

## “Guru Gyan”

Dear Students,

I want to talk to you about two superpowers that can change your life: perseverance and hard work. These aren't just fancy words you hear in speeches; they're the secret to achieving all your dreams.

Perseverance is all about pushing through even when things get tough. It's not giving up when you face obstacles, failures, or disappointments. It's having the courage to keep moving forward, knowing that every setback is an opportunity to learn and grow. As Nelson Mandela once said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

And let's not forget hard work! It's like the fuel that powers your dreams. It's putting in the effort, day in and day out, to make progress towards your goals. As Thomas Edison famously put it, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." So, roll up your sleeves, get ready, and go after what you want with all your heart.

Sure, the road to success might have bumps, potholes, and unexpected challenges, but that's what makes the journey so incredible. Each step you take, each challenge you conquer, makes you stronger and more resilient.

So, my friends, don't be afraid to dream big and work even bigger! Embrace perseverance and hard work as your best buddies on this exciting adventure called life.

Now, go out there and show the world what you're made of! You've got this!

Vishishta Nayak

(Faculty)

Yes Academy for CS | Law (Pune)

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### CIL AND BHEL SIGN A JVA FOR SETTING UP AMMONIUM NITRATE PLANT

State-run Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) for setting up India's first commercial-scale ammonium nitrate plant through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.

The plant will not only be India's first commercial coal gasification project, it will also be the first to deploy an indigenously-developed coal gasification technology devised by BHEL on a commercial scale.

The plant will come up in Lakhanpur area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Odisha. It is planned to produce 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate per day initially.

### RELIANCE PARTNERS WITH SRI LANKA'S ELEPHANT HOUSE TO INTENSIFY FIGHT AGAINST COKE & PEPSI

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, inked the partnership with Sri Lanka-based Elephant House to manufacture, market, distribute, and retail beverages under the Elephant House brand in India.

This association will not only help RCPL bolster its growing beverage portfolio that boasts iconic brands such as Campa, Sosyo and Raskik but will also bring exceptional new products and value propositions to Indian consumers.

Elephant House, owned by Ceylon Cold Stores PLC, is Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate. It is known for its a range of beverages including Necto, Cream Soda, EGB (Ginger Beer), Orange Barley, and Lemonade, among others, all marketed under the Elephant House brand.

### LEOPARD NUMBERS SHOW 8% RISE FROM 2018 TO 2022

India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022, according to a report made public by the Environment Ministry.

While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over 1,000 animals each — Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).

While Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers — reportedly due to poaching and man-animal conflict, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.

#### 4 DAYS LONG 'TAWI FESTIVAL' BEGINS IN JAMMU

The four day long 'Tawi Festival' begins in Jammu region.

This time four-day 'Tawi festival' will strictly remain focussed on the promotion of Jammu's rich, diverse art forms and cultural heritage where the youth will also get a platform to give a vent to their creativities besides sharing thoughts with experts.

#### MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZES 'POSHAN UTSAV'

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has organized the Poshan Utsav at The Oberoi.

The event aimed to promote good nutrition behavior and highlighted India's ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices.

The event was graced by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani and Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

#### CABINET APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28. PM Modi on the occasion of Global Tiger Day 2019 called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to curb poaching in Asia.

While commemorating 50 years of India's Project Tiger on April 9, 2023, he formally announced the launch of International Big Cat Alliance.

International Big Cat Alliance aiming at securing the future of big cats and landscapes they thrive. India is home to five big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Cheetah.

#### AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES NATIONAL URBAN COOPERATIVE FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), the Umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.

NUCFDC has received a Certificate of Registration from the RBI to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company and serve as the umbrella organisation for the urban cooperative banking sector.

The main objective of NUCFDC should be to help urban cooperative banks adhere to the Banking Regulations Act and bring professionalism in their work.

#### SARBANANDA SONOWAL DEDICATES FIRST-EVER MADE-IN-INDIA ASTDS TUG

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU).

The Ocean Grace is the first make in India ASTDS Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs operating at all major ports.

#### CHAPCHAR KUT FESTIVAL CELEBRATED ACROSS MIZORAM

Chapchar Kut – the biggest festival of Mizoram was celebrated across the state with full traditional fervor and festivities.

The festival has attracted thousands of people who thronged the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual in the heart of Aizawl city with full capacity.

Chapchar Kut, the biggest festival of the Mizos, celebrates unity and resilience after the completion of the Jhum operation.

Originating in the 15th to 17th century in Suaipui village, Chapchar Kut embodies the spirit of collective joy and celebration.

#### RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES ADITI SCHEME TO BOOST DEFENCE INNOVATION

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology.

The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology.

### CM YOGI LAUNCHED 'MYUVA SCHEME' FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN UP

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called “Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA).”

The government aims to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs every year through this initiative.

The scheme offers interest-free loans to young entrepreneurs for projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh.

