



**AUGUST 2024**

**RESILIENCE LAW ACADEMY**

**LAW TIMES**

**MONTHLY  
CONSOLIDATION**

# Important Days and Dates

1. **National Sports Day:** 29th August
2. **International Day Against Nuclear Tests:** 29th August
3. **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (August 23):** Marks the 1791 Haitian Revolution's start, leading to slavery's abolition. THEME: "Creating Global Freedom: Countering Racism with Justice in Societies and Among Nations"
4. **National Space Day (August 23):** Celebrates India's space achievements, highlighting milestones like the Mars Orbiter Mission and Chandrayaan missions.
5. **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (August 22):** Observes and remembers victims of religious violence globally, promoting tolerance. THEME: "Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators".
6. **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (August 14):** Commemorates the traumatic partition of India in 1947, recognizing the suffering and loss.
7. **World Organ Donation Day (August 13):** Raises awareness about organ donation's importance, aiming to increase donor registration and save lives. THEME: "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!"
8. **World Elephant Day (August 12):** Focuses on elephant conservation, addressing threats like poaching and habitat loss, and promoting protection efforts. Theme "Personifying Prehistoric Beauty, Theological Relevance, and Environmental Importance."
9. **World Biofuel Day (August 12):** Highlights biofuels' role in sustainable energy, encouraging their use to reduce fossil fuel dependency and environmental impact. THEME: "Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future".
10. **International Youth Day (August 12):** Celebrates youth's role in global development, emphasizing their potential to drive positive change and empowerment. THEME: "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development,"
11. **World Lion Day (August 10):** Raises awareness about lion conservation, addressing threats to their population and promoting efforts to protect them.
12. **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9):** Recognizes the rights, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples worldwide, promoting their well-being and preservation. THEME: "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact".
13. **Quit India Movement (August 8):** Marks the 1942 call for India's independence from British rule, a significant event in the country's freedom struggle.
14. **National Javelin Day (August 7)**
15. **National Handloom Day (August 6):** Celebrates India's handloom heritage, honoring traditional textile craftsmanship and promoting sustainable fashion. Theme: "Weaving Sustainable Futures".
16. **Hiroshima Day (August 6):** Commemorates the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, remembering the devastation and advocating for peace and nuclear disarmament.
17. **Indian Organ Donation Day (August 5):** Promotes awareness about organ donation in India, encouraging registration and highlighting its life-saving benefits.
18. **National Mountain Climbing Day (August 1):** Celebrates mountaineering achievements and the spirit of adventure, recognizing climbers' dedication and challenges.
19. **World Lung Cancer Day (August 1):** Raises awareness about lung cancer, emphasizing prevention, early detection, and treatment advancements. THEME: "Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care."
20. **World Wide Web Day (August 1):** Marks the creation of the World Wide Web in 1991 by Tim Berners-Lee, celebrating digital connectivity and innovation. THEME: how the web has revolutionized communication, collaboration, and access to knowledge, bringing the world closer together.

# National News

## Powering the Future: KAPS-4 and India's Journey Towards Energy Security

↪ In a significant stride towards strengthening its energy portfolio, India has successfully brought the KAPS-4 nuclear reactor to full operational capacity at 700 MW. This development not only marks a technological milestone for the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) but also represents a crucial advancement in bolstering nuclear energy capabilities within the nation. As nuclear energy in India continues to evolve, KAPS-4 stands as a testament to the country's commitment to enhancing energy security and achieving ambitious climate goals through sustainable development. With this reactor's full integration, India is not only expanding its nuclear power capacity but also reaffirming its dedication to incorporating renewable energy sources into its future energy landscape.

### KAPS-4 Reaches Full Capacity

#### Implications for Nuclear Energy India

↪ The full operational capacity of KAPS-4 has significant implications for nuclear energy in India. First, it showcases India's technological prowess in safely managing and operating advanced nuclear reactors. This achievement promises to encourage further investments in nuclear technology, enhancing the country's energy infrastructure. Additionally, it contributes to diversifying the energy mix, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. As India aims to meet its climate goals and commitments to sustainable development, the success of KAPS-4 provides a blueprint for the future expansion of nuclear power plants. This development not only strengthens energy security but also underscores India's dedication to adopting clean and renewable energy solutions. By securing a reliable and consistent energy source, India can better manage its growing energy demands, fostering economic growth and stability.

## NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN INDIA

### OPERATIONAL

Name	Year	Location	Capacity
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	1993	Gujarat	440
Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station	1984	Tamil Nadu	440
Narora Atomic Power Station	1991	Uttar Pradesh	440
Kaiga Atomic Power Station	2000	Karnataka	880
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station	1973	Rajasthan	1180
Tarapur Atomic Power Station	1969	Maharashtra	1400
Kudankulam Atomic Power Station	2013	Tamil Nadu	2000

## From Vision to Reality: The Impact of the 'Create in India' Challenge on Emerging Technologies and Indian Startups

↪ The launch of the 'Create in India' Challenge Season One by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw marks a significant milestone in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in India. This initiative, closely aligned with the broader 'Make in India' campaign, aims to invigorate the nation's digital economy by encouraging the development of emerging technologies and supporting Indian startups. Highlighting the government's commitment to nurturing a thriving ecosystem for tech innovators, the challenge is designed to bridge gaps between visionary ideas and tangible solutions. At the launch event, Minister Vaishnaw articulated a compelling vision for how this challenge could

enhance India's global competitiveness and drive sustainable economic growth. As India continues to position itself as a hub for technological advancement, this initiative is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future landscape of Innovation in India.

## Revolutionizing the India Power Sector: How Three New Online Platforms Are Leading the Charge

- ↪ In the rapidly evolving landscape of the India power sector, the launch of three new online platforms marks a significant stride towards enhancing energy efficiency and streamlining operations. As the nation grapples with escalating energy demands and an urgent need for modernization, these digital tools emerge as pivotal components in the government's broader initiative for digitalization in energy. Each platform is meticulously designed to address distinct aspects of the sector, from real-time monitoring to predictive maintenance, thereby reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainable and efficient energy management.
- ↪ The Union Ministry of Power has launched three innovative online platforms—PROMPT, DRIPS, and JAL VIDYUT DPR—to enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness in India's power sector. The platforms were unveiled by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on August 20, 2024, in New Delhi.
- ↪ Developed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) with assistance from NTPC for the PROMPT platform, these portals aim to streamline project management in the power sector. PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects—Thermal) enables real-time tracking of thermal power projects, aiding in the swift resolution of construction delays. JAL VIDYUT DPR focuses on monitoring hydroelectric and pumped storage projects, ensuring better coordination and management. DRIPS (Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector) is designed to quickly address power disruptions caused by natural disasters by linking nodal officers across affected regions.
- ↪ The CEA, established in 1951 and reconstituted under the Electricity Act of 2003, plays a pivotal role in India's energy planning and management, operating under the Ministry of Power.

## The Role of Online Platforms

- ↪ Online platforms are playing a crucial role in transforming India's power sector by acting as catalysts for increased efficiency and innovation. These digital tools enable real-time data collection and analysis, allowing for better decision-making and resource management. By integrating predictive maintenance features, platforms can foresee potential issues before they escalate, significantly reducing downtime and maintenance costs.

## Honoring a Legacy: The Centenary Commemorative Coin of M. Karunanidhi

- ↪ In a fitting tribute to one of Tamil Nadu's most influential leaders, a centenary commemorative coin honoring M. Karunanidhi has been launched, celebrating his immense contributions to Tamil Nadu politics and Indian political landscape. M. Karunanidhi, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, left an indelible mark with his dynamic leadership and unwavering commitment to the upliftment of Tamil culture and society. This special coin not only pays homage to his rich legacy but also serves as a tangible reminder of his enduring influence. In this article, we delve into the significance of this commemorative coin, the thoughtful design elements that reflect Karunanidhi's illustrious career, and the details of the coin launch ceremony attended by key figures.

## India Health Alert: How the Nation is Tackling Rising Global Mpox Cases

- ↪ As global Mpox cases continue to rise, the world watches closely with heightened concern, and India has stepped up its vigilance with a significant health alert. In response, India has implemented rigorous public health measures, focusing on disease surveillance and bolstering Monkeypox awareness among its citizens. With a history of addressing global health crises, India is proactively coordinating with international health organizations to monitor the situation closely. This strategic approach not only aims to prevent a potential outbreak within its borders but also underscores the importance of preparedness in safeguarding public health.

## India's Response to Global Mpox Threat

### Current Mpox Global Situation

↪ Mpox, recognized globally as a public health concern, has seen a notable increase in cases across various nations. The virus, once confined to specific regions, has made its presence felt in countries far beyond its original borders. Notably affected areas include parts of Africa, Europe, and the Americas, where health systems are grappling with heightened case numbers. The spread is attributed to increased human mobility and interactions that facilitate the transmission of this infectious disease. With the virus capable of causing severe health implications, international health organizations are on high alert, underscoring the need for robust monitoring and response strategies. The current scenario has prompted countries like India to enhance their disease surveillance capabilities, aiming to mitigate the risk of Mpox entering or spreading within their own populations. This global situation serves as a reminder of the interconnected nature of modern health challenges.

### India's Preventive Measures

↪ India has implemented a series of robust preventive measures to counter the potential threat of Mpox. Central to this strategy is enhanced disease surveillance in India, where authorities have intensified monitoring at entry points such as airports and seaports. Health officials have issued public health advisories aimed at increasing Monkeypox awareness among the populace. These advisories provide crucial information on virus symptoms, transmission methods, and preventive practices. In addition, India is actively engaging with international health organizations, sharing data and insights to align its response with global standards. Healthcare facilities across the country are on high alert, with contingency plans in place to manage potential cases swiftly. Training programs for healthcare workers have been rolled out to ensure readiness in handling any outbreak. These coordinated efforts highlight India's commitment to safeguarding public health and emphasize the importance of preparedness in facing such infectious disease threats.

### Government Accountability and Legislative Priorities: Insights from 2024-25 Committees Formation

↪ The formation of new Parliamentary Committees for the 2024-25 session in India marks a pivotal moment in the legislative process, underscoring the crucial role these bodies play in government accountability and

policy shaping. As these committees are reconstituted, they bring with them changes in leadership and membership that reflect the current legislative priorities and strategic goals of the government. The significance of these committees cannot be understated, as they serve as the backbone of legislative scrutiny, tasked with addressing pressing national issues and ensuring that government actions align with public interest. This process not only highlights the importance of leadership in Parliamentary Committees but also sets the stage for a dynamic year ahead, offering insights into how India's legislative landscape is poised to evolve.

↪ The recent formation of six new Parliamentary Committees by Lok Sabha Speaker marks a significant step in enhancing the oversight of government functions. These committees include the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), responsible for monitoring government expenditure; the Estimates Committee, tasked with examining spending and ensuring efficiency; and the Public Undertakings Committee, which focuses on the performance of public sector enterprises. Additionally, there are committees dedicated to the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

↪ These committees, with a one-year tenure, comprise members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Unlike previous practices involving elections, the 18th Lok Sabha has formed these committees primarily through consensus. Originating from the British Parliament, India's Parliamentary Committees derive their authority from the Constitution under Articles 105 and 118. They are classified into Standing Committees, which are permanent, and Ad Hoc Committees, which are temporary and task-specific.

### Revolutionizing Agriculture: How AI Pest Management is Transforming Indian Farms

↪ On August 15, 2024, the Union Government launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS), designed to assist farmers in managing pests through direct access to agricultural scientists via their phones. Launched by Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, NPSS aims to reduce farmers' reliance on pesticide retailers by promoting a scientific approach to pest management. Utilizing AI tools, NPSS will analyze pest data to provide timely advice for effective control.

↪ At the launch event at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Chouhan emphasized the importance of integrating technology into agriculture to enhance productivity. He highlighted NPSS as a crucial tool in early pest detection, enabling prompt intervention. The platform is expected to benefit around 14 crore farmers by allowing them to send photos of infested crops to experts for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

## **Kisan Ki Baat: Revolutionizing Farm-Science Communication Through Government Radio**

↪ Kisan Ki Baat is an innovative government radio program designed to bridge the gap between farmers and cutting-edge scientific knowledge. This initiative aims to revolutionize farm science communication by educating farmers on the latest agricultural practices, technologies, and innovations that can enhance productivity and sustainability. By providing a platform for farmers to voice their concerns, ask questions, and receive expert advice, Kisan Ki Baat empowers rural communities to embrace sustainable farming methods. With its expansive radio outreach programs, this initiative not only supports the government's broader agricultural policies but also plays a pivotal role in reaching remote areas where traditional forms of communication may fall short. 'Kisan Ki Baat' is part of a larger strategy to revitalize India's agricultural sector. Shivraj Singh Chouhan stressed the importance of integrating Krishi Vigyan Kendras with farmers' needs and promoting discussions among agriculturists.

## **Unlocking Convenience: The Impact of 'One India-One Ticket' on Urban Mobility**

↪ The launch of the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative by Indian Railways, in collaboration with the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), marks a significant stride towards revolutionizing urban mobility in India. This innovative concept aims to provide travelers with seamless travel experiences by integrating multiple modes of transport under a single ticketing system. Imagine the convenience of boarding a train, bus, or metro without the hassle of purchasing separate tickets for each leg of the journey. The initiative promises to enhance public transport efficiency and reduce travel time, while also supporting

sustainable travel practices. Through cutting-edge technological advancements, 'One India-One Ticket' is set to transform the nation's transportation infrastructure, aligning with broader goals of improved urban mobility and connectivity.

### **Launch of 'One India-One Ticket'**

#### **Seamless Travel Across Modes**

↪ The 'One India-One Ticket' initiative stands out for its potential to integrate different modes of transportation into a unified system. By using a single ticket, travelers can switch effortlessly between trains, buses, and metro services. This integration not only simplifies the journey but also reduces the time spent on ticket purchases and transfers. The initiative leverages advanced technology to ensure that transitions between different transport services are smooth and efficient. This seamless travel experience is expected to boost public transport efficiency, encouraging more people to opt for public transit over personal vehicles. Consequently, this can lead to a reduction in traffic congestion and environmental pollution. Ultimately, the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative promises to make urban mobility more accessible and convenient, aligning with the broader objective of sustainable travel and improved connectivity within India's rapidly growing urban areas.

## **Unlocking Economic Growth: How Fast-Tracking the BIMSTEC FTA Benefits Member Nations**

↪ The recent push to fast-track the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement marks a pivotal moment for regional economic integration among the BIMSTEC member countries. This agreement, which aims to liberalize trade and investment across key sectors, holds the potential to significantly bolster economic growth and strengthen the economic ties within the region. By addressing barriers to trade and enhancing cooperation, the FTA is poised to create a more dynamic and competitive economic landscape for its members. However, the path to successful negotiation and implementation is not without challenges, requiring strategic geopolitical strategies and robust trade liberalization efforts.

↪ The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**, made in 1997, is an international organisation of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations. The

BIMSTEC member states – [Bangladesh](#), [Bhutan](#), [India](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nepal](#), [Sri Lanka](#), and [Thailand](#) – are among the [countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal](#). The secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Revolutionizing Quality: How QR Codes Are Transforming Kasturi Cotton Assurance and Traceability

↪ The recent government directive mandating QR codes for Kasturi Cotton bales marks a pivotal advancement in quality assurance and traceability within the cotton supply chain. This initiative is poised to revolutionize the Indian cotton market by embedding transparency and enhancing the reputation of Kasturi Cotton, renowned for its premium quality. QR codes in agriculture are set to provide a seamless mechanism for tracking and verifying the journey of cotton from farm to fabric, benefitting both producers and consumers by ensuring authenticity and quality assurance in cotton. As the textile industry embraces this innovation, the move aligns with broader government agricultural policies aimed at promoting high-quality Indian cotton on the global stage. However, while this transition promises significant benefits, it also presents challenges, necessitating robust support structures to aid stakeholders in adapting to this new system.

