

Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th of December 2023

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name List

Sahitya Akademi, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 in 24 languages**. 9 books of poetry, 6 of novels, 5 of short stories, 3 Essays and 1 Literary Study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023. The Awards, recommended by distinguished Jury members in 24 Indian languages, were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met today under the Chairmanship of Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name List

| Category | Language | Awardees |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Poetry | Dogri | Vijay Verma |
| | Gujarati | Sandeep Joshi |
| | Kannada | Lakshmesh Tolpadi |
| | Kashmiri | Manshoor Banhali |
| | Konkani | Mahabaleshwar Sail |
| | Maithili | Basukinath Jha |
| | Manipuri | Sorokhaibam Gambhini |
| | Rajasthani | Gaje Singh Rajpurohit |
| | Sanskrit | Arun Ranjan Mishra |
| | English | Neelum Saran Gour |
| Novel | Hindi | Sanjeev |
| | Malayalam | E.V. Ramakrishnan |
| | Marathi | Kusumkhatri Rana |
| | Punjabi | Swarnjit Savi |
| | Urdu | Sadiqua Nawab Saher |
| Short Stories | Assamese | Pranavjyoti Deka |
| | Bengali | Swapnamoy Chakraborti |
| | Bodo | Vinod Sona Minj |
| | Santali | Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey) |
| Essays | Telugu | T. Pattabhi Satyam |
| | Nepali | Juddhar Rana |
| | Odia | Ashutosh Parida |
| | Sindhi | Vinod Asudani |
| Literary Study | Malayalam | E.V. Ramakrishnan |

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners

| Language | Title and Genre | Name of the Author |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| Assamese | Dr. Pranavjyoti Deka Shrestha Galpa (Short Stories) | Pranavjyoti Deka |
| Bengali | Jabar Pari (Novel) | Swapnamoy Chakraborti |
| Bodo | Si-Ufari Sarni (Short Stories) | Vinod Sona Minj |
| Dogri | Daun Sadiyan Ek Seer (Poetry-Ghazal) | Vijay Verma |
| English | Requiem in Raga Janki (Novel) | Neelum Saran Gour |
| Gujarati | Sairandhree (Epic Novel) | Sandeep Joshi |

| Language | Title and Genre | Name of the Author |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Hindi | Mujhe Pahachano (Novel) | Sanjeev |
| Kannada | Mahabharata Anushandhana Bharata (Poetry) | Lakshmesh Tolpadi |
| Kashmiri | Yath Wavah Halis Toong Tsoley Zaley (Essays) | Manshoor Banhali |
| Konkani | Varsal (Short Stories) | Mahabaleshwar Sail |
| Maithili | Bodha Sanketan (Essays) | Basukinath Jha |
| Malayalam | Malayala Novelinete Deshakalanganal (Literary Study) | E.V. Ramakrishnan |
| Manipuri | Yangkhoibagi Nanglo Helli (Poetry) | Sorokhaibam Gambhini |
| Marathi | Ringan (Novel) | Kusumkhatri Rana |
| Nepali | Nepali Lokshitya Ra Loksanskritiko Pariyocha (Essays) | Juddhar Rana |
| Odia | Aprastuta Prutyu (Poetry) | Ashutosh Parida |
| Punjabi | Mann Di Chip (Poetry) | Swarnjit Savi |
| Rajasthani | Manak Mati (Poetry) | Gaje Singh Rajpurohit |
| Sanskrit | Shunye Meghghanam (Poetry) | Arun Ranjan Mishra |
| Santali | Jaba Baha (Short Stories) | Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey) |
| Sindhi | Hathu Hikro Pahinjaro (Ghazal) | Vinod Asudani |
| Tamil | Neeraviyal (Poetry-Short-Stories) | Rajasekaran (Devibharathi) |
| Telugu | Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu (Short Stories) | T. Pattabhi Satyam |
| Urdu | Rajdev Ki Amrai (Novel) | Sadiqua Nawab Saher |

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name Selection Process

The awardees were selected based on recommendations made by a Jury of three members in their respective languages. The names of the winners were made known after the approval. According to an official release, the awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award (i.e., between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022).

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Presentation

The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and an amount of **Rs. 1,00,000/- towards each** will be presented to the awardees at the Award Presentation function which will be held on 12 March 2024 at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

Established on **March 12, 1954**, the **Sahitya Akademi** is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry, dedicated to the promotion of literature in Indian languages. Over the years, it has played a pivotal role in recognizing and celebrating literary excellence across diverse linguistic landscapes in India. In conclusion, the **Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2023** underscore the richness and diversity of Indian literature, honoring writers who have made significant contributions to the literary tapestry of the nation. The recognition serves to inspire and encourage continued creativity and exploration within the realm of literature in various languages.

National Mathematics Day 2023

Every year on **December 22**, the nation reveres the brilliance of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, one of the greatest mathematicians in history, as **National Mathematics Day (NMD)**. This significant day serves as a tribute to Ramanujan's unparalleled contributions to the field of mathematics and promotes the awareness of the subject's importance.

National Mathematics Day: Timeline of events

Know about Srinivasa Ramanujan's life and his works in the timeline given here.

- **1887:** The great mathematician was born on this day in Tamil Nadu's Erode to a Brahmin Iyengar family. Since his childhood days, he had a liking for mathematics which led him to master trigonometry at the age of 12. He was also eligible for a scholarship at the Government Arts College in Kumbakonam.
- **1912:** Srinivasa Ramanujan started to work as a clerk in Madras Port Trust in 1912. There, his mathematics genius was recognized by some of his colleagues and one of them referred him to Professor GH Hardy of Trinity College, Cambridge University. He met Hardy in 1913, after which he went to Trinity College.
- **1916:** This year the Ramanujan received his Bachelor in Science degree. After this, he published several papers on his subject with Hardy's help.
- **1917:** Ramanujan was elected to the London Mathematical Society.

- **1918:** The great mathematician was elected to the prestigious Royal Society for his research on Elliptic Functions and theory of numbers. He was also the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of the Trinity College.
- **1919:** Ramanujan returned to India.
- **1920:** On April 26, he breathed his last owing to deteriorating health. He was just 32 years old.

Historical Background of National Mathematics Day

The genesis of National Mathematics Day dates back to 2012 when the Manmohan Singh government officially designated December 22 for its observance. This day coincides with the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, born on **December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu**. The year 2012 was further celebrated as the National Mathematics Year, emphasizing the profound impact of mathematics on human progress.

Srinivasa Ramanujan: A Mathematical Prodigy

Ramanujan's mathematical prowess manifested at a remarkably young age. By 12, he delved into Trigonometry, and at 15, he acquired George Shoobridge Carr's **"Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics."** His groundbreaking work spanned Riemann series, hypergeometric series, elliptic integrals, continued fractions, and functional equations of the zeta function.

In 1911, Ramanujan marked his entry into the mathematical arena by publishing his first paper in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society. His scholarly journey led him to receive a B.A. degree by research at Cambridge University in 1916. Despite facing hardships and poverty in his early life, Ramanujan left an indelible mark on mathematics, leaving behind approximately 4,000 original theorems.

Significance of National Mathematics Day

National Mathematics Day aims to propagate the significance of mathematics in various aspects of life and illuminate Ramanujan's remarkable contributions. On this occasion, the focus extends beyond textbooks, encouraging children to embrace critical thinking and logical reasoning, mirroring Ramanujan's unconventional path of learning.



Educational institutions actively participate in the celebrations, organizing competitions, Olympiads, and other events to engage students and foster a love for mathematics. The day serves as a reminder of India's rich mathematical heritage, featuring luminaries like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Mahavira, and Bhaskara II.

National Affairs

Parliament Passes Post Office Bill, 2023, Replacing 125-Year-Old Indian Post Office Act, 1898

The Indian Parliament recently approved the **Post Office Bill, 2023**, marking a significant overhaul of the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The new legislation aims to modernize and consolidate the legal framework governing post offices in India.

Key Provisions

1. Enhanced Powers for National Security

The Bill grants post office employees the authority to open, detain, or intercept any item during transmission in the interest of national security or public safety. However, this power is subject to specific conditions.

2. Immunity for Post Office Employees

While providing immunity for post office employees from liability in delivering services, the Bill includes conditions. Officers are exempt unless they act fraudulently or willfully cause loss, delay, or misdelivery of services.