### SWIGGY AND IRCTC JOIN HANDS TO DELIVER FOOD ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

Online food ordering and delivery platform, Swiggy has signed an MoU with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) whereby it will deliver pre-ordered food on trains.

The service will start with four stations – Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada – from March 12 and will be expanded to 59 additional city stations in the coming weeks.

### PM MODI INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER METRO IN KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata.

The metro tunnel has been built under Kolkata's Hooghly River that will connect Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.

The 4.8 km stretch between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade is the second section of the East-West Metro corridor between Howrah Maidan and the IT hub Salt Lake Sector V.

### JHARKHAND GOVT LAUNCHED STATE WIDOW REMARRIAGE PROMOTION SCHEME

The Jharkhand State Government has launched the Jharkhand Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme 2024.

Under the Jharkhand Widow Remarriage Promotion Yojana 2024, the Jharkhand state government will provide INR to all the widowed who will get remarriage.

Rs 2 lakh would be allocated as a promotional amount. This scheme will apply to the social status of all the widowed women in the Jharkhand state.

### [FLY91 GETS DGCA APPROVAL TO START FLIGHTS](#)

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted air operator's certificate to Goa-based Just Udo Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate its airline Fly91. The grant of the air operator certificate marks the completion of all regulatory and compliance requirements for the airline to begin its commercial operations.

The airline has been allocated its first set of routes under the government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.

### [IOC TO MAKE FUEL FOR FORMULA 1 – FIRST BY AN INDIAN FIRM](#)

India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) will start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1, motor racing as it looks to expand its basket of niche fuels.

F1 fuel is essentially high-octane petrol and the standards are heavily regulated by global motor sport governing body Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on various counts, including permissible additives and blending agents.

### [GOVT EXTENDS SUBSIDY FOR UJJWALA BENEFICIARIES BY ANOTHER ONE YEAR](#)

The Union Cabinet has decided to extend the subsidy of ₹300 per LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year (March 2025).

About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will get the benefit of the scheme with its continuation set to incur ₹12,000 crore.

The Centre had started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, the Centre increased the subsidy to ₹300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per year.

### [WORLD'S LARGEST LITERARY FESTIVAL-'SAHITYOTSAV' TO BE HELD FROM MARCH 11-16](#)

World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' by Sahitya Akademi will be held from the 11th to 16th of March.

The festival commemorating 70 years of Sahitya Akademi will witness the participation of more than a hundred renowned writers and scholars. Over 190 sessions and more than 175 languages of the country will also be represented during the festival.

The Chief Guest of the Awards Presentation Ceremony will be Pratibha Rai, the distinguished Odia writer.

### [PM LAUNCHES 52 TOURISM SECTOR PROJECTS WORTH MORE THAN RS 1400 CRORES](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 52 tourism sector projects worth over Rs 1400 crore under the Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes.

Nine tourism infrastructure projects, spread across the country, developed under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes worth Rs 469 crore were launched, besides 43 other projects worth Rs 963 crore were also launched under the two schemes of tourism ministry.

### [CABINET APPROVES MSP FOR RAW JUTE FOR 2024-25 SEASON](#)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2024-25 season by ₹285 to ₹5,335 per quintal.

The decision would ensure a return of 64.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production.

### [PM MODI UNVEILS 125-FEET TALL STATUE OF LACHIT BORPHUKAN](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat.

The 'Statue of Valour' was unveiled by the PM at the Lachit Barphukan Maidam Development Project at Hollongapar near Teok.

### MAJULI MASK MAKING AND MANUSCRIPT PAINTING RECEIVE GI TAGS

Mask making and manuscript painting of Majuli, an island-district of Assam, have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

Majuli's Mukha Shilpa traces its origins to Srimanta Sankardev, who used arts as medium for Bhakti.

### NORTH INDIA'S FIRST GOVERNMENT HOMEOPATHIC COLLEGE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN KATHUA

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of North India's first Government Homeopathic College in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir.

### INDIA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SIGNS PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMITTEE

The protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and the Dominican Republic was signed.

The protocol envisages strengthening and developing cooperation on trade, services, industrial technologies, and various other sectors by means of technical assistance, training programmes, and capacity building.

### ANURAG THAKUR LAUNCHES PB-SHABD TO OFFER NEWS FEED TO MEDIA OUTLETS

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched PB-SHABD, a news-sharing service from Prasar Bharati in New Delhi.

PB-SHABD stands for Prasar Bharati – Shared audio-visuals for Broadcast Dissemination. He also launched revamped websites of Akashvani News and DD News and updated News on the Air mobile app.

### PM LAUNCHED PM-SURAJ PORTAL

The Prime Minister has launched the PM-SURAJ portal 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' national portal and also sanctioned credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs of disadvantaged sections.



### **About PM-SURAJ national portal**

PM-SURAJ is a nationwide initiative aimed at uplifting and empowering the most marginalized or backward segments of society.

