

# IACE

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### HEADLINES

- ❖ Nagaland: 3rd edition of annual Orange festival
- ❖ Ola's Krutrim is first AI unicorn in India
- ❖ LIC gets RBI nod to hold up to 9.99% stake in HDFC
- ❖ Airbus, Tata to set up India's first private copter assembly line
- ❖ Max Life Insurance Launches 'SWAG Pension Plan' with Customisable Annuity Options
- ❖ India second worst country in WADA's 10-year global study
- ❖ Padma Awards announced for the year 2024
- ❖ India will export BrahMos supersonic missile system to Philippines
- ❖ ISRO developed second generation disaster warning transmitter 'DAT-SG' for fishermen
- ❖ World's first 'Black Tiger Safari' to come up in Odisha
- ❖ Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer Receive CoI CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards
- ❖ CoRover.ai Launched India's first Indigenous GenAI 'BharatGPT'
- ❖ India Open Badminton 2024

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## **Nagaland: 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of annual Orange festival**

- In Nagaland, the third edition of the annual Orange festival 2023 got underway at **Rusoma village**, under **Kohima district**.
- The two day festival is organised in collaboration with the department of Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Resources and Kohima Smart City.
- The Orange festival is conceptualised to recognise and celebrate the hard work of the orange growers while facilitating them the market linkages to sell their produce at one hub.
- At present, there are about 35,000 standing trees of orange plantation in Rusoma village and is generating an income of more than 40 Lakh rupees to the village.
- The two day orange festival also featured several stalls like sale of handicraft, organic vegetables and fruits, food items, sale of orange saplings, workshop on orange and coffee plantation and signature campaign on “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.



## Ola's Krutrim is first AI unicorn in India

- Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal's artificial intelligence startup **Krutrim** has raised **\$50 million** in funding at a \$1 billion valuation.
- Krutrim is now **India's first AI startup** to reach the unicorn status.
- The investor's in Krutrim's latest funding round include Matrix Partners India. Interestingly, Krutrim has hit the billion-dollar valuation just a month after its debut as a large language AI model.
- Krutrim, which means **"artificial"** in Sanskrit, is also in the process of developing data centres across the country, aiming to create supercomputer ecosystem for AI development in India.
- **What is Krutrim AI?**
- Krutrim is a large language model (LLM) which has been trained on more than 2 trillion 'tokens'; these tokens are sub-words used in conversations.
- This LLM uses a custom tokenizer to interpret the languages and scripts.
- The project team of the company claims Krutrim is larger than GPT-4.



## LIC gets RBI nod to hold up to 9.99% stake in HDFC

- The Reserve Bank of India approved insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) application to acquire up to 9.99 per cent aggregate holding of paid-up share capital in HDFC Bank, the country's largest private sector bank.
- The approval has been granted with reference to the application made by LIC to RBI.
- LIC has been advised by RBI to acquire the major shareholding in HDFC Bank within a period of one year i.e. by January 24, 2025. Further, LIC must ensure that the aggregate holding in the Bank does not exceed 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times, RBI has said.
- The RBI approval is subject to the conditions including compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023 , provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, provisions of the regulations issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, and any other guidelines, regulations and statutes as applicable.



## Airbus, Tata to set up India's first private copter assembly line

- In a move towards bolstering India's '**Make in India**' initiative, Airbus Helicopters has joined with Tata Group to establish the nation's inaugural Final Assembly Line (FAL) for helicopters in the private sector.
- The partnership aims to produce Airbus' renowned **H125 helicopters** for both the Indian market and neighbouring countries, marking a significant stride in India's quest for self-reliance, as outlined in the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' program.
- The announcement, made during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations, signals a substantial investment in the country's aerospace sector.
- Under the collaboration, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), a subsidiary of the Tata Group, will work alongside Airbus Helicopters to establish the assembly facility.
- This private-sector helicopter manufacturing facility will be the **first of its kind in India**, dedicated to the assembly of Airbus' best-selling H125 helicopter from its civil range.





## Max Life Insurance Launches 'SWAG Pension Plan' with Customisable Annuity Options

- Max Life Insurance launched '**Smart Wealth Annuity Guaranteed Pension Plan** - SWAG Pension Plan'.
  - This is a non-linked, non-participating individual/group general annuity savings plan which allows customers to tailor their own policies, choosing from an array of annuity options.
  - Further, the customers have the freedom to select from a range of 'Return of Premium' options.
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- Immediate annuity with flexibility to decide return of chosen proportion of premiums paid to the surviving annuitant or nominee.
  - Early 'Return of Premium' on attaining milestone age which varies from 70 years to 85 years (in blocks of 5 years).
  - Provides option to surviving annuitant to withdraw chosen proportion of annuity in advance on death of first annuitant.
  - Customers can plan early and get higher annuity on retirement by deferring first annuity from the first month itself up to 12 years.



