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# SHAKTHII ACADEMY

Increasing Confidence; Reaching Goals



## MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER



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Apr-24



## Shakthii Academy

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Looking forward to welcoming you to the Institute.





**Apr-24**



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## Important Personalities

- Who has been appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission? **A S Rajeev**
- Salil Parekh has been appointed to the Board of Directors at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), is the CEO and MD of which company? **Infosys**
- Who has been named first woman director of World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)? **Geeta Batra**
- Who has Lucknow Super Giants appointed as its vice-captain before IPL 2024? **Nicholas Pooran**
- Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Independent Director of PayU Payments Private Limited? **Renu Sood Karnad**
- Who has been appointed as new director general of National Security Guard? **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**
- Who has taken charge as Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited? **Ravindra Kumar**
- Who has become the first woman sniper of Border Security Force (BSF)? **Suman Kumari**

### 01 March

## Zero Discrimination Day

INCEPTION: 2013

EDITION: 10th

1ST CELEBRATED: 2014 (By UN)

**2024 THEME:**

To protect everyone's health,  
protect everyone's rights.



#### Importance

In 2014, the UN first celebrated this day to spread the idea of Zero Discrimination after UNAIDS launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013. A day which is universal in nature and does not confine itself to HIV or health related themes and aims to highlight issues related to discrimination.

#### Motto

To promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.

#### Organisation Involved

UN & UNAIDS

#### Note

- Discrimination and gender inequality remain a huge barrier for women and girls with a serious impact on the AIDS response.
- This year is an important year for women and girls with events drawing from the Beijing +25 Conference and Commission on the Status of Women in March, all the way through to the UN General Assembly High level session in September.

- World Gold Council has appointed whom as its chief executive officer? **Sachin Jain**
- Who was recently appointed as the Chairperson of Lokpal by President Draupadi Murmu? **Ajay Manikrao Khanvilkar**
- The committee formed on 'One Nation One Election' submitted its report, who is the chairman of this committee? **Ramnath Kovind**
- Who has been appointed as the new UP Chief Information Commissioner? **Rajkumar Vishwakarma**
- Who has been selected as the new Election Commissioner? **Sukhbir Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar**
- Recently, who has taken oath as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan? **Shahbaz Sharif**
- Who has been appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra? **S Chokalingam**
- Recently, Brajesh Mehrotra has been appointed as new chief secretary of which state? **Bihar**
- Who has won the elections for Senior Deputy Mayor of Chandigarh? **Kuljeet Singh**
- Maharashtra government has extended the tenure of DGP Rashmi Shukla for how many years? **2 years**
- Who has been appointed as next Indian envoy to Mauritania? **Naresh Kumar**
- President Draupadi Murmu has recently nominated which writer to Rajya Sabha? **Sudha Murthy**
- Who has sworn in as a provincial minister, becoming the first Sikh to occupy such a position in post-partition Punjab? **Ramesh Singh Arora**
- Recently, who has taken oath as the 14th President of Pakistan? **Asif Ali Zardari**
- Recently, who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Haryana? **Naib Singh Saini**
- Justice Satyendra Singh appointed as Lokayukta of which state? **Madhya Pradesh**
- Who has recently assumed charge as Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes? **Kishor Makwana**





- Procter & Gamble India has appointed whom as its new CEO? **Kumar Venkatasubramanian**
- IPS Vivek Sahay has recently appointed as the Director General of Police of which state? **West Bengal**
- Vinay Kumar has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to which country? **Russia**
- Who has recently been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries? **Kiran Rijiju**
- Who has recently been given additional responsibility as the Governor in-charge of Telangana? **CP Radhakrishnan**
- Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Police of West Bengal by replacing Vivek Sahay? **Sanjay Mukherjee**
- Who has been elected the new president of Indonesia? **Prabowo Subianto**
- Who has taken charge as the President of Indian Steel Association? **Naveen Jindal**
- Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her post, she was the Governor of which state? **Telangana**
- Former Speaker of Lok Sabha Manohar Joshi passed away, he was also the former Chief Minister of which state? **Maharashtra**
- In February 2024, which singer has passed away at 72? **Pankaj Udhas**
- Brian Mulroney, who has passed away recently, was former Prime Minister of which country? **Canada**
- Wing Commander Satish Bhatia (retd), who has passed away recently, was the former player of which sport? **Badminton**
- Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, who has passed away recently, was the former chief of which armed force? **Indian Navy**
- What was the name of NASA astronaut and commander of the Apollo 10 lunar mission who has passed away recently? **Thomas P Stafford**

## 01 March

### World Civil Defence Day



#### Importance

To commemorate the establishment of ICDO Constitution which came into force as an intergovernmental organization in 1972.

#### Motto

To bring attention of the world public to the vital importance of Civil Protection and pay tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the national services responsible for the fight against disasters.

#### ICDO

FORMERLY: ASSOCIATION OF GENEVA ZONES

- ICDO was created in 1951 in Paris by French Surgeon-General George Saint-Paul.
- The organization was recognized by the French Parliament in June 1955 and in 1972 it achieved status of intergovernmental organization.
- Today 50 countries are the members of ICDO.

#### Note

1st March has been chosen to mark the 'CONSTITUENT' status to the organisation.

## 03 March

### World Wildlife Day



INCEPTION: 2013

EDITION: 11th

#### 2024 THEME:

Connecting people and planet:  
Exploring Digital Innovation in  
Wildlife Conservation.

#### Importance

To mark the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

#### Motto

To celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora and recognized the important role of CITES in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of species.

#### Note

The year 2020, known as a "biodiversity super year", will host several major global events that place biodiversity at the forefront of the global sustainable development agenda.





## National & International News

- Recently, Election Commission has assigned which symbol to the Nationalist Congress Party? **Man-Blowing Turha**
- Eighth Asia Economic Dialogue will be held in which city? **Pune**
- Which event is Prime Minister Modi set to inaugurate that focuses on the textile industry? **Global Textile Expo Bharat Tex 2024**
- Which city is set to host the first-ever Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo, aiming to boost the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign? **Pune**
- Which is the longest cable-stayed bridge in India, inaugurated recently by PM Modi? **Sudarshan Setu**
- The global textile event "Bharat Tex 2024" is being organised in which city? **New Delhi**
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the first railway station of which state in February 2024? **Sikkim**
- In March 2024, which state government has passed a resolution to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state? **Manipur**
- In which Indian state has the world's first Vedic clock been installed? **Madhya Pradesh**
- Where will a new regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification be established? **Chandigarh**
- With whom has the Election Commission started the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" campaign? **Ministry of Education**
- Which state's government announced the decision to abandon the Pharma City project, initially proposed, in favor of building 10 'Pharma Villages'? **Telangana**
- What will be the capacity of world's largest grain storage scheme launched recently? **700 Lakh Tonne**
- Which Union Minister launched NITI Aayog's platform 'Niti for States'? **Ashwini Vaishnav**
- Which city has been declared the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh? **Bichom**
- In which state of India has the world's longest twin-lane tunnel inaugurated? **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Recently, Prime Minister Modi has launched "Mahtari Vandan Yojana" in which state? **Chhattisgarh**
- By which year the Coal Ministry has set a target of producing 1.5 billion tonnes under the Coal Logistics Scheme? **2030**
- Odisha government hiked monthly remuneration of anganwadi workers from Rs 7500 to how much? **10000**
- Which state government has decided to establish a State Water Informatics Centre? **Odisha**
- Which ministry has organized the Poshan Utsav event in February 2024? **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- Recently inaugurated ICG JT has been constructed by which Port Authority? **Deendayal Port Authority**
- Who recently inaugurated the ASTDS tug named 'Ocean Grace'? **Sarbananda Sonowal**
- Where did Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launch the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centre? **New Delhi**
- The recently launched "Aditi Scheme" is related to which area? **Defense sector**
- A 21-foot statue of which Rajput king has unveiled in Hyderabad? **Maharana Pratap**
- Risa is a tribal costume of which state, which was recently granted GI tag? **Tripura**
- Recently, PM Modi has inaugurated India's first underwater metro in which city? **Kolkata**
- In which state was India's first small scale LNG unit inaugurated? **Madhya Pradesh**
- Which state government has launched Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme? **Jharkhand**
- First Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 has kicked off in which city? **Guwahati**
- Which ministry is responsible for organizing Poshan Pakhwada? **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- Union Minister Narayan Rane recently laid the foundation stone of MSME-Technology Center in which state? **Maharashtra**
- President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the "Global Spirituality Mahotsav" in which city? **Hyderabad**
- In March 2024, which state government has passed a resolution to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state? **Manipur**







- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochrab Ashram in which state? **Gujarat**
- Who has launched "Subhash Abhinandan", a digital exhibition based on the life of Subhash Chandra Bose? **Arjun Ram Meghwal**
- Which state government will observe Hindu Year 2081 as "Gauvansh Raksha Varsh" (Cow Protection Year)? **Madhya Pradesh**
- Which Union Minister launched the credit assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras? **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**
- Which state government has announced an extra 10 days of casual leave per year for women government employees? **Odisha**
- Who launched Prasar Bharati's new service PB-'Shabd'? **Anurag Thakur**
- National Immunization Day 2024, celebrated on 16 March, marks the start of the vaccine program for which disease? **Polio**
- Who has launched the Digital Crime Management System to aid India's fight against terrorism and organized crime? **Amit Shah**
- The recently inaugurated Nausena Bhawan, Indian Navy's first independent HQ, located in which city? **Delhi**
- The city "Ahmednagar", which has recently renamed as "Ahilyanagar", is located in which state? **Maharashtra**
- In which state, Union Minister Arjun Munda has laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage'? **Jharkhand**
- 'Majuli Mask' which recently got 'GI Tag' belongs to which state? **Assam**
- Which city of Nepal has been declared as country's tourism capital? **Pokhara**
- Jammu & Kashmir government has approved 10% reservation for which tribe? **Paddari Tribe**
- Which state police recently launched the digital platform 'Trinetra' App 2.0? **Uttar Pradesh**
- The Election Commission has initiated "Mission 414" in which state? **Himachal Pradesh**
- In which city has India's first indoor athletics centre inaugurated? **Bhubaneswar**
- On which occasion in March 2024, 'BhashaNet Portal' has been launched? **Universal Acceptance Day**
- Which agricultural commodity has been recently included by the government of India under the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme? **Wheat and Rice**
- Where will be India's first Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory? **Jammu and Kashmir**
- Where was the 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Startup Forum organized? **New Delhi**
- Where will the three-day International Geeta Mahotsav be organised? **Colombo**
- Which country has recently dropped from a global watchdog's list of countries at risk of illicit money flows? **UAE**
- Which country has become first Asian country to ratify ILO convention? **Philippines**
- In which country is the Mobile World Congress 2024 being organized? **Spain**
- Which country will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, despite warnings from researchers and campaigners? **New Zealand**
- Oil India Limited is hosting its first-ever global partner roadshow in which city? **Abu Dhabi**
- Which country has recently declared a health emergency due to rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever? **Peru**
- Along with India which two other countries have participated in first 'Blue Talks' meeting on Ocean? **France and Costa Rica**
- What is the one-time budgetary support of India for establishment of International Big Cat Alliance till 2027-28? **Rs 150 crore**
- Which country has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia? **Nicaragua**
- A 5-day exchange program for the faculties of foreign service academies of the BIMSTEC members began in which city? **Dhaka**
- Which country has recently devalued its currency? **Egypt**
- Which country has become the new member of the military alliance NATO? **Sweden**
- Which country has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance? **Panama**
- The two-day Nazrul Utsav has recently begun in which city? **Dhaka**
- President Draupadi Murmu will be the chief guest on the National Day of which country from 11 to 13 March? **Mauritius**
- Which emirates of the UAE launched the "India by the Creek" festival to celebrate deep ties with India? **Dubai**
- Where was the largest mass burial of plague victims ever found in Europe discovered? **Nuremberg, Germany**
- The recently discussed 'Democracy Report 2024' has been released by which research institute? **V-DEM Institute**
- Which country has recently unveiled world's first-ever 3D printed mosque? **Saudi Arabia**





## Banking & Economy

- Cabinet Committee on Security has cleared deals worth how much crore for high-power radars? **Rs 13000 crore**
- For the financial year 2024-25, how much budget did Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar propose? **Rs 1.89 lakh crore**
- Which company has launched "Vantara" (Star of the Forest) initiative for Animal Welfare? **Reliance Group**
- What did SBI Researchers report about India's poverty rate for the year 2022-23? **Declined to 4.5-5%**
- How many crores of rupees have been approved for 'PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'? **75,000 crores**
- Which payment service has recently got final approval from RBI to operate as payment gateway? **Amazon Pay**
- India's economic growth has upgraded to how much percent in the third quarter of 2023-24? **8.4%**
- Global Resources Outlook Report 2024 has recently released by which organisation? **UNEP**
- Who has recently surpassed Elon Musk as World's Richest Person? **Jeff Bezos**
- Which edition of National Conference on Economics of Competition Law has been organized in New Delhi? **Ninth**
- The Union Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI mission by allocating how much? **Rs 10,371.92 crore**
- Which government entity is planning to regulate Financial Influencers (Finfluencers) in India? **SEBI**
- Which company was given the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in March 2024? **Grid Controller of India Limited**
- Which state has announced a bonus of Rs 125 per quintal on wheat, which is above the minimum support price announced for the 2024 Rabi season? **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**
- IRCTC has collaborated with which food company to offer pre-ordered meals to train passengers? **Swiggy**
- Which organization recently signed an MoU with a Bengaluru institute to provide high-class education for the wards of its troops? **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**
- With whom has the Bihar state government has signed an agreement to promote the startup ecosystem? **SIDBI**
- With which country has the Ministry of AYUSH signed an agreement to promote Ayurveda? **Thailand**
- NPCI and Fonepay have collaborated for UPI transaction between India and which country? **Nepal**
- NLC India Green Energy Limited has signed an agreement with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited for how much capacity solar power project? **600 megawatt**
- With whom has NPCI joined hands for cooperation in the field of Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence? **IISc Bangalore**
- RBI has signed a MoU with which central bank to promote local currency usage? **Bank Indonesia**
- With whom has SBI partnered for its transaction banking platform? **Aurionpro**
- India recently signed an agreement with which country to establish a Joint Economic and Trade Committee? **Dominican Republic**
- Ministry of Defence has sealed Rs 8073 Cr deal for 34 ALH Dhruv helicopters with which company? **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**
- India and Asian Development Bank have signed \$181 million loan to improve livability in which city? **Ahmedabad**
- With whom has the Ministry of Rural Development signed an agreement with the aim of making women self-reliant? **J-Pal**
- With whom has the Government of India signed a loan agreement to strengthen the Fintech eco system in India? **ADB**

### 04 March

### National Safety Day

INCEPTION: 1972

EDITION: 52nd

BY: National Safety Council 1966

**2024 THEME:**

Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence.

**Importance**

To mark the establishment of National safety Council in 1966.

**Motto**

It is observed to highlight the importance of Safety in all spheres of life so as to prevent mishaps and accidents resulting out of neglect or lack of awareness.

**What is SHE culture?**

To take Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) movement to different parts of the country.





## Awards & Recognitions

- Which veteran playback singer has been honoured with the Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award? **Suresh Wadkar**
- Who has received the Best Debut Film Director award at the 57th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Awards Ceremony? **Achyut Chopade**
- Who has been awarded with Maharashtra Bhushan Award? **Ashok Saraf**
- Who won the Best Male Actor award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards? **Cillian Murphy**
- Who won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize for the Bengali translation of "Stalin's Couch", a French novel about the Soviet ruler's final years? **Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee**
- Which Indian was awarded honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III? **Sunil Bharti Mittal**
- Who won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024? **Yatin Bhaskar Duggal**
- Which country has won global 'Measles and Rubella Champion' award for outstanding disease control efforts? **India**
- Who has been crowned as the Miss World 2024? **Krystyna Pyszkova**
- Who has won the Best Actor Award at the Academy Awards 2024 (Oscars)? **Cillian Murphy**

### 08 March

### International Women's Day

INCEPTION: 1910  
EDITION: 49th  
1ST CELEBRATED: 1911

#### 2024 THEME:

Inspire inclusion: It will inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, that forge a better world.



#### Importance

A proposal by German revolutionary Clara Zetkin at the 1910 International Socialist Woman's Conference to honor the day annually in memory of working women.

#### Motto

To highlight the achievements recognised by women without regard to divisions.

#### Note

- The UN began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975.
- This day aimed to help nations worldwide eliminate discrimination against women. It also focused on helping women gain full and equal participation in global development.

- How many artists were selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 & 2023? **92**
- Who was recently honored with the 'Miss World Humanitarian Award'? **Nita Ambani**
- In March 2024, PM Modi has unveiled 125-foot statue of whom in Assam? **Lachit Borphukan**
- Who won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for the month of February 2024? **Yashasvi Jaiswal**
- Hindi novelist Sanjeev has received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for which of his novels? **"Mujhe Pehechaano"**
- Which company has secured the Silver Award at ET Human Capital Awards 2024 for HR Digital Transformation? **Bajaj Finserv**
- Who has been honored with the award of Outstanding Male Cricketer of the Year for New Zealand? **Rachin Ravindra**
- Who received the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for their philanthropy work in Mumbai? **Ratan Tata**
- Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 has recently conferred to Greeshma Kuthar, and Ritika Chopra in which field? **Journalism**
- Who has been honoured with Sangita Kalanidhi award? **Thodur Madabusi Krishna**
- Who has been awarded by Saraswati Samman 2023 recently? **Prabha Varma**





## Sports

- Who has become the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets against England in Test cricket? **Ravichandran Ashwin**
- In which country will the SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship will be organized? **Nepal**
- Which player made the record of the fastest century in T20 International cricket history? **Jan Nicole Loftly-Eaton**
- Fast bowler Neil Wagner retired from international cricket, he is a player of which country? **New Zealand**
- Where is the Asian River Rafting Championship being organised? **Shimla**
- Which team has won Pro Kabaddi League season 10? **Puneri Paltan**
- In which city is Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 being organised? **Hamirpur**
- R Praggnanandhaa has defeated whom in Prague Chess Festival? **Nodirbek Abdusattorov**
- Which cricketer has become the first pacer and third bowler to take 700 Test wickets? **James Anderson**
- Who won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2024? **Max Verstappen**
- Which team won the title of the second season of the Women's Premier League? **Royal Challengers Bangalore**
- The first ever "Formula-4" Car race show will organize in which city? **Srinagar**

### 10 March

#### CISF Raising Day

EDITION: 55th



The CISF provides security cover to 300 industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India.

##### Importance

To mark the establishment of CISF on 10 March 1969.

##### Governing Body

Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

##### Parent Agency

Central Armed Police Forces.

##### Note

CISF was subsequently made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1985.

### 14 March

#### International Day of Action for Rivers

EDITION: 27th

2024 THEME:  
Water For All.



##### Importance

The International Day of Action for Rivers is a day to celebrate victories such as dam removal and river restoration.

##### Motto

To educate one another about the threats facing our rivers, and learn about better water and energy solutions.

##### Background

The International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water and Life was adopted by the participants of the first International Meeting of People Affected by Dams, March 1997 in Curitiba Brazil.

## Science & Technology

- Which IIT has launched India's largest drone pilot training facility? **IIT Guwahati**
- Which is the first spacecraft built by Intuitive Machines to land on the lunar surface? **Odysseus**
- How many astronauts have been nominated for the Gaganyaan mission? **04**
- India's first indigenous green hydrogen inland waterway ship was launched in which state? **Tamil Nadu**
- After the discovery of new moons around Uranus, what has been its total number of moons? **28**

### 15 March

## World Consumer Rights Day

#### 2024 THEME:

Fair and responsible AI for consumers.



#### Importance

This day was inspired by U.S. President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962, to address the issue of consumer rights.

#### Motto

To raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

#### Fact

- Ralph Nader is considered the father of the modern day consumer movement.
- Which is stated as the right to be fully informed about the performance and quality of all goods and services.
- The right to free choice of goods and services.

