

Weekly One Liners 04th to 10th March 2024

PM Narendra Modi Presents National Creators Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event marked a significant milestone in recognizing and celebrating creators who have made impactful contributions across various domains.

Awards span 20 categories including storytelling, and social

The National Creators Award encompasses 20 categories, highlighting the diversity and depth of creativity across different From storytelling to social change advocacy, environmental sustainability to education, and gaming among others, the awards aim to acknowledge excellence and innovation that drives positive change in society.

Several social media influencers receive awards

Among the recipients of the National Creators Award were notable social media influencers who have captivated audiences with their content and message. Prime Minister Modi presented awards to individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields, inspiring millions with their creativity and vision. Here is the list of winners:

Winner	Award
Jaya Kishori	Best Creator for Social Change
Kabita Singh (Kabita's Kitchen)	Best Creator in Food Category
Drew Hicks	Best International Creator
Kamiya Jani	Favourite <mark>Tr</mark> avel Cre <mark>ato</mark> r
Ranveer Allahbadia (BeerBiceps)	Disruptor of the Year
RJ Raunac (Bauaa)	Most Creative Creator-Male
Shraddha Jain	Most Creative Creator (Female)
Aridaman	Best Micro Creator
Nishchay	Best Creator in Gaming Category
Ankit Baiyanpuria	Best Health and Fitness Creator
Naman Deshmukh	Best Creator in Education Category
Jahnvi Singh	Heritage Fashion Icon
Malhar Kalambe	Swachhta Ambassador
Gaurav Chaudhary	Best Creator in Tech Category
Maithili Thakur	Cultural Ambassador of The Year
Pankhti Pandey	Favourite Green Champion
Keerthika Govindasamy	Best Storyteller
Aman Gupta	Celebrity Creator

Triumph of Creativity at the National Creators Award

The winners, including three international creators, were selected from over 1.5 lakh nominations, highlighting the extensive reach and impact of their work. The National Creators Award serves as a testament to the power of creativity in driving positive change and inspiring millions around the world.

National Affairs

- Observed every year on March 3, World Hearing Day 2024 fall on a Sunday. The theme for this year, as designated by the World Health Organization (WHO), is "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all." This theme underscores the need to combat societal misconceptions and stigmatizing attitudes through heightened awareness and the dissemination of information, targeting both the general public and healthcare providers. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani, introduced two significant initiatives aimed at enhancing the Haj pilgrimage experience for 2024. The Haj Suvidha App was launched to provide essential information and access to crucial services, while the Haj Guide-2024 was released to educate pilgrims about various aspects of the journey, with a focus on utilizing the app effectively. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, on 4th March, 2024. The inauguration also witnessed the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Steel Sh. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Managing Director (Jindal Stainless Limited), Sh. Abhyuday Jindal, Founder, Hygenco Sh. Amit Bansal, and other officials of the Ministry of Steel. (Read the complete article)







- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, virtually inaugurated three centers of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) from New Delhi. These centers, located in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, are significant additions to CIPET's network. (Read the complete article)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the beginning of a new era in India's nuclear energy sector by witnessing the "Core Loading" at the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. This event signifies the near completion of India's first indigenous PFBR, a landmark project fully designed and constructed within the country by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), in collaboration with over 200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs. (Read the complete article)
- In a significant stride towards bolstering cyber-security measures and enhancing citizen empowerment, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) recently unveiled the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) alongside the 'Chakshu' facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal. This initiative aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds. (Read the complete article)
- Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, overseeing Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, dedicated
 201 CNG Stations and India's inaugural Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL to the nation via video conferencing. The event, graced by numerous dignitaries, underscored the government's pledge to elevate the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030. (Read the complete article)
- In a significant development, the Indian government, following consultations with the Election Commission of India (ECI), has revised the minimum age criterion for senior citizens to avail the postal ballot voting facility. The decision, which comes into effect immediately, raises the eligibility age from 80 to 85 years, marking a pivotal change in the electoral process aimed at ensuring greater convenience for the nation's elderly population. (Read the complete article)
- India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was
 officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
 This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is
 situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna
 University campus. (Read the complete article)
- A new chapter in management education unfolds as the Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Centre of Management Education jointly established by IIM Mumbai and IIM Sambalpur. The inauguration took place at the NALCO Training Institute in Angul, Odisha, amidst the presence of Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO. (Read the complete article)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's pioneering underwater metro train service in Kolkata, ushering in a landmark achievement in the nation's infrastructure and urban development. The service, which is a significant component of the Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor, is designed to enhance connectivity between Howrah and Salt Lake, the twin cities of West Bengal's capital. (Read the complete article)
- In a significant development, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the 'NITI For States' platform by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. This platform, serving as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), is designed to bolster policy formulation and promote good governance across states. (Read the complete article)
- India, as a party to the Convention on International Trade
 in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), has
 recently implemented stringent measures to regulate the
 possession and trade of exotic pets. The Living Animal
 Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024, issued
 by the Union environment ministry on February 28, aim to
 enforce the provisions of the Convention and ensure the
 protection of endangered wildlife. (Read the complete
 article)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled his ambitious plan to make India a prime wedding destination, aiming to boost tourism and retain revenue within the country. His recent address at a rally in Jammu and Kashmir highlighted this mission, emphasizing the potential of hosting weddings in diverse locales across India. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Arjun Munda, unveiled the Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. This initiative aims to empower farmers nationwide by providing them with essential information, services, and facilities. (Read the complete article)
- On the occasion of the 134th Foundation Day of the National Archives of India, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal, will inaugurate a digital exhibition titled "Subhash Abhinandan" in New Delhi on March 11th. Organized by the National Archives of India, the exhibition commemorates the life of Subhash Chandra Bose, featuring 16 sections covering key aspects from his birth to the present day. (Read the complete article)
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will organize Poshan Pakhwada nationwide from March 9 to March 23, 2024. This 15-day celebration aims to spread awareness about nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health. (Read the complete article)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 118 crore 72 lakh in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. These projects are under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme and the Prasad scheme. (Read the complete article)

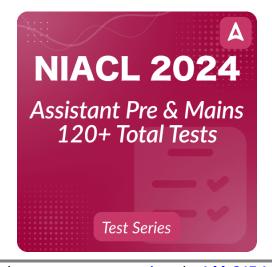




States in the News

- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) on March 2, 2024. The Ocean Grace is the first Make-in-India **ASTDS Tug** developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The MMU is part of the port's commitment to corporate social responsibility. (Read the complete article)
- **Chapchar Kut,** the grandest festival in **Mizoram**, resonated throughout the state with vibrant traditional customs and jubilant festivities. Thousands of attendees converged upon the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city, filling it to its capacity. The event featured a rich display of Mizo community traditions and culture, highlighted by traditional songs and captivating cultural dance performances, making it a day-long celebration to remember. (Read the complete article)
- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)." This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh. (Read the complete article)
- Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has achieved a milestone by becoming the first state in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards. This accomplishment underscores the state government's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of every citizen. (Read the complete article)
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu has announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed empowering women in the state. The announcement comes as part of the Congress party's pre-election promises, marking a pivotal step towards fulfilling its commitments to the electorate. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu unveiled the "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna," a scheme designed to provide financial support to women aged between 18 to 60 years. Under this scheme, eligible women will receive a monthly stipend of ₹1,500, amounting to an annual expenditure of ₹800 crore. (Read the complete article)
- Bengaluru, famously known as the Garden City, is poised to become the epicenter of cutting-edge advancements in the horticulture sector. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) is gearing up to host the three-day National Horticultural Fair 2024 at its Hessarghatta premises, situated on the outskirts of Bengaluru. (Read the complete article)

- South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine, located in Chhattisgarh, is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine recently received environmental clearance to enhance its production capacity to 70 million tons per annum, up from the existing 52.5 million tons. (Read the complete article)
- Kerala school has introduced Iris, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology. Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible. (Read the complete article)
- Kerala, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of CSpace, India's maiden government-backed Over-The-Top (OTT) platform. The much-anticipated unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event. (Read the complete article)
- Under the directions and guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, 5th March. This pivotal agreement took place between CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, and UCOST under the aegis of the "Adarsh Champawat" mission. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the region. (Read the complete article)
- Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has announced a complete waiver of electricity bills for private tube wells owned by farmers, effective from April 1, 2023. This decision, announced, aims to alleviate the financial burden on the state's farmers, enhancing their agricultural productivity and overall wellbeing. (Read the complete article)





