

MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

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NAMMAKPSC SPECIAL EDITION



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NEWS IN SHORT

- In 2023, India discovered 641 new fauna species (442 new to science and 199 newly recorded in India) and 339 plant taxa (171 new to science and 168 new to India). Notable discoveries include *Capra himalayensis* (a distinct Himalayan Ibex species) and *Miniopterus srinii* (a new bent-winged bat). Significant plant discoveries include *Curcuma kakchingense* (a new turmeric species) and *Asystasia venui* (a flowering plant). Kerala, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu were prominent in fauna discoveries, while West Bengal, Kerala, and Uttarakhand led in plant discoveries. Additionally, the Fauna of India Checklist Portal was launched, encompassing 121 checklists covering 36 phyla, providing data on 1,04,561 animal species, including endemic, threatened, and scheduled species.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched two geoportals developed by ISRO: "Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)" for rural land record management and "National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)" for disaster risk reduction. Bhuvan Panchayat empowers citizens with real-time data, reducing dependency on local administration, and promoting ease of living. NDEM provides space-based inputs on natural disasters, aiding in disaster risk reduction and early warning systems. These initiatives are part of ongoing reforms to integrate space technology in infrastructure development and disaster management, enhancing transparency and citizen empowerment. ISRO's achievements include high-resolution satellite imagery and increased private sector participation.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has initiated a preliminary study on developing an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76, following the Defence Ministry's approval, with substantial indigenous content planned; this effort continues the advanced technology vessel (ATV) project, which includes the Arihant series and nuclear-powered submarines, while an air-independent propulsion (AIP) module developed by DRDO awaits fitment on Scorpene-class submarines starting with Kalvari in 2025 to enhance endurance and reduce detection.
- General Upendra Dwivedi took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) from General Manoj Pande. Born on July 1, 1964, General Dwivedi was commissioned into the Infantry (Jammu & Kashmir Rifles) of the Indian Army on December 15, 1984. Like the Navy chief, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, he is an alumnus of the Sainik School, Rewa, in Madhya Pradesh
- India has won ICC Men's T20 World Cup
- George Russell won the Austrian Grand Prix for Mercedes after Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen and McLaren's Lando Norris collided late in the race while fighting for the lead
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has launched an advanced AI system named Pantera for early detection of forest fires. The system features a high-resolution PTZ camera with a 15 km visual range, covering over 350 sq km of the reserve. It

operates from a control room in Kollitmara and integrates AI capabilities to differentiate between smoke and clouds, ensuring accurate fire alerts. Additionally, it uses infrared technology for night-time operation and integrates data from 15 commercial satellites for comprehensive fire monitoring. The system provides real-time alerts within 3 minutes of fire detection, integrates weather data and historical fire incidence for proactive management, and tracks resources using GPS.

- Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, mission deployed in the South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.
- The IMF has released an AIPI Dashboard assessing AI readiness across 174 economies globally, categorizing them into Advanced Economies (AE), Emerging Market Economies (EM), and Low-Income Countries (LIC). Top performers include Singapore, Denmark, and the United States among AE, and India, China, and Sri Lanka among EM. Key areas assessed include digital infrastructure, human capital policies, innovation, and regulation. AI is expected to impact jobs significantly across all economies, with concerns over widening global inequality, prompting calls for inclusive policy design.
- Three new criminal codes will replace existing laws: IPC → Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), CrPC → Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Indian Evidence Act → Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). During the transition period till June 30, cases follow old laws; from July 1, new laws apply. Police face challenges with dual procedures for evidence collection and panchnama, requiring familiarity with both legal frameworks. Variability in court interpretations necessitates thorough training. Strict procedural compliance is crucial to avoid defense loopholes. Panchnama and evidence collection involve extensive digital documentation, posing integrity risks and budget constraints. Training includes phased, intensive programs from constables to SPs, supplemented by online sessions and awareness boards at police stations.
- In its efforts to promote the production and use of renewable energy in the state, the Energy department has proposed another solar park in Tumakuru district but in Madhugiri taluk. It will be similar to the one set up in Pavagad taluk also in the district
- Major General V T Mathew, AVSM, YSM, took charge as the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area
- Sweden launched a groundbreaking new law, allowing grandparents to step in and get paid parental leave while taking care of their grandchildren for up to three months of a child's first year
- H.E António Costa elected as next President of the European Council
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed an eSankhyiki portal. It provides real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large. The objective of this portal is to establish a

comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country

- Snowblind is a new Android malware aimed at stealing banking credentials by exploiting Android's security features. It bypasses app anti-tamper mechanisms using 'seccomp' in the Linux kernel and Android OS. The malware repacks apps to avoid detection of accessibility feature use, injects code pre-seccomp to evade security, and uses accessibility services to steal data and remotely access screens. It disables biometric and two-factor authentication, particularly impacting Southeast Asia where users download apps from untrusted sources. Detection is challenging due to its manipulation of system-level security, advising users to install apps only from trusted sources and regularly update their devices for security patches
- Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), under its CSR initiatives has successfully concluded a skill development training program in collaboration with Pramith Foundation Kolkata, benefiting 150 youth from the Dhanbad region
- The Indian Army contingent departed yesterday for the 13th edition of India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 15th July 2024 at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019
- BBMP has entrusted Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) to oversee solid waste management. BSWML, formed three years ago and led by an IAS officer, will manage door-to-door collection, transportation, and disposal of waste. It plans to appoint assistant general managers, use technology for monitoring, and establish a command center. BBMP retains supervision of pourakarmikas and health inspectors but faces concerns over BSWML's lack of statutory backing.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has partnered with ASEAN countries to establish Nexus, a platform facilitated by the Bank for International Settlements' Innovation Hub. It aims to standardize global connections for Instant Payment Systems (IPS), linking India's UPI with FPSs of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. This initiative seeks to enhance cross-border retail payments, enable near-instant transactions at minimal cost, and expand connectivity beyond bilateral agreements
- India has joined SERA's Citizen Astronaut Programme, offering six seats on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket to countries without astronauts. Candidates, including Indian citizens paying a \$2.50 fee, undergo STEM challenges and public voting for selection. Costs include astronaut launch covered by SERA and mission costs by Blue Origin. Voting allows campaign through mission profiles and social media, restricted by nationality for regional seats and open globally for one seat. The mission entails an 11-minute journey past 100 km altitude, weightlessness, and a controlled descent, promoting inclusivity with minimal training requirements.
- The Global India AI Summit 2024, hosted by India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi, aimed to promote responsible AI

development and collaboration among international experts. India, as the lead chair of GPAI, emphasized ethical and inclusive AI growth globally. The IndiaAI Mission focuses on building a robust AI ecosystem with initiatives like compute capacity enhancement, innovation centers, datasets platform, application development, skills enhancement, startup support, and ensuring safe and trusted AI through guidelines

- Paper Mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), an invasive plant native to Southeast Asia, is spreading rapidly in Bengaluru's open spaces, including lakes and parks, due to a lack of awareness about its harmful effects. Introduced to India in the 1880s for horticulture, the plant produces highly allergenic pollen twice a year, posing health risks. Its proliferation in areas like the Indian Institute of Science and railway stations has come at the expense of native species. The unchecked spread of invasive plants, exacerbated by urbanization, threatens biodiversity in urban areas.
- Jyothi Yarraji is set to become the first Indian 100m hurdler to compete in the Olympics while shot putter Abha Khatua made a surprise cut through world rankings for Paris Games.
- NASA has recently captured an epic view of the largest volcano in our solar system named Olympus Mons using the Mars Odyssey orbiter.
- Scientists have identified a species of desert moss called 'Syntrichia caninervis' that could be a game-changer for future space exploration and colonisation efforts.
- Astronomers recently discovered a new radio galaxy using the LOw-Frequency ARray (LOFAR). It is a highly innovative, pan-European distributed radio interferometer and the first of its kind. It observes the Universe at low radio frequencies, close to the FM radio band, from 90 to 200 MHz. It was developed by the Dutch Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON) with the goal of exploring the early, distant universe, solar activity, and the terrestrial atmosphere.
- Nouka baich boat races will soon begin in several rural pockets of West Bengal.
- A UK-based teenager, Oran Knowlson who has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a brain implant to help bring his epileptic seizures under control by using deep brain stimulation (DBS) device
- The Karnataka government is considering the establishment of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to manage Bengaluru's expanding needs. This new governance body will have planning and financial powers, overseeing multiple corporations and parastatal agencies. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will shift its focus to large infrastructure projects, losing its current power to approve land use and development plans. A draft bill, created by a four-member committee, proposes the GBA structure, which includes an apex body headed by the Chief Minister, various city officials, and domain experts. The GBA will manage planning, fund utilization, and coordinate major infrastructure projects, with the jurisdiction expanded by about 250 sq km to cover Bengaluru's periphery.
- The Union government launched the NIRMAL Portal, a CSR initiative by Coal India Limited (CIL) under "Mission Karmayogi," to provide Rs 1,00,000 support to eligible UPSC aspirants from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, female, or third gender

categories, with annual family income less than Rs 8 lakhs, who are permanent residents of CIL's operational districts, ensuring transparency through a dedicated digital application process.

- India has developed and certified SEBEX 2, a new high-performance explosive, under the Make in India initiative by Economic Explosives Limited, and certified by the Indian Navy. SEBEX 2, which uses a high-melting explosive composition, significantly increases the lethality of various munitions and has a TNT equivalence of 2.01, surpassing that of the BrahMos warhead. Future developments include a variant with a TNT equivalence of 2.3. Additional certified explosives include SITBEX 1, a thermobaric explosive for fortified positions, and SIMEX 4, an insensitive munition ideal for torpedo warheads in submarines.
- A new study by the World Resources Institute (WRI) emphasizes the importance of incentivizing MSMEs to facilitate India's transition to clean energy. MSMEs, which account for 25% of India's energy consumption, face challenges such as limited financial access and reliance on outdated technologies. The study underscores the need for improved governance, institutional frameworks, and awareness to support MSMEs in reducing CO2 emissions and achieving India's carbon reduction goals. Tailored government interventions and sector-specific skills are essential for a successful clean energy transition
- The Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Park, established in 1927 to commemorate Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV's 25-year rule, is currently in a deteriorated state due to neglect by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Built by Dewan Sir Mirza Ismail, it spans between Town Hall and Jumma Masjid. Despite its historical significance and lush greenery in the past, the park has suffered from neglect over the last 15 years. It now serves as a dumping ground and illegal parking area, particularly at night, affecting its aesthetic appeal and original purpose
- Hardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the No. 1 spot in the ICC's T20I all-rounders' rankings
- India has officially announced its participation in the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kazakhstan's Astana recently, with the External Affairs Minister leading the delegation
- Recently, Niti Aayog released the Guidelines for the Utilization and Processing of Steel Slag as Processed Steel Slag Aggregates in Road Construction
- Recently, a team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India recorded the forest-dwelling frog from the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary and named it as Xenophrys apatani
- The 16th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT commenced at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya)
- Dr. B.N. Gangadhar appointed as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Karnataka is embracing the "Beyond Bengaluru" initiative in alignment with the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, focusing on developing sunrise sectors and industrial clusters outside Bengaluru to

boost growth and job creation in tier-II and tier-III cities, while supporting India's energy goals and fostering industry-academia relationships.

