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THE HINDU REVIEW

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- **CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

- **MONTHLY
CAPSULE**



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The Most Important Current Affairs August 2024

Neeraj Chopra Clinches Silver in Javelin at Paris 2024 Olympics

Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic champion, put on an impressive display at the Paris Olympics, winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event. Chopra's season-best throw of **89.45m** earned him the runner-up position, but he was unable to defend his title, as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem broke the **Olympic record** with a stunning throw of **92.97m**.

Chopra, who was the defending champion coming into the competition, was unable to replicate his gold-medal-winning performance from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. However, his silver-medal finish is still a remarkable achievement, as he continues to establish himself as one of the world's premier javelin throwers.

Arshad Nadeem's Historic Gold Medal

The true star of the event was Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who produced a remarkable performance to claim the gold medal. Nadeem's record-breaking throw of **92.97m** not only secured him the top spot on the podium but also etched his name in the Olympic history books.

Nadeem's triumph is a significant accomplishment for Pakistan, as it marks the country's first-ever gold medal in the javelin throw event. The 25-year-old athlete's victory is a testament to his dedication, hard work, and the growing strength of Pakistan's sports program.

Anderson Peters Wins Bronze

Grenada's Anderson Peters rounded out the podium with a bronze-medal-winning throw of **88.54m**. Peters, a former world champion, demonstrated his consistency and skill, delivering a strong performance to secure the third spot.

The men's javelin throw event at the Paris Olympics was a true showcase of the sport's global talent and the fierce competition at the highest level. Neeraj Chopra's silver medal, Arshad Nadeem's record-breaking gold, and Anderson Peters' bronze have all contributed to the excitement and drama of the Games.

Significance of the Performances

Neeraj Chopra's silver medal is a significant achievement, as he continues to cement his status as one of the world's best javelin throwers. His consistent performances at the highest level have earned him widespread acclaim and respect in the sporting community.

Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal triumph is a remarkable accomplishment that will inspire and motivate aspiring athletes in Pakistan and around the world. His record-breaking throw has set a new benchmark for the event and will undoubtedly spur on the next generation of javelin throwers to pursue their dreams.

The men's javelin throw event at the Paris Olympics has once again showcased the global reach and appeal of the sport. The podium finishers hailing from different countries – India, Pakistan, and Grenada – is a testament to the diversity and inclusivity of the Olympic Games.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024

In a significant move to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to science, technology, and innovation, the Indian government has announced the inaugural **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars**. This new award system, replacing over 300 previous awards from various science departments, aims to celebrate the achievements of academics, technologists, and inventors across the country.

The Vigyan Ratna Puraskar: Honoring a Lifetime of Achievement

Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan: The First Recipient

The highest honor, the **Vigyan Ratna Puraskar**, has been awarded to **Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan**, a celebrated biochemist and former director of the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru. Dr. Padmanabhan, also a Padma Bhushan laureate, receives this lifetime achievement award in recognition of his significant contributions to the field of biochemistry.

Categories and Recipients

The government announced a total of 33 Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars across various categories:

Vigyan Shri Awards

Thirteen scientists received the **Vigyan Shri** award for their distinguished contributions across different scientific domains.

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards

Eighteen young scientists under the age of 45 were honored with the **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** awards, continuing the legacy of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize.

Vigyan Team Award

The **Team Chandrayaan-3** was recognized with the **Vigyan Team** award for their exceptional contribution to India's space program, particularly for the successful moon landing mission.

Award Ceremony and Significance

National Space Day Celebration

President Droupadi Murmu is expected to present these awards on **August 23**, designated as **National Space Day** to commemorate the landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the Moon's South Pole.

Consolidation of Science Awards

This new award system represents a significant consolidation of India's science honors. It replaces the previous system, which included the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, instituted in 1958 and named after the renowned chemist who was the first chairman of the University Grants Commission and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Impact on Scientific Community

The introduction of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars is expected to have a profound impact on the Indian scientific community:

- Unified Recognition:** By consolidating various awards, it provides a unified platform for recognizing scientific excellence across disciplines.
- Encouraging Young Talent:** The Vigyan Yuva awards continue to focus on young scientists, encouraging

innovation and research among the next generation of Indian scientists.

- Promoting Team Efforts:** The inclusion of a team award highlights the importance of collaborative research in modern scientific endeavors.
- National Prestige:** These awards elevate the status of scientific achievements to a national level, potentially inspiring more Indians to pursue careers in science and technology.

Table of Recipients

Award Category	Recipient(s)	Field
Vigyan Ratna Puraskar	Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan	Biochemistry
Vigyan Shri	Dr. Annapurini Subramanian	Astrophysics
	Dr. Anandharamakrishnan C	Agriculture Science
	Dr. Avesh Kumar Tyagi	Atomic Energy
	Prof. Umesh Varshney, Prof. Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar	Biological Sciences
	Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi	Earth Sciences
	Prof. Bhim Singh	Engineering Sciences
	Prof. Adimurthi Adi, Prof. Rahul Mukherjee	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Prof. Dr. Sanjay Behari	Medicine
	Prof. Lakshmanan Muthusamy, Prof. Naba Kumar Mondal	Physics
	Prof. Rohit Srivastava	Technology and Innovation
Vigyan Yuva	Krishna Murthy SL, Swarup Kumar Parida	Agricultural Science
	Radhakrishnan Mahalakshmi, Prof. Aravind Penmatsa	Biological Sciences
	Vivek Polshettiwar, Vishal Rai	Chemistry
	Roxy Mathew Koll	Earth Sciences
	Abhilash, Radha Krishna Ganti	Engineering Sciences
	Purabi Saikia, Bappi Paul	Environmental Science
	Mahesh Ramesh Kakde	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Pragya Dhruv Yadav	Medicine
	Urbasi Sinha	Physics
	Digendranath Swain, Prashant Kumar	Space Science and Technology
	Prabhu Rajagopal	Technology and Innovation
Vigyan Team	Team Chandrayaan-3	Space Science

Top 10 Richest Global Central Banks in 2024

Central banks are the backbone of a nation's financial system, playing a pivotal role in maintaining **economic stability** and fostering **growth**. Their primary responsibilities include implementing **stable monetary policies** and ensuring **financial stability**. As we delve into the rankings of the world's wealthiest central banks in 2024, we gain valuable insights into the global economic landscape and the financial prowess of various nations.

The Significance of Central Bank Wealth

Economic Indicators

The total wealth of a central bank serves as a crucial indicator of a country's **economic health**. This wealth is primarily assessed through the central bank's **assets**, with the balance sheet acting as a key metric. A robust central bank balance sheet often correlates with a strong and stable economy.

Regulatory Role

Central banks globally maintain specialized departments dedicated to **regulation and supervision**. These departments are staffed with experts who diligently monitor compliance with established financial laws and regulations, ensuring the integrity of the financial system.

Regional Dominance and Disparities

European Dominance

A striking observation in the 2024 rankings is the dominance of European central banks. Seven out of the top ten central banks are based in Europe, with a combined worth of an astounding **\$11.09 trillion**. This underscores the economic strength and financial stability of the European region.

African Absence

Notably absent from the top 10 list are African central banks. This absence can be attributed to several challenges facing the region, including:

1. Rising inflation
 2. Fragile financial markets
 3. Weak monetary policy transmission systems
- These factors highlight the economic disparities and developmental challenges that persist in certain regions.

India's Position

While not in the top 10, India's **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** holds a respectable 12th position globally. As of March 31, 2024, the RBI's balance sheet grew by **11.08%** year-on-year, reaching **Rs 70.47 trillion**. This growth is primarily attributed to the bank's liquidity management and foreign currency (forex) activities, reflecting India's growing economic influence on the global stage.

