

Weekly One Liners 28th October to 03rd November 2024

17th UMI Conference and Exhibition 2024 Awards

The 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024 concluded with a valedictory session led by Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs and Power, Shri Manohar Lal, at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This three-day event brought together key stakeholders and experts to discuss advancements in sustainable urban mobility solutions.

The UMI awards recognize excellence and best practices in urban transport across various categories,

1. City with the Most Sustainable Transport System
2. City with the Best Public Transport System

3. City with the Best Non-Motorised Transport System
4. City with the Best Safety and Security System & Record
5. City with the Best Intelligent Transport System (ITS)
6. City with the Most Innovative Financing Mechanism
7. City with the Best Record of Public Involvement in Transport
8. City with the Best Freight Transport System
9. City with the Best Green Transport Initiative
10. Metro Rail with the Best Multimodal Integration
11. Metro Rail with the Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction
12. Running Trophy for the State/UT with the Best Urban Transport Projects

Complete List of awardees are as under,

Sr. No	Award Category	Winner/City	Organization
1	City with the Most Sustainable Transport System	Kochi	Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
2	City with the Best Public Transport System	Bhubaneswar	Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)
3	City with the Best Non-Motorized Transport System	Srinagar	Srinagar Smart City Ltd.
4	City with the Best Safety and Security System & Record	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation
5	City with the Best Intelligent Transport System (ITS)	Surat	Surat Municipal Corporation
6	City with the Most Innovative Financing Mechanism	Jammu	Jammu Smart City Ltd.
7	City with Best Record of Public Involvement in Transport	Bengaluru	Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation
8	Metro Rail with the Best Multimodal Integration	Bengaluru	Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
9	Metro Rail with the Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction	Mumbai	Mumbai Metro One Pvt. Ltd.

Overview of the 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024

Organizer

- Organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Conducted through the Institute of Urban Transport (India) with support from the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Event Details

- Over 2,200 delegates, including more than 50 international participants.
- 76 exhibitors participated from Metro Rail Companies, public and private sectors.
- Included 67 Indian exhibitors and 17 foreign exhibitors from countries like Germany, France, and Spain.
- The exhibition showcased best practices in urban transport and the latest urban transport technologies.

Significance

- The conference serves as a major platform for Indian manufacturers and foreign manufacturing companies to network and showcase innovations in urban transport.

Conference Theme and Focus Areas

Theme : Focused on “Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions”.

Key Discussions

- Emphasized the need for standardization to optimize urban mobility, particularly in the Indian context.
- Discussed frameworks for integrating various modes of transport to improve urban mobility.
- Explored multilateral and bilateral funding opportunities under the Make in India policy.
- Highlighted the importance of big data for effective transport planning.
- Focused on the development of an E-Bus ecosystem in India.
- Discussed principles of digital public infrastructure related to the transition to electric buses.
- Addressed the necessity of benchmarking costs within the Metro system for economic viability.
- Explored innovative financing mechanisms to tackle challenges in urban transport.

68th Ballon d'or Paris, France

The 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris was a night dominated by Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri, who triumphed over competitors from Real Madrid to claim **football's most prestigious individual award**. The event was also notable for numerous other recognitions, including those for promising young talents, coaching excellence, and outstanding club achievements.

Awarding Body

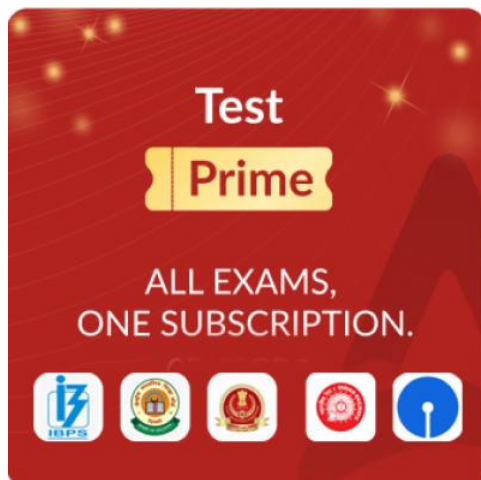
- Ballon d'Or is an annual award given by **France Football** to the best male and female footballers over the previous year.
- This Year UEFA also partnered with France Football award.