- The country's first semiconductor fab has been approved by the Union Cabinet, it will be built by which company? **Tata Group**
- Which app has ISRO launched to assist the Gaganyaan crew? **'SAKHI'**
- In which state L&T has commissioned first indigenously manufactured hydrogen electrolyser?

### Gujarat

- Where was India's first green hydrogen plant established in the stainless steel sector? **Hisar**
- Which state government recently approved the Green Hydrogen Policy in the state? **Uttar Pradesh**
- Which state government has launched India's first government-owned OTT platform? **Kerala**
- On which island of Lakshadweep has the Indian Navy established its new base? **Minicoy Island**
- With whose collaboration has NITI Aayog launched 'Frontier Technology Labs'? **Meta**
- Which missile was successfully tested with MIRV technology recently? **Agni-V**
- In which state was India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project inaugurated? **Gujarat**
- According to SIPRI report, which country is the world's top arms importer between 2019-2023? **India**
- Where did PM Modi lay the foundation stone of India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication service? **Gujarat**
- Recently inaugurated regional airline service Fly91 connects which island of Lakshadweep to Goa? **Agatti**
- What is the name of the newly discovered scorpion species that has eight eyes and eight legs, found in Thailand? **Euscorpions Krachan.**
- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has recently launched new automotive fuel "ETHANOL 100" by which petroleum company? **IndianOil**
- How much capacity of wind power plant has Adani Green Energy commissioned in Gujarat in March 2024? **126 MW**
- What is the name of the mobile application launched by the Election Commission of India to enable voters to check the criminal records of candidates standing for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections? **Know Your Candidate**
- By whom was the country's first 1500 HP tank engine tested in March 2024? **Bharat Earth Movers Limited**







## Miscellaneous

- Trilateral exercise "Dosti-16" has recently kicked off in which country? **India**
- The 5th edition of joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is being organized between India and which country? **Japan**
- When World NGO Day is celebrated every year? **27 February**
- What is the position of India in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024? **42nd**
- When and till when is the 'Annual Financial Literacy' week being organized by RBI? **26 February to 1 March**
- When is National Science Day celebrated every year? **28 February**
- The recently launched book "Basic Structure and Republic" has been authored by whom? **P S Sreedharan Pillai**
- Zero Discrimination Day 2024 has been observed on which day of March 2024? **01 March**
- What is the theme of the World Wildlife Day 2024? **Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation**
- What is the name of Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri's debut book released recently? **Swallowing the Sun**
- Who is the author of the book "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The Art of Freedom"? **Nico Slate**
- Which festival showcased cultural diversity and talent in Jammu recently in 2024? **Tawi Festival**
- The Zoological Survey of India has named a new marine species of ruby red-spotted head-shield sea slug after whom? **Draupadi Murmu**
- Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' has recently conducted between India and which country? **Malaysia**
- International Women's Day has recently observed on which day of March 2024? **8th March**
- With which country will the Indian Coast Guard organize 'Sea Defenders-2024'? **USA**
- Bharat-Shakti, the joint exercise of the three armies of India, will be organized in which city? **Jaisalmer**
- Which armed force has recently observed its raising day on March 10? **CISF**
- Which financial services company concluded its 10th Business Case programme to elevate youth? **HSBC India**
- Arun Goel has recently resigned from which post of Election Commission? **Election Commissioner**
- Exercise Cutlass Express 2024 was organized in which country? **Seychelles**
- International Day of Action for Rivers have been observed on which day of March 2024? **14th March**
- What is the rank of India in the recently released Global Human Development Index? **134**
- Which state has become the first to buy land in J&K for tourist facility? **Maharashtra**
- The 10th edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" will conducted between India and which country? **Seychelles**
- With which country is India organizing Exercise 'Tiger Triumph-24'? **USA**
- Where is 'Start-up Mahakumbh' being organised? **New Delhi**
- According to the World Happiness Report 2024, which is the happiest country in the world? **Finland**
- International Day of Happiness celebrated has been observed on which day of March 2024? **20 March**
- Which city has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area? **Begusarai**
- When has the World Forestry Day celebrated in March 2024? **21 March**
- The recently launched book "The Conspiracy" has been authored by whom? **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**
- When World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year? **15 March**



## Important Days

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
01- Apr	Utkal Diwas/Odisha day	To embark the formation of the state(Odisha) as a separate state out of Bihar and Odisha province on 1 April 1936
02- Apr	World Autism Awareness Day	To put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism face every day.
04- Apr	International Day for Mine Awareness	To spread awareness about the threat caused by landmines to the safety, health and lives of civilian populations
05- Apr	National Maritime day	Propelling Indian Maritime to Net Zero
07- Apr	World Health day	Health For All
10- Apr	World Homeopathy day	Homeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
11- Apr	National Safe Motherhood Day	To raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women.
17- Apr	World Haemophilia Day	Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care
18- Apr	International Day for Monuments and Sites	HERITAGE CHANGES
19- Apr	World Liver Day	To spread awareness about liver related disease
21- Apr	Civil Service Day	To commemorate the day when 1st Home Minister of Independent India addressed the Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
22- Apr	Earth Day	Invest In Our Planet
23- Apr	World Book & Copyright Day	To pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors and to encourage people to discover the pleasure of reading.
24- Apr	National Panchayati Day	On this day the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 came into force
25- Apr	World Malaria Day	Ready to Beat Malaria
26- Apr	World Intellectual Property Day	Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity
28- Apr	World Day for Safety and Health at work	To honour the memory of victims of occupational accidents and diseases
29- Apr	International Dance Day	To mark the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet.
30- Apr	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	To mark the rollout of India's most affordable medical Scheme, i.e. Ayushman Bharat Programme.





## Let's Recap

- Where did the 14th All India Police Commando Competition commence? **Visakhapatnam**
- Which player has won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award? **Suryakumar Yadav**
- What is the name of the newly inaugurated building of Ministry of Skill Development? **Kaushal Bhavan**
- Which company has signed a MoU with Guwahati Municipal Corporation to convert municipal solid waste into compressed bio gas? **Oil India Ltd**
- What is the theme of National Tourism Day 2024? **Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories**
- How many people has been honored with the "Jeevan Raksha Padaks" by Central Government on Republic Day this year? **31**
- Who has recently become the first Indian to win the Senior Euro Q-School and qualify for the Legends Tour? **Jyoti Randhawa**
- Sreeja Akula has won the maiden international table tennis title at WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 by defeating whom? **Lily Zhang**
- What is the theme of Republic Day 2024? **Viksit Bharat and Bharat - Loktantra ki Matraka**
- Which Finance Minister previously presented six consecutive Union Budgets before FM Nirmala Sitharaman? **Morarji Desai**
- Which country will host 2027 World Test Championship Final? **England**
- Which veteran singer has been honoured with Padma Bhushan Award in 2024? **Usha Uthup**
- A letter of intent has been signed between India and which country for Defence Space Partnership? **France**
- What collaboration has been announced between Reliance Jio and OnePlus India? **To establish a 5G Innovation Hub**
- What is the propulsion system of Maersk's new container vessel, Ane Maersk? **Methanol**
- Which female cricketer has been appointed by the Uttar Pradesh government to the post of DSP in UP Police? **Deepthi Sharma**
- Indian Army is organizing joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' with which country? **Saudi Arabia**
- The foundation stone of first yoga and naturopathy hospital in Northeast India has been laid in which city?

### Dibrugarh

- To which country has India sent emergency relief of 01 million dollars after the volcanic eruption? **Papua New Guinea**
- 4th edition of Rüsoma Orange Festival 2024 has been held in which state? **Nagaland**
- Which state government launched LABHA, a 100% State-funded MSP scheme for minor forest produce? **Odisha**
- Who has authored the recently launched book "KASHMIR: Travels in Paradise on Earth"? **Romesh Bhattacharji**
- Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, has been observed on 30th January to pay homage to whom? **Mahatma Gandhi**
- Who has been nominated by President Draupadi Murmu to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament? **Satnam Singh Sandhu**
- Recently the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' was published, by whom is it written? **Sanjeev Joshi**

## 18 March

### Ordnance Factory Day



#### Importance

To mark the establishment of India's oldest Ordnance Factory at Cossipore of Kolkata on 18th March 1802.

#### Note

- Ordnance Factories Board is engaged in research, development, production, testing, marketing and logistics of a comprehensive product range in the areas of air, land and sea systems.
- Ordnance factories are divided into five operating divisions, depending upon the type of the main products/technologies employed. These are:
  1. Ammunition and Explosives (A&E)
  2. Weapons, Vehicles & Equipment (WV&E)
  3. Materials and Components (M&C)
  4. Armoured Vehicles (AV)
  5. Ordnance Equipment Group of Factories (OEF)

#### Facts Behind

- OFB is the world's largest government-operated production organisation, and the oldest organisation run by the Government of India.
- Ordnance Factories Del is popularly known as 'Fourth Arm of Defence' after Navy, Air force & Army.





- Billionaire Sultan Ibrahim of Johor sworn in as new king of which country? **Malaysia**
- What is the rank of India in Corruption index 2023? **93**
- The recently unveiled mascot of Khelo India Winter Games 2024 "Sheen-e She" symbolizes which species? **Snow Leopard**
- Which Indian tennis player has won the singles title at the Australian Open Deaf Championships? **Prithvi Sekhar**
- Who has been appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for the third consecutive term? **Jay Shah**
- Which state government has decided to launch a mass drug administration campaign to eliminate filariasis? **Uttar Pradesh**
- Which raising day has the Indian Coast Guard celebrated on 01 February 2024? **48th**
- Where was the 12th India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee meeting held in January 2024? **Muscat, Oman**

## 20 March

### International Day of Happiness

INCEPTION: 2012  
EDITION: 12th  
1ST CELEBRATED: 2013  
FOUNDER: Jayme Illien



#### Importance

To mark the adoption of Happiness Resolution by UNGA on 20 Mar 2012.

#### Motto

To spread the belief that the happiness, wellbeing, and freedom of all life on earth is the ultimate purpose of every human being, nation, and society.

#### Facts Behind

The initiative to declare a day of happiness came from Bhutan – a country whose citizens are considered to be some of the happiest people in the world.