Top 10 Richest Central Banks in the World

Based on data compiled by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), here are the top 10 wealthiest central banks in the world by total assets:

Rank	Name of the Central Bank	Total Assets (USD)	Country	Region
1	Federal Reserve System	\$7,835,559,000,000	USA	North America
2	People's Bank of China	\$6,004,919,369,845	China	Asia
3	Bank of Japan	\$5,543,058,448,125	Japan	Asia
4	Deutsche Bundesbank	\$2,776,759,343,640	Germany	Europe
5	Bank of France	\$2,011,001,711,400	France	Europe
6	Norges Bank	\$1,632,986,563,336	Norway	Europe
7	Bank of Italy	\$1,383,293,987,542	Italy	Europe
8	Bank of England	\$1,288,250,668,160	United Kingdom	Europe
9	Bank of Spain	\$1,049,435,626,385	Spain	Europe
10	Swiss National Bank	\$944,013,351,477	Switzerland	Europe

Analysis of the Top 10

Global Distribution

The list showcases a diverse geographical representation:

- 1 North American central bank
- 2 Asian central banks
- 7 European central banks

Economic Powerhouses

The central banks featured in this list represent some of the world's largest and most significant economies. Their substantial asset bases reflect their crucial role in the global financial system.

Regional Observations

1. **North America:** The Federal Reserve System of the USA tops the list, highlighting the country's economic dominance.
2. **Asia:** China and Japan's central banks occupy the 2nd and 3rd positions, underscoring Asia's growing economic influence.
3. **Europe:** The strong presence of European central banks demonstrates the region's collective economic strength and financial stability.

Implications and Insights

Economic Influence

The vast assets held by these central banks signify their substantial influence on global economic policies and financial markets. Their decisions can have far-reaching consequences on international trade, currency valuations, and economic stability.

Financial Stability

The robust asset bases of these central banks provide a strong foundation for managing economic crises and implementing effective monetary policies. This financial strength is crucial for maintaining stability during economic turbulence.

Global Economic Balance

The distribution of wealth among these central banks reflects the current balance of economic power globally. It highlights the continued economic strength of traditional powerhouses while also showcasing the rising influence of emerging economies, particularly in Asia.

70th National Film Awards

The winners of the **70th National Film Awards** are announced at the **National Media Center in New Delhi** on August 16, with the **Malayalam film Aattam** emerging as the Best Feature Film.

70th National Film Awards 2024 winners

- **Rishab Shetty** won the **Best Actor** award for **Kantara**, the Best Actress honour was shared by **Nithya Menen** for **Thiruchitrabalam** and **Manasi Parekh** for **The Kutch Express**, respectively.
- The **Best Director** honour went to **Sooraj Barjatya** for his film, **Uunchai**. **Ponniyin Selvan I**, **KGF 2**, **Brahmastra** and **Aparajito** were among the other films which won awards at the ceremony.
- The awards were announced by the **chairperson of the Feature Film Jury**, **Rahul Rawail**; **Nila Madhab Panda**, chairperson of the **Non-Feature Film Jury**; and **Gangadhar Mudalair**, chairperson of the **Best Writing on Cinema Jury**.

2023 National Film Awards

In 2023, the **Best Actor** honour was won by **Allu Arjun for Pushpa**: The Rise and the **Best Actress** award was won by **Alia**

Feature Film Categories

Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively. **Rocketry: The Nambi Effect** won the award for Best Feature Film.

About National Film Awards

National Film Awards are the **most prestigious awards**, which are announced **annually** to honour the best filmmaking talent across the country. According to the Directorate of Film Festivals of the **Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The National Film Awards “aim at encouraging the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance.”

History of this award

First handed out in 1954, these awards were known as the **State Awards**. In those years, only best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded. The awards for actors and technicians working on the films were first given in 1967. **Nargis** was the first actor to win **Best Actress** for her performance in **Raat Aur Din**. **Uttam Kumar** won the **Best Actor** award for **Antony Firingee** and **Chiriyakhana** in the same year.
List of 70th National Film Awards 2024 winners

Category	Winner	Film
Best Feature Film	Aattam	Aattam
Best Actor	Rishab Shetty	Kantara
Best Actress	Nithya Menen, Manasi Parekh	Tiruchitrabalam, Kutch Express
Best Director	Sooraj Barjatya	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actress	Neena Gupta	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actor	Pawan Malhotra	Fouja
Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara	Kantara
Best Debut Film of a Director	Pramod Kumar	Fouja
Best Telugu Film	Karthikeya 2	Karthikeya 2
Best Tamil Film	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Punjabi Film	Baaghi Di Dhee	Baaghi Di Dhee
Best Odia Film	Daman	Daman
Best Malayalam Film	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009
Best Marathi Film	Vaalvi	Vaalvi
Best Kannada Film	KGF: Chapter 2	KGF: Chapter 2
Best Hindi Film	Gulmohar	Gulmohar
Best Tiwa Film	Sikaisal	Sikaisal
Best Bengali Film	Kaberi Antardhan	Kaberi Antardhan
Best Assamese Film	Emuthi Puthi	Emuthi Puthi
Special Mention	Manoj Bajpayee, Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury	Gulmohar, Kadhikan
Best Action Direction	KGF: Chapter 2	KGF: Chapter 2
Best Choreography	Tiruchitrabalam	Tiruchitrabalam

Category	Winner	Film
Best Lyrics	Fouja	Fouja
Best Music Director	Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score)	Various
Best Makeup	Aparajito	Aparajito
Best Costumes	Kutch Express	Kutch Express
Best Production Design	Aparajito	Aparajito
Best Editing	Aattam	Aattam
Best Sound Design	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Screenplay	Aattam	Aattam
Best Dialogues	Gulmohar	Gulmohar
Best Cinematography	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Female Playback Singer	Bombay Jayashri	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009
Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh	Brahmastra
Best Child Artist	Sreepath	Mallikappuram
Best Film in AVGC	Brahmastra	Brahmastra
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	Kutch Express	Kutch Express

Film Writing

Category	Winner	Work
Best Critic	Deepak Dua	–
Best Book on Cinema	Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography	–

Non-Feature Film Categories

Category	Winner	Film
Best Non-Feature Film	Ayena	Ayena
Best Debut Film	Madhyantara	Madhyantara
Best Biographical/Historical/Compilation Film	Aanakhi Ek Mohenjo Daro	Aanakhi Ek Mohenjo Daro
Best Arts/Culture Film	Ranga Vibhoga/Varsa	Ranga Vibhoga/Varsa
Best Script	Mono No Aware	Mono No Aware
Best Narrator	Murmurs of the Jungle	Murmurs of the Jungle
Best Music Direction	Fursat	Fursat
Best Editing	Madhyantara	Madhyantara
Best Sound Design	Yaan	Yaan
Best Cinematography	Mono No Aware	Mono No Aware
Best Direction	From the Shadow	From the Shadow
Best Short Film	Xunyota	Xunyota
Best Animated Film	The Coconut Tree	The Coconut Tree
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	On the Brink Season 2 – Gharial	On the Brink Season 2 – Gharial
Best Documentary	Murmurs of the Jungle	Murmurs of the Jungle

Paris Olympics 2024

The Paris Olympics 2024 marks a significant milestone in the history of the modern Olympic Games. This edition of the Summer Olympics is expected to bring together athletes from around the world in a celebration of sports, unity, and international cooperation. Here's a comprehensive look at the details of the Paris Olympics 2024:

Theme and Mascot of Paris Olympics 2024

- **The Phryges:** official mascots of the Paris 2024 Games
- The theme of this year's Olympic Day is **'Let's Move and Celebrate'** to inspire and encourage people to embrace the joy of movement this summer.