Rodri (Spain, Manchester City)

- The **28-year-old secured the men's Ballon d'Or award**, celebrating his instrumental contributions to Manchester City's success, including their Premier League win and his exceptional performance for Spain in the Euro 2024 tournament.
- Rodri edged out Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham, and Dani Carvajal, each known for their incredible form over the season.
- Aside from his club success, Rodri was named the Player of the Tournament at Euro 2024, showcasing his vital role in Spain's victorious campaign.

Aitana Bonmatí (Spain, Barcelona)

- For the second consecutive year, Bonmatí earned the title of the world's best female footballer.
- Achievements: Bonmatí helped FC Barcelona win the Spanish league, the Spanish cup, and her outstanding season led to a 1-2-3 finish for Barcelona, with her teammates Caroline Graham Hansen and Salma Paralluelo following in the rankings.
- She received the award from actress Natalie Portman, who acknowledged her contributions to women's football.



Lamine Yamal Wins Kopa Trophy

- The 17-year-old prodigy claimed the Kopa Trophy, awarded to the best player under 21.
- Yamal played a key role in Spain's Euro 2024 campaign, notably scoring a stunning goal in the semifinal against France. He also scored 16 goals at club level in the 2023/24 season.
- Yamal is now the sixth player to receive this award, joining previous winners like Kylian Mbappé and Jude Bellingham.

Men's Club of the Year

- **Real Madrid** took home the Men's Club of the Year award for the winning UEFA Champions League, La Liga and Spanish super cup.

Coach of the Year

- **Carlo Ancelotti, Real Madrid's manager**, was named Men's Coach of the Year. His leadership led the club to success in both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.
- Ancelotti accepted the award, reflecting on his team's successes despite the club's absence from the ceremony.

Additional Honors

Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper)

Emiliano Martínez (Argentina, Aston Villa)

- Recognized for his exceptional season, including performances for Argentina's national team.

Gerd Müller Trophy

- Shared by Kylian Mbappé (France, PSG/Real Madrid) and Harry Kane (England, Bayern Munich) for their 52-goal achievements across all competitions.

Women's Coach of the Year

Emma Hayes (Chelsea, USA)

- Hayes was celebrated for her success with Chelsea and her impact on the women's game internationally.

Socrates Award

- Jenni Hermoso (Spain, Tigres UANL) – Recognized for her humanitarian efforts off the field.

Complete List of 2024 Ballon d'Or Award Winners

1. Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri (Manchester City, Spain)
2. Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmatí (Barcelona, Spain)
3. Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal (Barcelona, Spain)
4. Yashin Trophy: Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)
5. Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid, Italy)
6. Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes (Chelsea/USA)
7. Men's Club of the Year: Real Madrid
8. Women's Club of the Year: FC Barcelona
9. Gerd Müller Trophy: Kylian Mbappé (PSG/Real Madrid) & Harry Kane (Bayern Munich)
10. Socrates Award: Jenni Hermoso (Spain, Tigres UANL) – Recognized for her humanitarian efforts off the field.

Most Titles

- So this year **Lionel Messi** was not nominated for the winners list. But he has the record of winning the award for the **record 8 times which is highest in that winner's list.**

Previous Year Winners Male

Year	Name	Country	Club They Win For
2023	Lionel Messi	Argentina	Paris Saint Germain (PSG)
2022	Karim Benzema	France	Real Madrid
2021	Lionel Messi	Argentina	Barcelona/PSG
2019	Lionel Messi	Argentina	Barcelona
2018	Luka Modric	Croatia	Real Madrid
2017	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	Real Madrid
2016	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	Real Madrid
2015	Lionel Messi	Argentina	Barcelona
2014	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	Real Madrid

2020 – Due to Covid Ballon d’or was not given.

