

# Weekly One Liners 07th to 14th of October 2024

## The 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

In 2024, the Nobel Assembly at the **Karolinska Institute in Stockholm** announced that **Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun** had been awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize in **Medicine**. Their groundbreaking work, recognized for its profound implications in the field of molecular biology, centered on the discovery of microRNA (miRNA) and its crucial role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.

**Name of winners** : Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun (Jointly)

**Topic** : For the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation

General Facts

- The **information stored within our chromosomes** can be likened to an instruction manual for all cells in our body.
- Every cell **contains the same chromosomes**, so every cell contains exactly the same set of genes and exactly the same set of instructions.
- Yet, different cell types, such as muscle and nerve cells, have very distinct characteristics. Every time depending on situations differences arise.
- So, gene regulation, which allows each cell to select only the relevant instructions.
- This ensures that only the correct set of genes is active in each cell type.

### Their Discovery

- Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were interested in how different cell types develop.
- They **discovered microRNA**, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that **play a crucial role in gene regulation**.
- Their groundbreaking discovery **revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation** that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans.
- It is now known that the human genome codes for over one thousand microRNAs.
- Their surprising discovery revealed **an entirely new dimension to gene regulation**.
- MicroRNAs are proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function.

### Key Points on Gene Regulation

#### Flow of Genetic Information:

- DNA to mRNA to Protein.
- Genetic information is stored in DNA.
- DNA is transcribed into messenger RNA (mRNA) in a process called transcription. mRNA is then translated into proteins, which are responsible for carrying out cellular functions according to the genetic instructions.

### Identical Genetic Information in All Cells

- All cells in the body contain the same set of genetic instructions in their DNA, regardless of their type (e.g., muscle, nerve, intestinal cells).

### Unique Protein Expression in Different Cells

- Despite having identical DNA, different cell types express unique sets of proteins.
- This difference is due to the precise regulation of gene activity, which ensures only the relevant genes are active in each cell type.

### Specialized Cellular Functions

- Gene regulation enables specific cell types (muscle, nerve, intestinal) to perform their specialized functions by activating only the necessary genes.

### Adaptation to Changing Conditions

- Gene regulation is a dynamic process that allows cells to adjust their gene activity in response to changes in the body and the environment.
- This fine-tuning is essential for maintaining normal cellular function and health.

### Their Research

- In Horvitz's laboratory, they studied a relatively unassuming **1 mm long roundworm, *C. elegans***.
- Despite its small size, *C. elegans* possesses **many specialized cell types** such as **nerve and muscle cells also found in larger**, more complex animals, making it a useful model for investigating **how tissues develop and mature in multicellular organisms**.

### Study of Two Mutants

- They studied two mutant strains of worms, **lin-4 and lin-14**, that displayed defects in the timing of activation of genetic programs during development.
- They wanted to identify the mutated genes and understand their function.



**Victor's Research**

- Victor Ambros **analyzed the lin-4 mutant** and Methodical mapping allowed the cloning of the gene and led to an unexpected finding.
- The lin-4 gene **produced an unusually short RNA molecule that lacked a code for protein production.**
- These surprising results suggested that **this small RNA from lin-4 was responsible for inhibiting lin-14.**

**Gary's Research**

- Gary Ruvkun investigated the regulation of the lin-14 gene, Unlike how gene regulation was **then known to function**, Ruvkun showed that **it is not the production of mRNA from lin-14 that is inhibited by lin-4.**
- The **regulation appeared to occur at a later stage in the process of gene expression**, through the **shutdown of protein production.**
- Experiments also revealed a segment in lin-14 mRNA that was necessary for its inhibition by lin-4.

**Compared the findings**

- The two laureates compared their findings, which resulted in a breakthrough discovery.
- The **short lin-4 sequence matched complementary sequences** in the **critical segment of the lin-14 mRNA.**
- Ambros and Ruvkun performed further experiments showing that the **lin-4 microRNA turns off lin-14 by binding to the complementary sequences in its mRNA, blocking the production of lin-14 protein.**
- A **new principle of gene regulation**, mediated by a **previously unknown type of RNA, microRNA, had been discovered.**
- The results were published in 1993 in two articles in the journal Cell.

**Nobel Prize 2024 in Physics**

The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** has awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2024** to **John J. Hopfield** from Princeton University, USA, and **Geoffrey E. Hinton** from the University of Toronto, Canada. They are being honored for their foundational discoveries and inventions that have advanced the field of machine learning, particularly through the development of artificial neural networks.

