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## Awards and Honours

<b>Awardee Name</b>	<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Dr. Bina Modi	Outstanding Contribution to Corporate Social Responsibility	Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankar recognized Dr. Bina Modi for her “Outstanding Contribution to the Cause of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).”
Purnima Devi Barman	‘Green Oscar’ Whitley Gold Award 2024	Assam-based wildlife scientist Dr. Purnima Devi Barman has been given the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for her outstanding conservation efforts to safeguard the Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland home.
Pawan Sindhi	Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024	An celebration that was attended by revered saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus was the occasion at which Pawan Sindhi was presented with the renowned Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024.
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan	Honorary Doctorate by McGill University	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan is a world-renowned expert in infectious diseases and public health.
Chandrakant Satija	Global Excellence Award 2024	The Global Excellence Award 2024 was given to Chandrakant Satija, the founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants and a well-known educationist, at an event held at the Sahara Star Hotel in Mumbai on May 12.
Ruskin Bond	Prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship	In a very important event, the famous author Ruskin Bond was given the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, which



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		is the highest honour given by India's most prestigious literary group.
Shrinivas R Kulkarni	Shaw Prize	The Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024 goes to Shrinivas R. Kulkarni, a professor at Caltech who is of Indian descent. Known for making important discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other short-lived stellar events
NTPC	ATD BEST Awards 2024	The world's third-place Talent Development award went to the public sector company NTPC at the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024.
Jenny Erpenbeck's 'Kairos'	International Booker Prize	Jenny Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann, a translator, won the prestigious International Booker Prize for their book "Kairos."
Radhika Sen	UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award	Big Radhika Sen, an Indian soldier who works as a peacekeeper for the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), won the prestigious 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.
PFC	CSR Champion Award	The Non-Fossil Fuel CSR Champion Award went to Power Finance Corporation at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit 2024 in Goa.



## Appointments

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Dinesh Kumar	SAT Presiding officer	On the 29th of April in the year 2024, Justice Dinesh Kumar, who had previously retired, appointed himself as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). In India, Justice Dinesh Kumar was appointed to a position for four years by the government.
Hitesh Sethia	Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO for 3 Years	Hitesh Kumar Sethia will be the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jio Financial Services for three years, starting on November 15, 2023.
Pratima Singh	Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	The DoPT order says that her job is under the Central Staffing Scheme and will last for five years or until further notice.
Sanjaya Kumar Mishra	Head GST Appellate Tribunal	The Centre has chosen retired judge Sanjaya Kumar Mishra to be the President of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).
Shashi Bhushan Singh	Secretary of National Jute Board	He is now the Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata, which is part of the Ministry of Textiles.
Kareena Kapoor Khan	UNICEF India Ambassador	Kareena Kapoor Khan, a Bollywood star, has been named the National Ambassador for UNICEF India.
Sanjeev Nautiyal	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank MD and CEO	According to Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval for Sanjeev Nautiyal to be appointed as the managing director (MD) and



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		chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank.
Jose Mulino	President of Panama	On May 5, 2024, the results of the presidential election in Panama were announced, and the winner was Jose Raul Mulino, a candidate who adhered to conservative ideology and had previously served as the Minister of Public Security.
Subodh Kumar	Director in Ministry of Ayush	As of now, Subodh Kumar (IAS), an Indian Administrative Service officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre who joined in 2010, has been named Director of the Ministry of Ayush.
Sujai Raina	India Country Manager Visa	Visa, a global tool for digital payments, said on Tuesday that Sujai Raina has been named as the new Country Manager for India.
Keki Mistry	HDFC Life – Chairman	After receiving permission from the IRDAI on May 7, 2024, Keki Mistry has been appointed to the position of Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance, succeeding Deepak Parekh in this executive role.
R Shankar Raman	L&T – President	The engineering and construction company known as Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has recently made several important executive appointments inside the organization.
Sanjay Bhalla	Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy	Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, has been a distinguished navy officer for over 35 years.
R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao	Executive Director RBI	R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao has been named Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). She will start her job on May 10, 2024.



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Mikhail Mishustin	Russian Prime Minister	As expected, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as Prime Minister of Russia.
Idashisha Nongrang	First woman police DGP of Meghalaya.	The first woman and tribal lady, Idashisha Nongrang, will become the Director General of Police (DGP) in Meghalaya on May 20, 2024. She breaks barriers by being the first woman and tribal lady to do so.
Vivek Bipindada Kolhe	Director of IFFCO	The Chairman of the Sahkar Maharshi Shankarao Kolhe Co-operative Sugar Factory, Vivek Bipindada Kolhe, has been chosen to be a Director of the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd (IFFCO) in New Delhi.
Vinay Firake	CEO of APMEA Strategic Market Unit	Wipro, a big name in IT, has named Vinay Firake as the new CEO of its strategic market unit (SMU) for Asia Pacific, India, the Middle East, and Africa (APMEA).
Andrei Belousou	New Defense Minister of Russia	Andrei Belousou took over as Defence Minister from Sergei Shoigu when Vladimir Putin became president of Russia.
Dileep Sanghani	Chairman of IFFCO	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) elected Shri Dileep Sanghani as its 17th Chairman.
David Salvagnini	NASA - New Chief for Artificial Intelligence	NASA has made David Salvagnini the Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer, which is a new job for him.
A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu	Additional Directors in CBI	A Y V Krishna and N Venu Gopal, two top Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, have been named as additional directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
Kapil Sibal	President of Supreme Court Bar Association	In an election held on Thursday in New Delhi, senior lawyer Kapil Sibal was chosen



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		as the new head of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).
Pradeep Natarajan	IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Pradeep Natarajan's position as a Full-Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank.
Sanjiv Puri	CII President for 2024-25	Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of <a href="#">ITC Ltd.</a> , has been chosen as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024–25.
Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri	BARC India- Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics	The top TV audience research group in the world, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, has hired Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri as its new Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics.
Rushabh Gandhi	MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance	IndiaFirst Life Insurance's board has agreed to make Rushabh Gandhi, who is currently the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO). Gandhi's hiring is a big step forward for the company and fits with its succession plan.
Ramesh Babu	Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	As a member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), Shri Ramesh Babu V. took an oath of office and truth on May 21, 2024.
Shahid Afridi	ICC Men's T20 World Cup Brand Ambassador	The famous Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi has been named the brand spokesman for the upcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup by the International Cricket Council (ICC), which is in charge of cricket around the world.



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Jetha Ahir	NAFED Chairman	Jetha Ahir, a Shehra BJP MLA who has been called before as deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, was chosen without any opposition as the head of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).
P Santhosh	MD & CEO of NARCL	P Santhosh has been named the new managing director and CEO of India's state-owned bad bank, the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
Gaurav Banerjee	Sony India CEO	Japanese electronics and entertainment company Sony has hired Gaurav Banerjee, a seasoned executive from Walt Disney, as its new Chief Executive Officer for India operations.
Emmanuelle Soubeyran	New Director General of WOAHA	France is happy that Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran was chosen to be the Director General of the <a href="#">World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)</a> from 2024 to 2029.
Rakesh Ranjan	Chairman of, Staff Selection Commission (SSC)	A man from the Manipur Cadre who joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1992 has been named Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
Sandeep Batra	ICICI Prudential Board Chairman	Sandeep Batra has been appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company.
Shah Rukh Khan	Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group	The Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), which is also known as Muthoot Blue, has announced that Shah Rukh Khan will be its new brand spokesman.





## Banking & Finance

### ICICI Bank Joins India's Top 5 Companies with Market Cap Surpassing Rs 8 Trillion

It is a tremendous accomplishment that ICICI Bank has engraved its name among the top five firms in India in terms of market valuation, reaching the milestone of Rs 8 trillion.

Shares of the private lender increased by more than five percent, which propelled the company's market value to new heights and solidified its position as a dominant force in the financial sector.