3. Interception Authority

The Central Government, through notification, can empower officers to intercept, open, or detain items in transit by the post office. This authority extends to situations involving security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergencies, or public safety.

4. Duty Evasion and Prohibited Items

Post office officers can deliver items, suspected of duty evasion or being prohibited by law, to customs or relevant authorities. The handling of such items will follow legal provisions.

5. Liability Exemption

The post office and its officers are exempt from liability for any loss, misdelivery, delay, or damage incurred during the provision of services, except in cases of fraudulent or willful misconduct.

6. Recovery of Sums

The Bill includes provisions for the recovery of sums due in respect of services provided by the post office. Failure to pay charges for services renders the amount recoverable as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

7. Exclusive Privilege and Standards

The post office retains the exclusive privilege of issuing postage stamps. The Central Government may prescribe standards for addressing items, including address identifiers and the usage of postcodes.

Rationale for the Bill

The Post Office Bill, 2023, aims to replace the outdated Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to accommodate the evolving landscape of post office services. With over 1.5 lakh post offices in India, including a substantial presence in rural areas, the legislation addresses concerns related to national security, public safety, and the expanding role of post offices in citizen-centric service delivery.

French President Emmanuel Macron to Grace India's Republic Day

In a testament to the enduring friendship between **India and France**, **President Emmanuel Macron** is set to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi. This marks the sixth instance of a French leader gracing this prestigious occasion, highlighting the significance of the bilateral relationship.

A Legacy of Friendship – French Leaders as Chief Guests

President Macron follows in the footsteps of his predecessors, with former French Prime Minister **Jacques Chirac** having been the Chief Guest in 1976 and 1998. Additionally, former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande have all contributed to this tradition in the years 1980, 2008, and 2016, respectively.

Commemorating 25 Years of India-France Strategic Partnership

This year's Republic Day celebrations hold special significance as India and France commemorate the **25th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership**. The enduring collaboration spans across diverse sectors, reflecting the depth and breadth of the diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between the two nations.

Key Areas of Collaboration – A Comprehensive Partnership

Under the India-France Strategic Partnership, the two nations collaborate closely in critical areas such as defence, space, civil nuclear, trade, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people ties. This multifaceted engagement underscores the shared commitment to mutual growth and global cooperation.

Macron's Visit – Fostering Bilateral Relations

President Macron's presence at the Republic Day celebrations symbolizes a commitment to further strengthening the ties between India and France. His visit is expected to provide impetus to ongoing collaborations and pave the way for new avenues of cooperation in the years to come.

Diplomatic Gesture – Modi's Invitation and International Relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to President Macron underscores the warmth and camaraderie that characterize the diplomatic relations between the two nations. This gesture not only solidifies the bilateral partnership but also highlights India's role on the global stage.

UNESCO Awards Spotlight Indian Heritage Conservation Efforts

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has recognized four Indian projects for their outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region. This prestigious recognition reflects India's commitment to preserving its rich past for future generations.

Award of Excellence: Rambagh Gate and Ramparts, Punjab

The resilient urban revitalization project of **Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Amritsar, Punjab**, received the highest honor, the **"Award of Excellence."** The jury lauded the project for its inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that the revitalized heritage site benefits the broader community.

Award of Merit: Church of Epiphany, Haryana, and Bikaner House, Delhi

The **Church of Epiphany in Haryana and Bikaner House in Delhi** were bestowed with the **"Award of Merit"** for their exemplary conservation efforts. These projects showcase India's diverse architectural heritage and dedication to preserving its historical treasures.

Beyond India: Recognizing Conservation Efforts Across Asia-Pacific

While India's achievements deserve applause, the UNESCO awards acknowledged twelve exemplary projects from across the Asia-Pacific region. Among these, three projects – the Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong SAR, China; Dongguan Garden Residences in Yangzhou, China; and Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala, India – each received the "Award of Distinction."

This recognition highlights the collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations throughout the region to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

Significance of UNESCO Awards

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation play a crucial role in:

- **Promoting heritage conservation:** The awards raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage and inspire others to undertake similar initiatives.
- **Recognizing outstanding efforts:** By acknowledging successful conservation projects, the awards incentivize individuals and organizations to strive for excellence in heritage preservation.

- **Sharing best practices:** The awards platform facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices in heritage conservation, contributing to sustainable and effective preservation strategies.

The recent UNESCO awards underscore India's significant contributions to cultural heritage conservation and provide a platform for other countries to learn from its valuable experiences. As we strive to safeguard our shared past, such initiatives become increasingly important in shaping a richer future for generations to come.

National Sports Awards 2023

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

This table lists the recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023, highlighting their outstanding performance in the field of badminton over the past four years.

| Recipient | Sport |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Shri Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj | Badminton |
| Shri Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty | Badminton |

Arjuna Awards 2023:

The award is conferred for great performance over a time period of the last four years and for demonstrating qualities of sportsmanship, a sense of discipline, and leadership.

| Recipient | Sport |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ms. Aditi Gopichand Swami | Archery |
| Shri Ojas Pravin Deotale | Archery |
| Ms. Parul Chaudhary | Athletics |
| Shri Sreeshankar M | Athletics |
| Shri Mohameed Hussamuddin | Boxing |
| Shri Mohammed Shami | Cricket |
| Ms. R Vaishali | Chess |
| Ms. Divyakriti Singh | Equestrian Dressage |
| Shri Anush Agarwalla | Equestrian |
| Ms. Diksha Dagar | Golf |
| Ms. Pukhrambam Sushila Chanu | Hockey |
| Shri Krishan Bahadur Pathak | Hockey |
| Ms. Ritu Negi | Kabaddi |
| Shri Pawan Kumar | Kabaddi |
| Ms. Nasreen | Kho-Kho |
| Ms. Pinki | Lawn Bowls |
| Ms. Esha Singh | Shooting |
| Shri Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar | Shooting |
| Shri Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu | Squash |
| Ms. Ayhika Mukherjee | Table Tennis |
| Ms. Antim | Wrestling |

| Recipient | Sport |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Shri Sunil Kumar | Wrestling |
| Ms. Naorem Roshibina Devi | Wushu |
| Ms. Sheetal Devi | Para Archery |
| Shri Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy | Blind Cricket |
| Ms. Prachi Yadav | Para Canoeing |

Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2023

This table showcases the recipients of the Dronacharya Award for 2023, distinguishing between those recognized in the regular category and those honored in the lifetime category, across various sports disciplines.

For the Regular Category:

| Recipient | Sport |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Shri Lalit Kumar | Wrestling |
| Shri R. B. Ramesh | Chess |
| Shri Maheveer Prasad Saini | Para Athletics |
| Shri Shivendra Singh | Hockey |
| Shri Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar | Mallakhamb |

For the Lifetime Category:

| Recipient | Sport |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Shri Jashkirat Singh Grewal | Golf |
| Shri Bhaskaran E | Kabaddi |
| Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal | Table Tennis |

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games 2023:

This table lists the recipients of the Dhyan Chand Award for 2023, recognizing their significant contributions to sports both during their active career and post-retirement.

| Recipient | Sport |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Ms. Manjusha Kanwar | Badminton |
| Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma | Hockey |
| Ms. Kavitha Selvaraj | Kabaddi |

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:

Here's the information about the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023, formatted into a table:

| University | Achievement |
|--|----------------------------|
| Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar | Overall Winning University |
| Lovely Professional University, Punjab | 1st Runner-Up University |
| Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra | 2nd Runner-Up University |