- With whom has South Eastern Railways joined hands for the development of rail infrastructure? **Tata Steel**
- AU Small Finance Bank has appointed which Ex RBI Dy Governor as its non-executive chairman? **Harun Rashid Khan**
- Preeti Rajak has become the first woman to be selected on which post of the Indian Army? **Subedar**

- Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day 2024 has been observed on which day of February 2024? **02 February**
- Which company has joined Argentine Football Association to promote food brands? **ITC Limited**
- Which company has been recognised as world's most sustainable aluminium producer? **Vedanta Aluminum**
- Where will the Railway Protection Force (RPF) host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM)? **Lucknow**
- Who has been selected as torchbearer for 2024 Paris Olympics? **Abhinav Bindra**
- Who has set a record with four consecutive centuries in debut Ranji Trophy? **Agni Chopra**
- Who has been appointed as the chief adviser in Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance? **Pawan Kumar**
- Which senior leader of India will be honoured with Bharat Ratna? **Lal Krishna Advani**
- PM Modi has inaugurates CLEA conference on cross-border justice challenges in which city? **New Delhi**
- What is the campaign for World Cancer Day 2024? **Close the care gap**
- Which company has awarded the 'Best Green Bond-Corporate' award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024? **REC Limited**
- Which country has become first EU country to issue Digital Schengen visas? **France**
- Who has recently made the record of spending maximum time in space? **Oleg Kononenko**
- Who secured the second position globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024, surpassing figures like Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai? **Mukesh Ambani**
- Which state government has signed an MoU with JNU, Delhi to establish the Biju Patnaik Special Centre at JNU? **Odisha**
- Where has the foundation stone of the 'India's First Digital National Museum of Epigraphy' laid? **Hyderabad**
- In which city is the first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship being organised? **New Delhi**
- The Geological Institute of Israel reveals a new underwater canyon, named Eratosthenes, near which country? **Cyprus**
- Who has recently assumed the role as Indian Army vice chief? **Upendra Dwivedi**
- Who has assumed role of Northern Ireland's first minister? **Michelle O'Neill**





- In which state is Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant located? **Haryana**
- Who has been appointed as the new director of Asian Development Bank in India? **Mio Oka**
- Olzhas Bektenov has recently appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? **Kazakhstan**
- What is the total length of Indo-Myanmar border, which has recently announced to fence? **1643 km**
- Which country will host the 7th 'Indian Ocean Conference'? **Australia**
- Who has launched Vidyanjali Scholarship Program recently? **Dharmendra Pradhan**
- Who has won the National Wrestling Championship in 74kg category? **Naveen Malik**
- The 17th edition of Staff Talks between the India and which country's Navy to strengthen maritime cooperation? **France**
- Farooq Nazki, the veteran journalist and poet, dies at 83. When was he awarded by the Sahitya Akademi award? **1995**
- Who has won the Sportstar Aces Award for Sportstar of the Year (Male)? **Neeraj Chopra**
- In which field, Pyarelal Sharma has been honoured with Lakshminarayana International Award? **Music**
- Recently, RBI has imposed penalty of how much on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank? **63 lakh**
- With whom has the Maharashtra government signed an agreement for the use of AI in sectors like health and education? **Google**
- Which country has been chosen as the guest of honor at New Delhi World Book Fair? **Saudi Arabia**
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research celebrated its Foundation Day on which day of February 2024? **10 February**
- What is the motive of NASA's PACE satellite that has launched recently? **To study climate change**
- In which region did UPSC inaugurated a dedicated exam center? **Kargil**
- Ajay Kumar Choudhary has been appointed as non-executive chairman of NPCI for how many years from 2024? **Three**
- Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. has signed an MoU with which Enterprise Incubation Centre recently for the incubation of start-ups? **Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow**
- Who recently won the singles title of Chennai Open Tennis Tournament? **Sumit Nagal**
- With whom has IREDA signed an agreement for innovation and research in the renewable energy sector? **IIT Bhubaneswar**
- Alexander Stubb has been elected as Prime Minister of which country? **Finland**
- The 2024 KPP Nambiar Award has been awarded to whom by Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala? **S Somanath**
- Which national waterway is involved in the trial movement of vessels between Maia Port in India and Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh? **NW-2**
- What initiative was launched by Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya at AIIMS, New Delhi in Feb 2024? **AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card**
- Which institution did AIIMS New Delhi sign a collaboration agreement with for cancer research? **University of Liverpool**
- In which city world's first air taxi service will launch in 2026? **Dubai**
- PM Modi has inaugurated Hindu Temple "BAPS Mandir" in which country? **UAE**
- Recently Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad passed away, he was associated with which sport? **Cricket**
- Who won the ICC Men's 'Player of the Month' award for the month of January? **Shamar Joseph**
- On which island group is India going to establish a new naval base? **Minicoy and Agatti**
- With whom has the Uttar Pradesh government decided to enter into an agreement for better disaster management? **IIT Roorkee**

## 21 March

### International Day of Forests

EDITION: 12th  
**2024 THEME:**

**Forests and innovation**  
It has been celebrated around the world for 30 years to remind people of the importance of forests and the many benefits we gain from them.

#### Importance

To mark the adoption of resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.

#### Motto

To raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security.

#### Note

World Forestry Day established by the States Member of Conference of the Agriculture and Food organization with the help of the voting for creating it.





- NTPC Green Energy Ltd has commissioned how much of capacity at its Ayodhya Solar Photovoltaic Project? **14 MW**
- Who has been elected as the 72nd President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)? **Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal**
- Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium has been renamed after whom? **Niranjan Shah**
- Where has the first Digital India FutureSkills Summit being organised? **Guwahati**
- Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari has been banned for how many years for doping? **12 Years**
- Van Mitra' scheme has been launched by which state government? **Haryana**
- What is the position of Indian Football Team in the latest FIFA rankings? **117th**
- Sound technology based anti-drone system has been developed by which Indian Institute of Technology? **IIT Jammu**
- Who is the Indian captain who has hit most sixes in international cricket? **Rohit Sharma**
- In which state will PM Modi unveil the 125-feet tall statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan? **Assam**

- World Human Spirit Day has been observed on which day of February 2024? **17 February**
- With which space agency, NASA will launch the world's first wooden satellite, known as the LignoSat probe? **JAXA**
- What is the rank of India in Henley Passport Index 2024? **85th**
- India's first spy satellite has been developed by which company? **Tata Advanced Systems**
- Against which country did the Indian team register the biggest win in Test cricket? **England**
- Famous Jain saint Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj passed away, in which state was he born? **Karnataka**
- PM Vishwakarma Yojana has been launched by which ministry? **Ministry of MSME**
- Who has recently taken over as Vice Chief of the Army? **Upendra Dwivedi**
- World Day of Social Justice has been observed on which day of February 2024? **20 February**
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has Inaugurated All India Institute of Medical Sciences in which city? **Jammu**
- Which state government has launched the "Himalayan Basket"? **Uttarakhand**
- Recently, PM Modi has inaugurated GBC@4.0 exhibition in which state? **Uttar Pradesh**
- Who won the gold medal in the women's 60m hurdles at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships? **Jyothi Yarraji**
- In February 2024, India has sent assistance to which cholera affected country? **Zambia**
- Union Minister Ashini Vaishnav has been elected Rajya Sabha member from which state? **Odisha**
- How many total medals did India win in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships? **04**
- In which country is the multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' being organised? **Nepal**
- Who has been awarded by the Scientific Research for the year 2023? **Aditi Sen De**
- Which state's statehood day has been observed on 20th February 2024? **Mizoram**
- Where will India's largest green hydrogen production plant be set up? **Andhra Pradesh**
- The 4th Khelo India Winter Games is being held in which city? **Gulmarg**
- International Tourism Expo' is being organized in which city of Uttar Pradesh? **Greater Noida**
- Who has been named as Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024 for his image "Whale Bones"? **Alex Dawson**
- What is the theme of World Thinking Day 2024? **Our World, Our Thriving Future**

## 22 March

### World Water Day



INCEPTION: 1995  
EDITION: 32nd  
**2024 THEME:**  
Water for Peace.

#### Importance

To mark the adoption of resolution by UNGA on 22 December 1992 to declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1995.

#### Motto

As a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

#### Agenda

The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" by the year 2030.

#### Coordinated by

UN-Water – the UN's inter-agency in collaboration mechanism for all freshwater related issues - in collaboration with governments and partners.

- Name the IBM CEO, who has joined the Board of Directors of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum? **Arvind Krishna**
- The 16th conference of World Social Forum has been commenced in which city? **Kathmandu**
- The 14th Global Investment Immigration Summit has been organized in which city? **New Delhi**





