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National

### 1. Kaji Nemu declared as State food of Assam

The Government of Assam recently approved GI tagged Kaji Nemu as the state fruit of Assam. Kaji Lemu is a citrus fruit with antioxidant properties used for medicinal purposes. It was given a Geographical Indication Tag in 2019 and the state of Assam has already started its commercial plantation.



### 2. Reliance Industries passes 20 lakh crore market Capitalisation

The Reliance India Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to surpass 20 lakh crore in market Capitalisation becoming one of the biggest wealth Creators in the Indian Stock Market history. Market Capitalisation is used to represent the market value of a company and is calculated by multiplying the number of outstanding shares of a company by the current prices of its shares.

### 3. NDGRS launched by Department of Land Resources

Department of Land Resources throughout Assam for registration of departments across the country under the One Nation One Software initiative. A 14 digit alphanumeric identification number called Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) was also launched to uniquely identify Land parcels through blockchain ID.

### 4. No response by States on Swachhta Green Leaf Rating

The Swachhta Green Leaf Rating launched by the Ministry of Tourism in November 2023 for the Hospitality sector has sought no response from States. It was a government initiated Rating system that aimed to ensure World class hygiene and Sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays. The major objective of the scheme was to prevent pollution in water bodies and keep the environment clean.

### 5. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana under which free electricity up to 300 units per month would be provided to beneficiaries. The major aim of the scheme is to light up 1 crore households along with incentivisation of Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.



### 6. India's retail inflation down to 5.1%

Retail Inflation also known as Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation eased to a three month low of 5.1% recently. The food price inflation reduced from 9.5% in December to 8.3%. Among Food Items, Vegetable inflation remained above 27%. CPI is calculated by the National Statistical Office (NSO) with a benchmark base year of 2012.

### 7. NITI Aayog launched GROW report and portal

The apex public think tank NITI Aayog launched the Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and portal. It was launched by NITI Aayog member Prof. Ramesh Chand. The GROW is a suitability mapping portal that allows universal access to state and district level data and is

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hosted on the Bhuvan website. The initiative utilises remote sensing and GIS to assess agroforestry suitability across all districts in India.

#### 8. Six Mega ports to be developed by 2047

The Government of India is set to develop six Mega ports by 2047 aimed at Maritime expansion. The initiative has been announced as a part of Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision, 2047. The two categories of the ports are Mega Ports exceeding capacity of 500 million tonnes per annum(MTPA) and Mega Ports exceeding 300 MTPA. The ports will be developed under the PPP mode and internal funding.

#### 9. Madrasa standing on Nazool Land demolished in Uttarakhand

The Uttarakhand State Government authorities have demolished a Madrasa and a Mosque standing on a Nazool Land in Haldwani which led to eruption of violence in the area. The City Administration imposed Section 144 due to violence along with Shoot at Sight Orders. A Nazool land is a land owned by the Government, not directly owned or administered as State property and given on lease for a period between 15 to 99 years.

#### 10. UPI Services launched in Mauritius and Sri Lanka

India's real time payment system Unified Payments Interface(UPI) is set to be launched in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. UPI is a real time payment system to facilitate inter bank transactions through mobile phones, developed by National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI). The event will also witness the launch of India's Rupay Card services.

#### 11. Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra in Hyderabad

The first of its kind regional centre of the Sangeet Natak Akademi namely "Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra" is set to be established in Hyderabad. The centre will be inaugurated by Former Vice President of

India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy. Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture and its Chairman is appointed by the President.



#### 12. 67th All India Police Duty Meet

The Railway Police Force hosted the 67th edition of All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) on February 12, 2024. The meeting took place in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Union Railway Minister, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw was chosen as the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony. The aim of the meet is to promote excellence and collaboration among Police officers towards scientific detection and investigation of crimes.

#### 13. 235th meeting of CBT, EPFO

Union Minister for Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav chaired the 235th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) EPFO in Delhi. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is the World's largest Social Security Organisation established on 4th March 1952.

#### 14. Inaugural edition of National Creators Award

The Government of India announced the Inaugural Edition of the National Creators award that aims to spotlight diverse voices and talents that are shaping India's Growth and cultural narrative. The award is being announced to celebrate India's Digital Creator

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Economy and its impact. The Awards spearheaded by MyGov India recognized creativity and innovation across 20+ categories.