National Affairs

- On a vibrant Sunday in **Varanasi**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, a cultural extravaganza aimed at fostering the cultural ties between **Varanasi and Tamil Nadu**. During the event, **PM Modi** also flagged off the **Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express**, symbolizing the unity of the diverse cultures within India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In alignment with the government's commitment to fortify the logistics sector, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the **402 km-long segment of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on 18 December**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** marked a historic moment on Monday as he inaugurated the **Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi**. This newly constructed meditation center stands tall at **seven floors**, accommodating an impressive **20,000 devotees** at a time for meditation. The inauguration ceremony showcased the Prime Minister's commitment to fostering spiritual well-being and cultural heritage in the holy city. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Ms. Uma Sekhar** achieved a remarkable victory by **securing 45 out of 59 votes in the initial round** of elections for the **Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy**. This historic win not only represents Ms. Sekhar's individual achievement but also elevates India to a prominent on the **Governing Council for the term spanning 2024-28**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a revelation during the ongoing Winter Session, the Indian Parliament disclosed a concerning trend in unclaimed deposits within the country's banking sector. The unclaimed deposits have witnessed a substantial **28% annual rise**, reaching a staggering **₹42,270 crore** by the end of the last financial year in March 2023. This marks a significant jump from the previous year's figure of ₹32,934 crore. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**, recognized as the world's largest professional body of Chartered Accountants, recently revealed a **new logo** that encapsulates its commitment to an India-first approach and its role as a trusted partner in nation-building. This unveiling took place at the **Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC)** in Gandhinagar, where the Vice-President, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, and Commerce and Industry Minister, **Piyush Goyal**, were present. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Central Railway** general manager **Ram Karan Yadav** has recently announced a significant step towards enhancing passenger safety. In his first news conference after assuming office, Yadav disclosed plans to **install panic switches at 117 railway stations under the Central Railway network**. This move aims to provide passengers with a quick and efficient means of alerting the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in case of emergencies. ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- Goa Liberation Day 2023**, celebrated annually on **December 19**, holds special significance as it commemorates the liberation of the state from **Portuguese colonial rule**. The year 2023 marks the **62nd anniversary** of this momentous occasion, highlighting the resilience and determination of the people of Goa in their quest for freedom. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Kurukshetra**, a sacred town resonating with cultural heritage and spiritual significance, witnessed a grand spectacle as it hosted the inauguration of the **International Gita Mahotsav – 2023**. This week-long celebration promises a unique blend of spirituality, cultural diversity, and global participation, captivating visitors until December 24. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh Police** has taken a significant step towards **enhancing public outreach and transparency** by becoming one of the first in the country to **launch WhatsApp Channels for its headquarters and all district units**. The initiative aims to publicize the commendable work of the district police and provide timely information about actions taken in criminal and law and order incidents. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tamil Nadu** has once again secured the coveted '**Achiever**' status among coastal states in the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings**, affirming its position as a logistic powerhouse in India. The state's remarkable performance in the export-import ecosystem has earned accolades, marking the second consecutive time it has achieved this prestigious status. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Two prominent Indian states, **Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh**, have taken significant strides in deploying higher capacities under the “**Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects**” scheme. This initiative, launched in December 2014 with an initial capacity of 20,000 MW, was later expanded to 40,000 MW in March 2017, aiming to establish at least 50 solar parks by 2023-24. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Tax administration plays a crucial role in a nation's economic development and stability. Recognizing the importance of collaboration in this domain, **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)**, a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, launched a significant program in **Saint Lucia** on 14th December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** has clinched a third term, garnering 89.6% of the vote in the nation's latest election, held from December 10-12. Despite economic hardships and regional tensions, Sisi's victory was anticipated, given the limited opposition. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The World Bank's latest report reveals India's leading position in global remittances, reaching **\$125 billion in 2023**. While remittances to low- and middle-income countries grew by 3.8%, challenges include declines in the Middle East and North Africa. The report underscores the crucial role of inclusive labor markets and social protection policies. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Finland**, a global champion of gender equality, recently conferred the **International Gender Equality Prize for 2023** to the **Afghan Women Skills Development Center**, recognizing their unwavering commitment to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women in Afghanistan. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- At least 118 people in north-west China have lost their lives in the **country's deadliest earthquake in 13 years**. The 6.2 magnitude quake struck the mountainous **Gansu province** around midnight on Monday, also affecting the neighboring Qinghai province. The aftermath has left hundreds injured, and the fatalities might rise as rescue operations are underway in the icy conditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Bhutan**, a picturesque Himalayan kingdom, is set to embark on a transformative journey with the announcement of its ambitious “**Gelephu Smartcity Project**.” The Bhutanese King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, revealed the plans for a massive “**international city**” spanning over **1,000 sq. km. on the border with Assam**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The European Union (EU) has conveyed disappointment at India's refusal to engage in interim arbitration for resolving the ongoing dispute concerning import duties on **specific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products**, such as smartphones and components. India defends its stance, asserting that interim agreements undermine the right to appeal to a permanent standing body and emphasizes the need to restore the functioning of the WTO appellate body. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the Colorado Supreme Court, consisting entirely of justices appointed by Democratic governors, declared **former U.S. President Donald Trump** ineligible for the presidency under the U.S. Constitution's insurrection clause. This move marks the first-ever use of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to disqualify a presidential candidate. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noma**, also known as **cancrum oris** or **gangrenous stomatitis**, has recently been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO) **list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**. This move aims to elevate awareness, stimulate research, secure funding and intensify efforts to combat this rare yet severe infection. Noma primarily affects impoverished communities in tropical and subtropical regions, particularly targeting **children aged 2 to 6 years old**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently solidified their collaboration with the signing of a **\$250 million policy-based loan** on December 15, 2023. This financial support, part of the **Industrial Corridor Development Programme (Subprogramme 2)**, aims to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, fortify national supply chains, and integrate with global value chains. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK)** and the **Indian Navy** have joined hands in a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed at the Naval Headquarters. This collaborative initiative aims to propel technology development, foster innovative solutions and engage in joint Research and Development (R&D) endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Suzlon Group**, India's largest renewable energy solutions provider, has recently inked a definitive agreement with **REC Limited**, a state-run entity, for crucial working capital facilities. This strategic partnership is geared towards bolstering Suzlon's capacity to meet its working capital needs, pivotal for executing its extensive current order book and prospective future projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a strategic move to broaden their service offerings and strengthen their market presence, **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance** and **IDFC First Bank** have joined forces through a bancassurance partnership. This collaboration aims to **provide comprehensive insurance solutions to the bank's extensive customer base** by leveraging the robust distribution network of IDFC First Bank. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24 (H1FY24), the combined fiscal scenario of the Centre and the States in India has remained resilient, with the gross **fiscal deficit (GFD) staying below 7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. A recent study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sheds light on the fiscal landscape, highlighting the role of enhanced revenue mobilization and prudent financial management. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards empowering self-help groups (SHGs) in **Arunachal Pradesh**, the **Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM)** has forged a strategic alliance with the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two entities aims to **provide comprehensive banking services to the SHGs operating in the state**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards addressing the pressing issues of global warming and promoting sustainability education, research and outreach, the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT)** and **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** have joined forces to establish the **Kotak School of Sustainability**. The collaboration aims to provide leadership solutions for sustainability and prepare future generations to champion the cause of sustainable development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The 605th gathering of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, meticulously examined the prevailing economic and financial landscape. The discussions, held against the backdrop of the challenging global geopolitical developments, aimed to dissect both domestic and international scenarios. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Domestic rating agency ICRA has adjusted its **GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2024**, increasing it to 6.5% from the previous estimate of 6.2%. This update, however, remains below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) more optimistic 7% GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Payment processing giants **Razorpay** and **Cashfree** have received the final authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as **Payment Aggregators (PAs)**. This significant development comes after a year-long pause in onboarding new merchants, in compliance with RBI advisory. Open, a neobanking fintech, has also secured the final approval from RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) have reached new heights, hitting a **record Rs 659.50**, marking a substantial 17% surge in the past month. This surge has outpaced the market, with S&P BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 up by nearly 9%, and the Nifty PSU Bank index gaining 14% during the same period. The remarkable rally has propelled SBI's market capitalization close to Rs 6 trillion, drawing attention to the bank's positive financial performance. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's National Pension System (NPS)** has witnessed a substantial growth in assets, reaching a new milestone of ₹10.7 lakh crore as of December 9, 25.95% higher than the previous year. Bolstered by a robust equity market, the latest data from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** reveals noteworthy insights into the performance and trajectory of NPS investments. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The call for a reduction in retail prices for petrol and diesel has intensified as international crude oil prices recently dropped below \$80 per barrel, **stabilizing in the \$76-77 range**. This demand is backed by the robust performance of oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the first half of fiscal year 2023 and the maintenance of retail inflation within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) comfort zone in November 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- IndusInd Bank has recently launched the '**Indus Solitaire Program**,' an innovative community banking initiative specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of the diamond industry. This comprehensive program is set to provide an array of exclusive benefits and features, reinforcing the bank's commitment to serving the diamond community. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- **Accenture**, a global leader in professional services, has taken a significant stride in the field of **artificial intelligence (AI)** with the **establishment of its Generative AI Studio in Bengaluru, India**. This cutting-edge facility is poised to become a central hub for the development and application of generative AI technologies, showcasing Accenture's commitment to advancing AI solutions for businesses. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In November, India experienced a notable surge in long-haul thermal coal imports, with shipments from the United States peaking at **1.40 million tonnes (MT)**, marking the highest level in over a year. The information comes from energy intelligence firm Kpler, which reported that India's total thermal coal imports for the month amounted to 17.51 MT, slightly lower than the 15-month high of 18.66 MT recorded in October 2023. Despite a month-on-month decrease, the data reveals a year-on-year increase of 6.92 MT. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reclassified India's de facto exchange rate regime from **"floating" to "stabilized arrangement"** for the period December 2022 to October 2023. This shift comes after an Article IV review, where the IMF staff diverged from Indian authorities' perspective on exchange rate stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **IndiGo**, India's leading carrier, has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the **first Indian airline to transport 100 million passengers** in a single calendar year. This accomplishment places IndiGo in an elite global club of carriers operating such a massive scale, solidifying its position among the **world's top-10 airlines by passenger traffic**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Thirteen Indian states participated in a state government securities auction, collectively raising Rs 19,692 crore, slightly surpassing the notified **amount of Rs 19,592 crore**. This marked an increase from the previous week, where eight states had raised Rs 12,100 crore through a similar auction. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Semiconductor powerhouses **MediaTek** and **Nvidia** have recently forged a strategic partnership aimed at bringing **artificial intelligence (AI)** to the forefront of the automotive industry. This collaboration signifies a bold step towards revolutionizing in-car experiences, shaping the evolution of autonomous driving systems, and establishing a new standard for smart vehicles. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Unit 4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP 4 – 700 MW)** marked a historic moment in India's nuclear power landscape by achieving criticality, signifying the initiation of controlled fission chain reactions. This significant milestone, attained on December 17, 2023, is a testament to the stringent safety standards set by the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's economic landscape has witnessed a significant transformation over the past few decades, marked by a notable decline in the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to recent government data, **the share of agriculture in India's GDP dropped from 35% in the fiscal year 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23**. This shift can be attributed to the rapid growth experienced by the industrial and service sectors during this period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released projections for India's economic performance, utilizing its **Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model**. The forecast indicates a real GDP growth of 7.1% for the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the previous estimate of 7%, and a subsequent slowdown to 6% in the following fiscal year, 2024-25. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After more than a year of anticipation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finally given its approval for at least six payment aggregator licences, signaling the end of the ban on entities such as **RazorPay and Cashfree Payments** from onboarding new merchants. The central bank had imposed temporary restrictions in December 2022, instructing platforms with in-principal approvals, including **RazorPay, Cashfree Payments, PayU, Pine Labs, Paytm, and Stripe**, to halt merchant onboarding until additional documents and audit reports were submitted for final license consideration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on December 20 a pivotal decision to enable **Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT)** directly through card-issuing banks or institutions. This marks a shift from the previous method where a **Card-on-File (CoF) token** could only be generated through a merchant's application or webpage. The move is in alignment with the RBI's commitment to enhancing user convenience and security in digital transactions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Ministry of Railways** has issued a directive for the handover of all assets from the **National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR)**, located in **Vadodara, to Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**. This directive comes in alignment with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bolster the newly envisioned Central university. The move is poised to impact the esteemed legacy of NAIR, a pivotal training facility for railway officers over several decades. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- According to a comprehensive report compiled from data sourced from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Clearing Corporation of India, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, India's total debt has witnessed a significant uptick in the September quarter. The total outstanding bonds traded in the market surged to **USD 2.47 trillion (Rs 205 lakh crore)**, marking an increase from the USD 2.34 trillion (Rs 200 lakh crore) reported in the March quarter of the previous fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In October 2023, India experienced a surge in net **foreign direct investment (FDI)**, reaching a 21-month high at \$5.9 billion. This upswing was attributed to robust gross inflows and a decrease in repatriation. The Reserve Bank of India's data revealed a notable increase from \$1.54 billion in September 2023 and \$1.16 billion in October 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Regulated entities like banks and NBFCs face a daunting task as they consider exiting their investments in **alternative investment funds (AIFs)**. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated a 30-day window for these entities to evaluate and liquidate their AIF portfolios to address concerns about the disguised evergreening of loan exposures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**, recognized as the world's largest professional body of Chartered Accountants, recently revealed a **new logo** that encapsulates its commitment to an India-first approach and its role as a trusted partner in nation-building. This unveiling took place at the **Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC)** in Gandhinagar, where the Vice-President, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, were present. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- ICICI Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the re-appointment of **Sandeep Batra as the Executive Director (ED)**. The approval, conveyed through an official letter, is effective from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to increase its liquidity infusion into the banking system through the **7-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction** on December 22. The central bank, responding to a liquidity deficit near an 8-year high of ₹2.27-lakh crore as of December 20, has raised the offered amount to ₹1.75-lakh crore, up from ₹1-lakh crore in the previous week. This move aims to assist banks in overcoming liquidity challenges. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Shares of the leading state-run insurer LIC surged to a new 52-week high on December 22 following a significant development. The Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the **25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule**. The decision allows LIC to achieve the mandated 25% MPS within 10 years of its listing, extending the deadline to May 2032. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a preliminary framework for **self-regulatory organizations (SROs)** aimed at overseeing banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and other entities under its regulatory purview. Seeking public input until January 25, 2024, the draft outlines eligibility criteria and operational guidelines for potential SROs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant financial development, India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a remarkable surge, reaching an impressive **\$616 billion** in the week concluding on December 15. This milestone marked the highest level since March 25, 2022, as per data disclosed by the Reserve Bank of India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Continuing its commitment to empower state governments, the central government has disbursed an additional instalment of **Rs 72,961.21 crore** as tax devolution to states on December 22, 2023. This comes as a follow-up to a similar transfer earlier in the month on December 11, according to an official statement from the finance ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Bima Vistaar, a groundbreaking all-in-one insurance product encompassing life, health, and property coverage, is poised for launch in the first quarter of the upcoming financial year. The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** reports that the product design and crucial rollout aspects are nearing completion, with a keen focus on leveraging technology for a seamless launch. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is set to revolutionize the Indian stock market with a proposed two-phase implementation of **same-day settlement (T+0)** and instant settlement. In a consultation paper, SEBI invites public comments, emphasizing that the shorter settlement cycles will be supplementary to the existing T+1 cycle. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Textiles**, in its continuous efforts to support and empower jute farmers, has introduced the **"Paat-Mitro" mobile application**. Developed by The **Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)**, this application is a significant step towards **providing essential information about Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and agronomy to jute farmers**. The launch took place during the 'Jute Symposium,' with Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, inaugurating the application, which is available in six languages. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Appointments/Resignations