#### Notable achievement for ICICI Bank

With the passage of time, ICICI Bank has become the second bank in India to surpass the market capitalization threshold of Rs 8 trillion, following in the footsteps of HDFC Bank. Because of this accomplishment, the bank has demonstrated that it has good financial performance, robust growth potential, and robust investor trust.

### SBI General Unveils 'Surety Bond Bima' for Infrastructure Projects

To help build infrastructure, [SBI General Insurance](#), the non-life insurance part of State Bank of India (SBI), has launched "Surety Bond Bima" as a way to provide security for infrastructure projects.

#### Why and How It Works

This product was made to help the government improve infrastructure. It protects against breaches by workers during both the bidding and performance stages of a project. It protects both the worker and the principal (the person who gives the contract) from possible risks.

### HDFC Life Introduces "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" Campaign: Revolutionizing Insurance Purchase Experience

The "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" ad from HDFC Life is meant to make buying life insurance through its website easier and faster.



The program stresses how important it is to fix India's low insurance rates and large protection gap.

### **Smooth online Experience**

Say goodbye to lots of papers and long wait times. HDFC Life's campaign offers an easy and quick way to buy life insurance by using cutting-edge technology to make it easy for everyone to get.

## **PhonePe Launches UPI in Sri Lanka in Partnership with LankaPay**

PhonePe and LankaPay have joined forces to bring UPI payments to Sri Lanka. This is a big step forward.

PhonePe users can now easily use UPI to pay at LankaPay QR stores thanks to this partnership. This gives them comfort and safety while travelling.

The partnership aims to make it easier for Indian tourists and business travellers to pay in Sri Lanka while also giving sellers a cheap way to do it.

Important people, like Ritesh Pai, CEO of PhonePe, Channa de Silva, CEO of LankaPay, and Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Sri Lankan Central Bank, praised the project.

## **YES Bank Collaborates with ANQ to Launch Pi and Phi Credit Cards**

YES Bank and ANQ have teamed up to offer two new credit cards called Pi and Phi.

These cards are an innovative mix of standard banking and fintech solutions.

The Pi card only lets you use UPI to pay for things in India, while the Phi card lets you use it to pay for things in both India and other countries.

### **Important Things About the YES Bank ANQ Pi Credit Card Online:**

- Only It's easy to use credit cards on UPI to pay for things in India.
- No Fees to Join: Simple to use and doesn't cost anything up front.
- Reward Points: When you use UPI to pay for something over Rs.2000, you'll get 8 reward points on top of your RuPay Platinum benefits.
- Better Rewards: When you use UPI to buy things, you get more rewards, which makes every purchase more valuable.
- EMI Conversion: To have more freedom, turn purchases into EMIs.



## YES Bank Launches YES Grandeur: Elevating Banking for Elite Customers

As a way to meet the changing needs of wealthy and important customers, YES Bank has created “YES Grandeur,” a high-end banking service that offers personalized solutions for money and life.

### Customized High-End Services

- A customer with an average monthly balance of ₹5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value (NRV) of ₹20 lakh can get a set of special perks through “Yes Grandeur.”
- There are specialized relationship managers, better rates, no fees, and big discounts on locker facilities, among other things.

## The DBS Bank India was awarded the title of “Best Employer” in 2023

Kincentric has awarded DBS Bank India with the title of “Best Employer” 2023 for the fourth year in a row. Congratulations!

Organizations that have a strong culture of engagement and provide excellent experiences for their employees are recognized with this specific award.

Among the most prominent providers of financial services in Asia is the Development Bank of Singapore, which has its headquarters in Singapore.

## Bank of Maharashtra Tops Among PSU Banks in Business Growth in FY24

It is now clear that the [Bank of Maharashtra](#) is the best-performing public sector bank, with huge increases in both business and deposits.

It did better than rivals like State Bank of India, with a 15.94% rise in total business and a 15.66% rise in deposits.

The bank is a strong and effective player in the banking sector thanks to its focus on low-cost CASA savings, strong loan growth, and high-quality assets.

### How the Bank of Maharashtra’s business has grown

In a world where growth seems hard to find, Bank of Maharashtra’s success in total business growth stands out.



The growth rate for BoM was 15.94%, which was higher than the growth rate for the huge State Bank of India (SBI), which was 13.12%.

Significant differences exist between the two companies, with SBI's total business being about 16.7 times that of BoM, at Rs 79,52,784 crore versus Rs 4,74,411 crore.

### **RBI Approves Quant MF to Raise Stake in RBL Bank**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to raise its share in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025.

In a regulatory filing, this permission was made public, along with some conditions and rules set by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

#### **Details of Approval**

Quant MF currently owns 4.68% of RBL Bank's stock share capital through its different schemes.

With the RBI's OK, Quant Money Managers Ltd can buy up to 9.98% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in RBL Bank, which is called a "aggregate holding."

### **SBI becomes the first bank as trading, clearing member of IIBX**

The India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) in GIFT City now has its first trading-cum-clearing member.

This makes State Bank of India's IFSC Banking business better at trading bullion.

RBI lets IBUs bring in gold as special category clients (SCCs). This is done to increase the trade of gold and silver on the IIBX platform.

### **Poonawalla Fincorp and IndusInd Bank Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card**

The "IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card" was made by Poonawalla Fincorp Limited and IndusInd Bank together.

There are no joining or annual fees for this new card, which is meant to improve the customer experience with rewards and perks.



Users can get prizes for every ₹100 they spend, which includes UPI transactions. When they buy something online, they get 2.5 times as many reward points.

There are also buy-one-get-one movie ticket deals through BookMyShow, a 1% fuel surcharge waiver, and milestone success rewards. Each reward point is worth ₹0.40 in cash.

### **Key Points and Advantages**

**Reward Points:** For every ₹100 spent, you get one reward point. When you buy something online, you get 2.5 times as many points.

**No Costs: No fees to join or every year.**

Plus, you can buy one movie ticket and get another one for free, and you won't have to pay the 1% fuel fee.

## **ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile**

### **Numbers**

ICICI Bank has released a new and innovative feature that lets customers who are not resident in India (NRI) use their foreign mobile numbers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India.

This new idea is meant to make daily spending easier for NRIs by getting rid of the need to link an Indian phone number to their NRE or NRO accounts. This will make things more convenient.

### **Better convenience for NRIs**

- Before, NRIs who wanted to use UPI had to add an Indian phone number to their NRE/NRO accounts.
- This made it harder for them to make payments. With ICICI Bank's new service, NRIs can now use the foreign phone numbers linked to their accounts to make UPI transactions easily.
- This has completely changed the way they pay for things.



## Indian Affairs

# Indian Squad Announced for Men's T20 World Cup 2024

In preparation for the highly anticipated ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024, India has announced the names of its 15-player squad, which will be led by the seasoned Rohit Sharma. The announcement comes after a great deal of speculation on a variety of positions within the club, particularly the role of wicketkeeper.

Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson have been given the gloves by the selectors, which marks Pant's return to international cricket after a year-long sabbatical caused by a catastrophic accident that occurred in December 2022. Sanju Samson has also been given the gloves.

### India's Squad for Men's T20 World Cup 2024:

**Rohit Sharma (c),**  
**Hardik Pandya (vc),**  
**Yashasvi Jaiswal,**  
**Virat Kohli,**  
**Suryakumar Yadav,**  
**Rishabh Pant (wk),**  
**Sanju Samson (wk),**  
**Shivam Dube,**  
**Ravindra Jadeja,**  
**Axar Patel,**  
**Kuldeep Yadav,**  
**Yuzvendra Chahal,**  
**Arshdeep Singh,**  
**Jasprit Bumrah,**  
**Mohd. Siraj**

# Coca-Cola India Joins Forces with Hockey India to Empower Women's Hockey

The Coca-Cola India Foundation and Hockey India have joined forces for the first time for the National Women's Hockey League 2024.

The goal of this partnership is to improve women's hockey by giving players the tools and support they need.