- The Smart Cities Mission (SCM), launched in June 2015 under the Union Urban Development Ministry, aims to develop 100 cities across India with sustainable and inclusive infrastructure. Over 8,000 projects are planned, with 7,188 already completed, focusing on enhancing urban living conditions through area-based development and pan-city solutions, managed by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and leveraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).
- NITI Aayog will launch 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' from July 4 to September 30, 2024, aiming to achieve saturation in 6 key indicators across 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks in India. The campaign focuses on health, agriculture, education, and financial inclusion, with specific targets such as Antenatal Care registration, Soil Health Card distribution, and school infrastructure improvements. Districts and blocks will implement action plans, conduct monitoring, and collaborate with central and state governments to ensure sustainable development.
- The World Drug Report 2024, released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), reveals a significant increase in global drug use, with 292 million people consuming drugs in 2022, marking a 20% rise over the past decade. Cannabis remains the most widely used drug with 228 million users, followed by opioids, amphetamines, cocaine, and ecstasy. The report highlights the emergence of Nitazenes, highly potent synthetic opioids, contributing to increased overdose deaths in high-income countries. Globally, 64 million people suffer from drug use disorders, yet only 1 in 11 receive treatment, with notable gender disparities (1 in 18 women vs. 1 in 7 men). In 2022, law enforcement actions for drug offences affected 7 million people, resulting in over 1.6 million convictions
- Labour party leader Keir Starmer to become UK Prime Minister first time
- Markets regulator SEBI has issued new guidelines effective August 1, 2024, to streamline operations and enhance ease of doing business for credit rating agencies (CRAs), including specific timelines for rating appeals, prompt communication of ratings, maintaining records for 10 years, daily updates on non-cooperative issuers, and ensuring compliance through half-yearly internal audits to uphold investor protection and foster market development
- To combat rising dengue cases and raise awareness, the BBMP Health Department has launched the Dengue Warrior contest, inviting citizens and students to create and upload short videos on dengue prevention measures by July 25; top participants will be recognized and awarded based on the engagement their videos receive on social media
- The Philippine Army has confirmed that the “deadly” Typhon Weapons System, deployed by the United States for joint military exercises, will soon be withdrawn from the country
- Odisha has restricted the cutting of existing palm trees and plans to plant around 1.9 million such trees to reduce casualties from lightning strikes

- For the first time, a large-scale migration of Common Grass Yellow was observed during the three-day butterfly survey which concluded at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) recently
- The Karnataka state government has formed a nine-member committee to investigate and address the contamination of the Kaveri River, following concerns raised by MLC Dinesh Gooligowda about the negative impact of sewage, solid waste, and industrial pollutants on marine life and public health; the committee, tasked by the Forest Department, will submit a comprehensive report within ten days and will be dissolved thereafter
- The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund is a bilateral program that supports collaborative research projects between Australia and India, aiming to strengthen scientific relationships and address common challenges through joint efforts in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, renewable energy technologies, and urban mining, and is jointly managed and funded by both governments to facilitate access to global science and technology systems and increase the uptake of leading-edge scientific research and technology.
- A painting created at least 51,200 years ago was discovered in the limestone cave of Leang Karampuang in the Maros-Pangkep region of the Indonesian island.
- Ahom era 'Moidams', resting place of royal families, in Assam's Charaideo district have been recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List by its international advisory body International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- Meta has introduced a new AI tool that can generate or retexture 3D objects in under a minute. It is a combined AI system that can generate high-quality 3D assets, with both high-resolution textures and material maps, all within one minute.
- India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is scheduled to be conducted from 03rd to 16th July 2024 in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- The President of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, appointed Shri Sheel Nagu, Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, has joined forces with the National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign to launch a two-month awareness initiative, "Swachh Gaon, Shudh Jal - Behtar Kal," starting from July 1, 2024, aimed at promoting safe water and sanitation practices in rural areas. This collaboration seeks to reduce childhood mortality and foster health and hygiene. The campaign includes activities such as community engagement, water quality testing, sensitization workshops, leakage detection and repair drives, public awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives focused on preventing diarrhoeal diseases and improving overall public health in rural India
- Researchers have determined that the world's oldest known figurative cave painting dates back 51,200 years by using a new dating technique, according to a

recent study. Located in the Leang Karampuang cave on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the painting in red pigment shows a pig with its mouth partially open and three part-human, part-animal stick figures, or therianthrope

- On July 5, 2024, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL launched the SEHER program to empower women entrepreneurs in India by increasing financial awareness and aiding in accessing and managing credit. With 63 million MSMEs in India, 20% of which are women-owned, the program aims to create 30 million new women-owned enterprises and generate 150-170 million jobs. SEHER focuses on financial literacy, credit awareness, and provides support through entrepreneurship promotion, access to finance, market linkages, training, mentoring, and business development services.
- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) of the Government of India has issued guidelines for funding under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines focus on developing a quality and testing ecosystem, supporting new and upgraded testing facilities, and ensuring safe and secure operations in the Green Hydrogen (GH₂) sector. The scheme has a budgetary outlay of Rs. 200 crores until FY 2025-26 and will be implemented by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched on January 4, 2023, with a total outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores until FY 2029-30, aims to achieve self-reliance in clean energy, reduce carbon footprints, decrease fossil fuel imports, and position India as a leader in Green Hydrogen technology.
- The Rudram-1 missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF), was successfully test-fired. This air-to-surface missile, integrated with Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile. It features inertial and GPS navigation systems, a passive homing head for accurate targeting of radiation-emitting sources, and can be launched from altitudes of 500 meters to 15 kilometers with a maximum range of up to 250 kilometers. The missile can reach speeds of up to Mach 2 and enhances the IAF's capability in Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) operations by targeting and neutralizing enemy radars and communication sites from long standoff ranges
- Vasant Mokashi, the screenwriter of Shankar Nag's 1985 hit film 'Accident', passed away
- The two-day Mysuru Literature Festival, organized by Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs-2015, concluded on Sunday, featuring diverse panel discussions and the release of "Power within - The leadership legacy of Narendra Modi" by R Balasubramaniam, which explores Modi's leadership journey and his spiritual influences
- At the Paris Diamond League meet, Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine set a new women's high jump world record of 2.10 meters, surpassing the previous mark set in 1987. Meanwhile, Kenyan Faith Kipyegon improved her own women's 1500m record, showcasing top form ahead of the Olympics in Paris

- India's Dhruv Sitwala and Anupama Ramachandran clinched the men's Asian billiards and women's snooker titles in the Asian championships in Riyadh recently.
- Two new species of litter-dwelling jumping spiders from the evergreen forests of the southern Western Ghats have been found by researchers from Christ College, Irinjalakuda.
- Japan issued its first new banknotes in two decades, yen packed with 3D hologram technology to fight counterfeiting
- For the first time, a large-scale migration of Common Grass Yellow was observed during the three-day butterfly survey which concluded at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) recently
- The Karnataka State government is launching the 'Naavu Manujaru' programme in schools to promote social harmony, tolerance, and scientific temper. The program will involve 2 hours of weekly discussions, replacing one period of value education and two periods of SUPW. Implemented with guidelines from the Department of School Education and Literacy, district-level nodal officers will oversee the execution and report to DSERT. The curriculum covers themes like social harmony, festivals, sports, social reformers, family dynamics, and values such as equality and liberty. It also promotes scientific temper, environmental awareness, social inclusion, and coexistence through various activities and discussions.
- The Department of Telecommunication released draft rules for the administration of Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) for a 30-day public consultation. The DBN, which replaced the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through the Telecommunications Act, 2023, focuses on providing telecom services in underserved areas, supporting pilot projects, research and development, and the introduction of new telecom technologies. Payments to the DBN will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and then transferred to the DBN. The central government will appoint an administrator to oversee the selection of DBN implementers through bidding or applications, who must offer services non-discriminatorily. The new rules aim to replace previous USOF rules and omit certain financial and technical definitions.
- To address severe coastal erosion in the Poonthura region of Kerala, the irrigation department plans to construct eight groynes at a cost of Rs 17.5 crore. Groynes are structures extending from the shore into the sea, typically made of wood, rock, concrete, or metal. They serve to trap sediment, dissipate wave energy, and restrict sediment transfer through longshore drift. Longshore drift occurs when waves carry sediment along the beach at an angle due to prevailing winds. Groynes help prevent this, thereby slowing erosion. Advantages of groynes include ease of construction, long-term durability, low maintenance, reduced need for beach nourishment, beach widening, erosion reduction, increased wave energy dissipation, and long-term coastline stabilization.
- Thazhakar has become the first grama panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to update and publish a comprehensive People's Biodiversity Register

(PBR) with the involvement of local communities. The PBR serves as a detailed record of biodiversity, including conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, domesticated animal breeds, microorganisms, and accumulated biological knowledge. Mandated by the Biological Diversity Act (2002), PBRs are developed to document and safeguard bioresources and associated knowledge at the local level.

- The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between India and Russia, has successfully delivered 35,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army. Developed by engineer Mikhail Kalashnikov between 2007 and 2010 in Russia, these rifles are chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge and are renowned for their reliability and ease of maintenance. The rifles are produced using proprietary Russian technologies and certified equipment to ensure high quality and adherence to specifications. IRRPL, established in 2019 and located at Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh, makes India the first country outside Russia to produce the AK-200 series rifles
- World Cup-winning former opener Gautam Gambhir was named head coach of the Indian cricket team by the BCCI
- The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has directed its member schools in Karnataka to adhere to the state's language teaching policies, mandating Kannada as the first or second language, in line with the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015. Despite opposition from some schools, CISCE officials Joseph Emmanuel and G. Immanuel emphasized compliance during a meeting of school principals. Additionally, CISCE plans to assess schools based on six parameters, including teaching quality (40%) and infrastructure (60%), to foster healthy competition and allow for peer and board reassessments
- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research and Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization, has been appointed Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- The RBI mandates routing all credit card bill payments through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to streamline processes, enhance security, and ensure regulatory oversight. This impacts users of banks not yet integrated with BBPS, including major banks like Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank, which are still in the process of integration
- The XVI Finance Commission has formed an Advisory Council led by Dr. Poonam Gupta, comprising members including Dr. D.K. Srivastava, Mr. Neelkanth Mishra, Ms. Pranjul Bhandari, and Mr. Rahul Bajoria. The council's role includes advising on Terms of Reference (ToR), conducting research, and enhancing the Commission's recommendations on fiscal devolution and related subjects.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Russia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, during his visit to Russia. The award, announced in 2019, recognizes his exceptional role in enhancing the strategic partnership between Russia and India, and fostering friendly relations between their peoples.