## Quick Bytes

- Vaughan Gething Becomes First Black Leader of a European Country
- Election Commission Replaces West Bengal DGP: Appointment Of Sanjay Mukherjee
- YES Bank Partners With Indian Olympic Association For Paris Olympics
- Prabha Varma Bags 33rd Saraswati Samman for 'Roudra Sathwikam'
- India ranked 126th World Happiness Report 2024, same as previous year
- Indian Dancer Dr. Uma Rele honoured with Maharashtra Gaurav Award
- Pankaj Advani joins "Billiards Hall of Fame".
- Kerala poet and litterateur Prabha Varma has bagged the 'Saraswati Samman-2023' for his work 'Roudra Sathwikam'.
- South Korea hosted the summit "Warns of AI Risks To Democracy".
- Former Mizoram chief secretary Lalmalsawma appointed as the Lokayukta.
- Article 23 legislation passed in Hong Kong, expanding government powers to suppress dissent and imposing life sentences for treason or insurrection.
- Deepak Kumar is appointed as the new Home Secretary of UP.
- Sanjay Mukherjee appointed as the new DGP of West Bengal.
- The Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen.
- Election Commission Launches 'Mission 414' Campaign In Himachal Pradesh To Boost Voter Turnout
- Nepal Declares Pokhara as Its Tourism Capital
- The Indian defence industry is expanding its reach to the Caribbean region. The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) plans to purchase two aircraft from India with a loan of \$23.27 million from the Export-Import Bank of India.
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized technology unit called Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) to research and evaluate next-generation communication technologies.
- India-US Joint Military Exercise "EX TIGER TRIUMPH – 24"
- T M Krishna Awarded Prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi
- Poonawalla Fincorp Appoints Arvind Kapil As MD & CEO
- P&G India appoints Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO.
- Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta received 'Diana Memorial Award'
- Tom Stafford, commander of Apollo 10 lunar mission, dies at 93.
- C.P. Radhakrishnan given additional charge of Telangana and Puducherry
- T. Armstrong Changsan appointed as India's next envoy to Cuba
- Vinay Kumar appointed as next Ambassador of India to Russia
- J&K government approves 10% reservation for Paharis, new tribes.
- 10th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024' in Seychelles
- Kashmir hosted the first ever "Formula-4" Car race show in Srinagar.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) won the final of India's Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
- Thodur Madabusi Krishna to be conferred with the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy
- The "Ras Malai" ranks no.2 In the list of '10 Best Cheese Desserts'.
- Centre has extended the ban on the J&K Liberation Front, which is led by imprisoned terror accused Yasin Malik, for another 5 years.
- Sheetal Devi was announced the ECI National Icon in the PwD category.
- Pokhara declared as Nepal's tourism capital
- India ranked 104 in V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) report
- Former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata received the prestigious PV Narsimha Rao Memorial Award for his philanthropy work in Mumbai.
- The Union Ministry of Public Grievances, and Pensions has launched the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI).
- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched ETHANOL 100, a new automotive fuel, at IndianOil Outlet.
- Pandavula Gutta is older than the Himalayan hills and is identified as the one and only Geo-heritage site at Pandavula Gutta in Telangana.



- Yoho launched India's first ever fully 'Hands-Free' Sneakers - Blinc
- B Sairam appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of NCL.
- India, ADB sign \$23 million loan for Fintech Ecosystem Development.
- Rabindra Sangeet Singer Sadi Mohammad passes away at 70 in Dhaka.
- Mumbai won the 2024 Ranji Trophy Tournament.
- Fitch Ratings raises India's economic growth forecast to 7% for FY25.
- Rajasthan govt to give free seed kits to boost millets production.
- President Abbas Named Mohammad Mustafa As New Palestinian PM
- Reliance To Buy 13% Of Paramount's Stake In Viacom18 For Rs 4,286 Crore
- India And Singapore Sign Memorandum Of Understanding On Law And Dispute Resolution
- Government Of India And ADB Sign \$23 Million Loan Agreement To Strengthen Fintech Ecosystem In India
- Max Verstappen Triumphs at Saudi Arabian Grand Prix
- Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, Former Indian Navy Chief, Dies At 90
- The Indian Navy recently took part in a major maritime exercise called Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24). This exercise was held in Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 February to 08 March 2024.
- Sidbi Gets \$24.5 Million From GCF For 'Avaana' Fund..
- SBI Partners With Aurionpro For Its Transaction Banking Platform
- Tata Power Solar Completes India's Largest Solar And Battery Energy Storage Systems Project
- India Tops Global Arms Imports, SIPRI Report
- The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has appointed Mr. Deepak Ballani as its new Director General.
- Google Collaborates With ECI For Voter Information And Combats Misinformation Ahead Of Elections.
- Smt. Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate By University Of Mauritius
- Mr. Srinivasan Swamy Receives 2024 IAA Golden Compass Award.
- Jamshedpur to host National Para Badminton Championship
- Kempegowda International Airport recognised as best airport at arrival
- DRDO successfully conducts Mission Divyastra (Agni 5).
- Citizenship Act "CAA" implemented ahead of Lok Sabha polls
- Indian Bank appointed Brajesh Kumar Singh as executive director
- MP to observe Hindu calendar year as Gauvansh Raksha Varsh
- Shri AS Rajeev appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in CVC.
- Justice Satyendra Singh appointed as Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh.
- Kishor Makwana assumes charge of Chairman NCSC.
- Asif Ali Zardari Sworn In As Pakistan's 14th President
- Tamil Nadu Launches 'Neengal Nalama' Scheme To Review Implementation Of Welfare Programs
- Nayab Singh Saini To Succeed Manohar Lal Khattar As Haryana's New Chief Minister
- IndusInd Bank Launches Indus PayWear, An All-In-One Tokenisable Wearable
- Aditya Birla Capital, Aditya Birla Finance Announce A Scheme Of Amalgamation For Creation Of A Large NBFC
- Riken Yamamoto, a Japanese architect from Yokohama, has been named the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize, widely regarded as the highest honour in the field of architecture.
- Delhi Airport Clinches ACI-ASQ's Best Airport In Asia-Pacific Title For 6th Straight Year
- PM Modi unveiled 125-foot statue of Lachit Borphukan in Assam.
- PM Modi launches "Mahtari Vandan Yojana" in Chhattisgarh.
- Krystyna Pyszkova from Czech Republic won Miss World 2024.
- India: The world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.
- Jal Ministry launches "Jal Shakti Abhiyan : Catch the Rain 2024"
- PM Modi inaugurated longest bi-lane tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- India received 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award.
- Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned before 2024 elections.
- The University Grants Commission's (UGC) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, known as the 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI).





- North India's First Government Homeopathic College To Be Established In Kathua, J&K.
- Devendra Jhajharia Becomes New President Of Paralympic Committee Of India.
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein have signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- Indian badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won the BWF French Open men's doubles title, defeating Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final.
- Majuli Mask Making And Manuscript Painting Receive GI Tags.
- Indian Navy commissioned INAS 334 'SEAHAWKS' - First MH 60R Squadron
- Ministry of Cooperation launched National Cooperative Database
- Sea6 Energy opened first Mechanized Seaweed Farm in Lombok, Indonesia
- India And Dominican Republic Sign Protocol To Establish Joint Economic And Trade Committee
- China, Iran, And Russia Stage Joint Naval Drills "Security Belt-2024" In Gulf Of Oman
- Launch Of 'Agray' And 'Akshay' Fifth And Sixth Ship Of ASW SWC (GRSE) Project
- RBI Directs Federal Bank And South Indian Bank To Stop Issuing New Co-Branded Credit Cards
- Bank Of Baroda Launches Bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.40 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank.
- The International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on March 14th. This year, on Thursday, March 14, 2024, the theme is "Water for All," emphasizing the fundamental right of every individual to access clean water.
- Prime Minister Modi Launches PM-SURAJ Portal To Empower Marginalized Communities
- India Jumps 14 Ranks On UNDP Gender Inequality Index.
- Government Of India, ADB Sign \$181 Million Loan To Improve Livability And Mobility In Ahmedabad
- Sanjay Kumar Singh Nominated As Next Director (Projects) Of NHPC Limited
- Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Sandhu Appointed As New Election Commissioners
- Renowned Artisan And Padma Awardee Kapildev Prasad Passes Away
- Paul Alexander, The Man In The Iron Lung, Passes Away At 78
- Rachin Ravindra, youngest cricketer to win Sir Richard Hadlee Medal
- President of India has approved the Uttarakhand's UCC Bill
- Assam Government to de-notify Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- USA House passes bill that could ban TikTok nationwide.
- Ahmednagar in Maharashtra renamed as Ahilya Nagar.
- MoD & HAL sealed Rs 8073 Cr deal for 34 ALH Dhruv helicopters
- Ex-DGP Vishwakarma appointed new UP Chief Information Commissioner
- Sudha Murty, ex chairperson of Infosys, nominated to Rajya Sabha.
- The Nagaland legislative assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution against the central government's decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar.
- PM Modi dedicated the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant at Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.
- Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Project ODISERV For Odisha's Graduates.
- The unveiling of a 21-foot statue of Maharana Pratap at the Begum Bazar Maharana Pratap Chowk marked a significant moment for Hyderabad.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana: Strengthening Indo-Malaysian Maritime Cooperation
- RBI Appoints S. Ravindran As Part-Time Chairman Of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
- Financial Intelligence Unit Imposes ₹5.49 Crore Fine On Paytm Payments Bank.
- C-DOT And Qualcomm Sign MoU To Boost Make In India Vision.
- Google Partners With Shakti To Combat Online Misinformation And Deepfakes.
- Anurag Agarwal Appointed As Head Of Parliament Security.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Releases Book Titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'.
- Veteran Congress Leader And Former UP Governor Aziz Qureshi Passes Away..
- PM and Mauritian PM jointly inaugurate new Airstrip in Mauritius
- MoSPI Signs MoU with ISRO on Urban Frame Survey using Bhuvan.





- Tata Institute claims success in Cancer Treatment - "Rs 100 Tablet"
- The Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be made by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.
- DRDO successfully flight tests Very Short Range Air Defence System
- Two-child norm for govt jobs in Rajasthan gets Supreme Court nod.
- The World Athletics Council has selected Beijing, China, to host the 2027 World Athletics Championships.
- The monthly salary of Anganwadi workers has been raised from Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,000, and that of Mini Anganwadi workers from Rs 5,378 to Rs 7,250 and Anganwadi Sahayikas from Rs 3,750 to Rs 5,000
- CM Mann opens Punjab's first liver sciences institute in Mohali.
- The government announced a Rs 24,420 crore subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the kharif season.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with its headquarters based in India.
- PM Modi Launches India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry
- PM Modi & PM Jugnauth Inaugurate Airstrip, Jetty In Agalega Island.
- IPS Officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary Named NSG's New Director General..
- India Post Payments Bank Partners With Hindustan Zinc For CSR Financial Services..
- Brian Mulroney, Former Canadian Prime Minister, Passes Away At 84.
- After 45 years, the Shahpur-Kandi barrage's completion is a major milestone, stopping Ravi River's water flow into Pakistan.
- DGCA Penalizes Air India ₹30 Lakh For 80-Year-Old Passenger's Demise.
- Panama becomes 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance.
- Goa has been awarded 'The Best Destination of the Year' by the Pacific Area Travel Writers' Association at the ITB Berlin Convention.
- BAI announced rewards for Asian Games of INR 1.12 crore.
- World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' to be held in Delhi.
- Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal become second Indian to surpass the 700-run mark.
- Sweden officially joined NATO as its 32nd member on March 7, 2024, almost two years after first applying.
- "Sea Defenders-2024" exercise with Indian and USA Coast Guard.
- Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the sixth round of the Prague International Chess Festival 2024 Masters to retain the fourth spot in the tournament.
- PM Modi Encourages Destination Weddings: 'Wed In India' In J&K.
- The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a MoU aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions.
- NLCIL has emerged victorious in securing a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender within the GSECL Khavda Solar Park, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding process.
- Zoya Akhtar, Asma Khan Honored At 'India-UK Achievers' Awards In London
- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious IndiaAI mission, allocating a substantial budget of Rs. 10,371.92 crore.
- President Murmu confers Sangeet Natak Academy Awards to 94 artists.
- Yatin Bhaskar wins first prize in National Youth Parliament Festival.
- Razorpay launches country's first UPI-Led QR stack for enterprises.
- Pakistan's Punjab gets first Sikh minister in Ramesh Singh Arora.
- Indian economy will likely grow at 6.8% in FY25: Crisil Report
- India observes National Medicine Day on March 7 every year since 2019.
- NLC Green Energy Limited has won a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited for 600 MW Solar Power Project





- Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched a pioneering initiative, the 'Vidhva Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme).
- Uttar Pradesh Government Announces Electricity Bill Waiver For Farmers..
- Kotak Life Introduces Non-Linked Par Product Kotak G.A.I.N
- Accenture Acquiring Udacity And Launching LearnVantage Platform..
- Goa Airline Fly91 Receives Air Operator Certificate (AOC) From DGCA..
- BHEL Secures Order From NTPC For 1,600 MW Singrauli Thermal Power Project..
- Airbus Collaborates With IIM Mumbai To Elevate Aviation Training Standards.
- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI And Meta Collaborate To Establish Frontier Technology Labs In Schools..
- SpaceX Sends MethaneSAT Satellite Into Orbit To Track Methane Gas
- Jeff Bezos has reclaimed the title of the richest person on earth, surpassing Elon Musk: Bloomberg Billionaires Index
- Massive Ramses II statue uncovered in Minya, Egypt
- Jharkhand government to launch State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme
- Maltese-flagged vessel CMA CGM Attila, carrying cargo for nuclear use, was intercepted at Mumbai's Nhava Sheva Port.
- Tata Motors to demerge passenger and commercial business.
- RBI bans JM Financial from lending against shares, debentures.
- Department of Higher Education, Assam signed an MOU with Jal Jeevan Mission for the Jal Vidya Programme to educate college students on water quality, wash practices, and the functionality assessment of water schemes.
- Government Raises Minimum Age For Postal Voting To 85 Years..
- South Eastern Coalfield Limited's Gevra Mine Set To Become The Largest Coal Mine In Asia
- India's First Underwater Metro Train Service Launched In Kolkata By PM Modi.
- Hungary Parliament Elects New President: Tamas Sulyok.
- Kerala Welcomes 'Iris' Its First Generative AI Teacher.
- The Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- After JP Morgan, Bloomberg To Include Indian Bonds In EM Index.
- Himachal Pradesh Announces "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna".
- Tiger Woods Honored With USGA's Prestigious Bob Jones Award.
- Slice Appoints Nayanthara As Brand Ambassador.
- Future Generali India Life Insurance Appoints Alok Rungta As Managing Director & CEO.
- Spain Wins First UEFA Women's Nations League.
- Asian River Rafting Champions Take On The Sutlej River.
- Former WC Bronze Winner Sai Praneeth Announces Retirement From Badminton.
- India's IN-SPACe Inaugurates Satellite & Payload Technical Centre In Ahmedabad.
- Brajesh Mehrotra appointed new chief secretary of Bihar, replacing Amir Subhani who seeks voluntary retirement.
- EC appoints S. Chockalingam as chief electoral officer of Maharashtra.
- RBI to Launch Interoperable Payment System for Internet Banking
- Puneri Paltan won Pro Kabaddi League season 10.
- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar.
- France Pioneers Constitutional Protection For Abortion Rights.
- Moody's, the global credit rating agency, has raised its GDP forecast for India in 2024 to 6.8%, reflecting a positive economic outlook.
- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stern action against IIFL Finance by imposing an immediate ban on the approval and disbursement of gold loans.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)."
- The Bihar government made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer Brajesh Mehrotra as the new chief secretary of the state.
- Sub-Inspector Suman Kumari Makes History As BSF's First Female Sniper.





- Thailand has replaced its Ambassador to WTO Pimchanok Vonkorpon Pitfield after a strong protest lodged by India on her contentious comment on New Delhi's rice procurement programme.
- The RBI has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
- Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), the Umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.
- Manipur passed a resolution urging the central government to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state.
- Suman has recently completed an eight-week sniper course at Indore's Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) to become the first woman sniper of the BSF.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU).
- Indian Navy To Commission New Base INS Jatayu On Minicoy Island..
- Policybazaar Insurance Brokers, PB Fintech's Subsidiary, Receives IRDAI Approval For Composite Insurance Broker License.
- Ecommerce giant Flipkart has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, Flipkart UPI, in partnership with Axis Bank.
- Telangana Government Announces Launch Of Indiramma Housing Scheme.
- Dr Pradeep Mahajan Receives Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024.
- BPCL Teams Up With Neeraj Chopra As Brand Ambassador For 'Speed' Petrol.
- Tuvalu Appoints Feleti Teo As New Prime Minister.
- Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.
- New Species Of Amazon Anaconda Discovered: Eunectes Akiyama.
- Padma Shri Awardee Arun Sharma Breathes His Last At 91.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, in Gujarat's Dwarka.
- President Murmu To Launch 'Purple Fest' For Disabled
- Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024: MoHFW Allows One Donor Gamete For Undergoing Surrogacy
- Dubai Introduces 5-Year Multiple-Entry Visa For Indian Travelers
- Haryana Launches Innovative "Savera" Program For Early Breast Cancer Detection
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) missile system.
- The 5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commenced at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India.
- HDFC Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the divestment of a 90% stake in HDFC Credila, its education loan subsidiary.
- Per Capita Monthly Household Consumer Spending More Than Doubled During 2011-12 To 2022-23: HCES Report
- Geeta Batra's Historic Appointment To The World Bank's GEF
- Army Clinches Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Title On Final Day
- Ashwin Surpasses Kumble To Become India's Leading Wicket-Taker In Tests At Home
- The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of acclaimed director Kumar Shahani, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata .
- Legendary Ghazal Singer Pankaj Udhas Passes Away
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has commissioned India's largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- Adani Group Launches South Asia's Largest Ammunition And Missiles Complex In U.P.
- NSSO Survey Shows Poverty Down To 5%: NITI Aayog CEO
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma Steps Down From Paytm Payments Bank Board
- Dr. Aditi Sen De Receives 2023 GD Birla Award
- Maryam Nawaz takes oath as first woman CM of Pakistan's Punjab province
- Karnataka Congress MLA Raja Venkatappa Naik Passes Away
- Shafiqur Rahman Barq, India's Oldest MP And Samajwadi Party Leader, Dies At 94
- Government declares 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful'
- Amit Shah inaugurates Swaminarayan Medical College in Gandhinagar
- Former SC judge A M Khanwilkar appointed Lokpal chairperson.







- Government launches 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' campaign
- Firoz Merchant donates ₹2.25 crore to free 900 prisoners in the UAE
- NCP's Praful Patel resigns as Rajya Sabha MP before end of term.
- The Assam Legislative Assembly has passed the Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024
- Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai's book 'Basic Structure and Republic' was released by the Archbishop of Changanacherry (Kerala), Mar Joseph Perumthottam.
- Reliance Launches "Vantara," A National Initiative For Animal Welfare..
- New Zealand To Repeal Anti-Tobacco Law.
- Lord Buddha Sacred Relics Enshrined In Thailand.
- Uttarakhand To Become Third State Enacting Law Holding Rioters Liable For Damages.
- Telangana Government's Decision To Scrap Hyderabad Pharma City.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, is set to unveil a groundbreaking innovation in timekeeping with the world's first Vedic Clock.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, Steadfast Defender 2024, in late January 2024.
- Government Forms Expert Committee, Chaired By Finance Secretary T V Somanathan, For Uniform KYC Norms
- The World Gold Council (WGC), representing global gold miners, has named Sachin Jain as its new CEO for India, effective from March.
- C-DOT Wins 3 Awards For Telecom Innovations At 14th Aegis Graham Bell.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni to be Honored as 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'
- The recipient of this year's Romain Rolland Book Prize is Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee for his remarkable translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's "Le Divan de Staline" into Bengali, titled "Staliner Divan."
- Amazon Pay Receives Final RBI Approval as Payment Aggregator.
- Dvara Money, a leading fintech company, has announced a strategic partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB).
- Reliance Industries (RIL) has unveiled a significant merger deal with Viacom18 Media and The Walt Disney Company, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV) that will integrate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India.
- A book title "Basic Structure and Republic" Released by Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- PayU names Renu Sud Karnad as chairperson and independent director.
- NTPC Green Energy and MAHAGENCO partner for renewable energy parks
- OIL is hosting its first-ever global partner roadshow, themed, "Confluence: Where Energy and Opportunity Converge," in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- World Gold Council appoints De Beers' Sachin Jain as CEO.
- Sunil Mittal becomes first Indian to be knighted by Britain's King
- Haryana passes bill aimed to curb illegal immigration

## 23 March

### World Meteorological Day

INCEPTION: 1961

EDITION: 64th

**2024 THEME:**

At the frontline of climate action.

#### Importance

To mark the establishment of World Meteorological Organization on 23 March 1950.

#### Note

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and is a member of the United Nations Development Group.





## Electoral Bond Issue: India's Biggest Political Scam



The electoral bond issue will gain much more momentum than what it is today. Everybody is now understanding that it is not only the biggest scam in India but is the biggest scam in the world. Because of this issue, this government will be severely punished by the electorate.

**Lets know each and every aspect of these bonds.**

### What is an Electoral Bond

An electoral bond is like a promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India from select branches of State Bank of India. The citizen or corporate can then donate the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice. The bonds are similar to bank notes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest. An individual or party will be allowed to purchase these bonds digitally or through cheque.