This is in line with Coca-Cola India's #SheTheDifference program, which supports sports and gender equality.



### About the Partnership

- In a three-year plan, Coca-Cola India and Hockey India will improve women's hockey by focusing on providing specialized coaching, training tools, nutritional support, and camps and tournaments to help the sport grow.
- Sporting Ethos is behind the project, which tries to improve the lives of women who play hockey both in Canada and around the world.

## GAIL (India) Ltd. Commissions India's First Green Hydrogen Plant

With the opening of its first green hydrogen plant, GAIL (India) Ltd., the country's largest natural gas transmission and delivery company, has reached a major milestone.

This plant in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, is GAIL's first step into the world of new and alternative energy sources.

### Recognition and support from the government

Pankaj Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, attended the opening ceremony. His appearance showed that the government supports and recognizes this innovative project.

## Aman Sehrawat becomes 1st Indian Male Wrestler to qualify for Olympics

Aman Sehrawat is the first Indian male wrestler to get a spot in the 2024 Olympics in Paris. At the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers in Istanbul, Turkey, Sehrawat, the Asian winner in the men's 57 kg freestyle category, earned a spot in the Paris Olympics.

In the semifinal, Sehrawat beat Chongsong Han of Korea 12–2 to earn India's sixth spot in the 2024 Olympics wrestling team.

## India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Jump \$2.56 Billion to \$644.15 Billion

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) says that India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.56 billion and now stand at \$644.15 billion for the week ending May 10.

This comes after a previous rise of \$3.668 billion, which came after three weeks of drops.

### Assets in foreign currencies



The foreign currency assets, which make up a big part of the savings, went up by \$1.488 billion to \$565.648 billion.

When non-US currencies like the euro, pound, and yen go up or down in value, it affects these investments.

During the stated week, gold reserves rose by a large amount, adding \$1.072 billion to \$55.952 billion.

## CDS Gen Anil Chauhan Attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan took part in “Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024” on May 22, 2024, and stressed how important it was for India to improve its cyber defences.

This big cyber defence exercise, which will be run by the Defence Cyber Agency from May 20 to May 24, 2024, is meant to improve how the military and national agencies work together and integrate, which will make the country’s cyber defence more ready.

### Enhancing Cyber Defence Capabilities

- Gen. Chauhan stressed that everyone involved in cyberspace needs to work together.
- He praised the exercise for creating a place where people can work together to deal with new cyber dangers.
- He praised the organizers and participants for their hard work and commitment in making this important exercise happen.

## Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh recognised as India’s highest tunnel

The Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development told the UN in 1983 that family problems should be a top priority.

The UN saw that changing social and economic systems were having an effect on families around the world.

So, on May 15, 1993, it was officially named the International Day of Families.





## Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement from International Football

Sunil Chhetri, who has won more awards than any other Indian football player, has decided to stop playing for India in international games.

The last time he plays for his country will be in a FIFA World Cup Qualifier game against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6.

### Chhetri's Great Adventure

The amazing journey of Chhetri began in 2002 with Mohun Bagan. His skill quickly took him to other countries, where he played for the Kansas City Wizards in the USA (2010) and Sporting CP backups in Portugal (2012).

In India, he played for East Bengal, Dempo, Mumbai City FC, and now Bengaluru FC, all of which were very good teams.

Chhetri really did well with Bengaluru, winning the I-League (2014, 2016), the ISL (2019), and the Super Cup (2018). In 2016, he even took them to the AFC Cup final.

## State-related Affairs

### Kutch Ajrakh, A Traditional Textile Craft Earns GI Tag

'Kutch Ajrakh' traditional artists have been awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) certificate by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM). This is a significant recognition of Gujarat's rich cultural legacy, which has been passed down through generations.

This extraordinary accomplishment is a celebration of the exquisite textile technique that has been strongly rooted in the colourful region of Kutch for millennia.

#### It is the art of Ajrakh.

- The art of ajrakh, which is a type of textile craft, is highly regarded in the cultural fabric of Gujarat, notably in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch, where its history dates back millennia.
- The art of Ajrakh is characterized by a painstaking technique of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth, which ultimately results in elaborate designs that are imbued with a wealth of profound meaning and historical significance.
- Indigo is a well-known material that is most frequently used as a powerful dye to generate a bluish effect.



- The name “Ajrahk” originates from the word “Azrak,” which means indigo. Traditionally, Ajrahk prints were made up of three colours: blue, which symbolized the sky; red, which represented the land and fire; and white, which represented the stars.

## Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Leads Nation with Zero Waste to Landfill Accolade

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is the first airport in India to get the prestigious Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) certification.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development gave this award, which shows that the airport is committed to doing things that are good for the earth.

### Stopping all waste from going to landfills

A thorough evaluation has shown that Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has implemented excellent waste management strategies, which have kept an amazing 99.50 percent of waste out of landfills.

This accomplishment shows how committed the airport is to being environmentally friendly and sets a high bar for others to follow.

## International Affairs

### Zimbabwe Introduces New Currency Amid Skepticism

To alleviate the country’s ongoing currency issue, Zimbabwe has introduced a new currency that is abbreviated as ZiG, which stands for Zimbabwe Gold.

The Zimbabwean rupiah, which is backed by Zimbabwe’s gold reserves, was initially presented digitally at the beginning of April and has since been released in the form of banknotes and coins.

### Rejection and a lack of regard

- Even though it is the sixth currency that has been introduced since the collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar in 2009, the Zimbabwe dollar (ZiG) is already being met with skepticism and opposition from certain sectors.
- Since the United States dollar continues to be the most trusted money among Zimbabweans, some government departments and businesses have decided not to accept the new currency. Instead, they have chosen to continue using the traditional currency.



## 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced

Columbia University, located in the United States of America, announced on May 7, 2024, regarding the famous Pulitzer Prizes for the year 2024 recipients.

The honours, which are widely regarded as the most distinguished in the disciplines of journalism and the arts, were bestowed by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

A ceremony will take place later, during which the winners will be publicly recognized, and the president of Columbia University will preside over the event.

### Journalism Category

Category	Winner
Public Service	Pro Publica (Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski, and Kirsten Berg)
Investigative Reporting	Hannah Dreier (The New York Times)
International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
Editorial Writing	David E. Hoffman (The Washington Post)
Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Reuters
Feature Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
Audio Reporting	Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio

### Book, Drama, and Music Category

Category	Winner
Fiction	Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips
Drama	Primary Trust by Eboni Booth
History	No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston’s Black Workers in the Civil War Era by Jacqueline Jones
Biography	King: A Life by Jonathan Eig Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo
Memoir and Autobiography	Liliana’s Invincible Summer: A Sister’s Search for Justice by Cristina Rivera Garza
Poetry	Tripas: Poems by Brandon Som
Music	Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) by Tyshawn Sorey
General Nonfiction	A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy by Nathan Thrall



## Ukraine Unveils AI-Powered Digital Spokesperson for Foreign Ministry

In a groundbreaking move that combines cutting-edge technology with diplomacy, Ukraine has unveiled an AI-generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi, to deliver official statements from its foreign ministry.

This significant technological leap in diplomatic communication has captured global attention.

### Meet Victoria Shi: The Digital Diplomat

During a social media presentation, Victoria Shi made her debut, appearing dressed in a dark suit and displaying human-like gestures and speech.

Despite her AI-powered appearance, the Ukrainian foreign ministry has assured that the content of Shi's statements will be crafted and verified by human staff, ensuring accuracy and reliability.

## Spain Becomes 99th Member of International Solar Alliance

As of today, Spain is the 99th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

During a meeting in New Delhi, José María Ridao Domínguez, Spain's ambassador to India, gave the Instrument of Ratification to Abhishek Singh, who is a joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a post on X, MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal revealed the news.

### ISA's Goals and How It Was Made

- India and France started the ISA at COP21 in Paris. Its goal is to make the Paris Climate Agreement work by using a lot of solar energy.
- It gives member countries a way to work together to use more solar energy technologies, make energy more accessible, protect energy security, and speed up the global energy shift.