Through the PM-SURAJ national portal, credit support will be provided to eligible individuals across the country. This support will be facilitated through banks, NBFC-MFIs and other organizations.

Under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) the Prime Minister also distributed Ayushman health cards and PPE kits to sewer and septic tank workers.

This initiative shows another step towards safeguarding and assuring the health and safety of frontline workers who work in challenging conditions.

### **[SC ORDERED ELECTION COMMISSION TO PUBLISHED DATA ON ELECTORAL BOND](#)**

The Election Commission of India on its official website on March 14 published the electoral bonds data as ordered by the Supreme Court of India (SC).

The publication of the electoral bond data came almost a month after the Supreme Court struck down the 2018 scheme calling it “unconstitutional.” In the data on electoral bonds, the only information available about donors is the name of their company or individual.

The SBI confirmed in an affidavit that 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019, and February 15, 2024.

### **[INDIA RANKED 134 OUT OF 193 COUNTRIES ON UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2022](#)**

India’s ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index improved by one position in 2022 to 134 out of 193 countries ranked compared to 135 out of 192 countries ranked in 2021 on the back of a marginal increase in its HDI value to 0.644 compared to 0.633 in 2021. India, Bhutan and Bangladesh are all in the Medium Human Development category. Switzerland has been ranked number one. Nepal (146) and Pakistan (164) have been ranked lower than India.

The HDI is a composite index computed based on three parameters – life expectancy, mean years of schooling and average incomes – in contrast to gross domestic product (GDP), which is a gauge only of incomes or output in an economy.

#### GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES ALTERNATE AUTO FUEL ETHANOL100

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched Ethanol100, an alternate auto fuel in New Delhi.

Ethanol100, a cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline, is a blend of 92 to 94 percent ethanol, 4 to 5 percent motor spirit to provide colour to flame and 1.5 percent Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.

The fuel produces lower emissions of greenhouse gases, a reduction by around 63% on well to wheel basis.

Ethanol100 will help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve air quality. Prominent two-wheeler manufacturers are already undertaking trials for Ethanol100 compliant vehicles.

#### INDIA & SINGAPORE SIGN MOU ON LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

India and Singapore have signed a MoU on cooperation in the sphere of law and dispute resolution.

This agreement will further enhance the cooperation between the two countries in areas of common interest such as international commercial dispute resolution.

The agreement was signed in a virtual meeting of the Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Singapore Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Mr. Edwin Tong.

#### KASHMIR HOSTS FIRST FORMULA-4 CAR RACING EVENT ALONG DAL LAKE

Srinagar hosted the first-ever Formula 4 car racing demonstration event on the banks of the world-famous Dal Lake. The event enthralled locals and motorsport fans as they witnessed stunts performed by professional Formula 4 drivers.

### ELECTION COMMISSION LAUNCHES 'KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE' APP

The Election Commission of India, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, has launched a new mobile application called Know Your Candidate (KYC). This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record.

### ELECTION COMMISSION LAUNCHES 'MISSION 414' CAMPAIGN IN HIMACHAL

The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls. The main focus of the campaign — “Mission 414” — is increasing the vote percentage in 414 identified polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.

Awareness campaigns and cultural events would be held besides making these 414 stations model polling stations.

### META PARTNERS WITH ECI TO IDENTIFY UNLAWFUL CONTENT FROM ITS PLATFORMS

As the world’s largest democracy prepares for the 18th General Elections, Meta (erstwhile Facebook) will continue efforts to limit misinformation, remove voter interference, and enhance transparency and accountability on its platforms to support free and fair elections.

The company said it is also “closely engaged with the Election Commission of India via the Voluntary Code of Ethics” that it joined in 2019, which gives the Commission a high priority channel to flag unlawful content to Meta. Tech-giant Google had also last week announced that it has partnered with the ECI to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections via Google Search and YouTube videos.

### GRID-INDIA IS NOW A MINIRATNA COMPANY

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

This recognition, bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, underscores GRID-INDIA’s pivotal role in the nation’s power landscape.

### 'OPERATION INDRAVATI' TO EVACUATE STRANDED INDIANS IN HAITI LAUNCHED

India has launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its citizens stranded in war-torn Haiti amid the intense fighting between the armed groups and the government.

12 citizens have been successfully rescued to the Caribbean nation Dominican Republic and further thanked its government for their support.

#### **What's happening in Haiti?**

The Caribbean nation of Haiti has been plagued by widespread gang violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

In the power vacuum that followed the assassination, the country's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry, assumed power, with the support of several nations.

