

# GREEN EARTH TIMES

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₹ 25

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## National Events

### Republic Day 2024: From 'Nari Shakti' on Kartavya Path to Rafale power on sky

January 26, 2024

India celebrated its 75th Republic Day on 26 January on New Delhi's Kartavya Path, displaying the prowess of its armed forces, cultural richness and 'Nari Shakti'. With the themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki Matruka', the 75th Republic Day parade was women-centric in the presence of this year's chief guest French President Emmanuel Macron.



For the first time, the 75th Republic Day parade was heralded by 100 women artists playing Indian musical instruments. A group of 1,500 dancers under the banner of "Vande Bharatam-Nari Shakti" graced the parade with a message of unity in diversity. 265 women on motorcycles performed various stunts to showcase bravery, valour and determination during the parade. The women bikers of the CRPF, BSF and SSB exhibited the strength of Indian values, including yoga. India's armed forces' women on motorcycles demonstrated their skills during the parade.

Two Rafale fighters and an Airbus A330 multi-role tanker transport aircraft of the French air force also featured in the celebrations.

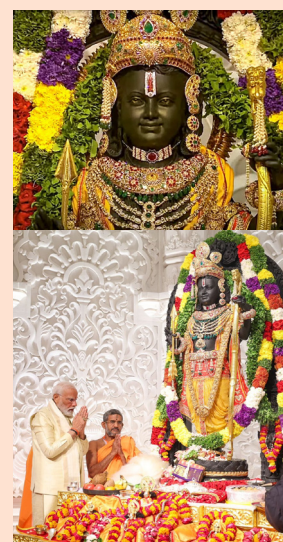
### Ayodhya Ram Mandir Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

January 22, 2024

On January 22, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a momentous occasion in India's history. The inauguration involved the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol, a pivotal event that symbolizes the infusion of life into the idol. The event, attended by over 7,000 dignitaries, was not just a religious ceremony but also a cultural milestone for India.

The 'Pran Pratishtha' of the Ram Lalla idol took place from 12:29:03 pm to 12:30:35 pm, a brief but highly auspicious 84-second window during the 'Abhijit muhurta'.

The Ram Lalla idol, crafted by renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj from Karnataka, is a 51-inch black-coloured depiction of Lord Ram as a five-year-old child. It was installed inside the temple's sanctum sanctorum on January 18 as part of the preparatory rituals. The temple itself, an architectural marvel, stands at a length of 380 feet, a width of 250 feet and a height of 161 feet, embodying the traditional Nagara style of architecture.



### Best Republic Day tableau

January 30, 2024

As many as 16 tableaux from states and union territories, and nine from central ministries and departments, were showcased during the 75th Republic Day celebrations. Odisha's colourful tableau, which showcased women empowerment and the state's rich handicraft and handloom sector during the 75th Republic Day parade, has

won the first prize among the tableaux presented by various states and union territories.

Gujarat's tableau, featuring the Dhordo tourism village, clinched the first place in the people's choice category.

The culture ministry's tableau, themed 'Bharat: Mother of Democracy', secured the first prize among the tableaux displayed by various ministries and departments during the ceremonial parade.



Continued on page 2...

### Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas 2024

January 30, 2024

India commemorates Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, on January 30th each year. This day holds a dual significance as it marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation," and also serves to honour all the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom and sovereignty. The day is a reminder of the sacrifices made for the country's freedom and the continued struggle for justice and equality.



### Nitish Kumar Back as Bihar CM for Record 9th Term

January 29, 2024

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record ninth time on Sunday, returning to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance just 18 months after he left it, in his fifth switch in political loyalties since 2015. Six Ministers and two Deputy Chief Ministers, both from the BJP, were also sworn in with him.



## Our Publications

Mathematics 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE		Science 1 to 8 For CBSE & 3-5 ICSE		GK 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 10) 1 to 8 for CBSE & ICSE	
Moral Education 1 to 5	EVS 1 to 5	Hindi Pathmala 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 7) 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 7) 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE		
English Grammar 1 to 8	English Reader 1 to 5	Hindi Vyakaran 1 to 8	Semester Series 1 to 5	Art & Craft A, B, C & 1 to 8	Art & Craft (With Material) A, B, C & 1 to 5	
<b>Twinkling Stars</b> A series of 25 books for kindergarten						
Alphabet Nursery, KG	Alphabet Cursive Nursery, KG	Hindi Akshar Gyan Nursery	Hindi Shabd Gyan KG	Alphabet Picture Book		

## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**, formally known as 'National Child Award', is awarded by the Government of India, to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments in six categories— Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Scholastic, Social Service and Sports. It is India's Highest Civilian Honour bestowed upon exceptional achievers in the age group 5–18 years and carries a cash reward of INR. 1,00,000/-.