Nobel Prize 2024 in Physics – Winner's Name

1. John J. Hopfield
2. Geoffrey E. Hinton

**Topic :** For foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks

**Overview**

- This year's two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning. John Hopfield created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data.

- Geoffrey Hinton invented a method that can autonomously find properties in data, and so perform tasks such as identifying specific elements in pictures.

**Nobel 2024 in Chemistry**

The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to **David Baker for his innovative work in computational protein design** and to **Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper for their groundbreaking AI-based protein structure prediction.** These discoveries, recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, represent major advancements in understanding and designing proteins.

**Details**

**Awarded by :** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

**Winners**

1. Half of the prize awarded to **David Baker** (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA) **Recognized for computational protein design.**
2. The other half was awarded jointly to **Demis Hassabis** (Google DeepMind, London, UK), **John M. Jumper** (Google DeepMind, London, UK) **Recognized for protein structure prediction.**

**Discovery Focus**

**Proteins**

- Fundamental chemical tools in all living organisms.
- They control and drive essential chemical reactions that sustain life.
- Serve various functions as hormones, antibodies, signal substances, and building blocks of tissues.

**Importance of Proteins**

- Proteins consist of 20 different amino acids.
- Their function is determined by their three-dimensional structure, which is formed by the folding of amino acid chains.

**The Nobel Prize 2024 In Literature**

The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2024** has been awarded to **Han Kang**, a prominent South Korean author, in recognition of her **intense poetic prose** that addresses **historical traumas** and unveils the **fragility of human life.** This accolade highlights the significant impact of her literary work, which delves deep into the complex interplay between personal and societal histories.

**Literary Journey and Recognition**

Before receiving the Nobel Prize, Han Kang gained international acclaim with her **2016 novel 'The Vegetarian'**, which won the **Man Booker International Prize.** This groundbreaking novel tells the story of **Yeong-hye**, a woman whose decision to stop eating meat after a series of disturbing dreams triggers a profound personal transformation. What starts as an individual choice unravels into a broader commentary on **societal expectations, autonomy,** and the conflict between body and mind.

Through **sparse yet lyrical** writing, Han conveys the depths of human emotion, depicting horror and beauty in equal measure. Readers are often left grappling with complex questions about identity and the human condition, a testament to her skill as a writer who invites contemplation.

### The 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

The **Norwegian Nobel Committee** has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to the **Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo**. This grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as **Hibakusha**, is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

#### Details

- Winner : Nihon Hidankyo Organization
- For its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

#### Hibakusha

- The **survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**, who have shared their personal stories to educate the world about the horrors of nuclear weapons.
- They advocate for disarmament and emphasize that **such weapons must never be used again**.

#### Global Movement

- After the bombings in 1945, a global movement emerged, **raising awareness about the humanitarian devastation caused by nuclear weapons**.
- This effort contributed to the **establishment of the nuclear taboo**, the moral stigma against using such weapons.
- The Hibakusha played a **crucial role in consolidating this taboo through their witness accounts**.

### RBI Monetary Policy Meeting 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%** for the tenth consecutive time. This decision reflects a shift in the monetary policy stance from **'withdrawal of accommodation'** to **'neutral.'** As a result, all external benchmark lending rates linked to the repo rate will remain stable, providing relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will not rise.

Here's a summary of the key details from the RBI MPC meeting held from October 7-9, 2024:

- **Repo Rate Decision:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%**. This marks the **10th consecutive time** the rate has been held steady.
- **Monetary Policy Stance:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) shifted its stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to a **"neutral" position**. This change allows for flexibility in adjusting interest rates based on inflation trends.

- **MPC Voting:** The decision to maintain the repo rate was reached with a majority vote of 5 out of 6 members in favor.
- **Inflation Projections:** The RBI forecasted inflation for the third quarter of FY25 at 4.8% and a decline to 4.2% in the fourth quarter. Retail inflation for FY25 was projected at 4.5%, assuming normal monsoon conditions. The inflation rate for Q1FY26 is expected to be 4.3%, slightly above the 4% target.
- **Economic Growth Estimates:** The RBI maintained its GDP growth estimate for FY25 at 7.2%. Growth estimates for specific quarters are: 7.0% for Q2FY25, 7.4% for Q3FY25, 7.4% for Q4FY25, and 7.3% for Q1FY26.
- **Reverse Repo Rate and Other Rates:** The **reverse repo rate was maintained at 3.35%**. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates remained unchanged at 6.25% and 6.75%, respectively.