### OTHERS

- FSSAI gives 'Eat Right Station' certificate to 150 Railway Stations.
- Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter of the ongoing financial year accelerated to 8.4 per cent year-on-year, showed data shared by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously-manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.
- Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani has released Haj Guide 2024 and launched Haj Suvidha Mobile Application in New Delhi.
- Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless-Steel Sector at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar.
- The Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- India's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1 per cent in 2023 from 3.6 per cent in the preceding year, reflecting continued improvement in the labour markets, revealed the latest employment-unemployment indicators report released by the National Statistical Office.

- European aerospace firm Airbus has signed a contract with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai to provide aviation education to professionals and empower them with industry-ready skills through Airbus Beyond programmes.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the state's own Over-The-Top (OTT) platform at Kairali Theatre.
- The platform, called CSpace, is India's first government-backed OTT platform.
- The Union Cabinet has approved hike in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners by 4 per cent with effect from January 1.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated the Sela tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh to the country, with the new route allowing faster deployment of weapons, soldiers and equipment to forward areas near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme 2024 (UNNATI 2024).
- The Indian government, led by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a new \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission, a "national-level" plan designed to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch.
- India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four European countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
- India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024. China is the largest producer of mobile phones; Indonesia stands at 3rd.
- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), has completed India's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar after the 18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users.

## बूझो तो जानें

Done with National Affairs? Isn't our own country more interesting than you thought it to be? Here's a little reward for you! Solve this riddle and send us your answers to our Instagram page [yesdaily\\_official](#) and the best answers will be selected for our special prize. (Answer to the previous riddle: Ayodhya)

In the vast expanse where the steppes unfurl wide,  
A land of contrasts, where empires abide.  
From Moscow's grandeur to Siberia's frosty embrace,  
A nation of resilience, a formidable base.  
Where onion domes gleam 'neath northern lights' sway,  
And history's echoes never fade away.  
With Cyrillic whispers and ballet's grace,  
In this enigmatic land, find your place.  
What mighty realm, by history's hand, unfurled?  
In its name, the tales of power are swirled.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### INDIA'S RANK REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 42 IN INTERNATIONAL IP INDEX 2024

India ranks 42nd in the International IP Index for 2024, out of 55 countries evaluated.

India's overall score also remained unchanged at 38.64 percent according to the 12th edition of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center's International IP Index.

The Index evaluates the IP frameworks of the world's top 55 economies, revealing significant improvements in 20 economies.

While the United States is once again the world leader, there were notable advancements led by Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Nigeria.

### FRANCE BECOME FIRST COUNTRY TO ENSHRINE ABORTION RIGHTS IN ITS CONSTITUTION

France has become the first country in the world to enshrine abortion rights in its constitution.

French lawmakers from both houses of the Parliament, in a special session, voted 780 to 72 in favor of the move to amend the Constitution.

The amendment states that there is a guaranteed freedom to abortion in France.

France has a long history of supporting abortion rights. The voluntary ending of pregnancy became legal in France in 1975 with a law named after Simone Veil, the health minister who supported it.

The law allowed abortion up to the tenth week of pregnancy. Later, it was extended to the twelfth week in 2001 and then to the fourteenth week in 2022.

### PANAMA BECOMES 97TH MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

Panama has officially become the 97th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

This milestone was announced by Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Moreover, on March 5, Malta became the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

### SWEDEN OFFICIALLY BECOMES 32ND MEMBER OF NATO

Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO after it completed the accession process in Washington. The handover of documents took place at a ceremony two years after Sweden applied to join the military alliance following the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022.

The foundations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were officially laid down on 4 April 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, more popularly known as the Washington Treaty.

#### **About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

Founded – 1949

Headquarters – Brussels, Belgium

Secretary General- Jens Stoltenberg

Founding Members – United States, Canada, and ten European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

NATO is a military alliance between North American and European countries.

### NEW DELHI RANKED WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL CITY FOR 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR SINCE 2018

New Delhi is ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018.

According to Air Quality Report 2023 conducted by Swiss organization IQAir, Delhi's PM2.5 levels worsened from 89.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023.

Bihar's Begusarai has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.

### WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT – INDIA RANKS 126TH; TOPPED BY FINLAND

The 2024 World Happiness Report has been released, with Finland as the happiest country for the seventh consecutive year.



India ranked 126 out of the 143 countries Denmark and Iceland retain their positions at second and third place, respectively, with Sweden following closely at fourth. Notably, Costa Rica and Lithuania have broken into the top 20 list for the first time, securing ranks 12 and 19, respectively.

Afghanistan retained its status as the unhappiest country in the world for yet another year. Joining Afghanistan at the bottom of the list are Lebanon, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, and Congo.

### 3RD SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY HOSTED BY SOUTH KOREA

South Korea hosted the 3rd Summit for Democracy in Seoul in a hybrid format.

The Summit for Democracy was started by American President Joe Biden in 2021 to address the emerging challenges to democracy from authoritarianism and defend and promote human rights.