## University of Tokyo inaugurates world's highest observatory in Chile

Tokyo University opened the Atacama Observatory 5,640 meters above sea level in Chile's Antofagasta Region.

The Guinness Book of World Records says it is the world's tallest telescope.

TAO, which is led by Professor Yuzuru Yoshii, wants to use its high altitude and cutting-edge technology to look into cosmic secrets like dark energy and primordial stars in a way that has never been possible before.

## Dubai Introduces Long-Term Dubai Gaming Visa

The Crown Prince of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has introduced the "Dubai Gaming Visa" as part of the Dubai Program for Gaming 2033.

This is a smart move that will help Dubai become a global hub for gaming and boost its digital economy.

This innovative project is set to change the gaming scene and open up a lot of doors for creative people, entrepreneurs, and talented people in the growing e-gaming industry.

### Why do you need a Dubai gaming visa?

The main reason for creating the "Dubai Gaming Visa" is to help skilled individuals and early adopters in the e-gaming business in every way possible.

The goal of the visa program is to help new ideas grow into great businesses by encouraging skill development and making investments easier to find.

This forward-thinking method shows that Dubai is serious about creating a dynamic environment that supports creativity, entrepreneurship, and technological progress.

## Japan, US sign agreement to develop hypersonic missile interceptor

The US and Japan have agreed to work together to make hypersonic missile interceptors by the 2030s. The project will cost more than \$3 billion.

Japan set aside 480 million yen (\$75 billion) from its 2024 budget to build missile interceptors.

Hypersonic rockets can go faster than 5 times the speed of sound.

In a time of tension with China and North Korea, the goal is to improve powers.



## First black Astronaut candidate “Ed Dwight” in space at age of 90

Ed Dwight, the first African-American to be considered for a position in the United States’ astronaut corps, made his first trip to space aboard a Blue Origin rocket sixty years after he was initially considered for the position.

While on a historic journey that marked a crucial event in both space and racial history, Dwight, who was 90 years old at the time, experienced weightlessness alongside five other people.

## UAE launched a 10-year Blue Residency visa

The UAE has introduced a new 10-year Blue Residency visa for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection, whether on land or in marine environments.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, PM and Ruler of Dubai launched it.

In 2019, the UAE launched Golden Visas for diverse talents.

By 2022, Green Visas were introduced for skilled workers, lasting 5 years.

## Brazil Awarded 2027 Women’s World Cup Hosting Rights

At the FIFA Congress, Brazil was chosen to host the 2027 Women’s World Cup. This was a big deal for football in South America.

The bid from Brazil beat the bid from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany together.

Brazil is the first country in South America to win the right to host the prestigious event.

### Important Vote Count

- The Brazilian bid got more votes than the European plan, with 119 member associations of the FIFA Congress supporting it.
- This overwhelming support showed how strong Brazil’s bid was and how much people believed in the country’s ability to host a successful Women’s World Cup.

### Brazil is favoured by the technical evaluation

A FIFA technical review released last week gave Brazil’s bid a slight edge, giving it a score of 4 out of 5 while the Belgium-Netherlands-Germany (BNG) bid got a score of 3.7.



## World's First 6G Device Launched in Japan

In a world where speed and connectivity are very important, the race to make wireless technology better has hit a new level.

A Japanese group has shown off the prototype of what they say is the world's first high-speed 6G device, which will allow data to be sent at lightning-fast speeds.

This revolutionary new idea opens the door to a world of opportunities that no one could have imagined before.

### Getting Past Speed Limits

According to rumours, the so-called 6G device can send data at an amazing 100 gigabits per second (Gbps), which is 20 times faster than current 5G technology.

This sample uses the 100 gigahertz (GHz) frequency inside and the 300 GHz band outside, showing the possibility of connecting at speeds that have never been seen before.

## Russia to Remove Taliban From Terrorist List

Russia is going to take the Taliban off its list of illegal terrorist groups. This comes three years after the group took back power in Afghanistan.

According to the state-run news agency RIA Novosti, this move comes after Russia has been trying to improve its relationship with the Taliban for years, having several rounds of talks and increasing trade despite sanctions from other countries.

### Diplomatic ties and business

Russia has always worked with the Taliban to improve relations between the two countries through trade and diplomacy.

The fact that they are no longer on the terrorist list could help these efforts even more, but it does not publicly recognize the Taliban government or its self-proclaimed "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

By the end of 2023, Kazakhstan had already taken the Taliban off its list of banned groups. Russia is now planning to do the same.

## Venezuela Becomes First Country to Lose All Glaciers

Venezuela recently reached a sad environmental milestone that shows how bad the climate disaster really is.

With the Humboldt glacier's renaming as an ice field earlier this month, the country is likely the first in modern history to have lost all of its glaciers.



This event is a stark reminder that climate change is not a far-off threat, but a problem that needs to be dealt with right away.

### **Glaciers in Venezuela Are Melting Away**

In the Andes mountains, about 5,000 meters above sea level, there used to be six glaciers in Venezuela. By 2011, five of them had disappeared.

Scientists thought at first that the Humboldt glacier would last for another ten years, but it has been melting so quickly that they were wrong.

With an area of less than 2 hectares, the Humboldt has gone from being a glacier to an ice field, which shows how quickly glaciers are melting.

## Foreign Relations

### **India and Europe to Strengthen 6G Collaboration**

Following the signing of a similar deal with the United States, the Bharat 6G Alliance of India is planning to sign a cooperation agreement with the Industry Alliance 6G consortium of Europe. With the help of this alliance, we hope to encourage collaboration in the development of 6G technologies.

Both the Bharat 6G Alliance and the Industry Alliance 6G are getting ready to sign an agreement shortly, and they intend to finalize the terms of their collaboration within the next three months.

The relationship between Bharat 6G and Industry Alliance 6G is likely to take the shape of a memorandum of understanding, just like the arrangement that was reached with the United States.

#### **What Is the Bharat 6G Alliance? An Overview**

The Bharat 6G Alliance is an organization that was established by the Department of Telecommunications in India to foster the development of 6G technology in India by bringing together various industrial participants, academic institutions, and research groups.

### **‘Let’s Move India’ Campaign Celebrates Olympians Bound for Paris**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation have joined forces to start the “Let’s Move India” message.

The goal of the project is to honour the Olympians who are going to the upcoming Olympics in Paris and get everyone moving.

#### **Honouring the Olympians through Movement**





Anyone, of any age, ability, or location is welcome to copy their favourite athlete's celebrations or make up their own moves.

This campaign welcomes a lot of different kinds of expressions, such as catchy dance moves, tributes to heroes, and moves from Indian games and sports.

### **Amul appointed as 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka for T20 World Cup**

In preparation for the ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024, the Indian dairy company Amul has been selected to serve as the official sponsor of the Sri Lanka Men's International Team.

It is scheduled that Sri Lanka will kick off their Twenty20 World Cup campaign against South Africa on June 3, 2024, in New York City. The tournament will be held by the West Indies and the United States of America.

Previously, Amul sponsored both the United States of America and South Africa cricket teams for the next World Cup. The International Cricket Council (ICC) released the schedule for the Women's Twenty20 World Cup.

ICC has released the schedule for the Women's Twenty20 World Cup.

### **India Inks 10-year Deal to Operate Iran's Chabahar Port**

A major 10-year agreement between India and Iran was signed to improve the operations of the Chabahar Port. India wants to improve trade ties with Central Asia and some parts of Europe.

This move shows that they are taking advantage of the port's strategic position on Iran's southwest coast.

#### **Background**

The Chabahar Port is an important part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) because it is well-placed and has easy access to India's west coast.

Sanctions against Iran had slowed down progress, even though a formal deal was signed in 2016. This led to short-term operational agreements.



