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HEADLINES

- ❖ President's nod to gallantry awards for 80 military personnel
- ❖ 69th Filmfare Awards 2024
- ❖ World Leprosy Day – January 28
- ❖ Blavatnik Award 2024
- ❖ Punjab CM Flagged off Sadak Suraksha Force in Jalandhar
- ❖ Bernard Arnault surpasses Elon Musk as the richest person in the world
- ❖ Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka announces international retirement
- ❖ Nirmala Sitharaman to become 2nd Finance Minister to present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets
- ❖ Maersk Reveals World's Largest Ship Fueled by Methanol
- ❖ India Nominates 'Maratha Military Landscape' for UNESCO World Heritage Tag For 2024-25
- ❖ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 4th National Chilika Birds Festival

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- ❖ Former Railway Board Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti is new TRAI Chief
- ❖ Indian Origin Ajit Mishra Gets the Freedom of the City of London Award
- ❖ Election Commission of India collaborated with Rajkumar Hirani for short film on voter awareness
- ❖ PM inaugurated Khurja-Rewari electrified railway line in UP
- ❖ Jannik Sineer won the Australian Open Men's Singles Final
- ❖ Higher education enrolment rose by 19 lakh in 2021-22: Government Survey

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GALLANTRY

AWARDS

Wartime Gallantry Awards



Param Vir Chakra



Maha Vir Chakra



Vir Chakra

Peacetime Gallantry Award



Ashoka Chakra



Kirti Chakra



Shaurya Chakra

President's nod to gallantry awards for 80 military personnel

- President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous, on the eve of the 75th Republic Day.
- These include **six Kirti Chakras**, including three posthumous, **16 Shaurya Chakras**, including two posthumous, **53 Sena Medals**, including seven posthumous, **one Nao Sena Medal** (Gallantry) and **four Vayu Sena Medals** (Gallantry).
- The Kirti Chakra is India's second highest peacetime gallantry award after Ashok Chakra. Shaurya Chakra is the country's third-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- The President also approved 311 defence decorations for Armed Forces and other personnel. These include 31 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 59 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, and 130 Vishisht Seva Medals, among others.
- President Murmu has approved 84 Mentioned-in-Despatches to the Armed Forces personnel, including 10 posthumous. These include 68 from the Army - 34 for Operation Rakshak, 16 for Operation Snow Leopard, seven for Operation Meghdoot, three for Operation Sahayta, two for Operation Sidhra, three for Operation CAS Evacuation, and three for Misc Operation. It also includes 16 from the Indian Air Force - 15 for Operation Kaveri, and one for Misc Operation.
- President has also approved the **President's Tatrakshak Medal** and **Tatrakshak Medal** to six Indian Coast Guard personnel.

69th Filmfare Awards 2024

- The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Filmfare Awards 2024 celebrated the finest achievements in Indian cinema.
- The awards were introduced by the **Filmfare magazine** of The Times Group in **1954**.
- They were initially referred to as the "**Clare Awards**" or "**The Clares**" after Clare Mendonça, the editor of The Times of India and modelled after the Academy Awards.
- **Awardees of 2024:**
 - Best Film (Popular) – 12th Fail
 - Best Film (Critics) – Joram
 - Best Director - Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
 - Best Actor In A Leading Role - Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
 - Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) - Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)



World Leprosy Day – January 28

- World Leprosy Day is observed on the **last Sunday of January**, across the globe. Therefore, it was observed on 28 January, this year.
- Leprosy is a condition that affects the skin and nerves.
- According to the official details, French journalist established World Leprosy Day in 1954. The day came into existence to talk more about the disease and find ways to eliminate the false information related to it.
- World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.
- The theme for World Leprosy Day 2024 is **"Beat Leprosy"**.