- Karnataka state government, in a strategic alliance with the World Economic Forum (WEF), has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state. This collaboration formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29, aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a significant step in integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape. (Read the complete article)
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on March 6 took the priority corridor of the Agra Metro, for an inaugural ride after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the project earlier in the day. The 6 km long priority corridor connects the iconic Taj Mahal's eastern gate to the Mankameshwar Temple station, providing a vital transportation link for tourists and commuters alike. (Read the complete article)
- The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has received the first set of six train coaches for its upcoming driverless metro line, called the Yellow Line. This 18.8 km-long line, connecting RV Road and Bommasandra, will be the first in India to have a driverless train system. (Read the complete article)
- At the 4th Semicon India FutureDesign Roadshow in Kerala, Union Minister Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar lauded the remarkable progress of India's semiconductor industry under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized the transformative role of technology and semiconductor engineering in shaping India's future. (Read the complete article)
- **Bichom**, carved out of West and East Kameng, has been declared the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region. (Read the complete article)

International Affairs

- Tuvalu has named Feleti Teo, the former Attorney General, as the Pacific Island nation's new prime minister. This appointment comes in the aftermath of a general election that placed the country's diplomatic affiliations, especially its ties with Taiwan, under intense scrutiny. (Read the complete article)
- Dubai witnessed an extraordinary event with the citystate's inaugural jet suit race. Organized by Gravity Industries in collaboration with the **Dubai Sports Council**, this groundbreaking competition showcased pilots equipped with jet engines on their hands and backs, resembling real-life 'Iron Men'. (Read the complete article)
- In a groundbreaking move, France has made history by becoming the first nation globally to anchor the right to abortion within its constitution. This decision represents a significant advancement in the protection of reproductive rights, sparking a mix of applause and criticism across different spectrums of society. (Read the complete article)

- Hungary's parliament recently appointed a new president following the resignation of the previous head of state amidst a scandal involving a controversial pardon granted in a child sexual abuse case. The appointment of Tamás Sulyok, a former head of Hungary's Constitutional Court, sparked debate among opposition parties calling for direct presidential elections. (Read the complete article)
- Sweden formally became the **32nd member of NATO** after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security. (Read the complete article)
- Panama has officially become the 97th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). This milestone was announced by Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Panama's accession underscores the country's commitment to embracing sustainable energy sources and marks a crucial step in the global march towards a greener future. (Read the complete article)
- The Indian Consulate in Dubai has introduced a new insurance package called the Life Protection Plan (LPP) for **Indian blue-collar workers** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This plan aims to provide financial benefits to the families of the workers in case of natural or accidental deaths. (Read the complete article)
- Hong Kong has introduced a new national security law draft. The proposed legislation, covering treason, espionage, and external interference, signifies a significant increase in state authority in the region. This development arises amidst a wider crackdown on dissent, resulting in pro-democracy figures being imprisoned or exiled. (Read the complete article)

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a recent development, India and Nepal have bolstered their financial cooperation, with a focus on digital payments. This initiative aims to streamline cross-border transactions and enhance convenience for citizens of both nations. (Read the complete article)
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta have joined forces to establish Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in strategically important schools. This collaboration aims to democratize access to future technologies and foster innovation among students. (Read the complete article)
- India aims to enhance its strategic partnership with South Korea by expanding cooperation into new and critical areas, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced during the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul. Co-chairing the meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yul, Jaishankar highlighted the comprehensive and productive discussions held on various aspects, including defence, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. (Read the complete article)





- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This collaboration aims to establish the "NPCI-IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Deep Tech Research & Development" to drive innovation in the fintech sector. (Read the complete article)
- Airbus, a prominent name in the aviation industry, has announced a significant partnership with the esteemed Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai) to deliver high-quality aviation training to professionals. This collaboration marks a crucial step towards enhancing industry-ready skills among aspiring and working individuals in the aviation sector. (Read the complete article)
- Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in collaboration with the **Department of Sports**, has introduced significant reforms in the recruitment, promotion, and incentive mechanisms for athletes. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and turning sports into a lucrative career option. (Read the complete article)