## Amul Becomes Lead Sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024

For the highly anticipated Twenty20 World Cup, which will take place in June, the well-known Indian dairy firm Amul has been selected as the Lead Arm sponsor for both the United States of America and South Africa cricket teams.

### **The United States of America's First Tournament and Amul's Support**

Beginning on June 1, the United States of America Cricket team will be participating in the Twenty20 World Cup for the first time.

They will be co-hosting the prestigious competition. Caribbean countries will play host to a portion of the competition, which will include both the semifinals and the finals.

Due to the fact that Amul is a dairy juggernaut with a global impact and that its goods, notably Amul milk, are now being sold in the United States, the sponsorship of the United States team by Amul is of particular significance.

Jayen Mehta, the Managing Director of Amul, expressed his delight by saying, “The goodness of Amul Milk will empower the United States of America Cricket team to win hearts and laurels from all over the world.”

To the team, we send our warmest wishes for success in the next ICC Twenty20 World Cup in 2024.

Amul's involvement with cricket extends beyond the United States team, as they have also been named the Lead Arm sponsor for the South African side.

South Africa is strengthening their ties with Amul. Previous engagements between the two parties, such as sponsorships for the One-Day International series in 2019 and the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023, serve as the foundation for this alliance.

Mehta underscored the significance of this connection by stating, “Amul has been associated with the South Africa team in the 2019 One-Day International series and the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup.”

It gives us great pleasure to further develop our relationship with the South African men's cricket team, and we wish them the very best of luck in the Twenty20 World Cup.



## Business News

### Adani Green Energy Secures \$400 Million Finance for Solar Projects

In order to provide financial assistance for its ongoing solar projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has been successful in obtaining a financing package worth 400 million dollars from a consortium of five international financing institutions.

These projects, which have a combined capacity of 750 megawatts, are scheduled to begin operations beginning in November 2024 and continuing beyond.

#### Specifics of the Project

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has engaged into a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with one of the projects, which is situated in the state of Rajasthan and has a capacity of 500 megawatts (MW).

The second project is a standalone merchant power project that has a capacity of 250 megawatts (MW). It is located in Khavda, Gujarat, which is located within the largest renewable energy (RE) cluster in the world.

### Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for ‘Drone Didi’ Pilot Project

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed an MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd to run two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana.

This is a big step toward giving women more power in new technology fields. Secretary Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari and Group CEO & MD of Mahindra Group Dr. Anish Shah were both at the event.

It was a big step toward working together to help women in agriculture find new ways to make a living using drone technology.

#### Didi’s Drone Mission

The Drone Didi Yojana, which started earlier this year, wants to teach 15,000 women how to use drones for farming tasks like planting seeds, watering crops, and keeping an eye on their growth.

The program aims to give women more power by teaching them new technology skills. This will allow them to join the job and help the country’s social and economic growth.



## QuantPower emerged as Best Trading Platform in India

We are pleased to announce that QuantPower, a trading platform developed by Wisdom Tree Ventures, has been awarded the title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second year in a row.

QuantPower, which is an all-in-one platform, makes it possible for investors to engage in both algorithmic and manual trading, which improves their ability to make decisions.

The award for Fintech Company of the Year 2024 was awarded to Wisdom Tree Ventures, which is a company that is promoting financial innovation and excellence in India's fintech sector.

## Reliance Industries Partners with Norway's Nel to Boost New Energy Investments

To speed up its move into new energy projects, [Reliance Industries Ltd \(RIL\)](#) has formed a major technology partnership with Norway's Nel ASA.

This partnership is going to be very important for making it easier for RIL to switch to green energy, especially by making green hydrogen.

### Agreement for Technology License

RIL and Nel ASA signed a technology licensing deal on May 21. This gave RIL the exclusive right to use Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India.

In addition, RIL is given the power to make Nel's alkaline electrolyzers anywhere in the world for its own use.

## Bharti Enterprises Sells ICICI Lombard Shares for ₹663 Crore:

### Transaction Overview

The company known as Bharti Enterprises, under the leadership of Sunil Bharti Mittal, successfully sold 38.50 lakh shares of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for a total of ₹663 crore through open market transactions.

As a result of this sale, Bharti Enterprises' overall interest in ICICI Lombard decreased from 2.43% to 1.63%.



Concurrently, ICICI Bank, the promoter of ICICI Lombard, boosted its shareholding in the company to 51.7% by purchasing 21 lakh shares of the company.

### **Details of the Transaction**

The dynamics of the seller and the buyer: Bharti Enterprises sold shares to several different companies, such as Axis Mutual Fund, Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, Invesco MF, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs Singapore, Blackstone Aqua Master Sub-Fund.

An increased number of shares were purchased by ICICI Bank, the promoter.

**Structure of the Deal:** During the sale, there were nine distinct block deals conducted on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Each share was priced at an average of ₹1,722.5, resulting in a total of ₹663.16 crore.

To increase its shareholding in ICICI Lombard, ICICI Bank made a purchase of shares for a total of ₹361.72 crore.

## Ranks

### **World Press Freedom Index 2024 Announced, India Ranked 159th Out of 180 Countries**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) puts out the World Press Freedom Index every year.

The latest version, which ranks India 159th out of 180 countries, is not good news.

This is a little better than its previous number of 161, but it still shows how hard things are for journalists in the country.

Surprisingly, India is ranked 152nd, behind its neighbouring country Pakistan. Sri Lanka is ranked 150th, just ahead of India.

The World Press Freedom Index put Norway at the top of the list and Denmark at the bottom. Swedish came in third place on the list.

### **A Look at the Press Freedom Index**

There are 180 countries that the World Press Freedom Index rates based on how free and independent journalists are to work and report.

The scores show how there are different levels of press freedom around the world. The Asia-Pacific region is the second most difficult place for journalists in the world.

Myanmar, China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan are some of the most dangerous places for journalists to work.

This year, none of the Asian countries that made the Index's top 15 made it. This shows that press freedom is still a big problem in the area.

### **Freedom of the Press in South Asia**



Reporters Without Borders (RSF) just put out the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, which shows once again how free the press is around the world.

In South Asia, India is ranked 159th, and its neighbour Pakistan is ranked 152nd, just ahead of it.

Sri Lanka, another important country in the region, is ranked 150th.

The difficulties journalists face in the area are shown by these rankings. It is not always possible for them to work and report freely.

## Most Populous Political Leader in the World, Check the List

A recent poll by the American consulting company “Morning Consult,” which took place from December 23, 2023, to January 2, 2024, found that these are the world leaders who have the most support.

This study found that Indian Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) had the highest approval rate of any leader in the world, with 77% of people saying they liked him.

This makes him even more respected as a world leader compared to the other politicians who were polled.

### List of Most Populous Global Leaders by May 2024

Here is the complete list of top global leaders by May 2024 as per the survey of the “Morning Consult”:

Global Leaders	Country	Approval Rating	Disapproval
Narendra Modi	India	77%	17%
Andrez Manuel Lopez Obrador	Mexico	64%	30%
Alain Berset	Switzerland	57%	34%
Donald Tusk	Poland	50%	41%
Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	Brazil	50%	43%
Anthony Albanese	Australia	45%	43%
Giorgia Meloni	Italy	44%	50%
Pedro Sánchez	Spain	38%	58%
Joe Biden	United States	37%	55%
Justin Trudeau	Canada	35%	60%



Ulf Kristersson	Sweden	33%	56%
Rishi Sunak	United Kingdom	27%	63%
Emmanuel Macron	France	24%	68%
Yook Seok-youl	South Korea	20%	71%
Rishi Sunak	U.K.	29%	67%
Emmanuel Macron	France	26%	67%
Olaf Scholz	Germany	20%	76%

## Most Powerful Passport in the World 2024

According to the Henley Passport Index, passports are rated by how many places their owners can visit without a visa, which is also known as “visa-free access.”

It checks 227 countries, regions, and micro-states against 199 passports. When it first started in 2006, it was called the Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index. In January 2018, it changed its name to the Henley Passport Index.