### 70th National Film Awards (2022) Ceremony

The winners of the **70th National Film Awards for the year 2022** were announced by the jury on 16th August 2024. The 70th National Film Awards ceremony was held on October 8, 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards. The event was attended by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and other distinguished guests.

#### Key Sections of the Awards

- **Feature Film Awards:** Recognizing outstanding feature films across various languages and genres.
- **Non-Feature Film Awards:** Celebrating excellence in short films, documentaries, and animation.
- **Best Writing on Cinema:** Honoring books and critics that explore and contribute to the discourse on Indian cinema.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Awarded for lifetime contributions to Indian cinema.

#### Notable Award Winner

- Best Feature Film: Aattam (The Play)
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Kantara
- Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values: Kutch Express
- Best Film in AVGC: Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva
- Best Debut Film of a Director: Fouja
- Best Direction: Sooraj Barjatya for Unchai
- Best Actor in a Leading Role: Rishab Shetty for Kantara
- Best Actress in a Leading Role:
  1. Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrambalam (Tamil)
  2. Manasi Parekh for Kutch Express (Gujarati)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Pavan Raj Malhotra for Fouja (Haryanvi)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Neena Gupta for Unchai (Hindi)

- Best Child Artist: Sreepathy for Malikappuram (Malayalam)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for “Kesariya” from Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva (Hindi) Best Female Playback Singer: Bombay Jayashri for Saudi Vell
- Mithun Chakraborty, who received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, while
- AR Rahman won his seventh national award for Ponnin Selvan I, which also took home the Best Film award.

### National Affairs

- In a major step towards sustainability, Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey** remotely inaugurated 51 rooftop solar power plants of **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)** under **Special Campaign 4.0 from Ranchi**. These solar plants, with a cumulative capacity of 2.428 MW, highlight BCCL’s focus on reducing carbon emissions while utilizing unused building spaces. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Banjara Virasat Museum in Pohardevi, Washim, Maharashtra**, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Banjara community. The museum, a four-story structure, houses 13 galleries showcasing the legacy of the Banjara community and its leaders. Modi also paid floral tributes to Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj, spiritual icons of the community, and performed rituals at the Jagdamba Temple. He is set to launch agricultural and animal husbandry initiatives worth ₹23,300 crore. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has recently signed a **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** aimed at enhancing investor confidence and fostering stronger economic ties. One of the key changes in this agreement is the reduction of the arbitration period for foreign investors from five years to three years. This new provision allows investors to seek international arbitration if disputes are unresolved by the Indian judicial system within the stipulated timeframe. The BIT, effective from August 31, 2024, also extends protections to shares and bonds, broadening the scope of investments covered compared to the previous agreement. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to preserve and showcase India’s rich maritime heritage, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat**. The project will unfold in two phases, and it aligns with the government’s broader vision to highlight the country’s ancient maritime prowess, which dates back over 4,500 years. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai**, aiming to enhance youth employability and create an industry-ready workforce for **Industry 4.0**. The IIS, built on a 4-acre campus at the **National Skill Training Institute**, focuses on cutting-edge technologies like factory automation, AI, data analytics, and additive manufacturing. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The government, led by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, has announced the establishment of **10 new ESIC medical colleges** and the extension of the unemployment allowance scheme under the **Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna until June 2026**. These decisions align with the **Prime Minister’s Independence Day (2024)** promise to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India’s textiles sector** is set for significant expansion, with an **11% year-on-year** growth in Ready-Made Garments (RMG) of all Textiles exports, as per India’s trade data of August 2024, signaling a bright future. The Textiles sector in the country is expected to grow to **USD 350 billion by 2030**, driven by India’s inherent strengths and a strong policy framework that encourages investment and exports. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has officially launched its **‘Study in India’ campaign** at the **20th International Education Show in Sharjah**, aiming to attract international students to its universities. The initiative, organized by EdCIL under the Ministry of Education, is a significant step in positioning India as a global education hub. The India Pavilion was inaugurated by **Ahmed Mohamed Obaid Al Naboodah** from the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Yatin Patil, Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai. ([Click here to read article](#))

