

# THE AG COMMUNIQUÉ

NEWSLETTER 2024

Q1 EDITION



Group  
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# 01

## INDIA-UAE CONNECT

BAPS Hindu Mandir Inaugurated in  
Abu Dhabi, UAE





Source: <https://www.baps.org/News/2024/Consecration-Ceremony--Inauguration-of-BAPS-Hindu-Mandir-25369.aspx#:~:text=On%2014%20February%202024%2C%20the,divine%20presence%20amid%20Vedic%20chanting.>

The Prime Minister of India on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchmi on 14 February 2024 inaugurated the 1st Hindu BAPS Mandir temple in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The inauguration has itself showcased the shared harmony between the two nations and became the symbol of shared heritage for coming generations. On 01<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the temple was opened to the public, scripting a golden chapter of communal harmony. The temple embodies the cultural and spiritual spirits embracing people of diverse faiths to learn and experience peace for humanity's well-being globally. This splendid architecture is spread over twenty-seven acres, 108 feet high, and costs 400 million Dirhams equipped with 300 sensors. The BAPS temple in UAE showcases the unity and cultural exchange boosting humanity and devotion in the Gulf region. This state-of-the-art architecture has added a cultural identity to the splendid architecture of UAE such as Burj Khalifa for which the most significant role has been played by the Government of UAE.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-inaugurates-first-hindu-stone-temple-in-abu-dhabi/article67845745.ece>

## References:

1. <https://www.baps.org/News/2024/ConsecrationCeremonyInaugurationofBAPSHinduMandir25369.aspx#:~:text=On%2014%20February%202024%2C%20the,divine%20presence%20amid%20Vedic%20chanting>
2. <https://www.baps.org/News/2024/Dedication-Assembly--Inauguration-of-BAPS-Hindu-Mandir-25371.aspx>
3. <https://www.firstpost.com/explainers/pm-narendra-modi-abu-dhabi-baps-temple-inauguration-what-the-hindu-mandir-in-uae-signals-13727332.html>

## Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of **2024** from the **AG Group!** Recent developments featured in Quarter 1 edition of **"The AG communiqué"** are making waves across the world. A grand opening of the Hindu BAPS Mandir in UAE has received the recent spotlight while nurturing harmony and cooperation as part of the India-UAE connect. Whereas, the other part of the newsletter bundles the news of economy, employment, tourism, and technology amid changing geopolitical equations across the globe. The stories covered will give you a sneak peek into the developments across the continents that are shaping the shared future of mankind on this beautiful planet. Here, we are bringing the best stories for our beloved readers to keep them updated with global advances all the time.

### *Sneak Peek Inside:*



Japan Slips to the World's 4th Largest Economy Rank



US Ban's AI-generated Robo Calls to Stop Scams Involving Voice Cloning



Sweden Comes More Closer to Formal Inclusion in NATO



New legislation introduced

Australia's 'Closing Loopholes' Bill to Bring Fair Work Opportunities in Australian Workplaces



Iran Allowing Visa-free Entry to Select Countries to Boost Tourism and Economy

# 02

## ASIA

Japan Slips to the World's 4th Largest Economy Rank





Source: <https://thekarostartup.com/japan-slips-to-fourth-place-as-germany/>



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/15/japan-recession-economy-falls-behind-germany-worlds-largest>

Japan's economy till 2010 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the world later it was overshadowed by China. Unfortunately under the looming threat of economic recession, Japan's economy has further slipped by 1 position and at present it is securing the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy ranking of the world after Germany. **Japan's Economy has shrunk to 3.3% and 0.4% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2023** resulting in the weakening of the Yen against the US Dollar. **Japan's nominal GDP for 2023 was 4.2 trillion USD against Germany's 4.5 trillion USD** as per government data. The core reasons encountered are reduced consumer buying capacity and trade investments amid the January 2024 earthquakes in western Japan which is the manufacturing hub of the country. The rise in corporate profits resulted in the increased price of goods but not the income resisting buying sidelined by the falling population. The central bank has to amend its policies to combat recession. To regain Japan's lost ranking, the government has to reshape its strategies and policies to boost adaptability and ensure wealth infusion.