Olympic Games in a few figures

- **Billions** of television viewers worldwide
- **350,000** hours of TV broadcast
- **Millions** of spectators
- **35** venues
- **10,500** athletes
- **20,000** accredited journalists

Top 10 Country in Medal Tally

Rank	NOCs	Gold Medals (G)	Silver Medals (S)	Bronze Medals (B)	Total Medals
1	United States of America	40	44	42	126
2	People's Republic of China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	16	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
6	Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7	Great Britain	14	22	29	65
8	Republic of Korea	13	9	10	32
9	Italy	12	13	15	40
10	Germany	12	13	8	33
62	Pakistan	01	0	0	1
71	India	0	1	5	6

Indian Medal Tally

- Opening Ceremony: Badminton superstar PV Sindhu and table tennis ace Sharath Kamal;
- Closing Ceremony: Double bronze medal winning shooter Manu Bhaker and bronze winning Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh;
- Abhinav Bindra selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics;
- Gagan Narang Appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for Paris Olympics 2024;
- A contingent of **117** Indian athletes has been competing for medals and sporting glory at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024.

- **45,000** volunteers
 - **+600,000** meals served at the Athletes' Village every day
- Paris 2024 Olympic Games key figures**
- **The XXXIII (33rd) Olympiad**
 - **26 July to 11 August 2024**
 - **19 days of competition** (handball, football and rugby take place from 24 July)
 - **329 events**
 - **Athletes from over 200 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team**
 - **32 sports (including the 4 additional sports)**
 - **754 sessions (competitions and ceremonies)**
 - **10,500 athletes**
- Paris Olympics Edition**
- **Paris Olympics 2024:** This edition marks the 33rd Summer Olympic Games and the third time Paris will host the Olympics, with previous editions in 1900 and 1924. The Paris 2024 Olympics is particularly significant as it commemorates the centenary of the last Paris Olympics.



Athlete	Medal	Event
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	Women's 10m air pistol shooting
Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	Mixed team 10m air pistol shooting
Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions shooting
Indian hockey team	Bronze	Men's hockey
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Men's javelin throw
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Men's 57kg wrestling

CEAT Cricket Awards 2024

The **CEAT Cricket Awards**, one of the most prestigious accolades in the cricketing world, held its 26th edition on August 21, 2024, in Mumbai. These awards, initiated in **1995-96** and sponsored by the RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres, honor exceptional performances of cricketers globally. The 2024 ceremony recognized outstanding achievements during the 2023-24 cricketing season, showcasing the best talents across various formats of the game.

Major Awards and Recipients

International Cricketer of the Year

Rohit Sharma, the captain of the Indian men's cricket team, was bestowed with the coveted **CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award**. This recognition came on the back of his exemplary performance in the 2023-24 season, during which:

- Sharma amassed approximately 1800 runs in international cricket.
- He scored 597 runs in the 13th ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup.
- Under his leadership, India reached the World Cup final, ultimately finishing as runners-up to Australia.
- Sharma's consistent performance and leadership skills were key factors in his selection for this prestigious award.

ODI Batter of the Year

Virat Kohli received the award for the **Best ODI Batter of the Year**, following a phenomenal season in One Day Internationals. His achievements include:

- Scoring 1377 runs in the 2023-24 season.
- Accumulating six centuries and eight fifties.
- Leading the run charts in the 2023 ODI World Cup with 765 runs at an astounding average of 95.62.
- Surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record by scoring his 50th ODI century.
- Kohli's exceptional form and milestone achievements made him the clear choice for this award.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricket captain and current coach of the

Indian men's cricket team. Known as "The Wall" for his impeccable defensive technique, Dravid's recent coaching success includes:

- Leading India to victory in the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Barbados.
- Guiding the team to a triumph over South Africa in the final.
- This award recognizes Dravid's immense contribution to Indian cricket, both as a player and a coach.

Other Notable Awards

Test Cricket

- **Test Batter of the Year:** Yashashvi Jaiswal
- **Test Bowler of the Year:** Ravichandran Ashwin

ODI Cricket

- **ODI Bowler of the Year:** Mohammad Shami

T20 Cricket

- **T20 Batter of the Year:** Phil Salt (England)
- **T20 Bowler of the Year:** Tim Southee (New Zealand)

Domestic Cricket

- **Domestic Cricketer of the Year:** Sai Kishore (Left-arm spinner from Tamil Nadu)

Women's Cricket

- **Women's Batter of the Year:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Women's Bowler of the Year:** Deepti Sharma

Special Recognitions

Several players and administrators received special mementos for their unique achievements:

- **Harmanpreet Kaur:** For captaining the most matches in Women's T20I history.
- **Shreyas Iyer:** For outstanding leadership in the TATA IPL.
- **Shafali Verma:** For scoring the fastest double century in Women's Test Match cricket.
- **Jay Shah:** Awarded for excellence in sports administration as the BCCI Secretary.

Key Takeaways From PM Modi Ukraine Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up **his trip to Ukraine**. Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago.

P.M Modi's Ukraine visit

In his Ukraine visit some key outcomes to be noted, such as:

Homage to Mahatma Gandhi's statue

Modi and Volodymyr Zelenskyy held wide-ranging talks at **Mariinskyi Palace**, the official residence of the Ukrainian President, paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at 'Oasis of Peace' park in Kyiv.

Honored the memory of the children

P.M Modi honoured the memory of the children that have been killed by the Russia-Ukraine war at the Martyrologist Exposition on children at the **National Museum of History of Ukraine**.

Focusing on the development of a strategic partnership

“Following the visit, we also agreed on a **joint statement** focusing on the development of a strategic partnership, bilateral trade, and continued military-technical cooperation,” said the Ukrainian President, whose country is at **war with Russia**.

Joint India-Ukraine statement

PM Modi’s office in the joint **India-Ukraine statement** said both leaders reiterated their readiness for further cooperation in upholding principles of international law, including the UN Charter, such as respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. “They agreed on the desirability of closer bilateral dialogue in this regard,” the joint statement said.

India is not neutral

“We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war,” PM Modi said in his opening remarks during the talks. “We have come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had given a message of peace to the entire world,” he said.

Expansion and deepen bilateral trade

Both sides agreed to ask the Indian-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) to explore all possible ways to not only restore bilateral trade and economic relations to pre-conflict levels, but expand and deepen them further. There has been a significant reduction in the annual bilateral trade in goods since 2022 due to the challenges related to the ongoing conflict.

Diplomatic balancing act

PM Modi’s visit to Kyiv is seen in many quarters as a diplomatic balancing act as his trip to Russia triggered anguish among some Western countries. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said PM Modi reiterated the need for “practical engagement” between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability.

Comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council

Both sides called for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council to reflect **contemporary global realities** and to make it more representative, effective and efficient in dealing with issues of **international peace and security**. Ukraine reiterated its support for **India’s permanent membership** of a reformed and expanded **UN Security Council**.