### When was electoral bond introduced?

The electoral bonds were introduced with the Finance Bill (2017). On January 29, 2018 the Narendra Modi-led NDA government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018.

How to use electoral bonds?

Using electoral bonds is quite simple. The bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 100,000 and Rs 1 crore (the range of a bond is between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 crore). These will be available at some branches of SBI. A donor with a KYC-compliant account can purchase the bonds and can then donate them to the party or individual of their choice. Now, the receiver can encash the bonds through the party's verified account. The electoral bond will be valid only for fifteen days.

### When are the bonds available for purchase?

The electoral bonds are available for purchase for 10 days in the beginning of every quarter. The first 10 days of January, April, July and October has been specified by the government for purchase of electoral bonds. An additional period of 30 days shall be specified by the government in the year of Lok Sabha elections.

### Are electoral bonds taxable?

In February 2017, the then finance minister Arun Jaitley said that the donations would be tax deductible. Hence, a donor will get a deduction and the recipient, or the political party, will get tax exemption, provided returns are filed by the political party.



### Electoral bonds: Conditions

1. Any party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent General elections or Assembly elections is eligible to receive electoral bonds. The party will be allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the electoral bond transactions can be made only through this account.

2. The electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor. Thus, the political party might not be aware of the donor's identity.

### Why were electoral bonds introduced in India?

According to the Narendra Modi-led government, electoral bonds were being introduced to ensure that all the donations made to a party would be accounted for in the balance sheets without exposing the donor details to the public. The government said that electoral bonds would keep a tab on the use of black money for funding elections. In the absence of electoral bonds, donors would have no option but to donate by cash after siphoning off money from their businesses, the government said.

### Why is there a controversy over electoral bond?

Experts are of the view that if the electoral bonds scheme had been introduced to bring about greater transparency, the government must not restrain from allowing details of such donations to be made public. Experts and several politicians say that since neither the purchaser of the bond nor the political party receiving the donation is required to disclose the donor's identity, the shareholders of a corporation will remain unaware of the company's contribution. Voters, too, will have no idea of how, and through whom, a political party has been funded.

Although the BJP has remained the major beneficiary of the electoral bonds as per the data available on the official website of the Election Commission of India. The BJP received the maximum funds via electoral bonds at ₹6,986.5 crore between April 12, 2019, and February 15, 2024, followed by West Bengal's ruling party Trinamool Congress ( ₹1,397 crore), Congress (

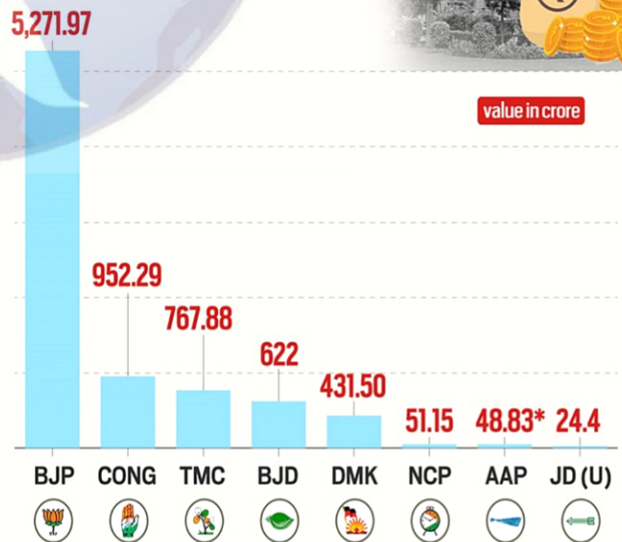
₹1,334 crore), and Bharat Rashtra Samithi ( ₹1,322 crore).

The Supreme Court struck down the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre's Electoral Bond Scheme, which allowed for anonymous funding to political parties, and ordered the State Bank of India to stop issuing electoral bonds immediately. According to civil society activists, 41 companies facing probe by the CBI, ED, and the income tax department gave ₹2,471 crore to the BJP through electoral bonds, and ₹1,698 crore of it was donated after raids by these agencies. Future Gaming gave ₹60 crore to the BJP within three months of I-T and ED raids on November 12, 2023, and December 1, 2021, respectively. Aurobindo Pharma gave ₹5 crore to the BJP within three months of the ED raid on November 10, 2022.

After the disclosures, the opposition parties have dubbed the electoral bonds as legalised corruption, while the BJP has said scrapping the bonds could lead to the return of black money in politics.

## The bond funds

Total value of **electoral bonds** sold from 2017-18 to 2021-22:  
**Rs 9,208.23 crore**

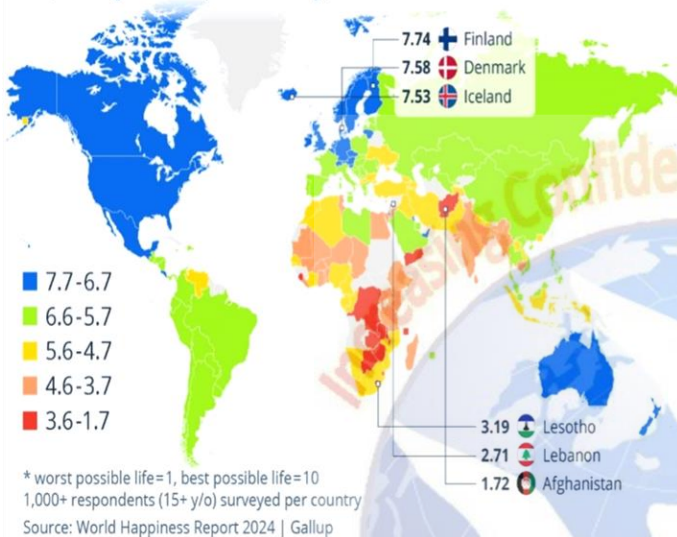


\* Electoral bond / electoral trust contribution

# Info-graphics

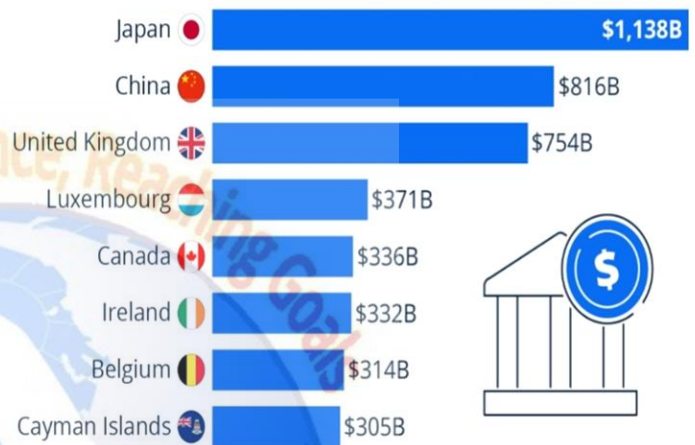
## Where People Are (Un)Happiest With Their Lives

Assessment of own life on a scale of 1 to 10 (average value per country)\*



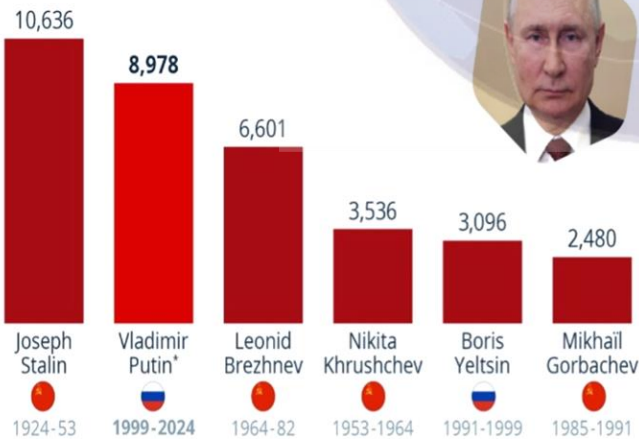
## Japan Is the Largest Foreign Holder of U.S. Treasuries

Estimated foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury securities at the end of Dec. 2023



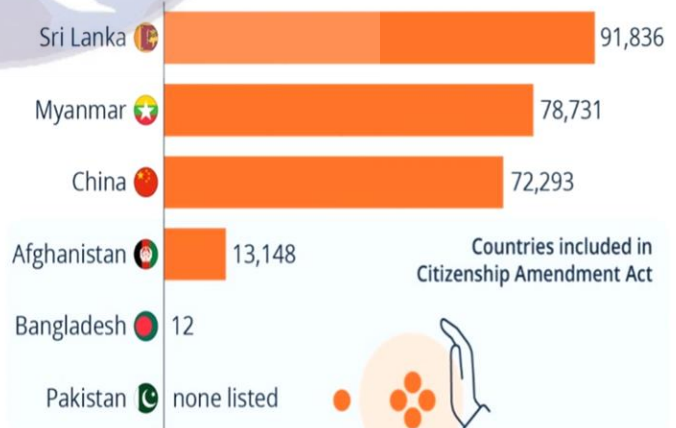
## Putin Forever?

