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**March
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The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has developed a mobile app, 'MARLIN@CMFRI', to encourage citizen science initiatives in marine fisheries research.

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has developed a mobile app, 'MARLIN@CMFRI', to encourage citizen science initiatives in marine fisheries research. The app is a gateway for comprehensive media sharing and is aimed to transform marine fishery research, species identification, and assessment efforts within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). 'Marlin@CMFRI' helps the public to upload photos of marine fish species encountered in the vast expanse of the Indian EEZ, leading to the development of a rich visual repository of marine fishery resources. The app encourages users to provide species details ensuring that the database is scientifically enriched, facilitating accurate species identification.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) have launched BhashaNet portal at the Universal Acceptance Day event.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) have launched BhashaNet portal at the Universal Acceptance Day event. The event was held with the active support of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The event marked a significant milestone in advancing digital inclusion and promoting Universal Acceptance across India. The theme of the event, "BhashaNet: Impetus Towards Universal Acceptance". The event featured engaging panel discussions and workshops, with representatives from Bhashini, ONDC, NIC, C-DAC Microsoft, UASG of ICANN, Data Xgen, Infibeam, ZOHO and FICCI sharing insights and best practices for achieving Universal Acceptance readiness.

The Election Commission of India has launched 'Saksham App' to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.

The Election Commission of India has launched 'Saksham App' to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations. This initiative aims to address the needs of voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities (PWDs) with a 40 percent benchmark disability, allowing them to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes. To further facilitate accessible voting, the ECI has mandated the availability of volunteers and wheelchairs at every polling station. These volunteers will assist elderly voters and PwDs in navigating the polling station and casting their votes. The app provides information on accessible polling stations, available facilities, and assistance for PwDs.

The Supreme Court (SC) has constituted an expert committee to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population.

The Supreme Court (SC) has constituted an expert committee to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population. The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, appoints an expert committee to tackle the critical endangerment of the Great Indian Bustard. The court has sought a report from the committee by July and listed the matter for the second week of August 2024. The committee includes the Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Hari Shankar Singh, Member, the National Board for Wildlife; Niranjan Kumar Vasu, Ex-Principal Chief Conservator of Forest; B. Majumdar, former Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra; and Devesh Gadhavi, Deputy Director, The Corbett Foundation, among others. The committee will determine the scope, feasibility and extent of overhead and underground electric lines in the area identified as priority area in the reports of the Wild Life Institute of India in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad chief Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad chief Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Date is a 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Date as the Director General (DG) of the NIA for a tenure up to his superannuation on 31 December 2026. He will succeed Dinkar Gupta, who is due to superannuate on March 31. The ACC also appointed Rajeev Kumar Sharma, a 1990-batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research & Development. He will have a tenure up to his superannuation on 30 June 2026. Sharma will succeed Balaji Srivastava, who completes his tenure at March end. Piyush Anand will be the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). He has been appointed as the DG of the NDRF for a period of two years. Anand will replace Atul Karwal, retiring on March 31.

Kamal Kishore has been appointed as assistant secretary-general and special representative of the secretary-general for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Kamal Kishore has been appointed as assistant secretary-general and special representative of the secretary-general for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Kishore, in his current position at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), holds the rank of secretary to the government of India. He succeeds Mami Mizutori of Japan at UNDRR. As part of

India's G20 presidency, Kishore led the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. He also contributed to the development of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Climate Action Summit in 2019. Before joining the NDMA, Kishore spent nearly 13 years with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, New Delhi and New York.

Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh appointed as co-chairs along with Chile's Camila Caram, of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) new Athletes Committee.

Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh appointed as co-chairs along with Chile's Camila Caram, of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) new Athletes Committee. While Caram has been assigned Athletes Committee Representative in the Executive Board, PR Sreejesh will lead the planning and meetings along with Caram in their roles as co-chairs. The FIH Athletes Committee serves as a consultative body and makes recommendations to the FIH Executive Board, FIH Committees, Advisory Panels and other bodies. Sreejesh received the Arjuna Award in 2015 and the Padma Shri in 2017.

Bank of Maharashtra approved the appointment of Nidhu Saxena as MD & CEO of the bank for a period of three years effective from 27 March 2024.

Bank of Maharashtra approved the appointment of Nidhu Saxena as the managing director & chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for a period of three years effective from 27 March 2024. The appointment will be in effect for a term of three years with effect from the date of assumption of office from 27 March 2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He started his banking career at Bank of Baroda and later moved to UCO Bank. He has over 26 years of experience working in diversified areas of banking. Prior to joining Bank of Maharashtra, he was the Executive Director of Union Bank of India. During his tenure, he worked in all key banking functions and has been in several positions such as Branch Head, Zonal Head and Vertical Head.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appoints Mohammad Mustafa as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appoints Mohammad Mustafa as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Mohammad Mustafa is a Palestinian economist and politician who is the current prime minister of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian National Authority. He previously served as the Chairman of the Board of the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF), Senior Economic Advisor to President Mahmoud Abbas and an Independent member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Mustafa was widely tipped to become the prime minister of Palestine, following the resignation of Mohammad Shtayyeh in February

2024. Currently, Mustafa is the Chairman of the Palestine Investment Fund.

Prabowo Subianto has been elected as president of the Indonesia.

Prabowo Subianto has been elected as president of the Indonesia. Defence Minister Prabowo and his vice-presidential running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka received more than 96 million votes, roughly 58.6 percent of the total count and enough to secure a first-round majority. Anies Baswedan secured nearly 41 million votes, or 24.9 percent of the total count, while Ganjar Pranowo received 27 million votes, more than 16 percent. Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo is an Indonesian politician, businessman and retired honorary army general who is the president-elect of Indonesia.

Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan took charge as Telangana governor.

Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan took charge as Telangana governor. He was also given additional charge as the Lt Governor of Puducherry. Chief Justice of the Madras High Court SV Gangapurwala administer the oath to him. Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from the posts of Governor of Telangana and Puducherry Lt Governor to contest the April 19 Lok Sabha polls from Chennai (South) constituency. The above appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. Radhakrishnan, who had served as a Lok Sabha member, is the third Governor of Telangana.

Luís Montenegro, the head of the Democratic Alliance (AD), has been appointed Prime Minister of Portugal.

Luís Montenegro, the head of the Democratic Alliance (AD), has been appointed Prime Minister of Portugal. The office of the Portuguese President of the Republic announced that, the Democratic Alliance coalition attained a relative majority (80 seats versus 78 from the Socialist Party). Montenegro, a 51-year-old lawyer and longtime parliamentarian, will succeed the Socialist Party's Antonio Costa, who held office since 2015 and was forced to resign in November following corruption allegations.

Managing Director and CEO of the Central Bank of India, MV Rao, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the 2023–24 term.

Managing Director and CEO of the Central Bank of India, MV (Matam Venkata Rao) Rao, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the 2023–24 term. The decision was taken by the Managing Committee of the IBA in a meeting. The committee has also appointed three Deputy Chairmen of the association. These deputies are the Chairman of the State Bank of India, Dinesh Kumar Khara, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Bank and the MD and CEO of City Union Bank, Dr N Kamakodi. Additionally, Madhav Nair,

Country Head and CEO of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, has been designated as the Honorary Secretary of the IBA.

Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju took additional charge as the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.

Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju took additional charge as the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries. President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Union Food Processing Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras. After this, Rijju was given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. His announcement came at a press conference a day after the BJP-led NDA announced its seat-sharing pact and gave five seats to the Chirag Paswan-led LJP (Ram Vilas), ignoring his faction's claims. Kiren Rijju is an Indian politician from Arunachal Pradesh who is the Cabinet Minister of Earth Sciences and Food Processing Industries in the Government of India since 2023 and 2024 and a member of the parliament in Lok Sabha from Arunachal West since 2014 and from 2004 to 2009.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appoints Mohammad Mustafa as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

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Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi was sworn in as the new judicial member of Lokpal of India.

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi was sworn in as the new judicial member of Lokpal of India by the Chairperson of Lokpal, Justice A.M Khanwilkar, at the Lokpal of India office in New Delhi on 27 March 2024. He replaces Justice P.K Mohanty and Justice Abhilasha Kumari, who had completed their tenure on 26 March 2024. New appointments were also made for three other members, namely, D.K Jain, Archana Ramasundaram, and Mahender Singh, who have completed their tenure on 26 March 2024. Justice Awasthi, was earlier the Chairperson of the 22 Law Commission of India and the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court before joining Lokpal of India.

Naveen Jindal, chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, took charge as president of Indian Steel Association (ISA).