The Summit was opened by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was joined by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

### OTHERS

- The **New Zealand government will ban the sale of disposable e-cigarettes**, increase fines on retailers that sell to those younger than 18 years old and better regulate retailers.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### 4TH SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION STARTUP FORUM ORGANIZED IN NEW DELHI

The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum was organized in New Delhi.

The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.

The plenary session of the forum witnessed physical participation from SCO Member States including a delegation of SCO startups, nodal agencies for startups at the Member States, senior government officials and diplomats.

### ITU ELECTS INDIA AS CO-CHAIR OF ITS DIGITAL INNOVATION BOARD

Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, led a high-level delegation to Geneva for a series of crucial meetings at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters.

The visit focused on fostering collaboration and exploring innovative initiatives in the telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors.

## **BANKING & FINANCIAL**

### FLIPKART UNVEILS ITS UPI HANDLE TO BOOST INDIA'S DIGITAL EVOLUTION

Flipkart has launched its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) handle to enhance digital payment offerings to all users, including the e-commerce major's over 500 million customers, and boost India's digital evolution.

Powered by Axis Bank, Flipkart UPI will initially be available for Android users.

Customers can register for UPI with @fkaxis handle and can do fund transfers and checkout payments using the Flipkart app.

### RBI APPROVES AU-FINCARE SMALL FINANCE BANK MERGER

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank Ltd.

The effective date of the amalgamation will be April 01, 2024.

All the branches of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd will function as branches of AU Small Finance Bank Ltd with effect from April 01, 2024.

### 30 BANKS JOIN RBI'S UDGAM PORTAL FOR UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that 30 banks are now participating in the UDGAM portal, designed for individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits/accounts.

UDGAM — Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access inforMation — is an online portal developed by RBI.

It facilitates the registered users to search unclaimed deposits/accounts across multiple banks in one place in a centralised manner.

### **RELIANCE TO BUY 13% OF PARAMOUNT'S STAKE IN VIACOM18 FOR RS 4,286 CRORE**

India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).

The stake in Viacom18 was held by Paramount Global through its two subsidiaries.

Viacom18 is a subsidiary of TV18 Broadcast, which holds preferential shares worth 57.48% in the company.

Post the transaction, TV18 Broadcast's stake in Viacom18 will increase to 70.49%. Viacom18 has 40 television channels, including Comedy Central, Nickelodeon and MTV.

### **YES BANK PARTNERS WITH INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024**

YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.

As part of the collaboration, the bank launched the campaign 'Milkar Jitayengey' and introduced the 'YES Glory Debit Card,' specially designed for India's Olympic athletes.

### **OTHERS**

- The Competition Global rating agency Moody's has raised India's GDP growth projection for 2024 to 6.8 per cent from the 6.1 per cent.
- Public sector bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) has partnered with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip to launch a co-branded travel credit card "PNB EMT Credit Card".
- Rating agency CRISIL raised its economic growth forecast for India in the next financial year (FY25) to 6.8 per cent from 6.4 per cent estimated earlier, citing higher growth momentum.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies — the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) — for cross-border transactions.

- Moody's Ratings has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to around 8 per cent from 6.6 per cent on the back of strong domestic consumption and capital expenditure.
- Max India Ltd, an integrated service provider for senior care needs, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).

#### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

- PayU Payments Private Ltd (PayU), which is fintech arm of Global Consumer Internet Group Prosus, has appointed Renu Sud Karnad, as chairperson and independent director of the company.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Ajay Kanwal as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD and CEO) of Jana Small Finance Bank.
- The Centre has appointed 1990 batch IPS officer, Daljit Singh Chaudhary as the director general (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has introduced Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra as the brand ambassador.
- Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement from international badminton.
- Sub-Inspector Suman Kumari has etched her name in history as the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Slice has announced the appointment of actress Nayanthara as its latest brand ambassador.
- Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC has taken over the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Government of India.
- Asif Ali Zardari took oath as the 14th President of Pakistan.
- A two-time Paralympic gold medalist, Devendra Jhajharia has been elected as the new President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).
- Former Bank of Maharashtra Chief Executive AS Rajeev was sworn in as the Vigilance Commissioner at the Central Vigilance Commission.
- Kishor Makwana has assumed the charge of Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

- Manohar Lal Khattar has resigned from his position as the Chief Minister of Haryana, following emerging rifts within the coalition government formed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP).  
Meanwhile, Nayab Singh Saini has been named as the new Haryana Chief Minister.
- Former bureaucrats Sukhbir Singh Sandhu from Punjab and Gyanesh Kumar from Kerala have been named as the new Election Commissioners by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, committee member and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.
- President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority (PA) has appointed Mohammad Mustafa as the new Prime Minister.
- B Sairam has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Kotak Securities MD and CEO Jaideep Hansraj as Group President – One Kotak, with effect from 1 April 2024.
- The Central Government has appointed senior IAS officer Rahul Singh the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- The Central Government has appointed retired bureaucrat Navneet Kumar Sehgal the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati.
- Tamilisai Soundararajan has resigned from the posts of Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- President Vladimir Putin, 71, won in a record post-Soviet landslide, winning 87.8% of the vote in Russia's election.
- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Sheyphali B Sharan has been appointed as the new government spokesperson.
- Jharkhand Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan assumed office as the Governor of Telangana at the Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad.
- Union Minister Kiren Rijju was given additional charge of Ministry of Food and Processing Industries following the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of ministers.
- Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto has been elected as president of the world's third-biggest democracy.
- MD and CEO of Central Bank of India, M V Rao has been elected as Chairman of Indian Banks' Association.
- Noted industrialist and former member of Parliament Naveen Jindal has been elected as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA).

