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India's Udit won silver at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024

- India's 19-year-old **Udit won a silver medal** in the **men's 57kg category** at the **20th edition of the 2024 Asian Wrestling Championships 2024** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- On the opening day of the competition, Abhimanyou (men's 70kg) and Vicky (men's 97kg) also won bronze medals in their respective weight categories, taking India's medal tally to three.
- Anju and Harshita also won two silver medals. Anju won the silver medal in the women's 53 kg weight category while Harshita won silver in the women's 72 kg.
- Apart from this, Manisha and Antim also won bronze medals in women's 62kg and 65kg weight categories respectively.
- India's **total medal tally** at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 is **nine**, including **four silver and five bronze**.

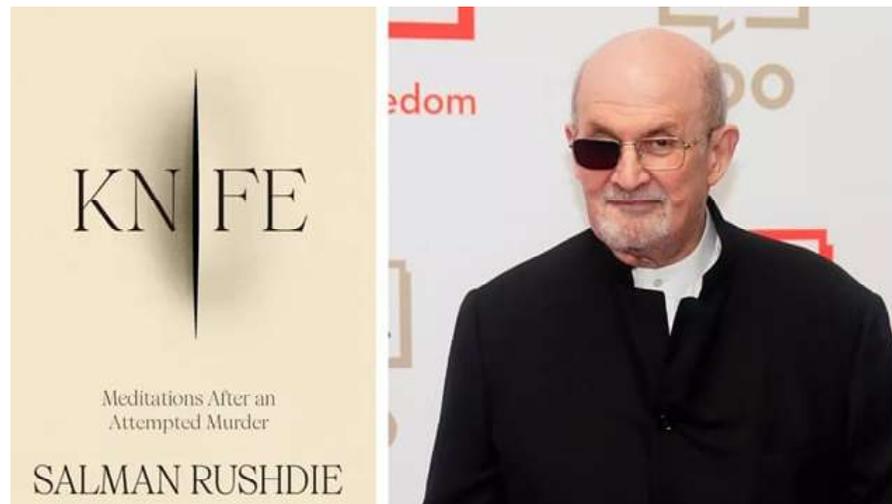


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British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir “Knife”

- Booker Prize-winning author **Salman Rushdie’s memoir “Knife”** has been released.
- In ‘Knife’, the Salman Rushdie has an imaginary conversation with his attacker.
- In this book he has written in detail about the moment he was attacked by a man with a knife on a stage in New York in 2022.
- In this attack, Rushdie’s damaged liver and hands and nerves in his right eye.
- After the 1988 publication of the controversial ‘The Satanic Verses’, Rushdie had spent several years in hiding.
- Rushdie’s second novel, **Midnight’s Children (1981)**, won the Booker Prize in **1981**.



Indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile Weapon System successfully tested by DRDO and Indian Army

- **The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has indigenously designed and developed this **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**.
- The technology has been evaluated several times in various flight configurations with the aim of proving its high superiority.
- A substantial number of missile firing trials were successfully conducted toward achieving full operational envelope compliance as prescribed in the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (Infantry, Indian Army).
- Warhead flight tests were successfully conducted at **Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan**.
- The performance of the missile and warhead was found to be remarkable.



- Penetration capability testing of the MPATGM Tandem Warhead System has been successfully completed and has been found to be capable of defeating modern armor-protected main battle tanks.
- The ATGM system is equipped with day/night and top attack capability.
- Its '**Dual Mode Seeker**' functionality is a significant value addition to this missile capability in tank warfare.
- With this trial, the technology development and successful demonstration have been completed and the system is now ready for end-user evaluation trials, leading to its induction into the Indian Army.

About DRDO:

Founded: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Samir V Kamat

Government has set a target of producing 170 million tonnes for FY25

- The government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the current financial year.
- In FY24, captive and commercial coal blocks produced **147.12 million tonnes (MT)** of dry fuel. It is **26 per cent higher** than the **116 MT produced in FY23**.
- Power sector captive **mines** had produced around **121.3 MT** Out of the total output of **147.2 MT in FY24**.
- The coal production target for FY25 has been reviewed in a meeting. 74 coal mines were present in the review meeting.
- The country's coal import has increased to 244.27 MT in the April-February period of FY24 from 227.93 MT in the year-ago period.