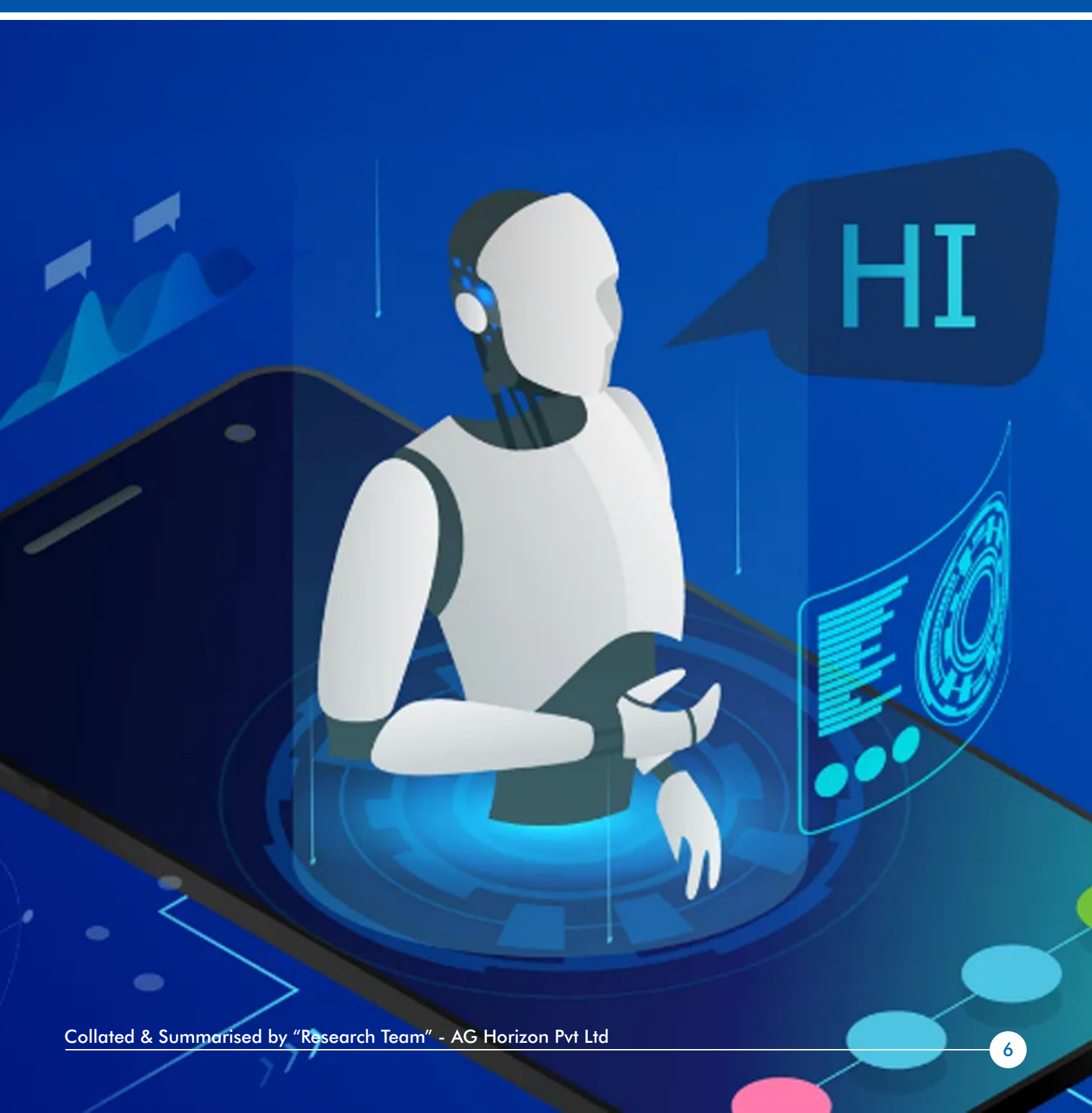
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1. <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2024-02-14/japan-slips-to-the-worlds-fourth-largest-economy-behind-the-us-china-and-now-germany>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/15/japan-recession-economy-falls-behind-germany-worlds-largest>
3. <https://menafn.com/1107855775/Japan-slips-below-Germany-in-global-economic-rankings-securing-4th-place>
4. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/15/business/japan-q4-gdp.html>