- The Israeli government recently greenlit the appointment of **Reuven Azar** as the new Ambassador to India, underscoring his expansive role as the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan as well. Azar's nomination is part of a larger cohort of 21 Heads of Missions cleared by Israel to assume their responsibilities soon. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal** officially assumed the role of **Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18**. With a distinguished career marked by various leadership roles across multiple districts and specialized units, Dayal brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Let's delve into his illustrious journey through the ranks of law enforcement. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- In a significant triumph for its indigenous design and development capabilities, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has proudly announced the **successful test firing** of its **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR)** air defence missile system. This accomplishment marks a milestone for the IAF's strategic self-reliance efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking display of technological prowess, India has achieved a **global first** by demonstrating the capability of its indigenous **Akash missile system** to engage four aerial targets simultaneously at a range of 25 kilometers. The remarkable feat took place during the **'Astrashakti' military exercise** conducted by the Indian Air Force on December 12. This exercise served as a platform to showcase the exceptional capabilities of the Akash missile system, illustrating its ability to engage multiple targets concurrently. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Three officers from the **Indian Armed Forces**, undergoing the prestigious Command and Staff Course at **Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC)** in Sri Lanka, have been honored with the coveted **'Golden Owl' award** for their outstanding performance. The award, presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recognizes their exceptional achievements in analytical skills, strategic thinking, and their potential for future leadership. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a poignant ceremony held at **INS Shivaji**, the esteemed Training establishment of the Indian Navy, the original **'Vir Chakra'** was posthumously awarded to **Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury**. The ceremony, marked by solemnity and reverence, took place on 18th December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **United Services Institution of India (USI)** recently collaborated to host the inaugural Marshal of the Air Force **Arjan Singh Annual Lecture** at USI, Shankar Vihar. This significant event serves as a tribute to the exemplary life and achievements of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Aster Medcity**, located in **Kochi, Kerala**, and a unit of Aster DM Healthcare, has emerged as a frontrunner in the healthcare industry. The hospital has recently achieved the remarkable feat of being ranked **No.1** in the **'Best Multi-specialty Hospital Emerging'** category by **The Week-Hansa Research 2023**, as published in December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd** proudly announces that its Chairman and Managing Director, **Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath**, has been honored with the prestigious **Global Icon Award** at the G20 Initiative Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The summit, a key event organized by the Global Economic Forum, brought together world leaders, policymakers, and industry visionaries for an exclusive gathering from November 21-24, 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Novak Djokovic** and **Aryna Sabalenka** have been named the **2023 ITF World Champions** by the **International Tennis Federation**. Both players showcased remarkable consistency and skill throughout the year, earning this prestigious honor. Djokovic, in particular, set a new record with his eighth ITF World Champion award. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** concluded with a momentous highlight as the Israeli film **'Children of Nobody'** secured the prestigious **Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film**. Inspired by a true story, this compassionate Israeli drama sheds light on the often unnoticed and uncared-for individuals on the periphery of society. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Gaja Capital Business Book Prize**, a prestigious annual recognition, has crowned two exceptional narratives in its **2023 edition**. **Against All Odds: The IT Story of India** and **Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs** emerged as joint winners, capturing the essence of India's dynamic business landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a notable achievement, **NTPC Kanti** has been bestowed with the **11th Edition of FICCI Water Award 2023** under the **"Industrial Water Use Efficiency"** category. The prestigious accolade was presented during the inaugural event of the 9th Edition of India Industry Water Conclave held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a notable recognition of her outstanding contributions to public healthcare services in Bhutan, **Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh**, the Regional Director of the **World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia**, has been honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit (NOM) Gold Medal. The prestigious award was presented by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Druk Gyalpo (dragon king) of Bhutan, during the celebration of Bhutan's 116th National Day on December 17, 2023, in Thimphu, Bhutan. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Pradip Kumar Das**, Chairman & Managing Director of **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**, has been honored with the esteemed "**CMD of the Year**" award under the **Mini-Ratna category** at the **13th PSE Excellence Awards**. The event was hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi, marking the second consecutive financial year in which Shri Pradip Kumar Das has received this prestigious accolade. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL)**, a leading player in India's consumer electrical industry, has been honored with the prestigious **National Energy Conservation Award 2023**. The recognition was bestowed by the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, and the Ministry of Power, represented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), on the occasion of **National Energy Conservation Day**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a prestigious ceremony at the **SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam**, the **SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023** were bestowed upon mathematicians **Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang**, both affiliated with the University of California in Berkeley. The awards, instituted by SASTRA in 2005, honor individuals under the age of 32 who have made remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a recent announcement from UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, **Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2)** has achieved global acclaim, being recognized as one of the '**world's most beautiful airports**.' The world judges panel, chaired by renowned fashion designer **Elie Saab**, bestowed this honor, making it the sole Indian airport to receive such esteemed recognition. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The renowned **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** has named **poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar** as its sixth recipient for her book, "**Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems**". This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry recently released the fifth **LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2023 report**, shedding light on the logistics performance of various states and Union Territories in India. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and Gujarat are among the 13 states and Union Territories recognized as "achievers" in the logistics index chart for 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The NCRB data pointed out that Hyderabad topped the nation in food adulteration cases in 2022. In close second place was Andhra Pradesh, trailing after Telangana. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- In a historic turn of events at the **Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, Haryana** emerged victorious in the **2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy**, securing their **first-ever title with a 30-run triumph** over **Rajasthan** in the summit clash. The victory marked one of the greatest campaigns in Indian domestic cricket history, as Haryana showcased their dominance by remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a fantastic cricket match, **Ashiqur Rahman Shibli** helped **Bangladesh's Under-19 team** win a big tournament called **Under-19 Asia**. Shibli did amazingly well with his bat, scoring a second century in five matches, leading Bangladesh to an impressive win over UAE. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In just over 6 years since its inception, **Zinc Football Academy**, a CSR initiative of Hindustan Zinc, has achieved yet another significant milestone by being awarded the prestigious '**Elite 3-star**' rating by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**. This recognition firmly places Zinc Football among the best youth development academies in India, marking a historic moment in the academy's journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Khelo India Para Games 2023** concluded on **December 17 in New Delhi**, showcasing the remarkable talents of para athletes from across the country. The inaugural edition of the event saw Haryana clinched the top spot, securing a **total of 105 medals, including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze**. **Uttar Pradesh claimed the second position** in the medal tally, bagging a **total of 62 medals**. The state's para athletes demonstrated their prowess with **25 gold, 23 silver and 14 bronze medals**. **Tamil Nadu** secured the third spot, showcasing commendable performances and earning a total of **20 gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Mitchell Starc** marks a remarkable return to the IPL, securing a spot with **Kolkata Knight Riders for the 2024 season** after the franchise successfully bid **₹24.75 crore** for the Australian pace bowler. Fast bowler Pat Cummins will make his return to the IPL, joining Sunrisers Hyderabad, who pay a fee of **₹20.5 crore**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- legendary actor **Amitabh Bachchan** revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming **Indian Street Premier League (ISPL)**. The **ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament** played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from **March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a stunning display of skill and determination, **Maharashtra** emerged victorious in the **women's team event at the 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship** held in **Guwahati**. The championship, organized by the Badminton Association of India, witnessed Maharashtra's women's team clinching the title with a **commanding 3-0 victory**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian hockey team midfielder, **Hardik Singh**, clinched the prestigious title of **Men's FIH Player of the Year at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023**. Dutch player **Xan de Waard** emerged victorious as the **Women's FIH Player of the Year**, showcasing outstanding prowess in the field of hockey. **Savita Punia**, captain of the Indian women's hockey team, secured the title of the **Best Goalkeeper of the Year**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Acclaimed Indian wrestler **Sakshi Malik**, a bronze medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, **declared her retirement in protest of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) recent leadership change**. The move follows allegations of sexual abuse against the ousted president, Brij Bhushan Singh, and the controversial election of his close ally, Sanjay Singh. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The Indian government is on a mission to achieve comprehensive coverage for the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** by January 26, a colossal undertaking that involves incorporating 270 million additional individuals into its flagship health scheme. New directives have been issued to central ministries and agencies overseeing welfare schemes, emphasizing the need for rapid "saturation" of beneficiaries, ensuring the inclusion of all intended recipients. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards fostering sustainable practices and addressing critical issues faced by **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) **Narayan Rane** unveiled **three pioneering sub-schemes** under the existing RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME

Productivity) programme. These initiatives aim to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology, promote circular economy projects, and tackle the persistent challenge of delayed payments. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a significant move, the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JioMart, a venture of Reliance Retail. This partnership aims to amplify the reach of products crafted by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, empowering rural artisans. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Genrobotics**, a **Kerala-based startup**, has emerged as a frontrunner in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social change. The company achieved significant recognition by being adjudged **among the top three AI startups in India** at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized an **AI-powered Indian language translation tool, 'Bhashini'**, during a recent speech in Uttar Pradesh. The tool, developed by the government, **aims to facilitate real-time translation**, fostering communication across diverse linguistic communities within the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has once again soared to new heights by clinching the prestigious **Leif Erikson Lunar Prize**. This esteemed accolade, bestowed by the Husavik Museum, stands as a testament to ISRO's unwavering commitment and substantial contributions to lunar exploration. The focal point of this recognition is **ISRO's groundbreaking Chandrayaan-3 mission**, a venture that has significantly deepened our understanding of celestial mysteries. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Important Days News

- **International Migrants Day 2023**, observed annually on **December 18**, serves as a global platform to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of migrants while shedding light on the challenges they face. The **theme for International Migrants Day 2023** is **"Promoting Safe Migration."** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **International Human Solidarity Day 2023** is a significant observance held annually on **December 20th**. Recognized by the **UN General Assembly**, this day emphasizes the importance of solidarity in fostering global unity and diversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Basketball Day** is an annual celebration held on **December 21**, commemorating the invention of basketball by **Dr. James Naismith in 1891**. The sport has grown into one of the most popular and widely practiced games globally, uniting people with its athleticism, joy, and camaraderie. This article delves into the history, significance, and impact of basketball on the world stage. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department**, the distinguished judicial and legal arm of the Indian Army, commemorates a momentous occasion – its **40th Corps Day on December 21, 2023**. This celebration resonates with the historic introduction of the Bill for the Army Act in Parliament in 1949, a defining moment that laid the groundwork for the legal dispensation within the military. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Farmer's Day 2023**, also known as **Kisan Diwas**, is celebrated on **December 23** in India to honor and recognize the invaluable contribution of farmers to the country's socio-economic fabric. This day marks the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, a former prime minister of India and a dedicated advocate for the welfare of farmers. The significance of National Farmer's Day lies in acknowledging the pivotal role farmers play in sustaining the nation's prosperity. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- **India** is in a somber state as it observes a one-day **state mourning on Sunday, December 17**, following the passing of the **Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawab Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, who died on **December 16, 2023, at the age of 86**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. V Mohini Giri**, a well-known advocate for women's rights, passed away at the age of 86 after a brief illness. She made significant contributions to empowering women and was recognized for her efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has formulated detailed rules for the registration of marriages under the Anand Marriage Act. The set of regulations, titled **'Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023,'** outlines the procedures for registering "Anand marriages." According to a government notification issued on November 30, tehsildars within their respective territorial jurisdictions will serve as registrars for such marriages. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards sustainable maritime technology, India has unveiled **'Barracuda,'** the nation's fastest solar electric boat, at the **Navgathi Yard in Panavally, Alappuzha**. This cutting-edge vessel, named 'Saur Shakthi,' is a collaborative effort between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Navalt, an eco-marine tech company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Google Maps**, a ubiquitous navigation tool, is set to undergo a transformative upgrade in India with a host of new features **leveraging artificial intelligence (AI)**. **Miriam Karthika Daniel, Vice President of Google Maps Experiences**, unveiled these innovations, emphasizing the goal of providing accessible and useful information about the real world to users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tiger attacks on humans have been a concerning issue in India, with the Centre recently providing information on the extent of this problem. **In 2022 alone, a total of 112 deaths occurred in the country due to tiger attacks**. The Union Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, **Bhupinder Yadav**, shared these statistics in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, shedding light on the gravity of the situation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian government** has issued a warning regarding a new and sophisticated scam known as **"Smishing."** This term is a combination of **"SMS"** (Short Message Service) and **"phishing,"** signifying a malicious practice that exploits text messages to deceive individuals into divulging confidential information. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Mines** marked a historic moment with the launch of the **National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal**. This initiative, spearheaded by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and **Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)**, is poised to revolutionize access to critical geoscience data. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's coking coal imports have soared to a **five-year high**, registering 38.14 million tonnes for the April-November period of the current fiscal year. This reflects a marginal year-on-year increase, with nearly 38.12 million tonnes imported during the corresponding period last year. Notably, **Russia** has secured its position as **India's third-largest coal supplier**, a significant shift in the country's historical coal import landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Weekly One Liners 25th to 31st of December 2023

National Affairs

- **President Draupadi Murmu** granted her assent to three groundbreaking criminal code bills, marking a significant shift in India's legal landscape. These bills, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, received parliamentary approval and are poised to replace the age-old Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for **five lithium blocks in Argentina**, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022. The deal is on the verge of finalization between **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** and **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)**, an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for the city of **Chandigarh**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated **nine projects with a total investment of 368 crore rupees**. Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for three ambitious projects valued at 32 crore rupees. This marks a substantial commitment to the infrastructural and developmental growth of Chandigarh. Amit Shah also flagged off a **fleet of Chandigarh Police cars**, collectively valued at 3.75 crore rupees. Among them, a state-of-the-art police control vehicle named **'Eagle'** was introduced. This move aims to enhance the operational capabilities and efficiency of law enforcement in the city. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's rail network continues to evolve, with the recent unveiling of the **Amrit Bharat train**, set to be flagged off by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** highlighted the advanced features of the train, emphasizing the incorporation of **push-pull technology for enhanced speed and passenger comfort**. This article delves into the key aspects of the Amrit Bharat train, showcasing its innovative technologies and the significant role played by India's Make in India initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has cemented his dominance in the digital realm, becoming the first world leader to surpass the **2 crore subscriber mark on YouTube**. With over **4.5 billion views on his channel**, Modi has left his global peers trailing far behind, highlighting his adeptness at utilizing social media for public engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a virtual launch ceremony, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers**, introduced **'MedTech Mitra'**, a strategic initiative aimed at nurturing the talents of young innovators in the country. The platform seeks to shape their research, knowledge, and logic while providing essential support for obtaining regulatory approval. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated the **Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction)** as an "unlawful association" for a five-year period under the anti-terror **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**. Masrat Alam, who has been in detention in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 20 years, with intermittent releases, is currently held in Delhi's Tihar jail since 2019. He assumed the leadership of the separatist group, Hurriyat Conference, following the demise of chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government is actively engaged in discussions with both domestic and international stakeholders to formulate a policy aimed at enhancing **local manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs)**. A senior government official emphasized the ongoing talks with various countries, including Italy and Korea, and stressed the policy's inclusivity for both domestic and foreign car manufacturers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a bid to address the soaring rice inflation, the Government of India is contemplating a strategic move—**selling rice under the 'Bharat' brand**, a proposal that is currently under consideration. While the discounted rate for this initiative is yet to be finalized, it marks a significant step in the government's efforts to stabilize retail rice prices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- In the span of 10 years under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** leadership, both personal income and corporate tax collections in India are expected to surge to over Rs 19 trillion. This substantial growth provides the government with flexibility to introduce tax measures benefiting the public. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- The **16th Rajasthan Assembly** witnessed a significant development as **Vasudev Devnani**, a seasoned BJP MLA with five terms under his belt, was unanimously elected as the **Speaker**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, **Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state**, is set to establish the **country's first AI city in Lucknow**. This initiative aims to create a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions to foster innovation and nurture the workforce of the future. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** marked a significant milestone in its journey by venturing into the logistics business. Minister for Transport **Ramalinga Reddy** inaugurated the initiative under the brand name "**Namma Cargo**," introducing cargo services on KSRTC route buses. The launch event saw the **deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The holy city of **Ayodhya** is gearing up for a major transformation, with the renaming of its iconic railway junction and the inauguration of a brand new airport.
- The **Ayodhya Dham railway station** is now a state-of-the-art facility that seamlessly blends ancient Indian architecture with modern amenities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- A **fertilizer plant in North Chennai's Ennore area experienced an ammonia gas leak**, leading to the hospitalization of around 50 people. The incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols in place and the potential environmental impact of such leaks. The gas leak occurred from an underwater pipeline that runs from the sea to the fertilizer manufacturing facility of Coromandel International Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The airport currently boasts the lengthy name "**Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport**." The **Yogi Adityanath** government is reportedly considering renaming it "**Maharishi Valmiki Airport**," honoring the revered poet who authored the epic Ramayana. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh:** In a push towards clean energy and tackling climate change, **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has directed officials to implement the state's **Green Hydrogen Policy-2023**. This policy aims to incentivize and boost the production and utilization of green hydrogen, a promising alternative to fossil fuels. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **state's first intra-district helicopter service in Bateswar**, a historical village located 65 km from Agra city. This venture, operating on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, is expected to open new doors for tourism in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Telangana Deputy Chief Minister **Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu** recently inaugurated the **Government's Praja Palana programme** in Ibrahimpatnam, marking the initiation of an extensive initiative aimed at understanding and addressing the needs of the people at the grassroots level. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Gujarat** has emerged as the **nation's petrochemical powerhouse**, boasting the world's largest grassroots oil refinery and a state-of-the-art petrochemical complex. The dynamic growth of the petrochemical sector in Gujarat is exemplified by the monumental achievements of Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Jamnagar refinery and the ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) petrochemical complex in Dahej. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kerala's Chief Minister, **Pinarayi Vijayan**, recently inaugurated the **Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board**, a pivotal step toward **enhancing transparency and efficiency in the recruitment processes of public sector units (PSUs)**. This establishment, located at Vellayambalam, is set to play a crucial role in identifying and appointing capable candidates within state-run entities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- The **Gujarat government**, in collaboration with **Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL)**, is set to make waves in the tourism industry by introducing **India's first submarine tourism venture**. This ambitious project aims to explore the mesmerizing marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a sacred island off the coast of Dwarka city, steeped in mythological significance within Hinduism. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- **Angola**, a significant oil-producing nation, has declared its decision to exit the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** with effect from January 1, 2024. This move follows the footsteps of **Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019**, reflecting a trend of nations with relatively small oil output distancing themselves from the influential oil-exporting organization. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Islamabad, Pakistan**: Pakistan's military successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system **Fatah-II**, showcasing a significant advancement in its missile capabilities. The system boasts a 400-kilometer range and advanced features, marking a major milestone for the country's defense program. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Israel's government has approved a substantial **\$3.2 billion** grant for Intel Corp.'s ambitious plan to construct a **\$25 billion chip plant in southern Israel**. This marks the largest investment ever made by a company in Israel, showcasing significant support amid the ongoing conflict with the Palestinian militant group Hamas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Argentine **President Javier Milei** has officially declined the invitation to join the **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping** of major emerging economies. The rejection was conveyed through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to abstain from the bloc. The libertarian outsider, who assumed office recently after a significant electoral victory over traditional political parties, had pledged during his campaign not to align Argentina with BRICS. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- China has introduced its groundbreaking ocean drilling vessel, **Mengxiang**, signifying a pivotal moment in scientific exploration. Developed by the **China Geological Survey** in collaboration with 150 research institutes and companies, the vessel is named "dream" in Chinese, reflecting its ambitious mission. The Mengxiang aims to penetrate Earth's crust and delve into the mysteries of the mantle, marking humanity's inaugural foray into this uncharted territory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India and Russia**, crucial agreements were signed on Tuesday, marking a major stride in the construction of future power-generating units at the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** has taken a significant stride in strengthening economic ties with **major Asian partners** by signing its second free trade agreement (FTA) this year. The recent accord, inked with **South Korea**, underscores the bloc's commitment to fostering investment connections and diversifying its economic portfolio. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark development, the pro-talks faction of the **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)** inked a historic peace accord with the central and state governments, marking a significant stride towards ending decades of insurgency in Assam. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Books and Authors