- The Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has appointed Ruturaj Gaikwad as its new captain with Mahendra Singh Dhoni stepping down as the skipper after a highly successful stint.

## AWARDS

### THE SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL FIRST INDIAN TO GET HONORARY KNIGHTHOOD FROM KING CHARLES III

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III.

The award grants Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK.

An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

### PRADEEP MAHAJAN RECEIVES MAHARASHTRA BHUSHAN AWARD 2024

Pradeep Mahajan has been awarded the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024 for his contribution in the field of regenerative medicine.

Mahajan is the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions.

This accolade is a testament to his pioneering efforts and substantial impact in advancing regenerative medicine, offering new hope and innovative treatments to patients worldwide.

Under Dr. Mahajan's leadership, StemRx Hospital and Research Centre has emerged as a leading institution in the field of regenerative medicine.

### ZOYA AKHTAR AND ASMA KHAN HONORED WITH 'INDIA-UK ACHIEVERS' AWARD

Renowned filmmaker Zoya Akhtar and British Indian chef Asma Khan were honored at the annual 'India-UK Achievers' awards in London.

Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's culinary contributions were celebrated during the event.

Zoya Akhtar was honored with the Living Legend Award for her work in furthering the understanding of India.

Chef Asma Khan of the women-run Darjeeling Express restaurant in London was also honoured.

### TIGER WOODS HONOURED WITH USGA'S PRESTIGIOUS BOB JONES AWARD

Renowned golfer Tiger Woods has been selected for the Bob Jones Award, the US Golf Association's (USGA) highest honour.

This award is the highest honour given to Tiger Woods by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors.

### INDIA RECEIVES 'MEASLES AND RUBELLA CHAMPION' AWARD

India has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award for its exemplary efforts in combating these diseases. The award was received by the ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington.

### KRISTYNA PYSZKOVA WINS THE MISS WORLD 2024

Krystyna Pyszkova from the Czech Republic was crowned as the new Miss World 2024.

The previous Miss World 2022, Karolina Bielawska from Poland, crowned her successor in a magnificent ceremony. This is the 71st edition of the Miss World pageant for the year 2024 took place in Mumbai.

### AMITAV GHOSH AWARDED ERASMUS PRIZE FOR HIGHLIGHTING CLIMATE CRISIS

Indian writer Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis. 67-year-old Ghosh has been honoured with the award by the Premium Erasmianum Foundation of the Netherlands.

Amitav Ghosh will receive the award in person in the Netherlands in November.

Ghosh has received this award for his passionate contribution to highlighting the global crisis of climate change through writing and on the theme of 'imagining the unimaginable'.

### 96TH OSACAR 2024 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 96th Academy Awards happened at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood.

It was a night full of exciting wins and unexpected moments. The Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, celebrate both the artistic and technical achievements in movies. They're given out every year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) in the United States.

The awards honor outstanding work in filmmaking as decided by the Academy's voting members.

|               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Best Picture  | Oppenheimer                          |
| Best Actress  | Emma Stone, "Poor Things"            |
| Best Director | Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"     |
| Best Actor    | Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"        |
| Best Song     | "What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie" |
| Best Score    | Oppenheimer                          |



|                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Best Sound                        | The Zone of Interest                  |
| Best Short Film (Live Action)     | The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar    |
| Best Cinematography               | Oppenheimer                           |
| Best Documentary Feature          | 20 Days in Mariupol                   |
| Best: Documentary (Short Subject) | The Last Repair Shop                  |
| Best Film Editing                 | Oppenheimer                           |
| Best Visual Effects               | Godzilla Minus One                    |
| Best Supporting Actor             | Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"      |
| Best International Feature        | The Zone of Interest                  |
| Best Costume Design               | Poor Things                           |
| Best Production Design            | Poor Things                           |
| Best Makeup and Hairstyling       | Poor Things                           |
| Best Adapted Screenplay           | American Fiction                      |
| Best Original Screenplay          | Anatomy of a Fall                     |
| Best Animated Feature             | The Boy and the Heron                 |
| Best Animated Short               | War Is Over!                          |
| Best Supporting Actress           | Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers" |

**SRINIVASAN SWAMY RECEIVES 2024 IAA GOLDEN COMPASS AWARD**

Srinivasan K. Swamy, CMD of integrated marketing services company RK Swami Ltd. has been presented with IAA Golden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.