### States in the News

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** unveiled the new **multi-colored logo for Mahakumbh 2025** at an event. Kumbh Mela, recognised by the UNESCO as an ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,’ is regarded as the world’s largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to fight against child marriage in Assam, **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** of Assam has initiated the disbursement of monthly financial assistance under the **Nijut Moina scheme**. This step marks a decisive phase in the government’s ongoing battle against this social issue, aiming to provide crucial support to families and empower young girls to pursue their education and well-being. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Enterprising rural women in **Uttar Pradesh, working as BC Sakhis**, have facilitated **Rs 27,000 crore** in financial transactions over the past four and a half years. BC Sakhis, appointed under a nationwide women empowerment initiative, are part of **self-help groups (SHGs)** providing banking services in rural, unbanked areas. Uttar Pradesh leads the nation in the number of BC Sakhis, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These women have earned Rs 75 crore in commission, making significant contributions to financial inclusion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has unveiled a transformative state government initiative named ‘Sankalp’, marking a significant step in Himachal Pradesh’s fight against drug trafficking and addiction. The initiative was officially announced on October 6, 2024, at an event organized by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in the state capital, **Shimla**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The central government has given its in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district. This decision follows a proposal from the Bihar government to develop the **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve.** ([Click here to read article](#))

### International Affairs

- Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on Sunday appointed **Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice** of the country. Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut at a special ceremony organized at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office. ([Click here to read article](#))
- After **181 years of horse racing**, Singapore hosted its final race day at the **Singapore Turf Club** on Saturday, as the site prepares to be repurposed for new housing developments. This decision, influenced by the growing population surpassing six million, marks a significant shift in the city-state's approach to land use, prioritizing housing over recreational activities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The recent inauguration of a new runway at **Hanimadho International Airport** and the launch of the **RuPay card** in the Maldives signify a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between **India and the Maldives**. Conducted through a virtual ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu marked these developments as essential steps to enhance economic ties and boost tourism cooperation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bangladesh's interim government** has established a **nine-member Constitution Reform Commission**, headed by **Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz**, to review and propose reforms within 90 days. The commission, formed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned, aims to create a more representative and democratic framework. Members include professors, legal experts, and student representatives, with student **Mahfuj Alam** serving as special assistant to **Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- President **Kais Saied** has secured a second **five-year term** as Tunisia's leader in an election marked by both overwhelming numbers and significant concerns. The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (ISIE) announced on October 7, 2024, that Saied had won a staggering **90.7 percent** of the votes cast, a figure that has raised eyebrows among democratic observers worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially validated India's elimination of trachoma as a public health problem, marking a significant achievement in public health. **Trachoma, caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis**, is one of the leading causes of global blindness. **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** praised India for its commitment to combating this debilitating disease, joining the ranks of Nepal and Myanmar in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 19 other countries worldwide that have achieved this milestone. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Beijing is systematically increasing pressure on Taiwan through a multifaceted strategy** that military officials describe as the "**Anaconda Strategy**," aimed at compelling Taipei to accept reunification as inevitable. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected **18 new members** to the **47-member Human Rights Council** for the **2025-2027 term**. This election, conducted via secret ballot, includes countries such as **Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand**. The newly elected members will start their three-year terms on **January 1, 2025**. Based in **Geneva**, the Human Rights Council is vital for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. The elections emphasize a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity in the Council's composition. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- India has extended significant financial aid to the Maldives by signing a **\$750 million currency swap agreement** to ease the country's foreign exchange crisis. This includes a **\$400 million swap** and an additional **₹3,000 crore (\$357 million)** under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework, available until 2027. The agreement was sealed during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and **Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu**, who is on a five-day visit to India. Both leaders discussed key economic and security collaborations, adopting a "**vision statement**" that reinforces their partnership. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Books and Authors