# world anti-doping agency

## India second worst country in WADA's 10-year global study

- India was named as the second worst country in a 10-year global study of positive doping cases by minors conducted by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**.
- Russia topped the list, followed by India and China, in the report published by the WADA on the findings of '**Operation Refuge**', a broad analysis and examination of doping amongst minors in sport.
- The Prohibited Substances most detected in Minors from these countries were, respectively, Furosemide, Nandrolone (or its precursors), 15 and Clenbuterol.
- A minor is defined by the WADA Code as a person **under the age of eighteen years**.



Padma Vibhushan



Padma Bhushan



Padma Shri

# PADMA AWARDS

## 2024

## Padma Awards announced for the year 2024

- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- **'Padma Vibhushan'** is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; **'Padma Bhushan'** for distinguished service of high order and **'Padma Shri'** for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year.
- For the year 2024, the President has approved conferment of **132 Padma Awards** including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) .
- The list comprises **5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan** and **110 Padma Shri Awards**.
- 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.



## India will export BrahMos supersonic missile system to Philippines

- India is set to export BrahMos missile systems to the Philippines, marking its largest-ever defence contract with a foreign nation.
- DRDO Chairman **Dr. Samir V Kamat** anticipates ground systems to be sent with missiles following by March.
- This move underscores India's rising profile in global defence exports, with DRDO highlighting a substantial portfolio and rapid product development.
- The **BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile**, a joint venture with **Russia**, continues to enhance India's deterrence power, solidifying its position as a reliable player in international arms markets.



## ISRO Second generation Distress Alert Transmitter

## **ISRO developed second generation disaster warning transmitter 'DAT-SG' for fishermen**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed the second-generation **Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT-SG)**, an indigenous technological solution for Fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats .
- Fishermen, when faced with distress situations, can use the DAT to send emergency messages. These messages typically contain information about their **identity, location**, and the **nature of the emergency**.
- The first version of DAT has been operational since 2010, using which messages were sent through a communication satellite and received at a central control station (INMCC: Indian Mission Control Centre), where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and location of the fishing boat.
- The extracted information is then forwarded to Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) under the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Using this information, the MRCC coordinates to undertake search and rescue operations to save the fishermen in distress.
- The DAT-SG builds upon the original Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) and incorporates advanced capabilities and features to enhance maritime safety and communication.
- The DAT-SG has the facility to send back an acknowledgement to the fishermen who activate the distress alert from sea.
- Features are Bluetooth Interface, Integration with Mobile Phones, Web-Based Network Management System (SAGARMITRA), Two-way Communication, Information about Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs), Operational 24/7.

## World's first 'Black Tiger Safari' to come up in Odisha

- The Odisha government will set up an exclusive **melanistic tiger** safari near the **Similipal Tiger Reserve** (STR) in Mayurbhanj district.
- Black tigers are not a separate subspecies. They are Bengal tigers with a gene mutation, which gives them their distinctive dark stripe patterns.
- STR has the highest number of black tiger sightings in the world.
- The state government has identified about 200 hectares adjoining National Highway 18 for the establishment of the proposed safari.
- About 100 hectares will be a 'display area'. The other 100 hectares shall be utilised for the creation of veterinary care facilities including rescue centre, staff infrastructure, visitor amenities, etc.
- Surplus tigers from Nandankanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar and rescued and orphaned tigers who are not fit for the wild but fit for display, will be housed in the safari in an open enclosure.
- **Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik**
- **Odisha Governor:** Raghubar Das
- **Odisha Capital:** Bhubaneswar