Books and Authors

The launch of "The Gems of Indian Art", a comprehensive documentation of Harish Khullar's extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art. This near-300-page book was unveiled by Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Shri S.P.S. Baghel, marking a pivotal moment in India's art scene. (Read the complete article)

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) in New Delhi. This umbrella organization aims to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, benefiting banks and customers alike. (Read the complete article)
- PB Fintech's subsidiary, Policybazaar Insurance Brokers, has secured approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to transition from a direct insurance broker to a composite insurance broker. This upgrade enables Policybazaar to sell reinsurance products in addition to general and life insurance offerings, thereby enhancing insurance penetration in India. (Read the complete article)
- Ecommerce giant Flipkart has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, Flipkart UPI, in partnership with Axis Bank. This initiative aims to provide customers with seamless payment options directly integrated into the Flipkart platform. (Read the complete article)

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has unveiled its latest offering, the Smart Choice Gold Loan, targeting aspirational customers seeking convenient and flexible loan options. This new product is designed to leverage the significant gold reserves held by Indian households, providing an easy and efficient way to meet their financial needs. (Read the complete article)
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has released a report predicting that India's GDP growth for the financial year 2023-24 is likely to be close to 8%. This optimistic forecast comes after India recorded an impressive 8.4% growth in the December quarter, with the National Statistical Office (NSO) revising upwards the GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of the fiscal year. (Read the complete article)
- Moody's, the global credit rating agency, has raised its GDP forecast for India in 2024 to 6.8%, reflecting a positive economic outlook. This revision is based on India's position as the fastest-growing economy among G20 nations, supported by robust growth prospects and policy continuity. (Read the complete article)
- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1. The merger is sanctioned under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. (Read the complete article)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stern action against IIFL Finance by imposing an immediate ban on the approval and disbursement of gold loans. This directive comes following a comprehensive inspection of the company's financial position as of March 31, which revealed significant supervisory concerns in its gold loan portfolio. (Read the complete article)
- After reaching an all-time high in January, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in India experienced a slight decrease in both value and volume in February. This decline, amounting to 0.7% in value and 0.8% in volume, can be attributed to various factors including technical issues at multiple banks and the shorter duration of the month. (Read the complete article)





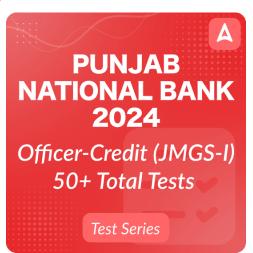


- REC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has recently joined hands with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to bolster educational initiatives in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh. Through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm, REC Foundation, REC has pledged a significant financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores for the education of approximately 75,500 children in the district. (Read the complete article)
- In a virtual ceremony, Finance and Corporate Affairs
 Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received an interim dividend
 cheque of ₹2,441.44 crore from LIC Chairman Siddhartha
 Mohanty, showcasing the insurance giant's financial
 strength. The event also marked the inauguration of LIC's
 new international business centre at GIFT City, Gujarat,
 emphasizing the company's dedication to offering topnotch insurance and financial services globally. (Read the
 complete article)
- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das recently announced the forthcoming launch of an interoperable payment system for internet banking, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of digital payments in India. This move addresses the current challenges faced by both customers and merchants in net banking transactions. (Read the complete article)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that 30 banks are now participating in the UDGAM portal, designed for individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits/accounts. This portal, developed by the RBI, aims to provide a centralized platform for users to access information regarding unclaimed deposits across multiple banks. (Read the complete article)
- In February, India's service sector sustained its growth trajectory, supported by positive demand trends. However, there was a slight moderation in growth compared to January, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropping to 60.6 from 61.8. Despite this decline, the sector remained well above the neutral mark of 50.0, indicating a sharp rate of expansion. (Read the complete article)
- Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has recently unveiled its next-generation, green-fuel powered commercial vehicles to Tata Steel. The fleet comprises Prima tractors, tippers, and the Ultra EV bus, which are powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric technologies. The flag-off ceremony took place during Tata Group's Founder's Day celebrations in Jamshedpur, officiated by Mr. N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons. (Read the complete article)
- Crisil Ratings predicts India's economy to expand by 6.8% in FY25, with significant growth potential driven by domestic reforms and cyclical factors. By 2031, India aims to double its economy to \$7 trillion and achieve upper-middle-income status. (Read the complete article)