Naveen Jindal, chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, took charge as president of Indian Steel Association (ISA). Naveen Jindal has been unanimously elected as the president of ISA by the apex committee, the governing body of ISA. He succeeds Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India. Naveen Jindal is an Indian billionaire industrialist, philanthropist, and a former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Kurukshetra, Haryana in the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha. He currently serves as the Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Limited and Chancellor of O. P. Jindal Global University.

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company and Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company.

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company and Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company. The post of CMD at United India has been vacant since February 2024 following the retirement of Satyajit Tripathy, and Neerja Kapur's tenure at New India Assurance is set to end in April 2024. Girija Subramanian is currently the CMD of the Agriculture Insurance Company of India, and B S Rahul serves as the general manager at the same company.

Reigning Olympic and Asian Games gold medalist in Javelin Throw, Neeraj Chopra was appointed as the newest brand ambassador of Eveready Industries India Ltd (EIL).

Reigning Olympic and Asian Games gold medalist in Javelin Throw, Neeraj Chopra was appointed as the newest brand ambassador of Eveready Industries India Ltd (EIL). With this collaboration, the brand aims to enhance its connection with the youth. Through this collaboration, Eveready aims to strengthen its commitment to excellence and innovation by launching the new Ultima Alkaline battery series. Neeraj Chopra symbolizes a shared pursuit of continuous improvement, innovation, more power, and dedication towards excellence, bridging the worlds of sports and the spirit of the youth.

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has announced to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has announced to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France. Michel Talagrand receives the prize for his work in probability theory and stochastic processes. Michel Talagrand is a member of the French Academy of Sciences. He has received numerous awards. Talagrand is an

outstanding and highly productive mathematician whose work has transformed probability theory, functional analysis and statistics.

Indian airline IndiGo is named as the 'Airline of the Year' at the Air Transport Awards 2024 held in Greece's Athens.

Indian airline IndiGo is named as the 'Airline of the Year' at the Air Transport Awards 2024 held in Greece's Athens. IndiGo was named for being a driving force behind the growth of Indian aviation with its impressive expansion and for giving the opportunity of air travel to many first-time flyers. The prestigious award was presented to Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo, at the ceremony. IndiGo recently became India's first carrier to operate 2,000 daily flights and carry 100 million passengers in a year, firmly cementing its place among the world's Top 10 airlines.

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

Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was awarded with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions. The ceremony took place in Mumbai. Ratan Tata, an eminent personality in the business world, has been recognized for his remarkable and relentless efforts in the field of philanthropy. His contributions have positively impacted numerous communities across the country. 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. Ratan Tata's philanthropic initiatives have spanned a wide range of areas, including healthcare, education, rural development, and environmental sustainability.

Noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2023 for his verse novel Roudra Sathwikam.

Noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2023 for his verse novel Roudra Sathwikam. It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is former Supreme Court judge, Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri. Born in Thiruvalla, Kerala, in 1959, Varma has excelled as a bilingual writer, with exemplary literary works in both Malayalam and English. He has emerged as one of the most important voices in contemporary Malayalam literature, with his work reflecting a confluence of tradition and modernity. He has bagged more than 70 awards, including the National Sahitya Akademi Award and the National Film Award.

According to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally.

According to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally. LIC's brand value remains steady at USD 9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating. Following LIC, the rankings highlight Cathay Life Insurance as the second strongest brand, experiencing a 9 percent increase in brand value to USD 4.9 billion, closely followed by NRMA Insurance, which saw an 82 percent rise in brand value to USD 1.3 billion.

Axis Bank has introduced digital US dollar fixed deposit (FD) for NRI customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat.

Axis Bank has introduced digital US dollar fixed deposit (FD) for NRI customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat. With this introduction, Axis Bank becomes the first bank to offer a digital journey for GIFT City Deposits. NRI customers of the bank can now open US dollar fixed deposits at GIFT City through 'Open by Axis Bank'. This offering simplifies the process of booking US dollar Fixed Deposit for NRI customers, by providing them an end-to-end digital paperless solution and eliminating the need for physical documentation. Besides seamlessly opening an FD account anytime from anywhere, customers can also track and manage their FD digitally.

NTPC Ltd has signed a pact with a Japanese agency for sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or around Rs1,650 crore).

NTPC Ltd has signed a pact with a Japanese agency for sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or around Rs1,650 crore). Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), a government policy-based financial institution, will provide 60 percent of the facility amount and the balance amount will be provided by other commercial banks under JBIC guarantee. The agreements have been signed for a JPY 15 billion loan each for NTPC Ltd and NTPC Renewables Energy Ltd (NREL). The facility has been extended under JBIC's initiative entitled 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation' ("GREEN") for projects which ensure the conservation of the global environment. The loan proceeds shall be utilized by NTPC for funding part of its capex requirements for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) which substantially reduces the SOx emission in the flue gases of thermal power stations.

PayU launched a first-of-its-kind Downpayment EMI solution.

PayU launched a first-of-its-kind Downpayment EMI solution that enables customers to make a partial payment upfront while remaining can be converted into easy EMIs, making high-ticket purchases more affordable & accessible. PayU merchant partners can now offer their customers the flexibility to decide the downpayment amount with Credit Card EMI, and even combine UPI with Credit Card EMIs for greater affordability and convenience. This no-code solution offers No Cost EMI with

pre-decided downpayment options and control over subvention, helping merchants increase revenues and empower customers to save on EMI interests while fulfilling their aspirations.

Star Housing Finance has signed a co-lending arrangement with Tata Capital Housing Finance.

Semi-urban and rural housing finance-focussed Star Housing Finance has signed a co-lending arrangement with Tata Capital Housing Finance. The co-lending pact aims to lend to economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) at more affordable rates by leveraging the strength of Tata Capital Housing and the distribution network of Star Housing. With this technology-powered co-lending approach, the lenders aim to serve customers across multiple geographies with differential origination capabilities and differential level of franchise on the borrower base.

The Government of India updated the list of banks authorised to import gold and silver during 2024-25.

The Government of India updated the list of banks authorised to import gold and silver during 2024-25. As per the list, 11 banks, including HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to import gold and silver for 2024-25 with effect from 1st April 2024. The authorisation will be valid up to 31st March 2025. Three banks -- Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank of India -- have authorised by the RBI to import only gold for 2024-25. Gold imports rose 38.76 percent to \$44 billion during April-February this fiscal. However, silver imports dipped 11.53 percent to \$4.62 billion during the period.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has acquired the co-branding rights for three stations of Delhi Metro.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has acquired the co-branding rights for three stations of Delhi Metro. These stations are Inderlok, South Extension and Rajouri Garden. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) awarded the naming rights to the bank for a period of 10 years, beginning from 2024. In addition to the exclusive co-branding rights, the bank will get a dedicated space for branding, display of products and installation of an ATM/Digital Banking Unit (DBU)/ kiosk to serve customers. The bank's executive director Ajay K Khurana inaugurated the new station branding at Inderlok Metro station.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and the New India Assurance Company continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and the New India Assurance Company continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). The perception and the perceived expectation of government support by these entities is likely to amplify risk-taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions and increase the possibility of distress in the future. D-SIIs are subjected to additional regulatory measures to deal with systemic risks and moral hazard issues with an increased level of corporate governance and the need for these insurers to identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management framework and culture.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has modified norms for regulated entities (REs) concerning their investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has modified norms for regulated entities (REs) concerning their investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). The Provisions apply to banks and other financial institutions (called REs). Under the new rule, regulated entities (REs) must reserve funds only for the portion of their investment in the AIF scheme that is subsequently invested by the AIFs in a debtor's company, not for the entire investment in the AIF scheme. The circular doesn't apply to investments made by REs in AIFs through intermediaries like fund of funds or mutual funds.

India has released the second tranche of Rs500 crore to Bhutan for the development of infrastructure related to the GyalSung Project.

India has released the second tranche of Rs500 crore to Bhutan for the development of infrastructure related to the GyalSung Project. The first tranche of Rs500 crore was released on January 28 earlier this year. With this, the Government of India has released a total of Rs1,000 crore to the Government of Bhutan under the Memorandum of Understanding on the concessionary financing arrangements for the GyalSung Infrastructure Project. The MoU, signed in January 2024, provides a framework for the disbursement of Rs1,500 crore as concessionary financing to the Government of Bhutan for infrastructure development related to the GyalSung academies. This financing arrangement is in addition to the Government of India's Plan Assistance to the Government of Bhutan.

DBS Bank India announced a lending commitment of USD 250 million for start-ups.