The government of India has given 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to Nepal

- India donated 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organisations across Nepal, enhancing the local infrastructure in the health and education sectors.
- **Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava** handed over the vehicles to the Nepalese officials in the presence of Finance Minister **Barshaman Pun** at a ceremony.
- Out of **101 vehicles**, **two ambulances** were handed over on location in the **earthquake-affected Jajarkot and West Rukum districts** by the representative of the Embassy of India in the presence of district officials and local residents.
- This donation, part of a longstanding initiative coinciding with India's national celebrations, underscores the deep-rooted partnership between India and Nepal, aimed at fostering development and strengthening bilateral relations through improved access to essential services.



- Finance Minister Pun, in his remarks, appreciated India's various ongoing developmental projects in Nepal and expressed that these will strengthen people-to-people connectivity and bilateral relations between the two countries.
- Since **1994**, India has gifted **1,009 ambulances and 300 school buses** across Nepal, including this gifts also.
- The ambulances and school buses are gifted on the occasion of Independence Day and Republic Day.
- It is part of the government of India's continued support for the efforts of Nepal to strengthen its health and education facilities and to facilitate easy physical access to these services.

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

PM: Pushpa Kamal Dahal

President: Ram Chandra Poudel

Currency: Nepalese Rupee

Lawrence Wong will become Prime Minister of Singapore

- Singapore Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong**, 72, announced he will hand over power to his successor, **Lawrence Wong**, on **May 15**.
- **Wong served as Lee's principal private secretary from 2005 to 2008** and led the education and national development ministries before becoming **finance minister in 2021 and deputy prime minister in 2022** and has been prime minister-in-waiting since April 2022.
- Wong is also deputy chairman of sovereign wealth fund GIC and chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Southeast Asian nation's central bank.
- Lee was prime minister **since 2004** and the eldest son of modern Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, called the leadership transition a "significant moment".

About Singapore:

Capital: Singapore City

President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Currency: Singapore dollar



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LIC hikes its equity stake in FMCG major Hindustan Unilever over 5%

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** increase its stake in **FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** has crossed **5 per cent**.
- Corporation has increased its shareholding in Hindustan Unilever Limited from **11,74,63,555** to **11,77,18,555** equity shares, i.e., **4.99 per cent to 5.01 per cent** of the paid-up capital of the company.
- The Corporation purchased additional shares from the open market in the ordinary course of transaction.
- Holding in the company touched 5 per cent and the acquisition of shares was done at an average cost of Rs 2,248.59 per unit
- Shares of HUL ended 1.72 per cent down at Rs 2,194.60 while that of the country's largest state-owned insurer, LIC, closed at Rs 961.15 apiece on BSE, down by 1.03 per cent.

About LIC:

Founded: 1st September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Siddhartha Mohanty



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IIT Madras launches India's first mobile Medical Devices Calibration Facility

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** launched the country's first medical devices **calibration facility on wheels**.
- The facility can calibrate up to **45 different life-saving medical devices** including **defibrillator analyser, electrical safety analyser, gas flow analyser, and dialysis reference meter**.
- The calibration of medical devices on a regular basis is must to ensure accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients.
- However, in primary health centres and rural hospitals, calibration of medical devices has not been done regularly as they need to bring it to cities or they would have only one device.
- This vehicle will go to the doorsteps of labs and calibrate life-saving medical equipment. The equipment will be tested in just a few hours.
- This will play a major role in providing quality healthcare in rural areas and also planning to go for NABL certification for the calibration.

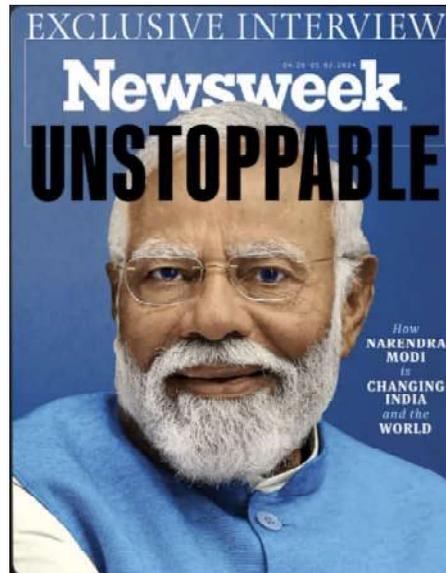


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Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the 2nd Prime minister after Indira Gandhi to appear on the cover of Newsweek

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to become the **first prime minister** of India to feature on the **cover of Newsweek** after **Indira Gandhi**.
- Former prime minister Indira Gandhi featured on the cover of **Newsweek's April 1966** issue.
- The New York-based magazine has interviewed PM Modi who addressed Newsweek's written questions and followed up with a 90-minute conversation.
- During the interview, PM Modi talked about China, global economy, Ram mandhir, Article 370 and India's economic policies.