GoI 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 reimaged 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.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter regulations for **Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** to bring their public deposit norms in line with those for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The RBI on August 12, announced setting up a committee under deputy governor **Michael Debabrata Patra** on benchmarking the statistics regularly disseminated by it against global standards. The 10-member 'Expert Committee on Benchmarking of its Statistics' has been asked to submit report by the end of November 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the **PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card**, a new initiative aimed at enhancing financial accessibility for **visually impaired individuals**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Axis Bank, in partnership with Visa**, has unveiled the 'Primus' credit card, an ultra-premium offering tailored exclusively for **India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- RBL Bank has introduced a special "Vijay Fixed Deposits" scheme to commemorate **India's 78th Independence Day**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **L&T Finance Ltd.** has transitioned from an **NBFC-Core Investment Company (NBFC-CIC)** to a Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) (**NBFC-ICC**) following the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit Ltd., and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licenses of **78 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) since 2014**. Maharashtra has seen the highest number of cancellations, with 36 UCBs losing their licenses, followed by Uttar Pradesh (14) and Karnataka (8). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Pakistan has paid over **USD 3.6 billion** in interest on **IMF loans over the past 40 years**, as revealed by the **finance ministry**. This disclosure was made during a recent meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Economic Affairs. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised instructions for the **treatment of Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR)** across cooperative banks, aiming for uniformity in the accounting and prudential treatment of **non-performing assets (NPAs)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Capital Small Finance Bank (CSFB) and Edelweiss Life Insurance have joined forces in a bancassurance tie-up. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the upper limit for tax payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to **Rs 5 lakh per transaction** from the **previous limit of Rs 1 lakh**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant change in the reporting frequency for credit information from **monthly to every 15 days**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Setu, a **Pine Labs-owned** API infrastructure provider, has launched **UPISetu in collaboration with Axis Bank**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Reserve Bank** has revamped the **cheque truncation system (CTS)**, which currently processes cheques with a clearing cycle of up to two working days, to improve the **efficiency of cheque clearing** and reduce settlement risk for participants, apart from enhancing customer experience. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- China has approved the construction of **11 new nuclear reactors across five sites**, with a total investment of approximately **220 billion yuan (\$31 billion)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Governor Shaktikanta Das** has been recognized as the top central banker globally for the second straight year by the **US-based Global Finance magazine**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has introduced a new security feature called Face Match, **leveraging AI** to enhance account protection. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study forecasts a substantial increase in private capital expenditure, projecting it to **reach ₹2.45 trillion in FY25**, up from **₹1.59 trillion in FY24**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled a new feature called 'UPI Circle' on the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform**, allowing primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has approved the merger of Slice, a leading fintech company in India, with **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated its e-mandate framework to include the auto-replenishment of balances in **FASTag** and the **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Bandhan Bank**, celebrating its **Foundation Day**, introduced **Avni**, a **savings account** tailored specifically for **women**. ([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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))

Economy Current Affairs

- **India's retail inflation rate**, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to **3.54% in July**, reaching a nearly 5-year low. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India's net direct tax collection surged by **22.5% to Rs 6.93 trillion** from **April 1 to August 11, FY25**, compared to Rs 5.65 trillion in the same period last year. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India's industrial production, as measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, grew by **4.2% in June 2024**, marking the slowest growth in **five months**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India's urban unemployment rate slightly decreased to **6.6% in Q1 FY25** from **6.7% in Q4 FY24**, as per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The latest **"Men and Women"** report by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** reveals a stark financial disparity between **men and women in India**. While women own a significant portion of bank accounts. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Foreign direct investment (FDI)** in India's food processing sector experienced a significant decline of **30% in the fiscal year 2023-24**, totaling **Rs 5,037.06 crore**, down from **Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Ministry of Finance reported that India's fiscal deficit for the **first quarter of FY25** stood at **8.1% of the full-year estimate**, a significant improvement from 25.3% in the same period last year. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) has increased its forecast for **India's GDP growth in FY25 to 7.5%**, up from the **previous estimate of 7.1%**. This revised projection surpasses the RBI's forecast of 7.2% and the Finance Ministry's Economic Survey estimate of 6.5-7%. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** concluded its **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting on Thursday, maintaining the **benchmark interest rates at 6.5%** by a 4:2 majority. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Deloitte's India Economic Outlook for August 2024 predicts strong economic growth **between 7.0% and 7.2% in FY25**, driven by robust economic fundamentals. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Goldman Sachs has revised **India's GDP growth forecasts for 2024 and 2025**, anticipating slower expansion due to reduced government expenditure and other economic factors. ([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](#))
- **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](#))

Business Current Affairs

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has achieved a major milestone by surpassing 100,000 cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions in Nepal. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, is set to **acquire a 24.5% stake** in the **British telecom giant BT Group plc** for approximately **\$4 billion**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Amazon India and Gentari Green Mobility India** have announced a strategic partnership aimed at significantly boosting **Amazon's electric vehicle (EV)** fleet for last-mile deliveries. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has been awarded a significant contract by **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** to set up a **1,600 MW thermal power project**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India and Israel, two nations with rich cultural histories, have cultivated diplomatic ties that extend beyond politics to encompass trade, investments, and collaborations across diverse industries. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- From luxurious Persian rugs to high-quality saffron, Iran's offerings are treasured worldwide, including in India. Recently, interest in Iranian goods has surged in India, driven by their superior quality, distinctiveness, and cultural charm. Let's explore the **variety of Iranian products** that are increasingly making their presence felt in the Indian market. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has achieved a milestone by advancing two positions in the **2024 Fortune Global 500 list**, securing the **86th spot**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Boeing** announced **Robert "Kelly" Ortberg** as its new **CEO**, effective August 8, **replacing David Calhoun**. This leadership change comes as the company reports a substantial loss of over \$1.4 billion in the second quarter, with significant declines in revenue and ongoing issues with safety, production, and legal matters. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, in collaboration with the **Habitat Charitable Trust**, has proposed the construction of a state-of-the-art **faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP)** at Sarovaram. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Fintech company **Slice** has received approval from the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** for its merger with **North East Small Finance Bank**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Amul** has been named the world's strongest food brand in **Brand Finance's Global Food & Drinks Report 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **PhonePe** on August 22, announced the **launch of Credit Line on UPI** on its platform. Consumers who avail credit lines from their banks can now link these **credit lines to UPI** on **PhonePe** and seamlessly make merchant payments. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Flipkart's Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA)** exchanged a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** at the Samarth event with the mission to upskill thousands of employable youth across India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **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](#))
- **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](#))
- 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 (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of **Navratna CPSEs in India to 25**. ([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](#))
- In a recent development, **Zomato** has approved the acquisition of **Paytm's entertainment and ticketing business for ₹2,048 crore** in a cash deal. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

International Current Affairs

- The **Neelakurinji** (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), a remarkable flowering shrub native to the montane grasslands of southwest India, has recently been added to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a groundbreaking discovery, archaeologists may have uncovered the **world's oldest solar calendar** at the renowned archaeological site of **Göbekli Tepe** in southern Turkey. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and Australia** recently held two significant **bilateral meetings** to enhance their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Australia hosted the **6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue in Canberra**, while India hosted the **14th India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Germany's recent inclusion in the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea marks a significant expansion of the command's member states, now totaling 18 nations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Sweden** has confirmed its **first case of the mpox Clade I variant**, marking the first occurrence of this more dangerous strain outside Africa. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- A **human rights team** from the **United Nations** will visit Dhaka next week to discuss with the **Bangladesh interim government**, investigations into the human rights violations during the recent **unrest in Bangladesh**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The ICC has announced the relocation of the **Women's T20 World Cup 2024 from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** due to significant safety concerns. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Environmental Strategic Partnership between **India and Denmark** has **launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)** with initial funding of **Rs 16.8 crore from the Jal Shakti Ministry** and an additional **Rs 5 crore from Denmark**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged extensive humanitarian support and handed over four **BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes** to the Ukrainian government. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit to Poland** marked a historic moment as it was the **first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has wrapped up his **trip to Ukraine**. Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **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](#))