DBS Bank India announced a lending commitment of USD 250 million for start-ups. The initiative is part of the bank's focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the country's thriving start-up ecosystem. DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia with a presence in 19 markets. Headquartered and listed in Singapore, DBS is in the three key Asian axes of growth: Greater China, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed the Association of Mutual Funds to stop inflows into overseas exchange traded funds from 1st April.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed the Association of Mutual Funds to stop inflows into overseas exchange traded funds from 1st April. International mutual fund (MF) schemes, previously restricted from investing directly in foreign instruments, are now directed to cease accepting fresh investments in schemes that invest in overseas exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Data from Amfi shows that 13 international MF schemes invest in international passive funds (ETFs and index funds), collectively managing Rs7,743 crore. Additionally, many other MF schemes allocate a small portion of their corpus to international ETFs. A large fund house recently proposed to the RBI to link the international investment limit to India's foreign exchange reserves.

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched two new jewel loan products - IOB Gold Powered Card and Jewel Loan Suvudha.

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched two new jewel loan products - IOB Gold Powered Card and Jewel Loan Suvudha. IOB Gold Powered Card will provide instant access to a card linked directly to their jewel loan overdraft accounts. It will provide the flexibility for customers to service both interest and principal at the maturity of the loan i.e., 12 months from the date of sanction. Offering loan amounts ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹25 lakh, IOB Gold Powered Card can also be used for cash withdrawal at ATM and for POS and e-commerce transactions. The cash withdrawal limit per transaction is ₹20,000 with a daily limit of ₹1 lakh. For e-commerce and POS transactions, the per day and per transaction limit is ₹25.00 lakh. Validity extends to three years, subject to annual reassessment. This solution offers reimbursement within a 12-month timeframe from the date of incurring expenses. The loan amount will range from ₹25,000 to ₹50 lakh and it provides flexible repayment options, including bullet payment and EMI modes, while also availing income tax benefits subject to fulfilment of the conditions prescribed under the Income Tax Act, 1960.

SBI Card has partnered with Titan Company Limited, to launch Titan SBI Card.

SBI Card has partnered with Titan Company Limited, to launch Titan SBI Card. The Card offers benefits across many lifestyle categories. With features that include cashbacks, Titan gift vouchers and Reward Points, cardholders can avail exclusive benefits of over Rs2 lakh worth per annum. One can enroll for the card in a completely digital manner via SBI Card SPRINT by visiting SBI Card website <https://www.sbicard.com/> or Titan stores. The Titan SBI Card offers curated benefits on high value spend categories such as jewellery, watches, and eyewear. The card offers 7.5 percent cashback on Titan in watches category; Taneira in women ethnic wear category; Titan EyePlus in eyewear category; and other non-jewellery Titan

brands.

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'.

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'. A monetary penalty of Rs63.6 lakh has been imposed on DCB Bank. The central bank informed that a penalty of Rs1.31 crore has been imposed on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Advances'. The penalties were based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transactions or agreements entered into by them with their customers.

Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with Noise and Mastercard to launch the Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch.

Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with Noise and Mastercard to launch the Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch. This smartwatch comes with a Tap and Pay feature, the initiative will empower users to unlock the full potential of smart wearables and democratise convenient financial solutions. The new smart watch named Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch is now available to be purchased at Rs2,999. Customers who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank can purchase this smart watch from the Airtel Thanks App. Customers who are new to the bank can order the smart watch immediately by opening a bank account digitally on Airtel Thanks App. A customer would be able to make payments between Rs1 to Rs 25,000 per day using the Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch. The smart watch is designed with an appealing 1.85-inch square dial to enhance the user experience further by enabling contactless payments directly from the wearable. The smart watch's NFC chip is supported by the Mastercard network.

Guyana signed a Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement worth USD 23.27 million with the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) for the acquisition of two Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) manufactured Dornier 228 aircraft.

Guyana signed a Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement worth USD 23.27 million with the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) for the acquisition of two Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) manufactured Dornier 228 aircraft. Built by state-run HAL, the light-weight aircraft is used to transport troops, carry out maritime surveillance and several other government missions. Until recently, the Dornier-228 aircraft were being manufactured under licence from RUAG, a Swiss company. With the signing of this LOC Agreement, the Government of Guyana has received a total of 11 LOCs from the Indian EXIM Bank over the years.

Federal Bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals.

Federal Bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals. Customers can make payments up to ₹5,000 without a PIN, whereas those over ₹5,000 will require PIN authentication. The per day limit at any PoS terminal has been capped at ₹1 lakh. 'Flash Pay' allows users to make secure payments with just a tap, eliminating the need for physical cards or cash. The device empowers users to make payments at millions of merchants, expanding their purchasing capabilities while maintaining security standards.

The board of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given approval to 8 principle-based regulations.

The board of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given approval to 8 principle-based regulations. The key approvals include regulations for insurance products, which now include surrender value regulations that will comprise both guaranteed surrender value and special surrender value. The regulatory changes under rural, social sector, and motor third-party (TP) insurance have also been updated. For rural obligations, the unit of measurement will now be the gram panchayat. The insurance watchdog has also approved regulations concerning the registration, capital structure, transfer of shares, and amalgamation of insurers in addition to giving the green light for corporate governance regulations. The IRDAI board has also finalised regulations related to the registration and operations of foreign reinsurance branches.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited ("ABHFL") has launched 'ABHFL-Finverse', a unified digital lending platform.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited ("ABHFL"), a fully owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has launched 'ABHFL-Finverse', a unified digital lending platform aimed at re-imagining the home loan experience for customers. The platform will digitise the entire lending process from prospecting to disbursement, providing customers with a seamless experience journey, faster turnaround of loan application, greater transparency of loan status and real-time updates. With a seamless digital interface, ABHFL-Finverse serves as a holistic digital ecosystem, connecting customers, partners, employees, and vendors on a common platform, thus resonating with ABHFL's focus on customer satisfaction and convenience.

The Zoological Survey of India published a book entitled, 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity and distribution'.

The Zoological Survey of India published a book entitled, 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity and distribution'. The Book is authored by Dr Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) along with Dr Navneet Singh, Dr Rahul Joshi and Dr P. C Pathania, Scientists of ZSI and a Lepidoptera expert from Hong Kong, Dr R.C Kendrick. The book outlines the methods to collect and curate voucher material in the field, taxonomic procedures followed in laboratory, superfamily and family level identification and the knowledge about the lepidopteran diversity and patterns of distribution, globally.

Kerala Animal Husbandry Minister J. Chinchurani released a book titled 'A Compendium on Non-Native Organisms of India' in a function, held at T.K Madhava Memorial (TKMM) College, Nangiarkulangara.

Kerala Animal Husbandry Minister J. Chinchurani released a book titled 'A Compendium on Non-Native Organisms of India' in a function, held at T.K Madhava Memorial (TKMM) College, Nangiarkulangara. The book containing information about invasive species identified from different parts of Alappuzha, the challenges they pose and measures to check their spread were co-authored by Kerala University Aquatic Biology and Fisheries department honorary professor K.V Jayachandran, TKMM College faculties. The book was published following a three-day national workshop on 'invasive species- monitoring and management' organised by the Zoology department of the college with the financial assistance of the Department of Environment and Climate Change last month.

INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the forthcoming 2nd edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise, a joint maritime exercise held from 21-29 March 2024.

INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the forthcoming 2nd edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise, a joint maritime exercise held from 21-29 March 2024. The current edition of the exercise is planned in two phases. As part of the harbour phase scheduled from 21-24 March 2024, Naval ships Tir and Sujata will engage with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique). A joint EEZ surveillance is also planned during the sea phase. The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique).

On 23 March 2024, Indian Navy completed 100 days of the ongoing maritime security operations under the aegis of 'Op Sankalp'.

On 23 March 2024, Indian Navy completed 100 days of the ongoing maritime security operations under the aegis of 'Op Sankalp'. During this time, the Indian Navy has responded to 18 incidents and has played a pivotal role as the 'First Responder' and 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region. The significance of IN's

contributions has been further underscored with the culmination of actions against the hijacking of MV Ruen. Since the last 100 days, the naval ships, aircraft and Special Forces have demonstrated an unflinching resolve to 'secure the seas' and protect the maritime community from various non-traditional threats present in the region. The arduous efforts of IN since December 2023 involved deployment of over 5000 personnel at sea, over 450 ship days (with over 21 ships deployed) and 900 hours of flying by the maritime surveillance aircraft to address threats in the maritime domain.

The 3rd edition of bilateral tri-service humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States commenced on the Eastern Seaboard on 18th March 2024.