The Order is bestowed upon prominent figures from various fields for exceptional service to Russia, including foreign heads of state for outstanding contributions to the Russian Federation.

- NABARD has launched its first integrated tribal development program in Kollam's Kulathupuzha grama panchayat, partnering with Thanal to uplift 413 tribal families over five years through sustainable livelihoods, agricultural enhancement, and economic empowerment initiatives.
- The Indian government has encouraged automobile companies to participate in the unified Right to Repair Portal, launched on National Consumer Rights Day 2022 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. The portal aims to empower consumers by providing repair information, promoting a circular economy, and offering affordable repair options across various sectors including automobiles, electronics, and farming equipment.
- The Ministry of Culture launched Project PARI during the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting in New Delhi (21st-31st July 2024). This initiative, organized by Lalit Kala Akademi, involves over 150 visual artists from India. Project PARI aims to enhance Delhi's cultural landscape by blending traditional and modern artistic styles through mediums like sculptures, murals, and installations. It promotes public accessibility to art, fosters social cohesion, and highlights themes such as Natyashastra, Gandhiji, Indian toys, and the significant participation of women artists.
- The Reserve Bank's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rose to 64.2 in March 2024, indicating growth across all parameters. Developed in 2021, it evaluates financial inclusion nationwide through 97 indicators, measuring access, usage, and service quality in banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors. The index ranges from 0 to 100, reflecting levels of financial inclusion, aiding policy-making, meeting G20 standards, and supporting research on its societal impact.
- Thazhakara has become the first grama panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to publish a comprehensive People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) with local community involvement. The PBR documents biodiversity, including habitats, land races, animal breeds, and biological knowledge, as mandated by the Biological Diversity Act (2002). Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), created by local bodies, promote conservation, sustainable use, and documentation of biodiversity. PBRs play a vital role in conserving biodiversity, protecting traditional knowledge, and aiding local projects in agriculture, water, and waste management.
- A groundbreaking study by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) has highlighted the negative impact of changing land use patterns and infrastructure development on the genetic connectivity of gaur and sambar populations in central India. Key findings reveal that infrastructure and land use changes fragment habitats, isolating populations and leading to genetic inbreeding and reduced diversity. The study employed genetic analysis from faecal samples, identifying distinct genetic clusters among herbivore populations. The disruption in connectivity threatens ecosystem health and biodiversity, necessitating targeted

conservation strategies like wildlife corridors and improved protected area management.

- Recent studies indicate the Earth's inner core, composed of solid iron and nickel and located about 5,150 kilometers beneath the surface, has slowed down significantly and may have reversed its rotation direction. The inner core, making up 20% of Earth's mass, has a radius of approximately 759 miles and temperatures ranging from 7200–9000°F. Sustained by heat from radioactive decay and other sources, it generates Earth's magnetic field and remains solid under immense pressure of about 3.6 million atmospheres. This slowdown raises new questions about the dynamics of Earth's core and magnetic field generation.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved India's participation in the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, an international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) aimed at conserving marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Ministry of Earth Sciences will lead its implementation, enhancing India's strategic presence, marine conservation, and scientific collaboration. The agreement promotes sustainable use of marine resources through international cooperation, area-based management, and environmental impact assessments, supporting Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water)
- Due to the Ukraine conflict affecting Moscow's ability to supply military spare parts to India, Russia will establish more joint production facilities in India to prevent supply chain delays. Both countries aim to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030 and develop a settlement system using national currencies. Russia will enhance cargo turnover with India via new routes, and nine agreements were signed, including those for joint manufacturing of military spare parts and nuclear power cooperation. The joint ventures will meet Indian military needs and support exports to friendly countries.
- The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) plans to launch its longest daily services from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad and Puri using European-style, air-conditioned sleeper buses, covering approximately 1,500 km each. This expansion, driven by strong demand and private sector competition, will introduce routes beyond the current longest services to Mumbai and Shirdi (1,000 km each). KSRTC needs approvals from state road transport corporations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, and is confident of the routes' profitability. Under the Ambaari Utsav brand, KSRTC is procuring 20 multi-axle AC sleeper buses, with new buses costing Rs 1.8 crore each, to augment the fleet and meet increasing demand. The remaining 16 new AC sleeper buses will serve other routes, including Mangaluru and Hyderabad, and 20 AC seater buses will be added for routes like Tirupati and Ernakulam.
- The state government appointed senior journalist Ayesha Khanum as chairperson of the Karnataka Media Academy.
- Karnataka Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil announced that a delegation's recent visit to Japan and South Korea secured

investments worth Rs 6,450 crore from six major companies and identified potential future investments worth Rs 25,000 crore. Confirmed investments include Rs 5,000 crore by Osaka Gas, Rs 1,000 crore by DN Solutions, and Rs 210 crore by Aoyama Seisakusho. Daiki Axis, HyVISION, and EMNI Co Ltd will jointly invest Rs 240 crore. These investments are expected to create over 1,000 jobs. Additionally, meetings were held with Renesas Electronics Corp, Toyota Motors, Samsung Electronics, and LG Energy Solutions. From 2018-19 to 2023-24, 122 projects worth Rs 4.29 lakh crore were approved, potentially creating over 3 lakh jobs, with 38 projects already implemented. Projects typically take 3-5 years for investments over Rs 500 crore and more than 5 years for investments over Rs 1,000 crore.

- The bifurcation of the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) is imminent as an experts' committee has recommended establishing a new integrated university of agriculture and horticulture sciences at V.C. Farm in Mandya. This new university will include districts from UAS-B and UAHS-Shivamogga. The committee, led by former UAS-B Vice-chancellor Rajendraprasad, suggests converting UAS-B into an integrated university and similarly transforming other agricultural universities in a phased manner. The Mysuru division, lacking any agricultural university, and the high demand for agricultural education justify this move. The proposed Mandya university will need ₹285.89 crore and 797 staff, with 308 already available. The committee members include experts from UAS-Dharwad and other retired officials.
- People who call the police helpline 112 in Bengaluru can now track the Hoysala vehicle in real time via their phones. Police Commissioner B. Dayananda announced this initiative to enhance transparency and make policing more user-friendly. The Command Centre sends an SMS with a tracking link to callers when a Hoysala vehicle is dispatched. Callers can track the vehicle and interact with the team for clarifications. This feature, available through the Safe Connect on Karnataka State Police app, aims to improve response times and facilitate easier access to police assistance. The average response time for a Hoysala vehicle is just over eight minutes
- Salazar Pit Viper, named after Salazar Slytherin from the popular 'Harry Potter' series, has been found in Assam's Kaziranga National Park
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has upgraded its Regional Analysis of Indian Ocean (RAIN) system to improve the health monitoring of the Indian Ocean. The new version includes sea surface height data, in addition to salinity and sea surface temperature, and utilizes observations from depths of 3 to 2,000 meters for enhanced ocean current analysis. Established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, INCOIS provides ocean information and advisory services, including tsunami warnings and daily advisories for fisherfolk, through initiatives like the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)
- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launched the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) in Kolkata on July 10, 2024. This initiative by

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited promotes technological development through MSMEs and Start-Ups, aligning with 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies. It aims to address shipyard challenges and enhance defence capabilities by fostering innovative solutions from Indian start-ups, supporting national self-reliance goals

- The Union government announced 10% reservation for Agniveers in the Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles
- The Karnataka government has fixed the maximum age limit for school enrolment as six years for LKG, seven years for UKG, and eight years for class 1. Following its earlier amended order, the State government has started preparations to implement the age limit for enrolling children who have compulsory completed six years for class 1 as on June 1 from the academic year 2025-26
- With an aim to introduce cutting-edge skill programmes, bridging the gap between academia and industry, and to revolutionise higher education and skill development in the country, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- In a breakthrough in cybersecurity, scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) have developed a new, user-friendly method to generate truly unpredictable random numbers, crucial for stronger encryption in quantum communications. This advancement, based on temporal correlations and certified by the violation of the Leggett Garg Inequality, ensures loophole-free randomness, enhancing password protection and data security by resisting brute-force attacks and preventing forgery. The method, detailed in the Physical Review Letters, generated over 900,000 random bits at a rate of nearly 4,000 bits/second, offering significant potential for secure digital interactions.
- India hosts the first BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' retreat in New Delhi, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar urging the seven-member group to address regional challenges internally, especially amidst the ongoing crisis in Myanmar where the military junta faces significant setbacks from ethnic armed organizations, impacting regional stability and connectivity projects.
- According to a recent report the Israeli military reportedly employed the Hannibal Directive during the October 7 attack by Hamas. It is a purported operational doctrine of using maximum force to ensure no soldiers are captured, even if it means sacrificing military and civilian lives, a media investigation has found.
- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent landed at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin, Australia for participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024. The name 'Pitch Black' was derived from the emphasis on night time flying over large un-populated areas.
- eSwasthya Dham portal is now integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). ABDM, a "Central Sector Scheme" launched in September 2021 aims to create an integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. The Uttarakhand Government's Department of Health and Family Welfare has launched a portal

called eSwasthya Dham. eSwasthya Dham portal, available at <https://eswasthyadham.uk.gov.in/> is a portal which helps in monitoring the Char Dham Yatra pilgrim's health parameters. The eSwasthya Dham portal provides a range of benefits to the pilgrims and one of them is the generation of ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account). Pilgrims can easily create their ABHA 14-digit number at the eSwasthya Dham portal in just 1-2 minutes.

- The Expert Committee Report on Government-Run Engineering Colleges in Karnataka, constituted by Higher Education Minister Dr. M C Sudhakar, highlights the key challenges and opportunities facing these institutions. The report identifies major issues such as inadequate infrastructure, low placements, staff shortages, and non-accreditation, which have led to increased competition from private institutions. To address these, the committee recommends short-term goals like staff skill enhancement, additional courses, and student training, and long-term goals including academic and financial autonomy, centers of excellence, and revenue generation initiatives. Despite these challenges, government-run colleges have strengths like assured admissions, strategic locations, budgetary support, scholarships, and low tuition fees, and opportunities for improvement through accreditation, increasing student intake, new courses, and internal revenue generation
- The draft of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, introduces a proportional representation system in ward committees, empowering all civic poll contestants to nominate one member for every 10% vote share they secure. This reform aims to make ward committees more representative and democratic. Each ward committee will consist of 20 members, including nominees through proportional representation and from local civil society organizations. Members will have voting rights, and ward committees will receive up to 50% of the increase in property tax collection compared to the previous year. Approval from ward committees is mandatory for changes in the land use plan within the ward.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has sanctioned seven new projects to private sector industries under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to foster self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta) in defence and aerospace sectors. The initiative targets MSMEs and start-ups to strengthen the military industrial ecosystem. Projects include the development of simulation toolkits, unmanned aerial vehicles, remote-operated vehicles, ice detection sensors, radar signal processors, satellite-based timing systems, and smart e-textiles. The TDF scheme promotes indigenous defence technology development, with funding support and collaboration opportunities for eligible Indian entities.
- In a bid to expand Karnataka's semiconductor ecosystem, Karnataka administration is considering the development of the Bengaluru-Mysuru belt as a hub for the semiconductor industry.
- Karnataka state government appointed Mysuru-based writer Ka Tha Chikkanna as chairperson of the National Saint Poet Kanakadasa Study and Research Centre.