- Veteran investigative journalist **Bob Woodward**, best known for his role in uncovering the Watergate scandal, is set to release his latest book titled **War**, which has already begun to shake the political landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has significantly boosted its stake in **Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10%**, as disclosed in an exchange filing on October 5, 2024. This increase follows the allotment of **25.96 crore** equity shares priced at ₹57.36 each through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). This strategic move reflects LIC's confidence in the bank's growth potential and is aimed at strengthening its balance sheet to support expansion plans. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has informed that the Indian and UAE governments are working on **interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAE**. It will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between two countries. This will benefit over 3 million Indians residing in the UAE enabling them to use the power of UPI and AANI. ([Click here to read article](#))
- HDFC Bank has officially announced the divestment of its entire **100% stake** in HDFC Education and Development Services Pvt. Ltd (HDFC Edu) to **Vama Sundari Investments** for **₹192 crore**. This all-cash transaction, valued at ₹9.60 per share, aligns with the bank's strategy to comply with regulatory requirements and streamline its operations following the merger with e-HDFC Ltd. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Reliance's beauty platform **Tira** announced the launch of globally luxury skincare and haircare brand **Augustinus Bader** for the Indian Market. Known for its scientifically advanced and award-winning formulas, Augustinus Bader products are now available exclusively on Tira. ([Click here to read article](#))
- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced its decision to sell its **Oman operations to Bank Dhofar** as part of a broader strategy to rationalize its foreign business footprint. This acquisition will take place on a going concern basis, pending approval from regulatory authorities. The total business of BoB's Oman operations is valued at **113.35 million Omani Rials**, with a **net worth of 25.54 million Omani Rials**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark move, the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a **\$500 million loan** aimed at scaling up blue finance and green projects in India. This is IFC's first blue investment in the country and the largest climate finance initiative by IFC in India to date. Blue loans focus on funding water and wastewater management, reducing ocean plastic pollution, restoring marine ecosystems, and promoting offshore renewable energy, among others. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Pakistan is witnessing widespread protests after the government raised **taxes by 40%** as part of a **\$7 billion bailout deal** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In line with its focus on enhancing the welfare of **Naval Civilians**, the **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**. This initiative is a key highlight of 2024, declared as the **"Year of Naval Civilians."** It underscores the Navy's commitment to financial security and inclusivity for its civilian workforce, particularly by offering affordable life insurance options, including term insurance, to safeguard their families in the event of an untimely death. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major boost to **India's digital payment landscape**, UPI transaction volumes recorded a 52% year-on-year rise to 78.97 billion in the first half of 2024. According to **Worldline's India Digital Payments Report**, UPI's value surged by 40%, growing from ₹83.16 trillion to ₹116.63 trillion between January 2023 and June 2024. While PhonePe led the market, followed by Google Pay and Paytm, the average ticket size (ATS) saw an 8% decline, reflecting a shift toward smaller transactions. UPI transaction volumes grew from **51.9 billion in H1 2023 to 78.97 billion in H1 2024**. Value also rose from ₹12.98 trillion to ₹20.07 trillion. Despite this, ATS decreased from ₹1,603 to ₹1,478. P2P transactions increased marginally, while P2M transactions saw a 4% drop in ATS. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **DigiLocker**, a secure cloud-based platform for document storage and verification, has integrated with the **UMANG app** to enhance access to **various government services**. This collaboration aims to simplify citizen interactions with the government, enabling users to manage multiple services through a single platform. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Appointments/Resignations**

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has announced a significant diplomatic appointment with **Sanjeev Kumar Singla** being named as India's next **Ambassador to France**. This strategic move represents an important shift in India's diplomatic corps and brings a wealth of experience to one of India's crucial European partnerships. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has made a significant move in its fight against corruption by appointing retired IPS officer **Sharad Kumar** as the new chief of its **Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU)**. This strategic appointment brings decades of law enforcement experience to cricket administration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The government has approved a one-year extension for **M. Rajeshwar Rao** as **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, effective October 9, 2024. This decision was made by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following a notification dated October 4. Rao's tenure was initially set for three years starting from October 2020, and this marks his second consecutive one-year extension. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Air Marshal SP Dharkar**, a distinguished fighter pilot with an impressive 3,600 hours of flying experience, **took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff**. His extensive expertise in aviation and leadership positions within the Indian Air Force is expected to bolster the operational readiness and strategic capabilities of the service. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Manish Tiwary**, former head of Amazon India, has been appointed as the **Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited**. His tenure will begin on **1st August 2025**, following the retirement of the company's current **Chairman and Managing Director, Suresh Narayanan**, who will step down on **31st July 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Defence News