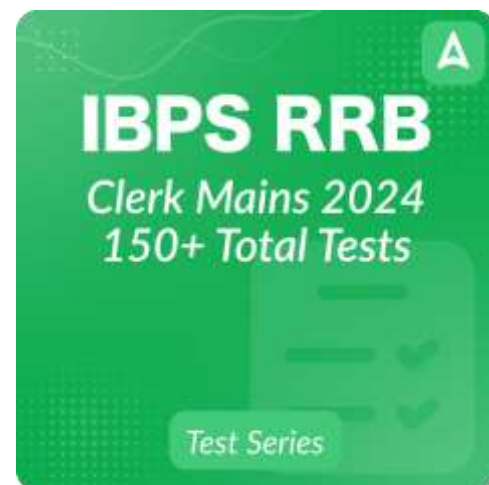
- **Typhoon Shanshan** made landfall on **Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu** on August 29. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Singapore Airlines on August 30, said it has received **approval from the Indian government** for the foreign direct investment as part of the proposed merger 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](#))

National Current Affairs

- **"VIRAASAT"**, a fortnight long exhibition dedicated to celebrating **10th National Handloom Day** began at **Handloom Haat in Janpath** on 3rd August, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** embarked on a **six-day visit** to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste, marking significant diplomatic engagements. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the **e-Sankhyiki portal on June 29**, marking a significant advancement in data management and dissemination in India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian President **Droupadi Murmu** embarked on a significant two-day state visit to Fiji, marking a milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two nations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of **Articles 370 and 35(A)**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** highlighted the decision as a pivotal moment in Indian history, marking the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Government of India has successfully completed and operationalized **four major projects** under the **Namami Gange Mission 2.0** in the first quarter of **fiscal year 2024-25**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The government has reversed its controversial decision to remove indexation benefits for long-term capital gains (**LTCG**) tax on property sales. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** has started its **first executive training program** for the aviation sector at the **Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD)** at Dwaraka, **New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Government of **India and the World Bank** have joined forces to construct the **Green National Highway Corridor Project (GNHCP)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has inaugurated the **Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi** to address the rising cybercrimes against women. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi-led government** is all set to table the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, in the **Lok Sabha** on August 8. The new bill that proposes to **amend the Waqf Act, 1995** will be introduced in the Lok Sabha by **Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India's renewable energy capacity has surged by 165% over the past decade, increasing from **76.38 GW in 2014 to 203.1 GW in 2024**, according to **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has prepared the draft **Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024** which will replace the **Television Network Act of 1995**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The nation prepares to celebrate its **78th Independence Day**. This day marks the **historic moment in 1947** when India achieved freedom from **British colonial rule** after a prolonged struggle. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **West Bengal government and UNICEF** have teamed up to encourage fathers to play an active role in **promoting breastfeeding among new mothers**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The third edition of the **'Har Ghar Tiranga'** campaign, aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride by encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes, will run from **August 9 to August 15**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Union Ministry of Railways** is set to fast-track the deployment of the latest version of its indigenous anti-collision system, **Kavach 4.0**, with plans to issue tenders for installation in **20,000 locomotives this year**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS)** celebrated its **Foundation Day in New Delhi** with the theme **'ICoAS @ Viksit Bharat'**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- The **Union Cabinet** on August 9, approved **eight new railway projects** at an estimated cost of **₹24,657 crore** to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travelling, minimise logistics cost, reduce oil imports and lower carbon dioxide emissions. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In response to the volatile situation in Bangladesh, the Indian government has established a committee to monitor the **Indo-Bangladesh border** and ensure the safety of Indian nationals and minority communities in the neighboring country. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Kasturi Cotton Bharat** programme of Ministry of Textiles is a pioneering effort in traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton. The details of **Kasturi Cotton Bharat program** and implementation of block chain technology for traceability. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **BIMSTEC members** should re-examine the priorities of member nations with regards to trade negotiations so that the delayed Free Trade Agreement can be finalized. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, and West Bengal** have yet to implement the **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009**. Union Minister of State for Education, Jayant Chowdhary, disclosed this in the Rajya Sabha. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an R&D institute under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has signed a **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** agreement with **Toshniwal Hyvac Pvt. Ltd.** and **Sir Automation Industries**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced the restoration of the Diamond Imprest Licence, a move aimed at revitalizing **India's gems and jewellery sector**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (**NCRTC**) have partnered to promote the '**One India-One Ticket**' initiative, aiming to streamline travel for passengers using both **mainline railway services and Namo Bharat trains**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 15th August, stressed on the **need to bring a 'Secular Civil Code'** instead of using the term '**Universal Civil Code**', hinting at the government's intention to broad-base the policy and avoid friction on the contentious issue, both within the ruling NDA and outside. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The government is set to launch '**Kisan Ki Baat**', a **monthly radio programme** aimed at bringing scientific knowledge to farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on August 15. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will serve as the **chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum**, scheduled for August 31 in New Delhi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Union Government** on August 15, launched the **AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)** that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phone. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India has initiated an **anti-dumping investigation** into the **import of hot rolled flat products** from **Vietnam** following complaints that these products are being sold at significantly low prices, negatively impacting the domestic steel industry. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Lok Sabha speaker** on August 17, named the constituents of the **six new Parliamentary Committees** including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) which examines government expenditure. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India has reduced the windfall tax on **petroleum crude oil to Rs 2,100 per metric tonne**, effective August 17, down from **Rs 4,600 per tonne**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Union Cabinet** has greenlit significant airport infrastructure projects in **West Bengal and Bihar**, with a total investment of **approximately ₹2,962 crore**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Nepal** will export nearly **1,000 MW** of electricity to **India**, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart **Arzu Rana Deuba** in New Delhi on August 19. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated **Mpox as a public health emergency of international concern**, primarily due to its increasing **prevalence in Africa**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on August 18, released the centenary commemorative coin of **Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi** in Chennai. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- To provide end to end support for promotion of handloom sector and welfare of handloom workers, Ministry of Textiles is implementing the **National Handloom Development Programme and Raw Material Supply Scheme** across the country. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India's first Constitution Museum, named "**The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum**," is set to be inaugurated by **OP Jindal Global University** on November 26, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Union Minister of Power and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs**, Shri Manohar Lal, on August 20, launched Portal for Online monitoring of Projects **Thermal (PROMPT)** in New Delhi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- The Union Ministry of Power launched three new online platforms—**PROMPT**, **DRIPS**, and **JAL VIDYUT DPR**—to enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness in the power sector. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India overtook China** as the **world's biggest importer of Russian oil** in July as Chinese refiners bought less because of lower profit margins from producing fuels, a comparison of import data showed. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Health Ministry has formed a **14-member National Task Force (NTF)** to address the safety and working conditions of medical professionals in India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched '**Create in India Challenge-Season One**' in New Delhi on August 22 in the run-up to the **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **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 Vadhan 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 Current Affairs

- At least **42 people have died** and 5,938 houses were destroyed due to disasters in **Mizoram** between March and May. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Tata Group** has inaugurated a **₹27,000 crore semiconductor assembly** and test facility in Assam, aiming to produce **15 billion chips annually**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant judgment, the **Madras High Court** has declared **Section 77-A** of the Registration Act, 1908 **unconstitutional**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** made a historic announcement that could reshape agricultural policy in India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **10-day pilgrimage to Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath in the Loran Valley** of Poonch district began today and will conclude on the 19th of this month, coinciding with **Sawan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has decided to scrap the **two-child norm** for contesting local body elections in view of the declining fertility rate in the state. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Odisha has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain dispensing machine, known as the **Annapurthi Grain ATM**, designed to transform the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** for ration cardholders. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Chhattisgarh** on August 7, cleared a **long-pending proposal** to notify a **new tiger reserve – the third largest in the country**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The state cabinet on August 6, approved the **426.52-km Wainganga-Nalganga river linking project**, with an estimated cost of **₹88,575 crore**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Maharashtra government** has approved the **Logistics Policy 2024**, aimed at revolutionizing the state's logistics infrastructure and generating approximately **500,000 job opportunities**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **IIT Indore** has created advanced shoes incorporating **Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG) technology**, which generates electricity from human motion and integrates **GPS for real-time location tracking**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** inaugurated the '**Punjab Help Centre**' at Terminal 3 of **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Bihar government** on August 8, mandated **registration of temples, mutts and trusts**, and directed all **District Magistrates** in the State to ensure that the bodies are registered and details of their immovable assets are submitted to the **Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT)** soon. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Maharashtra government** has recently declared the **geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri** as protected monuments under the **Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Rajasthan government** has received investment proposals amounting to over **Rs 5.21 lakh crore (approximately USD 62 billion)** in the lead-up to the '**Rising Rajasthan**' Investment Summit 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** inaugurated 16 industrial projects in Sri City and signed deals worth **Rs 3,683 crore**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark** has led to the creation of the **Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)** in Varanasi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)** in Gujarat, India, has reached full operational capacity with its **second 700 MW nuclear reactor, KAPS-4**, which started operating at full power on August 21, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Kaanu**, a **South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre**, will be launched at the **Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC)** at **BR Hills, Karnataka** on August 25. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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](#))