- The Karnataka government plans to install floating solar panels on 40 lakes, which can potentially generate 2,500MW of power. The initiative aims to reduce electricity costs for lift irrigation projects, currently amounting to Rs 10-12 crore monthly. Floating solar panels, already generating 1GW of power in India, offer a land-free solution despite high installation costs. The government is also exploring revenue generation from lakes through commercial activities, potentially increasing income from fishing and other ventures. A meeting with experts and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar will further assess these proposals. Four lakes in the Bengaluru Urban are on the list - Bagalur Lake (Yelahanka), Singanayakanahalli Lake (Yelahanka), Jigani Doddakere (Anekal) and Muttanallur Amanikere (Anekal)
- The Kerala Forest Department's master plan to manage human-wildlife conflict, declared a State-specific disaster, involves a ₹645 crore investment over three years, integrating advanced technologies like AI-based alert systems, drones with thermal sensors, and camera traps with traditional methods like beehive fencing and bio-fences, funded through Central-State allocations and schemes including MGNREGS, also incorporating solar lights, barriers, and habitat management strategies
- India will host the first World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in Goa Two Russian warships have arrived in the southern Chinese port city of Zhanjiang to take part in joint naval exercises
- China and Russia detachment of vessels from the Pacific fleet will take part in the joint naval exercise — Interaction Maritime 2024
- Krejčíková, the 2021 Roland-Garros champion, is one of six women in the Open era (post 1968) to secure their first two singles Majors at the French Open and Wimbledon. The others are Evonne Goolagong (1971), Chris Evert (1974), Garbine Muguruza (2016 and '17), Simona Halep (2018 and '19) and Ash Barty (2019 and '21)
- The United States and its allies will deliver to Ukraine five additional air defence systems, including Patriot missile batteries and Patriot components
- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recently discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark *Squalus hima* from a fishing harbour in Kerala along the Arabian Sea



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) now allows resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City, Gujarat, under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), a policy initiative introduced in 2004 that permits resident individuals to remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year for any permissible transaction in any freely convertible foreign currency
- Recently, it was reported that an exotic beetle released into a vast reservoir in Betul district has successfully eradicated an invasive weed species, *Salvinia molesta*, within 18 months
- PM inaugurates Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Towers in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- The Government of India is launching the 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE) to support startups and agripreneurs through a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). Managed by NABVENTURES, the fund aims to provide equity and debt investments, foster innovation in sustainable agriculture, and engage stakeholders to enhance public-private collaboration.
- DRDO has initiated a project with Accord Software and Systems Pvt Ltd in Bengaluru to develop an indigenous receiver chip for NavIC, ISRO's Indian navigation constellation. This aims to reduce dependency on US GPS, supporting land, rail, and air navigation with IRNSS satellites. The project, under a 24-month timeline starting July 1, is part of DRDO's collaborations under the Technology Development Fund Scheme, fostering indigenous solutions across defence and aerospace sectors
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched MeDevIS, an online platform designed to serve as a global open access clearing house for medical device information. It aims to assist governments, regulators, and users in decision-making related to medical device selection, procurement, and usage for health diagnostics, testing, and treatment
- India and Taiwan have implemented a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for organic products, effective from July 8, 2024. This agreement allows agricultural products meeting India's NPOP standards to be sold in Taiwan as organic, and vice versa under Taiwan's Organic Agriculture Promotion Act. It simplifies export processes by eliminating dual certifications, benefiting products like rice, processed food, and medicinal plants.
- The UNDESA's World Population Prospects 2024 report highlights India's ascent as the world's most populous nation, projecting its population to peak at 1.7 billion in the 2060s before declining to 1.5 billion by 2100. Globally, the report forecasts a peak population of 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s, declining slightly to 10.2 billion by 2100. China, currently the second-largest population, is expected to decline significantly to 633 million by 2100. The report also notes global trends such as declining fertility rates and increasing life expectancy, with more than half of all countries having fertility rates below replacement levels

- In a major move aimed at sustainable public transportation, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced plans to introduce 300 electric buses across the State. This initiative, part of a leasing arrangement, aims to enhance the efficiency and eco-friendliness of the intercity transport system
- Vasanti Shinde and Leonie Kung won the doubles title at the \$75,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Rome, marking Shinde's first professional doubles title and Kung's 11th, while Carolyn Ansari and Gabriella Broadfoot triumphed in the \$15,000 ITF women's doubles final in Lakewood, USA
- The Asur community, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) residing in the Netarhat plateau region of Gumla, will soon benefit from the Forest Rights Act (FRA). This small Austro-Asiatic ethnic group, primarily located in Jharkhand's Gumla, Lohardaga, Palamu, and Latehar districts, with some members in neighboring states, has a population of around 23,000 (2011 census). They speak the Asur language of the Munda family and are traditionally iron smelters, with a history of hunting, gathering, and shifting agriculture. Today, most Asurs are cultivators (91.19% as of 2011) and many also work in mining. Their unique iron-smelting technology ties them to the ancient Asuras and the fertility cult, with women singing songs likening the furnace to an expectant mother.
- Kharchi Puja is a significant festival in Tripura, celebrated during July-August on the eighth day of the new moon. It symbolizes the cleansing of sins ("Khar" meaning sin and "Chi" meaning cleaning). Led by the Royal priest 'Chantai,' it spans seven days at the 'Chaturdasha Devata' temple in old Agartala. The fourteen Gods, represented only by heads, are worshipped and bathed in the river Saidra, reflecting authentic Tripuri traditions.
- On 13th July 2024, Air Force Station Sarsawa commemorated 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti' to honor the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War. The event paid tribute to the brave Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel who displayed courage and sacrifice during Operation Safed Sagar.
- The second regional event of the year-long 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign will be held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on July 16, 2024. Organized under the DISHA scheme by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, this event commemorates the 75th anniversary of India's adoption of the Constitution
- NITI Aayog, in partnership with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India, has launched the NITI GearShift Challenge under the e-FAST India initiative. This innovative hackathon aims to develop business models that promote the adoption of zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India, addressing economic and environmental challenges. Participants from diverse backgrounds are invited to create solutions tackling technical, operational, and financial barriers in two rounds of submissions. With electric trucks offering a transformative opportunity to reduce emissions and improve air quality, the challenge seeks to accelerate sustainable freight transportation in India

- A study by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) suggests that using wastewater in thermal plants in Ballari and Raichur can significantly reduce freshwater consumption. Residents in these areas receive less water than the government standard, while thermal power stations (TPS) in the region have high water demand. Past water shortages have led to TPS shutdowns, highlighting the need for reliable operations. The study advocates for using treated wastewater as a cost-effective and sustainable solution to meet the growing power and water demands due to urbanization. This approach can save costs, preserve freshwater for domestic use, and address future urban water and power needs sustainably.
- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has announced the rollout of the e-Office platform to streamline operations and enhance efficiency across 133 offices, with key components including the File Management System, Knowledge Management System, Work from Anywhere Portal, and Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window, implemented by the National Informatics Centre.
- The Centre is considering a cash transfer scheme for poor urban women to boost demand and consumption in urban areas, despite challenges in identifying beneficiaries and potential political ramifications, with plans likely involving the 'e-shram' portal and inputs from the Prime Minister's Office.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has issued guidelines for the sustainable harvest and trade of rosewood specimens, focusing on species in the genera Dalbergia, Afzelia, Khaya, and Pterocarpus, which are listed in Appendix II. During the 27th Plants Committee Meeting in July 2024, the Secretariat was instructed to emphasize capacity-building for these species. Key discussions included the high-threat status of Pterocarpus erinaceus (African rosewood), the importance of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for sustainable trade, and a comprehensive report on rosewood species, detailing their conservation status and trade levels. CITES, adopted in 1973 and enforced in 1975, regulates international trade in over 38,000 species and is administered by UNEP in Geneva, Switzerland.
- After a year-long simulated Mars mission as part of the CHAPEA project, a NASA crew emerged from their 17,000 sq ft habitat at Johnson Space Centre on July 7, 2024. The mission, which started on June 25, 2023, included crew members Kelly Haston, Anca Selariu, Ross Brockwell, and Nathan Jones. The objectives were to conduct simulated "Marswalks," manage resources by cultivating vegetables, and maintain physical and behavioral health under Mars-like conditions. Challenges included resource limitations, isolation, and communication delays. Research focused on the nutritional impact, sustainable living, and resource management, with findings aimed at supporting future Mars missions
- Ace diplomat Vikram Misri took over as the foreign secretary. Misri, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1989, was serving as the Deputy National Security Advisor just before he was appointed the foreign secretary

- Veteran Indian astrophysicist Prahlad Chandra Agrawal, known for his pivotal role in India's first dedicated astronomy satellite Astrosat, received the prestigious COSPAR Harrie Massey Award 2024 at a scientific conference in Busan, which honors significant contributions to space research and leadership; the award includes a medal, citation, and the naming of a minor planet as Agrawal 20064.
- The union government will launch the first-ever national toll-free helpline, 1933, and an email (info.ncbmanas@gov.in) on Thursday to report narcotic crimes. Named 'MANAS' (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra), it will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the seventh apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD). This initiative, supported by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), aims to provide a 24x7 user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related issues. An exclusive portal, ncbmanas.gov.in, will address drug trafficking, illegal sale, purchase, storage, manufacturing, and illicit cultivation. Confidentiality of the informants will be maintained, and the NCB will verify and act on the information per the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The new helpline, initiated in response to a directive by Amit Shah in 2021, replaces an unmanned landline and email system, ensuring round-the-clock operation.
- The Indian government has released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its annual contribution of USD 5 million for the year 2024-25
- Spain has won a record fourth European Championship title
- Gautham S Nair won both the singles and doubles titles in the under-13 boys' section at the Yonex Sunrise Karnataka Mini U-11 & Sub-junior U-13 State ranking badminton tournament, and teaming up with him to win the doubles title. In the under-13 girls' section, top seed Smriti S won a three-game thriller
- India will host the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12
- Argentina won its second straight Copa America championship
- Rafael Nadal returned to competition for the first time since his early French Open exit teaming up with Casper Ruud for a doubles win in Bastad
- China's APSTAR-6E satellite has officially begun operating after successfully passing technical reviews both in orbit and on the ground in Hong Kong
- Google Fi wireless has introduced a security feature called 'Number Lock' to combat SIM swapping, a scam where fraudsters trick carriers into transferring your phone number to a new SIM card under their control. This gives them access to your calls, texts, and even financial accounts linked to your number. Fraudsters gather personal details through phishing or vishing, then impersonate victims at carrier stores to get duplicate SIMs. 'Number Lock' empowers users to prevent unauthorized SIM transfers, safeguarding against this increasingly prevalent cyber threat.