The 3rd edition of bilateral tri-service humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States commenced on the Eastern Seaboard on 18th March 2024. This exercise, aimed at enhancing readiness and cooperation between the two forces, is part of the ongoing partnership between India and the US. The exercise is designed to improve interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between the armed forces of both countries. Indian Navy Ships with integral helicopters and landing crafts embarked, Indian Navy aircraft, Indian Army personnel and vehicles, Indian Air Force aircraft and helicopters, along with the Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT) will be participating from the Indian side. The US will be represented by US Navy Ships with embarked troops of the US Marine Corps and US Army. This phase involves Training Visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, Sports Events, and Social Interactions among personnel from both navies.

Current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sequentially to \$10.5 billion in the quarter ended December 2023 (Q3 FY24), 1.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), from \$11.4 billion in Q2 FY24 (1.3 percent of GDP).

Current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sequentially to \$10.5 billion in the quarter ended December 2023 (Q3 FY24), 1.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), from \$11.4 billion in Q2 FY24 (1.3 percent of GDP). The deficit was also down from \$16.8 billion or 2 percent of GDP in the year-ago period (Q3 FY23). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed that the rise in net services receipts more than compensated for a slight rise in merchandise trade deficit in Q3 FY24. Services exports grew by 5.2 percent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services.

S&P Global raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) by 40 basis points to 6.8 percent.

S&P Global raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) by 40 basis points to 6.8 percent. India to grow at 7.6 percent in

FY24, making the projection in a report called "Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q2 2024: APAC Bides Its Time On Monetary Policy Easing". The New York-based agency retained India's GDP growth prediction for FY26 and FY27 at 5 percent. S&P forecast rate cuts of up to 75 basis points in India this fiscal.

HDFC Bank has completed the sale of its stake in education finance arm HDFC Credila for Rs 9,553 crore (\$1.15 billion) to private equity firms BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital.

HDFC Bank has completed the sale of its stake in education finance arm HDFC Credila for Rs 9,553 crore (\$1.15 billion) to private equity firms BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital. The deal, announced in June 2023, was part of mandated regulatory requirements before the completion of mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp's merger with HDFC Bank. The conclusion of the deal comes ahead of HDFC Bank's fourth-quarter results next month.

SBI Mutual Fund acquired a 3% stake or 20.73 lakh shares in Savita Oil Technologies in the block deal.

SBI Mutual Fund acquired a 3% stake or 20.73 lakh shares in Savita Oil Technologies in the block deal. Before this recent transaction, the promoters of Savita Oil Technologies held a 71.92% stake in the company, based on the December shareholding pattern. Among public shareholders, HDFC Mutual Fund is the sole entity holding a 7.4% stake in the company. Savita Oil Technologies operates as a prominent manufacturer and distributor of greases, transformer oils, industrial oils, and petroleum products.

Tata Sons sold 2.34 crore shares or 0.65 percent equity in Tata Consultancy Services through a block deal for ₹9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion).

Tata Sons sold 2.34 crore shares or 0.65 percent equity in Tata Consultancy Services through a block deal for ₹9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion). According to the term sheet, seen by businessline, the floor price of the deal has been fixed at ₹4,001 a share, a discount of 3.65 percent to the closing price of TCS. According to the December-end filing, Tata Sons holds a 72.38 percent stake in TCS.

India's growth expected to be between 6.5 to 7 percent n FY25.

A Finance Ministry report says, Various agencies have estimated India's growth to be between 6.5 to 7 percent n FY25. While the Reserve Bank of India has projected a growth rate of 7 percent for the next fiscal, the government is also expecting a growth rate of over 7 percent. According to the second advance estimate by the Statistics Ministry, the growth rate during the current fiscal year is estimated at 7.6 percent. The Monthly Economic Review, prepared by the Economic Affairs Department of the Finance Ministry, said that improving global investor confidence in India has started reflecting in foreign portfolio investment flows. The announcement by Bloomberg that

India would be included in its bond index from January 2025 should bolster inflows, buoyed by the fiscal prudence the government has demonstrated over the years.

As per Swiss Wealth Management major UBS, India's GDP growth is expected to moderate to 7 percent in 2024-25 from the estimated 7.6 percent.

As per Swiss Wealth Management major UBS, India's GDP growth is expected to moderate to 7 percent in 2024-25 from the estimated 7.6 percent. For the fiscal year 2026-27, Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.8 percent. UBS sees India's current account deficit narrowing to 0.8 percent of GDP in FY24E on the back of an improving trade deficit. Heading into FY'25, it is expected to modestly increase to 1.3 percent of GDP on slowing global growth and supported domestic demand. 10-year Indian government bond yield to decline to 6.25 percent by March 2025.

SAIC Motor and JSW Group have partnered to launch a new joint venture, named JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd.

SAIC Motor and JSW Group have partnered to launch a new joint venture, named JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd. Sajjan Jindal, the chairman of the JSW Group, announced the JV's ambitious new plans at an event. The marque of MG Motor, whose portfolio includes the MG ZS EV, MG Comet, MG Astor and others in India, is owned by SAIC Motor. The JV is aimed at using SAIC Motor's expertise in the auto sector and the JSW Group's manufacturing experience in the country. The new JV will also focus on the emerging new energy vehicles (NEVs) in the country. The company plans on capturing 33% of the NEV market by 2030 and aims to sell 1 million EVs in 2030.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) and Jakarta Futures Exchange (JFX) signed a MoU to enhance collaboration in key areas such as knowledge sharing, research, education, training, awareness creation, and other market development initiatives.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) and Jakarta Futures Exchange (JFX) signed a MoU to enhance collaboration in key areas such as knowledge sharing, research, education, training, awareness creation, and other market development initiatives. The MoU was formalised on 26 February 2024, at the MCX headquarters in Mumbai. P S Reddy, MD and CEO of MCX, and Stephanus Paulus Lumintang, President Director of JFX, signed the agreement in the presence of senior colleagues from both organisations.

Standard Chartered Bank sold its entire 7.18 percent stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd for Rs1,266 crore through an open market transaction.

Standard Chartered Bank sold its entire 7.18 percent stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd for Rs1,266 crore through an open market transaction. According to the bulk deal data available with the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Standard

Chartered Bank offloaded 75 lakh shares of Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL). The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs 1,688.64 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 1,266.48 crore.

Global Brokerage firm Morgan Stanley raised India's GDP growth estimates for FY25 to 6.8 percent from 6.5 percent earlier on the back on continued traction in industrial and capex activity.

Global Brokerage firm Morgan Stanley raised India's GDP growth estimates for FY25 to 6.8 percent from 6.5 percent earlier on the back on continued traction in industrial and capex activity. The forecast for FY24 GDP stood at 7.9 percent. GDP growth to track at around 7 percent in QE Mar-24 with GVA growth of 6.3 percent and thus F2024e GDP growth of 7.9 percent. CPI inflation to track at 4.5 percent in F2025e and F2026e and current account deficit at 1 percent of GDP in F2025e and F2026e.

The Centre's fiscal deficit widened in April-February 2024 to ₹15.01 lakh crore, which is about 86.5 percent of Revised Estimate of ₹17.35-lakh crore.

As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts, At Rs15.01 lakh crore, the fiscal deficit for the first 11 months of the current financial year accounts for 86.5 percent of the revised estimate of Rs 17.35 lakh crore. The original budget estimate was Rs17.87 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit in April 2022-February 2023 was 82.8 percent of the target for FY23. In the interim Budget presented on February 1, the central government narrowed its fiscal deficit target for FY24 by 10 basis points to 5.8 percent of GDP, while it aims to bring it down further to 5.1 percent in the next financial year. In February, the Centre's fiscal deficit surged to Rs 3.98 lakh crore, 51.6 percent higher than a year ago. On the whole, total receipts were 11.6 percent more in April 2023-February 2024 than what was collected in the same period of the previous year.

Jindal Advanced Materials (JAM) has collaborated with Italy's MAE S.p.A. to invest Rs 2,700 crore to set up a carbon fibre plant of 3,500 metric tonnes annual capacity.

Composite materials producer Jindal Advanced Materials (JAM) has collaborated with Italy's MAE S.p.A. to invest Rs 2,700 crore to set up a carbon fibre plant of 3,500 metric tonnes annual capacity. With the development, JAM is set to become a key supplier of carbon fibre. The facility will offer a comprehensive range of intermediates viz prepregs, fabrics, multiaxial and carbon fibre composites catering to diverse industrial needs. JAM's ambitious plan includes the production of low-tow to high-tow carbon fibres, with the capacity expansion projected to reach 10,000 MT by 2027. The facility is expected to be operational within 30 months and the project will cover the entire value chain from polyacrylonitrile (PAN)- precursor to carbon fibre intermediates.