Previous Year Winners Female

Year	Name	Country	Club They Win For
2023	Aitana Bonmati	Spain	Barcelona
2022	Alexia Putellas	Spain	Barcelona
2021	Alexia Putellas	Spain	Barcelona
2019	Megan Rapinoe	USA	Reign FC
2018	Ada Hegerberg	Norway	Olympique Lyonnais

2020 – Due to Covid Ballon d’or was not given.

PM Man Ki Baat October

In the recent episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister of India touched on several pivotal themes: the country's unity, cultural heritage, the significance of self-reliance, and growing technological advancements. This comprehensive session highlighted India's journey of resilience and progress while celebrating its diverse cultural tapestry and strides in innovation.

A Special Visit to Ulihatu: A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda

The Prime Minister recalled his memorable visit to **Ulihatu Village**, the birthplace of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, on his birth anniversary, emphasizing the deep connection with India's freedom struggle felt during this visit. He noted how touching the sacred soil of Ulihatu reminded him of the immense **strength and courage** ingrained in the nation's heritage, a legacy shaping the destiny of millions of Indians.

Honoring the Legacy of Sardar Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Reflecting on India's history of remarkable figures, the Prime Minister highlighted **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** as towering icons whose legacies have contributed to the idea of a unified India. With celebrations of their **150th birth anniversaries** on the horizon, he urged the nation to commemorate their contributions, inspiring unity and resilience.

Key Focus: Sardar Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda symbolize unity in diversity, making their life stories vital sources of inspiration for contemporary India.

A Global Celebration of Indian Heritage

The **150th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi** was a remarkable global event, resonating from **Times Square, New York**, to remote villages in Africa. The Prime Minister acknowledged that Gandhiji's ideals of **truth** and **non-violence** transcended borders, finding relevance among young people worldwide. This global reverence was similar when celebrating **Swami Vivekananda's** birth anniversary, which helped today's youth appreciate India's **spiritual and cultural strengths**.

India's Growing Animation and Gaming Industry

India's Animation Industry is evolving into a global powerhouse. Animated series like **Chhota Bheem** and **Motu-Patlu** have captured audiences in India and beyond. The Prime Minister lauded Indian talent in the animation field, mentioning that Indian artists are also contributing to international productions, like the **Spider-Man** and **Transformers** franchises. The **gaming sector** is also thriving, with Indian games now attracting worldwide attention. With significant opportunities in **VR, AR, and game development**, India is poised to lead in innovative digital content. The Prime Minister's message to the youth was clear: seize the moment, harness creativity, and establish India's name in global gaming and animation.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Path to Self-Reliance

The Prime Minister emphasized the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, or **Self-Reliant India Mission**, as a campaign powered by the collective spirit of the people. Through initiatives like local mobile manufacturing, defense exports, and **space achievements**—including the recent **South Pole lunar landing**—India is swiftly progressing toward self-reliance across multiple sectors.

The recent installation of Asia's largest **Imaging Telescope MACE** in Ladakh is another feather in India's cap, showcasing indigenous capabilities even in extreme conditions.

Key Highlight: India, once heavily dependent on imports, is now a leading producer and exporter in numerous fields, exemplifying the transformative impact of self-reliance.

Combating Cyber Frauds and Ensuring Digital Security

Raising awareness about **Digital Arrest** frauds, the Prime Minister discussed how these scams work and shared steps for citizens to protect themselves. He advised everyone to follow three key steps: **Stop, Think, and Take Action**. For any suspicious calls, the **national cyber helpline (1930)** and **cybercrime.gov.in** are resources to report scams. The Prime Minister also urged schools and colleges to educate students on digital safety, further strengthening India's stance on **cybersecurity**.

Preserving India's Cultural Heritage

The Prime Minister highlighted the tireless work of individuals preserving India's rich cultural heritage. He noted the **Cheriyal Folk Art** of Telangana, the **Abujhmadia tribal art** in Chhattisgarh, and **Sarangi performances** preserving **Dogra culture**. Through the efforts of dedicated artists, Indian traditions are being kept alive and are even spreading internationally, creating "Cultural Bridges" that connect India to the world.