- On December 25, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled the first series of 11 volumes comprising the collected works of **Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya**. This significant event took place on the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Pandit Malaviya, the visionary founder of Banaras Hindu University. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, **Raghuram Rajan**, in collaboration with economist **Rohit Lamba**, has released a groundbreaking book titled '**Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future**.' This latest addition to Rajan's literary contributions marks a significant exploration into the potential and challenges of India's economic trajectory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The ambitious disinvestment target for the current fiscal year is likely to be missed, with major plans, including **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**, **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)**, and **CONCOR**, pushed to the backburner. Analysts suggest that substantive privatization may only resume after the April/May elections. Over the past decade, disinvestments have raised around Rs 4.20 trillion, with Rs 3.15 trillion coming from minority stake sales and Rs 69,412 crore from strategic transactions in 10 CPSEs. The lack of progress in the current fiscal year underscores the challenges inherent in the strategic sale process. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently took decisive action against **four co-operative banks in Gujarat**, slapping monetary penalties on them for various non-compliances. The penalties range from **Rs 50,000 to Rs 7 lakh**, reflecting the severity of the regulatory infractions. The affected banks include Progressive Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., The Kutch Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Shree Morbi Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., and Bhabhar Vibhag Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Education loans** in India have witnessed a remarkable year-on-year growth of **20.6%**, reaching ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October. This substantial increase, as reported by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, marks the **highest growth in the last five years**. In comparison, the growth registered in the corresponding period was 12.3% in FY23 and a negative 3.1% in FY22, reflecting a significant positive shift. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Cricket fans, raise a glass of your favorite **Coca-Cola beverage!** The iconic brand has cemented its long-standing relationship with the sport, signing an eight-year deal as the **global partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC)** until the end of **2031**. This partnership marks a significant extension from their initial five-year agreement in 2019, solidifying Coca-Cola's position as a major player in the cricketing world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently given its nod for the appointment of **C S Rajan** as the **part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank**, marking a significant development for the financial institution. Rajan's tenure is set to commence on the 1st of January 2024, lasting for a period of two years. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a report applauding the performance of Indian banks and non-bank lenders, emphasizing the need for stronger governance and risk-management practices to fortify their balance sheets. Despite a remarkable **12.2% growth** in the consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 2022-23, the RBI underscored the importance of continued improvement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, the second-largest public sector bank (PSB) in India, witnessed a surge in its share price, reaching a fresh 52-week high of ₹233.75 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The boost came following the bank's announcement inviting potential buyers to sell stake in its New Zealand arm. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted approval for the reverse merger of **IDFC Ltd** with its banking subsidiary, **IDFC First Bank**. The respective boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC had previously greenlit the reverse merger in July. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic partnership, Reliance Jio Infocomm, under the leadership of Chairman Akash Ambani, is set to launch the **'Bharat GPT' program** in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. Ambani revealed the company's comprehensive plans, including the development of an **operating system (OS)** for smart TVs, signaling the evolution of Jio's vision into "Jio 2.0." ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**, often referred to as an insurance behemoth, has taken the decision to **open a branch office at GIFT City**, the sole operational International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in the country. This development comes as part of LIC's ongoing efforts to enhance its global footprint and diversify its offerings. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited** recently witnessed a significant surge in its shares, rising by 9.98 per cent, following the company's collaboration with the government of **Gujarat**. The strategic move was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by **DH Shah**, Managing Director of Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, and **Sheetal Bhalariao**, Chairperson and Managing Director of Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reaffirmed **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **HDFC Bank**, and **ICICI Bank** as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). Notably, SBI and HDFC Bank have been shifted to higher buckets, necessitating increased D-SIB buffer requirements effective April 1, 2025.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC)** for the acquisition of up to 9.95% stake in Federal Bank. The approval, issued on December 28, comes with certain conditions in accordance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India, the world's third-largest energy consumer**, recently made a significant move by conducting its **first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil** purchased from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This move is seen as part of a broader strategy to diversify oil suppliers, reduce transaction costs, and position the Indian rupee as a viable trade settlement currency. The **Reserve Bank of India's decision in July 2022**, allowing importers to pay in rupees and exporters to receive payments in the local currency, has set the stage for this initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Tata Power has emerged victorious in the bid for the **Bikaner-III Neemrana-II Transmission project**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,544 crore, with a targeted commissioning period of 24 months from the date of the project SPV transfer. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is set to spearhead a fundraising round worth Rs 2,500 crore for the Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) supported by the Mahindra Group. In this initiative, various domestic institutional investors (DIIs) will also be actively participating, according to sources familiar with the matter. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In November, the production growth of **eight crucial infrastructure sectors** hit a six-month low at 7.8%, primarily attributed to declines in the crude oil and cement sectors. While this figure is higher than the 5.7% recorded a year ago, it reflects a slowdown from October's 12% growth. The last comparable dip occurred in May, with a growth rate of 5.2%. Despite the overall deceleration, coal and refinery product outputs demonstrated double-digit growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has given its nod to the appointment of **Pramod Agrawal**, the former Chief of Coal India, as the **Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**. This regulatory approval paves the way for Agrawal to assume his role on the Governing Board of BSE, **effective from January 17, 2024**. The move comes as the term of the **current Chairman, SS Mundra**, concludes on **January 16, 2024**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bengaluru-based fintech **Slice-backed North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)** has recently revealed the appointment of **Satish Kumar Kalra** as its interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sony Sports Network (SSN)** has kicked off a new era of football enthusiasm in India by appointing Bollywood heartthrob and Gen Z icon **Kartik Aaryan** as their official brand ambassador for the beautiful game. This strategic partnership aims to bring football closer to a wider Indian audience and ignite passion for the sport across generations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking achievement, **Vita Dani**, a prominent sports entrepreneur, has etched her name in history by becoming the **first Indian** to be appointed as a governing board member of the **International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India's diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka have taken a new turn with the appointment of **Santosh Jha** as the country's new High Commissioner. In a significant ceremony held in Colombo on Friday, Jha officially assumed charge and presented his credentials to President Ranil Wickremesinghe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Central government has appointed **Nina Singh** as the **first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**, marking a significant milestone in the traditionally male-dominated realm of security forces. **Rahul Rasgotra**, the **Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)**, has been named the new **Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**. **Anish Dayal Singh**, the **outgoing chief of the ITBP**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. **Vivek Srivastava**, a **1989-batch IPS officer from the Gujarat cadre**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the Fire Service, Civil Defence, and Home Guards**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar**, has been appointed as the **ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University**. This appointment comes as a result of a **modification in Statute 1(1) of the Pondicherry University Act of 1985**. The official communication from Rajneesh Bhutani, Registrar-in-charge of the University, highlights that this change is effective from December 5, as published in the official gazette by the Government of India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- Defence Secretary **Shri Giridhar Aramane** inaugurated a **new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in Bengaluru, Karnataka on December 29, 2023. The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines including two strategic engines. The newly inaugurated facility, spanning **over 10,000 sq. meters**, is poised to be a hub of innovation in the field of aerospace engineering. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the unveiling of **new designs for Admirals' epaulettes** and a **renaming of ranks within the Indian Navy**. This announcement was made during **Navy Day celebrations at Sindhudurg on December 4**, emphasizing a shift towards embracing **Bharatiyata** and breaking free from what the Navy referred to as "**Ghulami ki Maansikta**" or the slave mentality. The redesigned Admirals' epaulettes mark a symbolic departure from the past, with the octagon taking center stage. Inspired by the naval ensign and drawing from the **rajmudra (royal seal) of Chhatrapati Shivaji**, the new design aims to encapsulate India's rich maritime heritage. The **octagon, golden navy button top, and symbols of an Indian sword and telescope crossed**, along with stars indicating ranks, contribute to a visual representation of the Navy's commitment to national pride and heritage. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- In a momentous ceremony held on **December 28, 2023**, **Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu**, the newly appointed **Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council**, was bestowed with the prestigious "**Man of the Year-2023**" award. The honor, presented by **Shri Amit Shah, the Home Minister of India**, serves as a recognition of Mr. Hemanth's outstanding contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are poised to commence negotiations in February aimed at modernizing their existing free trade agreement (FTA) and addressing the prevailing trade deficit, currently standing at \$43.57 billion. The initiative seeks to revamp the **ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) by 2025**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- The **Khelo India Youth Games**, a pinnacle in India's sporting landscape, is set to kick off its 2023 edition on January 19, 2024, in **Tamil Nadu**. The southern state has proudly been chosen as the host, and the Games will unfold across four vibrant cities: **Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore**. Organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India and various **National Sports Federations (NSF)**, this event is a crucial platform for nurturing the nation's young sports talent. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India Women concluded their **first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years** with a historic **maiden victory over Australia in a one-off Test match in Mumbai on December 24**. The win marked a significant achievement for the Indian team, capping off a season characterized by exemplary performances with both bat and ball. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dean Elgar**, has decided to bid farewell to international cricket after the upcoming test series against India. Elgar, known for his resilient batting and leadership skills, will play his final test at Newlands in Cape Town, starting January 3. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian wrestler **Pooja Dhanda**, a decorated athlete with international accolades, has been suspended for one year by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to three whereabouts failures. This article examines the details of the case and its implications. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Indian cricketer **Ambati Rayudu** embarked on a new journey as he officially joined the **Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**. The significant political move was marked by an event in Vijayawada, attended by prominent dignitaries, signaling Rayudu's foray into active politics. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant move aimed at addressing **childhood pneumonia**, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister of Manipur, recently inaugurated the **SAANS Campaign 2023-24** in Imphal. Concurrently, the minister also dedicated the **Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS)** as the State Newborn Resource Centre, emphasizing the state's commitment to child healthcare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the Bihar Police has announced the implementation of '**Mission Investigation@75 Days**,' aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state. Starting from January 1 next year, investigators will be mandated to complete the **investigation of cases within 75 days of the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his delight as the **issuance of one crore Ayushman cards** marked a significant achievement during the ongoing **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY)** across the country. Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (#PMJAY), these cards **offer free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh per annum per family at empanelled hospitals nationwide**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur**, recently addressed the youth after the **launch of the MY Bharat campaign**, expressing confidence in India's remarkable progress on the global stage. He emphasized the significant strides made across various sectors, attributing the success to the government's initiatives. This article delves into the key points highlighted by Minister Thakur, showcasing India's growth trajectory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes** introduced by the Indian government have emerged as a key driver for attracting investments and boosting manufacturing across various sectors. As of September this year, these initiatives have garnered an impressive **Rs 95,000 crore in investment**, marking a significant stride towards enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri — Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** has emerged as a beacon of hope in India's healthcare landscape, particularly for women. Data released by the Health Ministry reveals a significant contribution by women to the scheme's success, with approximately **49% of the total Ayushman cards** created attributed to them. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a recent decision, the Union government announced adjustments in the returns on specific savings schemes, leaving the Public Provident Fund (PPF) rate untouched for the sixth consecutive quarter. The **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS)** will now yield 8.2%, up from the previous 8%, while the 3-year time deposit rate increases marginally to 7.1% from 7%. Despite expectations of a broader reset, the **PPF rate remains stagnant** at 7.1%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman, S Somanath, recently announced a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey. The Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission, is set to reach the **Lagrangian point L1** on January 6. This point, **located 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth**, marks a critical stage in the mission's objectives. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** has been making significant strides in space exploration, and the year 2024 is set to begin with yet another groundbreaking mission. Following the successes of the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, ISRO is gearing up for its latest venture — the **XPOsat mission**. Scheduled for launch on January 1, 2024, this mission marks **India's maiden foray into polarimetry**, a field crucial for studying black holes and other celestial sources emitting X-rays. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Important Days News