- The government of India has announced plans to sell up to 7% of its stake in NLC India, formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corp, through an Offer for Sale (OFS). This move aims to raise between Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,100 crore, contributing to the government's disinvestment goals. (Read the complete article)
- Private sector life insurer Kotak Life Insurance made headlines with the launch of its latest offering, Kotak G.A.I.N. This non-linked participating product is designed to cater to individuals seeking long-term savings or a steady income stream. With its unique features and flexibility, Kotak G.A.I.N aims to address the diverse financial needs of customers while ensuring robust protection for their loved ones. (Read the complete article)
- Accenture, a global leader in technology consulting and services, has unveiled a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing upskilling opportunities for its clients. This involves a significant investment of \$1 billion over three years and includes the acquisition of California-based edtech platform, Udacity. (Read the complete article)
- Fly91, a regional airline headquartered in Goa, has reached
 a significant milestone in its journey with the issuance of its
 Air Operator Certificate (AOC) by the Directorate General
 of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 (Read the complete article)
- State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has clinched a significant order from power giant NTPC to establish a 1,600 MW Singrauli thermal power project (Stage-II). This underscores BHEL's continued prowess in the power generation equipment sector. (Read the complete article)
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's premier oil firm, is set to revolutionize the motorsports industry by manufacturing fuel tailored for adrenaline-pumping Formula One (F1) racing. With its latest offering, 'Storm' petrol, IOC aims to expand its repertoire of niche fuels, catering to the high-performance demands of motor racing enthusiasts. (Read the complete article)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions. (Read the complete article)
- Infibeam Avenues, India's pioneering Al-powered fintech company and the country's first listed entity in this domain, has achieved a significant milestone. On March 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted the final authorization for Infibeam Avenues to function as a payment aggregator under its renowned payment gateway brand, CCAvenue. This development follows the in-principle approval given in October 2022. (Read the complete article)



- The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a 4% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for central government employees and pensioners, effective from January 1. This decision aims to benefit over 10 million employees and 6.79 million pensioners, with a combined impact on the exchequer of Rs 12,869 crore annually. (Read the complete article)
- NLCIL has emerged victorious in securing a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender within the GSECL Khavda Solar Park, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding process. Reflecting its commitment to renewable energy initiatives, entrusted the project development responsibilities to NIGEL, its green energy wholly owned subsidiary. (Read the complete article)
- UBS anticipates a moderation in India's real GDP growth for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, projecting rates of 7% and 6.8%, respectively. Despite this, India is expected to maintain its position as one of the fastest-growing global economies. The report highlights the continuation of growth momentum in the first three quarters of fiscal year driven by cyclical recovery and structural improvements. (Read the complete article)
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Nepal's leading payment network, Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, to enable cross-border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal. This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and efficiency in transactions for tourists visiting Nepal from India. (Read the complete article)
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with T-Hub, has launched the Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH) in Hyderabad. This initiative aims to accelerate Al innovation, facilitate job creation, and foster a supportive ecosystem for AI and ML startups. (Read the complete article)



Appointments/Resignations

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.' This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors. (Read the complete article)
- The world of archaeology mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished figures, Padmashree Dr. Arun Kumar **Sharma**, who passed away at the age of 90 at his residence in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Sharma's career was marked by significant contributions to Indian archaeology, including his pivotal role in the excavation of the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site. (Read the complete article)
- The Bihar government made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer Brajesh Mehrotra as the new chief secretary of the state. This appointment underscores the government's commitment to efficient governance and administrative excellence. (Read the complete article)
- Sub-Inspector Suman Kumari has etched her name in history as the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF). Her recent completion of an eight-week intensive sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore not only showcases her exceptional abilities but also her pioneering spirit. Suman achieved the prestigious 'instructor grade', a testament to her proficiency and expertise. (Read the complete article)
- Alok Rungta has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance, effective April 1st, pending regulatory approvals. He will succeed Bruce De Broize, who currently holds the position until March 31st. (Read the complete article)
- Slice, the popular mango-flavored drink, has recently announced the appointment of acclaimed actress Nayanthara as its latest brand ambassador. (Read the complete article)
- German technology giant SAP has made a significant leadership change in the Indian Subcontinent region. Manish Prasad has been appointed as the new president and managing director for the region, succeeding Kulmeet Bawa. (Read the complete article)
- Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance) of NHPC, has recently assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, a premier hydropower company in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India. This transition marks a significant moment in the company's leadership, bringing Goyal's extensive experience and expertise to the forefront. (Read the complete article)