Blavatnik Award 2024

- Three Indian scientists are also among the nine scientists selected for the prestigious 'Blavatnik Award' 2024 given to young scientists in Britain. They **are Professor Rahul R. Nair, Professor Mehul Malik and Dr. Tanmay Bharat.**
- This award will be given to them for their excellent work in chemistry, physics and life sciences.
- This award is given by **'Blavatnik Family Foundation'** and **'The New York Academy of Sciences'**.
- This award is mainly given to young scientists for their research work in various fields of science.
- They will be awarded a total of **£480,000** as prizes.
- The day after the awards ceremony in London, the honorees will present their research with a series of short, interactive lectures at a public symposium at RSA House in London.
- In the United States, the **Blavatnik National Award** honours the most innovative young faculty-rank scientists and engineers.



Punjab CM Flagged off Sadak Suraksha Force in Jalandhar

- The Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann, has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state.
- According to available data, 17-18 people lose their lives in road accidents in Punjab every day, which amounts to more than 500 deaths per month and nearly 6,000 deaths per year.
- The '**Sadak Suraksha Force**' will comprise 144 vehicles and 5,000 employees who will be deployed every 30 kilometers on the roads to ensure the safety of the people.
- The force aims to protect people and streamline traffic movements in the state.

Punjab Chief Minister : **Bhagwant Mann**

Punjab Governor : **Banwarilal Purohit**



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

FLAGGED OFF

Sadak Suraksha Force

in Jalandhar

Bernard Arnault surpasses Elon Musk as the richest person in the world

- Bernard Arnault, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of luxury brand LVMH Moët **Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE**, has surpassed Tesla CEO Elon Musk to become the world's richest person, according to Forbes real-time billionaires list.
- Currently, Arnault has a net worth of **\$207.6 billion**, higher than Musk's \$204.7 billion. According to the list, Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder and chairman, is the world's third richest person, with a net worth of \$181.3 billion.
- Arnault and Musk have been fighting for the top spot for over two years now. In late 2022, Arnault gained the top spot after the tech stocks witnessed a sell-off owing to weak global macroeconomic indicators.
- At **11th rank, Mukesh Ambani**, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, continued to be the **richest Indian** on the list with a net worth of **\$104.4 billion**.
- **Gautam Adani**, founder and chairman of the Adani Group, ranked **16th** on the list with a net worth of \$75.7 billion.
- **Shiv Nadar, ranked 42nd globally**, was the third-richest Indian with a net worth of \$34.8 billion.
- Other people who featured in the top 10 ranks were Oracle Founder Larry Ellison, Meta Co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffet, Alphabet Co-founder Larry Page and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-chair Bill Gates.



Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka announces international retirement

- Stalwart defender and penalty corner specialist **Deep Grace Ekka** from **Odisha** called time on her illustrious international hockey career.
- Hockey India congratulated the two-time Olympian for her outstanding contribution to the growth of the Indian women's hockey team.
- Ekka's sojourn in international hockey began as early as 2011 when she was only 17 years old. She made her international debut in the Four Nation Tournament in Argentina. She then went on to play in the U18 Girls Asia Cup in Bangkok, Thailand and her strong performance led her to become a regular feature in the National Camp.
- She was also instrumental in the team qualifying for the Rio Olympic Games for the first time and she was a vital cog in the team's defence line at the Tokyo Olympics where they finished fourth.



Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka announces international retirement

Nirmala Sitharaman to become 2nd Finance Minister to present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets

- FM Nirmala Sitharaman, who will be reading out the Interim Budget statement on February 1, 2024, will be the second finance minister to present her sixth straight budget after equalling her record with former **PM Morarji Desai**.
- Sitharaman, the first full-time woman finance minister of the country, has **presented five full budgets** since July 2019 and will present an interim or vote-on-account budget this year.
- She will surpass the records set by her predecessors such as Manmohan Singh, Arun Jaitley, P Chidambaram, and Yashwant Sinha, who had each presented five budgets consecutively.
- Morarji Desai, during his tenure as finance minister, had presented a total of five annual budgets and one interim budget from 1959 to 1964.
- The upcoming interim budget for the year 2024-25, to be presented by Sitharaman on February 1, will serve as a vote-on-account. This will grant the government the necessary authority to allocate specific funds until a new government assumes office following the general elections in April-May.
- A vote-on-account, once approved by Parliament, will authorise the government to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India on pro-rata basis to meet expenditure for the April-July period.