- **December 24th**, the day the act received the President's assent, became the annual celebration of **National Consumer Rights Day**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **December 25, 2023**, is celebrated as **Good Governance Day 2023** in honor of the **birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. This day pays tribute to Vajpayee's leadership and contributions to society, marked by his three terms as the Prime Minister of India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Since 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced that **26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'**, to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh — Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **December 27th**, the world unites to observe the **International Day of Epidemic Preparedness**. This vital day serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present threat of infectious diseases and the critical need for proactive measures to combat them. In the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerabilities of our interconnected world, the importance of epidemic preparedness has never been greater. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- Tamil Nadu mourns the passing of beloved actor and politician **Vijayakanth**, fondly called "Captain," who breathed his last today at the age of 71. His contributions to both cinema and the political landscape of the state leave an enduring legacy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- South Korean actor **Lee Sun-kyun**, widely recognized for his role in the Oscar-winning film **Parasite**, has been found dead in an apparent suicide in central Seoul. The 48-year-old actor's tragic end comes amidst ongoing investigations related to alleged illegal drug use, adding a somber note to his celebrated career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Wolfgang Schaeuble**, with over 50 years in the German parliament, has passed away at 81, concluding **one of Germany's lengthiest political careers**, during which he played a crucial role in anchoring his country at the center of Europe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jacques Delors**, the **former European Commission chief** and a key figure in the formation of the European Union (EU), has **died at the age of 98**. A prominent French socialist, Delors played a crucial role in shaping the EU during his **three-term presidency from January 1985 to the end of 1994**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- In a move highlighting the crucial role of camelids in the lives of people worldwide, the **United Nations** has declared **2024 as the International Year of Camelids**. This decision aims to spotlight the diverse contributions of camelids, including alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, in promoting food security, nutrition, and economic growth, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Gwalior**, often hailed as the **City of Music**, recently witnessed an extraordinary spectacle as **1500 tabla performers converged at the historic Karna Mahal of Gwalior Fort**. This monumental gathering not only set a Guinness World Record for the most persons performing tabla simultaneously but also marked a significant moment in the city's rich musical heritage. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A team of researchers from **Visva-Bharati University's botany department** has made a groundbreaking discovery that has the potential to revolutionize agricultural practices. They have identified a new bacteria strain capable of boosting plant growth and named it '**Pantoea Tagorei**' in honor of **Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Administrative Council (AC), chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, recently approved crucial changes to the **Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989**. The amendments focus on incorporating a definition of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) within the Act to facilitate their reservation in grassroots democratic institutions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic event, the **Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** unveiled the commemorative plaque, officially inaugurating the **Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Samba – Jammu**. This momentous occasion signifies a significant stride towards inclusivity and empowerment for individuals with disabilities in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards enhancing infrastructure in **Ladakh**, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the government has sanctioned a whopping **Rs 1,170.16 crore for 29 road projects in the region**. This development aims to address the connectivity challenges faced by Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