Researchers have named a new species of deep-sea isopod called 'Brucethoa isro' discovered off the Kollam coast after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Researchers have named a new species of deep-sea isopod called 'Brucethoa isro' discovered off the Kollam coast after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). A recent discovery has uncovered a new species of deep-sea isopod off the Kollam coast in Kerala. This tiny crustacean, which feeds on fish, belongs to the genus Brucethoa and was found at the base of the Spinyjaw greeneye's gill cavity. Interestingly, this is the second documented species within the genus to be found in India, and it has been given the name Brucethoa isro in recognition of the Indian space agency's impressive space missions. Isopods are an incredibly diverse group of crustaceans, with a wide variety of shapes and sizes.

The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is annually observed on 25 March.

The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is annually observed on 25 March. It honors the lives of those who died as a result of slavery or experienced the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade. On December 17, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly designated March 25 as the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It was first observed in 2008. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2024 theme is "Creating Global Freedom: Countering Racism with Justice in Societies and Among Nations".

World Forestry Day is annually observed on 21 March to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives.

World Forestry Day is annually observed on 21 March to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives. In 1971, the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture proposed that we should celebrate a day dedicated to forests. March 21 was chosen as World Forestry Day by the United Nations as it coincides with Vernal Equinox and Autumn Equinox in northern and southern hemispheres. The theme for World Forestry Day 2024 is - Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24 annually to raise awareness around the disease and mobilise support for those affected by TB.

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24 annually to raise awareness around the disease and mobilise support for those affected by TB. The theme of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2024 is 'Yes! We can end TB'. March 24, 1882 is considered a significant date in the battle against tuberculosis as it is on this day that

Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that causes TB. It was not before the year 1982, on the centenary of Dr. Koch's discovery that the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed observing March 24 as World TB Day to raise awareness about TB and its global impact. The first World TB Day was officially observed in 1983, and since then, it has become an annual event.

The International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is annually observed on 24th March.

The International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is annually observed on 24th March. On December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The date was chosen to commemorate the assassination of Archbishop Romero on March 24, 1980, after he denounced human rights violations in El Salvador. This International Day aims to raise awareness about the right to truth and justice for victims of human rights atrocities and honor those who have sacrificed their lives in this struggle.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed on March 25 every year.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed on March 25 every year by the United Nations (UN) to commemorate the abduction of a journalist named Alec Collett, who died while on a UN assignment. The world commemorates the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on the day a former British journalist, Alec Collett, working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), was kidnapped. In 2009, his body was found in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. This resolution was signed by 43 UN member countries and as of now a total of 95 countries have ratified it.

World Water Day is annually celebrated on 22 March to spread awareness about the importance of freshwater.

World Water Day is annually celebrated on 22 March to spread awareness about the importance of freshwater. The theme of World Water Day 2024 is 'Water for Peace'. The idea of World Water Day was proposed in the year 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil's Rio De Janeiro. It was in 1993 when the UNGA declared March 22 as World Water Day.

Every year, World Meteorological Day is observed on 23 March.

Every year, World Meteorological Day is observed on 23 March. In 1950, on March 23, the World Meteorological Organisation was founded to predict weather and climate changes. World Meteorological Day was announced by the World

Meteorological Organisation, a year after being founded. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2024 is 'At the Frontline of Climate Action'. The day aims to create awareness about the significance of predicting weather changes and climate change mitigation.

Shaheed Diwas is annually observed on 23 March to commemorate the fateful day when three freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar – were hanged by the British Government.

Shaheed Diwas is annually observed on 23 March to commemorate the fateful day when three freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar – were hanged by the British Government. Every year, Shaheed Diwas is observed on multiple dates throughout the year commemorating the sacrifices of the freedom fighters. On 8 April, 1929, they threw bombs at the Central Legislative Assembly while shouting the slogan – Inquilab Zindabad. They were soon arrested and charged with murder. On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged.

The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is annually celebrated on 20 March to attract the attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people.

The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is annually celebrated on 20 March to attract the attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people. The Day was first celebrated on March 20, 2001. It is an initiative led by the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) with the purpose to communicate and promote the phrase: “Take a child to the theater, today”.

World Poetry Day falls on 21 March to honour poets and bring back the practice of poetry readings.

World Poetry Day falls on 21 March to honour poets and bring back the practice of poetry readings. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to celebrate World Poetry Day annually during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999. Earlier, many countries marked the day in October. Even after the UNESCO declaration in 1999, some countries still celebrate Poetry Day on October 15, on the birthday of the Roman poet Virgil - famous for his epic poem Aeneid. The theme of World Poetry Day 2024 is “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants” .

Every year, World Sparrow Day is observed on 20 March to create awareness about the significance of sparrows and what we can do to keep their population thriving.

Every year, World Sparrow Day is observed on 20 March to create awareness about the significance of sparrows and what we can do to keep their population thriving. The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March 20, 2010. The Nature Forever Society started the initiative of celebrating World Sparrow Day, emphasising on the importance of saving house sparrows and other common birds. The Nature Forever Society was founded by Mohammed Dilawar, an Indian conservationist. The official theme for World Sparrow Day 2024 is "I Love Sparrows".

'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' is annually celebrated on 21 March.

'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' is annually celebrated on 21 March. On the occasion of this day, unity is called for against casteism and racial discrimination. The theme of this year 2024 is 'A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent'. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated March 21st as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in October 1966. In 1979, the UNGA adopted a program of activities calling for action to combat racism and racial discrimination. During this, UNGA decided that from 21-27 March it will organize a 'Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination'.

Every year on 21 March, World Down Syndrome Day is observed across the globe.

Every year on 21 March, World Down Syndrome Day is observed across the globe. The day is designated to promote awareness about Down syndrome and to assist those who live with the condition. The United Nations (UN) chose March 21 to represent the uniqueness of Down syndrome caused by triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2024 is 'End The Stereotypes'.

Earth Hour 2024 was observed on 23rd March.

Earth Hour, a world initiative, is observed annually on the last Saturday of March to raise awareness about climate change and promote energy conservation. Earth Hour 2024 was observed on 23rd March. To observe the day, people around the world switch off their lights for an hour as a symbol of committing to the planet Earth. This year, on Earth Hour, people will be shutting down their lights for an hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm their local time. The day was initiated and organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which aimed to encourage individuals worldwide to come forward to preserve energy. For its 18th edition this year, people from 190 countries and territories are expected to participate by switching off non-essential lights on March 23. It was first observed on March 31, 2007, at 7:30 pm as per the local time in Sydney, urging residents to turn off their lights.

World Theatre Day is annually celebrated on 27 March to encourage theater's development and to increase public awareness of its importance in our lives.

World Theatre Day is annually celebrated on 27 March to encourage theater's development and to increase public awareness of its importance in our lives. The inaugural World Theatre Day was observed in 1962, marking the beginning of the event's history. In order to promote the value and significance of World Theatre Day all throughout the world, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) took the initiative in 1961. Every year on this day, a certain message is spoken about by a renowned theatre performer. The first message in 1962 was spoken by Jean Cocteau and ITI has more than 85 centers all over the world.

World Piano Day 2024 has celebrated on 28th March 2024.

International Piano Day is celebrated annually on the 88th day of the year. World Piano Day 2024 has celebrated on 28th March 2024. Marking the 88th day of the year, this date symbolizes the 88 keys on a standard piano keyboard, a fitting tribute to the instrument's unique characteristics. World Piano Day traces its roots back to 2015 when it was officially established to celebrate the piano's magnificence. World Piano Day holds significant importance for pianists, enthusiasts, and music lovers globally. German pianist and composer Nils Frahm started World Piano Day in 2015.

World Puppetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March.

World Puppetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March. This day is dedicated to the Puppetry art form and it is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the puppeteers who live all over the world. The World Puppetry Day was first established in 2003 by the Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA). The World Puppetry Day is an opportunity to recognize the Puppetry art form as a global community and to celebrate the diversity of puppetry practices around the world. It is also a day to reflect on the importance of maintaining and safeguarding the traditional traditions of puppetry. The theme of World Puppetry Day 2024 is 'The Climate'.

Mumbai is now the Asian capital with the most number of billionaires, according to Hurun Research Institute's global rich list.

Mumbai is now the Asian capital with the most number of billionaires, according to Hurun Research Institute's global rich list. This is the first time that India's most populous city has taken the top spot in Asia. Topping the 2024 global rich list for cities is New York (119), followed by London (97). In Asia, Mumbai — India's financial capital — moved ahead with 92 billionaires, according to Hurun. Following close behind are Beijing (91) and Shanghai (87). According to the country ranking, China still tops the list with 814 billionaires even though the country lost 155 billionaires from a year ago. The U.S. came in second with 800 billionaires while India came in third with 271.