### The World’s Strongest Passport 2024

The Henley Passport Index for 2024, which was just revealed, ranks 199 countries by how strong their passports are.

France is now in first place on the list because its passport lets people enter 194 countries without a visa.

The fact that France has been recognized makes its passport the strongest in the world for 2024. This gives French people the best travel and mobility options around the world.

### Where India Stands in the 2024 Henley Passport Index

While India is still ranked 85th in the Henley Passport Index 2024, it is one spot lower than it was the previous year.

Even with this drop, the number of countries that let Indian passport users enter without a visa has gone up from 60 to 62.

This subtle change is a result of both India’s changing position in the world and the fact that visa rules are always changing around the world, which affects the travel freedom and mobility of Indian people.

### Here is the list of top-10 most powerful passports in the world 2024:

Top-10 Most Powerful Passports in the World 2024		
Rank	Countries	Visa Free Score



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2023

1.	France	194
	Germany	194
	Italy	194
	Japan	194
	Singapore	194
	Spain	194
2.	Finland	193
	Netherlands	193
	South Korea	193
	Sweden	193
3.	Austria	192
	Denmark	192
	Ireland	192
	Luxembourg	192
	United Kingdom	192
4.	Belgium	191
	Norway	191
	Portugal	191
5.	Australia	190
	Greece	190
	Malta	190
	New Zealand	190
	Switzerland	190
6.	Canada	189
	Czechia	189
	Poland	189
	United States	189
7.	Hungary	188





	Lithuania	188
8.	Estonia	187
	Latvia	186
9.	Slovakia	186
	Slovenia	186
10.	Iceland	185

## India Rises to 39th Position in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

The World Economic Forum’s Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 now ranks India 39th, up from 54th place in 2021.

This is a big jump for the country. India’s travel and tourism business is strong and competitive in many ways, even though the pandemic has caused some problems.

Spain, Japan, France, and Australia feature are the top four countries in the 2024 list.

Germany – 6th, UK – 7th, China – 8th, Italy – 9th, Switzerland – 10th

### India’s Strengths and Key Performance Resources

- India is 18th in terms of how competitive its prices are, and its air travel (26th) and ground and port facilities (25th) are also very competitive.
- A lot of people want to visit there because of its strong natural (6th), cultural (9th), and non-leisure (9th) resources. This makes it one of the best performers in the world.

### The Future and Recovery

- Even though it’s less than in 2019, India still has a strong demand for travel and tourism, especially since more and more people are staying for longer periods.
- But problems like rising prices around the world make it harder to compete on price, and the infrastructure for air travel and tourist services is still not back to where it was before the pandemic.

## Ronaldo Tops Forbes’ List of Highest-Paid Athletes Again

Forbes has named Cristiano Ronaldo the highest-paid player in the world, even though he is nearing the end of his career.



He is in this position for the fourth time because of the good money he made in Saudi Arabia.

### **Ronaldo's All-Time Highest Pay**

Forbes says that Ronaldo has made an amazing \$260 million in the last year.

This amount includes \$200 million from his deal with the Saudi club Al-Nassr and an extra \$60 million from things he does outside of football.

The 39-year-old's huge financial success is unmatched by his peers and shows how marketable and skilled he is.

### **Saudi Arabia's Role in Sports Growing**

In January 2023, Ronaldo moved to Al-Nassr. This was a big change for both his career and Saudi Arabian sports.

The Saudi Pro League has become more well-known because of him, and Al-Nassr finished second this season.

Ronaldo is one of four soccer players from Saudi Arabia in the top 50 highest-paid athletes. This shows that Saudi Arabia is becoming a bigger player in global sports.

## **India Surpasses Japan as 3rd Largest Solar Power Generator in 2023**

During the year 2023, India became the third-largest solar power generator in the world as a result of its tremendous spike in solar energy deployment, which allowed it to surpass Japan and secure its position.

In the 19th year in a row, solar energy has surpassed coal as the primary source of electricity generation around the world. This represents an unprecedented rise of solar energy.

### **The Rise of Solar Energy in India**

When it came to the deployment of solar energy, India was ranked tenth in 2015; however, by 2023, the country had produced 5.8% of its electricity from solar, which was an increase from 0.5% in 2015.

This large growth highlights India's commitment to renewable energy and illustrates the crucial role that India plays in reducing the effects of climate change.

### **Solar Energy Trends Around the World**

It is highlighted in the research by Ember that solar energy has experienced a significant increase on a global scale, with the generation of solar energy in 2023 exceeding six times that of 2015.

It is important to note that the top four solar growth countries, which include India, accounted for 75% of this growth, which highlights the widespread acceptance of solar power across the globe.



### **Global Wealth Report: Mumbai and Delhi among top 50 wealthiest cities**

The report on the wealthiest cities in the world for 2024, which was published by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.

On the list of fifty cities, Mumbai reached the twenty-fourth spot, and Delhi reached the thirty-seventh spot. At the ninth spot on the list of “cities to watch” is Bengaluru.

#### **The List of Millionaires:**

- There are 58,800 millionaires and 29 billionaires in Mumbai.
- 30,700 millionaires and 16 billionaires are located in Delhi.
- More than 13,200 millionaires and eight billionaires call Bengaluru home.

### **Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani Secure Positions Among the World’s Top 15 Super Rich**

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index makes the top 15 list of the world’s richest people. Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani are among them. That’s a big accomplishment, especially for Gautam Adani, who got his job back after losing it in 2023 because of short selling in his company’s stock.

For the first time ever, every person in the top 15 has a net worth of \$100 billion or more.

#### **How Rich and Famous Mukesh Ambani Is**

The 12th richest person in the world is Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

He is worth \$110 billion. Ambani is one of the richest people in the world because RIL works in many fields, such as petrochemicals, oil and gas, internet, retail, and financial services.

#### **Gautam Adani’s Return**

Ganesh Adani comes in at number 14 with \$100 billion. Adani Group does business in a lot of different areas, such as ports, airports, power production and transmission, green energy, edible oils, cement, real estate, and more.

After having a rough year in 2023 because of claims from Hindenburg Research and a sharp drop in the stock prices of his companies, Adani’s luck improved.

His name was cleared by the Supreme Court and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). This caused share prices to rise again, thanks to foreign investment.

#### **One of the first women to reach \$100 billion**



Bettencourt Meyers, who owns the well-known L'Oréal company, is the first woman to have a net worth of \$100 billion.

Due to L'Oréal's share price having its best year since 1998, she became worth \$101 billion, ranking 14th on the list. This important success shows that there are now enough women among the world's richest people.

### **India becomes the 3rd country in the world with 1 million Uber driver.**

India has now reached the milestone of one million drivers, making it the third country in the world to do so, following the United States and Brazil.

When compared to the previous year, Uber's global revenue reached \$10.13 billion on March 31, 2024, representing a 15% increase over the previous year.

In February of 2024, Uber inked a memorandum of understanding with ONDC in order to expand the range of mobility solutions that are accessible through the Uber app.

The CEO of Uber is Dara Khosrowshahi.

### **Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024**

Over 670 universities from around the world were included in this year's list.

The two Indian universities made it to the list of the top 100.

For the second year in a row, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, ranks first. Anna University, Chennai, comes in at number 96, and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, ranks 81st.

The list shows the best colleges in the world that are less than 50 years old.

### **Reliance and Tata Groups Recognized among TIME's World's Most Influential Companies**

A well-known magazine called TIME has named Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Tata Group as two of the World's 100 "Most Influential Companies."



Both are large Indian businesses. The fact that they were recognized shows how important they are on a world level.

**RIL:** A Titan of Indian Industry Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is one of the “Titans” on TIME’s list, which means it is a titan of Indian industry.

It is the only Indian company to have been on the TIME 100 list twice, and this is the second time it has been on the list.

### **Tata Group: A Diversified Multinational Company**

The Tata Group, which is known for having a wide range of businesses, has now been added to the “Titans” group, making it even more of a global business giant.