Penang Governor Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak presented the award to Mr. Swamy.

The award honours those who have significantly contributed to the world stage in the field of marketing, advertising and media.

### UDAY BHATIA & MANASI GUPTA HONOURED WITH DIANA MEMORIAL AWARD

India's Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'. Along with them, a total of 20 people from the world were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'.

Uday Bhatia, founder of Uday Electric, and Manasi Gupta, founder of Huesofthemind Foundation, received their awards from Prince William, the older son of Princess Diana, at an awards ceremony in London's Science Museum.

### RATAN TATA AWARDED PV NARASIMHA RAO MEMORIAL AWARD

Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.

The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award, named after the former Prime Minister of India, is an award of recognition for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and humanitarian causes.

### CARNATIC VOCALIST TM KRISHNA TO BE CONFERRED WITH THE SANGITA KALANIDHI AWARD

Renowned Carnatic vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna will be conferred the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy. The Sangita Kalanidhi award is considered one of the highest honours in Carnatic music.

The musician will preside over the academic sessions of the 98th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy, the Deccan Herald reporting quoting Murali. The session will be held from December 15, 2024 to January 1, 2025, when he will receive the award.

### RENOWNED POET PRABHA VARMA SELECTED FOR SARASWATI SAMMAN FOR THE YEAR 2023

Renowned poet Prabha Varma has been selected for the Saraswati Samman for the year 2023 for his work in Malayalam language.

He has been considered for this award for his Malayalam language poetry work, “Roudra Sathwikam” and also for his contribution to the literature during the period 2013 to 2022.

## SPORTS

### THE SUNRISERS HYDERABAD APPOINT PAT CUMMINS AS CAPTAIN FOR IPL 2024

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) has announced star Australian cricketer Pat Cummins as their new captain for the Indian Premier League (IPL) season 2024.

Cummins, who won the ICC World Test Championship and ICC Cricket World Cup with Aussies last year as a captain, replaces South African batter Aiden Markram as the franchise’s captain.

### SATWIK-CHIRAG WIN FRENCH OPEN DOUBLES TITLE

The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched its second French Open men’s doubles badminton title.

The Indian top seed registered a straight games victory over Chinese Taipei’s Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final.

### MAX VERSTAPPEN TRIUMPHS AT SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX

Red Bull’s Max Verstappen clinched victory at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, starting from pole position.

It marked Red Bull’s second consecutive one-two finish in the 2024 Formula One season. It was the first time Verstappen, winner of a record 19 of 22 races last year, has won the first two races of a season.

Sergio Perez (Red Bull) finished at second and Charles Leclerc finished third for Ferrari.

The victory was a ninth in a row for Verstappen, dating back to Japan last September, and the 56th of the 26-year-old Dutch driver’s career.

### MUMBAI WINS RANJI TROPHY 2024 AFTER BEATING VIDARBHA

Mumbai has won the Ranji Trophy 2024 after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

It also happened to be their 42nd title for Mumbai, which showed why they are deemed as a brute force in Indian domestic cricket.

Mumbai also ended their 8-year-long wait to win the championship after they last got their hands on the title back in the 2015-16 edition.

### RCB TRIUMPHS OVER DELHI CAPITALS IN WPL 2024 FINAL

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) beat Delhi Capitals in the final of the 2024 Women's Premier League to break their 16-year-long trophy drought. RCB defeated DC by eight wickets to lift the WPL trophy at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

RCB made easy work of their 114-run chase against DC to lift their maiden WPL title. A wonderful first innings performance from RCB's spin-attack helped them clinch their first-ever trophy as a franchise.

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) Captain – Smriti Mandhana

### ALCARAZ BEATS MEDVEDEV TO WIN SECOND STRAIGHT INDIAN WELLS TITLE

Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) in straight sets, with a score of 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final of the Indian Wells ATP tournament.

With this win, the 20-year-old Alcaraz became the first player to win back-to-back Indian Wells titles since Novak Djokovic did it from 2014 to 2016.

### INDIA, MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA JOINT MARITIME EXERCISE BEGINS

INS Tir and INS Sujata has participated in the second edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise.

It is a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 Mar 24. The first edition of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in Oct 22, saw participation of INS Tarkash with the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies.

### OTHERS

- Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain.

## DEFENCE

### DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST OF VSHORADS MISSILE

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of a Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur.

The test was carried out against high-speed unmanned aerial targets under different interception scenarios.

The VSHORADS is propelled by a dual thrust solid motor and would be used for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.

The VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) indigenously developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and other industry partners.