#### 15. World Book Fair 2024

World Book Fair 2024 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It was the 52nd edition of the New Delhi Book Fair under the theme "Multilingual India: A Living Tradition". Other Initiatives like Exam Warriors in Braille and Igniting Collective Goodness Mann ki Baat @100 were also launched during the event.

#### 16. Bharat Ratna conferred to Narsimha Rao, Charan Singh and MS Swaminathan

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi announced the conferment of Country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna to former Prime Minister Narsimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and Agricultural Scientist Dr MS Swaminathan. The major aim of the government is to honour deserving leaders and their diverse achievements.



#### 17. Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report

A report titled "Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report" was published by Project 39A. The report stated that 561 inmates were awarded death row in India which is the highest in 20 years. The report Highlighted that there has been a 45.71% increase in the population of inmates sent to death row since 2015. The Project 39A is a criminal justice research and legal aid program at National Law University, Delhi.

#### 18. Dhokra Shilpakala of Chhattisgarh

The Ocher Studio initiative of Chattisgarh is helping to preserve India's 4000 year old craft called "Dhokra ShilpKala". It is a Tribal technique of metal casting involving lost wax casting to create artefacts. The word Dhokra is derived from the Dhokra Damar Tribes who worked as traditional metalsmiths in Central India.

#### 19. SARTHI platform launched by Agriculture Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture launched various initiatives for farmers and rural populations namely "Kisan Rakshak Helpline 14447", "SARTHI" platform for providing insurance products and Learning Management System (LMS) platform. The initiatives were launched for farmers communities under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and are aimed at Empowering farmers, streamline grievance redress and enhance Agriculture training for sustainable growth.

#### 20. Union Cabinet approved PM-MKSSY scheme

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a sub scheme under PM- Matsya Sampada Yojana namely the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)". The major aim of the scheme is gradual formalisation of the unorganised Fisheries sector. The Scheme will be implemented within the time period from 2023-24 to 2026-27.

#### 21. Aadi Mahotsav inaugurated on February 10

The President of India Shri Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav 2024 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The Mahotsav is an annual national Tribal festival organised by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The event will showcase the rich diversity of India's Tribal heritage.

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## International

**1. Stone Age wall discovered beneath Baltic Sea** Researchers have accidentally discovered a mysterious 1 km long wall beneath the Baltic Sea in Germany that dates back to the Stone Age. It is said to be the oldest megastructure in Europe built by humans. The Baltic Sea is a semi enclosed Inland Sea separating the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe.

**2. Japan loses World's third largest economy title to Germany**

The Japanese Economy unexpectedly slipped into recession thereby losing its crown of World's Third Largest Economy to Germany. The Japanese Gross Domestic Product contracted 0.4 percent in the last three months of 2023. The current scenario was forecasted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in October last year.

**3. World Government Summit 2024**

The Prime Minister of India attended the World Government Summit 2024 as Guest of Honour in UAE. The theme of the summit was "Shaping Future Governments". It is an annual global gathering of World leaders and policymakers established in 2013 under the leadership of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE.

**4. Dubai to launch World's first Air Taxi by 2026**

Dubai is set to launch World's first Air Taxi by 2026. The agreement was signed at the World Government Summit for the development of a city wide eVTOL Air Taxi system. The Air Taxi will use the Joby Aviation S4 aircraft which is a four seater electric vertical take off and landing(eVTOL) aircraft. The aircraft can fly at a topspeed of 324 km/hrs upto 161 km range.

**5. Bochasanwasi Akshar Purshottam Swaminarayan**

## Sanstha(BAPS)

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi named Bochasanwasi Akshar Purshottam Swaminarayan Sanstha(BAPS) Mandir. BAPS is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith organisation based on Vedic Teachings propagated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The BAPS is engaged in a variety of humanitarian activities and it is an NGO with a Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



## 6. 7th Indian Ocean Conference

The 7th Indian Ocean Conference was organised by India Foundation, S Rajaram School of International Studies (Singapore) and Perth-US Asia Centre (Australia) in Perth, Australia. The Conference took place on 9-10 February 2024 and the theme of the conference was "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

## Days

**1. World Pulses Day observed on February 10**

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) observed World Pulses Day on February 10, 2024 under the theme "Pulses: Nourishing soils and people". The day was first observed in the United Nations International Year of Pulses (IYP) in 2016. The major aim of the day is to spread awareness about the merits of Pulses and its health benefits.



## 2. International Arabian Leopard Day

The inaugural International Arabian Leopard day was observed on February 10, 2024. The UNGA designated 10 February as International Arabian Leopard Day to highlight Endangered status of iconic Leopard species. The Arabian Leopard is only half the weight of the African Leopard and is mostly found in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman and UAE.