## Securing Frontiers: Understanding the India-Bangladesh Border Monitoring Initiative

↪ In recent developments, the Indian government has taken a proactive step by forming a committee to monitor the Bangladesh border situation, addressing a range of pressing concerns. This initiative, dubbed the “committee monitoring Bangladesh border,” comes amid growing apprehensions over border security, illegal immigration, and cross-border smuggling, which have been prevalent issues in the India Bangladesh border region. The Committee will be headed by ADG, Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command and will have IG, BSF Frontier HQ South Bengal, IG, BSF Frontier HQ Tripura, Member (Planning & Development), Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), and, Secretary, LPAI, as its members. With its strategic significance, this border not only plays a crucial role in ensuring national security but also impacts economic relations and regional stability between the two neighbouring

countries. The newly formed committee is tasked with evaluating the current situation, identifying key challenges, and recommending actionable strategies to fortify the India Bangladesh relations further. As this committee begins its work, the outcomes could potentially reshape India’s broader border management policies and influence diplomatic ties, setting the stage for enhanced cooperation and security measures.

## Inside Kavach 4.0: Revolutionizing Railway Safety and Efficiency with Indian Railways

↪ The introduction of Kavach 4.0 marks a significant leap forward for Indian Railways in its ongoing mission to enhance railway safety and operational efficiency. As the latest iteration of the indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Kavach 4.0 promises to revolutionize rail transport technology by integrating advanced features designed to prevent accidents and ensure smoother operations throughout India’s extensive railway network. This development not only underscores Indian Railways’ commitment to modernization and the enhancement of railway safety but also aligns with broader governmental efforts to upgrade the nation’s rail infrastructure. In this piece, we will delve into the technological advancements of Kavach 4.0, its impact on reducing railway accidents, and the future prospects of this transformative system within India’s railways. KAVACH ( lit. ‘Armour’) is an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system indigenously developed by Indian Railways through Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO). Initially it was known by the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS).

## Har Ghar Tiranga 3.0: Celebrating Patriotism and Unity in India

↪ The “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign, now in its third edition, continues to weave a vibrant tapestry of patriotism and unity across India. As a nationwide initiative, it encourages citizens to proudly hoist the Indian national flag—our beloved Tiranga—at their homes and workplaces, symbolizing a collective spirit of national pride. This campaign not only celebrates the rich diversity of India but also underscores our shared identity as a nation under the beautiful emblem of our flag. With the government amplifying efforts to enhance participation, this edition promises to be more

engaging, featuring community events and activities designed to bring people together under the banner of unity in diversity. Join us as we explore the goals and significance of this inspiring movement, and discover how you can contribute to fostering patriotism in India. The Indian National Flag, adopted on July 22, 1947, features three horizontal stripes with specific symbolism. The saffron at the top represents courage and sacrifice, white in the middle symbolizes peace and truth, and green at the bottom stands for faith and chivalry. The flag also includes a navy blue Ashoka Chakra with 24 spokes in the center, symbolizing the eternal wheel of law. The flag's dimensions maintain a precise 3:2 length-to-width ratio. The flag's design was initially proposed by Pingali Venkayya and has since been a powerful emblem of India's sovereignty and unity.

### **Empowering Fathers: UNICEF and West Bengal's Groundbreaking Breastfeeding Initiative**

↪ In a groundbreaking move, UNICEF has joined forces with the government of West Bengal to launch an innovative breastfeeding initiative focused on engaging fathers in the crucial early stages of child-rearing. This collaborative effort seeks to redefine the traditional roles within parenting by emphasizing the fathers' role in breastfeeding and its significance in enhancing maternal health and infant care. By raising awareness about the profound benefits of breastfeeding, the initiative aims to educate fathers on their supportive roles, fostering a more inclusive approach to parenting and child development. As part of a broader global effort to encourage active fatherhood, this partnership holds the potential to significantly improve health outcomes for both mothers and children in West Bengal. Through a series of targeted strategies and programs, the initiative aspires to reach fathers across the state, offering them the tools and knowledge necessary to become active participants in early childhood development.

### **Triumph on the Court: India's Historic Win at the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League**

↪ India's remarkable triumph at the 4th CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League marks a historic moment in the arena of women's sports in

India. This victory not only signifies the prowess and resilience of the Indian women's volleyball team but also serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring female athletes across the nation. Throughout the tournament, the Indian team showcased exceptional skill, teamwork, and strategy, overcoming formidable opponents and clinching a well-deserved volleyball victory. As this monumental achievement elevates the profile of Indian women's volleyball on the international stage, it also underscores the significant strides being made in sports development in India.

### **Standout Performances and Players**

↪ Throughout the tournament, several players from the Indian women's volleyball team delivered standout performances that were crucial to their success. Captain Priya Singh led by example, displaying exceptional leadership and poise under pressure. Her ability to remain composed and motivate the team during critical moments proved invaluable. Another key player, Meena Joshi, was a powerhouse on the court, with her formidable spikes and strategic blocks disrupting the opposition's game plan. Her performance in the semi-final against Kazakhstan was particularly noteworthy, where she notched up several decisive points. Additionally, the young talent, Anjali Reddy, added a dynamic edge to the team's play with her agility and quick reflexes, earning her the reputation of a rising star. These players, among others, not only contributed to India's volleyball victory but also exemplified the spirit of determination and teamwork that defined the Indian women's volleyball team's journey in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League.

### **India's Green Revolution: Unpacking the 165% Surge in Renewable Energy Capacity**

↪ India has embarked on a remarkable journey, achieving a 165% surge in its renewable energy capacity over the past decade, marking a significant milestone in its green revolution. This extraordinary growth is not only a testament to the country's commitment to sustainable development but also highlights the vital role of government policies, technological advancements, and substantial investments in the renewable sector. With solar power, wind energy, and hydropower at the forefront of this transformation, India is rapidly advancing towards its climate change mitigation

goals and enhancing its energy security. In this piece, we will delve into the key drivers behind this impressive expansion, its implications for India's environmental and economic landscape, and the future challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in scaling up the nation's renewable energy capacity.

## **Empowering Women: How the Digital Shakti Center is Revolutionizing Online Safety in India**

↪ In an era where digital interactions are an integral part of daily life, the launch of the Digital Shakti Center by the National Commission for Women (NCW) marks a significant step forward in tackling cybercrimes against women in India. As online threats and harassment continue to rise, this initiative is poised to enhance online safety and empower women by providing comprehensive support and resources. The center aims to address the pressing issues of cyber harassment and digital security by offering legal support for women and raising awareness about cyber safety practices. Utilizing cutting-edge technological tools and collaborating with law enforcement, the Digital Shakti Center is set to play a pivotal role in safeguarding Indian women online and fostering a safer, more inclusive digital environment.

## **Soaring to New Heights: The Impact of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and Airbus Collaboration on Aviation Education in India**

↪ In a groundbreaking move set to redefine aviation education in India, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya has joined forces with Airbus through a strategic collaboration. This partnership, a significant milestone in innovation in aviation, aims to revolutionize the way future aviation professionals are trained, aligning academic programs closely with industry needs. By fostering research and development in aviation, this initiative promises to equip students with cutting-edge skills and global best practices, ensuring a skilled workforce that meets international standards. As we delve into the objectives and potential benefits of this Airbus collaboration, it becomes evident how this venture not only bolsters India's growing aviation sector but also sets a new precedent for transportation and logistics education across the nation. Gati Shakti

Vishwavidyalaya, formerly National Rail and Transportation Institute, is a central university located in Vadodara, Gujarat, India. GSV is India's first transport University. It is presently at the campus of the National Academy of Indian Railways.

## **Transforming the Ganga: How Namami Gange Mission 2.0 is Reviving UP and Bihar's Lifeline**

↪ The Namami Gange Mission 2.0 marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to restore the ecological glory of the Ganga River, with Rs 920 crore worth of projects recently launched in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These initiatives are a critical component of the broader Ganga rejuvenation strategy, emphasizing the river's enduring environmental, cultural, and economic importance. As part of these efforts, major projects like sewage treatment plants, riverfront development, and pollution control measures are being implemented to address the pressing water quality issues that have long plagued this lifeline for millions. By focusing on sustainable development and bolstering community livelihoods, the Namami Gange Mission not only aligns with the national clean-up agenda but also paves the way for achieving long-term environmental sustainability in these regions. Namami Gange, launched in 2014 with a budget of ₹20,000 crores, is a flagship conservation mission administered by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. It aims to effectively reduce pollution and rejuvenate the Ganga River, focusing on conservation and sustainable management of this vital national resource.

## **Five Years Later: Analyzing the Impact of Abrogating Articles 370 and 35A on Jammu and Kashmir**

↪ Five years have passed since the Indian government made the historic decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A, reshaping the constitutional landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. This move marked a significant turning point, aiming to integrate the region more fully with India and set the stage for new political, economic, and social developments. Since the abrogation of these Articles, the impact on Jammu and Kashmir has been profound, influencing everything from political developments to economic changes and socio-political effects.

## Political Developments in J&K

### Legislative Changes Post-Abrogation

Following the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, Jammu and Kashmir experienced significant legislative changes. The region, previously enjoying special autonomy, was reclassified as a Union Territory, thereby bringing it under the direct control of the central government. This shift enabled the implementation of central laws that were previously inapplicable, such as the Right to Information Act and the Goods and Services Tax. The legislative landscape also saw the introduction of domicile laws, allowing more Indians to settle in the region. These changes aimed to streamline governance and foster development but have also sparked debates about cultural and demographic impacts. The political climate has been marked by a mix of optimism for growth and concerns over identity and autonomy. As the region continues to adapt, the effectiveness of these legislative changes remains a focal point of both support and criticism.

### Revolutionizing Construction Project Management: NIT Calicut's Nivahika Web Portal

In an era where digital transformation is reshaping industries, NIT Calicut is making waves with its groundbreaking web portal, Nivahika, set to revolutionize construction project management. With its user-friendly design and cutting-edge technology, Nivahika serves as a comprehensive tool for streamlining project planning, monitoring, and execution. This innovative platform promises to enhance collaboration among construction professionals by providing real-time data access, ultimately improving efficiency and project outcomes. As the construction industry seeks ways to reduce delays and optimize resource utilization, Nivahika stands out as a pivotal development, aligning seamlessly with the sector's ongoing digital transformation. Join us as we delve into the transformative potential of Nivahika and NIT Calicut's role in pioneering this technological advancement.

### Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024: Bridging the Gap Between Science and Hindi Language

The Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 is poised to be a landmark event in the realm of scientific research in Hindi, aiming to bridge the

gap between science and the Hindi language. As the significance of Hindi in science continues to grow, this event will play a crucial role in encouraging the use of Hindi in scientific discourse, thereby enriching the accessibility of scientific knowledge for a broader audience. By fostering innovation in regional languages, the Sammelan seeks to make science more inclusive and accessible, promoting Hindi language communication as a vital tool in the scientific community. The theme of the conference was "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal," featuring six sessions on diverse topics including Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and Science Communication.

### Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: How NSDC is Paving the Way for Economic Growth

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is making significant strides towards fostering economic growth by empowering women entrepreneurs through its newly launched Women Entrepreneurship Program. This initiative is designed to equip women with vital entrepreneurial skills and digital resources via the Skills India Digital Hub (SIDH), creating a supportive environment for women in business to thrive. By focusing on women empowerment, the program not only enhances individual capabilities but also contributes to broader economic growth through women-led enterprises.

### Unlocking Opportunities: How the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme is Enhancing Employability for India's Youth

In an era where the demand for skilled professionals is ever-increasing, the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) emerges as a beacon of hope for India's youth, striving to bridge the skills gap and enhance employability. This government-backed initiative provides structured on-the-job training, partnering with industries and educational institutions to offer real-world experience and practical skills. Through NATS, young aspirants are equipped with the tools necessary to thrive in a competitive job market, thus fostering a new generation of capable professionals. The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal, launched by Union Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, aims to streamline India's apprenticeship system by providing a centralized management platform. The initiative also includes the disbursement of ₹100 crore in stipends to apprentices through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode, enhancing efficiency and transparency.

## Tarang Shakti 2024: India's Leap into Multinational Air Exercises and Global Defense Collaborations

↳ Tarang Shakti 2024 marks a pivotal moment in India's burgeoning role on the global defense stage, as it gears up to host its first-ever multinational air exercise. This landmark event, aptly named "Tarang Shakti 2024," is not just a showcase of India's aerial combat capabilities but also a testament to its commitment towards fostering military diplomacy and strengthening defense collaborations with nations worldwide. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability among nations, bringing together a diverse array of participating countries, each contributing their advanced military technology and expertise. As India steps forward with its defense strategy, this multinational air exercise is set to highlight the country's strategic partnerships and its growing influence in international military dynamics.

## Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024: A Game-Changer for India's Civil Aviation Sector

↳ The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 is poised to be a pivotal force in transforming India's civil aviation landscape, offering a fresh blueprint for the sector's growth and modernization. With an emphasis on regulatory reforms, the bill aims to overhaul existing frameworks to foster a more efficient and competitive environment within India's aviation industry. Key provisions focus on enhancing passenger safety, promoting sustainable aviation practices, and advancing air traffic management systems. The Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced "The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024" to replace the colonial-era Aircraft Act of 1934. This new bill aims to modernize aviation governance in India, reflecting the sector's advanced technological needs while moving away from outdated regulations established under the Aircraft Act for aircraft control and management.

## Key Provisions of the Bill

### Regulatory Reforms Unveiled

↳ The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 introduces significant regulatory reforms aimed at reshaping India civil aviation. By revising existing frameworks, the bill targets increased efficiency and competitiveness within the sector. Central to these reforms is the simplification of licensing procedures for airlines and operators, which is expected to reduce bureaucratic delays. Additionally, the bill proposes the establishment of an independent regulatory body to oversee compliance and ensure transparency. This body will be tasked with monitoring safety standards and implementing sustainable aviation practices across the industry. By aligning these reforms with global standards, the bill seeks to attract foreign investment and enhance India's position in the international aviation arena. Through these regulatory changes, the bill aims to create a more streamlined and effective governance structure, ultimately promoting growth and innovation within the industry.

### Enhancing Passenger Safety

↳ A key focus of the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 is to enhance passenger safety within India civil aviation. The bill outlines comprehensive measures to ensure that safety protocols meet international standards. It mandates regular safety audits and inspections of aircraft and airport facilities. Additionally, the introduction of advanced technology for real-time monitoring of flight operations is set to play a crucial role in preempting potential issues. The bill also emphasizes the need for rigorous training programs for flight crew and ground staff, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle emergencies. Furthermore, it proposes the creation of a centralized database to track and manage safety records, enabling quick access to vital information. By focusing on these aspects, the bill aims to build passenger trust and confidence, reinforcing the commitment to their safety and wellbeing during air travel.

### Promoting Innovation and Sustainability

↳ The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 prioritizes promoting innovation and sustainability within India civil aviation. It encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies to modernize aviation infrastructure and operations. A notable

initiative is the support for research and development in sustainable aviation fuels and eco-friendly aircraft designs, aiming to reduce the industry's carbon footprint. The bill also incentivizes airlines to adopt energy-efficient practices, such as optimizing flight paths and upgrading to fuel-efficient aircraft. Additionally, it proposes a collaborative platform for sharing best practices and innovations among industry stakeholders. By fostering an environment conducive to technological advancements, the bill aims to align India's aviation sector with global sustainability standards. These efforts not only contribute to environmental conservation but also position India as a leader in sustainable aviation practices, ensuring the industry's growth is both economically viable and environmentally responsible.

## Corruption in Karnataka: A Deep Dive into the MUDA Scam and Siddaramaiah's Role

✦ The Karnataka MUDA scam has recently become a focal point of political controversy, capturing the attention of both state residents and a national audience. At the heart of this unfolding drama are allegations of corruption and land allotment irregularities that have embroiled the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA), with accusations prominently targeting Siddaramaiah, a key political figure. The BJP's allegations against Siddaramaiah have further intensified the situation, drawing widespread scrutiny and debate over governance and ethical practices in Karnataka. In this piece, we will delve into the complexities of the Karnataka MUDA scam, explore the intricacies of the alleged misuse of authority, and examine the broader implications of this scandal on the political landscape. Join us as we unravel the layers of this significant and contentious issue.

