 SiG 716 rifles (7.62 x 51mm calibre)** under the ‘Buy (Global)’ category through a fast-track procedure, which were distributed across the Army, Air Force, and Navy. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant step in international aviation diplomacy by dispatching its renowned **Sarang Helicopter Display Team** to participate in the inaugural **Egypt International Airshow**. This event, scheduled from **September 3 to 5, 2023**, at the **Al-Alamein International Airport** in Egypt’s El Dabaa, marks a crucial moment for India to demonstrate its indigenous aviation capabilities on the global stage. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **INS Tabar**, a frontline frigate of the **Indian Navy**, visited **Malaga, Spain**, on 25 August 2024, for a **two-day engagement**. Upon departure on 27 August, it participated in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with the **Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya in the Mediterranean Sea**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Awards and Recognitions**

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** recently organized its prestigious **Young Leaders Awards** in New Delhi, bringing together a diverse array of talented individuals from various fields. The ceremony was graced by two outstanding personalities who received the coveted **FICCI Young Leaders Youth Icon** award:
- **Ayushmann Khurrana**: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor
- **Neeraj Chopra**: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Kerala Tourism** has once again put India on the global tourism map by winning the prestigious **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Summits and Conferences News**

- The **2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)**, aimed at further strengthening trade and economic ties between the two countries, will be held in Singapore on August 26. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Second Meeting of the Joint Russian- Indian Commission** on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in **Moscow, Russia**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum** announced the third edition of the **India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit** at Stanford University on Sept 9-10, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Ranks and Reports**

- The **Hurun India Rich List 2024** has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with **Mumbai** emerging as the new “**billionaire capital of Asia**”. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

**Sports News**

- The Dutch Grand Prix witnessed a spectacular display of skill and determination as **Lando Norris** secured his **second career win**, outpacing championship leader **Max Verstappen** in a thrilling race. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **14-year-old Tanvi Patri** from Odisha, India, has etched her name in the annals of badminton history. Patri clinched the **women’s singles title** at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in **Chengdu, People’s Republic of China**, from August 20-25, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a **silver medal** at the prestigious **Maruhaba Cup**, a team event at the **Asian Surfing Championships 2024**. The competition, held in **Thulusdhoo, Maldives**, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India’s surfing history. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Dawid Malan**, the former top-ranked **T20 batter** and a versatile player who achieved the rare feat of scoring centuries for England in all formats, has announced his retirement from international cricket. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Karthik Venkataraman** won the 61st edition of the **Indian National Championship** after **scoring 9/11 points** at the event organised by the **Haryana Chess Association**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Bangladesh** has emerged as the new champion of the **SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship** football tournament. This victory marks a significant milestone in Bangladesh’s football history, as it is the first time the nation has claimed this prestigious title. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Para shooter Avani Lekhara** created history on August 30, by becoming the **first Indian woman to win two gold medals at Paralympics**. Avani, who became the **first Indian woman to win a Paralympic Games gold medal** during the women’s 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the **Tokyo 2020 edition**, retained her title in Paris. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian shooter **Manish Narwal** has earned a silver medal in the **Men’s 10m Air Pistol SH1 event at the Paris Paralympics 2024**. This victory adds to India’s growing success at the Games, bringing the country’s total medal count to four. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- Indian athlete **Preethi Pal** has achieved a historic milestone by winning **India's first-ever medal in the 100m event at the Paralympic Games**. Competing in the **women's T35 100m event**, Pal clinched the bronze medal with a remarkable personal best time of 14.21 seconds. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Mona Agarwal** made history at the **2024 Paralympics** by securing a **bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event** on August 30. Mona Agarwal's remarkable achievements include a **bronze medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1** at the **Paris Paralympics 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has chaired a **bilateral meeting on US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce** in New Delhi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called '**Vigyan Dhara**' under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a big announcement ahead of assembly elections in one state and a Union Territory this year, the government has launched the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** amid protests by several **non-BJP-ruled states** over the **New Pension Scheme (NPS)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Spices Board of India has introduced the SPICED scheme, a strategic initiative to enhance spice exports and productivity. This scheme, officially named '**Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development**,' will be implemented throughout the remainder of the **15th Finance Commission cycle**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** has completed a **milestone 10 years** today. Acknowledging this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to congratulate the beneficiaries. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Union Minister of **Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi**, launched the new **SHe-Box** portal, a centralized platform aimed at making workplaces safer for women by addressing complaints of sexual harassment. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### Science and Technology News

- **Gopichand Thotakura**, India's first civilian space tourist, received a warm welcome in Delhi upon his return on August 26, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** has granted approval to **Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for detection of Mpox**, a senior Health Ministry official said. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- **Bharat Biotech International Ltd** has launched **Hillchol (BBV131)**, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from **Hilleman Laboratories**. This launch is critical as global demand for **OCVs exceeds 100 million doses** annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately **40 million doses** due to limited supply. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- An outbreak of bird flu, caused by the **H5N1 strain of avian influenza**, has been reported in **Pipili town, Puri district, Odisha**. Authorities have culled over **11,700 chickens** following the **detection of the virus**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **NASA engineers** are developing **underwater robot probes** to measure the rate of ice shelf melting in Antarctica due to climate change. These robots, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, aim to provide accurate data to improve predictions of sea level rise. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **More than 50 illnesses and nine deaths** have been reported due **Listeria outbreak in US**. According to latest data released by the **Centre for Disease Control and Prevention CDC**, the outbreak has been reported in 18 states with a total of 57 people have been hospitalised. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### Important Days News