### Sports

## 1. China's Pan Zhanle creates history by winning 100m freestyle gold

Chinese Swimmer Pan Zhanle created history by winning the men's 100 meter freestyle gold Medal at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, Qatar. The Chinese Swimmer finished the final in 47.53 seconds becoming the first Chinese in 9 years to win a gold at the World Championships in 100m freestyle event.



## 2. Bumrah becomes quicker Indian Pacer to 150 test Wickets

India's star Pacer Jasprit Bumrah has surpassed Kapil Dev to become quickest Indian Pacer to get 150 Test Wickets. Bumrah achieved the feat in the second test match against England held at Visakhapatnam.

Bumrah became second fastest to reach the target among Asian pace bowlers, the first one being Waqar Younis of Pakistan.

## 3. Wrestling World Body lifts suspension on WFI

The United World Wrestling (UWW) lifted the suspension over the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect. UWW provisionally suspended WFI on August 23, 2023 after the National Federation failed to hold elections in time. The move allowed Indian Wrestlers who competed under the UWW flag during suspension could now compete under the National Flag.

## 4. 21st edition of World Aquatic Championship 2024

The 21st edition of World Aquatic Championship 2024 is being held in Doha, Qatar from 2nd to 18th February 2024. Qatar is the first country in the Middle East to host the World Aquatic Championship. 2600 participants from more than 21 countries are participating in the event. US Swimmer Nick Fink claimed gold in Men's 100m Breaststroke.

## 5. Sumit Nagal won Chennai Open

Sumit Nagal won his 5th title on the ATP challenger Tour by beating Luca Nardi at the Chennai Open 2024.

- He became the first Indian since Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 2019 to break the Top 100 ATP Rankings barrier. The scoreline of the finals was 6-1, 6-4.



## 6. India loses to Australia in U19 Cricket World Cup final

The Australian under 19 Cricket Team has beaten India

by 79 runs in the final of the U19 Cricket World Cup held at Benoni. Australia has thus become Champions for the fourth time at the U19 World Cup event. Mahli Beardman was chosen as the Player of the match.

### 7. Qatar wins AFC Asia cup 2023

Qatar defeated Jordan 3-1 to win the AFC Asian Cup 2023. The final match was held at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar. The Qatari forward Akram Afif scored a hat trick of penalties against Jordan and was named as the Most Valuable Player.

### Science and tech/Defence/Space

#### 1. Advanced Chemistry Cell Manufacturing facilities under PLI scheme

A pre-bid meeting was conducted by the Ministry of Heavy Industries at IFCI limited to select bidders for setting up Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Manufacturing Facilities under PLI scheme. ACC are new age technologies that can store electric energy as chemical or electrochemical energy and convert it back to electric energy when required. The Scheme under which the initiative took place is National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage.

#### 2. Procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems by Indian Navy

The Ministry of Defence inked a pact worth 2269 crores with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems. The contract also involved procurement of associated equipment for the Indian Navy under Buy (Indian-IDD) category. Shakti EW system is an indigenously designed system to intercept electronic emissions and implement countermeasures in dense electromagnetic environments.



### 3. USD 4 billion Military Drone Sale to India by US

The Biden administration approved the sale of USD 4 Billion Military Drones and equipment to India for Maritime security and surveillance. The Defence Equipments include 31 MQ-9B Skyguardian Drones and 170 laser guided Hellfire missiles. The approval strengthens the US Indo-Pacific strategy between India and the US.

### Health/Agriculture/Environment

#### 1. 7 Conservation Initiatives recognized under UN World Restoration Flagships

7 projects from across Africa, Latin America, Mediterranean and Southeast Asia have been named by the UN as the Intergovernmental organisations World Restoration Flagships. The projects are expected to restore 40 million hectares and create 5 lakh jobs. The Initiative is supported by UN organisations like UNEP and FAO.

#### 2. 5 month long ban on fishing around Hope Island

The Andhra Pradesh Government has imposed a 5 month ban on fishing around 5 kilometre radius of Hope Island to prevent killing of Olive Ridley Turtles off the Kakinada Coast. Olive Ridley Turtles whose scientific name is Lepidochelys Olivacea are the smallest and most abundant of all sea Turtles found in the world. Its IUCN status is Vulnerable.