Schemes and Committees

- The government of Jharkhand, led by Chief Minister **Hemant Soren,** has unveiled a significant welfare initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The **Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana,** set to be officially launched on August 16, 2024, represents a major step towards providing financial assistance to eligible women across Jharkhand. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** announced on August 6, the launch of the initiative **“Million Designers, Billion Dreams.”** ([Click here to read complete details](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- In a significant move towards **disaster preparedness,** the **State Government and SBI General Insurance** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and New Zealand** have signed a **Bilateral Customs Cooperation Arrangement** to facilitate easier trade between the two nations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) and NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), the **commercial arm of ISRO,** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the launch of Nepal’s Munal satellite. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and **Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS)** in the presence of Union Health Minister, **Shri J P Nadda,** on August 13. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, **MSME** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, **MoU** with the Small Business Administration (**SBA**) of the Government of the United States of America to promote Cooperation on Small and Medium-size Enterprises (**SMEs**). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Navy** has signed a significant **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **BEML Ltd.,** a leading defence and heavy engineering manufacturer, on **August 20, 2024.** ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) signed an important **MoU** with the Department of Posts working under the Ministry of Communications at **KVIC, Rajghat New Delhi office** on August 20. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG),** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and Public Service Department, Prime Minister’s Department, **Government of Malaysia** signed **MoU.** ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **GAIL (India) Limited** and **US-based Petron Scientech Inc** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the development of a **500 Kilo Tonne per Annum (KTA) bio-ethylene** plant in India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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](#))

New Appointments: International

- **Film producer Janet Yang** has been re-elected for a **third term** as the **President** of the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On August 5, 2024, **Bangladesh** experienced a monumental shift in its political landscape. **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**, who had held power for 15 consecutive years, abruptly tendered her resignation and left the country. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On Thursday, a significant change in leadership took place as **Lt General Vikas Lakhera** assumed charge as the new **Director General of the Assam Rifles**, an organization fondly known as the "Sentinels of the Northeast". ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- On August 6, 2024, the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **IAS officer Amit Singh Negi** as additional secretary in the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**. Mr. Negi, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has approved **Praveena Rai's** appointment as the **Managing Director and CEO** of the Multi Commodity Exchange (**MCX**). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Tunisia's** President **Kais Saied** has dismissed **Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani** and appointed **Kamel Maddouri**, the former **Social Affairs Minister**, to the role. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian-origin top **Singapore banker Piyush Gupta** is set to **step down** as the Chief Executive Officer of the DBS Group in March 2025. He will be succeeded by **Tan Su Shan**, who was appointed Deputy CEO. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Power Ministry** on **August 6**, announced the appointment of **Harish Dudani** as **Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Senior IAS Officer T.V. Somanathan** has been appointed as the new **Cabinet Secretary of India**, succeeding **Rajiv Gauba**, whose term ends this month. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **NHPC Limited** has announced the appointment of **Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary** as its new **Chairman & Managing Director**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **President Paul Kagame** was sworn in on August 11, for a **fourth term** after sweeping to victory in elections last month with more than **99% of the vote**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is spinning off its **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** app into a standalone subsidiary to bolster its presence in the digital payments market. **Lalitha Nataraj**, previously with IDFC FIRST Bank and ICICI Bank, has been **appointed as CEO** of this new entity. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the **Managing Director (MD)** of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, overseeing the Risk Compliance and Stressed Assets Resolution Group (SARG) departments. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Shri Sandeep Poudrik** has officially taken over as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Steel**, succeeding in his role at **Udyog Bhawan**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Former Foreign Secretary **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** assumed charge as the **Ambassador of India to the United States** on August 13. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Japan's** Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** announced on August 14, that he will be stepping down from the post next month, and **will not contest in the upcoming vote** to elect a new chief for the **ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Thailand's Parliament on August 16, elected **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** as their **youngest Prime Minister**, days after her father **Thaksin Shinawatra** was removed by a court order. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The government on August 14, appointed acting **Enforcement Directorate chief Rahul Navin** as full-time director of the anti-money laundering agency for two years. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the **appointment of Salee Sukumaran Nair** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** for a three-year term. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- **Shri Ashok Kumar Singh**, IAS took over the charge of **Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** under **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, Govt. of India at its Headquarters in New Delhi on August 19. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Satya Prakash Sangwan**, the vice president of PCI, has been appointed as the **Chef de Mission (CDM)** for the Indian team. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **M Suresh** has been appointed as the interim Chairman of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan** on August 22, will take charge as the **new Union Home Secretary** from **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, who completes his **five year tenure** at the sensitive post. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, a **1993-batch IAS officer** from the Nagaland cadre, has officially assumed the role of **Secretary** in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Ilkay Gundogan**, the 33-year-old captain of the German national football team, has officially announced his retirement from international football. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Rajesh Nambiar** has been appointed as the president-designate of the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Deepti Gaur Mukherjee**, a **1993 batch IAS officer** of the **Madhya Pradesh cadre**, has taken over as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian cricket's prolific white-ball opener, **Shikhar Dhawan**, has officially announced his **retirement from international cricket** at the age of 38. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Nestlé made public its decision to appoint **Laurent Freixe** as the new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing **Mark Schneider**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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, **Fatemeh 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](#))



Sports Current Affairs

- **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia secured his first Olympic gold medal at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**. The 37-year-old tennis legend overcame Spain's **Carlos Alcaraz** in a gripping men's singles final at **Roland Garros** on Sunday, cementing his status in the annals of tennis history. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Manu Bhaker**, India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist, has been chosen to be **India's flagbearer** for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **American sprinter Noah Lyles clinched gold** in the men's **100-meter** sprint at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The race was one of the closest in Olympic history, with Lyles finishing just 0.005 seconds **ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant gesture to commemorate the upcoming **Paris Olympics**, the **Department of Posts** is set to release a special set of postage stamps. This event, scheduled for Monday, 5th August 2024, at 12:00 PM. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and Saint Christopher & Nevis** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance **cooperation in the field of sports**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a move that bridges the cricketing worlds of India and South Africa, former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman **Dinesh Karthik** has been named the brand ambassador for the **SA20 League**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has been **disqualified from the Paris Olympics** after failing to meet weight requirement for her **50 kg gold medal**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Vinesh Phogat**, one of India's most promising wrestlers, has announced her **retirement** from the sport following a devastating turn of events at the **Paris Olympics 2024**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian women's national volleyball team** has once again proven their mettle on the international stage by clinching the gold medal at the **4th CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has announced that **hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh** and **pistol shooter Manu Bhaker** will be the **co-flag bearers for India** at the closing ceremony of the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The first-ever **Global Women's Kabaddi League** will commence next month (September) in **Haryana**. Officially named the **Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPKL)**, this groundbreaking tournament will feature **female athletes from over 15 countries**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the recipients of the ICC Players of the Month awards for July 2024. England's **Gus Atkinson** and Sri Lanka's **Chamari Athapaththu** have been crowned as the standout performers in men's and women's cricket. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring **goalkeeper PR Sreejesh** will be the **new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat** has been suspended by the Badminton World Federation for a period of **18 months** for breaching the **anti-doping regulations**. Now, Pramod will **miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Paralympic Committee of India** has made a significant announcement regarding the country's representation at the upcoming **2024 Paris Paralympics**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Top-ranked Jannik Sinner** and **women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka** each secured their **first Cincinnati Open titles** with straight-set victories. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Neeraj Chopra** delivered an impressive performance at the **Lausanne Diamond League**, securing his second-best javelin throw ever with a **season-best distance of 89.49 meters** on his final attempt. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune**, has made history as the first Indian woman to win the national championship in the saloon category at the **MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** secretary **Jay Shah** is all set to replace the incumbent Greg Barclay as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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