Global Reach: Indian cultural influences have reached places as diverse as **Yakutsk** in Russia, where Kalidasa's **Abhijnana Shakuntalam** is performed, and **Peru**, where Indian classical dance is gaining popularity.

Fit India Movement and National Unity Day

The **Fit India Movement** has become a way of life across the country, with fitness activities incorporated into school curriculums. Highlighting the upcoming **National Unity Day on October 31**, which coincides with Deepawali, the Prime Minister encouraged maximum participation in the **Run for Unity on October 29**. The event celebrates both **physical fitness** and **national unity**, reflecting the spirit of a healthier, stronger India.

Focus on Fitness: From school initiatives like the **Fit India School Hours** to family fitness activities, the movement is influencing people of all ages and promoting holistic wellness.

Concluding Thoughts

This episode of Mann Ki Baat resonated with a message of unity, self-reliance, and cultural pride. The Prime Minister's words emphasized the need to celebrate India's rich legacy while advancing with modern innovations, urging every citizen to play their part in building a resilient and globally recognized India.

Keywords and Themes

- **Unity in Diversity**
- **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
- **Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)**
- **Digital Security**
- **Cyber Awareness**
- **Indian Cultural Heritage**
- **Fit India Movement**
- **VR Tourism**

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country's diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand's **Sohrai painting** and Maharashtra's **Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase and Warli Painting**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On October 25, 2024, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the 'Digital Memorial of Valour' in New Delhi**, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of its brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited **census exercise in 2025**, aiming for **completion by 2026**. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a **delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats**, which is expected to be finalized by 2028. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez**, jointly inaugurated the **Tata Aircraft Complex** for manufacturing **C-295 military transport aircraft** at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat. This project, a first-of-its-kind private sector **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for military aircraft in India, marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards indigenous defense production under the "Make in India, Make for the World" mission. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched a nationwide volunteering initiative, '**This Diwali with MY Bharat – Ye Diwali MY Bharat Ke Saath**,' to commemorate the first anniversary of the **MY Bharat Portal**. Scheduled from October 27 to 30, 2024, the initiative aims to engage over 200,000 volunteers across 500 locations in India, promoting social service and community spirit during the Diwali festivities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and the 9th Ayurveda Day, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched, inaugurated, and laid the foundation for healthcare projects valued at over ₹12,850 crore at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the '**Run for Unity**' to commemorate **National Unity Day on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary**, highlighting Patel's role in India's unification and development. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Four sandstone replicas of the iconic Konark wheel** have been installed at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan**, according to an official statement released. This initiative aims to highlight and promote India's rich cultural heritage, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation of the country's historical artistry and craftsmanship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application**, aimed at integrating technology into governance and simplifying the registration of births and deaths. This initiative aligns with the government's **Digital India vision**, designed to provide citizens with a seamless and efficient way to register vital events at any time, from any location, and in their state's official language. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, during his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, inaugurated the **"One District One Product" (ODOP) Wall** at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh on October 31. This initiative aims to showcase local products from different districts of India on international platforms, promoting them as part of the "Made in India" movement. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- **India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun** by former President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Aandhi, a small village** located about 43 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan, is making strides towards becoming a zero-waste model through the implementation of green technology interventions. This initiative aims to transform various types of waste such as food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste generated from local sources, including schools, farms, and community health centers, into valuable resources. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Despite the Delhi government's **"Pink Ticket"** scheme enabling free bus travel for women since October 2019, a recent Greenpeace report reveals that **77% of women feel unsafe on buses after dark** due to poor lighting, infrequent schedules, and incidents of harassment, particularly in overcrowded buses. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced on 30th October that the **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India

to receive certification from the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- During the grand **'Deepotsav 2024'** celebrations, Ayodhya made history by setting two **Guinness World Records** on 30th October evening. In a dazzling spectacle, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, alongside the district administration, illuminated the banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas (earthen lamps), creating the world's largest display of oil lamps. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and **inaugurated projects worth over ₹284 crore** in the Narmada district, which is home to the iconic Statue of Unity. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** have jointly announced the **Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework)**, marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**, and **Korea Eximbank**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as **"Salt Typhoon"** has reportedly targeted the **phone data of former President Donald Trump**, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Brazil** has chosen not to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, becoming the second member of the **BRICS bloc**, after **India**, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia** paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of **Sheikh Naim Qassem** as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah by Israel** on September 27. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented **431 µg/m³**, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended **annual limit by 86 times**. ([Click here to read article](#))