### Unraveling the MUDA Scam

#### Origins of the Karnataka MUDA Scam

✦ The origins of the Karnataka MUDA scam trace back to the alleged irregularities in the land allotment processes managed by the Mysore Urban Development Authority. Over the years, MUDA has been responsible for the allocation of land in Mysore, a rapidly growing urban area. However, accusations surfaced regarding the preferential treatment in land distribution, with claims of manipulated allotments benefiting certain

influential individuals. The allegations suggest that some officials may have exploited their positions to bypass standard procedures, granting land to favored entities without following due diligence. These practices allegedly resulted in unfair advantages, contributing to widespread discontent and suspicion among the public. As scrutiny intensified, the spotlight shifted to prominent political figures, including Siddaramaiah, who faces accusations of being complicit in these dubious dealings. This controversy has not only highlighted potential governance failures but has also sparked a broader discussion on corruption in Karnataka.

### Siddaramaiah's Involvement

✦ Siddaramaiah, a prominent political figure in Karnataka, has been at the center of the controversy surrounding the MUDA scam. Accusations from the BJP allege that during his tenure, Siddaramaiah may have played a pivotal role in facilitating the irregular land allotments that have sparked this uproar. Critics claim that his involvement could have enabled certain influential personalities to secure land allocations through non-transparent means. While Siddaramaiah has consistently denied these allegations, the controversy has nevertheless cast a shadow over his political career, prompting calls for detailed investigations into his role. His supporters argue that the allegations are politically motivated attempts to undermine his credibility, especially given the heated political landscape in Karnataka. This situation has intensified the political controversy, raising pertinent questions about accountability and ethical governance in the state. The ongoing debate over Siddaramaiah's involvement continues to fuel discussions about corruption in Karnataka's political and administrative spheres.

### Allegations and Response

✦ The Union government has been vocal in its allegations against Siddaramaiah, accusing him of being deeply involved in the MUDA scam. They argue that his administration's actions directly contributed to the land allotment irregularities that have surfaced. According to the Union government, the procedural lapses and favoritism observed in MUDA's operations during Siddaramaiah's tenure amount to a blatant misuse of authority. These allegations have been accompanied by calls for a comprehensive investigation to uncover the

extent of these irregularities. In response, Siddaramaiah and his supporters have dismissed these claims as baseless, attributing them to political maneuvering aimed at tarnishing his reputation. They maintain that the allegations are strategically timed to shift focus and distract from other pressing issues within the state. This exchange has further polarized the political atmosphere, with both sides steadfast in their positions. The ongoing debate highlights the broader governance challenges and the need for transparency in Karnataka's political landscape.

### **Preeti Sudan Appointed as UPSC Chairperson**

↪ Preeti Sudan has officially been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), following the resignation of Manoj Soni earlier this month. Sudan's appointment was formalized through an official order issued by the President of India. As the Chairperson of UPSC, she will oversee the functioning of this constitutional body, which is responsible for the direct recruitment of officers to the All India Services and Central Civil Services through rigorous examinations. These officers are subsequently appointed to various services under the Government of India, playing crucial roles in administration and governance.

↪ In a recent development, UPSC has registered a police case against a candidate named Puja Khedkar for allegedly availing fraudulent attempts in the civil services examination by faking her identity. This case highlights the ongoing challenges UPSC faces in ensuring the integrity of its examination process, which is vital for maintaining the credibility and fairness of India's public service recruitment.

### **Haryana Becomes First State to Procure All Crops at MSP**

↪ On August 4, 2024, Haryana made history by becoming the first state in India to procure all crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). This landmark decision marks a significant shift in agricultural policy, ensuring that farmers receive guaranteed prices for their entire crop production across a wide range of commodities. The move is expected to boost farmer income, reduce their dependence on middlemen, and enhance agricultural sustainability in the state.

↪ Haryana's initiative sets a new benchmark for other states in terms of supporting the agricultural sector and safeguarding farmer interests. By procuring all crops at MSP, the state government aims to address longstanding issues of price volatility and market uncertainty faced by farmers. This policy could potentially influence national agricultural policies, as other states may follow Haryana's lead to offer similar protections to their farmers, thereby strengthening the overall agricultural economy of India.

### **Nagaland Becomes First State to Implement Disaster Insurance**

↪ Nagaland has set a precedent by becoming the first state in India to implement disaster insurance for its residents. This pioneering initiative aims to provide financial protection to individuals and communities affected by natural calamities, such as floods, earthquakes, and landslides, which are common in the region. The disaster insurance scheme is designed to offer quick and efficient compensation to those who suffer losses, thereby reducing the economic burden on the state government and speeding up recovery efforts.

↪ The introduction of disaster insurance in Nagaland reflects a proactive approach to disaster management, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive timely assistance. This initiative could serve as a model for other states in India, particularly those prone to frequent natural disasters. By adopting such insurance schemes, states can enhance their disaster resilience, minimize the economic impact of calamities, and provide a safety net for their citizens in times of crisis.

### **India's First Grain ATM Launched in Odisha**

↪ Odisha has taken a groundbreaking step by launching India's first Grain ATM, an innovative solution aimed at ensuring efficient and transparent distribution of food grains. This automated machine, also known as an Automated Grain Dispensing Machine, allows beneficiaries to receive their allotted food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) with ease and accuracy. The Grain ATM is designed to eliminate human errors, reduce wastage, and prevent pilferage in the distribution process, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of the PDS.

↪ The introduction of the Grain ATM reflects Odisha's commitment to leveraging technology for social welfare and ensuring food security for its citizens. By providing an easy and dignified way for beneficiaries to access their entitlements, this initiative could revolutionize the PDS system across India. If successfully implemented on a larger scale, Grain ATMs could play a crucial role in addressing food distribution challenges and ensuring that food grains reach the intended recipients effectively.

## Indian Army Conducts 'Parvat Prahar' Exercise in Ladakh

↪ The Indian Army recently conducted the 'Parvat Prahar' exercise in Ladakh, a region known for its challenging terrain and strategic significance. This high-altitude exercise focused on enhancing the operational preparedness of the Indian Army in mountainous regions, particularly along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The exercise involved the deployment of advanced weaponry, including tanks, artillery, and air defense systems, alongside infantry and mechanized units.

↪ 'Parvat Prahar' showcased the Army's ability to execute swift and coordinated maneuvers in rugged, high-altitude environments, emphasizing the importance of readiness in potential conflict zones. The exercise also aimed to assess the combat capabilities of troops and equipment under extreme weather conditions, reinforcing India's defensive posture in the region.

↪ By conducting such exercises, the Indian Army continues to strengthen its strategic capabilities and ensure the security and stability of the country's borders, particularly in sensitive areas like Ladakh.

## NIRF Rankings 2024: Indian Institutes Lead in National Excellence Across Categories

↪ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2024, released by the Ministry of Education, continue to showcase the dominance of premier Indian educational institutions across various disciplines. The NIRF, in its ninth edition, evaluates institutions based on comprehensive parameters such as teaching, learning, and resources; research and professional practices; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception.

↪ In the overall category, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained its top position, followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay. Among universities, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore secured the first spot, reflecting its outstanding contribution to research and innovation. In the engineering category, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, and IIT Bombay continued their reign as the top three institutions.

↪ For the management category, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad led the rankings, followed by IIM Bangalore and IIM Kozhikode. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi maintained its top position in the medical category, while the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore was ranked the best law school in the country.

↪ The Miranda House in Delhi topped the college category, and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Hyderabad led in the pharmacy category.

↪ The NIRF Rankings 2024 not only highlight the achievements of these institutions but also serve as a benchmark for educational excellence in India, encouraging continuous improvement and global competitiveness.

## Supreme Court Constitutes Task Force to Ensure Safety of Doctors

↪ In a significant move to address the growing concerns over the safety of medical professionals, the Supreme Court of India has constituted a 10-member task force to formulate a comprehensive protocol for ensuring the safety of doctors across the country. The committee, headed by Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, has been tasked with developing guidelines to protect doctors from violence and harassment in the workplace, particularly in light of the increasing number of attacks on healthcare workers.

↪ The task force will consult with various stakeholders, including medical associations, government bodies, and law enforcement agencies, to draft a protocol that balances the safety of doctors with the needs of patients. This initiative reflects the judiciary's proactive stance in safeguarding the rights and security of medical professionals, who play a crucial role in public health.

- ↪ The formation of this task force is expected to result in concrete measures that will enhance the working environment for doctors and ensure their safety across the nation.

## India and Israel Collaborate to Establish Water Technology Centre at IIT Madras

- ↪ India and Israel have joined forces to establish a cutting-edge Water Technology Centre at IIT Madras, aiming to address water-related challenges through advanced research and innovation. This collaboration will leverage Israel's expertise in water management and India's scientific prowess to develop sustainable solutions for water conservation, purification, and distribution. The centre will focus on creating technologies tailored to Indian conditions, ensuring efficient water usage in agriculture, industry, and urban areas. This partnership reflects the deepening ties between India and Israel and underscores their commitment to tackling global water issues through joint research and technological advancements.

## ISRO Completes SSLV Development Project: A New Era in Affordable Space Launches

- ↪ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed the development of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration efforts. The SSLV project, aimed at offering cost-effective launch services, is designed to cater to the growing demand for launching small satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO). The SSLV's development is a strategic move by ISRO to tap into the burgeoning market of small satellite launches, which has seen substantial growth globally.
- ↪ The SSLV is designed for quick assembly and launch, with a turnaround time of just 72 hours, compared to the weeks or months typically required for larger launch vehicles. Capable of carrying payloads up to 500 kg to Sun-synchronous orbits, the SSLV offers a versatile and efficient solution for deploying small satellites, making it particularly attractive for commercial ventures, academic institutions, and space startups.
- ↪ This project completion signals ISRO's readiness to offer more frequent and affordable launch services, thereby enhancing India's position in

the global space industry. The SSLV will not only boost ISRO's commercial launch capabilities but also contribute to India's growing stature as a key player in space technology and exploration, fostering innovation and collaboration in the space sector.

## India Expands Conservation Efforts with Addition of Three New Ramsar Sites

- ↪ India has further strengthened its commitment to wetland conservation by adding three new Ramsar sites, bringing the total number of these internationally recognized wetlands in the country to 50. The newly designated sites include Vembannur Wetland Complex in Tamil Nadu, Kanwar Jheel in Bihar, and the Hirakud Reservoir in Odisha. These additions highlight India's ongoing efforts to protect its rich biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of its natural resources.
- ↪ Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention, which provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The inclusion of these new sites reflects India's proactive approach to preserving vital ecosystems that support a wide range of flora and fauna, mitigate floods, and maintain water quality.
- ↪ By expanding its network of Ramsar sites, India reaffirms its commitment to global environmental goals, contributing to the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable development practices across the country.

## India Hosts First Policy Makers Forum Summit to Drive Global Policy Dialogue

- ↪ India recently hosted the inaugural Policy Makers Forum Summit, a significant event aimed at fostering global policy dialogue among leaders and experts across various sectors. The summit brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars to discuss pressing issues such as economic growth, sustainable development, and digital transformation. The forum provided a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and exploring collaborative strategies to address global challenges.

↻ The summit emphasized the importance of evidence-based policymaking and the need for inclusive, sustainable approaches to governance. Key topics included climate change, technology-driven innovation, and the evolving role of governments in a rapidly changing world. By hosting this summit, India underscored its growing influence in global policy discourse and its commitment to contributing to international efforts for a more equitable and sustainable future.

↻ The First Policy Makers Forum Summit is expected to become an annual event, facilitating ongoing dialogue and cooperation among global leaders to address complex, cross-border issues.

## New UNESCO World Heritage Sites Added at New Delhi Meeting

↻ At the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, held in New Delhi from 21 to 31 July 2024, **24 new sites** were **added to the UNESCO World Heritage List**. This marks the first time India has hosted the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The session concluded on 30 July 2024, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing **\$1 million in aid for conservation projects** and capacity-building initiatives in developing countries.

### Heritage Site Statistics

↻ Total UNESCO Heritage Sites :1,223

- **Cultural:** 952
- **Natural:** 231
- **Mixed:** 40

↻ Leading Countries

- Italy: 60 sites
- China: 59 sites

↻ India's Count: 43 sites

- **Latest Addition:** Moidams of Assam, the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty

### About UNESCO

↻ **Established:** 16 November 1945

↻ **Members:** 194 countries

↻ **Aim:** To promote peace through education, cultural heritage, and the equal dignity of all cultures

↻ **Headquarters:** Paris, France

↻ **Director-General:** Audrey Azoulay (France)

## MoSPI Launches e-Sankhyiki Portal to Revolutionize Data Management

↻ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the **e-Sankhyiki portal on June 29**, marking a significant advancement in data management and dissemination in India. This initiative aims to streamline the sharing of official statistics through a comprehensive system designed to enhance ease of access and analysis.

## President Droupadi Murmu Conferred "Companion of the Order of Fiji" in Capital Suva

↻ President Murmu was conferred with the **Companion of the Order of Fiji**, the highest honor bestowed by the Fijian government. This prestigious recognition symbolizes the deep respect and strong ties between India and Fiji.

## Shri Amit Shah Launches E-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti And E-Summon App

### About E-Sakshya App

↻ With **e-Sakshya**, investigating officers can **record videos and take photographs** of crime scenes as needed. The application also allows officers to **gather information from witnesses** and record their statements. Once the recording is complete, all information is securely transmitted to an evidence locker and linked to the charge sheet, which is then made **available to the court electronically**. These **recordings and photographs** can also be downloaded for use by prosecutors and defence lawyers.

### What is Nyaya Shruti?

↻ The second tool, **Nyaya Shruti**, facilitates court hearings through electronic medium. This automated system is **connected with** the police, prisons, prosecution, forensics, and designated access points. Whenever the court issues a **summons or warrant**, an alert is sent to the domain application, and a video conferencing link for **judicial hearings** is provided to all relevant individuals and officers.

### About E-Summons

↻ The third application, **eSummons**, handles the **electronic compliance** of legal orders. Through

this facility, legal orders such as summons and warrants issued by the court are electronically transmitted to the police. These orders are then distributed to the relevant officers via their mobile devices. The officers deliver the orders to the specified addresses and obtain the recipient's signature upon delivery.

## "VIRAASAT", 10th National Handloom Day Begins At Handloom Haat, New Delhi

- ↪ The series "VIRAASAT"– the "Exclusive Handloom Expo" is a continuation of celebrations held during previous year around the National Handloom Day. This year, the **10<sup>th</sup> National Handloom Day** will be celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> August. The event **focuses on the glorious tradition** of Handloom and Handicrafts. It also provides market connect to the handloom weavers and artisans.

### About first National Handloom Day

- ↪ The first **National Handloom Day** was held on **7th August 2015** by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai. On this day, the handloom weaving community is honoured and the contribution of this sector in the socio-economic development of this country is highlighted. The resolve to protect our handloom heritage and to empower the handloom weavers and workers with greater opportunities is reaffirmed.

## Supreme Court's Landmark Verdict on Sub-classification of SCs and STs

- ↪ On August 1, 2024, a seven-judge Bench of the **Supreme Court of India** delivered a landmark judgement that reframed the operation of the **Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) quota** for the first time since reservations were introduced in the Constitution in 1950. This historic verdict saw six separate opinions, with five in favor of sub-classification and a lone dissent by Justice Bela Trivedi.

- ↪ Historical Context and Constitutional Provisions

### Article 341 of the Constitution

- ↪ Article 341 allows the President, through a public notification, to list "castes, races or tribes" that suffered historical injustices, particularly untouchability, as SCs. These groups are collectively accorded 15% reservation in education and public employment.

## Judicial Challenges and Attempts at Sub-classification

- ↪ Over the years, some groups within the SC list have been underrepresented compared to others. Various states have made attempts to extend more protection to these groups, but these efforts often encountered judicial scrutiny.