### **Serum Institute: A Leader in Making Vaccines**

The Serum Institute is another Indian business that has been recognized. It was put in the “Pioneers” category because it was one of the first to make and distribute vaccines.

TIME magazine has given Reliance Industries, which is now run by Mukesh Ambani, high marks for its work in retail, internet, energy, and other areas.

The article talked about Reliance’s \$8.5 billion deal to join with Disney’s India business. This will make the new company the biggest player in India’s growing streaming market.

People have praised Reliance for changing many parts of India’s economy by making world-class goods and services more accessible at low costs through many new ideas.

With the cheapest cell data plans in the world, its telecom arm, Jio, has helped bring digital inclusion to a level that has never been seen before.

## **Smartphones Become India’s Fourth Largest Export Item with 42% Growth**

Indian smartphones have become one of the country’s biggest export successes. They are now the fourth-biggest export item, having grown by 42% to reach \$15.6 billion in FY24.

This means that the score is one step higher than it was last year.

As of April 2022, data collection for smartphones as a separate category began. This shows how quickly the field has grown.

### **Key Factors for Growth**

The big increase in smartphone exports is due to a 158% rise in sales to the US, which cost \$5.6 billion.

The UK (\$1.1 billion), the Netherlands (\$1.2 billion), and the United Arab Emirates (\$2.6 billion) are some of the other big areas.

India made a lot of mobile phones for both local and international markets in FY24.



They were worth a total of Rs 4.1 trillion (\$49.16 billion), which is 17% more than the previous

## Defence News

### Indian Army and Punit Balan Group Collaborate to Develop India's First Constitution Park

The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group worked together to open the first Constitution Park in the country in Pune.

Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh led the ceremony, which stressed how important it was for people to follow the Constitution's duties so that India could grow by 2047.

Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh talked about how important the Indian Constitution is around the world.

The Constitution not only protects fundamental rights but also stresses fundamental duties. He stressed that people needed to know their rights and do what the Constitution says they need to do so that India could become developed by 2047.

According to Lt. Gen. Singh, he was thankful for projects like Constitution Park that teach people about their social duties.

He thanked Punit Balan for his help with this project and stressed how important it was to work together to protect the Constitution's ideals.

### Indian Air Force tests "BHISHM", a portable hospital for airdrop

The Indian Air Force tried BHISHM portable cubes for emergency airdrops. This was part of "Project BHISHM," which aims to help up to 200 people quickly.

These cubes are strong, waterproof, and light. They can be put together in different ways, making them perfect for various emergencies.

The whole unit is made up of 72 movable parts that are easy to move by foot, bike, or even drone.



## Indian Army and IOCL Join Forces for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Technology Trials

The [Indian Army](#) and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) are working together to test the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology.

This partnership shows that the Army is serious about new ideas and caring for the earth.

**A formal agreement was signed.**

A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and IOCL, which started a good relationship for both sides.

The deal was signed by General Manoj Pande, who is the respected Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), and Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, who is the respected Chairman of Indian Oil.

**Bus for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Received**

The Indian Army got its first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus during the event, which marked the start of the showcase trials.

Use of hydrogen as a clean and efficient fuel source by this cutting-edge technology could completely change the way people travel.

## India Successfully Tests Anti-Radiation Missile ‘Rudram-II’

India reached a major milestone when the anti-radiation missile Rudram-II, which was made in India, passed its flying test.

This missile, which was fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter plane off the coast of Odisha, is going to be very useful for the Indian Armed Forces. It will help them do more in tasks to destroy enemy air defences (SEAD).

**Growing and Getting Better**

DRDO made the Rudram-II, which is a big step forward in India’s defence powers.

It is a very useful tool for SEAD missions because it can hit enemy radars and communication stations on the ground. With its solid-propelled air-launched system, Rudram-II provides better accuracy and adaptability, able to destroy a wide range of enemy assets.

Notably, it has an internal tracking system that lets it find targets on its own after launch.



## Indian Army Set to Receive Russian Igla-S Air Defence Systems

The Russian Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) weapons are about to be sent to the Indian Army, which will make its air defence stronger.

This purchase, which includes a technology transfer deal between Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) and Rosoboronexport of Russia, is a big step forward for India's defence readiness.

### Why do you need Igla-S VSHORAD Systems?

The Igla-S VSHORAD system is a portable missile system that is made to fight low-flying aerial dangers like planes, helicopters, and drones that are close by.

Adding it to the Indian Army's arsenal fills in important holes in the country's air defence system.

The package for buying things has 48 launchers, 100 missiles, and extras like night vision gear and a place to test the weapons.

## Indian Army and IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab

The Indian Army's Western Command gave the Kharga Corps permission to hold a three-day drill with the Indian Air Force (IAF) in several places in Punjab.

The exercise went well. The goal of the drill was to improve procedures and make sure that attack helicopters could be used to help with mechanized operations in developed areas.

### Gagan Strike II Exercise

As part of the drill, called "Gagan Strike-II," Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces from the Indian Army were used.

The main goal was to make sure that these assets could be used to help ground offensive operations by strike corps, along with live fire from helicopters as required by mechanized troops during offensive manoeuvres.





## Science related Affairs

### DRDO's Supersonic Missile-Assisted Torpedo Delivery System Achieves Success

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities with the successful flight-test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system.

This next-generation torpedo delivery system was successfully flight-tested on May 01, 2024, at around 8:30 AM from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

#### Extending the Range of Lightweight Torpedoes

- SMART is a missile-based system designed to significantly extend the range of lightweight torpedoes used by the Indian Navy.
- By incorporating advanced technologies, this canister-based system can deliver torpedoes far beyond their conventional range, providing a strategic advantage in anti-submarine warfare operations.

### Microsoft Unveils AI-Enhanced 'Copilot+' PCs with Unique 'Recall' Functionality

To fight with Alphabet and Apple, Microsoft has released a new line of PCs called "Copilot+ PCs" that have advanced AI features.

The goal of these devices, which were made with help from Acer and ASUSTeK Computer, is to do AI work directly instead of using cloud data centres.

Launch events took place on May 20 at Microsoft's campus in Redmond, Washington. The first sales began on June 18 with a \$1,000 price tag.

#### The new "Recall" feature is

CEO Satya Nadella talked about the "Recall" tool, which keeps track of everything that happens on the computer and lets users search through the history.

This feature works for voice chats, web reading, and more, making things easier and more productive for users.



## TCS & IIT-Bombay Partner to Develop India's 1st Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager

It has been agreed that Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) will work together to create India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.

This high-tech sensing tool is meant to change the way semiconductor chips are examined, which should lead to fewer failures and better energy economy in electronics.

### Details of the collaboration

Tech experts from TCS will work with Dr. Kasturi Saha, an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT-Bombay, for the next two years.

The main thing they will be working on is building the quantum imaging tool in the PQuest Lab.

Quantum sensing technology will be used in this relationship to improve the quality control of semiconductor chips. This will make electrical devices more reliable, safe, and energy efficient.

## Agnikul Cosmos' Agnibaan – World's First 3D Printed Space Rocket Engine

The Chennai-based company Agnikul Cosmos has done an amazing thing by successfully launching the world's first space rocket with a 3D printed engine made of a single piece.

Agnikul finally succeeded on its fifth try, sending its own rocket into space. It was named Agnibaan.

This launch is India's first rocket with a semi-cryogenic engine that was created and built entirely in India.

### New Ways to Use Inconel Material

The Inconel material was used by Agnikul to make the 3D-printed rocket. Inconel is an alloy that is known for not oxidizing or corroding and being good for space flight.

This makes it a great choice for this groundbreaking project.

## Scientists Unveil World's Deepest Blue Hole in Mexico

Frontiers in Marine Science reports that experts have found the Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay to be the deepest blue hole known to exist on Earth.



It goes down an amazing 1,380 feet. This abyss is 480 feet deeper than the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole.