Defence News

- The Indian Navy is set to inaugurate a new naval base, INS Jatayu, on Minicoy Island, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands. Scheduled for March 6, the commissioning ceremony will be graced by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, underscoring the importance of this development. (Read the complete article)
- The Indian Navy is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi. This induction marks a crucial juncture in India's defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities. The Seahawks squadron will be designated as INAS 334, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020. (Read the complete article)
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC), Goa on March 5, 2024. The modern edifice, named the 'Chola', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought. (Read the complete article)
- The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, INS Jatayu, at Minicoy island of Lakshadweep. This strategic move aims to enhance the Navy's capabilities and reach in the vital Indian Ocean region, reinforcing its efforts in anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea. (Read the complete article)
- The three forces of India Army, Navy, and Air Force are going to conduct the biggest exercise called 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. PM Modi's Likely Visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Pokhran on March 12, 2024, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces. (Read the complete article)
- The arrival of the US Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of 'Sea Defenders-2024,' a joint exercise between the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. (Read the complete article)

Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. Pradeep Mahajan, the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre, along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024. (Read the complete article)
- On the occasion of the 48th Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been honored with the Award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24. This prestigious accolade signifies the Ministry's outstanding contribution and commitment to financial excellence. (Read the complete article)
- Legendary golfer Tiger Woods has been selected to receive the Bob Jones Award, the highest honour bestowed by the United States Golf Association (USGA). This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors. (Read the complete article)
- Yatin Bhaskar Duggal, a promising talent from Haryana, has emerged triumphant as the winner of the esteemed National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024. The announcement came during the conclusive session held in New Delhi, where Duggal was awarded the first prize for his exceptional performance. (Read the complete article)
- Sahitya Akademi, the esteemed National Academy of Letters in India, is marking its 70th anniversary this year, and in honor of this milestone, the annual 'Sahityotsav' has transformed into the world's largest literary festival. (Read the complete article)
- Renowned filmmaker Zoya Akhtar and British Indian chef Asma Khan were honored at the annual 'India-UK Achievers' awards in London. The event celebrated Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's contributions to culinary arts. (Read the complete article)
- India has been awarded the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership. This award recognizes India's exemplary efforts in preventing measles and rubella diseases. (Read the complete article)

Summits and Conferences News

- A five-day exchange programme for faculty members of foreign service academies within the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member states has commenced in Dhaka, marking the first of its kind. (Read the complete article)
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is hosting the All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024 from 4th to 7th March 2024. Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains. (Read the complete article)





The inaugural Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 has officially commenced in Guwahati, Assam, marking a significant milestone in India's industrial journey. Launched with the objective of enhancing the growth and efficiency of sectors reliant on steam boilers, this three-day event has been inaugurated by Sanjay Kishan, the state's Labour and Employment Minister. (Read the complete article)

Ranks and Reports

Bloomberg has announced the inclusion of India's Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices, with a phased approach over ten months starting January 31, 2025. This follows JP Morgan's similar move earlier, signaling increased foreign investment potential in Indian government securities. (Read the complete article)

Sports News

- The 10th edition of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) concluded with Puneri Paltan emerging as champions for the first time, after a closely contested final against Haryana Steelers. The final score read 28-25 in favor of Puneri Paltan, with the match taking place on March 1. Pankaj Mohite shone brightly for Paltan, scoring nine raid points, including a crucial super raid that proved to be a game-changer. (Read the complete article)
- The scenic town of Shimla has become the centre stage for the first-ever Asian River Rafting Championships, officially opened on March 4th, 2024, by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. (Read the complete article)
- B. Sai Praneeth, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport. (Read the complete article)
- Spain's women's team secured a historic victory over France, winning the first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville. The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur grandly inaugurated the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 at the Luhnu Cricket Ground in Bilaspur on March 5, 2024. Chief Guests Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma and Indian cricket team coach Rahul Dravid graced the occasion as chief guests. (Read the complete article)
- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated the 5th ONGC Para Games, praising para-athletes for their unwavering determination. The event took place at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi with the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and senior officials from Oil & Gas PSUs. (Read the complete article)