- The Indian Navy proudly announces the launch of the flagship event THINQ2024 - The Indian Navy Quiz, a unique national level quiz competition
- A study conducted by the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) suggests that bimetallic Nickel Iron (NiFe) layered double hydroxide systems outperform doped alternatives for water splitting. The research emphasizes that NiFe LDHs are sufficient for efficient oxygen (O₂) production in water splitting, challenging the current trend towards trimetallic solutions. This finding underscores the potential of NiFe LDHs in advancing sustainable energy solutions, highlighting their role in eco-friendly hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen generation without ecological harm
- The Report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure, released on July 15, 2024, in New Delhi and co-chaired by Shri Amitabh Kant and Shri Nandan Nilekani, outlines key achievements and future directions. Accepted during India's G20 Presidency, the DPI framework accelerated digital transformation, achieving advancements in digital transactions and governance equivalent to 50 years in just 9. The report emphasizes DPI's role in guiding global strategies, highlighted at the release event by Amitabh Kant for India's transformative DPI adoption and Nandan Nilekani for its impact on SDGs and inclusive growth. The full report is available on the Department of Economic Affairs website, structured to address global challenges with policy directions and recommendations for DPI adoption. The task force, established in January 2023, focused on enhancing productivity and digital technology across G20 countries
- Sadananda Suvarna, who directed the popular serial 'Guddada Bhootha' for Bengaluru Doordarshan in the 1990s, died of age-related ailments
- Nallathamby Kalaiselvi, the first woman Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was granted a two-year extension in service.
- France's all-time leading football goalscorer Olivier Giroud confirmed his international retirement
- According to a recent report, Karnataka is expected to host approximately 330 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) by 2030, creating one million jobs. The state government highlights Karnataka's potential as a premier GCC hub, with the ability to host over 15% of Forbes 2000 firms. A new GCC policy focusing on incentives and regulations is planned, targeting areas like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi, and Mangaluru. Current policies include the IT Policy, ER&D Policy, Cyber Security Policy, and Data Centre Policy. Bengaluru holds 39% of India's GCC market share and is recognized as the largest hub for GCC operations, with significant competition from other cities. The number of GCCs in India is projected to increase from over 1,600 in 2022-23 to more than 2,400 by 2029-30, with a market size reaching \$110 billion and employment of over 4.5 million professionals. Bengaluru is home to 25% of India's digital talent, especially in AI, ML, and R&D roles. In

Karnataka, 42% of FMCG and 33% of BFSI GCCs are based, with the BFSI sector leading with over 90 GCCs.

- The Karnataka government has drafted a Bill, the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories, and Other Establishments Bill, to reserve managerial and clerical jobs for Kannadigas in the private sector, including IT companies. The Bill mandates that 50% of managerial jobs and 75% of non-managerial jobs be reserved for locals, defining a local candidate as someone born in Karnataka, residing there for 15 years, capable of speaking, reading, and writing Kannada, and having passed a Kannada proficiency test if not studied in high school. The Bill applies to employers under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act with 10 or more employees. Industries must collaborate with the government to train local candidates if qualified candidates are unavailable, with penalties for non-compliance.
- Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Medak district, Telangana, is under study to potentially become the state's first Ramsar site. Originally a crocodile sanctuary, it now hosts over 70 bird species and is home to the vulnerable mugger crocodile. Positioned along the Manjeera River, the sanctuary includes the Manjeera reservoir, which is vital for irrigation and drinking water supply to Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The reservoir's nine islands provide nesting habitats for waterbirds. The sanctuary features dry savannah-type vegetation and supports various plant species. It also harbors diverse fauna, including crocodiles, freshwater turtles, fish, and other wildlife such as Indian hare, wild boar, mongoose, and jacka
- India's drug regulator expert committee has approved the drug tirzepatide, marking a potential shift in weight-loss treatments.
- Six children have died in Gujarat from suspected Chandipura virus infection, a virus of the Rhabdoviridae family transmitted by sandflies and some mosquito species. Symptoms include fever, body ache, headache, and severe cases can lead to encephalitis and brain haemorrhages. The disease can cause rapid mortality, especially in children, within 24-48 hours. There is no specific antiviral therapy or vaccine available, and treatment focuses on symptomatic relief. Outbreaks are common in central India, especially during the monsoon season, and recent changes in vector behavior and disease patterns have been observed
- Children studying in government and aided schools will soon get boiled eggs six days a week, with the department of school education and literacy set to receive a Rs 1,500-crore grant from billionaire Azim Premji's philanthropic arm
- Ten specially-trained Indian CAPF and special commando force dogs are in France to provide counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage security at the Paris Olympics. These 10 K9 teams will perform sniffing and patrolling duties at various Olympic venues. They underwent special 10-week training for this unique collaboration between the Indian and French governments. The teams, drawn from CAPFs like CRPF, SSB, ITBP, NSG, and Assam Rifles, include Belgian Malinois dogs known for their expertise in detecting bombs and IEDs. Handlers received refresher physical

training and basic French language lessons. Two notable dogs are CRPF canine Vast and Denby, chosen after rigorous tests

- Shruti Hegde became India's first Miss Universal Petite, a pageant that was started in 2009 to give opportunity to shorter women
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) kept its projection on India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the current financial year unchanged at 7%, but slightly raised its growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific for 2024 to 5% from a previous projection of 4.9% announced in April
- Bengaluru-based Cropin Technology has launched Sage, the world's first real-time agri-intelligence solution, powered by Google Gemini, designed to convert the agricultural landscape into a detailed, grid-based map. By combining generative AI, climate data, crop knowledge graphs, earth observation data, and advanced crop models, Sage offers comprehensive data and insights for informed decision-making in the agri-food sector. This platform supports CPG players, seed manufacturers, food processors, financial institutions, and governments in optimizing cultivation practices, crop management, irrigation, and supply chain resilience. Sage aims to enhance the global food system by providing intelligence on 13 key crops and facilitating a dynamic global food and agriculture map for better crop performance and yield forecasts.
- The Srijan Portal, developed by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, facilitates the indigenization of defence items by enabling DPSUs, OFB, and SHQs to display items they import or plan to import, encouraging the Indian industry to design, develop, and manufacture these items. With the fifth Positive Indigenisation List of 346 items recently notified, the portal supports private sector engagement in indigenization, promoting self-reliance in defence procurement
- The Union Government recently launched two initiatives on languages: ASMITA and the Bahubhasha Shabdakosh Initiative. ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing), organized by the Ministry of Education and UGC, aims to produce 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years to integrate Indian languages into the education system and enhance the accessibility and quality of educational materials. It will be implemented by thirteen nodal universities with a structured SOP. The Bahubhasha Shabdakosh Initiative, developed by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, provides a single-point reference for words in all Indian languages, supporting usage in IT, industry, research, and education to preserve and promote India's language traditions
- The Indian government has drawn up a Rs 1,150-crore roadmap to indigenize EV technology, prepared by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor. The initiative aims to reduce vehicular pollution, achieve a 45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030, attain energy independence by 2047, and reach net-zero emissions by 2070. The R&D roadmap focuses on next-generation batteries, new materials, electric motors, magnets, semiconductors, and charging infrastructure. With Rs 669 crore allocated for R&D and Rs 482 crore for a pilot program, the goal is to


localize significant EV technologies within 5-7 years. Despite current heavy import dependency and technological gaps, the government targets substantial EV penetration by 2030, including 30% for private cars and 80% for two- and three-wheelers. Identified projects include high-priority areas like graphene manufacturing and new materials development. Emphasizing high-risk, innovative research, the roadmap aims to position India as a leader in future EV technology innovations.

- The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation have signed an MoU to promote deep science innovation and entrepreneurship in food and agriculture through the Rural Agriculture INnovation (RAIN) program. C-CAMP, a Union government-supported initiative, focuses on high-end research and innovation. The RAIN program aims to deploy innovative agri-tech products developed by C-CAMP start-ups with local farmer groups, encouraging sustainable agriculture, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting biodiversity and agroforestry. The collaboration emphasizes technology adoption and direct involvement with farmer groups. Immediate action points include technical and field support, joint calls for innovations in food, agriculture, pisciculture, and animal husbandry, and a knowledge partnership with MS Swaminathan Research Foundation joining C-CAMP CoE for Agri Innovation.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) has launched a new guarantee platform through MIGA to enhance annual guarantee issuance to \$20 billion by 2030. It aims to simplify, streamline, and provide comprehensive guarantee options for credit, trade finance, and political risk insurance. This initiative supports private capital flows, responding to the G20's call for expanded use of guarantees. The platform leverages IFC's support to drive impactful solutions in energy, pandemic preparedness, and climate action. Fiscal year 2024 saw \$10.3 billion in new guarantees issued, marking a significant step towards achieving these goals
- The Indian Railways is set to launch regular train services through the world's tallest railway bridge, the Chenab bridge, on August 15, covering 255 km of the USBRL project and enabling travel from Reasi in Jammu to Baramulla in Kashmir.
- A translation of a collection of short stories written by Banu Mushtaq, a writer and advocate based in Hassan, has won an English PEN translation award for the year 2024. Deepa Basthi has translated short stories into English under the title "Haseen and Other Stories." English PEN is one of the human rights organisations that fights for "freedom to write and freedom to read." Every year, the organisation awards translation awards. This time, books from 11 regions and 10 languages won the translation awards. For the first time, a book translated from Kannada has been selected for the award. The collection has been published by And Other Stories.
- Ivory Coast joins the UN Water Convention as the 10th African nation, enhancing cooperative management for eight shared river basins and becoming the 53rd Party to the 1992 convention, with Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe expected to follow. The convention aids in managing water resources amid high climate change vulnerability, sharing basins with Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea,


Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Established in 1992 and globally expanded in 2016, the convention includes African members like Chad and Senegal, and recent global additions like Iraq and Namibia. It is crucial for economic growth, livelihoods, poverty alleviation, and climate change adaptation through cooperative transboundary water and groundwater management.