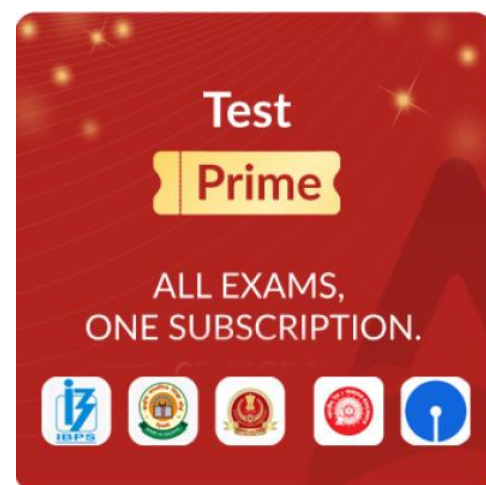
Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Indian Railways has renewed its **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) to deepen technical collaboration, targeting infrastructure modernization and operational efficiency. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of **Best Bank in India for 2024** by Global Finance Magazine during its **31st Annual Best Bank Awards**, held in **Washington**, coinciding with the Annual Meetings of the **IMF and the World Bank**. **SBI Chairman CS Setty** accepted the award, highlighting the bank's dedication to exceptional services and its role in promoting financial inclusion across the nation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has secured approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for foreign exchange services, marking a significant milestone in its operational capabilities. The bank has been granted the **'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence'**, allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of foreign exchange products and services. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Solex Energy** has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide financing options for solar projects, targeting commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Under this collaboration, **SBI will offer loans up to ₹10 crore** through its **Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme**, aiming to make solar energy more accessible and affordable in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by **\$2.163 billion**, bringing the total to \$688.267 billion for the week ending **October 18**, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India. This decline follows a significant drop of \$10.746 billion in the previous week, marking one of the largest reductions in reserves in recent times. ([Click here to read article](#))
- GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop agricultural residue-based **compressed biogas (CBG)** projects in India. This collaboration aims to turn agricultural waste into renewable energy, aligning with India's climate objectives and enhancing rural incomes. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Fintech firm Slice** has successfully **merged with North East Small Finance Bank** over a year after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This merger consolidates their operations, assets, and brand identities into one institution, enhancing the bank's footprint in India's northeastern region. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank are actively supporting businesses in African countries **by addressing the trade finance gap**, as highlighted by the South African heads of the two organizations during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF). ([Click here to read article](#))
- IndusInd Bank** has partnered with **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)** to provide collateral-free solar financing solutions for **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)** in India. This strategic alliance aims to facilitate easy access to solar energy financing, promoting sustainability and reducing operational costs for MSEs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)** has introduced **SmartGold**, a digital gold investment platform, allowing customers to invest in **24-karat physical gold** through the **JioFinance app**. This offering aligns with the company's broader strategy to enhance financial services accessibility during the **auspicious Dhanteras season**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- io Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc. officially announced the incorporation of two joint venture companies, **Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Limited** and **Jio BlackRock Trustee Private Limited**, to enter the mutual fund sector in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On Dhanteras, October 29, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **revealed that it successfully transported an impressive 102 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England** to secure storage facilities in India. This strategic move was part of the RBI's meticulous planning to ensure the safe and discreet transfer of such a significant quantity of gold, reinforcing the nation's reserves while aligning with the festive spirit of the occasion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Gross **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections in October reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, marking an **8.9% increase year-on-year**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Appointments/Resignations