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- Modi also talked about a host of issues including the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, ties with Pakistan, Quad, Ram temple and democracy, among others.
- “India, as a democratic polity and global economic growth engine, is a natural choice for those looking to diversify their supply chains. We have undertaken transformative economic reforms: Goods and Service Tax, corporate tax reduction, bankruptcy code, reforms in labour laws, and relaxation in FDI norms.
- As a result, we have made significant improvements in ease of doing business,”
- Hailing India as “the mother of democracy”, Modi said that as the largest democracy in the world, over 600 million people voted in the General Elections in 2019 and in a few months from now, over 970 million eligible voters will exercise their franchise.

Arunachal Pradesh's Nyishi tribe celebrating Longte festival

- **Longte**, one of the biggest festivals of the **Nyishi tribe**, began with lots of fanfare and enthusiasm among the people in different parts of the state.
- The **Longte festival** is a unique **tribal festival** celebrated by the Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Unlike other festivals, it does not involve the sacrifice of animals.
- Therefore, it is the only festival that prohibits the killing of animals during or after the festival. Instead, the Altar is adorned with decorative white feathers of domestic fowl and bamboo decorated flowers to mark the occasion.
- **Longte Yullo** is among the **oldest festivals of the Nyishi tribe**. It is celebrated by the Dodum clans of the Niyshis, including Koloriang, Chayang Tajo, Huri, Damin, Sarli, Parsiparlo etc.
- The festival is celebrated with traditional gaiety and devotion in the onset of the spring season in April.



- The largest ethnic group in **Arunachal Pradesh** is the **Nyishis community**. They have a rich tradition and culture, and are known for their courage and determination.
- They believe that they are descendants of Abutani, and are part of the Tani group of communities.

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Capital: Itanagar

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

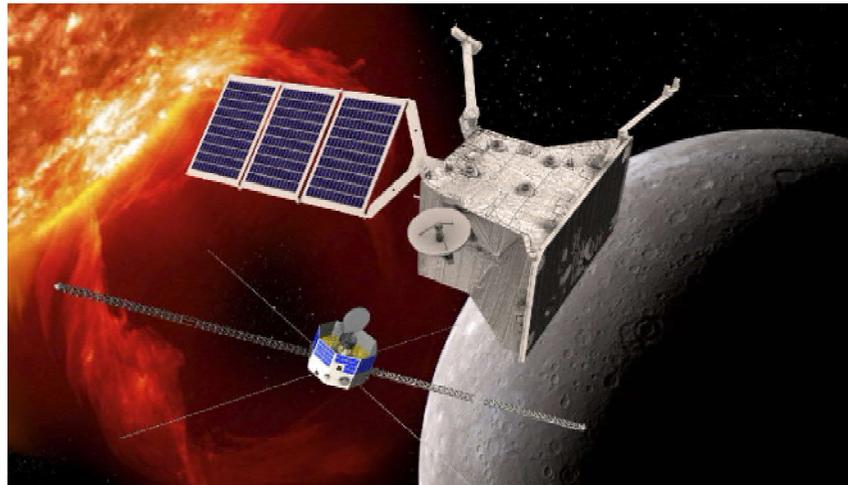
Governor: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

BepiColombo Mission a joint project of ESA and JAXA

- A fleeting visit by the **BepiColombo mission** to **Venus** has revealed surprising insights into how gases are stripped away from the upper layers of the planet's atmosphere.