# 03

## USA

US Ban's AI-generated Robocalls to Stop Scams Involving Voice Cloning





Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/08/technology/fcc-ban-ai-robocalls.html#:~:text=The%20Federal%20Communications%20Commission%20on,unanimous%20decision%20by%20the%20F.C.C>



Source: <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/fcc-bans-ai-artificial-intelligence-voices-in-robocalls-texts-3ea20d9f>

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has banned the robocalls produced using AI-generated voices under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Restricting the misuse of AI technology will minimize consumer scams, celebrity imitations, and most recently acts of misleading voters, compromising privacy, and financial loss. Scammers with the help of advanced AI, create authentic voice clones used to influence targets for retrieving private & sensitive information or executing financial transactions. The FCC ban will enable the concerned authorities to spot these fraudsters to face law-bound charges and penalties. The regulatory authority has to remain watchful for the protection of consumers from such fake robocalls. It will be a milestone step as technology is evolving rapidly and its fair use needs to be ensured through effective implementation.

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1. <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-makes-ai-generated-voices-robocalls-illegal>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/08/technology/fccbanairobocalls.html#:~:text=The%20Federal%20Communications%20Commission%20on,unanimous%20decision%20by%20the%20F.C.C>
3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brianbushard/2024/02/08/ai-generated-robocalls-banned-after-troubling-deepfakes/?sh=332673db8cfa>
4. <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/fcc-bans-ai-artificial-intelligence-voices-in-robocalls-texts-3ea20d9f>



# 04

## EUROPE

Sweden Comes More Closer to Formal Inclusion in NATO





Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/hungary-set-ratify-swedens-nato-accession-clearing-last-hurdle-2024-02-26/>



Source: <https://apnews.com/article/sweden-turkey-nato-timeline-hungary-fe9560e80b1a43c4037eea7c6f5176bd>

Sweden has historically been in favour of military nonalignment for decades. But now, it decided to become part of the largest military alliance in the world i.e. the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Russia invaded Ukraine compromising security guarantee of Sweden. **After Hungary's approval on 26 February 2024, Sweden became the 32<sup>nd</sup> member of NATO, and soon flag-raising will take place at NATO HQ in Brussels.** Geographically, it will strengthen control of the Baltic Sea broadly termed as the NATO sea impacting the shipping route for Russia. Sweden's NATO alliance is a significant move for safeguarding its national security in the Europe region amid the changing geopolitics and global

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1. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/its-swe-done-whats-next-for-nato-now-that-hungary-has-approved-swedens-bid-to-join/>
2. <https://www.politico.eu/article/sweden-to-join-nato/>
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/hungary-set-ratify-swedens-nato-accession-clearing-last-hurdle-2024-02-26/>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/27/sweden-complete-long-farewell-neutrality-nato-accession>

05

## AUSTRALIA

Australia's 'Closing Loopholes' Bill to Bring Fair Work Opportunities in Australian Workplaces



# Closing Loopholes

Changes to Australian workplace laws



Source: <https://liquidhr.com.au/fair-work-act-closing-loopholes-amendments-bill/>

The Australian Government has changed the existing workplace laws as a part of the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023. **The objective is to have a balanced employer-employee relationship underlined by fair working conditions and neutrality at the workplace.** Proposed changes in the bill are expected to create a better working ambience driven by transparency, equality, and fairness maintaining a healthy environment at the workplace. It will also empower the commission to provide general protection. The changes introduced will be implemented in phases during this and next year.