- The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is proposing new draft rules to standardize moisture meters used for measuring moisture levels in cereal grains and oilseeds. The rules will outline technical requirements, test methods, and permissible errors for these devices, aiming to enhance accuracy and transparency in agricultural trade. The draft rules, open for public feedback since May 30, 2024, received support from stakeholders during a recent meeting
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 7th NCORD meeting and launched the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS'- Madak Padarth Nishedh Asuchna Kendra in New Delhi. The helpline, with toll-free number 1933, a web portal, and mobile apps, will support citizens in drug-related issues and report trafficking anonymously. Shah emphasized the need for a unified fight against drug trafficking and the importance of dismantling drug networks. He outlined the Modi government's approach, which includes structural, institutional, and informational reforms. The new NCB Zonal Office in Srinagar aims to tackle drug trafficking through the northwestern border.
- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru unveiled its official anthem, composed by Ricky Kej, featuring voices of Lonnie Park and Siddhartha Belmannu, highlighting passenger stories and airport amenities, with a focus on sustainability. It ends with words "WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU"
- ISRO chairman S Somanath has earned PhD from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
- A UAE-based business conglomerate, Al Maya Group, has announced the acceptance of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) across its outlets, marking the inaugural transaction at Al Maya Supermarket in the presence of Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai, Yatin Patel, and highlighting the convenience for Indian customers.
- The distribution of sanitary pads under Suchi scheme for schoolchildren will be completed by September, while the government will look into the feasibility of distribution of menstrual cups across Karnataka
- A recent study on Dorekere Lake in Bengaluru highlights its rich biodiversity, showcasing 73 species of herbs and shrubs, 57 tree species, 74 bird species (including 11 migratory and 4 near-threatened), and 26 butterfly species. The lake's biodiversity aids ecosystem recovery and climate change mitigation. However, Bangalore's tree count has declined due to urban development and improper waste disposal, endangering lakes. Conservation recommendations include developing the wetland as a buffer zone, balancing native and non-native tree species, and preventing dogs from entering the lake bed to protect birds.

- A U.S.-based firm has opened a green hydrogen electrolyser gigafactory near Doddaballapur, Karnataka, focusing on clean energy production. The factory spans 14,000 sq m with an initial capacity of 500 megawatts, expandable to 2,000 megawatts. This initiative will create employment opportunities as capacity increases. Green hydrogen, produced by breaking water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable energy, will be used in fertilizer production, refinery processing, steel production, methanol blending for vehicles, fuel-cell-based transportation, and storage. Karnataka's industry-friendly policies aim to attract industries, contribute to India's 5 trillion-dollar economy goal by 2030, and prioritize sectors like EVs, renewable energy, and clean energy.
- The government plans to boost the capital base of NaBFID to ₹1 trillion with bank support. Established in 2021 by the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, NaBFID is a specialized Development Finance Institution (DFI) in India. It aims to fill gaps in long-term non-recourse finance for infrastructure, support the development of bond and derivative markets, and enhance India's economy. Regulated by the RBI as an All-India Financial Institution, NaBFID focuses on addressing long-term financing needs for infrastructure.
- IN-SPACE, under the Department of Space, is offering opportunities for start-ups and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in the marine sector through a new seed fund scheme. This scheme aims to support innovative solutions using space technology for the blue economy. It seeks proposals for applications in fisheries, marine biology, border surveillance, and other domains. The technology aids in marine resource management, environmental conservation, and maritime safety. Grants of up to ₹1 crore will be awarded, with applications due by August 15.
- The MV Sea Change, the world's first commercial passenger ferry fully powered by hydrogen fuel, was launched on July 19, 2024, at San Francisco Ferry Building. This zero-emission vessel will operate on the Pier 41 to Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal route for a six-month demonstration. The project, supported by SWITCH Maritime and a CARB grant, involves partners like Chevron New Energies and United Airlines. It marks a significant step in maritime



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decarbonization and showcases hydrogen technology's potential for public transport.

- The Union Minister for Science & Technology inaugurated Asia's first "Pre-clinical Network Facility" by CEPI in Faridabad. CEPI, founded in 2017 by Norway, India, the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and the World Economic Forum, aims to accelerate vaccine development and ensure accessibility during epidemics. It has supported over 50 vaccine candidates and addresses future threats like Disease X. The 2022-2026 plan includes the '100 Days Mission' for rapid vaccine development. In India, CEPI collaborates with the Department of Biotechnology and is managed by BIRAC's PMU.
- The Union government inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) to mitigate landslide hazards in India, particularly for Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri districts. The NLFC will start live forecasting reports on July 20, 2024, and provide early warning bulletins. Alongside, the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App were launched to aid disaster risk reduction and quick dissemination of landslide forecasts. The Geological Survey of India (GSI), established in 1851, will support these initiatives with its expertise in geological information and mineral resource assessment.
- Netflix India and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) have launched "The Voicebox," a program to upskill voice-over artists in multiple languages, with workshops in seven cities and support from Pearl Academy, aimed at enhancing voice-over skills and promoting diversity in media.
- India aims to transform into a global electronics manufacturing hub by FY 2030 with a target manufacturing value of \$500 billion, creating 6 million jobs, and boosting exports to \$240 billion. The current market size is \$155 billion, with a 4% global market share and a focus on assembly. Future projections under a business-as-usual scenario estimate manufacturing value at \$278 billion with 3.4 million jobs. Strategic recommendations include expanding production into wearables and automotive electronics, providing fiscal support, developing infrastructure, enhancing workforce skills, and facilitating technology transfer.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to enhance the role of academia in standard formulation by establishing a BIS Standardisation Chair Professor at IISc, training future professionals on the importance of standards, involving academia in national and international standardisation efforts, providing infrastructure support for research and development, and establishing centres of excellence, all formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on July 3, as part of BIS' broader engagement with leading academic and research institutions.
- Indian Railways to equip Garib Rath trains with newly designed AC Economy coaches. Existing conventional coaches to be replaced with Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) rakes. New rakes with upgraded amenities to be put into service this month. AC Economy class fare set 8-10% lower than AC-3 fare. Current Garib Rath trains include Third AC, Second AC, and Chair Cars. New rakes will have 20 LHB coaches,

including 18 Third AC Economy coaches and 2 Generator Motor cars. Garib Rath trains were introduced by former railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in 2005.

- American Xander Schauffele won the British Open, claiming his second major championship with a final round of 65 at Royal Troon, finishing at nine-under par, two shots ahead of Justin Rose and Billy Horschel. He became the first golfer to win two majors in a single season since 2018. India's Shubhankar Sharma finished tied for 19th with a final round of 72, giving him a good send-off for the Paris Olympic Games.
- Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti won doubles final of the €651,865 ATP tennis tournament on clay in Gstaad, Switzerland
- Zebra mussels, an invasive species first discovered in the Colorado River, are fingernail-sized mollusks with a distinct 'D' shaped shell and black zigzag stripes. Native to the Caspian and Black Seas, they spread to North America via ship ballast water in the late 1980s. Known for their rapid reproduction, releasing up to one million eggs per breeding season, they disrupt aquatic ecosystems by outcompeting native species and clogging water infrastructure. Their short lifespan of 2-5 years and ability to attach to various surfaces cause significant ecological and commercial damage.
- Scientists recently discovered another intermediate-mass black hole at the centre of a star cluster in the Milky Way, which is close to the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A* (SgrA*)
- The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) has successfully developed domestically-produced fused silica radomes for missiles. A radome is a protective cover for radar or antenna systems, shielding them from environmental conditions while allowing electromagnetic signals to pass through unhindered. Radomes can be made from rigid materials or flexible fabrics and come in various shapes to suit different applications. They ensure the performance of antennas by minimizing environmental impacts, securing electronic equipment, and preventing collisions with nearby objects. This advancement enhances both the durability and functionality of missile systems
- Researchers of the Shadpada Entomology Research Lab (SERL) of Christ College, Irinjalakuda, have reported two species of flower flies for the first time from Kerala. *Mesembrius bengalensis* and *M. quadrivittatus* have been discovered from the Kole wetlands and Vilagan Kunnu hillocks of Thrissur district by Athul Sankar C., a research scholar at SERL; Bijoy C., Assistant Professor, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda; and Shaji E.M., Associate Professor, K.K.T.M Government College, Pullut
- The Centre plans to raise the upper limit of short-term crop loans under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Launched in 2006-07, MISS is a 100% Central Sector Scheme providing concessional short-term agricultural loans through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). Farmers can currently borrow up to Rs 3 lakh at a benchmark rate of 9%, with a 2% interest subvention

from the Centre reducing the effective rate to 7%, and an additional 3% discount for prompt repayment lowering it to 4% annually. The scheme is managed by RBI and NABARD.

- The Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board has accorded approval to declare Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, on the outskirts of Bhopal, as the eighth tiger reserve of MP
- On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the National Flag, marking a key moment in India's transition to independence
- Remnants of an ancient Buddhist settlement were unearthed in Rajaghatta, near Bengaluru, two decades ago, revealing structures and artifacts from a Mahayana Buddhist monastery. The Maha Bodhi Society (MBS) is urging state and central bodies to protect the site and resume excavations, emphasizing the need for collaboration with ASI and initial experts. Artifacts found include votive stupas, a seated Buddha medallion, a terracotta flower, prayer wheel hubs, and a Ganesha figurine. Some artifacts are housed at the University of Mysuru. Despite farming and road challenges, MBS stresses the site's archaeological importance and advocates for its development as a heritage site for responsible tourism.
- The Karnataka State Pulses Development Board is expanding its 'Bhima Pulse' tur dal operations by establishing processing units in Kalaburagi, targeting the sale of 900 metric tonnes nationwide this year. Last year, only 18 tonnes were sold. The new infrastructure aims to protect farmers from price fluctuations and middlemen, with pricing set at Rs 200 per kg, cheaper than private brands. This initiative will provide fair prices and immediate payments to farmers, eliminating middlemen costs. Tur dal cultivation in Kalaburagi has significantly increased, with a production target of 5.5 lakh MT. Future plans include processing one MT per hour and leveraging farmer producer organizations for crop purchases.
- A recent study by Ensuring Social Protection evaluated 315 anganwadis across five districts in Karnataka: Bengaluru Urban, Haveri, Raichur, Uttara Kannada, and Vijayapura. Key findings revealed that only 46% of anganwadis had functional toilets with water supply, while 33% lacked functional toilets altogether. Only 18.7% had functional water filters for drinking water. Bengaluru Urban and Uttara Kannada showed better infrastructure, whereas Vijayapura lagged significantly. The study also assessed supplementary programs and found significant infrastructure deficiencies impacting child welfare. Recommendations include upgrading infrastructure, providing targeted support to under-resourced districts, and enhancing monitoring.
- Rare photographs of the Mashco Piro, the largest uncontacted Indigenous tribe in the Peruvian Amazon with over 750 members, have been published. They live in the Madre de Dios Region, near the borders of Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia, having retreated during the Amazon Rubber Boom in the late 1800s. Currently residing along the Las Piedras River in the Alto Purús National Park, they move to rainforest huts during the rainy season. The tribe speaks a Piro dialect and wears minimal traditional clothing. They are medium in stature, with athletic builds and straight

black hair. The men use bows, arrows, and spears for hunting. The Peruvian government restricts contact to protect them from diseases.