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

India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its citizens stranded in war-torn Haiti amid the intense fighting between the armed groups and the government. 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. Meanwhile, attempts to chart a political transition for Haiti have failed, and various armed groups launched coordinated attacks on key installations in Haiti in an attempt to force the resignation of the country's embattled PM Henry as Haiti has not held functional elections since 2019.

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).

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). The visit focused on fostering collaboration and exploring innovative initiatives in the telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors. Dr Neeraj Mittal was unanimously elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of ITU formed under the aegis of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. The Digital Innovation Board comprises of Ministers and Vice Ministers of Telecom/ICT of 23 Member Countries of ITU spanning Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a visit to Bhutan from 22-23 March 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a visit to Bhutan from 22-23 March 2024. Where not only he met the top leaders but also inaugurated the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuk Mother and Child Hospital in Bhutan indicating the shining example of a strong partnership between the two countries in healthcare. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi announced a substantial assistance package of 10,000 crores for Bhutan's 13th five-year plan, further solidifying the bond between the two countries. During the two-day visit, PM Modi and Bhutan PM Tobgay reviewed all aspects of bilateral energy cooperation and, welcomed the expert-level discussions on the 1200 MW Punatsangchu-I Hydro-electric Project.

According to data from the United Nation's 4th Global E-waste Monitor (GEM), Global generation of electronic scrap is rising 5 times faster than documented e-scrap recycling.

According to data from the United Nation's 4th Global E-waste Monitor (GEM), Global generation of electronic scrap is rising 5 times faster than documented e-scrap recycling. The report, conducted by The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), says more than 68 million tons of e-waste was produced in 2022, up 82 percent from 2010. Less than one quarter of that was documented as having been properly collected and recycled. The generation of electronic scrap is rising by approximately 2.8 million tons annually and is on track to reach approximately 90 million tons in 2030, which is a 33 percent increase from the 2022 figure. The report estimates the value of metals embedded in landfilled e-waste in 2022 to be \$91 billion, including \$19 billion in copper, \$15 billion in gold and \$16 billion in iron.

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the 1st global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the 1st global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The resolution, sponsored by the United States and co-sponsored by 123 countries, including Russia, China, and Cuba, aims to ensure that the powerful new technology benefits all nations, respects human rights, and is safe, secure, and trustworthy. The resolution seeks to address several key objectives, including: Closing the digital divide between developed and developing countries; Ensuring that developing countries have the technology and capabilities to benefit from AI; Safeguarding human rights and protecting personal data; Monitoring AI for risks and potential harms; Strengthening privacy policies. The resolution emphasizes the importance of closing the digital divide between developed and developing countries, ensuring that all nations have a seat at the table in discussions on AI.

According to a new United Nations report, The world wasted an estimated 19 percent of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons.

According to a new United Nations report, The world wasted an estimated 19 percent of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons. The U.N Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report, published, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030. The number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. The 2021 report estimated that 17 percent of the food produced globally in 2019, or 931 million metric tons (1.03 billion tons), was wasted, but authors warned against direct comparisons because of the lack of sufficient data from many countries. The report is co-authored by UNEP and Waste and Resources Action Programme, an international charity. Most of the waste — 60 percent — came in households. About 28 percent came from food service, or restaurants, with about 12 percent from retailers.

As per the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD), India's youth

account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce.

As per the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD), India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce. Over 10 million job seekers registered with the National Career Service portal between 2015–16 and 2019. Among them, nearly 64 percent were men and 83 percent were youths aged 15–34. The educated unemployment rate increased over the past 22 years, but with a sharp decline between 2019 and 2022. In 2022, the unemployment rate among youths was six times greater for those who had completed secondary education or higher (18.4 percent) and nine times higher for graduates (29.1 percent) than for persons who could not read or write (3.4 percent). India's youth population accounted for 27% of the total in 2021, and is projected to decline to 23% by 2036. The study also said that the country is likely to add around 7-8 million people to its workforce in the next decade.

UNESCO's Executive Board has approved the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network.

UNESCO's Executive Board has approved the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network. This brings the total number of geoparks to 213 in 48 countries. The new geoparks are situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Spain. There is an additional new transboundary geopark spanning Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Geoparks serve local communities by combining the conservation of their significant geological heritage with public outreach and a sustainable approach to development. UNESCO does this by facilitating expert missions, tailored training sessions and individual consultations on both a national and local scale, to guide the preparation of applications for UNESCO Global Geopark status.

ETS India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance India's workforce employability.

ETS India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance India's workforce employability. The collaboration aims to boost English language proficiency and 21st-century skills among learners and professionals, leveraging ETS's assessments like TOEIC and PSQ. ETS will offer assessments for essential skills and English literacy, enhancing employability in the global job market.

Sterlite Power and Singapore's GIC have signed definitive agreements to set up a new platform to develop and operate power transmission projects in India.

Sterlite Power and Singapore's GIC have signed definitive agreements to set up a new platform to develop and operate power transmission projects in India. Sterlite Power will own the majority stake of 51% and GIC will own the remaining 49% stake.

Sterlite Power is a power transmission infrastructure developer and solutions provider with a portfolio of 33 completed, sold and under-construction projects covering around 15,350 circuit kilometres of transmission lines across India and Brazil.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India signed a MoU with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Artificial Intelligence.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India signed a MoU with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Artificial Intelligence. MoU was signed for a partnership in four key areas for use of AI in audit, audit of AI systems, capacity building and knowledge sharing. The MoU between the two institutions was signed by Anand Mohan Bajaj, Chief Technology Officer & Additional Deputy CAG and Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi in the presence of the CAG of India Girish Chandra Murmu.

6 new sites from Madhya Pradesh have found place in the tentative UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites (WHS).

6 new sites from Madhya Pradesh have found place in the tentative UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites (WHS). These include Gwalior Fort, the historical Dhamnar rock-cut caves and Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple in Bhojpur, the rock art site of Chambal valley, Kundi Bhandara in Burhanpur, Ramnagar and Mandla Gond sites. The inclusion on UNESCO's list will increase awareness about these destinations, and in turn, drive up the number of tourists and bestow global recognition. The process of nomination of these historical sites was carried by the MP Tourism Board. The proposal, consisting of 9 potential sites in MP, was submitted to UNESCO by the MP Tourism Board. After examining these proposals, UNESCO has approved 6 historical heritage sites. The remaining 3 heritage sites have been redirected for consideration under the 'serial nomination' clause and the MP Tourism Board is working on this.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi. In the virtual event, Home Minister Shah also inaugurated NIA's 2 new branch offices in Jammu and Kochi and a residential complex in Raipur. He also launched a mobile app 'Sankalan' – A compendium of New Criminal Laws by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The newly developed Criminal Case Management System will enable the NIA personnel to better coordinate in terrorism and organised crime cases, thereby improving justice delivery.

Rajasthan is the first state in the country to launch State Water Resources

Information System Dashboard.

To forecast drought and to enable better water management based on water availability, water resources department (WRD) minister Suresh Singh Rawat inaugurated the State Water Resources Information System Dashboard at Sinchai Bhawan. Rajasthan is the first state in the country to launch State Water Resources Information System Dashboard. This portal will not only help in forecasting drought and drought but will also enable better water management based on water availability. This system has been developed by the Department of Water Resources under the National Hydrology Project. This portal will prove to be a milestone in the direction of water management in a rain deficient state like Rajasthan. This network has also been mapped on GIS. Data of Ganga and Bhakra canal system, Bisalpur, Jawai, Gudha, Jawahar Sagar dams will be available live through SCADA.

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) 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. Over the years, GRID-INDIA's functions have dynamically evolved in response to the integration of power systems, escalating energy demands, the proliferation of Renewable Energy (RE) sources, economic growth, and technological advancements, coupled with evolving regulations and market dynamics. Moreover, GRID-INDIA upholds the principles of independent system operation, fostering a level playing field for all stakeholders involved.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has released guidelines for establishing green hydrogen hubs as part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has released guidelines for establishing green hydrogen hubs as part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). The MNRE and the designated scheme implementing agencies will be responsible for these hydrogen hubs. The scheme comes with a budgetary allocation of Rs 200 crore, exclusively for developing core infrastructure for common services and facilities. The MNRE underlines that the envisaged Hydrogen hubs should boast a planned capacity of at least 1,00,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), with higher production capacities receiving precedence.