### The 1975 Punjab Notification

- ↪ In 1975, Punjab issued a notification giving first preference in SC reservations to the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, two of the most backward communities in the state. This notification was challenged in 2004 after the Supreme Court struck down a similar law in Andhra Pradesh in the case of **E V Chinnaiah**.

### E V Chinnaiah Decision

- ↪ The court held that any attempts to differentiate within the SC list would essentially amount to altering it, for which the Constitution does not empower states. Article 341 only empowers the President to issue such notifications and Parliament to make additions or deletions to the list. The court also noted that sub-classifying SCs violates the right to equality under Article 14.

### Subsequent Developments in Punjab

- ↪ Despite the court's ruling, in 2006, the Punjab government passed the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, reintroducing the first preference in reservations for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities. This Act was challenged by Davinder Singh, a member of a non-Balmiki, non-Mazhabi Sikh SC community, and the Punjab & Haryana High Court struck down the Act in 2010, leading to an appeal at the Supreme Court.

### Reconsideration of E V Chinnaiah

- ↪ In 2020, the Justice Arun Mishra-headed Constitution Bench in **Davinder Singh v State of Punjab** held that the E V Chinnaiah decision required reconsideration. The ruling noted that the court and the state "cannot be a silent spectator and shut its eyes to stark realities". Crucially, it disagreed with the premise that SCs are a homogeneous group, acknowledging the existence of "unequals within the list of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and socially and educationally backward classes".

## The Seven-Judge Bench

↪ In February 2024, a seven-judge Bench was convened to hear the issue. Here are the key issues before the Bench:

↪ Key Issues Before the Bench

### Issue 1: Are All Castes in the SC List to Be Treated Similarly?

↪ Article 341(1) gives the President the power to specify the castes, races, or tribes in a state that shall be deemed to be Scheduled Castes. The court in *E V Chinnaiah* held that SCs must be treated identically, without considering their relative backwardness.

### Supreme Court's Current Verdict

↪ **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Chandrachud** rejected the premise of treating all SCs identically, stating that the inclusion in the Presidential list does not automatically lead to a uniform and homogeneous class. The CJI termed the Presidential list of SCs a "legal fiction", created to provide benefits to communities in the list. He emphasized that this legal fiction cannot be stretched to claim that there are no internal differences among SCs.

### Issue 2: Can States 'Tinker' with or Sub-classify the Presidential List?

↪ Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution give states the power to make special provisions for the advancement of SCs and provide reservations in education and public employment.

### Supreme Court's Current Verdict

↪ The majority opinion held that states, in exercising their powers under Articles 15 and 16, can identify different degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions to achieve the specific degree of harm identified. Justice Gavai noted that equality of opportunity must account for the varying social positions of different communities. When the same opportunities are provided to SC communities that are on different footings, it can only aggravate inequality.

### Issue 3: Yardstick for Sub-classification

↪ The majority opinion established stringent guidelines for states on how to work out sub-quotas. States must demonstrate a need for wider protections, bring empirical evidence, and have a reasonable rationale for classifying sub-groups. This reasoning can be tested in court.

## Supreme Court's Current Verdict

↪ CJI Chandrachud emphasized that any form of representation in public services must be "effective representation", not merely "numerical representation". Even if an SC community is adequately represented in numbers, they may be barred from achieving effective representation by being promoted to higher posts. The state must prove that the sub-group carved out from the larger SC group is more disadvantaged and inadequately represented, based on quantifiable data.

### Issue 4: Application of 'Creamy Layer' Principle to Scheduled Castes

↪ The concept of the 'creamy layer' places an income ceiling on reservation eligibility, ensuring that the beneficiaries are those in a community that need quotas the most.

### Supreme Court's Current Verdict

↪ Only Justice Gavai supported the introduction of the 'creamy layer' exception for SCs and STs. Four of the seven judges agreed with Justice Gavai's opinion on the matter.

↪ State-wise Prominent Tribal and Dalit Communities

### Maharashtra

↪ **Scheduled Castes:** Mahar and Matang are the most prominent SC communities. The Mahar community, socio-politically proactive, has a high literacy rate. Many embraced Buddhism in 1956 following Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

↪ **Scheduled Tribes:** Gond and Bhil are the two largest tribes. Gond live in Vidarbha, while Bhil are concentrated in North Maharashtra districts.

### Rajasthan

↪ **Scheduled Castes:** Meghwal is the largest SC community, mainly in border districts. Bairwa and Jatav are dominant in eastern Rajasthan.

↪ **Scheduled Tribes:** Meena are the most dominant tribe, influencing electoral outcomes in numerous Assembly seats. Bhil are dominant in Banswara and Dungarpur districts.

### Odisha

↪ **Scheduled Tribes:** Tribals form 22.85% of the state's population. Khond and Santal are the largest tribes.

- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** Pan are the dominant SC community, followed by Dom and other communities like Dhoba and Ganda.

### Chhattisgarh

- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** STs make up over 30% of the population. Gond are the most dominant tribe, followed by Kawar/Kanwar and Oraon.
- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** SCs constitute 12.7% of the population, with the largest group known by multiple names like Bairwa and Raidas.

### Madhya Pradesh

- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** SCs are about 15.6% of the population. The largest Dalit group are traditionally leather workers. Balai constitute about 12% of the SC population.
- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** STs make up 21% of the population. Bhil are the largest community, followed by Gond.

### West Bengal

- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** Rajbanshi are the largest SC group, influencing electoral outcomes in North Bengal. Matua are the second largest, followed by Bagdi.
- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** Bhil are dominant in the districts of Dang, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Banaskantha, and Sabarkantha.

### Gujarat

- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** Vankar, who are traditionally weavers, make up around 35-40% of the SC population. Rohit are the next most dominant SC community.
- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** Bhil constitute almost 43% of the tribal population, with Halpati making up over 6% of the state's tribals.

### Assam

- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** Tribals form 12.4% of the total population. Bodo are the largest and politically most powerful tribe. Karbi are the largest hill tribe.

### Tripura

- ✚ **Scheduled Tribes:** 19 recognized tribal communities make up over 30% of the population. The ancient Tripuri clan includes the Debbarma community.
- ✚ **Scheduled Castes:** SCs include the Das, Badyakar, Shabdakar, and Sarkar communities.

### Uttarakhand

- ✚ **Population Composition:** Thakur and Brahmin constitute around 55% of the population. OBCs are about 18%, and SCs and STs together make up about 22%.
- ✚ **Scheduled Castes and Tribes:** Harijan and Balmiki are the largest SC groups. Jaunsari and Tharu are the two largest ST groups.

## Introduction of Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)

- ✚ This system aims to streamline and enhance the management of government employees' service matters through digital means.

### Pension Adalat and Employment Initiatives

- ✚ In addition to the e-HRMS, Dr. Jitendra Singh reported the launch of **Pension Adalat**, a platform for addressing pensioners' grievances through the **CPENGRAM portal**. Over 70% of pension grievances were resolved from 2017 to 2024 through this platform, with 24,926 cases addressed and 17,760 disposed of.
- ✚ The Minister also highlighted the government's focus on filling existing vacancies in various sectors. This effort is part of the **Rozgar Mela initiative** launched on **October 22, 2022**, to provide job opportunities and ensure the welfare of citizens. Recruitment is being conducted across ministries, departments, CPSUs, autonomous bodies, and institutions in mission mode.

## India Ranked 2nd Largest Aluminium Producer in the World

- ✚ India has solidified its position as a global leader in mineral production, with impressive rankings across several key minerals. The country stands as the **2nd largest Aluminium producer**, the **3rd largest lime producer**, and the **4th largest iron ore producer** in the world. These rankings underscore India's significant contribution to the global mineral industry and highlight its growing importance in the sector.

### Record-Breaking Production in FY 2023-24

- ✚ The fiscal year 2023-24 witnessed unprecedented levels of mineral production in India, setting a strong foundation for continued growth. Two key minerals, **iron ore** and **limestone**, emerged as the

backbone of India's mineral sector, collectively accounting for an impressive **80% of the total MCDR mineral production by value**. The production figures for these crucial minerals in FY 2023-24 were as follows:

- **Iron Ore:** 275 million metric tons (MMT)
- **Limestone:** 450 million metric tons (MMT)

## India Launches World's First Mobile Hybrid Rocket: RHUMI-1

India's space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of **RHUMI-1**, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket. This achievement also marks a milestone as the **first reusable hybrid rocket** in India. Developed by Chennai-based startup **Space Zone India** in collaboration with Martin Group, RHUMI-1 represents a leap forward in rocket technology, promising to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs in space exploration.

### Launch Details

#### Location and Method

The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket was launched from a **mobile launcher** in **Thiruvandhurai**, a coastal village near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This mobile launch capability sets RHUMI-1 apart from traditional rocket systems, offering flexibility in launch locations.

#### Payload

- The inaugural flight of RHUMI-1 carried a significant payload:
- Three CubeSats
  - 50 PICO satellites
- These satellites were launched into a suborbital trajectory with the primary mission of collecting data for research on **global warming** and **climate change**.

#### Flight Parameters

RHUMI-1, classified as a **sounding rocket**, achieved an altitude of approximately **35 kilometers**. The rocket's flight duration was brief, returning to Earth within seconds after conducting several experiments.

#### Unique Features

- RHUMI-1 boasts several cutting-edge features:
- Generic-fuel-based hybrid motor
  - Electrically triggered parachute deployer
  - 100% pyrotechnic-free

- 0% TNT content

These characteristics contribute to the rocket's safety profile and reusability.

Significance of RHUMI-1

### Advancements in Space Technology

1. **Reusability:** As India's first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1 represents a significant step towards sustainable space exploration.
2. **Cost Reduction:** The reusable nature of the rocket is expected to substantially lower the operational costs of launches.
3. **Accessibility:** By reducing costs and increasing efficiency, RHUMI-1 could make space exploration more accessible to a wider range of organizations and research institutions.

## Unified Pension Scheme for Government Employees

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

### Background

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

### Key Features of the Unified Pension Scheme

#### Assured Pension

- One of the most notable features of the UPS is the **assured pension**. Employees who have completed a minimum qualifying service of 25 years will be entitled to a pension that is **50% of the average basic pay** drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation. This provision ensures a stable and substantial income for retirees.
- For those with shorter service periods, a proportionate plan has been put in place. Employees with a minimum of 10 years of service will also be eligible for pension benefits, albeit at a reduced rate commensurate with their years of service.

## Family Pension

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

## Minimum Pension Guarantee

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

## Inflation Protection

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

## Lump Sum Payment

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

## Eligibility and Implementation

- ↪ The Unified Pension Scheme is set to take effect from **April 1, 2025**. However, its benefits will extend retroactively to those who have already retired or will retire up until March 31, 2025, with arrears being provided.
- ↪ Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted that the scheme will positively impact approximately **23 lakh government employees**.

## Transition from NPS to UPS

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

## 3 Online Platforms Launched to Boost Country's Power Sector Efficiency

### PROMPT Portal

- ↪ The PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects—Thermal) allows real-time tracking and analysis of thermal power projects under construction in India. It aims to identify and resolve issues causing delays in these projects efficiently.

### JAL VIDYUT DPR Platform

- ↪ The **JAL VIDYUT DPR** (Monitoring Survey and Investigation Activities of Hydroelectric Projects and Pumped Storage Projects) provides real-time updates on hydroelectric and pumped storage projects under construction, improving coordination and management.

### DRIPS Portal

- ↪ The Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) portal is designed to quickly identify and address power disruptions caused by natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, and floods. It connects nodal officers from various power sector departments and agencies to facilitate swift power restoration in affected areas.

### Central Electricity Authority

- ↪ **Established in 1951 under the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948** and now governed by the **Electricity Act 2003**, the Central Electricity Authority operates under the Ministry of Power. It prepares the National Electricity Plan, approves new hydel power plants, and performs various other functions. The CEA is chaired by Ghanshyam Prasad and is headquartered in New Delhi.

## Secular Civil Code

- ↪ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 15th August, stressed on the **need to bring a 'Secular Civil Code'** instead of using the term '**Universal Civil Code**', hinting at the government's intention to broad-base the policy and avoid friction on the contentious issue, both within the ruling NDA and outside. This is the first time that Modi has referred to the Universal Civil Code (UCC) as '**Secular Civil Code**', a move many within the BJP claim will leave the Opposition with no choice.

## Current civil code resembles a “Communal Civil Code”

✚ Addressing from the **Red Fort**, two months after he started his third term, Modi said the current civil code resembles a “**Communal Civil Code**.” “In our country, the **Supreme Court** has repeatedly addressed the issue of the **Uniform Civil Code**. Numerous orders have been issued, reflecting the belief of a significant portion of our population and rightly so that the **current Civil Code** resembles a Communal Civil Code, one that is discriminatory,” he said.

## Push for a ‘Secular Civil Code’

✚ Pushing for a ‘Secular Civil Code’, Modi further said that “laws that divide our nation based on religion and foster discrimination have no place in modern society.” The code, he said, will eliminate ‘religious discrimination’. “... **the time has come for the country to demand a Secular Civil Code**. After 75 years of a Communal Civil Code, it is crucial to move towards a Secular Civil Code. Once this shift takes place, it will eliminate religious discrimination and will bridge the gap felt by ordinary citizens,” Modi said.

## Why do we need Secular Civil Code?

✚ There is a need of secular civil code. Only then we will be free for the free of discrimination on the basis of religion,

## Secular Civil Code Vs UCC

✚ The authors of the **Indian Constitution** left the making of the code for the future, but it never became a law. UCC is meant to be a set of uniform civil laws regarding various matters like inheritance, marriage, adoption, succession, and divorce applicable to all citizens, irrespective of their religion, community, race, sex and caste. But, right now, there is a **religion-specific civic law in India**, which the BJP has been aiming to club under a common umbrella. Siddiqui thinks the endeavour is a secular approach and hence, the name.

## About UCC

✚ UCC refers to a **common set of laws for personal matters** such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and succession for all citizens. Constitution’s Article 44, one of the directive principles of state policy, advocates UCC. But respective religion-based civil codes have governed personal matters since independence. The term **Uniform Civil Code** is mentioned in Part 4, Article 44 of the Indian

Constitution which states: “The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.”

## MEA and NSIL Sign MoU for Launch of Nepalese Munal Satellite

✚ The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) and NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), the **commercial arm of ISRO**, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the launch of Nepal’s Munal satellite. The MoU was formalized on Saturday, with Anurag Srivastava, Joint Secretary (North) from MEA, and Arunachalam A, Director from NSIL, representing their respective organizations.

## Broadcast Services Bill 2024

✚ The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024 which will replace the **Television Network Act of 1995**. According to reports the act will classify influencers or social media pages who make content or write about current affairs or any other news online as ‘digital news broadcaster’.

## About the Draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2024:

✚ **Background:** This draft is a revision of the one released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2023 to consolidate the legal framework for the broadcasting sector and extend it to over-the-top (OTT) content and digital news.

## Key features:

### ✚ Definition of digital news broadcasters:

- The definition of digital news broadcasters to include publishers of news and current affairs content.
- This means any person who broadcasts such programmes through an online paper, news portal, website, social media intermediary, etc., as part of a systematic business, professional or commercial activity.
- However, this excludes replica e-papers.

✚ **Code of Ethics:** The Bill seeks to validate the code of ethics prescribed under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, which has been stayed by the Bombay and the Madras HCs.

- ↪ Content Evaluation Committee (CEC):
  - It is a committee to evaluate content and certify its compliance with the code.
  - The creator community will now be faced with a **3-tier regulation structure**.
  - Creators will have to constitute CECs, register with a Self-Regulatory Organisation and adhere to orders by the Centre appointed Broadcast Advisory Council.
  - The news creators who do not intimate the Central government – names, credentials and other details of members of their CEC will be fined –
    - ↪ Rs 50 lakh in the first contravention, and
    - ↪ Rs 2.5 crore for subsequent violations in the next three years.

## Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024

- ↪ The Bill proposes the **inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members** in the Waqf Board, and inserts a new section to prevent the **wrongful declaration of a property as 'Waqf'**. The Waqf comprises property or land donated by followers of Islam, and is presently managed by the members of the community. Waqf Boards currently control **8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres across India**, with an estimated value of **₹1.2 lakh crore**. Collectively, this makes the Waqf Boards the **third largest landowner in India**, after the armed forces and the Indian Railways. The Waqf Act was **last amended in 2013**.

### Aim

- ↪ The bill aims to **restrict the power of Waqf boards** to manage its properties and provides for more government regulation.
- ↪ It also aims to **ensure women's representation on the Central Waqf Council and state boards**.
- ↪ It also states that “any government property identified or declared as waqf property, **before or after the commencement of this Act**, shall not be deemed to be a waqf property.”

### Responsibility of District Collector

- ↪ The bill proposes to make **registration with the District Collector's Office** mandatory for any Waqf property, so that the property can be evaluated.
- ↪ The district collector will be the **arbiter to decide** whether a property is waqf property or government land and the decision shall be final.

- ↪ Once decided, the **collector can make necessary changes** to the revenue record and submit a report to the state government. The bill also states that such property shall not be treated as waqf property till the **collector submits** his report to the state govt.

### In case of dispute

- ↪ In case of dispute with the decision of the waqf board, **appeals** can now be made in the **respective high courts**.

### When can a property be considered as a waqf?

- ↪ Currently, a property can be considered as a waqf, even **if its original declaration is suspect or disputed**. The provision was provided as under Islamic law, the dedication of a property as waqf was **largely oral, until documentation (waqfnama)** became the standard norm.

### When can a waqf property be considered suspect or disputed?

- ↪ The bill seeks to omit such provisions, thus a waqf property can be considered suspect or disputed **in the absence of a valid waqfnama**. The property can **no longer be used till the final decision** is made by the District Collector.

### Power of central government on waqf

- ↪ Amendments also give the Central government the power to “**direct the audit of any waqf at any time by an auditor** appointed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India**, or **by any officer** designated by the Central Government for that purpose”.

### What is a Waqf board?

- ↪ A **Waqf board** is a legal entity with nominated members **to manage waqf properties**. The board appoints a custodian to each property to ensure its proceeds are used for intended purposes.
- ↪ **Central Waqf Council (CWC), established in 1964**, oversees and advises **state-level Waqf Boards** across India. According to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, it also advises the **central government, state government and waqf boards** on the management of their properties.
- ↪ It can also direct them to furnish information to the Council on the performance of the board particularly on their **financial performance, survey, revenue records, encroachment of Waqf properties, Annual and Audit reports** etc under **section 9 (4) of the Waqf Act 1954**.

↪ A new act was passed in 1995 and was amended in 2013 to give far-reaching powers to the Waqf Board to designate a property as '**Waqf Property**'. In case of dispute whether a property can be considered a waqf, **Section 6** of the **1995 Act** reads "**the decision of the Tribunal in respect of such matter shall be final.**"

### **What is a Waqf property?**

↪ It refers to a **moveable or immovable property** dedicated in the **name of God** for charitable purposes by a deed or an instrument. The practice has been in existence even before the practice of documentation began. Hence, properties, which have been in use for a long time can also be considered, as **Waqf properties**. A Waqf property can either be **for public charitable purposes** or held private to benefit an individual's descendants. A Waqf property is **non-transferable and held perpetually** in the name of God. The proceeds from a Waqf typically fund educational institutions, graveyards, mosques, and shelter homes benefitting **a large number of Muslims**.

# International News

## India and Vietnam Partner on Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal

↪ **India and Vietnam** have **partnered** to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex (**NMHC**) in **Lothal, Gujarat**, reflecting their deep maritime connections. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Hyderabad House in New Delhi marks a significant step in this collaborative effort, which aims to preserve and celebrate the shared maritime heritage of both nations.

## India Surpasses China as Top Importer of Russian Oil

↪ India has recently surpassed China to become the largest importer of Russian oil, marking a significant shift in global energy trade dynamics. This development comes as India continues to diversify its energy sources to meet growing domestic demand and secure affordable oil supplies. India's increased imports from Russia are partly due to discounted prices offered by Russia amid geopolitical tensions and Western sanctions. This move not only strengthens India's energy security but also underscores the country's strategic approach to navigating complex international energy markets. The rise in Russian oil imports reflects India's pragmatic foreign policy and its focus on ensuring energy affordability while balancing relations with key global players. This shift could have broader implications for global oil trade patterns and diplomatic relations, particularly as other nations observe India's approach to managing its energy needs in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

## China Approves \$31 Billion for 11 New Nuclear Reactors

↪ China has given the green light for the construction of 11 new nuclear reactors across five sites, representing an investment of \$31 billion. This significant expansion is part of China's broader strategy to enhance its energy security and reduce its carbon emissions by increasing its reliance on

nuclear power. The approval of these reactors underscores China's commitment to achieving its carbon neutrality goals by 2060 and reducing its dependence on coal. Nuclear energy is seen as a key component of China's efforts to transition to cleaner energy sources while ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply. The new reactors will contribute to China's growing nuclear capacity, which is already among the largest in the world. This move also signals China's intent to remain at the forefront of global nuclear energy development, positioning itself as a leader in both technology and sustainable energy practices.

## Sweden Reports First Mpox Clade I Case, WHO Urges Global Action

↪ Sweden has reported its first confirmed case of Mpox Clade I, a variant of the virus that has raised global concerns due to its potential severity. The World Health Organization (WHO) has responded by calling for coordinated international efforts to manage and control the outbreak. The Mpox Clade I variant, also known as Monkeypox, is known for its virulence and poses a significant public health challenge. The WHO's appeal for global action underscores the importance of robust surveillance, rapid response mechanisms, and equitable access to vaccines and treatments. In Sweden, health authorities are intensifying efforts to trace contacts, monitor potential cases, and implement containment measures. The global health community is urged to share resources, expertise, and data to prevent the further spread of the virus. This case in Sweden highlights the interconnectedness of public health in the modern world and the need for a united response to emerging infectious diseases.

## Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Resigns Amid Political Turmoil

↪ Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has resigned, marking a significant shift in Japan's political landscape. Kishida's resignation comes amid

mounting pressure from within his party and declining public support due to his handling of domestic and international issues. His decision to step down has sparked discussions about the future direction of Japan's political leadership and the challenges facing the country. Kishida, who took office with promises of economic revitalization and a strong diplomatic stance, faced criticism over his response to economic challenges, including rising inflation and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, his administration's approach to Japan's security policies and relations with neighboring countries had been contentious. The resignation sets the stage for a leadership transition within the ruling party and could lead to shifts in Japan's domestic and foreign policies. As Japan prepares for new leadership, the political and economic implications of Kishida's departure will be closely watched both domestically and internationally.

### India and Australia Deepen Maritime and Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

India and Australia have further strengthened their strategic partnership by holding the 6th India-Australia Maritime Dialogue and the 14th Counter-Terrorism Meeting. These dialogues underscore the deepening defense and security cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The Maritime Dialogue focused on enhancing maritime security, addressing regional challenges, and ensuring the stability of vital sea lanes. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, which is critical to regional peace and prosperity. The Counter-Terrorism Meeting, on the other hand, highlighted the need for continued collaboration in combating terrorism and violent extremism. India and Australia discussed ways to strengthen intelligence sharing, capacity building, and joint operations to counter terrorist threats. These meetings reflect the growing strategic alignment between India and Australia, as they work together to address shared security concerns and promote stability in the region. The outcomes of these dialogues are expected to contribute to the broader strategic partnership between the two countries.

### China Tests Largest Cargo Drone as Low-Altitude Economy Expands

China has successfully tested its largest cargo drone, signaling a significant advancement in the

country's low-altitude economy. The drone, designed to carry substantial cargo loads, is expected to revolutionize logistics, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas. This development is part of China's broader strategy to expand its low-altitude economy, which involves utilizing airspace at lower altitudes for various economic activities, including transportation, agriculture, and surveillance. The cargo drone, with its impressive payload capacity and range, is seen as a game-changer for industries that require efficient and flexible logistics solutions. Its deployment is likely to enhance supply chain operations, reduce delivery times, and lower transportation costs. The successful test also reflects China's growing expertise in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology and its commitment to integrating advanced technologies into its economic framework. As China continues to innovate in the low-altitude economy, the use of cargo drones is expected to become increasingly prevalent, contributing to the country's economic growth and technological leadership.

### Tunisia's President Replaces Prime Minister Ahead of October Elections

Tunisia's President Kais Saied has replaced Prime Minister Najla Bouden, a move that comes just months before the country's October elections. The decision to appoint a new prime minister is seen as part of Saied's broader efforts to consolidate power and implement political reforms in Tunisia. The new prime minister is expected to play a crucial role in overseeing the electoral process and addressing the country's pressing economic and social challenges. Tunisia has been grappling with political instability, economic difficulties, and public discontent, which have fueled calls for significant changes in governance. President Saied's move to replace the prime minister underscores the shifting dynamics in Tunisian politics and raises questions about the direction of the upcoming elections. The new leadership will need to navigate the complex political landscape and work towards restoring public trust and stability. As Tunisia approaches the elections, the international community will be watching closely to see how the political transition unfolds and its impact on the country's future.

## China Launches First Satellites for Constellation to Rival Starlink

China has successfully launched the first satellites of a planned constellation that aims to rival SpaceX's Starlink in providing global internet coverage. The satellite constellation, part of China's ambitious space program, is designed to offer high-speed internet services across the globe, particularly in underserved and remote areas. This move is seen as a direct challenge to Starlink, the satellite internet service operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX. The successful launch marks a significant step in China's efforts to establish itself as a major player in the global satellite internet market. The constellation is expected to provide enhanced connectivity, support digital infrastructure, and contribute to the growth of China's space economy. By developing its own satellite network, China aims to reduce its dependence on foreign technology and strengthen its position in the rapidly evolving space industry. The launch also highlights China's commitment to advancing its space capabilities and competing on the global stage in the field of satellite communications.

## Yen Carry Trade: A Risky Bet Gone Wrong

The Yen Carry Trade, a popular investment strategy that involves borrowing in Japanese yen at low-interest rates to invest in higher-yielding assets, has recently faced significant challenges. The strategy, which has been widely used by global investors, has come under pressure due to the unexpected appreciation of the yen and rising global interest rates. As a result, many investors who had bet on stable or weakening yen values have suffered substantial losses. The Yen Carry Trade has long been considered a lucrative yet risky strategy, with its success heavily dependent on currency stability and interest rate differentials. However, recent market volatility has exposed the vulnerabilities of this approach, leading to a sharp reversal of fortunes for many traders. The situation has raised concerns about the potential impact on global financial markets, as the unwinding of carry trades could lead to further currency fluctuations and market instability. This development serves as a reminder of the inherent risks in speculative trading strategies and the importance of carefully managing financial exposures in an uncertain economic environment.

## Janet Yang Re-Elected as President of the Film Academy

Janet Yang has been re-elected as the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the prestigious organization known for hosting the annual Oscars. This marks her second term in the role, reflecting the strong confidence the Academy's Board of Governors has in her leadership. Yang, a veteran producer known for her work on films like "The Joy Luck Club" and "The People vs. Larry Flynt," has been a prominent figure in Hollywood, advocating for greater diversity and inclusion within the industry.

During her first term, Yang played a pivotal role in addressing critical issues such as representation, ethical standards, and membership inclusivity. Her re-election signals a continued commitment to these initiatives, as the Academy strives to adapt to the evolving dynamics of the film industry. Under her leadership, the Academy is expected to further enhance its efforts in promoting global cinema, supporting emerging filmmakers, and ensuring the Oscars remain relevant in today's entertainment landscape.

## President Murmu Embarks on Six-Day Visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste

President Droupadi Murmu has embarked on a significant six-day visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste, marking her first official trip to these countries. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in areas such as trade, education, and cultural exchange. In Fiji, President Murmu is expected to discuss initiatives to boost economic ties and explore opportunities for collaboration in the fields of education and tourism. The visit to New Zealand will focus on deepening strategic partnerships and fostering people-to-people connections, with an emphasis on the Indian diaspora's contributions. In Timor-Leste, the discussions will center around enhancing developmental cooperation and exploring new avenues for partnership. President Murmu's visit is a testament to India's commitment to strengthening its diplomatic ties with these nations and underscores the importance of the Indo-Pacific region in India's foreign policy strategy. The trip is expected to yield significant outcomes in terms of bilateral agreements and cooperation.

## Turkey Blocks Instagram Amid Censorship Row

✦ In a move that has sparked international concern, Turkey has blocked access to Instagram amid an escalating censorship dispute. The ban comes in response to increasing government control over social media platforms, which the Turkish authorities argue is necessary to maintain national security and public order. However, critics view this as a severe infringement on freedom of expression and access to information. Instagram, a widely used platform in Turkey, is among several social media sites targeted by the government's censorship measures. The block on Instagram has led to widespread public outcry and further strained relations between Turkey and international tech companies. The situation has also drawn attention from global human rights organizations, which have condemned the Turkish government's actions as part of a broader trend of suppressing dissent and controlling the flow of information. The ongoing censorship row highlights the growing tension between government regulations and the rights of individuals in the digital age.

## India Elected as Vice-Chair of IPEF Supply Chain Council: A Strategic Win

✦ India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), marking a significant milestone in its efforts to enhance its role in global supply chains. The IPEF was launched in May 2022 by the United States, along with 13 other nations, including India, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and several Southeast Asian countries. The framework aims to bolster economic cooperation across the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on critical areas such as supply chain resilience, digital trade, clean energy, and fair economic practices.

✦ India's election to the Vice-Chair position is a testament to its growing influence in the global economic arena and its pivotal role in regional supply chains. With its strategic geographic location and a robust manufacturing base, India is uniquely positioned to contribute to the stability and resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific.

✦ As Vice-Chair, India will play a key role in shaping the council's policies, particularly in developing strategies to mitigate supply chain disruptions, fostering innovation, and promoting fair trade practices. This position also allows India to

advocate for the interests of developing economies, ensuring that the benefits of global trade are equitably distributed across the region.

✦ The leadership role within the IPEF Supply Chain Council aligns with India's broader economic goals, such as the Make in India initiative and the push for self-reliance in key sectors. It is expected to strengthen India's efforts to attract foreign investment, enhance technological capabilities, and deepen its integration into global supply chains.

✦ This strategic achievement not only enhances India's standing in the Indo-Pacific but also solidifies its partnerships with key global economies, positioning the country as a central player in shaping the future of global trade and economic collaboration.

## 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024: Amplifying the Voices of Developing Nations

✦ The 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) 2024 has emerged as a pivotal platform for amplifying the voices of developing nations, fostering greater cooperation and dialogue among countries in the Global South. The term "Global South," coined by American political activist and academic Carl Oglesby, refers to the countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania that are often marginalized in global political and economic discourse. This summit, initiated by India, aims to bridge that gap by providing a forum for these nations to discuss shared challenges, opportunities, and aspirations.

✦ The 2024 edition of the summit focuses on critical issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and equitable growth. By bringing together leaders, policymakers, and experts from across the Global South, VOGSS facilitates collaboration on strategies that address the unique needs of these countries. The summit also serves as a platform for advocating for more inclusive global governance structures, where the concerns of developing nations are more prominently represented.

✦ India's leadership in organizing the Voice of Global South Summit underscores its commitment to fostering solidarity among developing nations and ensuring that their perspectives are heard on the global stage. The outcomes of the summit are expected to contribute significantly to shaping international policies that promote justice, equity, and sustainable development for all.