- **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed **Deepak Agarwal**, a **2000-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** from the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**, as the new **Managing Director (MD)** of the **National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **Ashok Chandra** as the next **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Vipin Kumar**, a **1996-batch IAS officer** from the **Bihar cadre**, has officially taken charge as the **Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. Before this new role, he served as the **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of School Education & Literacy** under the **Ministry of Education, Government of India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bharti Airtel** has appointed **Shashwat Sharma** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective **January 1, 2026**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has appointed Sri Lankan legal expert **Sumathi Dharmawardena** as the new independent chair for its **Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU)**, effective **November 1, 2024**. Dharmawardena will take over from **Sir Ronnie Flanagan**, who served in the role for **14 years**, and joins with a strong background in sports corruption investigations and legal representation, including roles with **Interpol** and the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, a distinguished **1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Kerala cadre**, officially took charge as the **Defence Secretary** at **South Block, New Delhi**. Mr. Singh succeeds **Giridhar Aramane**, the **1988-batch IAS officer** from the **Andhra Pradesh cadre**, who retired from his service on **October 31, 2024**, after serving a notable two-year term in this crucial role. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)**, **Praveena Rai** has officially taken office as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and **Managing Director (MD)** on **October 31, 2024**, embarking on a five-year term. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes**, the outgoing **Director General** of the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**, is set to take up the role of **Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)** in **mid-November 2024**. ([Click here to read article](#))

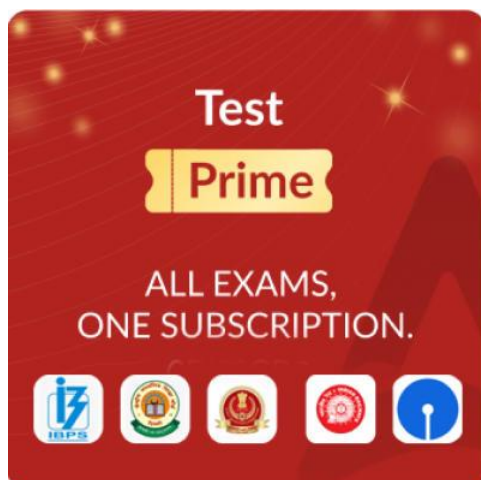
Defence News

- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** launched **two indigenous fast patrol vessels, Adamyra and Akshar**, designed for the **Indian Coast Guard**, on **28th October**. These vessels are intended to enhance the protection of offshore assets, island territories, and conduct surveillance operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled **C295 military transport aircraft** from the **Vadodara facility in September 2026**. This initiative, part of the **"Make in India"** campaign, represents a robust collaboration between **Airbus** and **Tata Advanced Systems**. The facility was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez**, highlighting the deepening defense ties between **India and Spain**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Army** contingent embarked on a journey to participate in the **15th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR**, set to be conducted from **November 2 to November 22, 2024**. This prestigious exercise will take place at the **Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA**, marking a significant step toward bolstering military cooperation and tactical interoperability between the two nations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Army** contingent, consisting of **25 skilled personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, recently embarked on a journey to **Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia** to participate in the **9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise, GARUD SHAKTI 24**. Scheduled to take place from **November 1 to November 12, 2024**, this exercise is a testament to the strong military cooperation and shared strategic interests between **India and Indonesia**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Assam-based conservation scientist Bibhab Kumar Talukdar** has been awarded the prestigious **Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership** by the **Species Survival Commission (SSC)** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** in **Abu Dhabi**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** has been awarded an **A+ grade** in the **Central Bank Report Cards 2024**, marking his second consecutive year of recognition. This accolade was presented by **Global Finance** during an event in **Washington, D.C.** ([Click here to read article](#))