According to the annual India TB report, India has witnessed a 16% decline in tuberculosis (TB) incidence from 2015 to 2022.

According to the annual India TB report, India has witnessed a 16% decline in tuberculosis (TB) incidence from 2015 to 2022. The National TB Elimination Programme, India TB Report 2024, also highlighted that 25.55 lakh cases of TB were

notified last year, the highest since the launch of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the 1960s. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of TB case notifications compared to the previous year, followed by Bihar. Out of the total notified cases, over 8.4 lakh cases were from the private sector, marking a 1.17% increase from 2022 and a significant rise since 2017. India achieved a case notification rate of approximately 179 cases per lakh population in 2023, narrowing the coverage gap to 0.2 million. Out of the total TB cases notified in 2023, 60.7% were men, 39.2% women, and 0.04% transgender.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, inaugurated India's first Indoor Athletics Centre and Indoor Aquatic Centre at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, inaugurated India's first Indoor Athletics Centre and Indoor Aquatic Centre at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. He also laid the foundation stone for the Indoor Diving Centre. The Indoor Athletics Centre stands as India's first capable of hosting indoor continental and regional championships. This world-class facility will be a training ground for the Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre, which has been producing young athletics champions. The centre boasts a 10,000-square-meter track used in Olympics, marking a pioneering feat within the country. The centre includes a 200-meter synthetic track, an 80m+20m running track, and designated areas for long jump, triple jump, pole vault, and shot-put, each meticulously designed to meet specific athletic requirements. The Indoor Aquatic Centre features temperature controlled 50m Olympic size swimming pool and 25 m warm up pool with a seating capacity for 1000 spectators and can host international championships.

India has added a 24 GW of solar PV manufacturing capacity in 2023.

India has added a 24 GW of solar PV manufacturing capacity in 2023. In calendar year (CY) 2023, the country added 20.8 gigawatts (GW) of solar modules and 3.2 GW of solar cell capacity. Solar module manufacturing capacity is projected to surpass 150 GW, and cell capacity is expected to reach over 75 GW by 2026. India's solar module manufacturing capacity reached 64.5 GW, while solar cell manufacturing capacity totaled 5.8 GW as of December 2023. Manufacturing capacity additions in 2023 were primarily driven by the anticipated reimposition of the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) order starting in April 2024, said the report by Mercom India research titled 'State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India 2024'. The top 10 manufacturers accounted for 62 percent of the module and 100 percent of cell production capacity as of December 2023.

The Ministry of Rural Development has notified a 3-10 percent increase in the wage rate of MGNREGA workers in nominal terms for the financial year 2024-25.

The Ministry of Rural Development has notified a 3-10 percent increase in the wage rate of MGNREGA workers in nominal terms for the financial year 2024-25. The

increase is similar to the hike announced for the current financial year. The new wage rates will come into force from April 1, 2024. In terms of percentage increase, wage rates in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have seen the lowest 3 per cent increase in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24 while that of Goa will see the highest increase of 10.6 percent. The increase in the wages at that time for different states varied from 2 percent to 10 percent. Karnataka, Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur were among the states which registered the lowest percentage increase in wages. Rajasthan had registered the highest percentage increase in the MNREGA wages. The revised rate for Rajasthan was Rs255 against Rs231 in 2022. Bihar and Jharkhand came second in terms of percentage increase in wages, with the rates being hiked by around eight per cent compared to 2022. In 2022, the wages of an MNREGA worker in these two states was Rs210, which was increased to Rs 228 in 2023.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) inaugurated its Indian subsidiary, AeroSpace Services India (ASI), in New Delhi.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) inaugurated its Indian subsidiary, AeroSpace Services India (ASI), in New Delhi. Israel Aerospace Industries refers to an Indian government initiative to increase the country's self-reliance. Based in New Delhi, ASI employs a workforce of 50, of whom 97% are Indian nationals. By working locally, ASI aims to reduce turnaround time and lower the cost of repairs and service operations. ASI trades in Indian Rupees and is the sole authorized original equipment manufacturer's Technical Representative for the entire Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system used by the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) signed a Working Arrangement for establishing cooperative relations between the law enforcement authorities of these two organisations.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) signed a Working Arrangement for establishing cooperative relations between the law enforcement authorities of these two organisations. The Working Arrangement was signed by CBI Director Praveen Sood and Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle. The signing was concluded in a virtual event held simultaneously in New Delhi and the Hague in presence of senior CBI and Europol officials. This arrangement promotes direct cooperation between both organizations to build on their respective mandates, strategies and to explore the potential for synergies. This working arrangement not only brings together CBI and Europol but also enables wide cooperation between all law enforcement agencies in India and all law enforcement agencies of 27 European countries that Europol represents as well as third countries and organizations associated with Europol.

The 4th edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi.

The 4th edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized on 19th March 2024 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. The workshop included an interactive session to understand various models of setting up seed funds to support early-stage startups.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications'.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications'. With the rolling out of 5G services in the country, the opportunities for M2M ecosystem have expanded greatly, offering increased scope for applications in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, transportation, healthcare and industrial automation. These recommendations are aimed at streamlining the regulatory landscape of M2M embedded SIM (eSIM) in India. Through these recommendations, the Authority has laid emphasis on ensuring security by way of proper Know Your Customer (KYC), which is essential for ensuring network security, mitigating fraud risks and enhancing the overall integrity of the M2M eSIM ecosystem. The Authority has also recommended a framework for profile switching of eSIMs and swapping of SM-SR. This will provide significant flexibility to the M2M eSIM users and will promote healthy competition in the sector.

India's first integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm started its commercial operations in Arunachal Pradesh.

India's first integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm started its commercial operations in Arunachal Pradesh. The factory located at Roing in lower Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, carries forward Mission Palm Oil, representing a pivotal step in India's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils, catalyzed by the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). The factory includes: A state-of-the-art oil palm factory, A palm waste-based power plant, A zero-discharge effluent plant. 1,30,000 hectares of land suitable for oil palm cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh have been identified, with the Northeast region alone having 33 percent of the government-designated area fit for cultivation.

Frans de Waal, Dutch-American primatologist and ethologist, passed away in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Frans de Waal, Dutch-American primatologist and ethologist, passed away in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He was the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Primate Behavior in the Department of Psychology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He also wrote a column for *Psychologie Magazine*, a popular Dutch monthly. In June 2018, de Waal was awarded the NAT Award, established by the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona.

David Seidler, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The King's Speech*, passed away in New Zealand.

David Seidler, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The King's Speech*, passed away in New Zealand. David Seidler was a British-American playwright and film and television writer. Seidler is most known for writing the scripts for the stage version and screen version for the story *The King's Speech*. For the film, he won the Academy Award and a BAFTA for Best Original Screenplay.

Writer and former chairman of Karnataka Sahitya Academy Prof Dr Gurulinga Kapse passed away.

Writer and former chairman of Karnataka Sahitya Academy Prof Dr Gurulinga Kapse passed away. Born in BK Loni village of Indi taluk in Vijayapura district, Kapse had written a thesis on the life and works of litterateur Madhurachanna. He has also written on philosophy, spirituality and Kannada prose and poetry besides editing several felicitation volumes. Kapse, who served as the professor of Kannada at Karnatak College in Dharwad, was honoured with Karnataka Sahitya Academy and Nataka Academy awards. He has served as chairman of Karnataka Sahitya Academy.

Best-selling psychologist and Nobel Prize-winning economist Daniel Kahneman passed away.

Best-selling psychologist and Nobel Prize-winning economist Daniel Kahneman passed away. Daniel Kahneman was an Israeli-American author, psychologist, and economist notable for his work on hedonism, the psychology of judgment, and decision-making. He is also known for his work in behavioral economics, for which he was awarded the 2002 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences shared with Vernon L. Smith.

China successfully launched the Yunhai-3 02 satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province.

China successfully launched the Yunhai-3 02 satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province, marking a significant advancement in atmospheric and space monitoring capabilities. Designed for multifaceted applications, the Yunhai-3 02 satellite will primarily focus on atmospheric and marine environment

surveys, space environment monitoring, disaster prevention, reduction efforts, and scientific experiments. This launch signifies the 514th mission of the Long March series carrier rockets, highlighting China's continued commitment to space exploration and technological advancement. The deployment of the Yunhai-3 02 satellite underscores China's dedication to enhancing its capabilities in environmental monitoring and disaster management, contributing to global scientific research endeavors.

IIT Madras has partnered up with French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with a funding support of €100 million.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered up with French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with a funding support of €100 million. IIT-Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programmes to ASD ecosystem in India. This partnership will enable export promotion and provide support for Indian ASD startups to explore international markets through the extensive network of Starburst. An MoU towards this collaboration was signed at IIT-Madras campus.