## India Selects Crew Members for Axiom-4 Mission: A Giant Leap in Space Exploration

- India has made a significant stride in its space exploration efforts by selecting crew members for the Axiom-4 mission, marking the country's growing involvement in international space missions. The Axiom-4 mission, which is part of a series of privately funded missions organized by Axiom Space, aims to advance human spaceflight and research capabilities. This mission will see Indian astronauts participate alongside international counterparts, highlighting India's increasing prominence in global space exploration. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been selected for an upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced.
- The selected crew members have undergone rigorous training and evaluation, reflecting India's commitment to ensuring that its astronauts are well-prepared for the challenges of space travel. This mission is particularly noteworthy as it represents India's expanding collaboration with global space agencies and private space enterprises. The involvement in Axiom-4 not only showcases India's technical expertise but also its readiness to contribute to cutting-edge space research and exploration.
- The Axiom-4 mission will provide valuable opportunities for Indian astronauts to engage in scientific experiments, technology demonstrations, and international cooperation in space. This participation is expected to bolster India's ambitions in human spaceflight, aligning with the country's broader goals of enhancing its space capabilities and establishing a stronger presence in the global space community. The mission represents a significant milestone in India's journey towards becoming a major player in the next frontier of space exploration.

## World Bank's New B-READY Index: A Benchmark for Business Resilience

- The World Bank has recently introduced the B-READY Index, a groundbreaking tool designed to assess the resilience of businesses worldwide. This index aims to provide a comprehensive measure of how well businesses are prepared to withstand and

recover from various disruptions, including economic shocks, natural disasters, and global pandemics. The B-READY Index evaluates key factors such as business continuity planning, access to finance, supply chain robustness, and the regulatory environment, offering a holistic view of business resilience.

- The introduction of the B-READY Index comes at a time when global businesses face unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical tensions. By offering a standardized assessment, the index enables businesses, policymakers, and investors to identify vulnerabilities and strengths within different sectors and regions. It also serves as a valuable tool for governments to craft policies that enhance the resilience of their economies, thereby promoting sustainable growth and stability.
- For developing countries, the B-READY Index could be particularly beneficial, helping them to attract investment by showcasing their commitment to building resilient business environments. As the global economy becomes increasingly interconnected, the B-READY Index will play a crucial role in guiding businesses and governments towards strategies that ensure long-term resilience and success in the face of adversity.

## New Delhi Hosts First BIMSTEC Business Summit: Strengthening Regional Economic Ties

- New Delhi recently hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit, a landmark event aimed at enhancing economic cooperation among member states of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The summit brought together business leaders, policymakers, and industry experts from the seven BIMSTEC countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand—to discuss opportunities for collaboration and investment.
- The summit focused on key areas such as trade, investment, technology, and innovation, with the goal of fostering deeper economic integration within the region. Participants explored ways to leverage the region's collective strengths, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, digital economy, and infrastructure development. The event also provided a platform for businesses to network, form strategic partnerships, and engage in dialogue with government representatives.

India, as the host nation, emphasized its commitment to strengthening regional ties and playing a pivotal role in driving economic growth within BIMSTEC. The success of the first BIMSTEC Business Summit underscores the importance of regional cooperation in achieving sustainable development and prosperity. The summit is expected to pave the way for future collaborations that will enhance the economic resilience and competitiveness of BIMSTEC countries in the global market.

## Parvathaneni Harish Appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the UN

Parvathaneni Harish has been appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. A seasoned diplomat with extensive experience, Harish's appointment underscores India's commitment to active engagement in global diplomacy. His leadership at the UN is expected to strengthen India's role in international discussions and decision-making processes.

## Underwater Structures in the Indian Ocean: Unveiling the Mysteries of the Deep

Recent discoveries of underwater structures in the Indian Ocean have generated significant excitement in the scientific community, offering valuable insights into the geological and environmental history of the region. These newly identified structures include ancient submerged landmasses, underwater mountains, and deep-sea ecosystems that are critical to understanding the dynamics of the Indian Ocean. In a unique nod to India's rich historical and cultural heritage, these underwater features have been named after significant figures and symbols from Indian history, including Ashoka, Chandragupta, and Kalpataru.

The structure named "Ashoka" pays homage to the ancient Indian emperor known for his efforts to promote peace and Buddhism. "Chandragupta," another structure, is named after the founder of the Maurya Empire, symbolizing strength and leadership. "Kalpataru," named after the mythical wish-fulfilling tree, represents the abundant and diverse life forms found in these underwater ecosystems.

One of the most intriguing aspects of these discoveries is the evidence of submerged landmasses, which suggest the existence of ancient land bridges that may have connected present-day continents. These findings could provide crucial information about the historical migration of species and human populations across the Indian Ocean region. Additionally, the discovery of underwater mountains, known as seamounts, has revealed biodiversity hotspots that support a wide range of marine life, including species that have yet to be fully studied.

The exploration of these underwater structures also holds significant implications for environmental conservation and resource management. The unique ecosystems found around these structures are vulnerable to human activities such as deep-sea mining and commercial fishing. Understanding these ecosystems is essential for developing strategies to protect them and ensure the sustainability of the Indian Ocean's marine resources.

Moreover, these discoveries could enhance our understanding of seismic activity in the region, particularly in relation to the tectonic movements that shape the ocean floor. This knowledge is vital for assessing the risk of natural disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes, which have historically impacted countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

As research continues, the study of these underwater structures—now named Ashoka, Chandragupta, and Kalpataru—will not only deepen our understanding of the Indian Ocean's past but also guide future efforts to protect its unique and valuable ecosystems.

## IAF Concludes Successful Participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully concluded its participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024, a significant military exercise aimed at enhancing operational capabilities and strengthening international defense cooperation. The exercise, which involved advanced aerial maneuvers and joint operations with other participating nations, provided the IAF with valuable experience in multi-domain warfare scenarios. The IAF's participation underscored its commitment to maintaining high readiness levels and fostering strategic partnerships with allied forces. Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 has bolstered the IAF's operational proficiency, contributing to regional security and stability.

## SpaceX Issues Cease-and-Desist Letter to IndiaMART Over Unauthorized Starlink Listings

SpaceX, the aerospace company founded by Elon Musk, has issued a cease-and-desist letter to IndiaMART, an Indian e-commerce platform, over unauthorized listings of its Starlink satellite internet services. SpaceX's legal team acted swiftly after discovering that several vendors were offering Starlink kits on IndiaMART without the company's authorization. These listings, which were not only unauthorized but also overpriced, misled consumers into purchasing from unverified sources. SpaceX emphasized that Starlink services and products should only be obtained directly through official channels to ensure customer safety and product authenticity. The company has taken a firm stance to protect its intellectual property and brand integrity, warning that legal action will be pursued against any entity engaging in unauthorized sales of Starlink products. This incident highlights the challenges that tech companies face in safeguarding their products from unauthorized distribution and the importance of consumer awareness in avoiding fraudulent purchases.

## Croatia to Reintroduce Compulsory Military Draft Amid Rising Regional Tensions

Amid rising regional tensions, Croatia has announced plans to reintroduce compulsory military draft, a policy that had been suspended since 2008. The decision reflects growing concerns over security in the Balkan region, where historical rivalries and recent geopolitical developments have heightened the sense of vulnerability. The draft is expected to be reinstated in the coming months, aiming to bolster national defense capabilities and ensure readiness in the face of potential threats. Croatia's move underscores the shifting security dynamics in Europe and the renewed emphasis on military preparedness.

## Mitra Shakti 2024: Indian and Sri Lankan Armies Commence Joint Exercise

The Indian and Sri Lankan armies have begun the Mitra Shakti 2024 joint exercise, a key military collaboration aimed at enhancing interoperability

and cooperation between the two forces. The exercise, held annually, focuses on counter-terrorism operations and disaster response strategies. Mitra Shakti 2024 underscores the strong defense ties between India and Sri Lanka, fostering greater understanding and coordination in addressing common security challenges. The joint exercise is a testament to the commitment of both nations to maintaining regional stability and peace through continued military cooperation and shared strategic objectives. It includes the K9 dogs as well.

## Paetongtarn Shinawatra: A Rising Force in Thailand's Political Landscape

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has emerged as a significant figure in Thailand's political arena. Representing the Pheu Thai Party, Paetongtarn has quickly gained prominence due to her strong political lineage and her ability to connect with the younger electorate. Her rise comes at a time when Thailand is experiencing political shifts, with public sentiment increasingly favoring change. Paetongtarn's leadership is seen as a continuation of her family's political legacy, but with a modern twist that resonates with Thailand's evolving political dynamics. Her influence is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the country's future. She is the youngest PM of Thailand.

## 51st Fighter Wing Integrates with Ulchi Freedom Shield 24 for Joint Training

The 51st Fighter Wing recently integrated with the Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) 24 exercise, a major annual military drill that strengthens the defense posture of the United States and South Korea. UFS 24 focuses on enhancing the operational capabilities and coordination between allied forces through a series of live, virtual, and constructive training scenarios. The 51st Fighter Wing's participation in this exercise underscores the commitment of both nations to maintaining stability and security in the region, particularly amid increasing geopolitical tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The joint training involves a range of military operations, including air combat, reconnaissance, and rapid deployment, aimed at ensuring readiness and preparedness for any potential conflict. UFS 24 is a critical component of the ongoing efforts to bolster defense cooperation and deter aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, reinforcing the strategic alliance between the U.S. and South Korea.

## Bill Gates Hosts First-Ever India Day Celebrations in Seattle, Highlights India's Leadership in Innovation

- Bill Gates recently hosted the first-ever India Day celebrations in Seattle, marking India's Independence Day with a focus on the country's significant contributions to global innovation. During the event, Gates lauded India as a global leader in breakthrough innovations across various sectors, including health, agriculture, and digital technology. He highlighted India's advancements in vaccine development, digital payment systems, and sustainable agricultural practices as prime examples of the country's innovative prowess.
- The India Day celebrations underscored the deepening ties between India and the global tech community, with Gates emphasizing the importance of India's role in addressing critical global challenges. He noted that India's ability to develop scalable solutions has had a profound impact on improving health outcomes, enhancing food security, and advancing digital inclusion worldwide.
- Gates also stressed the need for continued investment in research and development to sustain this momentum, praising India's vibrant startup ecosystem and strong government support for innovation. The event not only celebrated India's independence but also recognized its growing influence on the global stage as a hub for cutting-edge solutions and transformative technologies. Gates' recognition of India's achievements further solidifies the country's reputation as a key player in driving global progress and innovation.

## UN Human Rights Team to Probe Violations During Mass Uprising

- The United Nations has deployed a human rights team to investigate allegations of abuses and violations during a recent mass uprising. The move follows reports of widespread human rights violations, including unlawful killings, torture, and arbitrary detentions, during the unrest. The UN's involvement aims to ensure accountability and justice for victims, as well as to provide an impartial assessment of the situation. The investigation will focus on gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and documenting the extent of the violations. This probe is part of the UN's broader mandate to promote and protect human rights globally. The findings of the investigation are

expected to be crucial in shaping international responses and potentially influencing the actions of national governments and international bodies. The deployment of the UN team highlights the organization's commitment to addressing human rights violations and ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.

## 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE-2024)

- India will host the **32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)** in New Delhi from **August 2-7, 2024**, marking a 66-year hiatus since its last hosting in 1958. The conference, held every three years, will take place at the Pusa Institute and focus on **"Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."**

## Iran-Israel Proxy Conflict

- The **Iran-Israel proxy conflict, also known as the Iran-Israel Cold War**, is an ongoing conflict involving indirect confrontations between Iran and Israel. Iran supports groups such as **Hezbollah and Hamas**, while Israel has engaged in various actions against Iranian interests and allies.

### Historical Context

- Pre-Modern Relations:** Jewish history in Iran dates back to the time of Cyrus the Great, who permitted Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple.
- Israeli Independence to Iranian Revolution (1947-1979):** Iran initially recognized Israel and maintained close relations during the Shah's regime. However, relations deteriorated following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

↪ Why is Israel and Iran fighting?

### Historical Context

↪ **Revolution and Ideological Differences:** The 1979 Iranian Revolution transformed Iran from a pro-Western monarchy under the Shah into an Islamic Republic led by Ayatollah Khomeini, who was staunchly anti-Western and anti-Israel. This ideological shift laid the groundwork for future enmity.

### Geopolitical Rivalry

↪ **Regional Influence:** Both Israel and Iran aspire to be dominant powers in the Middle East. Iran seeks to expand its influence through proxy groups and alliances, while Israel aims to counter these efforts to ensure its own security and maintain its regional status.

### Security Concerns

↪ **Nuclear Program:** Iran's nuclear ambitions are a significant point of contention. Israel perceives a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential threat. Despite Iran's claims that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, Israel fears the potential for nuclear weapons development and has taken both diplomatic and military actions to curb Iran's progress.

### What Is Hezbollah?

↪ Hezbollah is a **Shiite Muslim political party and militant group based in Lebanon**, where its extensive security apparatus, political organization, and social services network have fostered its reputation as **"a state within a state."** Founded in the chaos of the fifteen-year Lebanese Civil War, the Iran-backed group is driven by its opposition to Israel and its resistance to Western influence in the Middle East.

## The Bangladesh Crisis

↪ The Hasina Era: Strengthening Bilateral Relations

### Key Achievements

1. **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA):** One of the landmark agreements during Hasina's tenure was the finalization of the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015, which resolved long-standing border disputes and improved bilateral relations.
2. **Transit and Trade Agreements:** The signing of the transit accord facilitated the movement of goods through Bangladesh, enhancing connectivity between India's northeastern states and the rest of the country. India also became Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia, with significant trade volumes.

3. **Diplomatic and Economic Cooperation:** The G-20 summit invitation extended to Bangladesh in September of the previous year and Hasina's visit to Delhi as the first foreign dignitary of Modi's third term highlight the close diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations.

↪ The Current Crisis: Impact and Implications

### Sudden Fall of Sheikh Hasina

↪ The abrupt removal of Sheikh Hasina has shocked both Bangladesh and India. The circumstances surrounding her departure—marked by violence and unrest—have raised concerns about the stability of the new political order in Dhaka. Reports indicate that Hasina's removal was sudden and involved the military's orchestration, following a deadly crackdown on protesters that led to over 100 deaths.

### India's Silent Response

↪ India's reaction to the crisis has been notably subdued. The Indian government's silence can be attributed to several factors:

1. **Assessment of the Situation:** India is carefully assessing the rapidly changing dynamics in Bangladesh. The primary concern is understanding the new political leadership's stance towards India and ensuring that bilateral relations are not adversely affected.
2. **Parliamentary Procedures:** The ongoing parliament session in India has also played a role in the delayed response. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to brief opposition parties and make a statement in the Lok Sabha before issuing a formal response.
3. **Strategic Interests:** India's reticence reflects its broader strategic interests in maintaining stability in Bangladesh. The country's concerns include the impact of the crisis on regional security, especially given the insurgency issues in its northeastern states.

### Interim government in Bangladesh

↪ The decision to name **Prof Yunus** as chief adviser of the interim government followed **a meeting between President Mohammed Shahabuddin, military leaders and student leaders.** "When the students who sacrificed so much are requesting me to step in at this difficult juncture, how can I refuse?" Prof Yunus had said. He is now the Interim PM of Bangladesh and had received the Nobel Peace prize in 2006 for introducing the concept of micro lending without a collateral.

## INS Tabar Completes MPX with Russian Ship Soobrazitelny

- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar**, arrived in **St. Petersburg**, Russia, on July 25, 2024, to participate in the **328th Russian Navy Day Parade** celebrations. This visit aimed to strengthen the longstanding maritime cooperation and friendship between **India and Russia**.

## Former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss Dies at 94

- Former **Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss**, a key figure during Lebanon's turbulent years, has passed away at the **age of 94**. His death comes at a critical moment for Lebanon, facing fears of escalating conflict with Israel.

### Lebanese: Key points

- Capital:** Beirut
- Official Language:** Arabic
- Government:** Republic with a political system based on sectarian power-sharing
- Current Prime Minister:** Najib Mikati (as of 2024)
- President:** Michel Aoun
- Speaker of Parliament:** Shiite Muslim
- Major Religions:** Islam and Christianity, with a diverse sectarian composition
- Economy:** Known for banking and tourism, though facing economic challenges and political instability
- Recent Conflict:** Tensions with Israel, especially involving Hezbollah and ongoing regional disputes.