Delhi-based school student **Suhani Chauhan** was awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this year, at Vigyan Bhavan, for 'Innovation' from President Droupadi Murmu.

Suhani's path-breaking innovation, So-Apt, is what brought her laurels at this ceremony. So-Apt is a multi-function solar energy powered vehicle for agricultural use, with zero carbon emission to benefit small farmers. The vehicle can be used for seed-sowing, spraying, irrigation, hole digging and various other agricultural needs, which make it high on utility. If only 1% of the tractors used in India would use this technology, there would be an annual saving of ₹1,800 crores of diesel. The saving of carbon emissions would be about 272,000 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The farmers can even use the solar panels on the vehicles, to power other appliances when not using it in the field. This futuristic kid is already in talks with manufacturing companies to develop her innovation further and produce vehicles to benefit small farmers from across India.



## GREEN EARTH TIMES

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# Science and Information Technology

## ISRO to Launch INSAT-3DS Satellite from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

January 29, 2024

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its latest meteorological satellite, INSAT-3DS, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities. This satellite, designed to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management, represents a culmination of rigorous testing and collaboration between ISRO and various stakeholders.



## CoRover.ai Introduces BharatGPT, India's First Large Language Model

January 25, 2024

CoRover.ai, a leading player in the Conversational AI space, has recently introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM). This groundbreaking development aims to revolutionize AI conversations across 22 Indian languages, addressing the language diversity challenges prevalent in the country. Positioned as an Indigenous Generative AI platform, BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with both voice and text modalities, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity.



## SpaceX Launches Ax-3 Mission to ISS with First Turkish Astronaut Onboard

January 22, 2024

In a historic event, SpaceX successfully launched the Ax-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from



NASA's Kennedy Space Center on January 18. The Crew Dragon capsule, named "Freedom," was propelled into space atop a Falcon 9 rocket, marking the third mission organized by Houston-based Axiom Space.

## ISRO Reveals Advanced Distress Alert Transmitter for Fishermen

January 18, 2024

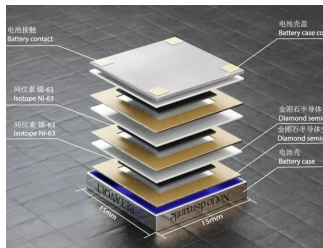
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been at the forefront of technological innovation, contributing significantly to various fields. One such noteworthy development is the second-generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' (DAT-SG), a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities. Operational since 2010, the DAT-SG has become a crucial tool for fishermen at sea, allowing them to send emergency messages and receive real-time acknowledgments.



## China's Betavolt Reveals Groundbreaking Nuclear Battery: 50 Years of Maintenance-Free Power Generation

January 18, 2024

China's Betavolt, a cutting-edge startup, has introduced a groundbreaking nuclear battery that claims to provide uninterrupted electricity for 50 years without the need for charging or maintenance. The miniaturization of atomic energy sets this battery apart as the first of its kind globally, challenging conventional views on nuclear technology.



## Pixxel Inaugurates MegaPixxel: A State-of-the-Art Satellite Manufacturing Facility in Bengaluru

January 17, 2024

Bengaluru-based space tech startup Pixxel marked a significant milestone on January 15 with the inauguration of its cutting-edge

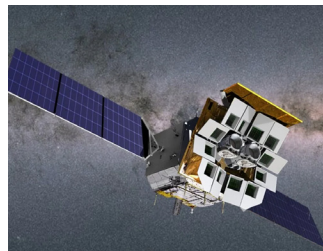


spacecraft manufacturing facility, named "MegaPixxel." The 30,000 sq ft facility is poised to revolutionize satellite production capabilities in India.