- The **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil**, has launched the **2.0 version** of the '**FloodWatch India**' mobile app, developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government** is set to officially launch the '**Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana**' today on the **occasion of Raksha Bandhan**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The government of Jharkhand, led by Chief Minister **Hemant Soren**, has unveiled a significant welfare initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The **Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana**, set to be officially launched on August 16, 2024, represents a major step towards providing financial assistance to eligible women across Jharkhand. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** announced on August 6, the launch of the initiative "**Million Designers, Billion Dreams**." ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Department of Post under the **Union Ministry of Communication** has launched the **Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana** to promote research and scholarship in philately among students across India. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi** has unveiled the **Subhadra scheme**, a significant initiative under the BJP government. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

Summits And Conferences

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)** at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, **New Delhi** on August 3. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** of the Government of India in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will host the **1st BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi** on August 6, 2024. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India will host the **3rd Voice of Global South Summit** on 17 August 2024. This unique initiative began as an extension of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas**', and is underpinned by India's philosophy of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **India and Japan** will hold **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** in New Delhi on August 20. On the sidelines of the 2+2 dialogue, a bilateral meeting is scheduled between the Defence Minister and his Japanese counterpart. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **European Union (EU)** and the **external affairs ministry** are organising a regional conference in New Delhi to discuss emerging threats in **online radicalisation** and to jointly counter the **exploitation of online spaces** by terrorists. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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 28th 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](#))
- 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](#))

Ranks and Reports News

- Union Minister for Education **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** on August 12, released the **India Rankings 2024**, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- According to the **latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, net foreign direct investment (FDI) in **India surged to \$6.9 billion** during the **April-June quarter of FY25**, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period last year. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Mumbai and Delhi** are at the second and third positions, respectively, among **44 cities globally** in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank said in a report. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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](#))

Important Days

Date	Important Days
01 st August 2024	World Wide Web Day
01 st August 2024	World Lung Cancer Day
01 st August 2024	National Mountain Climbing Day
01 st August – 07 th August 2024	World Breastfeeding Week
04 th August 2024	Friendship Day in India
06 th August 2024	Hiroshima Day
07 th August 2024	National Handloom Day
07 th August 2024	National Javelin Day
09 th August 2024	International Day of World's Indigenous People
09 th August 2024	Nagasaki Day
10 th August 2024	World Lion Day
10 th August 2024	World Biofuel Day
11 th August 2024	World Steelpan Day
12 th August 2024	International Youth Day

Date	Important Days
12 th August 2024	World Elephant Day
13 th August 2024	World Organ Donation Day
14 th August 2024	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India
15 th August 2024	Independence Day of India
16 th August 2024	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Death Anniversary
19 th August 2024	World Humanitarian Day
19 th August 2024	Rakshabandhan
21 st August 2024	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
22 nd August 2024	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief 2024
23 rd August 2024	International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition
23 rd August 2024	ISRO Day
26 th August 2024	Mother Teresa Anniversary
29 th August 2024	National Sports Day
29 th August 2024	International Day Against Nuclear Tests
29 th August 2024	World Water Week 2024
30 th August 2024	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
31 st August 2024	International Day for People of African Descent

Defence Current Affairs

- **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, the **Director General of Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB)**, took over the additional charge of Director General Border Security Force on August 3. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has successfully conducted a demonstration and **trial of the formidable Typhoon vehicle** at its **Transport Battalion in Chandigarh**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, **‘Parvat Prahaar’, in Ladakh**, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has given clearance to the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** to produce **200 Astra air-to-air missiles** for its Su-30 and LCA Tejas fighter aircraft. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The bilateral air exercise **“Udara Shakti 2024”** between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) concluded successfully on August 9, 2024. This exercise, hosted by the RMAF at its base in **Kuantan, Malaysia**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- India is on the brink of commissioning its **second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arighat**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Mitra Shakti** military exercise, an annual bilateral engagement between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, commenced on **August 12, 2024**. This year's exercise, held at the **Sri Lankan Army Training School in Maduru Oya**, marks a significant milestone in the military cooperation between these two South Asian nations. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi** on August 20, chaired a high-level meeting focusing on the ongoing transformational initiatives by the Indian Army and its contribution towards achieving the objective of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- For the first time in recent history, the **51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base**, Republic of Korea, is incorporating its recurring wing readiness exercise into **Ulchi Freedom Shield 24**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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 Current Affairs

- Bollywood's charismatic '**King Khan**', graced the **77th Locarno Film Festival** with his presence on August 10, receiving a career achievement award that further gilds his storied career. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Out of **208 gallantry awards**, **52** have been awarded to the personnel deployed in Left-wing extremism areas, **31 in the Jammu and Kashmir** region, and **17 to those from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA)** in Hyderabad has once again been recognized as the **Best Airport** at the prestigious **India Travel Awards**, marking its third consecutive win in this category. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over a distinguished ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi to confer the prestigious **2023 National Geoscience Awards** to outstanding individuals and teams in the field of geosciences. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)** organised its **24th Handicrafts Export Awards Function** on August 21, at the Convention Hall. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** (National Science Awards). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The 11th edition of the **Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards** recently honored outstanding individuals across various fields, recognizing both seasoned professionals and emerging talents. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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](#))

Science and Technology

- **Women** led the way in **living organ donation**, offering patients suffering from end-stage organ failure a new lease of life. Data released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** show that the number of women living donors was **9,784 last year compared to 5,651 men**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to celebrate its 55th foundation day on August 15, 2024, with a significant milestone – the launch of the **Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08)**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- China has taken a significant step in advancing its **low-altitude economy** by testing its **largest unmanned cargo aircraft yet**. This move highlights the country's push to expand its drone capabilities, with the goal of creating a **\$279-billion industry by 2030**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** on August 13, 2024 successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the **long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav** from a **Su-30 MK-I fighter jet** of the Indian Air Force. ([Click here to read complete details](#))

- SpaceX's upcoming **Polaris Dawn mission** is set to make history as the **first private spacewalk**. Scheduled for launch on August 26, 2024, at 3:38 a.m. EDT (0738 GMT). ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **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 to **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](#))

Books & Authors

- The book, titled **"India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse"**, authored by **Prof. K V Subramanian**, was launched at a high-profile event in New Delhi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh** attended the launch of **'75 Great Revolutionaries of India'**, a book by MP Bhim Singh. Singh praised the work for highlighting **lesser-known freedom fighters**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- A significant literary event took place in New Delhi with the release of BJP General Secretary **Tarun Chugh's** book, **"Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity"**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- In a significant event celebrating women's empowerment and social entrepreneurship, Dr. Kalpana Sankar's autobiography, **"The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women"**, was unveiled at Cathedral Road. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **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](#))