Pharmaceutical manufacturer Akums launched India's first indigenous hydroxyurea oral solution, which is used for the treatment of sickle cell disease in children.

Pharmaceutical manufacturer Akums launched India's first indigenous hydroxyurea oral solution, which is used for the treatment of sickle cell disease in children. The drug will be provided to the government at the cost of R600, which is nearly 1% of the R77,000 that the medicine currently available globally costs. The new formulation offers a cost-effective alternative to imported brands in the country. Designed for ease of use across all age groups suffering from sickle cell disease, Hydroxyurea oral suspension will be offered as oral syringes to guarantee precise dosage, enhancing patient compliance and treatment efficacy.

Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250.

Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250. The test was conducted at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The test, which lasted 85 seconds, achieved a peak sea-level thrust of 186 kilonewtons (kN), expected to reach around 235kN in the vacuum of space. The Kalam-250 stage is constructed from high-strength carbon composite materials and runs on solid fuel alongside an advanced Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) thermal protection system. The solid propellant used in the Kalam-250 was processed at Solar Industries' unique facility in

Nagpur.

The first production series fighter of LCA Tejas Mark-1A, an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, completed its maiden flight in Bengaluru.

The first production series fighter of LCA Tejas Mark-1A, an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, completed its maiden flight in Bengaluru. According to HAL, the Tejas Mk1A aircraft did a successful sortie with a flying time of 18 minutes. The plane was piloted by Chief Test Pilot Group Captain K K Venugopal (Retired). The Tejas Mk1A will have an advanced electronic RADAR, warfare and communication systems, additional combat capability and improved maintenance features.

India successfully test-fired its first indigenously-made 1500 Horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks at BEML's Engine division in Mysuru complex.

India successfully test-fired its first indigenously-made 1500 Horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks at BEML's Engine division in Mysuru complex. The achievement heralds a new era in the country's defence capabilities, showcasing the technological prowess and commitment to self-reliance in defence technologies. The 1500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in military propulsion systems, possessing cutting-edge features such as high power-to-weight ratio, operability in extreme conditions including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures, and desert environments. The project is slated for completion by mid-2025.

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

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. According to the UK government, firing the laser for just 10 seconds costs the equivalent of using a heater for an hour, typically less than £10 per shot. This cost efficiency makes it a promising option for military operations.

China launched its Queqiao-2 relay satellite to support upcoming lunar far side and south polar missions.

China launched its Queqiao-2 relay satellite to support upcoming lunar far side and south polar missions. The China National Space Administration (CNSA) confirmed the Queqiao-2 satellite was on a trajectory towards the moon around 40 minutes after launch. Queqiao-2 had deployed its solar arrays and was in its predetermined orbit with a perigee of 200 kilometers and an apogee of 420,000 kilometers. The 1,200-kilogram satellite carries a 4.2-meter parabolic antenna and is part of China's plans for future lunar exploration and a stepping stone towards building a lunar base.

in the 2030s.

The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) has signed a MoU with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) for collaboration in the area of advanced materials for India's space programmes.

The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) has signed a MoU with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) for collaboration in the area of advanced materials for India's space programmes. NIIST Director Dr C Anandharamakrishnan and VSSC Director Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair exchanged the umbrella MoU in this regard recently. MoU assured strategic materials for ISRO programmes, which are a high priority to NIIST and would deliver engineered components meeting ISRO specifications.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has given its stamp of approval to the name 'Statio Shiv Shakti' for the landing site of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has given its stamp of approval to the name 'Statio Shiv Shakti' for the landing site of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission. This decision, announced on 19th March 2024, follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration of the name after the successful mission on August 26, 2023. The name 'Shiva Shakti' is derived from Indian mythology, symbolising the duality of nature with the masculine aspect represented by Shiva and the feminine aspect by Shakti. Prime Minister Modi, addressing scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Command Centre on August 28, 2023, revealed the decision to christen the Chandrayaan-3 landing site as "Shiv Shakti Point".

The Indian Army has introduced seven new indigenous integrated drone detection and interdiction systems (IDD&IS) along the northern borders with China.

The Indian Army has introduced seven new indigenous integrated drone detection and interdiction systems (IDD&IS) along the northern borders with China. These systems can jam hostile drones and use lasers to eliminate them, with a detection range of 5 to 8 km. Additionally, DRDO is developing more potent directed energy weapon systems like high-energy lasers and high-powered microwaves for enhanced security measures. It can perform "soft kills" by jamming hostile drones at ranges from 2 to 5 kilometers. Hard Kills: For more effective action, it can achieve "hard kills" by using lasers at a range of over 800 meters.

The Indian Space Research Organization successfully conducted the 2nd landing test of its reusable launch vehicle (RLV), 'Pushpak', from the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Challakere near Chitradurga in Karnataka.

The Indian Space Research Organization successfully conducted the 2nd landing test of its reusable launch vehicle (RLV), 'Pushpak', from the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Challakere near Chitradurga in Karnataka. Pushpak (RLV-TD), winged vehicle was lifted by the Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force and was released from an altitude of 4.5 km. Pushpak autonomously approached the runway along with cross range corrections. It landed precisely on the runway and came to a halt using its brake parachute, landing gear brakes and nose wheel steering system. RLV-TD (technology demonstrator) is one of the most challenging endeavours of the Indian space agency towards developing essential technologies for a fully reusable launch vehicle to enable low-cost access to space.

Veteran table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be India's flag-bearer at the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics.

Veteran table tennis player Sharath Kamal, a two-time Commonwealth Games champion and Khel Ratna awardee, will be India's flag-bearer at the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced. Former Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan will serve as the deputy Chef de Mission while Gagan Narang will be in charge of the Indian shooting team in France. The flag-bearer at the Olympic Games is a symbolic leader, who is the first person to march a country's delegation out during the grand Opening Ceremony parade. The person proudly displays the country's flag during the parade.

Olympic bronze medalist MC Mary Kom has been named as the chef de mission for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Olympic bronze medalist MC Mary Kom has been named as the chef de mission for the Summer Games. MC Mary Kom, the first female boxer in boxing history to have captured six world titles. The five-time Asian champion was also the first female boxer from India to win a gold medal at the 2014 Asian Games. The experienced boxer won a bronze medal in the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Olympic Games will take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in Paris.

India's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beat compatriot Manav Thakkar in the final to win the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon.

India's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beat compatriot Manav Thakkar in the final to win the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon. Sathiyam thus became the first-ever Indian to win a men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event. It was also his first singles title since the 2021 Czech International Open. Diya Chitale and Manush Shah, meanwhile, also came trumps in an all-Indian mixed doubles final. World No. 103 G Sathiyam, seeded 11th in the tournament, defeated world No. 74 and ninth seed Thakkar 3-1 (6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-4). Similarly, Manav Thakkar beat former World

Championships bronze medallist AN Jaehyun of the Republic of Korea in straight games 3-0 (11-9, 11-8, 12-10) to make the final.

India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon.

India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon. Akula, the world No. 47, beat Luxembourg's Sarah De Nutte 3-1 (6-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-9) to win what was her second WTT singles career title. The 25-year-old's maiden crown came at the Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas back in January. Akula, failed to clinch a second table tennis title from the Lebanon meet after she and her partner Diya Chitale, went down 3-1 to Hong Kong China's Doo Hoi Kem and Zhu Chengzhu in the women's doubles final. Gerassimenko, the world No. 43 in men's singles, beat the 103-ranked Sathiyar 3-0 (11-9, 13-11, 11-9). India also managed a 1-2 finish in men's doubles with Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar beating compatriots Mudit Dani and Akash Pal 3-1 (11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6) in the title clash.

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

YES Bank 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. The bank also unveiled the 'YES Glory' savings account proposition, extending benefits to athletes and their immediate family members. The YES Glory account offers a range of benefits tailored to the needs of champion athletes. These perks include a complimentary Welcome on-board Taj voucher, free orthopedic consultations, and zero cross-currency mark-up on international spends.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Australian Grand Prix, the third round of the 2024 Formula 1 World Championship, in Melbourne.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Australian Grand Prix, the third round of the 2024 Formula 1 World Championship, in Melbourne. Sainz beat Charles Leclerc and Lando Norris at the Albert Park Circuit. Lando Norris was third for McLaren. Sergio Perez finished fifth for Red Bull, one ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, with Alonso's team mate Lance Stroll seventh. Yuki Tsunoda finished eighth to deliver RB their first points, with ninth-placed Nico Hulkenberg and Kevin Magnussen rounding out the top 10.