- **MALABAR exercise** kick off from 8th October in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It hosted by India, this year's exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase. The exercise conducted from **8th October to 18th October. Malabar 2024 is designed to enhance cooperation and operational capabilities among participating navies.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** marked its **92nd anniversary on October 6, 2024**, with a stunning air show that attracted an estimated 1.5 million spectators at **Marina Beach, Chennai**. The event, attended by **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** and **Air Chief Marshal AP Singh**, showcased the theme **"Sashakt, Saksham, Atmanirbhar"** (Potent, Powerful, Self-reliant), reflecting the IAF's evolution into a modern and formidable force. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate **DefConnect 4.0 on October 7, 2024**, at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, marking a major milestone in advancing indigenous defence innovation. Organised by Innovations for **Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (IDEX-DIO)** under the Ministry of Defence's Department of Defence Production, the event brings together various stakeholders to promote collaboration and innovation in the defence ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully carried out three flight-tests of the advanced fourth-generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (**VSHORADS**) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October 3-4. The tests mark a significant step in enhancing India's defense capabilities, showcasing the missile's precision and reliability in engaging fast-moving aerial targets. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Naval Ships **Tir and Shardul**, along with the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera, from the **First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy**, have successfully arrived in **Muscat, Oman**, as part of their long-range training deployment. This visit underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to enhancing maritime cooperation and strengthening ties with regional partners. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Indian Navy has received its latest **large Survey Vessel** for deep water hydrographic mapping specially designed, **Nirdeshak (Yard 3026)**, second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, steered by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (**GRSE**), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- The **MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024** has been awarded to **Vera Voronova from Kazakhstan** and **Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos from Peru** for their exemplary contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainability. Voronova, the executive director of the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, has led efforts to restore ecosystems and protect endangered species in Central Asia, benefiting rural communities. Calderón Carlos, founder of Sumak Kawsay in Peru, has been recognized for her work in preventing the decline of pollinators, particularly through her **"Bee Honey Route,"** which combines honey production with community development and ecosystem restoration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Habitat Day**, celebrated annually on the **first Monday of October**, is a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about the fundamental right to housing. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, the day serves as a reminder that everyone deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. This year the day was celebrated on the **7th of October**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** has awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2024** to **John J. Hopfield** from Princeton University, USA, and **Geoffrey E. Hinton** from the University of Toronto, Canada. They are being honored for their foundational discoveries and inventions that have advanced the field of machine learning, particularly through the development of artificial neural networks. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to **David Baker for his innovative work in computational protein design** and to **Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper for their groundbreaking AI-based protein structure prediction**. These discoveries, recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, represent major advancements in understanding and designing proteins. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Norwegian Nobel Committee** has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to the **Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo**. This grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as **Hibakusha**, is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Summits and Conferences News**

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has commenced its **77th Regional Committee session** for Southeast Asia in New Delhi, marking a significant gathering of health leaders from across the region. **JP Nadda**, India's Minister of Health, has been elected as the **Chairperson** of the 77th Session, bringing his extensive experience in health policy to guide the deliberations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Second Army Commanders' Conference of 2024** began on October 10 in a hybrid format at a forward location in **Gangtok, Sikkim**. Bringing together senior leaders of the Indian Army, the conference serves as a crucial platform to review the nation's overall security landscape, address key conceptual issues, and devise strategies to tackle emerging challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** Summits and related events began on October 9 in Vientiane, Laos, focusing on the theme **"ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience."** Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith urged member countries to uphold peace, stability, and sustainable development while honoring their commitments to multilateralism. This year marks a significant opportunity for ASEAN to build a more integrated and resilient community in response to pressing challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Sports News**

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the **logo and mascot** for the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024**. Scheduled to take place in Rajgir from November 11 to 20, the tournament will feature the mascot named **'Gudiya,'** inspired by **Bihar's state bird, the sparrow**. The unveiling marks a significant step toward creating a vibrant atmosphere for the upcoming championship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast**, who narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the Rio 2016 Olympics, has announced her retirement from the sport. Famous for performing the risky **"Produnova"** vault, often called the **"vault of death,"** Karmakar leaves behind a legacy of courage and determination that redefined Indian gymnastics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a remarkable display of skill and determination, ace Indian **cueist Pankaj Advani** clinched the prestigious **Songhe Singapore Open** title by defeating local favorite **Jaden Ong 5-1** in the final held in Singapore. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Andrés Iniesta**, The Spaniard, maestro of the game announced retirement from professional football after a long 22 years serving in the field. The player who represented the **National team of Spain and FC Barcelona**, one of the best clubs in the world. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has chosen **Uttarakhand** as the host for the **38th Summer National Games**, scheduled to take place from **28th January to 14th February 2025**. This announcement marks a significant achievement for the state, as it will be hosting the prestigious event for the first time, followed by the upcoming **Winter Games**, which will be held outside **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** for the first time. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Schemes and Committees News**