About BepiColombo

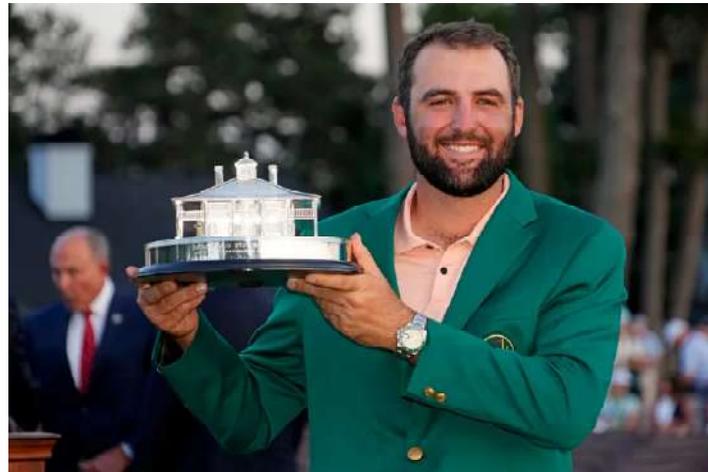
- It is an international mission comprised of **two spacecraft** riding together to Mercury to orbit and study the planet from unique vantage points.
- The primary scientific objectives of the mission are to study Mercury's magnetic field, its composition, the geology of its surface, and its interaction with the solar wind.
- The mission will also investigate the planet's exosphere and study its geological history.



- The spacecraft were launched on **October 20, 2018**, aboard an **Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana**. It is scheduled to begin **orbiting Mercury in 2025**.
- It is a joint project between **the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japanese counterpart JAXA**.
- **ESA's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO)** will study the **planet's surface and interior**.
- **JAXA's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MIO)** will study **the planet's magnetic field**.
- ESA is also responsible for the launcher, the interplanetary cruising engine, and the placement of BepiColombo into Mercury's orbit.
- The mission was named after Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo, an Italian mathematician and engineer who made significant contributions to the understanding of Mercury's orbit.
- It will be the second mission ever to orbit Mercury and the most complex one.

Scottie Scheffler wins 2024 Master Golf tournament

- **Scottie Scheffler** secured his **second Masters Tournament** victory in **three years**, finishing 11 under and four strokes up on his closest competitors.
- The **27-year-old American** was tied with Ludvig Aberg, Max Homa and Collin Morikawa coming into the eighth hole before the world no. 1 hit three straight birdies to take the lead for good. **Aberg** ended up placing **second** in his debut at the Masters.
- Scheffler has been ranked No. 1 in the world for more than two years now and also won the 2022 Masters tournament, which was his first major championship win.
- Scottie Scheffler of the United States and caddie Ted Scott celebrate on the 18th green after winning the 2024 Masters Tournament at **Augusta National Golf Club** in **Augusta, Georgia**.



- Since its establishment in 1934, the tournament has grown to become one of the four most important championships in men's professional golf.
- The tournament typically takes place during the first week of April, so they are the first major event of every season, followed by the PGA Championships, the U.S. Open and the Open Championship, which are usually held in May, June and July, respectively.

Sunrisers Hyderabad smashes record with highest-ever IPL Score

- **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)** created history in the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024** season by achieving a monumental feat in their match against **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)**.
- SRH displayed an exceptional batting performance, scoring a staggering total of **287/3**, breaking their own record for the highest-ever IPL score.
- This remarkable achievement not only secured SRH's victory but also marked a significant milestone in the history of the tournament.
- The IPL, known for its thrilling cricketing action, witnessed SRH's extraordinary innings unfold at the **M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru**.
- **Travis Head**, one of SRH's star batsmen, played a pivotal role in shaping the team's mammoth total.
- Head's explosive batting display, including a breathtaking century, propelled SRH to new heights and left the opposition in awe.



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Rashmi Kumar won the National Women's Carrom title for the 12th time

- **Rashmi Kumari** has etched her name deeper into the annals of Indian carrom history by claiming her **12th National Carrom Championship title**.
- The three-time World Champion overcame a tough challenge from **K Nagajothi** in **the women's final**, emerging victorious with a scoreline of 25-8, 14-20, 25-20.
- Rashmi's remarkable achievement is a testament to her unwavering dedication and the relentless pursuit of excellence that has defined her illustrious career.
- As the Chief Manager at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Rashmi has seamlessly balanced her professional responsibilities with her passion for the sport, cementing her status as one of the most decorated carrom players in the country.
- In **the men's final** also witnessed a remarkable display of carrom prowess. **K Srinivas**, the reigning champion, faced off against **S Aditya** in a one-sided encounter that showcased the former's mastery of the game.
- The **51st National Carrom Championship**, sponsored by the **Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB)** and **SYNCO carrom company**, and organised by the **Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association**.