Maersk Reveals World's Largest Ship Fueled by Methanol

- In a monumental stride towards sustainability, maritime titan Maersk unveils its latest marvel: the **Ane Maersk**, a revolutionary container vessel powered by **green methanol** derived from **green hydrogen**.
- The Ane Maersk represents a bold leap into a greener future, boasting the title of the world's largest container vessel fueled by green methanol.
- This innovative propulsion system heralds a new era of eco-friendly maritime transportation.
- The new container ship, ordered in 2021, has two engines: one moved by traditional fuels and another run with green methanol — an alternative component, which uses biomass or captured carbon and hydrogen from renewable power.
- Practically speaking, the new vessel emits **100 tons of carbon dioxide fewer per day** compared to diesel-based ships.





**India Nominates 'Maratha Military Landscapes' for UNESCO World
Heritage List 2024-25**

India Nominates 'Maratha Military Landscape' for UNESCO World Heritage Tag For 2024-25

- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' will be India's nomination for recognition in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2024-25.
- The 12 component parts of this nomination are: Salher fort, Shivneri fort, Lohgad, Khanderi fort, Raigad, Pratapgad, Rajgad fort, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay durg, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- These components, distributed across diverse geographical and physiographic regions, showcase the strategic military powers of the Maratha rule.
- The '**Maratha Military Landscapes of India**', which developed between **17th and 19th centuries**, represent an extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers.
- This extraordinary network of forts, varying in hierarchies, scales and typological features, is a result of integrating the landscape, terrain and physiographic characteristics distinctive to the Sahyadri mountain ranges, the Konkan Coast, Deccan Plateau and the Eastern Ghats in the Indian Peninsula.
- There are two categories of nomination — cultural and natural criteria, the Maratha military landscapes is nominated in the category of **cultural criteria**.
- At present in India, there are 42 World Heritage sites, out of which 34 are cultural sites, seven are natural sites whereas one is mixed site
- The Maratha Military Landscapes of India, included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites in 2021 is the sixth cultural property nominated for inclusion, from Maharashtra.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 4th National Chilika Birds Festival

- The National Chilika Birds Festival, a hallmark event in Odisha's calendar, commenced with grandeur on January 26.
- Hosted against the breathtaking backdrop of Chilika Lake, this festival brings together birders and enthusiasts from across India to celebrate the State of India's Birds.
- The festival's inauguration, graced by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, marked the beginning of a three-day extravaganza.
- A captivating 'Photo Exhibition' showcased the vibrant avian life of Chilika, setting the stage for an immersive experience.
- Participants embarked on birding excursions to **Mangalajodi** and **Nalabana**, sanctuaries nestled within Chilika's pristine environs.
- **Mangalajodi**, also known as the **"Birds Paradise of Asia,"** offered a glimpse into the diverse avian species that call this region home.



Former Railway Board Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti is new TRAI Chief

- The government on January 29 appointed former chairman and chief executive officer of the Railway Board chairman, Anil Kumar Lahoti, as the new chairperson of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.
- The post had been vacant for the past four months after PD Vaghela retired on September 30.
- As per the government order, the 1984 batch Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer has been appointed as TRAI chief for three years or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Before his appointment to TRAI, Lahoti had a career span of more than 36 years in railways, having served in Central, Northern, North Central, Western and West Central Railways and on the Railway Board.