- Amitabh Bachchan recently honored renowned **Telugu film star Chiranjeevi at the ANR National Awards 2024**, an event organized by the Akkineni International Foundation. This prestigious award recognizes artists for their lifetime contributions to cinema. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** proudly received the prestigious ‘Best Sports League of the Year’ award at the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sports Business Awards 2024**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Republic of Fiji** has bestowed its **highest civilian award**, the “Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji,” on **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Wagh Bakri Tea Group** has received the esteemed “Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy” from **Hurun India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** received the prestigious **AFC President’s Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)** at the AFC Annual Awards in Seoul, South Korea, on October 29, 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **DBS Bank India** has been recognized as one of the ‘**Best Companies for Women in India**’ (BCWI) 2024 for the ninth consecutive year, an honor it shares as a member of the “**Best Companies – Hall of Fame**.” This award, **presented by Avtar and Seramount**, highlights the bank’s ongoing commitment to gender equity and diversity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Oscar-winning filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola** is set to be honored with the **AFI Life Achievement Award**, marking its **50th installment**, at a ceremony on April 26, 2025, at Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre. At **86**, **Coppola’s recognition** comes on the heels of his latest film, **Megalopolis**, which struggled at the box office but highlights his ongoing contributions to the film industry. ([Click here to read article](#))



Ranks and Reports

- The World Justice Project (**WJP Rule of Law Index 2024**) reveals that **India ranks 79th out of 142 countries**, reflecting a continuing decline in the rule of law globally. This year’s Index shows a decline in the **rule of law in 59%** of the countries surveyed, marking the sixth consecutive year of global declines since 2016. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- **Veteran Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has officially retired from international cricket after an illustrious 13-year career, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. Known for his fighting spirit, Wade’s journey from a hard-hitting batter to a strategic finisher has been nothing short of inspiring. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Chirag Chikkara** made history by becoming **only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India achieved a commendable **runner-up position** in the overall team standings at the Asian Arm Wrestling Cup 2024, which took place at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai. The Indian team **finished second in the medal tally, only behind Kazakhstan**, the top-ranking nation in the world of arm wrestling. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **fifth-highest wicket-taker** for India in Test cricket. This feat was accomplished on the first day of the third Test match against New Zealand in Mumbai, where Jadeja surpassed Ishant Sharma’s wicket tally. Jadeja now stands among India’s legendary bowlers, with only four players ahead of him. Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kapil Dev, Harbhajan Singh. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The **Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)**, launched on **October 28, 2014**, is an initiative targeting the upliftment and inclusion of India’s tribal communities, who represent **8.9% of the population**. Addressing their unique socio-economic challenges, this scheme emphasizes sustainable development with a budget allocation of **₹26,135.46 crore from 2021-2026**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **To encourage private investment and boost economic growth**, the Rajasthan government has launched the **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024**. This new flagship initiative is designed to provide enhanced financial incentives across a broader range of sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024, providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged **70 and above, irrespective of income.** ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- China successfully launched a new spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including the country's first female space engineer, on a six-month mission. This crew will work on fine-tuning operations at **China's low-orbit space station, marking a significant step in the country's advancing space exploration efforts.** ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **October 29th**, the International Day of Care and Support is observed to honor the accomplishments of caregivers and promote laws and programs that promote and improve care in all of its manifestations. The International Day of Care and Support 2024 celebrates the **essential role of compassion, solidarity, and care in building stronger, more inclusive communities.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Animation Day (IAD)** was created by ASIFA (**Association Internationale du Film d'Animation**) in **2002** to honor the origins and influence of animation. It commemorates the first public projection of animated images, Émile Reynaud's Théâtre Optique in Paris on October 28, 1892. International Animation Day, also known as IAD, is held annually on **28th October.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Vigilance Awareness Week** is an initiative by the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** to combat corruption in India through awareness, education, and active participation of citizens. This week-long observance serves to strengthen ethics and transparency within governance and public administration, aligning with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31. **Theme :** "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity" ([Click here to read article](#))
- Infantry Day is celebrated annually in India on **October 27** to commemorate the significant role played by the infantry in protecting the nation's sovereignty and security. This day marks the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield in 1947, a pivotal moment in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir against invading forces. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **9th Ayurveda Day on October 29, 2024**, this observance aligns with **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and brings together over 150 countries under the theme, "**Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health.**" This year's theme highlights Ayurveda's potential to address global health issues, including non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, climate-related health issues, and more. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Cities Day, celebrated annually on October 31**, spotlights the successes of urbanization and addresses the challenges arising from rapid urban growth. The day was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 to encourage a global dialogue on sustainable urban development, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) – which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life, while the day is celebrated every year with a new sub-theme. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Saving money is an essential step towards achieving financial goals, preparing for future expenses, and reducing financial stress. Observed annually in India on **October 30**, World Savings Day promotes awareness about the importance of saving. Globally, however, it is observed on **October 31.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **October 31st, India celebrates National Unity Day** to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the nation's independence movement and its first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Known as the "**Iron Man of India,**" Patel was instrumental in uniting the country's diverse princely states into a single, independent nation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI)** is observed each year on **November 2.** Recognized by the United Nations, this day highlights the urgent need to protect journalists and address the widespread impunity for crimes committed against them. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy**, the pivotal petitioner in the landmark right to privacy case, passed away at the age of 98 on Monday. His passing comes over seven years after the Supreme Court ruled that privacy is a fundamental right. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bibek Debroy, a prominent economist and chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM),** has passed away at the age of 69. He was recently admitted to AIIMS for treatment. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The fashion world mourns the loss of **Rohit Bal**, an iconic Indian designer known for his mastery of textile, design, and intricate craftsmanship, who passed away on **November 1, 2024**, at the age of **63**. ([Click here to read article](#))