England's James Anderson claimed his 700th Test wicket by dismissing India's Kuldeep Yadav in Dharamsala on the morning of Day 3 of the final Test against India. This historic milestone makes Anderson the third bowler to reach the 700-wicket mark in Test cricket. (Read the complete article)

Schemes and Committees News

- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the launch of the Indiramma Housing Scheme starting March 11. The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society. (Read the complete article)
- During DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh unveiled the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development. (Read the complete article)
- Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched a pioneering initiative, the 'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme). This scheme, a first in India, aims to support and encourage widows to embark on a new journey of companionship by providing a financial incentive of Rs 2 lakh to those who choose to remarry. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone in India's journey to becoming a developed nation, 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047, with agriculture as its foundational pillar. (Read the complete article)
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI - 2024). This scheme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, aims to invigorate industrial development in the North East Region, fostering economic growth and job creation. (Read the complete article)
- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious **IndiaAI mission**, allocating a substantial budget of Rs. 10,371.92 crore. This initiative aligns with the vision of bolstering AI innovation within India and leveraging AI for the nation's advancement. The mission aims to establish a robust AI ecosystem through a strategic public-private partnership approach. (Read the complete article)





The NAMASTE Scheme, a joint initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to eliminate manual engagement of sanitation workers in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning operations. Implemented by the NSKFDC for three years, the scheme prioritizes the safety and well-being of workers with a budget of 349.73 crores. (Read the complete article)

Science and Technology News

- Google's DeepMind team introduces "Genie," groundbreaking AI platform poised to transform the gaming industry and creative endeavors. This innovative project signifies a fusion of cutting-edge technology and imaginative potential, offering the capability to craft interactive 2D video games from single image prompts or text descriptions. (Read the complete article)
- Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations. (Read the complete article)
- In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the International Astronomical **Union** have identified three new moons in the outer reaches of our solar system. These celestial bodies, with two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe. (Read the complete article)
- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pioneering technical center in Ahmedabad, representing a significant advancement in India's space sector. Established by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), this center aims to revolutionize private sector involvement in space technology development and testing. (Read the complete article)
- MethaneSAT, a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), heralds a new era in environmental monitoring. Designed to address the elusive yet critical issue of methane emissions, MethaneSAT promises to revolutionize how policymakers and industries tackle greenhouse gas pollution. With its advanced technology and global reach, MethaneSAT aims to independently verify industry reports and pinpoint methane hotspots, thereby empowering stakeholders to take decisive action. (Read the complete article)

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, articulated India's potential as a global semiconductor hub. Chandrasekhar emphasized the imperative of designing chips and IPs for diverse industries, outlining a roadmap for entrepreneurs in Trivandrum and Kerala to lead the innovation drive. (Read the complete article)
- ISRO chief S Somnath informed at the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS 2024) that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing to launch the next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4. This mission will include five spacecraft modules. (Read the complete article)
- The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAl mission. This initiative aims to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in Al. (Read the complete article)

Important Days News

- National Safety Day is celebrated each year on March 4. In India, this date also signals the commencement of National Safety Week, extending the focus on safety measures beyond just a day. In 2024, National Safety Day will be observed on a Monday, marking a week-long endeavor to highlight and improve safety standards in various sectors. (Read the complete article)
- The inaugural International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on March 5, 2023, following a UNGA resolution adopted on December 7, 2022. This annual event seeks to promote public awareness, particularly among youth, about the importance of disarmament. (Read the complete article)
- Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), previously named Multiple Personality Disorder, presents a complex mental health challenge for both individuals affected by it and the professionals who aim to diagnose and treat it. This condition involves the existence of two or more distinct personality states, each exhibiting its own thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. This disorder is annually acknowledged on March 5th. (Read the complete article)
- International Women's Day (IWD) is an annual global event celebrated on March 8th each year. This year's 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,' underscores the importance of economic empowerment in achieving gender equality. (Read the complete article)