Indian Origin Ajit Mishra Gets the Freedom of the City of London Award

- An India born prolific lawyer, **Ajit Mishra**, has been conferred with "Freedom of the City of London Award" at Guildhall for his outstanding contribution in legal and public life.
- Mishra is Founder and Chair of **UK India Legal Partnership** (UKILP). He is a dual qualified lawyer and corporate partner at Knights.
- With more than two decades of professional experience of leading M & A and commercial transactions between India and UK, Mishra has been Partner and head of India desk at some of the best domestic and international law firms.
- He has acted for international companies investing into Indian market and is also Chair of India Chapter for Centre of Commercial Law Studies (Queen Mary College, University of London).
- The award, given by the **City of London Corporation**, dates back to the 13th century and is bestowed upon individuals who make an outstanding contributions to London and public life.





Election Commission of India collaborated with Rajkumar Hirani for short film on voter awareness

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has collaborated with filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani for a short film to spread awareness about voting.
- The short film titled '**My Vote My Duty**', is compiled from video messages by cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar as well as actors Rajkummar Rao, Amitabh Bachchan, R Madhavan, Raveena Tandon, Vicky Kaushal, Boman Irani, Arshad Warsi, Bhumi Pednekar and Mona Singh.
- The film aims to address attitudinal barriers such as indifference and apathy, and inspire citizens to recognize the significance of their votes.
- The celebrities urged the people to fulfil their duty as voting is considered a symbol of pride in democracy.

PM inaugurated Khurja-Rewari electrified railway line in UP



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 173 km long double-line electrified section between **New Khurja-New Rewari** on Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) by flagging off goods trains from the two stations.
- This section establishes connectivity between the Western and Eastern DFCs.
- The section has a one kilometre long double line rail tunnel with high rise electrification, which is the first of its kind in the world. This tunnel is designed to operate double-stack container trains.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated **multiple road projects**, developed at a cost of over ₹5,000 crore, that include Aligarh to Bhadwas four-laning work that includes a part of Aligarh-Kanpur Section of NH-34; widening of Meerut to Karnal border via Shamli (NH-709A); and four laning of Shamli-Muzaffarnagar section of NH-709 AD Package-II.
- Also inaugurated was **Indian Oil's Tundla-Gawaria Pipeline**, of 255 km, built at a cost of ₹700 crore. The project will help in the transportation of petroleum products from Tundla to Gawaria T-Point of Barauni-Kanpur Pipeline with pumping facilities at Mathura and Tundla and delivery facilities at Tundla, Lucknow and Kanpur.
- An Integrated Industrial Township at Greater Noida was also inaugurated. Built at a cost of Rs. 1,714 crore, the project is spread over 747 acres and is located near the intersection of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway to the south and the Delhi-Howrah broad gauge railway line to the east.

Jannik Sinner won the Australian Open Men's Singles Final

- **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** claimed his maiden Grand Slam title, defeating Daniil Medvedev in a thrilling five-set Australian Open final in Melbourne.
- He became the 27th different men's singles winner in Melbourne since the Open era began in 1969 and the first Italian to achieve this feat.
- At 22 years and 165 days, Sinner is the **youngest Australian Open champion** since Novak Djokovic in 2008.
- Novak Djokovic holds the Open era record for most Australian Open titles (10), followed by Roger Federer (6) and Andre Agassi (4).



Higher education enrolment rose by 19 lakh in 2021-22: Government Survey



- The Ministry of Education has been conducting the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country.
- The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teachers' data, infrastructural information, financial information etc.
- The total enrolment in higher education increased to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 4.14 crore in the previous session, with female enrolments in the science stream outnumbering male enrolments, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22.
- The survey released by the **Ministry of Education** pointed out that the overall female enrolment has increased to 2.07 crore in 2021-22 from 2.01 crore in 2020-21.
- The report also said that female PhD enrolment has doubled to 0.99 lakh in 2021-22 from 0.48 lakh in 2014-15.
- The annual increase in female PhD enrolment for the period 2014-15 to 2021-22 is 10.4 per cent, the report said.
- The total Student Enrolment in North East States is 12.02 lakh in 2021-22 as compared to 9.36 lakh in 2014-15. The female enrolment in North East States is 6.07 lakh in 2021-22, higher than the male enrolment of 5.95 lakh.