- The International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL) was inaugurated by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in Rajkot. It aims to serve as a collaborative platform for policymakers, administrators, and auditors, enhancing auditors' independence, financial performance assessment, and service delivery. As a centre of excellence, it focuses on capacity building, developing standards for local government audits, improving data reporting, and providing training programs. iCAL emphasizes the role of local governments in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering grassroots engagement and enhancing citizen accountability.
- The National District Mineral Foundation Portal, recently launched by the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, serves as a centralized platform providing comprehensive information on 645 District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) across India. It aims to enhance transparency and oversight by offering dynamic analytics and tracking project developments and utilizations. The portal also functions as a repository of best practices for effective implementation. DMFs, established under the MMDR Amendment Act 2015, are non-profit bodies aimed at benefiting persons and areas affected by mining, funded by contributions from mineral concession holders and regulated by state governments.
- Armenia's interest in India's Pralay missile presents an opportunity for India to enhance its standing as a missile exporter. The Pralay, a surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) with a range of 150-500 km, features inertial guidance with terminal DSMAC, a radio frequency seeker, and a fused silica RADOME. Comparatively, Israel's LORA has a 400 km range and 10 m CEP with GPS and TV guidance. The Pralay shares similarities with Russia's Iskander-M, including a quasi-ballistic trajectory and a CEP of around 10 m. It also has terminal maneuvering capabilities, solid propellant, weighs 5 tons, and can carry various warheads while maintaining a reduced radar signature
- Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has been appointed as leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council
- Former international shooter and veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh is set to become the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)
- The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) inaugurated a Mitti Cafe on its campus, run and managed by persons with physical, intellectual, and psychiatric disabilities, as part of an initiative to promote economic independence and inclusion, making it one of over 35 such cafes operating in prestigious institutions across India
- Nick Dunlap became the first player in PGA Tour history to win as an amateur and a professional in the same year, rallying on Sunday for a two-point victory in the Barracuda Championship

- A group of senators in Liberia, situated along the coast of western Africa, has proposed to relocate the country's capital city Monrovia due to recurring flash floods
- The Karnataka State government has issued a draft notification for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Estate Management Rules 2024, which include lease restrictions with a maximum lease period of 30 years, sale restrictions limiting sales to government entities, and reserved shop allocations for disadvantaged groups to streamline property management and support disadvantaged communities.
- ISRO successfully completed the second test flight of the RH-560 sounding rocket to demonstrate air breathing propulsion technologies, achieving satisfactory performance and successful ignition. Air breathing propulsion uses atmospheric oxygen for combustion, reducing costs and improving payload capacity. The test flight monitored 110 parameters, following the first experimental mission with the Scramjet engine in August 2016. Ground tests were conducted at multiple ISRO centers. The RH-560, a two-stage solid motor-based suborbital rocket, serves as a cost-effective platform for advanced technology demonstrations. Data from this mission will inform further development of air breathing propulsion systems
- Amid rising demand for AYUSH products, the Karnataka Medicinal Plants Authority (KMPA) is assessing the demand and supply of plant resources, identifying 37 species heavily used in various medical systems. This unmonitored and often unscientific extraction threatens species like Rauvolfia serpentina. High-demand plants include neem (1,050 tonnes/year), Andrographis paniculata (800 tonnes/year), and Ashwagandha root (470 tonnes/year). The project aims to understand demand, conservation status, and supply gaps to encourage sustainable cultivation and conservation efforts
- Researchers found tinzaparin significantly reduced damage to human cells due to spitting cobra venom. It is a drug used to treat serious blood clots, can reduced damage to cells due to spitting cobra venom. It is a low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) with antithrombotic properties. It is used for the treatment of deep venous thrombosis, a condition in which harmful blood clots form in the blood vessels of the legs.
- The Karnataka government has allocated Rs 60 crore to 263 startups under the ELEVATE program, which aims to support innovation and scaling of products or solutions. Launched in 2022, the program provides grants up to Rs 50 lakhs, with a focus on women entrepreneurs and deep tech solutions. Out of the 263 startups, 35% are from outside Bengaluru. The program offers mentorship, networking, and access to incubation facilities, with a rigorous selection process involving industry experts.
- The Department of Posts has released the beta version of the Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN) for public comments. This geo-coded addressing system, developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, aims to standardize addressing in India. DIGIPIN will serve as an addressing reference system with directional

properties and is intended to be fully accessible to the public. Its benefits include enhanced geospatial governance, improved public service delivery and logistics, more effective emergency response, and a bridge between physical locations and digital representation.

- India tested the Phase-II AD Endo-atmospheric ballistic missile defense system at 4:20 PM from LC-III, ITR, Chandipur, Odisha, with capabilities to intercept missiles up to 5,000 km range within the atmosphere. The test involved detection by land and sea radars, using electro-optical systems, radar, and telemetry for performance monitoring. The system includes advanced long-range sensors and interceptor missiles, aiming to bolster India's national security and advance technology for missile interception.
- The National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) has launched an initiative to document the cultural heritage of 6.5 lakh villages in India, aiming to preserve rural cultural identities and raise awareness about the link between cultural heritage and development. The project includes creating National Registers of Artists and Art Practices and developing digital platforms like a web portal and mobile app (Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar) for accessing and promoting village cultures.
- Abhinav Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order, an accolade established in 1975 to honor exceptional merit or significant contributions to the Olympic Movement. The award, which replaces the Olympic Diploma of Merit, is given in Gold, Silver, and Bronze grades, with Gold reserved for exceptional circumstances. Bindra, the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal, achieved this feat in men's 10-meter air rifle at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He also runs the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, supports high-performance training, and has contributed to policy development in sports through various commissions.
- The Karnataka State government has proposed new names for four airports: Vijayapura, Hubballi, Belagavi, and Shivamogga. :Vijayapura airport: Jagajyothi Basaveshwara airport + Hubballi airport: Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna airport + Belagavi airport: Kittur Rani Chennamma airport + Shivamogga airport: Rashtrakavi Dr. K.V. Puttappa (Kuvempu) airport
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that the Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) has discovered 1,600 tonnes of lithium reserves in Mandya district, Karnataka, and is exploring potential reserves in Yadgir district and other regions including Korba (Chhattisgarh), Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Karnataka.
- Stone Age implements and livestock bones, estimated to be around 10,000 years old, have been discovered in Navaluti Cave in Sandur forest, Ballari district, at 850 meters above sea level. The finds suggest early human habitation at this high altitude, making the cave unique in South India. Further research, including radiometric dating, is needed to determine the exact age. The Deputy Commissioner plans to request funding from the Archaeological Survey of India for additional studies led by Dr. Ravi Korisetar.

- Bangalore University has launched a Language Lab and a Finishing School to enhance the employability of students from rural and Kannada medium backgrounds. The Language Lab focuses on English communication, offering both beginner and advanced courses with regular proficiency assessments. The Finishing School provides training in computer skills, problem-solving, creative thinking, competitive exams, interview techniques, and professional communication. This initiative aims to address the skills gap due to limited government jobs and increasing private sector demand for English proficiency and other skills. The programs are free and delivered by experienced faculty to improve job prospects in the private sector.
- The government has launched a revamped Skill Loan Scheme, increasing the loan limit from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh to support skill development. This updated scheme expands coverage to include non-NSQF aligned courses and introduces new lending institutions like NBFCs, NBFC-MFIs, and small finance banks. The previous scheme, which recorded low uptake due to limited loan amounts and high course fees, had extended Rs 115.75 crore to 10,077 borrowers by March 31. The revised scheme aims to enhance access and support through the Skill India Digital Hub.
- Goa Shipyard has launched the advanced Talwar-class frigate named 'Triput' as part of a 2016 deal with Russia for four Admiral Grigorovich class frigates. Two will be imported from Russia, and two are being built in India. The frigate 'Triput' is 124.8 meters long, has a draught of 4.2 meters, and a displacement of 3,500 to 4,000 tonnes. It features eight BrahMos or Klub missiles, Zorya gas-turbine engines, a max speed of 28 knots, and an Shtil-1 air-defence system. The frigate supports multiple functions including anti-ship, anti-submarine, land-attack, anti-piracy, and search and rescue. The Indian Navy currently operates six Talwar-class frigates.
- President Droupadi Murmu renamed the 'Durbar Hall' to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Hall' to 'Ashok Mandap'. The Durbar Hall, historically significant for ceremonies including the 1947 swearing-in, features a 42-foot high marble-cased walls, a 22-meter diameter dome, and a Belgian glass chandelier. Architect Edwin Lutyens designed it with Western and Indian elements. Ashok Hall, originally a ballroom and now used for formal events, showcases six Belgian chandeliers, Persian-themed ceiling decor, and paintings including one by Fath Ali Shah.
- Assam's Charaideo Moidams, ancient burial sites of the Ahom dynasty, have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list. Located about 30 km from Sivasagar in eastern Assam, these sacred moidams, or earthen mounds over graves, were used for Ahom royalty and aristocracy. With over 150 moidams in the region, they include structures topped with grass and pavilions, and are often compared to the pyramids of Egypt. The Ahom dynasty, known for its long reign and resistance against the Mughals, established the first capital in Charaideo in 1253 AD.
- The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has partnered with the UK's Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Innovation Fund to advance solutions for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment. The UK's Global AMR

Innovation Fund (GAMRIF) will provide up to £5.1 million (approximately ₹500 million) over three years. This funding aims to support innovative approaches to combat AMR, particularly in low- and middle-income countries with high drug resistance rates. The GRAM Report (2019) predicts AMR-related deaths could reach 10 million annually by 2050, surpassing malaria and cancer. C-CAMP's decade-long expertise will be leveraged to address environmental AMR issues, often neglected in these regions.