Obituaries Current Affairs

- On August 3, 2024, India lost one of its most revered classical dancers, **Yamini Krishnamurthy**, who passed away at the age of 83 at Apollo hospital in New Delhi. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The cricketing world mourns the loss of **Graham Thorpe**, a former England cricketer and coach, who passed away on Monday at the age of 55. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The passing of **Shobhana Ranade** at the age of 99 in Pune marks the end of an era in India's social reform movement. A **renowned Gandhian** and **Padma Bhushan** recipient, ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Former chief minister of West Bengal** and veteran **CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee** passed away on August 8, at his residence in **Kolkata's Palm Avenue**. Buddhadeb, who had been suffering from **chronic obstructive pulmonary**, ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee**, who in 1957 became the **second-youngest scientist** to receive a **Nobel Prize**, died on August 4, at his home in San Francisco at age 97. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The academic community mourns the loss of **H. Devaraj**, former Vice-Chairman of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, who passed away at the age of 71. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Susan Wojcicki**, a pioneering figure in the tech industry and **former CEO of YouTube**, has passed away at the age of 56 following a **two-year battle with cancer**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Former **External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh** passed away at 95, due to a prolonged illness on August 10. He took his last breath at Medanta Hospital in **Gurugram near Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal, a **renowned Indian scientist** and the driving force behind India's missile program, passed away on Thursday in Hyderabad at the age of 84. Known affectionately as the **'Father of Agni Missiles'**. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- **Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal**, died of a severe cardiac arrest in Chennai. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- The **world's oldest person, Spain's Maria Branyas Morera**, who was born in the **US in 1907** and lived through two world wars, has died at the age of 117, her family said. ([Click here to read complete details](#))



- Former Chief of Army Staff **General Sundararajan Padmanabhan**, who passed away at his **Chennai** residence on August 19, was cremated with full military honours at **Besant Nagar** on August 20. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- Dr. **Girish Sahni**, the former director-general of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, passed away on August 19, 2024, at the age of 68. ([Click here to read complete details](#))
- 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 Current Affairs

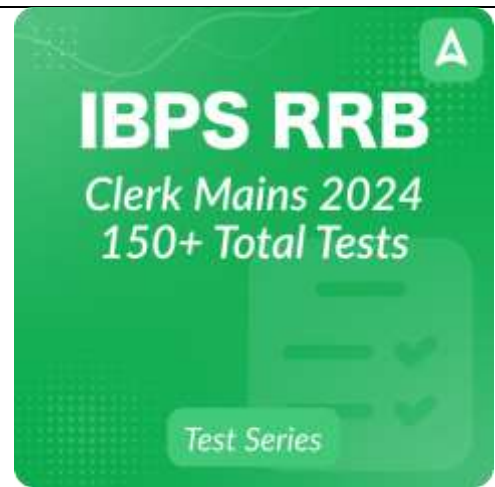
- Asian Institute of Transport Development President: K. R. Narayanan
- Asian Institute of Transport Development Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Asian Institute of Transport Development Establishment: 1989
- National Commission for Women Chairperson: Rekha Sharma (as of 2024)
- National Commission for Women Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- National Commission for Women Establishment: 1992
- SEBI Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch (as of 2024)
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- SEBI Establishment: 1988 (Given statutory powers on April 12, 1992)
- Tunisia President: Kais Saied (as of 2024)
- Tunisia Capital: Tunis
- Tunisia Independence: March 20, 1956 (from France)
- Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB) Director General: Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- SSB Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- SSB Establishment: 1963 (Initially established as Special Service Bureau)
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General: Shri Rahul Rasgotra
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- ITBP Establishment: October 24, 1962
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief of Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari (as of 2024)
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- IAF Establishment: October 8, 1932
- DRDO Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat (as of 2024)
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- DRDO Establishment: 1958
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath (as of 2024)
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- ISRO Establishment: August 15, 1969
- UGC Chairman: M. Jagadesh Kumar (as of 2024)
- UGC Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- UGC Establishment: 1956
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Established: 2008
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Chairman: Ajay Kumar Choudhary
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe
- NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Headquarters: Faridabad, Haryana, India
- NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Established: 1975
- NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Chairman & Managing Director: Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- National Statistical Office (NSO) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- National Statistical Office (NSO) Established: 1950 (as Central Statistical Organisation)
- National Statistical Office (NSO) Chief Statistician of India: Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- RBL Bank Established: 1943
- RBL Bank MD & CEO: R Subramaniakumar
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Axis Bank Established: 1993
- Axis Bank MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) Established: 1964
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) Chairman & Managing Director: Sadashiv Murthy Koppu
- National Health Authority (NHA) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- National Health Authority (NHA) Established: 2019
- National Health Authority (NHA) CEO: Deepti Gaur Mukerjee

- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Established: 2014
- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Director: Dr. Anup Kumar
- Australia Capital: Canberra
- Australia Established: 1 January 1901 (Federation)
- Australia Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese
- Turkey Capital: Ankara
- Turkey President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Head: Dr. N. Kalaiselvi (Director General)
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Established: 1942
- Indian Coast Guard Head: Rakesh Pal
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Indian Coast Guard Established: 1977
- SpaceX Head: Elon Musk (CEO)
- SpaceX Headquarters: Hawthorne, California, USA
- SpaceX Established: 2002
- European Union (EU) President of the European Commission: Ursula von der Leyen
- European Union (EU) Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- European Union (EU) Established: 1993 (Maastricht Treaty)
- Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) Head: Rakesh Kumar (Executive Director)
- Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) Established: 1986
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Head: Roger Binny (President)
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Established: 1928
- NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) Head: Rajesh Nambiar
- NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) Established: 1988
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) Head: Sanjeev Kumar (Interim Chairman)
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) Established: 1995
- PhonePe Head: Sameer Nigam (CEO)
- PhonePe Headquarters: Bengaluru, India
- PhonePe Established: 2015
- Airtel Payments Bank Head: Anubrata Biswas (CEO)
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Airtel Payments Bank Established: 2016
- Amul Head: Tarun Bhatia
- Amul Headquarters: Anand, Gujarat, India
- Amul Established: 1946
- GAIL (India) Limited Head: Sandeep Kumar Gupta (Chairman & MD)
- GAIL (India) Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- GAIL (India) Limited Established: 1984
- Indian Navy Head: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi (Chief of Naval Staff)
- Indian Navy Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Indian Navy Established: 1950 (reorganized as per the Indian Republic)
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky
- Ukraine Prime Minister: Denys Shmyhal
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian Hryvnia (UAH)
- Bangladesh President: Mohammed Shahabuddin
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)
- Japan Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Japan Capital: Tokyo
- Japan Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)
- 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
- Amazo 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)



Important Sports Cups and Trophies of India

Important Sports Cups and Trophies of India	
List of Important Cups and Trophies in Sports	Sports
Beighton Cup	Hockey
Ezra Cup	Polo
Deodhar Trophy	Cricket
Dhyan Chand Award	Lifetime Achievement Sporting Honour in India
B. C Roy Trophy	Football (National Junior)
Duleep Trophy	First Class Cricket
Durand Cup	Football
Guru Nanak Dev Gold Cup	Hockey
Z. R. Irani Cup	Cricket
Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup	Hockey
Murugappa Gold Cup	Hockey
Nehru Trophy	Boat Race
Nizam Gold Cup	Horse Racing
Rangaswami Cup	Hockey (National Championship)
Ranji Trophy	Cricket (National Championship)
Rovers Cup	Football
Santosh Trophy	Football
Sheesh Mahal Trophy	Cricket
Subroto Mukherjee Cup	Football
Vittal Trophy	Football
Vijay Hazare Trophy	Cricket
Vizy Trophy	Cricket
Yadavindra Cup	Hockey