- **Conrad K Sangma**, Meghalaya Chief Minister launched the **GREEN (Grassroot level Response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya Plus (GMP)** Scheme in the first week of October in the state. The main purpose for the launching of the scheme is for conservation and enhancement of forest cover. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai** inaugurated the **Jal-Jagar Mahotsav** at the Ravishankar Reservoir in Gangrel Dam, **Dhamtari**, marking a significant milestone in the state's water conservation initiatives. This event highlights the district administration's innovative strategies to address groundwater depletion, gaining recognition for its proactive approach. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The National Anubhav Awards Scheme** recognizes the contributions of retiring and retired government employees by encouraging them to share their valuable experiences and insights. The initiative is spearheaded by the **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to revolutionise the travel experience on India's national highways. The **Humsafar Policy**, launched on Tuesday, represents a comprehensive approach to enhancing highway infrastructure and services, promising to transform the journey for millions of travellers across the country. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, launched in 2015 to provide a universal social security system for all, particularly the underprivileged and workers in the unorganized sector, has achieved a major milestone. As of **FY 2024-25**, total enrollments have surpassed 7 crore, with **over 56 lakh** new enrollments added in the current financial year. This achievement highlights the success of the scheme in reaching vulnerable sections of society. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India participated in the **44th session** of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (**CCNFSDU**) held in **Dresden, Germany** from **October 2 to October 6, 2024**. As a key contributor, India made pivotal interventions on significant agenda items. ([Click here to read article](#))



### Science and Technology News

- Google for India 2024, marking the **tech giant's 10th event in the country**, underscored its commitment to driving India's digital transformation through AI-powered innovations. **Celebrating 20 years of Google's operations in India**, the event focused on addressing India's unique challenges by introducing AI solutions across healthcare, payments, language support, and sustainability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's National Space Commission has officially approved the **Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)**, marking the country's fifth lunar mission. This mission follows the successful landing of **Chandrayaan-3** in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon. Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's **ISRO** and Japan's **JAXA**, aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The recent outbreak of **Marburg virus in Rwanda** has raised significant alarm, marking the first reported cases in the country. As of late September 2024, health officials confirmed **26 cases**, including **12 fatalities**, with over 80% of infections occurring among healthcare workers. The Marburg virus is one of the deadliest pathogens known, causing severe hemorrhagic fever with a case fatality rate ranging from **24% to 88%**. Given Rwanda's limited healthcare resources, this outbreak poses a substantial threat to the country's already fragile health system. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- As the world marks the **fifth anniversary** of World Cotton Day on **October 7, 2024**, we delve into the significance of this global celebration that honors one of agriculture's most versatile and valuable crops. Cotton, far beyond its well-known role in textiles, has emerged as a cornerstone in various industries, from **medical supplies** to **animal feed** and **edible oil production**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Observed annually on **October 6**, **World Cerebral Palsy Day** aims to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of individuals living with CP. It serves as a platform to highlight the challenges faced by people with CP and to promote inclusion and support. The day emphasizes the importance of early intervention, personalized assistance, and accessible environments to enhance the quality of life for individuals with CP. ([Click here to read article](#))
- As India prepares to commemorate the **92nd Indian Air Force Day** on October 8, 2024, the nation stands united in honouring its air warriors' exceptional dedication and sacrifices. This significant occasion serves as a reminder of the **Indian Air Force's (IAF)** remarkable journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of the world's most formidable aerial forces. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Mental Health Day**, observed annually on **October 10**, was first initiated in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). This global observance aims to raise awareness about mental health issues and mobilize efforts in support of mental health care worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on **9 October**. The event was declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) creation in 1874.
- Theme of 2024: "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations".
- **The International Day of the Girl Child**, commemorated globally on **October 11th**, stands as a testament to the world's commitment to recognizing and uplifting the rights, voices, and potential of girls everywhere. As we approach the 2024 observance, the theme "**Girls' Vision for the Future**" emerges as a powerful rallying cry, embodying both the urgent need for action and the persistent hope that defines the spirit of young women and girls across the globe. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Every year on **October 10th**, India commemorates **National Postal Day**, a significant observance that marks the establishment of the Indian Postal Service. This annual celebration serves as a tribute to the vast network of postal workers and the crucial role they play in connecting the nation through communication services. The day holds particular importance as it commemorates the founding of the postal service during the East India Company's rule, establishing a legacy that continues to evolve and serve the nation's communication needs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** is a biannual global event aimed at raising awareness about the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. In 2024, WMBD will be observed on **11 May** and **12 October**, marking key dates in the migratory cycles of birds across the world. The 2024 theme, "**Insects for Birds**", highlights the **importance of insects for migratory birds** and calls for immediate action to protect the rapidly declining populations of insects. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)** is observed annually on **13th October**. This global event, spearheaded by the United Nations, emphasizes the importance of mitigating disaster risks and promoting strategies that help reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods due to natural and human-made disasters. The **theme for IDDRR 2024** is **“Education as a Lifeline for Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction”**. ([Click here to read article](#))

indicate the storm could make landfall in the densely populated Tampa Bay area, which has over 3.3 million residents. The National Hurricane Center has warned of heavy rainfall and storm surges, with some areas expected to receive up to 18 inches of rain. ([Click here to read article](#))