It is a fascinating place for scientists to explore and could lead to the finding of new marine life.

### **Figuring Out the Depths**

- Echo-sounders were only able to get as deep as 900 feet in the first depth measurements of the Taam Ja' Blue Hole, which left a lot to the imagination.
- Nevertheless, a recent dive using cutting-edge gear, such as a cutting-edge CTD analyzer, gave us more information about its sizes.
- Researchers tried hard but couldn't get to the bottom because at 1,380 feet, they might have run into problems like underwater rocks or strong currents.
- This mysterious depth makes us wonder about the structure and possible connections between the cave systems inside the blue hole.

## **Gopi Thotakura Makes History as First Indian Space Tourist**

An Indian living outside of India named Gopi Thotakura became the first Indian to go on a trip beyond Earth's atmosphere. This was a big deal for space tourism.

As part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program, the NS-25 mission sent Thotakura and five other crew members into space on the New Shepard. They took off from a private ranch in West Texas.

Ed Dwight was also on the team. He was the first Black astronaut to go into space.

This trip was the program's first step back into space tourism after a two-year break caused by a rocket accident.

Thotakura's addition to the crew shows how space travel is becoming more inclusive and open to people from all over the world.

### **Members of New Shepard (Mission NS-25)**

- Gopichand Thotakura: An entrepreneur and pilot of Indian origin, Thotakura secured his place among the six crew members for the NS-25 mission.
- Ed Dwight: A former Air Force aviator, Dwight's journey to space comes decades after facing rejection from NASA's astronaut corps. At 90 years old, he sets a record as the oldest person in space.



- Mason Angel: Founder of Industrious Ventures, Angel brings entrepreneurial expertise to the crew.
- Sylvain Chiron: Renowned for spearheading Brasserie Mont Blanc, Chiron represents France in the crew.
- Kenneth L. Hess: A software engineer and entrepreneur, Hess contributes technical expertise to the mission.
- Carol Schaller: A retired Certified Public Accountant, Schaller completes the ensemble of adventurers for NS-25.

## NASA's Magellan Mission Discovers Ongoing Venus Volcanic Activity

It has been proven for the second time that Venus has had recent volcanic activity by looking at old data from NASA's Magellan probe.

Scientists in Italy have found changes to the surface that show new rock formations formed by lava flows from volcanoes that erupted while the spaceship was in orbit.

### A Look at the Magellan Mission

NASA's Magellan project, which was run by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California from 1990 to 1992, made maps of 98% of Venus's surface.

Using synthetic aperture radar to get through Venus's thick clouds, the mission took the most accurate pictures of the planet to date.

## ISRO successfully tests 3D-printed Rocket Engine

Using 3D printing, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was able to successfully complete a long-term heat test of a PS4 rocket engine.

The engine is produced in a single piece using additive manufacturing, which results in a reduction of production time by sixty percent and a savings of ninety-seven percent on raw materials.

Over the course of the entire qualification period, which lasted for 665 seconds, the engine was successfully tested.

ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre was the one responsible for its development.



### **ISRO Develops Semi-Cryogenic Engine Using Liquid Oxygen**

#### **Kerosene**

An advancement in the development of a semi-cryogenic propulsion system is being made by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) through the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), with assistance from other launch vehicle centres.

Through the utilization of a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine that is driven by a mixture of liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene, this system intends to improve the payload capacity of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) as well as future launch vehicles.

Ignition of the semi-cryo pre-burner was successful, which is a major accomplishment.

Ignition of the semi-cryogenic pre-burner was an important milestone in the development of the semi-cryogenic engine by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

During the testing that took place at the Indian Space Research Organization's Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, this accomplishment, which is essential for starting the semi-cryogenic engine, was accomplished.

### **DRDO and IIT Bhubaneswar Collaborate on Defence Technology**

#### **Projects**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar and the Defence study and Development Organization (DRDO) have joined forces to do more study in areas like power systems, radar systems, and AI-driven surveillance.

DRDO has permitted IIT Bhubaneswar to work on nine projects from the Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS) Cluster.

Seven more projects are still waiting to be approved and will receive ₹18 crore in funds.

#### **Announcement of Collaboration**

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, talked about how important the collaboration was, saying that it marks a change from creating knowledge to using it in real life, starting businesses, and making skilled professionals.

He thinks that this partnership will help defence science and technology get better.



## Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Lando Norris	Maiden F1 Victory at Electrifying Miami Grand Prix	During a thrilling race at the Miami Grand Prix, Lando Norris of McLaren won his first Grand Prix.
China Men and Women Teams	Thomas & Uber Cup 2024	After winning both the men's and women's titles at the prestigious 2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China is once again the best badminton country in the world.
Japan	Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy	The Japanese men's hockey team made history when they won the Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy for the first time.
Shyam Nikhil	India's 85th GrandMaster	One single norm separated Shyam Nikhil from becoming India's 28th grandmaster in 2012. Shyam, 31, from Tamil Nadu become India's 85th grandmaster with that third norm.
Alexander Zverev and Iga Swiatek Reign	Italian Open 2024	As a tennis star from Germany, Alexander Zverev made history when he won the Italian Open singles title for the second time.
Max Verstappen	Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024	The current Formula 1 World Champion, <a href="#">Max Verstappen</a> , showed how good he is on the track by winning the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024 after a tough race.
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Gold at World Para Athletics Championships	Mariyappan won gold in the men's T63 high jump by



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2023

		setting a championship record of 1.88 meters. This added to the medals he already had from the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2021 Paralympics.
Kolkata Knight Riders	IPL 2024	The Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) lost to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by eight wickets in the final of the IPL 2024 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.
Jos Buttler	Becomes first England player to make 3,000 T20I runs	Buttler got this point in the second T20I his team played against West Indies.
Dipa Karmakar	Gold at Asian Gymnastics Championships	Dipa Karmakar, an Indian gymnast, made history when she became the first Indian to win a gold medal at any Asian Championships.

## Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Paul Auster	American author and director
Uma Ramanan	Playback Singer
V. Srinivas Prasad	Veteran Politician and Former Union Minister
Bernard Hill	Titanic, Lord of the Rings actor
Salam Bin Razzaq	Renowned Urdu Writer
Surjit Patar	Noted Punjabi poet
Sushil Kumar Modi	Former Deputy Chief Minister
Malti Joshi	Veteran Author



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2023

N Vaghul	Banking Icon
Richard M. Sherman	Legendary Disney Songwriter

### Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
International Labour Day	May 01	Ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change
Maharashtra Day	May 01	
Gujarat Day	May 01	
World Tuna Day	May 02	
World Press Freedom Day	May 03	A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	May 04	
World Portuguese Language Day	May 05	
World Asthma Day	May 07	Asthma Education Empowers
World Thalassaemia Day	May 08	Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Fair and Easy Thalassaemia Treatment for All
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	May 08	Keeping Humanity Alive
World Lupus Day	May 10	
International Day of Argania	May 10	
National Technology Day 2024	May 11	
World Migratory Bird Day	May 11	Insects





## CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2023

International Nurses Day	May 12	
International Day of Plant Health	May 12	Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology
International Families Day	May 15	
International Day of Light	May 16	Light in Our Lives
National Dengue Day	May 16	
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	May 17	Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
National Endangered Species Day	May 17	Save Species
International Museum Day	May 18	Museums for Education and Research
World AIDS Vaccine Day	May 18	
World Bee Day	May 20	Bee engaged with Youth
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	May 21	
International Tea Day	May 21	
National Anti-Terrorism Day	May 21	
International Day for Biological Diversity	May 22	
World Turtle Day	May 23	
World Football Day	May 25	
World Hunger Day	May 28	Thriving Mothers, Thriving World.
International Day of Action for Women's Health	May 28	Mobilizing in Critical Times of Threats and Opportunities
International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	May 29	



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2023

International Everest Day	May 29	
Hindi Journalism Day	May 30	
World No-Tobacco Day	May 31	Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference