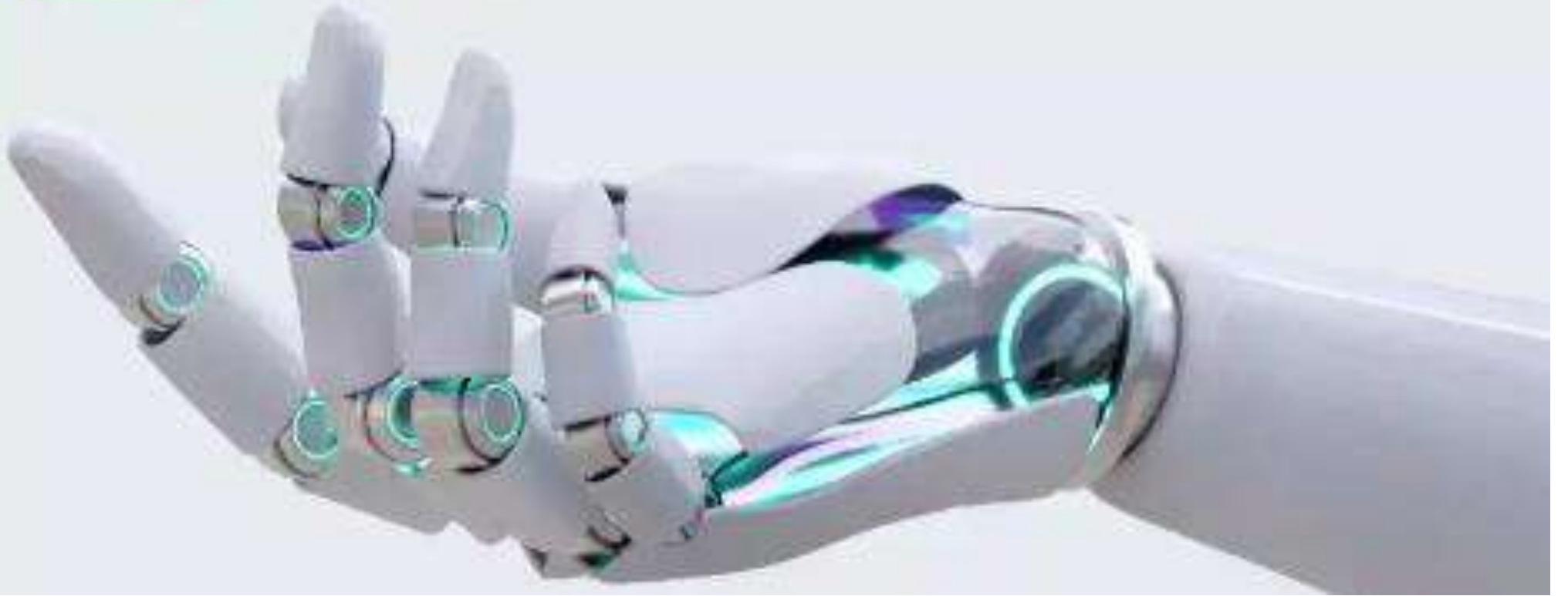
## Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer Receive CoI CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards



- Former India captain and head coach Ravi were 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 honored for their contributions to the sport.
- The BCCI Sports Awards covered a wide array of categories, acknowledging outstanding performances across various formats of the game.
- Notable awards included the **Polly Umrigar Award**, **Dilip Sardesai Award**, and the **Lala Amarnath Award**, recognizing the best performers in domestic and international cricket.
- **Jasprit Bumrah**, one of the key players in India's recent cricket success, was awarded the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer Men.
- **Shubman Gill** received the Polly Umrigar Best Men's International Cricketer of the Year award for his outstanding performance in the 2022-23 season.
- The awards ceremony also recognized **Mohammed Shami** for his excellence in international cricket.
- Young opener **Yashasvi Jaiswal** was honored with the award for the Best International Debut during the 2022-23 season, following his remarkable innings of 171 against the West Indies.
- Spinner **Deepti Sharma** was named the International Women's Cricketer of the Year for the 2022-23 season.



# BharatGPT



## CoRover.ai Launched India's first Indigenous GenAI 'BharatGPT'

- 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.
- BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with both voice and text modalities, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity.
- One of the notable achievements of BharatGPT is its extensive language integration. The model proudly supports voice modality in over 12 Indian languages and text modality in a whopping 22 languages.
- This impressive feat has been made possible through a strategic collaboration with the **National Hub of Language Technology (NHLT)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).
- CoRover.ai, known for providing AI Virtual Assistants to prominent organizations like IRCTC, LIC, IGL, and NPCI, has seamlessly integrated BharatGPT into its existing platforms.
- This integration enhances the capabilities of the CoRover Conversational AI platform, allowing developers and business users to effortlessly create text and voice-enabled multilingual virtual assistants.
- The CoRover Conversational AI platform comes equipped with several notable features, including data sovereignty, tight integrability with enterprise-wide automation applications, and real-time transaction APIs through the API sandbox.



## India Open Badminton 2024

- The 2024 India Open (officially known as the Yonex Sunrise India Open 2024 for sponsorship reasons) was a badminton tournament that took place at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, India, from 16 to 21 January 2024 and had a total prize of US\$850,000.
  - The 2024 India Open was the second tournament of the 2024 BWF World Tour and was part of the India Open championships, which had been held since 1973.
  - This tournament was organized by the **Badminton Association of India** with sanction from the BWF.
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- The Indian badminton players lost to South Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae in three games.
  - Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty went down fighting against the Republic of Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae, the reigning world champions, in the India Open 2024 men's doubles final in New Delhi .
  - India Open 2024, the second tournament of the 2024 badminton season, offered qualifying ranking points to shuttlers for the Paris 2024 Olympics. The qualification window for badminton started on May 1 last year and will end on April 28 this year.