## 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Celebrated in Dubai

- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at **Millennium Plaza Dubai**, marking the **114th birth anniversary** of the esteemed humanitarian. Organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, this event was held outside
- India for only the second time, with both international ceremonies occurring in Dubai. Established posthumously after **Mother Teresa's death in 1997**, the awards honor exceptional individuals across various sectors including education, science, culture, sports, social work, medicine, industry, and politics.

## Notable Award Recipients

- João Bernardo Vieira II** (Posthumously, Guinea-Bissau)
- Sidharth Srivastava and Namit Bajoria** (Industry)
- Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman** (Chairman, NRB Bank Limited)
- Irka Bochenko** (Arts)
- MP Rozario** (Education)
- Murli Panjabi and Sureendar Singh Khandari** (Social Work, UAE)
- Ahmed al Hashemi** (Young Musician and Child Prodigy)

## Key Points About Mother Teresa

- Full Name:** Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu
- Birth:** August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia (then part of the Ottoman Empire)
- Death:** September 5, 1997, in Kolkata, India
- Missionaries of Charity:** Founded in 1950, dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor
- Nobel Peace Prize:** Awarded in 1979 for her humanitarian work
- Beatification:** Declared "Blessed Teresa of Kolkata" by Pope John Paul II in 2003
- Canonization:** Declared a saint by Pope Francis in 2016
- Key Awards:** Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize, Padma Shri
- Legacy:** Known for her work with the destitute and dying in Kolkata, India, her legacy continues through numerous charitable activities and institutions worldwide.

## Arun Agarwal Named Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott** has appointed **Arun Agarwal**, a **Dallas-based Indian-American** entrepreneur, as the Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) Board of Directors. This role involves marketing Texas as a premier business destination both domestically and globally. Agarwal's appointment highlights Texas's commitment to diversity and the increasing influence of Indian-American leaders in significant economic positions.

## India and Denmark Collaborate on Clean River Initiative

↪ The Environmental Strategic Partnership between **India and Denmark** has **launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)** with initial funding of **Rs 16.8 crore from the Jal Shakti Ministry** and an additional **Rs 5 crore from Denmark**. This collaboration aims to revitalize the Varuna River using advanced technologies and a comprehensive river management plan over a 2-3-year period.

## Germany Joins United Nations Command in South Korea as 18th Member State

↪ Germany's recent inclusion in the **U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC)** in South Korea marks a significant expansion of the command's member states, now totaling **18 nations**. This move underscores Berlin's commitment to global security, linking European stability to the broader Indo-Pacific region.

### Background of the UNC

↪ Established in 1950, the UNC was created to restore peace and enforce the Korean War armistice, serving as a communication channel with North Korea. The command, led by the U.S. military commander in South Korea, operates independently of the United Nations. The addition of Germany introduces new perspectives and resources, enhancing the command's expertise and capabilities.

## Bill Gates Foundation to set up FSTP at Sarovaram

↪ The city of Kozhikode in Kerala, India, is set to receive a significant upgrade to its waste management infrastructure. **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, in collaboration with the **Habitat Charitable Trust**, has proposed the construction of a state-of-the-art **faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP)** at Sarovaram. This development marks a crucial step towards improving sanitation and water hygiene in the region.

## India-New Zealand Sign Bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement

↪ **India and New Zealand** have signed a **Bilateral Customs Cooperation Arrangement** to facilitate

easier trade between the two nations. The agreement was formalized in Wellington on 8 August 2024 during **President Droupadi Murmu's official visit to New Zealand**.

↪ **Trade Statistics:** India is New Zealand's 15th largest trading partner with a trade value of US\$1.56 billion as of June 2023.

### About New Zealand

↪ **Location:** An archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean, one of the most remote inhabited areas on Earth.

↪ **Unique Species:** Home to the flightless bird Kiwi.

↪ **Historical Milestone:** Edmund Hillary, from New Zealand, was the first person to climb Mount Everest in 1953.

↪ **Indigenous Population:** Maoris.

↪ **Independence:** Gained from the United Kingdom in 1947, part of the Commonwealth.

↪ **Head of State:** Represented by the UK Monarch, King Charles III.

↪ **Capital:** Wellington

↪ **Currency:** New Zealand Dollar

↪ **Prime Minister:** Christopher Luxon

## Australia Announces Maitri Grants For Research And Cultural Collaboration With India

↪ The **Australian government** has unveiled the **Maitri Research and Cultural Partnerships Grants**. These grants, **aimed at fostering Australia-India collaboration**, encompass sustainable manufacturing, energy transition research, and artistic projects. Minister Penny Wong praised the initiatives for strengthening bilateral ties, emphasizing the importance of human connections in the relationship.

## India's First GI-Tagged Fig Juice Exported to Poland

↪ Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting **India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland**. This follows the successful export of India's first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong in February 2023.

## Jakarta Hosts 5th AITIGA Joint Committee Meeting

↳ The **5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting**, marking a significant milestone in ASEAN-India economic cooperation, took place in **Jakarta from July 29 to August 1, 2024**. The discussions aimed at reviewing and enhancing the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** were co-chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India, and Ms. Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia. Delegates from all 10 ASEAN countries and India participated in the meeting.

# Awards and Honors

## 11th Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards

↪ The 11th edition of the **Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards** recently honored outstanding individuals across various fields, recognizing both seasoned professionals and emerging talents. This prestigious event showcased the rich diversity of accomplishments in Tamil Nadu and beyond.

### Award Categories and Structure

↪ The awards spanned six key areas:

1. Tamil Literature
2. Arts
3. Sports
4. Business
5. Science and Technology
6. Social Work

↪ Each category presented two distinct honors:

1. **Achiever Award:** Recognizing established figures with significant contributions
2. **Promising Talent Award:** Celebrating rising stars with exceptional potential

### Honouring Excellence Across Fields

#### Tamil Literature: Words that Inspire

↪ **Achiever Award: Perumal Murugan** Perumal Murugan, a prolific and sometimes controversial author, received the top honor in Tamil literature. Known for novels that challenge societal norms, Murugan's works like "Poonachi" and "One Part Woman" have left an indelible mark on contemporary Tamil writing.

↪ **Promising Talent Award: Karan Karki** Emerging writer Karan Karki was recognized as a voice to watch in Tamil literature. While details of his work weren't provided, this accolade suggests he's making waves with fresh perspectives or innovative storytelling techniques.

#### Arts: Celebrating Cinematic Brilliance

↪ **Achiever Award: K.S. Ravikumar** (Film Director) Veteran filmmaker K.S. Ravikumar received the Achiever Award, honoring his extensive contributions to Tamil cinema. With a career spanning decades, Ravikumar has directed numerous blockbusters and worked with the industry's biggest stars across generations.

↪ **Promising Talent Award: Ashok Selvan** (Actor) Actor Ashok Selvan was acknowledged as a rising star in Tamil cinema. This recognition highlights his versatility and suggests he's being viewed as a future leading figure in the industry.

#### Sports: Honoring Athletic Excellence

↪ **Achiever Award: W.V. Raman** (Former Cricketer) W.V. Raman, former Indian cricketer turned coach, was honored for his lasting impact on the sport. His contributions both on the field and as a mentor to new generations of players have significantly shaped Indian cricket.

↪ **Promising Talent Award: Indumathi Kathiresan** (Football Player) Indumathi Kathiresan's recognition in women's football underscores the growing prominence of the sport. Her award suggests she's viewed as a key player for the future of Indian football, likely due to standout performances in recent tournaments.

#### Business: Innovators and Entrepreneurs

↪ **Achiever Award: Arogyaswamy Velumani** (Founder of Thyrocare) Dr. Arogyaswamy Velumani, founder of Thyrocare, was celebrated for his entrepreneurial success. His work in making quality diagnostics more accessible and affordable has revolutionized healthcare in India.

↪ **Promising Talent Award: Dinesh Arun** (CEO of Raptee) Dinesh Arun's recognition as CEO of Raptee, likely an electric vehicle company, highlights the growing importance of sustainable transportation in India's business landscape.

## Science and Technology: Pushing Boundaries

- ✦ **Achiever Award: P. Veeramuthuvel** (ISRO Scientist) P. Veeramuthuvel of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received top honors, highlighting India's advancements in space technology. His work likely contributes significantly to India's ambitious space program.
- ✦ **Promising Talent Award: Vinisha Umashankar** (Environmentalist) Young innovator Vinisha Umashankar was recognized for her contributions to environmental technology. Known for developing a solar-powered ironing cart, her work exemplifies the intersection of innovation and sustainability.

## Social Work: Changing Lives, Inspiring Communities

- ✦ **Achiever Award: Palam Kalyanasundaram** (Retired Librarian) Retired librarian Palam Kalyanasundaram was honored for his lifelong dedication to philanthropy.
- ✦ **Promising Talent Award: Kowser Baig** (Activist) Emerging activist Kowser Baig received recognition for their work in social justice or community development.

## RGIA Clinches Best Airport Award for Third Consecutive Year

- ✦ Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has won the Best Airport Award for the third consecutive year, reinforcing its reputation as a top-tier facility in global aviation. The award, presented by the Airports Council International (ACI), recognizes RGIA's excellence in service quality, operational efficiency, and passenger experience. The airport's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customer satisfaction has set new benchmarks in the industry. RGIA's consistent recognition highlights its leadership in adopting best practices and its dedication to providing world-class services. This achievement solidifies Hyderabad's position as a critical hub in international and domestic air travel.

## Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage

- ✦ UNESCO has inscribed several Nelson Mandela legacy sites in South Africa as World Heritage Sites, recognizing their profound historical and cultural significance. These sites, including Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned, and his home in

Soweto, Johannesburg, are emblematic of the global struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. The UNESCO designation honors Mandela's enduring legacy as a symbol of resistance against apartheid and his contributions to human rights and democracy. The recognition of these sites as World Heritage underscores their importance in educating future generations about the history of apartheid, the resilience of the human spirit, and the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. By preserving these sites, UNESCO ensures that Mandela's legacy continues to inspire people worldwide to strive for a more just and equitable world.

## Google CEO Sundar Pichai Honored with Honorary Doctorate from IIT Kharagpur

- ✦ Google CEO Sundar Pichai has been awarded an honorary doctorate by his alma mater, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. This prestigious recognition celebrates Pichai's remarkable contributions to the technology industry and his leadership at the helm of one of the world's most influential companies. Pichai, who graduated from IIT Kharagpur with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering, has consistently credited the institution for shaping his career. The honorary doctorate not only acknowledges Pichai's professional achievements but also serves as an inspiration for future generations of IITians to pursue excellence and innovation in their respective fields.

## 26th CEAT Cricket Awards 2024

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

## Major Awards and Recipients

### International Cricketer of the Year

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

## ODI Batter of the Year

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

## Lifetime Achievement Award

✚ The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricket captain and current coach of the Indian men's cricket team. Known as "The Wall" for his impeccable defensive technique, Dravid's recent coaching success includes

## Women's Cricket

✚ **Women's Batter of the Year:** Smriti Mandhana

✚ **Women's Bowler of the Year:** Deepti Sharma

## Special Recognitions

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

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

## Handicrafts Exports Awards

✚ The **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)** organised its **24th Handicrafts Export Awards Function** on August 21, at the Convention Hall, The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. **Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh** has highlighted the handicrafts sector's pivotal role in the growth of Indian economy.

## What is EPCH?

✚ **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)** is a **nodal agency** for promoting exports of handicrafts from the Country to various destinations of the world and projecting India's image abroad as reliable supplier of high quality of handicrafts goods & services. The Handicrafts exports during the year 2023-24 was **Rs. 32,759 Crores** (US \$ 3,956 Million) registering a growth of **9.13%** in rupee term & **6.11%** in dollar terms over the previous year, further informed by **Mr. R.K. Verma**, Executive Director-EPCH.

## First-Ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

✚ President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** (National Science Awards). These awards, instituted last year to replace all existing science accolades, mark a new chapter in recognizing scientific excellence in the country.

## The Prestigious Vigyan Ratna Puraskar

### Honoring a Lifetime of Scientific Achievement

✚ The ceremony's highlight was the conferral of the inaugural **Vigyan Ratna Puraskar**, India's highest science award, to **Govindrajan Padmanabhan**, a renowned biochemist and former director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. This award acknowledges Dr. Padmanabhan's significant contributions to biochemistry and his leadership in Indian scientific research.

## Vigyan Shri Puraskar: Recognizing Scientific Eminence

✚ The President awarded 13 **Vigyan Shri Puraskars** to distinguished scientists across various fields. Notable recipients included:

- **Annapurni Subramaniam:** Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru
- **Anandharamakrishnan C:** Director, National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram
- **Avesh Kumar Tyagi:** Director, Chemistry Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Institute
- **Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi:** CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow

✚ Other esteemed awardees came from prestigious institutions such as IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur, IIM-Kolkata, and the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology.

✚ **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes: Nurturing Young Talent**

✚ The ceremony saw the presentation of 18 **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes**, celebrating young scientists' innovative work. Key recipients included:

- **Roxy Mathew Koll:** Climate scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
- **Pragya Dhruv Yadav:** ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, recognized for her crucial role in COVID-19 vaccine development

- **Urbasi Sinha:** Raman Research Institute, Bangalore
- **Digendranath Swain:** Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
- **Vigyan Team Award:** Celebrating Collective Scientific Achievement

### Honouring the Chandrayaan-3 Mission

↪ The **Vigyan Team Award** was bestowed upon the scientists and engineers behind the successful **Chandrayaan-3 mission**. **P Veeramuthuvel**, the project director, accepted the award on behalf of the team, highlighting India's growing prowess in space exploration.

## National Geoscience Awards 2023

↪ President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over a distinguished ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi to confer the prestigious **2023 National Geoscience Awards** to outstanding individuals and teams in the field of geosciences. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee**, Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

### Origins and Evolution

↪ The National Geoscience Award has a rich history dating back to 1966 when it was initially established as the **National Minerals Award** by the Union Ministry of Mines. In 2009, recognizing the broader scope of earth sciences, the award was renamed the **National Geoscience Award**. This change reflected a more comprehensive approach to honoring contributions across various disciplines within geosciences.

### 2023 National Geoscience Award Winners

#### Lifetime Achievement

↪ The pinnacle of recognition in this field, the **National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement 2023**, was bestowed upon **Professor Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee**, Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). This award celebrates Prof. Banerjee's long-standing contributions and leadership in geosciences.

#### Young Geoscientist Award

↪ **Dr. Ashutosh Pandey**, Assistant Professor at Pondicherry University, was honored with the **National Young Geoscientist Award 2023**, recognizing his exceptional early-career achievements and potential for future contributions to the field.

## Gallantry Awards 2024

### Gallantry Awards for Naval Personnel

- ↪ Several Indian naval personnel were awarded gallantry awards, including **Capt Brijesh Nambiar**, **Capt Rajababu Sharma**, and **Cdr Anoop Kumar**.
- ↪ The gallantry awards recognize the recipients' **exceptional courage, dedication, and sacrifice** in the line of duty. These honors serve as a testament to the bravery and commitment of India's armed forces, police, and other security personnel in safeguarding the nation and its citizens.

### Recipients of the Kirti Chakra

↪ On Independence Day 2024, the Government of India announced several gallantry awards, including the prestigious Kirti Chakra. The recipients of the Kirti Chakra this year are:

1. **Colonel Manpreet Singh (Posthumous)** – Awarded for leading an anti-terror operation in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, where he lost his life.
2. **Rifleman Ravi Kumar (Posthumous)** – Recognized for his bravery in the same operation as Colonel Singh.
3. **Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu** – Honored for his exceptional courage in military operations.
4. **Deputy Superintendent Himayun Muzzammil Bhat (Posthumous)** was also recognized for his bravery during the counter-terrorism operation in Anantnag, where he was killed.