### Closing Loopholes Legislation 2023–2025

Key dates for changes affecting the Fair Work Commission

2023	2024	2025
<p>15 December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulated labour hire arrangements</li> <li>Workplace delegates rights for employees</li> <li>New family and domestic violence protections</li> <li>Changes to compulsory conciliation conferences in protected action ballot matters</li> </ul>	<p>27 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple franchisees access to single-enterprise bargaining</li> <li>Transitioning from multi-enterprise agreements</li> <li>Intractable bargaining workplace determinations</li> <li>Registered organisation withdrawal from amalgamations</li> </ul> <p>1 July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workplace delegates rights terms for employees in modern awards, workplace determinations and enterprise agreements</li> <li>Exemption certificates for entry to</li> <li>investigate suspected underpayment</li> </ul>	<p>26 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to definition of casual employee and pathway to full-time and part-time employment</li> <li>Right to disconnect*</li> </ul> <p>26 August (or a date by proclamation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisions for 'employee-like' workers and the road transport industry</li> <li>Collective agreements and workplace delegates rights for regulated workers</li> <li>Determining whether a relationship is employment</li> <li>Independent contractor 'unfair contracts' disputes</li> </ul> <p>1 November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulated labour hire arrangement orders can commence operation</li> </ul>
		<p>26 February (or a date by proclamation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model enterprise agreement flexibility, consultation and dispute terms</li> </ul> <p>* Commencing 12 months later for small business</p>

Source: <https://www.fwc.gov.au/about-us/closing-loopholes-acts-whats-changing#:~:text=Closing%20Loopholes%20Act%202023,-Some%20of%20the&text=strengthen%20protection%20for%20employees%20who,their%20role%20at%20a%20workplace>

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- <https://www.dewr.gov.au/closing-loopholes>
- <https://www.fwc.gov.au/aboutus/closingloopholesactswhatschanging#text=Closing%20Loopholes%20Act%202023,Someof%20the&text=strengthen%20protection%20for%20employees%20who,their%20role%20at%20a%20workplace>
- <https://www.dewr.gov.au/closing-loopholes/resources/small-business>

06

## IRAN

Iran Allowing Visa-free Entry to Select Countries to Boost Tourism and Economy





Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2425886/middle-east>

Iran in a historic move, has allowed visa-free entry for 33 countries including India to boost the country's economy through promotion of the tourism. This move will be effective from 04 February 2024. The Visa-free policy will promote tourism, boost cultural exchange, and increase visitors to experience the rich culture and natural beauty of Iran. This policy is bound by certain conditions that the visitors have to fulfill. This milestone initiative by the Government of Iran promises an amusing experience for world travellers to be part of an unforgettable rich culture, heritage, natural beauty, diverse landscapes, and hospitality.



Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/travel/news/iran-announces-visa-free-entry-for-indians-all-you-need-to-know-article-107477926>

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2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iran-tourism-visa-free-travel-b2492785.html>
3. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/iran-visa-free-entry-for-indians-tourists-check-rules-eligibility-and-other-details-2498447-2024-02-06>
4. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-offers-visa-free-entry-for-tourists-from-28-countries/3127731>
5. <https://surfiran.com/mag/iran-lifts-visa-rules-for-33-countries/>

# AG GROUP



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AG Horizon Pvt Ltd, established in the year 1998, is a multi-functional, multi-disciplinary organization offering a wide range of consultancy services to multiple sectors for the implementation of projects under one roof from "Concept to Commissioning". We have the privilege of working with Central & State govt. and with Multi-lateral funding agencies viz. World Bank, JICA, New Development Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.

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