## China Deploys 'Einstein Probe,' A Lotus-Shaped Satellite, To Monitor Cosmic Turbulence

January 12, 2024

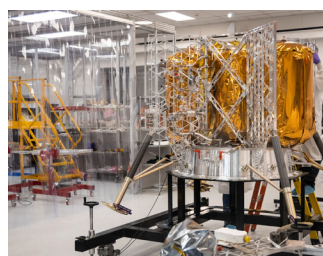
China has recently sent a groundbreaking astronomical satellite named Einstein Probe (EP) into space on a mission to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe. The satellite, shaped like a lotus in full bloom, employs innovative X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye. Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, this mission marks a significant step in unravelling the secrets of the cosmos.



## U.S. Launches Peregrine-1 Lander to Moon in Historic Lunar Mission

January 9, 2024

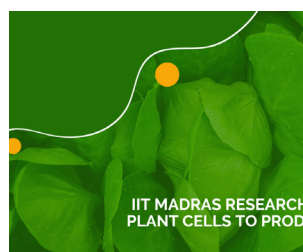
In a monumental achievement, the Peregrine-1 lunar lander, operated by private firm Astrobotic, successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, marking the first American lunar mission in 51 years. Scheduled to land on February 23, the mission, conducted under NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative, aims to study the Moon's surface environment in preparation for upcoming human missions.



## IIT Madras Researchers Engineer Plant Cells to Produce Drug for Cancer

January 6, 2024

Researchers from the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras and Mandi have achieved a significant milestone in the field of biotechnology. They have successfully metabolically engineered plant cells to boost the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT).



## Google DeepMind Introduces Mobile ALOHA Humanoid Technology

January 6, 2024

Stanford University has revealed Mobile ALOHA, a robotic system designed to elevate the

## Japan Becomes Fifth Country to Land on the Moon Successfully

January 23, 2024

Japan has marked a significant achievement in space exploration by becoming the fifth country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon. The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down near the Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator, utilizing precision technology that allowed it to land closer to its target site than any previous mission.



## India's First X-ray Polarimetry Satellite Captures Supernova Remnant

January 12, 2024

The XSPECT instrument aboard India's pioneering XPoSat space observatory has successfully acquired its first images of the Cassiopeia A supernova remnant. The achievement comes within days of the mission's January 1 launch. XPoSat is India's maiden satellite dedicated to studying polarized and spectroscopic emissions in cosmic X-ray sources.



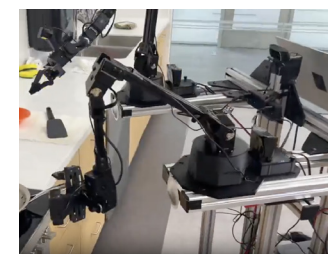
## Swedish Scientists Create 'e-soil' that Accelerates Plant Growth

January 8, 2024

A groundbreaking development in agricultural technology has emerged from the laboratories of Linköping University in Sweden. Scientists have revealed an electrically conductive "soil" engineered to foster exceptional growth in crops, particularly barley seedlings, marking a potential 50 per cent surge in growth within a mere 15-day period.



capabilities of bimanual mobile manipulation. This innovation builds upon the foundation of Google DeepMind's ALOHA system, taking it to new heights by introducing mobility and dexterity as focal points in robotic learning. Developed in collaboration with Berkeley University and Meta, Mobile ALOHA promises to reshape the landscape of robotics.



## ISRO Tests Fuel Cell On PSLV-C58's POEM3 Platform Successfully

January 6, 2024

On January 1, 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing a 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) in its orbital platform, POEM3. This remarkable feat took place aboard the PSLV-C58 mission, marking a crucial step in the assessment of fuel cell technology for future space missions.

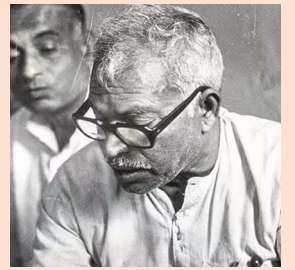


National Events Continued from page 1...

## Former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur Awarded Bharat Ratna Posthumously

January 24, 2024

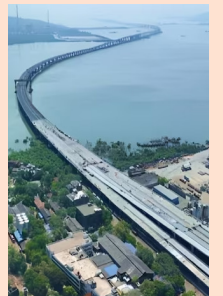
The Government of India has announced that former Bihar Chief Minister, Karpoori Thakur, will be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian award. Known as 'Jannayak' or people's leader, Thakur was CM twice and pioneered social justice policies. This recognition is a significant acknowledgement of Thakur's contributions to Indian politics and social reform.



## Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) Inaugurated

January 12, 2024

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Setu, marking the opening of India's longest sea bridge to date. The 21.8-kilometre link built at a cost of over Rs 17,840 crores aims to reduce travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from 120 minutes to just 20 minutes. The 6-lane Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), spanning across Thane Creek, has been under construction since 2018.



## President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Kaushal Bhawan: Paving the Path for Skill Empowerment

January 25, 2024

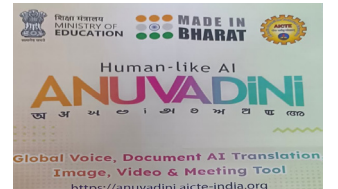
In a historic moment, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan, symbolizing India's unwavering commitment to empowering its youth through skill development. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Bhawan is set to catalyze the realization of aspirations and nurture the nation's young talent, steering India towards a more skilled future.



## Central Government Launches 'Anuvadini' App for Multilingual Education

January 23, 2024

In a significant move towards promoting multilingualism in education, the central government has introduced the 'Anuvadini' app, an Artificial Intelligence-based platform. The initiative aims to make study materials for all school and higher education courses available in digital form, specifically in Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. This step aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing the importance of studying in one's mother tongue.



## 'One Vehicle One FASTag' Initiative

January 16, 2024

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started a 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative. This aims to enhance Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) efficiency and improve traffic movement at toll plazas. NHAI took this decision after increased cases of multiple tags per vehicle and KYC violations. Some vehicle owners also don't properly affix tags, causing toll plaza delays.





## International Events

### French President Macron's India Visit

January 29, 2024

French President Emmanuel Macron concluded his two-day visit to India, participating as the chief guest in the 75th Republic Day celebrations. The visit aimed at strengthening strategic ties between India and France, featuring a 40-member delegation and significant diplomatic engagements.



### 75th Republic Day: French Rafales, marching contingent take part in parade

January 26, 2024

Two Rafale fighter jets accompanied by a multi-role tanker transport aircraft from the French Space and Air Force flew over Delhi on Friday as India celebrated its 75th Republic Day with French President Emmanuel Macron as the chief guest. The sight of the fast-moving planes in the morning sky captivated the thousands of spectators who had gathered for the grand parade. A band contingent from France also drew attention at the event. This was the second time that the French armed forces participated in India's Republic Day celebrations, with the first being in 2016.



### Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay Embarks on Second Term as Prime Minister after Fourth Free Election

January 30, 2024

Bhutan's liberal leader, Tshering Tobgay, from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), has commenced his second term as Prime Minister, following recent elections in the nation. The formal appointment was marked by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck presenting Tobgay with a scarf, as announced on the king's official Facebook page.



### Maersk Reveals World's Largest Ship Fuelled by Methanol

January 27, 2024

In a monumental stride towards sustainability, maritime titan Maersk reveals its latest marvel: The Ane Maersk, a revolutionary container vessel powered by green methanol derived from green hydrogen. This innovative propulsion system heralds a new era of eco-friendly maritime transportation.



### India Aids Afghanistan with 40,000 Litres of Malathion Against Locust Threat

January 24, 2024

In a remarkable display of goodwill and humanitarian assistance, the Indian government has stepped forward to aid the Afghan people in confronting the locust menace. The generous support comes in the form of 40,000 litres of Malathion, an environment-friendly pesticide known for its efficacy in arid regions and minimal water usage. The supplies were sent through Iran's Chabahar port. This environment-friendly insecticide will help Afghanistan combat locust swarms that threaten agricultural production. The assistance ensures regional food security.



### Solar Power Stations Inaugurated at Egyptian World Heritage Sites

January 19, 2024

In a landmark initiative for sustainable energy and environmental conservation, Egypt has taken a significant step forward. In a ceremony at the Manial Palace, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, represented by the Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA), in collaboration with the



### Gabriel Attal Becomes France's Youngest-Ever Prime Minister at 34

January 10, 2024

French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political move by appointing Gabriel Attal as the new Prime Minister of France. At 34 years old, Attal became the youngest Prime Minister in the country's history. He is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the direction of the administration.