firmly established itself as one of the premier jazz festivals in South Asia. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after **Belgium's Princess Elisabeth**, this groundbreaking **energy island** represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taiwan** on 31st October 2024. Considered the largest typhoon to directly impact Taiwan in nearly 30 years. Made landfall on Taiwan's eastern coast around 13:40 local time (04:40 GMT).([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **20th edition of Jazzmandu**, also known as the Kathmandu Jazz Festival, is set to light up Kathmandu with an electrifying week of jazz, world music, and cultural fusion from **October 24 to October 30, 2024**. Celebrating two decades of rich musical exchange, this year's festival is marked by a star-studded lineup featuring international jazz icons and Nepalese musical talent. Jazzmandu has

Static Takeaways

Sr.No	Name	Designation	Headquarter
1	International Monetary Fund	Kristalina Georgieva	Washington D.C., USA
2	Airports Authority of India	Vipin Kumar	New Delhi, India
3	State Bank of India	Challa Sreenivasulu Shetty (Chairman)	Mumbai, India
4	EXIM Bank	Ms. Harsha Bangari (Chairman)	Mumbai, India
5	Employees' State Insurance Corporation	Union Minister of Labour (Chairman)	New Delhi, India
6	Reserve Bank of India	Shshikant Das (RBI-Governor)	Mumbai, India
7	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Maeda Tadashi (Chairman)	Tokyo, Japan
8	International Cricket Council	Jay Shah (President from 1st December) till Greg Barclay	Dubai, UAE
9	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Mr. Banavar Prabhakar (Chairman)	Bengaluru, Karnataka
10	All India Institute of Ayurveda	-	New Delhi, India
11	Central Vigilance Commission	Praveen Kumar Srisvastava	New Delhi, India
12	GAIL	Sandeep Kumar Gupta (CMD)	New Delhi, India
13	US International Development Finance Corporation	Scott Nathan	Washington D.C., USA
14	Bharti Airtel	Sunil Bharti Mittal	New Delhi, India
15	IndusInd Bank	Sunil Mehta	Mumbai, Maharashtra
16	Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited	Deepesh Nanda	Mumbai, Maharashtra
17	ASIFA	Deanna Morse	Annecy, France
18	Railway Protection Force	Manoj Yadava (DGP)	New Delhi, India
19	Indian Railway Board	Sathish Kumar (Chairman and CEO)	New Delhi, India
20	Taiwan	Taipei (Capital)	Lai Ching-te (President)
21	Fiji	Suva (Capital)	Wiliame Katonivere (President)
22	Brazil	Brasilia (Capital)	Lula da Silva (President)
23	World Agricultural Forum	Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes (Secretary General)	Rome, Italy
24	Multi Commodity Exchange of India	Praveena Rai (MD & CEO)	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India