- An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer, **Nima Rinji Sherpa**, made history on Wednesday by becoming the youngest person to summit all **14 of the world’s 8,000-meter** (26,246-foot) peaks. His remarkable achievement was sealed after successfully reaching the summit of Tibet’s 26,335-foot Shisha Pangma. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a tribute to the legacy of **Ratan Naval Tata**, the **Bihar Postal Circle** has released a special cover commemorating his contributions to industry, philanthropy, and national development. This gesture serves not only as a tribute but also as a reminder of his enduring values and leadership. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. MACE is the **largest imaging Cherenkov telescope** in Asia and the **highest in the world** at about **4,300 meters** altitude. Developed by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** with support from **Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)** and other partners, this facility marks a significant milestone in India's **astrophysical research**. Its inauguration aligns with the **Platinum Jubilee** of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, highlighting a strong commitment to scientific advancement. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Obituaries News**

- Tata Sons Chairman, Ratan Tata passed away on **9 October 2024** at the age of 86 due to prolonged age-related illness at **Breach Candy Hospital**, Mumbai. His passing marks the end of an era, as Tata’s leadership and vision left an indelible mark on India’s business and philanthropic landscape. His contributions to the **Tata Group**, the Indian economy, and global business have cemented his legacy as one of the greatest industrialists of all time. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. P. Venugopal**, the former **Director** of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) and a celebrated cardiac surgeon, **passed away peacefully on October 8, 2024**, at the age of 82. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- As Hurricane Milton threatens the Florida coast, residents of the **Tampa Bay region** are evacuating in droves, fearing a potentially catastrophic storm. Hurricane Milton regained strength on Tuesday afternoon, becoming a Category 5 storm with winds reaching 165 mph (265 kph). Predictions

**Static Takeaways**

Organization/Country	Headquarters	Head/Leader	Established	Currency	Other Info
<b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Shaktikanta Das (Governor)	April 1, 1935	Indian Rupee (INR)	Central Bank of India
<b>Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)</b>	Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India	Samiran Dutta (CMD)	January 1972	N/A	Subsidiary of Coal India Limited
<b>Maldives</b>	Malé	Mohamed Muizzu (President)	N/A	Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)	No Prime Minister
<b>Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Siddhartha Mohanty (Chairman)	September 1, 1956	N/A	State-owned insurance corporation
<b>Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)</b>	Pune, Maharashtra, India	Nidhu Saxena	September 16, 1935	Indian Rupee (INR)	Tagline: "One Family One Bank"
<b>Bank of Baroda (BoB)</b>	Vadodara, Gujarat, India	Debadatta Chand (MD & CEO)	July 20, 1908	Indian Rupee (INR)	Tagline: "India’s International Bank"
<b>International Finance Corporation (IFC)</b>	Washington, D.C., USA	Makhtar Diop (MD)	July 20, 1956	N/A	Part of the World Bank Group

**Weekly One Liners 07th to 14th of October 2024**

Organization/Country	Headquarters	Head/Leader	Established	Currency	Other Info
<b>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b>	Washington, D.C., USA	Kristalina Georgieva (MD)	December 27, 1945	Special Drawing Rights (SDR)	Global financial organization
<b>Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Roger Binny (President)	December 1928	N/A	Governing body for cricket in India
<b>Indian Air Force (IAF)</b>	New Delhi, India	Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh (CAS)	October 8, 1932	N/A	Motto: "Touch the Sky with Glory"
<b>Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)</b>	New Delhi, India	Dr. Samir V. Kamat (Chairman)	1958	N/A	Ministry of Defence, India
<b>Peru</b>	Lima	Dina Boluarte (President)	N/A	Peruvian Sol (PEN)	Alberto Otárola (Prime Minister)
<b>Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)</b>	Jakarta, Indonesia	Kao Kim Hourn (Secretary-General)	August 8, 1967	N/A	10 member countries
<b>Google</b>	Mountain View, California, USA	Sundar Pichai (CEO)	September 4, 1998	N/A	Parent Company: Alphabet Inc.