### Singapore's Changi Airport Earns the Title of World's Best Airport for 2023

January 10, 2024

Singapore's Changi Airport has once again been crowned the World's Best Airport for the year 2023, according to the prestigious awards presented by the air transport research firm, Skytrax. After losing the title in the past two years to Qatar's Hamad International Airport, Changi Airport reclaimed its status as the best in the world, marking the twelfth time it has received this coveted accolade.



Industrial Modernization Center and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Egypt, officially inaugurated solar power stations at five renowned Egyptian world heritage sites and museums.

### US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner of Miss America 2024

January 16, 2024

In a groundbreaking moment, Second Lt. Madison Marsh, an officer in the U.S. Air Force, was crowned Miss America, marking the first time an active-duty service member has clinched this prestigious title, as confirmed by the Air Force. Hailing from Colorado, the home of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Marsh proudly represented her state in the pageant.



## Person in News

### Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer Receive Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards

January 25, 2024

Former India captain and head coach Ravi Shastri expressed his gratitude on January 21, 2024 for being awarded the prestigious Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award at a glittering ceremony organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The ceremony also saw other cricketing stalwarts, such as Farokh Engineer, being honoured for their contributions to the sport.



### BCCI Awards: Shubman Gill honoured as 'Cricketer of the Year' Award

January 25, 2024

Indian opener Shubman Gill was conferred with the Cricketer of the Year award at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awards. Gill had a stellar season in 2023. Gill became the fastest batter to cross the 2000-run mark in the One Day International (ODI) format. The premier batter notched up five centuries in the 50-over format.



### Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honoured with Tenzing Norgay Award

January 13, 2024

President Droupadi Murmu posthumously conferred the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award upon Savita Kanswal. The award, presented to her father Radheshyam Kanswal, is a testament to Savita's exceptional achievements in the field of mountaineering. Savita Kanswal made history by becoming the first Indian woman mountaineer to conquer both Mount Everest (8848 m) and Mount Makalu (8485 m) within an astonishing span of 16 days. This remarkable feat showcased not only her physical prowess but also her unwavering determination to achieve greatness at the young age of 25.



## Save Environment

### Status Report of Snow Leopards in India

January 31, 2024

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, released India's first nationwide snow leopard population assessment report titled "Status Report of Snow Leopards in India". The assessment estimates 718 snow leopards in India based on systematic surveys covering over 70% of their potential habitat from 2019-2023. The Wildlife Institute of India coordinated the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) program across snow leopard range states.



### Marginal Rise in Saltwater Crocodiles of Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park

January 16, 2024

The population of saltwater or estuarine crocodiles (Crocodylus porosus) in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park has seen a



slight increase, numbering 1,811 as per the 2024 census. This is up from 1,793 crocodiles counted last year through an extensive survey effort. Bhitarkanika National Park is a 145 sq km protected area located in the Kendrapara district of Odisha, India.

### Inaugural IUCN Assessment of the Himalayan Wolf

January 13, 2024

The Himalayan Wolf (Canis lupus chanco) is a prominent lupine predator found across the Himalayas. Its taxonomic status had been unclear until recently. The animal has now been assessed for the first time on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List. The assessment was done on June 27, 2023. Unfortunately, the news is troubling – the Himalayan Wolf has been categorized as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.

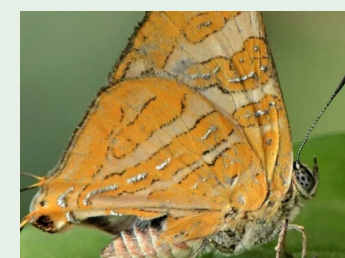


### Conjoined Silverline: New Butterfly Species With Silver-Lined Wings

January 12, 2024

A striking new butterfly species called the Conjoined Silverline, distinguished by its shiny

wing patterns, has been identified in Karnataka's Kodagu district – the first such find in India's Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot since the 1970s. The newly discovered butterfly species has been christened the Conjoined Silverline (Cigaritis conjuncta), derived from the distinctive markings on its wings.



### Study Finds Abundant Micro and Nanoplastics in Bottled Water

January 10, 2024

A new study utilizing advanced microscopy techniques has detected extremely high levels of micro and Nano plastic particles in several popular bottled water brands.



On average, each litre was found to contain over 200,000 plastic fragments – with around 90% sized in the nanoscale range below 1 micrometre. These pose heightened health risks compared to larger particles.