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India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000: Global Forest Watch

- India has lost **2.33 million hectares** of tree cover since **2000**, equivalent to a **six per cent decrease** in tree cover during this period, according to the latest data from the **Global Forest Watch** monitoring project.
- The Global Forest Watch, which tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources, the country **lost 4,14,000 hectares** of humid primary forest (4.1 per cent) from **2002 to 2023**, making up **18 per cent** of its total tree cover loss in the same period.
- Between 2001 and 2022, forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon **dioxide equivalent a year** and **removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide** equivalent a year. This represents a net carbon sink of 89.9 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.
- An average of 51.0 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year was released into the atmosphere as a result of tree cover loss in India. In total, 1.12 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent was emitted during this period.



- The data showed that 95 per cent of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests.
- The maximum tree cover loss of 189,000 hectares occurred in 2017. The country lost 175,000 hectares of tree cover in 2016 and 144,000 hectares in 2023, the highest in the last six years.
- The GFW data showed that **five states** accounted for **60 per cent of all tree cover loss** between 2001 and 2023. They are:
 - **Assam** had the maximum tree cover loss at 324,000 hectares compared to an average of 66,600 hectares.
 - Mizoram lost 312,000 hectares of tree cover, Arunachal Pradesh 262,000 hectares, Nagaland 259,000 hectares, and Manipur 240,000 hectares.
- According to the **Food and Agriculture Organisation**, the rate of **deforestation in India was 668,000 hectares per year** between **2015 and 2020**, the second highest worldwide.
- The data showed India lost **35,900 hectares** of tree cover due to fires from **2002 to 2022**, with 2008 recording the maximum tree cover loss due to fires (3,000 hectares).
- From 2001 to 2022, Odisha had the highest rate of tree cover loss due to fires with an average of 238 hectares lost per year. Arunachal Pradesh lost 198 hectares, Nagaland 195 hectares, Assam 116 hectares, and Meghalaya 97 hectares.

The International Gem & Jewellery show held in Jaipur

- The apex body of the **gem and jewelry industry** in India, **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** hosted the **3rd edition of International Gem & Jewellery Show (IGJS) in Jaipur**.
- IGJS Jaipur is a curated event, showcasing the best of Indian craftsmanship, featuring over **54 jewelry manufacturers** and exporters presenting an array of Diamonds, Loose Gemstones, Gemstone & Diamond Studed Jewelry, and Silver Jewelry.
- IGJS 2024 witnessed **250 international buyers** from **27 countries**, spanning Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, and Uzbekistan.
- Conceived with the aim of showcasing the best of India to the world, the International Gem & Jewellery Show (IGJS) is held each year in Dubai and Jaipur exclusively for the global audience.
- The show is a curated gathering of India's top gem and jewelry manufacturers and exporters. It reinforces GJEPC's vision to make India the preferred source for world-class gems and jewelry.



India the only source for prime
Gems & Jewellery



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Former England spinner Derek Underwood has passed away

- **Derek Underwood, England's best spinner** in the post-World War II era who had a knack for dismissing legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar, passed away at the age of 78.
- The left-arm spinner, known as 'Deadly,' took 297 wickets, the highest by an England spinner in 86 Tests in a glittering 16-year career from 1966 to 1982.
- He enjoyed an even more prolific time for Kent in a 24-year first-class career, in which he took 2,465 wicket
- Known for bowling quickly through the air and possessing pinpoint accuracy through a long run-up, Underwood was a terror for batsmen in an era of uncovered wickets in England and elsewhere.
- From 1971-82, Underwood enjoyed many a battle with India's famed batsmen, who were masters of playing quality spin, taking 62 wickets in 20 Tests against them.



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- Overall, he dismissed Gavaskar 12 times in Tests, the maximum times any bowler has got his number. In the 1976-77 series, Underwood took 29 wickets in five Tests to help England record a 3-1 triumph in India. Six times during that series, he got the wicket of Gavaska.

About England:

Capital: London

PM: Rishi Sunak

Currency: Pound sterling

Avantika Vandanapu honored as South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard University

- In a remarkable achievement, **Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu**, best known for her role as **Karen Shetty** in the **2024 musical comedy “Mean Girls,”** has been honored with the prestigious **“South Asian Person of the Year”** award by **Harvard University**.
- This accolade recognizes Vandanapu’s outstanding contributions to the arts and her role in promoting South Asian representation in global media.
- Vandanapu is also known for her role in her debut in the Indian series “Big Girls Don’t Cry”, the Disney Channel movie Spin and the comedic drama Senior Years.
- In 2014, she captured the attention of audiences by winning second place in the “Dance India Dance L’il Masters (North America Edition)” competition, demonstrating her exceptional skills in the realm of dance as well.



Avantika Vandanapu Honoured as South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard

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March wholesale inflation rises to a three-month high of 0.5%

- **The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation for March was announced at 0.53%. and data released by the commerce and industry ministry.**
- **There were two things significant about this reading. Firstly, it is the highest level of WPI inflation seen in the last 3 months.**
- **Secondly, if you consider the last 12 months, this is second highest level of WPI inflation witnessed by India.**
- **March 2024 marks the fifth month in a row, the WPI inflation remained in positive territory.**



- Of course, this comes after 7 consecutive months of negative WPI inflation between April and October 2023. However, since November 2023, WPI inflation has been positive.
- The full year **FY24 WPI inflation** of **-0.70%** is sharply lower than **the 6.52% WPI** inflation reported by India for **FY23**. This has been one of the key factors contributing to higher profitability of Indian corporates amidst sharply lower input costs in this fiscal year.
- India's wholesale price-based inflation eased marginally to **0.2% in February** from **0.27% in January**.

Mykolas Alekna breaks old world record in discuss throw

- **Lithuanian Mykolas Alekna** broke the men's discuss throw world record with a **74.35m** effort at the **Ramona Throws Festival in Oklahoma, US**.
- The 21-year-old Mykolas, son of former two-time Olympian gold-medal-winning discuss thrower Virgilijus Alekna, eclipsed a record set in 1986.
- Utilising windy conditions, Mykolas broke the record throw of German athlete Jurgen Schult, who achieved a best of 74.08m on June 6, 1986 – 16 years before his birth.
- Mykolas' throw was originally measured at 74.41m but was later revised by World Athletics. WA also rated Mykolas' performance as “the best discuss throw series in history”, with throws 72.21m, 70.32m, 72.89m, 70.51m, 74.35m (WR) and 70.50m to his name.



- Interestingly, Mykolas' display came a day after Yaime Perez of Cuba threw 73.09m at the same venue — the longest women's discus throw in the world since 1989.
- Before Mykolas' throw, his father Virjilius was second on the all-time list among men in the discus throw, with a career-best of 73.88m in 2000.
- Mykolas won the World and European U-20 titles and followed it up with the senior European title in 2022 at the age of 19. The same year, he also became the youngest world discus medallist in history, bagging a silver medale in Eugene.
- In 2023, Mykolas became the youngest male discus thrower to cross the 70-metre mark, hitting 71.00m in California.

Elon Musk's satellite business Starlink gets in-principle approval from government

- Elon Musk's **satcom venture Starlink** has been given an in-principle approval from the **telecom ministry**, clearing the critical hurdle after almost three-and-a-half years of back and forth.
- The file now lies at the desk of **communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, who is waiting for final vetting by the home ministry over certain security matters, highly-placed sources told TOI.
- Once the file is approved by Vaishnaw, the company will get global mobile personal communication by satellite (GMPCS) services licence, which is a must for anyone looking to offer satellite communication services in India.



- Starlink currently offers services in several countries, including the United States, Europe, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South America, Asia, Africa, and a few others.
- **Starlink** is a division of **SpaceX**, which provides high-speed internet access globally using a constellation of thousands of satellites in low-earth orbit.
- This service is particularly beneficial in rural and remote areas where broadband internet or fibre-based internet isn't available.
- **One Web** (where Bharti Airtel's Sunil Mittal has a stake) and Mukesh Ambani's **Jio** (in partnership with Luxembourg-based SES) have already got **GMPCS licence** (even though the manner of spectrum allocation and its pricing is yet to be finalised by regulator Trai).

Stefanos Tsitsipas won the Monte Carlo Masters for the third time

- **Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece** swept aside his opponent, **Casper Ruud of Norway**, with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 victory to win the prestigious **clay-court Monte Carlo Masters** for the **third time in four years**.
- Tsitsipas, the **12th-ranked player** in the world, showcased his mastery on the clay courts of the Monte Carlo Country Club.
- The Greek superstar, who had previously won the title in 2021 and 2022, once again demonstrated his prowess on the red dirt, asserting his dominance from the very first set.
- Tsitsipas' triumph at the Monte Carlo Masters was a testament to his unwavering determination and resilience.
- The Greek player had reached a career-high ranking of No. 3 in 2021 and was widely regarded as one of the rising stars of the sport.
- However, the past year had been a challenging one for Tsitsipas, with his last title coming at the ATP 250-level tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico, in August 2023.



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