#### 3. Parasitic Creeper Cuscuta Dodder preys on Chengalpet Forests

A Parasitic creeper namely Cuscuta Dodder which is

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native to North America is choking Chengalpet Forests and Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. The creeper is threatening local Vegetation, Ecology and habitat of migratory birds. Cuscuta Dodder is a Parasitic vine without roots that builds up a Canopy on the host plant and forms dense spectacle, strangling and eventually killing the plant.

#### 4. COP14 on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals will be held from 12-17 February 2024, hosted by Uzbekistan in the city of Samarkand. It is also known as the Bonn Convention and it provides a global platform for conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. It is an Environmental Treaty under the aegis of UNEP.

#### 5. Kyasanur Forest Disease peaks in 2024

The state health officials of Karnataka stated that a viral Outbreak of the Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) is on the rise in Karnataka. It is a tick borne hemorrhagic fever and the disease has confirmed 2 deaths and 53 confirmed cases across Uttar Kannada, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts of Karnataka. The disease was first identified in Kyasanur Forest in 1957.

#### 6. 90% Mongolia at High Risk due to Extreme weather

The Extreme Weather Conditions in Mongolia known as “White and Iron” Dzud has reached a critical level. Due to this extreme weather phenomenon 90% of the country is facing high levels of risks. Dzud is a slow onset disaster characterised by freezing temperatures, heavy snow and frozen ground due to which animals can't reach pasture.



#### 7. Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

India emerged as a key participant in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) in a remarkable display of Citizen science and enthusiasm for birdwatching. GBBC is an annual four day event launched in 1998 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The event engages bird enthusiasts all around the world.

#### 8. Brumation in reptiles

Researchers have recently observed instances of Brumation in various reptilian species across various habitats including species like box Turtles and painted Turtles, snakes, lizards etc. Brumation is a period of dormancy or slowed activity in reptiles similar to hibernation in mammals. The period of reduced activity minimises resource requirements of reptiles and helps them survive colder periods.

#### 9. Reverse Migration of Bird Species

Birders spotted bird species called Fire Capped Tit, a songbird flying back home suggesting reverse migration. The reverse migration phenomena takes place when the season changes from winter to summer. Fire Capped Tit is a small bird species belonging to family Paridae and its IUCN status is Least Concern.

#### 10. Gupteshwar Forest declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site

The Gupteshwar Forest in Odisha was declared as the Biodiversity Heritage Site as per recent Government notification. It becomes the State's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site spread over 350 Hectares of

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demarcated area. The State Government can designate unique and fragile Ecosystem Biodiversity Heritage Sites(BHS) under Section 37 of India's 2002 Biological Diversity Act.

#### 11. First death due to Alaskapox disease

The Kenai Peninsula of Alaska reported the first death of an elderly man due to Alaskapox- a recently discovered viral disease. Alaskapox is an Orthopoxvirus first discovered in 2015 in the USA. It is a zoonotic virus that affects mammals including human beings.

#### 12. Warmest January recorded in 2024

The Copernicus Climate Change Services (C3S) report states that the world recorded the warmest January in the history of earth. As per the report the 12 months from February 2023 to January 2024 saw warming of 1.52 degree Celsius above the pre industrial levels. The Copernicus Climate Change Services (C3S) is implemented by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission.

#### 13. MDA campaign for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis

- The first phase of bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis was launched by Union Minister of State for Health Prof. SP Singh Baghel.
- The major aim of the campaign is to free preventive medications to the residents and check disease transmission. The Campaign will run across 11 states covering 92 districts.

#### 14. Kalasa-Banduri project of Karnataka

The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has deferred the decision on diverting forest land for the development of Karnataka Government's

Kalasa-Banduri project. The forest land was being diverted from the Kali and Sahyadri Tiger reserves. The Kalasa-Banduri Project is aimed at construction of dams and canal systems to divert water from Mahadayi River to Malaprabha River.

#### 15. FGD equipments installed in Thermal Power plants

In order to comply with the emissions norms as notified by MoefCC and CPCB, the Ministry of Renewable Energy has installed Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment in Thermal Power plants. The FGD equipment is used to eliminate Sulphur diOxide(SO<sub>2</sub>) from exhaust emissions.

#### 16. New species of Nematode discovered

New species of Nematode named "Steinernema Adamsi" has been discovered by Scientists at University of California, Riverside. The newly discovered species is a member of a family of nematodes called Steinernema which are used in Agriculture to control insect Parasites without pesticides. These Species were first discovered in the 1920s and are not harmful to humans.