Longest-serving Russian leaders since the start of the 20th century (in days in office)



## India Sees Relatively Few Refugees from CAA Countries

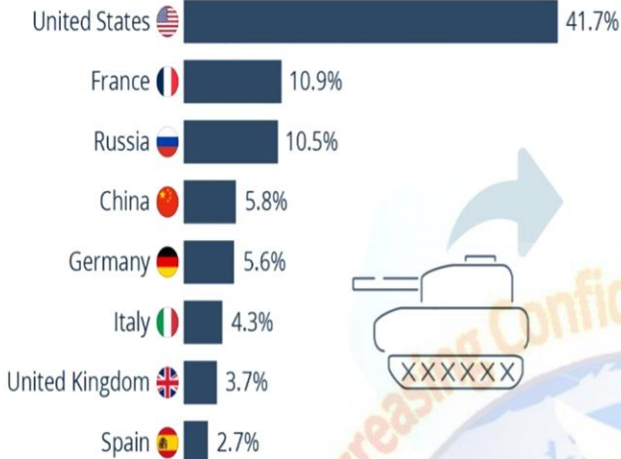
Refugee/asylum-seeker populations in India from most common countries and CAA countries of origin





## The World's Biggest Arms Exporters

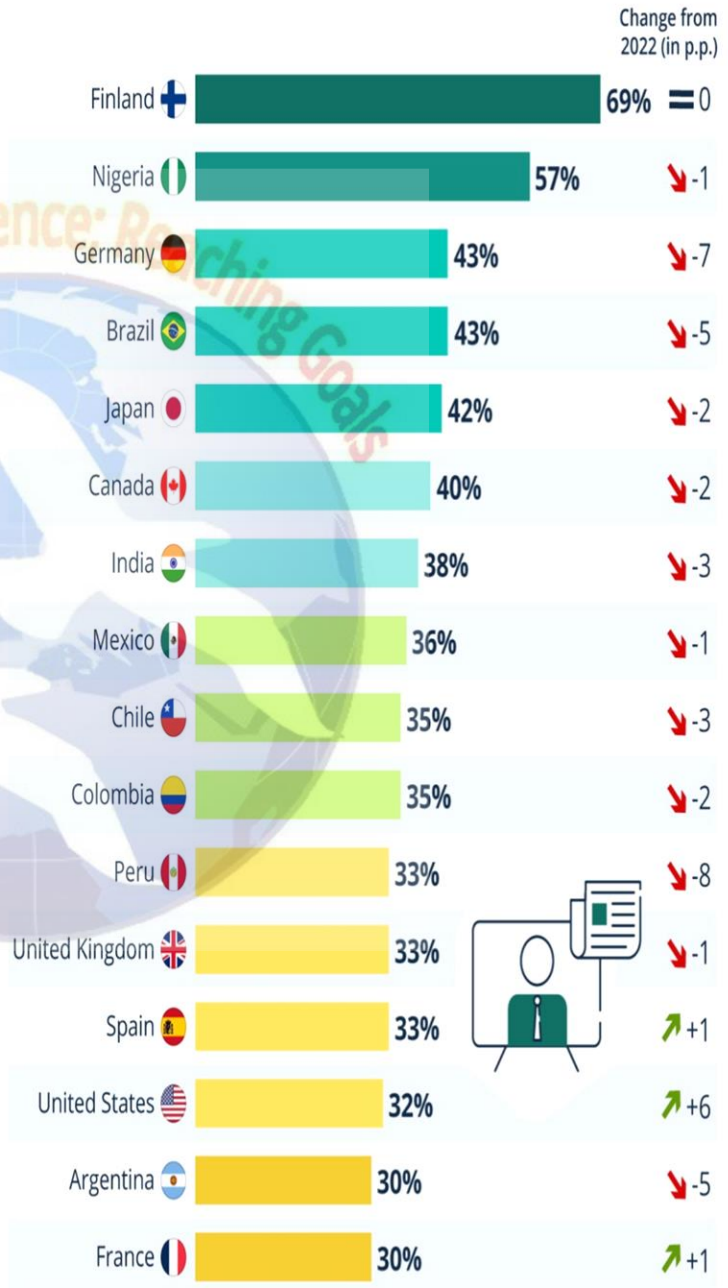
Share of global arms exports from 2019 to 2023, by country



Based on size/value of arms transfer independent of purchase price  
Source: SIPRI

## Where Trust In The News Is Highest & Lowest

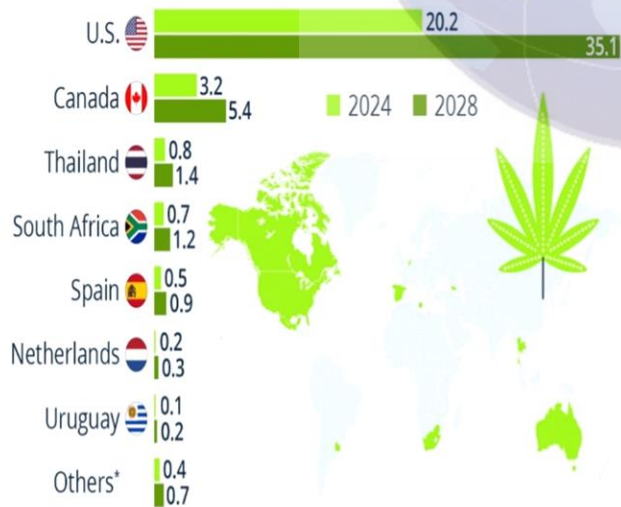
Share of respondents in selected countries who agree that "you can trust news most of the time" (2023)



2,000 respondents per country surveyed online Jan.-Feb. 2023  
Source: Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2023

## Which Countries Have a Legal Cannabis Market?

Estimated sales of non-medical cannabis in countries where it is legal (in billion U.S. dollars)



\* Australia, Georgia, Malta and Mexico  
Analysis as of July 2023  
Source: Statista Market Insights

## The World's Biggest Arms Importers

Countries responsible for the biggest shares of global arms imports from 2019-23



Based on size/value of arms transfer independent of purchase price  
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

## The Countries Shutting Down the Internet the Most

Prevalence of internet blocks and shutdowns by country in 2023 (in billion user hours)\*



Includes throttling, full blackouts and partial blocks (for example specific social media)  
\* numbers of hours of blocks/shutdowns times the users affected  
Source: Top10VPN



## The Cost of Blocking the Internet

Total economic cost of major internet blocks and shutdowns in 2023, by country (in million U.S. dollars)



Includes throttling, full blackouts and partial blocks (for example specific social media)  
Source: Top10VPN



## The Biggest Exporters of Beef in the World

Volume of beef and veal exported in 2023, by country (in thousands of tons)\*



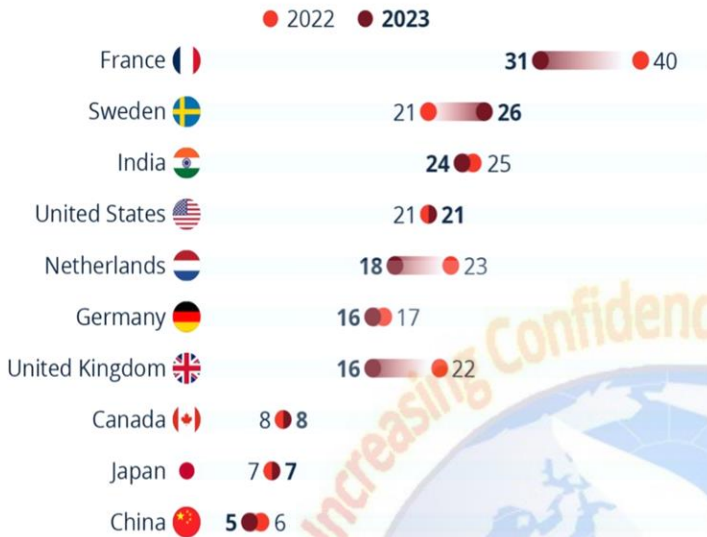
\* As of April 2023  
\*\* Exports "carabeef" or buffalo meat  
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service





## Where People See a Terrorism Threat

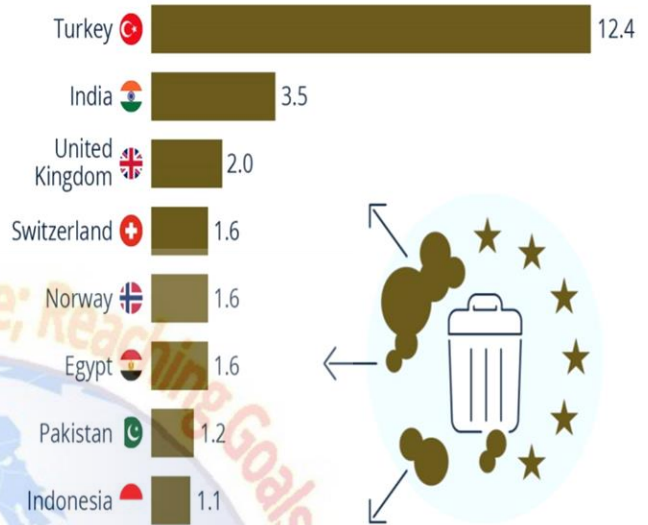
Share of respondents who think that terrorism is one of the biggest challenges in their country (in percent)



12,100-60,300 respondents (18-64 y/o) surveyed Jan.-Dec. 2022 (or closest possible)/Jan.-Dec. 2023  
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

## Where the EU Exports Its Waste

Main destinations for waste from the European Union in 2022 (in million tonnes)

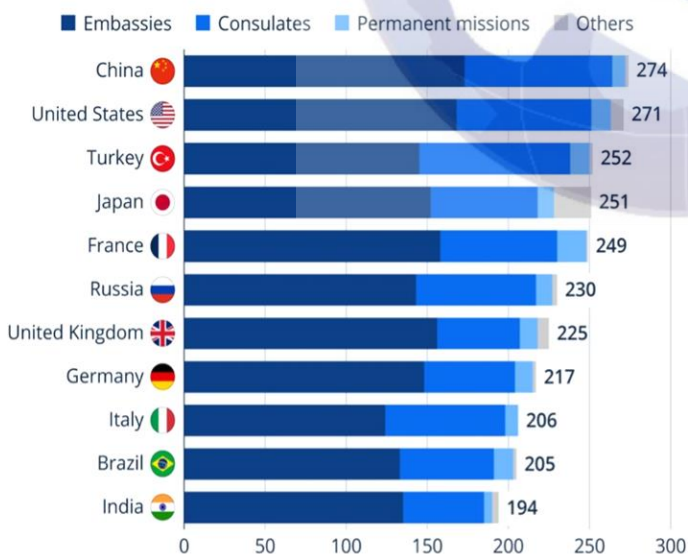


Source: Eurostat



## China Tops Global Diplomacy Index

Countries with the most diplomatic posts abroad (2023)



Based on information from 66 countries and territories' foreign ministry websites, plus exchanges with ministries, embassies and consulates. Data collected Jul.-Nov. 2023.  
Source: Lowy Institute's Global Diplomacy Index

## The World's Best Hospitals in 2024

Top 8 hospitals according to peer recommendations, patient experience & medical KPIs



Based on a survey of medical professionals across 30 countries, publicly available hospital quality data and results from patient surveys.





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