### Shark Meat Consumption Surges in India

January 9, 2024

A new study finds that shark and ray meat, historically eaten only by Indian coastal and tribal communities, has grown popular at restaurants catering to tourists and middle-class consumers. This rising demand could drive overfishing of already threatened shark populations.



### Denmark Launches Green Fuels Alliance to Boost Sustainable Energy Partnerships with India

January 9, 2024

The Danish government has announced the launch of the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI), a strategic initiative aimed at advancing collaboration between Denmark and India in the sustainable energy solutions sector. This new partnership seeks to promote growth in green fuels like clean hydrogen while helping both countries progress their shared goal of reaching carbon neutrality.





## Sports

### Divyakriti Singh Becomes 1st Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee for Equestrian Sports

January 11, 2024

In a historic moment for Indian sports, the accomplished equestrian athlete, Divyakriti Singh, has been conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award, making her the first woman from Rajasthan to achieve this honour. The award was presented in a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.



### Man Singh Clinches Gold at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 in Hong Kong

January 24, 2024

The Asian Marathon Championships 2024 marked a historic moment for Indian athletics as Man Singh, a 34-year-old marathon runner from India, clinched the gold medal. This achievement is significant for Man Singh and Indian sports, showcasing the country's growing prowess in long-distance running.



### Tai Tzu Ying Clinches Victory in India Open 2024 Women's Singles

January 23, 2024

In the Olympic year, badminton enthusiasts witnessed an extraordinary performance by Chinese Taipei's legendary player, Tai Tzu Ying. After facing a Malaysian Open final loss, Tai Tzu Ying bounced back with determination, securing victory in the India Open 2024 women's singles title. The victory marked not only a redemption from her previous loss but also a continuation of her winning streak.



### Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya Claims Bronze at France's Grand Prix

January 23, 2024

Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who faced a setback in the form of injuries,

made a triumphant return to the wrestling arena by securing a bronze medal at the prestigious Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane wrestling tournament held in Nice, France.



### Rohit Sharma Becomes the First Men's Player to Play 150 T20Is

January 15, 2024

In a historic moment for Indian cricket, Rohit Sharma, the captain of Team India, etched his name in the record books by becoming the first men's player to feature in 150 T20 International matches. This milestone was achieved during the second T20I against Afghanistan at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, marking a remarkable feat in Rohit's illustrious career.



### Sue Redfern: ICC's First Female Neutral Umpire in Bilateral Series

January 18, 2024

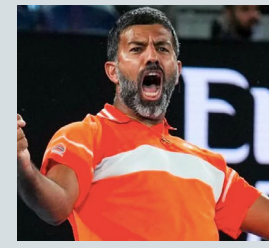
In a groundbreaking development for women's cricket, Sue Redfern from England is set to become the first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire to officiate in a bilateral series. This historic moment is scheduled to take place during the upcoming WT20I between Australia and South Africa, marking a significant step forward for gender inclusivity in cricket officiating.



### Rohan Bopanna: A New Milestone at 43 as the Oldest World No. 1 in Men's Doubles

January 27, 2024

Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna has etched his name in the history books by becoming the oldest player to claim the No. 1 spot in the men's doubles rankings at the age of 43. This remarkable achievement was secured following his quarter-final victory at the 2024 Australian Open, alongside Australia's Matthew Ebden.



### Sreeja Akula Secures First Global Table Tennis Title at WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024

January 25, 2024

Indian table tennis player Sreeja Akula achieved a significant milestone in her career by securing her maiden international title at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas, USA. The 25-year-old athlete displayed exceptional skill and determination in the women's singles event, culminating in a remarkable victory.



### Praggnanandhaa Surpasses Viswanathan Anand to Become India's No.1 Chess Player

January 17, 2024

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China. This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee.

The win not only marked a personal victory for Praggnanandhaa but also led him to surpass the legendary Viswanathan Anand as the top-rated Indian player.

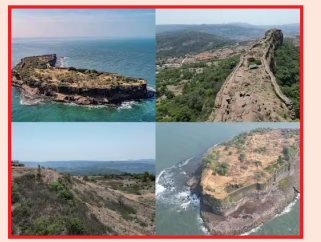


## Art & Culture

### Maratha Military Landscapes of India

January 30, 2024

India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes of India" for the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2024-25. The sites showcase the strategic military capabilities of the Maratha empire between the 17th and 19th centuries. The sites display exceptional testimony to the Maratha defence tradition and empire. They illustrate a significant stage of military fortress building in Indian history. The sites also directly represent the military ideas, beliefs and traditions of the Maratha empire.