- **August 26, 2024** marks the **114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa**, a divine figure whose legacy of love and compassion continues to inspire the world. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** is organising the next **World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Every year on **August 29**, the world observes the **International Day Against Nuclear Tests**. This significant day serves as a global reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and the urgent need for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Every year on **August 29**, India celebrates **National Sports Day**. This day goes beyond celebrating India's athletic achievements; it emphasizes the crucial role of sports in maintaining health, fostering community, and inspiring generations. At the heart of this celebration is the legacy of India's legendary hockey player, **Major Dhyan Chand**, whose extraordinary skills and contributions to the sport have left an indelible mark on the nation's sporting history. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances**, observed annually on **August 30th**, sheds light on a horrific practice that continues to plague societies worldwide. Enforced disappearances, a tool of oppression and terror, involve the **arrest or abduction of individuals by state actors**, followed by a refusal to acknowledge their whereabouts or fate. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- The **International Day for People of African Descent** Observed on **31st August** to marks a significant milestone in the global recognition of the contributions and challenges faced by individuals of African descent worldwide. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### Obituaries News

- Veteran Congress leader and recently elected **Nanded MP, Vasant Rao Chavan**, passed away at **4 a.m. on August 26, 2024**, at **KIMS Hospital in Hyderabad**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Former **Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss**, a key figure during Lebanon's turbulent years, has passed away at the **age of 94**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The cycling world mourns the loss of **Daniela Larreal Chirinos**, a celebrated **Venezuelan Olympic cyclist** who passed away at the age of 51. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **New Zealand's Māori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII**, passed away on August 30, 2024, at the **age of 69**, just days after celebrating **18 years on the throne**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

### Static Takeaways

- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- FICCI President: Subhrakant Panda
- FICCI Established: 1927
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., USA
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson
- NASA Established: 1958
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Chief Minister:
- Mohan Charan Majhi
- Odisha Governor: Raghubar Das
- Odisha State Formation: April 1, 1936
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Drugs Controller General of India: Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) Established: 1940
- Spices Board of India Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala, India
- Spices Board of India Chairman: A.G. Thankappan
- Spices Board of India Established: 1987
- Singapore Capital: Singapore
- Singapore President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Singapore Prime Minister: Lawrence Wong
- Singapore Independence: August 9, 1965
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Established: October 8, 1932

- Border Security Force (BSF) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Border Security Force (BSF) Director General: Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- Border Security Force (BSF) Established: December 1, 1965
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Director General: Rajwinder Singh Bhatti
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Established: March 10, 1969
- Iran Capital: Tehran
- Iran Supreme Leader: Ali Khamenei
- Iran President: Masoud Pezeshkian
- Iran Established: As an Islamic Republic since 1979
- Railway Board Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Railway Board Chairman & CEO: Satish Kumar
- Railway Board Established: 1905
- National Security Guard (NSG) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- National Security Guard (NSG) Director General: Nalin Prabhat
- National Security Guard (NSG) Established: 1984
- International Cricket Council (ICC) Headquarters: Dubai, UAE
- International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman: Jay Shah
- International Cricket Council (ICC) CEO: Geoff Allardice
- International Cricket Council (ICC) Established: 1909
- Nasscom Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Nasscom Chairperson: Rajesh Nambiar
- Nasscom Established: 1988
- India-China LAC Guarding Force Primary Forces Involved: Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- India-China LAC Guarding Force Regions: Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh
- India-China LAC Guarding Force Established: After the Sino-Indian War of 1962
- UCO Bank Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- UCO Bank MD & CEO: Ashwani Kumar
- UCO Bank Established: 1943
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Chairman: Siddhartha Mohanty
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Established: 1956
- NVIDIA Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, USA
- NVIDIA CEO: Jensen Huang
- NVIDIA Established: 1993
- Infosys Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Infosys CEO: Salil Parekh
- Infosys Chairman: Nandan Nilekani
- Infosys Established: 1981
- Reliance Jio Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Reliance Jio Chairman: Akash Ambani
- Reliance Jio Established: 2007



- Philippines Capital: Manila
- Philippines President: Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
- Philippines Independence Day: June 12, 1898 (from Spain)
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) CEO & MD: K Krithivasan
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Established: 1968
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- ESAF Small Finance Bank MD & CEO: K. Paul Thomas
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Established: 2017
- Jana Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Jana Small Finance Bank MD & CEO: Ajay Kanwal
- Jana Small Finance Bank Established: 2008
- Amazon Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, USA
- Amazon CEO: Andy Jassy
- Amazon Founded: 1994
- Amazon Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Tata AIA MD & CEO: Naveen Tahilyani
- Tata AIA Established: 2000
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur
- Malaysia Prime Minister: Anwar Ibrahim
- Malaysia Independence Day: August 31, 1957
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) Director: **Ravishankar C.N.**
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) Established: 1961
- WHO (World Health Organization) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- WHO (World Health Organization) Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- WHO (World Health Organization) Established: April 7, 1948
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta
- Indonesia President: Joko Widodo
- Indonesia Independence Day: August 17, 1945
- Indian Army Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Indian Army Chief of Army Staff: General Upendra Dwivedi
- Indian Army Established: April 1, 1895 (as British Indian Army)