### Announced on India's 78th Independence Day

↪ The **gallantry awards** announced on India's 78th Independence Day serve as a powerful tribute to the bravery and dedication of the nation's armed forces, police, and naval personnel. These honors not only recognize individual acts of extraordinary courage but also highlight the commitment of these heroes in safeguarding India's security. includes:

#### Awards 2024

- ↪ Four Kirti Chakras (three posthumous)
- ↪ Eighteen Shaurya Chakras (four posthumous)
- ↪ One Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)
- ↪ Sixty-three Sena Medals (Gallantry) (two posthumous)
- ↪ Eleven Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- ↪ Six Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)

## About Gallantry Awards

- ↪ Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of **bravery and sacrifice** of the **officers/personnel of the Armed Forces**, other lawfully constituted **Forces** and **civilians**.

## Top Six Gallantry Awards

- ↪ Param Vir Chakra
- ↪ Ashoka Chakra
- ↪ Mahavir Chakra
- ↪ Kirti Chakra
- ↪ Vir Chakra and
- ↪ Shaurya Chakra

## 70th National Film Awards 2024

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

## 70th National Film Awards 2024 winners

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

## History of this award

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

## Shah Rukh Receives Lifetime Award At Locarno Film Festival

- ↪ Bollywood's charismatic '**King Khan**', graced the **77th Locarno Film Festival** with his presence on August 10, receiving a career achievement award that further gilds his storied career. **Shah Rukh** delivered his acceptance speech to a rapt audience of **8,000 at Locarno's famed Piazza Grande**.

## Indian Prodigy Triumphs at Asian U-15 Junior Badminton Championships 2024

↳ In a remarkable display of skill and determination, **14-year-old Tanvi Patri** from Odisha, India, has etched her name in the annals of badminton history. Patri clinched the **women's singles title** at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in **Chengdu**, People's Republic of China, from August 20-25, 2024.

### Gnana Dattu's Bronze in U-17 Category

↳ Adding to India's medal haul, **Gnana Dattu** claimed the bronze medal in the men's singles event of the Badminton Asia U-17 Championships. Dattu's journey came to an end in the semi-finals, where he faced eventual champion **Indonesia's Radithya Bayu Wardhana**. The hard-fought match ended with a scoreline of 9-21, 21-13, 21-13 in favor of the Indonesian.

### Organizational Overview

↳ Badminton Asia serves as the governing body for badminton in the Asian continent. It operates under the umbrella of the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**, the global authority for the sport.

### Key Details

- ↳ **Membership:** 43 national badminton associations
- ↳ **Headquarters:** Located in **Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia**
- ↳ **Current President:** **Kim Jong Soo**

## India Shines at Asian Surfing Championships 2024

↪ In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a **silver medal** at the prestigious **Maruhaba Cup**, a team event at the **Asian Surfing Championships 2024**. The competition, held in **Thulusdhoo, Maldives**, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India's surfing history.

### Team Composition and Performance

↪ The Indian team, comprising **Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D,** and **Sanjay Selvamani**, demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the event. Their journey to the podium was marked by consistent performances, showcasing the growing prowess of Indian surfers on the international stage.

### Final Standings

↪ The final results of the Maruhaba Cup were as follows:

1. **Japan:** Gold Medal (Score: 58.40)
2. **India:** Silver Medal (Score: 24.13)
3. **Taipei:** Bronze Medal (Score: 23.93)
4. **China:** Fourth Place (Score: 22.10)

## Lando Norris Wins Dutch Grand Prix 2024

↪ The Dutch Grand Prix witnessed a spectacular display of skill and determination as **Lando Norris** secured his **second career win**, outpacing championship leader **Max Verstappen** in a thrilling race. The McLaren driver's performance was nothing short of exceptional, finishing over 20 seconds ahead of his closest competitor.

## Shikhar Dhawan Announces Retirement from International and Domestic Cricket

↪ Shikhar Dhawan, one of India's most prolific opening batsmen, has announced his retirement from international and domestic cricket, marking the end of a remarkable career. Known for his aggressive batting style and consistency at the top of the order, Dhawan has been a mainstay of Indian cricket for over a decade. He made his debut in 2010 and quickly established himself as a key player in all formats of the game. Dhawan's contributions

were pivotal in many of India's successes, including the ICC Champions Trophy 2013, where he was the leading run-scorer. His retirement leaves a significant void in the Indian team, particularly in limited-overs cricket, where he was a reliable performer. Dhawan's legacy will be remembered for his flamboyant strokes, match-winning performances, and the calm demeanor he brought to the crease. His retirement marks the end of an era for Indian cricket.

## Ilkay Gündogan Retires from International Football After Leading Germany to Euro 2024

↪ Ilkay Gündogan, the captain of the German national football team, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of Euro 2024. Gündogan, who has been a pivotal figure for Germany, led the team with distinction, showcasing his leadership skills and footballing prowess. His decision to retire comes after a successful international career spanning over a decade, during which he earned numerous caps and contributed significantly to Germany's campaigns in major tournaments. Gündogan's retirement marks the end of an era for the German national team, as he leaves behind a legacy of resilience, technical brilliance, and professionalism on and off the pitch. As he steps away from international duties, Gündogan will continue to focus on his club career, where he remains a key player. His departure from the international scene is a significant moment for German football, symbolizing a transition period for the national team.

## ICC Moves Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to UAE Amid Bangladesh Unrest

↪ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the relocation of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to ongoing unrest in Bangladesh. The decision was made after careful consideration of the safety and security of players, officials, and fans. The ICC expressed its commitment to ensuring that the tournament proceeds smoothly and safely, which necessitated the change in venue. The UAE, with its proven track record of hosting major international cricket events, has been selected as the new host. This move underscores the ICC's priority on maintaining the integrity of its tournaments while adapting to changing circumstances. The Women's T20 World

Cup is a crucial event in the global cricket calendar, and the ICC remains focused on delivering a successful and competitive tournament. The relocation to the UAE is expected to provide a stable and welcoming environment for all participating teams.

## Para-Shuttler Pramod Bhagat Suspended for Breaching Anti-Doping Regulations

Indian para-badminton star Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for breaching anti-doping regulations, a significant setback for the decorated athlete. Bhagat, a Paralympic gold medalist and one of the most celebrated para-shuttlers in the world, has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance. The suspension was announced by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), which has emphasized its commitment to maintaining the integrity of the sport through stringent anti-doping measures. Bhagat has been a role model for many aspiring athletes, and this development comes as a shock to the para-badminton community. The suspension will remain in effect pending further investigation and a final ruling. Bhagat's situation highlights the importance of adherence to anti-doping regulations and serves as a reminder to all athletes about the consequences of violating these rules. His case will be closely monitored as it progresses through the regulatory process.

## Vinesh Phogat Disqualified from Paris 2024 Olympics: CAS Appeal Dismissed

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat faced a significant setback at the Paris 2024 Olympics when she was disqualified for being overweight in the 50kg category. This disqualification occurred during the weigh-in, where Phogat failed to meet the weight requirements for her event, leading to her disqualification from the competition. Phogat, a prominent figure in Indian wrestling and a strong contender for an Olympic medal, was left devastated by the decision.

In an attempt to overturn her disqualification, Phogat filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). However, CAS dismissed the appeal, upholding the original decision. The dismissal of her appeal marks the end of her campaign at the Paris Olympics and a disappointing moment in her illustrious career.

Phogat's disqualification has sparked discussions within the wrestling community and among sports enthusiasts in India. Many have expressed sympathy for Phogat, acknowledging the intense pressure and challenges faced by athletes competing at the highest levels. The incident serves as a reminder of the strict regulations governing weight categories in wrestling and the importance of adherence to these rules.

As Phogat returns home, her focus will likely shift to recovery and preparation for future competitions. Despite the setback, she remains a respected and admired athlete in India, and her contributions to Indian wrestling continue to inspire young athletes across the country.

## India and Saint Kitts and Nevis Sign MoU on Sports Cooperation

India and Saint Kitts and Nevis have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sports cooperation, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties through sports. The MoU aims to enhance collaboration in various sports disciplines, exchange best practices, and promote mutual understanding between the two nations. This agreement reflects India's commitment to fostering international sports partnerships and contributing to the global sports community. The collaboration is expected to provide opportunities for athletes, coaches, and sports administrators from both countries to learn from each other and enhance their respective sports ecosystems. The MoU is a testament to the growing importance of sports diplomacy in fostering international relations.

## Former England Batter Graham Thorpe Passes Away at 55

Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe has passed away at the age of 55. Thorpe, known for his elegant batting style and resilience, was a key player for England during his career, amassing over 6,700 runs in Test cricket. His contributions to English cricket, both as a player and coach, left a lasting impact on the game. Thorpe's passing is a significant loss to the cricketing community, and he will be remembered as one of England's finest middle-order batsmen. His legacy as a cricketer and mentor will continue to inspire future generations of players.

## Noah Lyles Wins Gold in 100m Final at Paris 2024 Olympics

↳ American sprinter Noah Lyles clinched the gold medal in the 100m final at the Paris 2024 Olympics, solidifying his status as one of the fastest men in the world. Lyles, who is known for his explosive speed and charismatic personality, clocked an impressive time, edging out his competitors in a closely contested race. This victory marks Lyles' first Olympic gold in the 100m, adding to his already illustrious track and field career. Lyles' triumph is particularly significant as it reaffirms his dominance in sprinting and sets the stage for potential success in the upcoming 200m event. His win has captured the attention of athletics fans worldwide and further cements his legacy as a top sprinter.

## Novak Djokovic Wins First Olympic Gold, Completes Career Golden Slam

↳ Serbian tennis legend Novak Djokovic has achieved another historic milestone by winning his first Olympic gold medal in men's singles tennis at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Djokovic defeated Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling final to clinch the gold, adding the only major title that had previously eluded him. This victory also completes Djokovic's career Golden Slam, making him the first male tennis player to win all four Grand Slam titles and an Olympic gold. The match was a showcase of Djokovic's relentless determination, skill, and experience, as he overcame Alcaraz, a rising star in the tennis world. Djokovic's Olympic triumph is a fitting addition to his storied career and solidifies his place as one of the greatest tennis players of all time. His win at Paris 2024 is not only a personal achievement but also an inspiration to athletes worldwide, demonstrating that persistence and dedication can lead to historic success.

## Lt. Col. Kabilan Sai Ashok: India's Youngest Boxing Referee at the Paris Olympics

↳ Lt. Col. Kabilan Sai Ashok has made history by becoming India's youngest boxing referee at the Paris 2024 Olympics. At just 35 years old, Ashok's inclusion in the Olympic officiating team marks a significant achievement in his career and highlights his expertise in the sport. As a

decorated officer in the Indian Army, Ashok's journey to the Olympics is a testament to his dedication and passion for boxing. His role at the Paris Olympics is not just a personal accomplishment but also a source of pride for India, showcasing the country's growing influence in international sports officiating. Beyond his military duties, Ashok has been actively involved in promoting boxing in India, working with young athletes and contributing to the development of the sport. His presence at the Olympics underscores the importance of nurturing talent across all aspects of sports, including officiating, and serves as an inspiration for aspiring referees and judges in India and beyond.

## Neeraj Chopra's 2nd Best Throw Ever at Lausanne Diamond League

↳ Neeraj Chopra delivered an impressive performance at the Lausanne Diamond League, securing his second-best javelin throw ever with a **season-best distance of 89.49 meters** on his final attempt. This result placed him **second behind Grenada's Anderson Peters**, who **threw 90.61 meters**. Germany's Julian Weber completed the podium with a throw of 87.08 meters.

## Diana Pundole: First Indian Woman Racer to Win National Championship

↳ Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune, has made history as the first Indian woman to win the national championship in the saloon category at the **MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai**. Her achievement is especially notable as it comes in a sport traditionally dominated by men, highlighting her determination and skill despite numerous challenges.

## Sinner and Sabalenka Claim Cincinnati Open Titles

↳ Top-ranked Jannik Sinner and women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka each secured their **first Cincinnati Open titles** with straight-set victories. **Sabalenka defeated Jessica Pegula 6-3, 7-5**, while **Sinner overcame Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (4), 6-2**. This marks a significant milestone for both players, with Sinner becoming the **youngest Cincinnati champion** since **Andy Murray in 2008**.

## Historical Context

- ↪ **American Men's Dry Spell:** An American man has not won the Cincinnati title since Andy Roddick in 2006.
- ↪ **Sabalenka's Milestone:** With her Cincinnati victory, Sabalenka joins Iga Swiatek as one of the few players with 10 or more WTA titles since 2020.

## 2024 Paris Paralympics

- ↪ The **Paralympic Committee of India** has made a significant announcement regarding the country's representation at the upcoming **2024 Paris Paralympics**. This article delves into the details of India's participation, the event's background, and the nation's historical performance in the Paralympic Games.

### Flag Bearers for the Opening Ceremony

#### Sumit Antil

- ↪ **Sumit Antil**, a 25-year-old para-athlete, has been chosen as one of India's flag bearers for the opening ceremony. Antil's selection comes on the heels of his outstanding performance at the **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**, where he clinched a **gold medal** in the **javelin throw** in the men's F64 category. His achievement is further amplified by the fact that he currently holds the **world record** in this category.

#### Bhagyashri Jadhav

- ↪ Joining Antil as co-flag bearer is **39-year-old Bhagyashri Jadhav**. Jadhav has made her mark in the para-athletics world with impressive performances in **shot put**. Her accolades include:
  - A **silver medal** in the women's shot put event (F34 category) at the **Asian Para Games**
  - Another **silver medal** in the same category at the **World Para Athletics Championships** in May 2024

### India's Paralympic History

#### First Participation

- ↪ India's involvement in the Paralympics dates back to the inaugural **Summer Paralympic Games** held in **Rome in 1960**. Since then, the country has competed in 11 editions of the Summer Paralympics.

#### Medal Tally

- ↪ Prior to the 2024 Paris Paralympics, India's overall medal count in the Paralympic Games stands at **31 medals**, comprising:

- 9 gold medals
- 12 silver medals
- 10 bronze medals

### Notable Achievements

1. **Most Successful Paralympics:** The 2020 Tokyo Paralympics saw India secure its highest medal tally with **19 medals** (5 gold, 8 silver, 6 bronze).
2. **First Indian Paralympic Medalist: Murlikant Petkar** holds the distinction of being the first Indian to win a Paralympic medal. He clinched a **gold medal** in the men's 50m freestyle 3 event at the **1972 Heidelberg Games**.
3. **First Female Medalist: Deepa Malik** became the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic medal when she secured a **silver** in the Women's shot put (F53 category) at the **2016 Rio Summer Paralympics**.
4. **First Female Gold Medalist: Avani Lekhara** etched her name in history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a **gold medal** at the Paralympics. Her victory came in the women's 10m air rifle shooting (standing SH1 category) at the **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**.

### 2024 Paris Paralympics: Mascot and Motto

#### Mascot

- ↪ The official mascot for the 2024 Paris Paralympics is called the **Paralympic Phryge**. Its design is inspired by the Phrygian cap, a historical symbol representing liberty and freedom. The mascot's colors—blue, white, and red—reflect the colors of the French flag.

#### Motto

- ↪ The chosen motto for the 2024 Paris Paralympics is "**Games Wide Open**". This slogan encapsulates the spirit of inclusivity and accessibility that the Paralympic Games represent.

## PR Sreejesh Appointed as New Head Coach of India's Junior Men's Hockey Team

- ↪ Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring **goalkeeper PR Sreejesh** will be the **new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team**. This decision follows India's recent **bronze medal victory** at the 2024 Olympics.

## Haryana To Commence First-Ever Global Women's Kabaddi League

↳ The first-ever **Global Women's Kabaddi League** will commence next month (September) in **Haryana**. Officially named the **Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPKL)**, this groundbreaking tournament will feature **female athletes from over 15 countries**. The event represents a significant advancement in promoting **Kabaddi internationally**, supporting efforts to include the sport in the Olympic Games, and bolstering India's bid to **host the 2036 Olympics**.

### Organized by HIPSA and World Kabaddi

↳ Organized by the Holistic **International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA)** in partnership with **World Kabaddi**, the League's launch will take place in **Haryana**. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between HIPSA and the Government of Haryana to facilitate this initiative.