### 9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival

January 17, 2024

The 9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) will be held from January 18-20, 2024 in Arunachal Pradesh. Declared a state festival, it centers around wildlife conservation, especially hornbills found in the Pakke Tiger Reserve. The reserve harbours four hornbill species – Oriental Pied, Great Indian, Rufous-necked and the endangered Wreathed Hornbill. The week-long event generates awareness on preserving these iconic birds.



### Ancient Settlement Discovered at Vadnagar Dating to 800 BCE

January 17, 2024

Researchers from various institutes have uncovered evidence of human settlement at Vadnagar, Gujarat spanning over 3,000 years, starting from as early as 800 BCE. Successive periods of occupation belonging to the Mauryas, Indo-Greeks, Hindu and Muslim rulers have been found. The deep excavation makes Vadnagar the oldest continually inhabited city within a single fortification uncovered in India so far. Its enduring legacy stretches across changing kingdoms, invasions and religions.

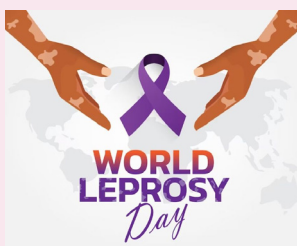


## Health and Fitness

### World Leprosy Day 2024

January 30, 2024

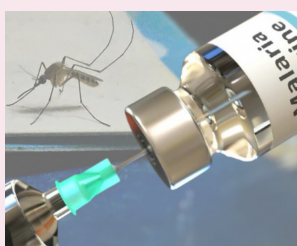
World Leprosy Day, observed annually on the last Sunday of January, is a crucial event dedicated to raising awareness about leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease. This year's theme for World Leprosy Day is "Beat Leprosy." The focus is on combating the stigma associated with the disease and promoting awareness about its curability. The World Health Organisation emphasizes the importance of educating the public that leprosy is caused by bacteria and can be easily cured with proper treatment.



### Cameroon Launches World's First Malaria Vaccine Program for Children

January 24, 2024

Cameroon is set to kick off a landmark malaria vaccine program on January 22nd covering 2.5 lakh children over two years. Africa accounts for 95% of global



malaria mortality, so curbing infections here is pivotal. Officials described the campaign as a major milestone in fighting the life-threatening disease after decades of efforts.

### Cabo Verde Achieves Malaria-Free Certification by WHO

January 23, 2024

In a recent announcement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially certified Cabo Verde as a malaria-free country. This accomplishment positions Cabo Verde alongside Mauritius and Algeria as the third nation in the WHO African region to achieve malaria-free status. The WHO certifies a country as malaria-free after it demonstrates the interruption of nationwide malaria transmission for a minimum of three consecutive years.



### WHO Releases Guidelines for Multi-Modal Generative AI in Healthcare

January 22, 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued

comprehensive guidelines for the ethical use and governance of Large Multi-Modal Models (LMM) in healthcare. These advanced generative AI technologies, such as ChatGPT, Bard, and Bert, have rapidly transformed healthcare delivery and medical research by processing diverse data inputs like text, videos, and images. Despite their potential benefits, WHO emphasizes the critical need to carefully evaluate the risks associated with LMM adoption.



The WHO document identifies five key applications of LMMs in healthcare, including diagnosis and clinical care, patient-guided use, administrative tasks, medical education, and scientific research.

### Video gamers worldwide may be risking irreversible hearing loss and/or tinnitus

January 17, 2024

Sound levels in popular video games pose a risk of irreversible hearing loss and could cause tinnitus, which is a persistent ringing/buzzing in the ears, a recent study has revealed. The research conducted by BMJ (British Medical Journal) Public

Health, a scientific journal, emphasises the need to re-evaluate and regulate audio levels in gaming environments to protect the long-term auditory health of players.



While the impact of loud music and noisy environments on hearing has been recognised, the potential harm caused by video game sound levels has been largely overlooked. Gamers, known for playing at high-intensity levels for extended periods, may face unintended consequences.

### Kerala Launches 'Operation Amrith'

January 13, 2024

The Kerala Drug Control Department recently launched Operation Amrith (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health) to prevent the overuse of antibiotics in the state. The aim is to conduct surprise raids in pharmacies to detect over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.