- India observes Jan Aushadhi Diwas on 7th March every year, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits and importance of generic medicines. This observance highlights the pivotal role of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in making healthcare affordable and accessible to all. Marking its 6th anniversary in 2024, Jan Aushadhi Diwas serves as a reminder of the government's commitment to ensuring the well-being of its citizens. (Read the complete article)
- CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. This day marks the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969. CISF is an important armed police force in India that provides security to many important places and projects across the country. (Read the complete article)

Miscellaneous News

- A groundbreaking archaeological discovery has been made in Chettimedu Pathur village, approximately 77 kilometres from Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Researchers from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Madras have unearthed a child burial site dating back to the Neolithic period, around 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE, offering new insights into ancient burial rites and cultural practices in the region. (Read the complete article)
- Researchers in **Ecuador's rainforest** have uncovered a new species of anaconda, Eunectes Akiyama, which split from its closest relatives 10 million years ago. Despite their genetic distinction, these anacondas are visually identical to the previously known species, Eunectes murinus. (Read the complete article)
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) commemorated its 174th Foundation Day on March 4th, 2024, with zeal and enthusiasm resonating across all its offices nationwide. The event was a grand affair, with celebrations held in Kolkata, the Central Headquarters of GSI, and the Southern Region's headquarters in Hyderabad. (Read the complete article)
- In a significant nod to India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry, the Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. This recognition, sought by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places Cuttack's Silver Filigree on the map as a unique and protected form of art. (Read the complete article)
- President Droupadi Murmu nominated author and philanthropist Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this and congratulated Sudha Murty, saying her contribution to diverse fields has been "immense and inspiring". (Read the complete article)

Static Takeaways

- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- WHO Head: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founders: United States, Brazil, Mexico, France, United Kingdom;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948.
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Official language: Persian;
- Iran President: Ebrahim Raisi.
- Tuvalu Capital: Funafuti;
- Tuvalu Continent: Oceania;
- Tuvalu Official languages: Tuvaluan, English;
- Tuvalu Currencies: Australian Dollar, Tuvaluan dollar.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO: Ashok Vaswani (1 Jan 2024–):
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founder: Uday Kotak;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founded: 21 November 1985;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara;
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Geological Survey of India Founded: 4 March 1851
- Geological Survey of India Founder: Thomas Oldham
- Geological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Geological Survey of India Formed: 4 March 1851; 172
- Geological Survey of India Government agency executive: Shri Janardan Prasad
- Geological Survey of India Parent Government agency: Ministry of Mines
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- Bihar Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar;
- Bihar Bird: House sparrow;
- Bihar Flower: Marigold;
- Bihar Formation: 22 March 1912.
- International Astronomical Union President: Debra Elmegreen;
- International Astronomical Union Headquarters: Paris, France:
- International Astronomical Union Founded: 28 July 1919;
- International Astronomical Union General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti.
- BSF Founder: Khusro Faramurz Rustamji;
- BSF Founded: 1 December 1965;
- BSF Director General: Nitin Agarwal, IPS.
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;



Weekly One Liners 04th to 10th of March 2024



- France Prime minister: Gabriel Attal;
- France Official language: French.
- Himachal Pradesh Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);
- Himachal Pradesh Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu;
- Himachal Pradesh Bird: Western tragopan;
- Himachal Pradesh Districts: 12;
- Himachal Pradesh Flower: Pink rhododendron;
- Himachal Pradesh High Court: Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi;
- 25th Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar;
- Election Commission of India Founded: 25 January 1950.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Population: 3.46 crores (2018);
- Kerala Districts: 14;
- Kerala Fish: Green chromide;
- Kerala Flower: Golden shower tree.
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Fish: Green chromide;
- Kerala Flower: Golden shower tree.
- Airbus Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury;
- Airbus Headquarters: Leiden, Netherlands;
- Airbus Founded: 10 July 2000.
- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi;
- Jharkhand Chief minister: Champai Soren;
- Jharkhand Founded: 15 November 2000;

- Jharkhand Bird: Koel;
- Jharkhand Flower: Palash.
- World Economic Forum Chairperson: Børge Brende;
- World Economic Forum Founder: Klaus Schwab;
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland;
- World Economic Forum President: Børge Brende;
- World Economic Forum Founded: 24 January 1971.
- International Solar Alliance Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande;
- International Solar Alliance President: R. K. Singh;
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham;
- UAE Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.
- IPS, DG CISF: Nina Singh;
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