- Shalini Rajneesh to succeed Rajaneesh Goel as Chief Secretary of Karnataka
- The Cabinet approved a ₹2,663 crore Disneyland-type amusement park near Krishna Raja Sagar in Mandya, proposed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The project, estimated to be completed in four and a half years, will feature a range of attractions on 198 acres, including a water park, roller coaster, and various museums. Expected to attract 20,000 visitors daily with a 7% annual growth rate, the development will be executed in three phases and managed through a public-private partnership. A 125-ft statue of Cauvery is also planned, with costs dependent on the tender process.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan will auction selected gift items, presented to the President and former Presidents on various occasions, through an online portal called E-Upahaar. The portal was launched by the President of India
- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) recently unveiled the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed "Wind Demon"
- The Indian Army contingent departed for the Exercise KHAAN QUEST which is scheduled to be conducted from 27th July to 9th August 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- After three monsoons in the Andaman forests, an Indo-US biologist team uncovered the unique reproductive behavior of Charles Darwin's frogs (*Minervarya charlesdarwini*). These frogs lay eggs in a vertical, upside-down position inside tree cavities to protect them from rival males. This behavior, the only known instance of such egg-laying among frogs, was documented during a 55-day study from 2019 to 2021. Male frogs exhibit complex mating calls and engage in physical fights to secure mates. The upside-down spawning likely evolved to prevent displacement by aggressive males. Habitat loss and competition for breeding sites are threatening their survival.
- The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) hosted "Youth Udyami," an event organized by EGP and PGPEM students, to empower school students aspiring to become entrepreneurs. Over 300 students registered, with 50 shortlisted to present their ideas. The event included mentorship from IIMB students and guidance on business planning. Results will be announced in August, with a grand finale on "Prayaas Day" in February 2025, where finalists will be judged by IIMB professors and industry leaders.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has urged southern States to focus on energy efficiency and 'Mission LiFE' to attract global investments in sectors like industry and urban development. BEE officers highlighted that energy efficiency programs

are vital for the development of Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh's new capital, and can provide substantial economic and environmental benefits across India. Mission LiFe is a global initiative by India to help the world in its fight against climate change and lead to a sustainable way of life to achieve the sustainable development goals set by the U.N.

- The World Heritage Committee (WHC) decided to include the Palestinian site of Tell Umm Amer in both the UNESCO World Heritage Site List and the Lost of World Heritage in Danger during its 46th session in New Delhi.
- The 15th Finance Commission has decided not to include heatwaves on the notified disaster list, which currently includes 12 types of disasters such as cyclones and floods eligible for National and State Disaster Response Funds. Heatwaves are declared by the IMD when temperatures exceed 40°C in plains, 37°C in coastal areas, and 30°C in hills. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) formulates policies and guidelines to manage and mitigate the impact of both natural and man-made disasters.
- Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) 2.0 Portal - The Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries recently launched SIMS 2.0, an upgraded portal featuring API integration with government platforms for enhanced quality control and efficiency. The portal ensures consistent, transparent data, improving risk management by allowing Customs to better analyze and regulate steel imports. SIMS, introduced in 2019, has been revamped based on industry feedback to better support domestic steel industry growth and inform policy-making.
- Recently, India and the USA signed their first 'Cultural Property Agreement' at the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi. This agreement aims to prevent illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA and aligns with the 1970 UNESCO Convention. It restricts the import of certain archaeological and ethnological materials into the USA, including items from as far back as 1.7 million years ago to 1770 CE, and manuscripts from 2nd century BCE to 1947 CE. The USA will offer to return any forfeited objects from a Designated List to India. This agreement is part of a broader effort, with similar agreements already in place between the USA and several other countries. It will facilitate the quick seizure and repatriation of Indian antiquities from the USA.
- Australia took steps to ban mining at an Indigenous site surrounded by Kakadu National Park, which is home to one of the world's largest deposits of high-grade uranium.
- CITES has relaxed export regulations for agarwood (*Aquilaria malaccensis*), which will no longer be included in the Review of Significant Trade (RST). Starting April 2024, new quotas allow for the export of 151,080 kg of agarwood chips, powder, and sawdust, and 7,050 kg of agarwood oil annually. Agarwood, listed in Appendix II since 1995, has faced issues with illegal trade due to past export bans. Recent studies by the Botanical Survey of India and MoEFCC recommend harvesting from plantations rather than wild populations. Agarwood, used in perfumes and traditional medicine, is critically endangered with significant population decline.

- At the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in Azerbaijan, the 'Climate Finance Action Fund' was introduced. This fund, capitalized by contributions from fossil fuel-producing countries and companies, aims to mobilize private sector investments and de-risk them. It is part of a larger package of initiatives at COP29 and will provide concessional and grant-based support for disaster response and climate projects in developing countries. The fund targets \$1 billion in capital and commitments from 10 countries, with 50% allocated to climate projects and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and 20% into a Rapid Response Funding Facility (2R2F). The headquarters will be in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Bolivia has recently become a full member of MERCOSUR, an economic and political bloc in Latin America established in 1991 to enhance trade and economic integration among its members, which include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and formerly Venezuela. MERCOSUR aims to promote free trade and facilitate the movement of goods, services, and people, with its headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay. The bloc operates with Spanish and Portuguese as its official languages and has a Preferential Trade Agreement with India.
- India has assumed the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) for 2024-25. ADPC, founded in 1986, is an autonomous international organization focused on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific. Its vision is to promote safer communities and sustainable development. The organization includes founding members from nine countries, operates independently under a Board of Trustees, and is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand
- The Union education ministry has introduced guidelines for "bagless days" for classes 6 to 8, aiming to make learning more joyful and stress-free. Developed by the PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education and released on the fourth anniversary of the NEP 2020, the guidelines suggest a 10-day bagless period. This initiative seeks to integrate practical, vocational experiences such as carpentry and gardening into the curriculum, reducing the gap between theoretical and practical knowledge. Activities like market surveys, charity visits, and hands-on crafts are recommended to enrich students' learning experiences.
- India will host the next edition of the men's Asia Cup cricket tournament in T20 format in 2025 as a pre-cursor to the T20 World Cup scheduled in the country in 2026, the Asian Cricket Council stated, reports PTI from Kuala Lumpur.
- UNESCO recently inscribed China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II) to its World Heritage List.
- PARAKH, under NCERT, has submitted an 'equivalence' report to the Ministry of Education, aligning with NEP 2020 to standardize academic standards across India's 69 diverse school boards. Key recommendations include integrating assessments from Class 9 to 12 into final results, introducing a credits system, and establishing professional paper setters and question banks. Administrative guidelines suggest limiting school affiliation to three years and implementing anti-cheating measures.

The report also emphasizes digital literacy, infrastructure improvements, and outlines steps for further implementation, despite the challenges in achieving uniformity.

- The Supreme Court recently overturned its 2017 directive that required a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for renewing third-party car insurance. The directive, aimed at reducing pollution levels, was criticized for causing 55% of vehicles to lack insurance, impacting accident compensation claims. The court found that enforcing the directive could lead to vehicles operating without insurance, leading to its repeal. The PUC certificate, which ensures vehicles meet emission standards, remains mandatory under the Central Motor Vehicles Rule 1989, with penalties for non-compliance.
- Indian scientists from CSIR-IGIB and L.V. Prasad Eye Institute have developed an improved CRISPR system using the FnCas9 enzyme, offering greater precision and efficiency in genome editing compared to the traditional SpCas9. Enhanced FnCas9 features amino acid modifications for better DNA binding and increased editing efficiency, showing superior performance in cutting rates and diagnostic applications. This advancement holds promise for correcting genetic disorders, such as inherited blindness, and aims to reduce dependency on foreign patents by focusing on indigenous development and optimization of delivery methods.
- Manu Bhaker became the first Indian athlete to win two medals at a single Olympics, clinching bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event with Sarabjot Singh. Manika Batra became the first Indian table tennis player to reach the singles pre-quarterfinals with a 4-0 win over Prithika Pavade.
- From September, NAAC will use AI for its Binary Accreditation system to verify data from higher education institutions. AI will assess data reliability and, if needed, use crowdsourcing from stakeholders (faculty and students) for validation. Physical visits will be reserved for exceptional cases. Workshops are being held to familiarize stakeholders with the new system.
- Popularly called the “Tree Man of Channapatna”, Bhoohalli Puttaswamy in over 20 years had single-handedly planted thousands of saplings on close to 40 acres of barren land, by the side of roads and on government land. The 69-year-old retired history lecturer, Kannada poet, playwright and environmentalist from Bhoohalli of Channapatna taluk died at his Channapatna residence.
- In July 2024, Laos introduced a special set of commemorative stamps featuring Lord Rama and Lord Buddha to highlight the cultural ties between Laos and India
- UNESCO added the Sado gold and silver mines in Japan to its World Heritage List
- Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, recently launched India’s 500th community radio station, ‘Apna Radio 90.0 FM’, in Aizawl.
- In honor of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, the Grevin Museum in Paris has ordered personalized gold coins with his picture on them.
- Nita Ambani has been re-elected unanimously to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a second term

- On July 7th, Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine broke the world record for the highest jump by a woman
- India recently launched the “Fauna of India Checklist Portal,” which is a major step toward protecting wildlife. This complete collection lists 1,04,561 species, making India the first country in the world to record all of its wildlife
- Sopna Kallingal, an agriculturist from Kallingal Plantation in Thrissur, was recently honored with the prestigious Spice Award 2024. The ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research gave her this award to recognize her outstanding work in business diversification and integrated crop management
- Rajasthan will be the first state in India to create a ten-year action plan specifically designed to improve road safety
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) just recently said that there is no child labor in the mica mines of Jharkhand
- Gagan Narang, a famous shooter who won an Olympic bronze medal, took over from MC Mary Kom as the Chef-de-Mission for the Indian team at the 2024 Olympics in Paris
- Nagaland won the “Best State in Horticulture Award 2024” at the Agriculture Leadership Awards
- The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity was given to the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) project in 2024 for its work on sustainable farming in India
- The One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme allows property owners to clear dues without penalties, with 1.07 lakh owners paying ₹184.77 crore by July 29. The scheme has reduced defaulters significantly and ends on July 31 at 9 p.m. From August 1, defaulters will face 100% penalties and interest rates of 9% to 15% on arrears. The BBMP Act has been amended to introduce a new tax policy requiring three notices before property confiscation or auction.
- India’s nuclear regulator has approved the operationalization of the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam. This reactor, marking India’s entry into the second phase of its nuclear power program, is designed to generate more fuel than it consumes. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) granted approval for the “first approach to criticality” on July 27, with comprehensive safety measures in place. The PFBR is being commissioned by BHAVINI, and its operation aims to advance India’s nuclear technology and energy independence goals.

- India's first sunken museum was inaugurated on July 29 at Humayun's Tomb complex in New Delhi by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The museum features over 500 artefacts, many on display for the first time, and is inspired by traditional 'baolis' (water tanks). It includes Mughal miniatures, manuscripts, coins, textiles, and an immersive gallery with a 270-degree screen for virtual tours of Humayun's Tomb. Developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and ASI, the museum's opening on July 30 coincided with the 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee session. Humayun's Tomb, built by Empress Bega Begum, is the first garden-tomb in the subcontinent and inspired the Taj

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