#### **About Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**

Founded – 1 January 1958

Headquarters – New Delhi

Motto – “Strength’s Origin is in Knowledge”

Chairman – Samir V Kamat

### IRAN LAUNCHES ‘PARS 1’ SATELLITE INTO ORBIT FROM RUSSIA

Russia has launched an Iranian-made research satellite into orbit amid rising tensions with the West.

The Pars 1 remote sensing and imaging satellite was launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome and will scan Iran's topography from an orbit of 310 miles (500km).

The launch of Pars 1 follows the August 2022 deployment of Iran's Khayyam satellite, also facilitated by Russia.

### NAVY COMMISSIONS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT BASE INS JATAYU IN LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

The Indian Navy has commissioned its new base "INS Jatayu" at Minicoy Island, Lakshadweep

It will bolster its operational capabilities within the strategically important Lakshadweep islands.

Jatayu has been commissioned under the command of Commandant Vrat Baghel.

The crest of the INS Jatayu -depicting a bird signifying Jatayu, a character in the Hindu epic Ramayana — was hoisted after the unveiling of the commissioning plaque.

### DRDO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS MISSION DIVYA STRA

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.

The flight test named Mission Divyastra was carried out from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

Various Telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The Mission accomplished the designed parameters.

### UK TESTS A LASER WEAPON THAT CAN HIT A COIN FROM A KILOMETER

The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has conducted successful tests of its first-ever laser weapon, named "DragonFire".

The high-powered laser is designed to target and neutralize drones, offering a potentially low-cost alternative to traditional missiles. The DragonFire laser weapon is expected to significantly reduce the reliance on expensive ammunition, offering a cost-effective solution for air defense.

### INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR SEYCHELLES FOR EXERCISE “LAMITIYE-2024”

A contingent from the Indian Army embarked on a journey to Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise “LAMITIYE-2024” alongside the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).

Scheduled to take place from March 18th to 27th, this biennial training event holds significant importance in fostering cooperation between the two nations. The term ‘LAMITIYE’, translating to ‘Friendship’ in the Creole language, encapsulates the spirit of camaraderie underlying this exercise, which has been a tradition since its inception in 2001.

### INDIA-US JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE “EX TIGER TRIUMPH 2024”

A joint military exercise called Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the Eastern Seaboard (East Coast) of India.

The exercise, Tiger Triumph-24, is aimed at “developing interoperability” for conducting Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations and “refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between forces of both countries.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### VICE A BOOK ON INDIAN MODERN ART “THE GEMS OF INDIAN ART” LAUNCHED

The launch of “The Gems of Indian Art”, a comprehensive documentation of Harish Khullar’s extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art.

This near-300-page book was unveiled by Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and S.P.S. Baghel, marking a pivotal moment in India’s art scene.

Edited by the veteran art critic Vinod Bhardwaj, the publication is a distinguished addition to the discourse on Indian contemporary art history, appreciated for its archival quality by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi.

### "THE CONSPIRACY" AUTHORED BY GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

Two years after his dramatic ouster from office by a popular people's movement, Sri Lanka's former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has sought to defend his tainted regime, by launching a book that attributes his political downfall to a "conspiracy" involving foreign and local parties.

### PARSHOTTAM RUPALA RELEASE BOOK ON SAGAR PARIKRAMA

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Dairying Parshottam Rupala has release Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat.

The object of the book is to chronicle the Sagar Parikrama Yatra, encompassing content on diverse elements, such as the Maritime route, cultural and geographical explorations, and notable impacts from all 12 phases of Sagar Parikrama.

## OBITUARY

### PADMA SHRI AWARDEE ARUN SHARMA PASSES AWAY

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away at the age of 90.

Sharma was senior-most team member which excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site on order of Allahabad High Court and had submitted a report that a temple was demolished to make a mosque.

Sharma was presented the Padmashree award in 2017 by late President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 1 March – Zero Discrimination Day. Theme 2024 – To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights
- 1 March – World Civil Defence Day



- 3 February – World Wildlife Day. Theme 2024 – **Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.**
- 4 March – National Safety Day. Theme 2024 – Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence.
- 5 March – International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness
- 7 March – Jan Aushadhi Diwas.
- 8 March – International Women’s Day. The theme of Women’s Day 2024 is ‘Invest in women: Accelerate Progress’, which emphasizes the importance of creating a world where women feels respected, valued, and empowered.
- 9 March – No Smoking Day. Theme 2024 – **Protecting children from tobacco industry interference.**
- 10 March – International Day of Women Judges
- 13 March – No Smoking Day
- 14 March – International Day of Action for Rivers. Theme 2024 – **Water for All**
- 15 March – World Consumer Rights Day. Theme 2024 – Fair and responsible AI for consumers.
- 20 March – International Day of Happiness.
- 20 March – World Oral Health Day. Theme 2024 – **A Happy Mouth is A Happy Body**
- 21 March – World Poetry Day
- 21 March – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Theme 2024 – A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent
- 22 March – Bihar Diwas

**NOTES:**

