

GA POWER CAPSULE for SBI CLERK MAINS 2024





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Most Important Current Affairs

Most Important Current Affairs of December

Taylor Swift Named Time Magazine's Person Of The Year

Taylor Swift has been named **Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023**. This recognition comes on the heels of her title as the most-played artist on Spotify, underscoring the widespread impact of her music and influence.

As Taylor Swift receives the prestigious title of **Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023**, it serves as a reflection of her multifaceted impact on music, culture, and society. Beyond the accolades and financial success, Swift's ability to connect with audiences on a global scale showcases the enduring power of her artistry. In a world where influence is measured in various dimensions, Taylor Swift stands tall as a true person of the year.

Swift's Achievements in 2023:

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary for Taylor Swift, and the Time Magazine accolade further cements her standing as a global icon. Among her notable accomplishments are:

- **Eras Tour and Concert Movie:** Swift's Eras Tour captured the hearts of fans worldwide, becoming a cultural phenomenon. The accompanying concert movie allowed even more people to experience the magic of her live performances.
- **Reimagined '1989' Album:** Swift's ability to reinvent her own work was evident with the release of her reimagined '1989' album. The project showcased her musical versatility and creativity.
- **Relationship with Travis Kelce:** Beyond her music, Swift's personal life, especially her relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, remained under the spotlight, capturing the interest of fans and the media alike.

Subject of College Courses: Swift's impact extends beyond entertainment, as she has become the subject of college courses. This highlights her cultural significance and influence on contemporary society.

Time Magazine's Recognition:

Swift faced tough competition for the Person of the Year title, standing out among a diverse group of finalists that included Barbie, King Charles III, and OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman. Time Magazine's selection acknowledges not only Swift's individual achievements but also her cultural resonance and influence.

Nirmala Sitharaman Secure Spots on Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women" of 2023

In the latest release of Forbes' annual list of "**The World's Most Powerful Women**," four notable Indian figures have garnered recognition. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal, and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw have earned positions on this prestigious list.

Nirmala Sitharaman: Climbing Rankings in Financial Leadership

Nirmala Sitharaman, serving as **India's first full-time female finance minister**, achieves her best ranking yet at number 32, marking her fifth consecutive appearance on the list. Forbes highlights her groundbreaking role and emphasizes her prior experiences at the UK-based Agricultural Engineers Association and BBC World Service before entering politics.

Roshni Nadar Malhotra: Chairing HCL and Wildlife Enthusiast

Ranked 60th, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, who assumed the role of HCL's Chairperson in July 2020, holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management. Beyond her corporate success, her passion for wildlife and conservation is notable, as per her official website. She is married to Shikhar Malhotra, and the couple has two sons.

Soma Mondal: Record Financial Growth at SAIL

Soma Mondal, the Chairperson of Steel Authority Of India, secures the 70th spot. She made history as the **first woman to lead SAIL** in January 2021. Graduating in electrical engineering, Mondal's leadership is credited with propelling the state-run company to record financial growth, tripling profits to 120 billion rupees in her inaugural year at the helm.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: Biocon Founder and Business Trailblazer

Founder of the biopharmaceutical firm Biocon in 1978, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw ranks 76th. Also featured among India's richest individuals, she successfully steered Biocon into the lucrative US market, according to her Forbes profile.

Global Power Dynamics: Top Positions Held by Politicians

The top positions on the list are dominated by politicians, with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, claiming the number 1 spot. Following her are European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, US Vice President Kamala Harris, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Diverse Influencers Beyond Politics: Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Rihanna, and More

The list extends beyond politics, featuring influential figures like musician Taylor Swift at number 5, along with fellow musicians Beyoncé and Rihanna, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, philanthropists Melinda French Gates and MacKenzie Scott, and the iconic fashion doll Barbie.

Time Magazine Names Lionel Messi 'Athlete of the Year' For 2023

Argentina's football icon, **Lionel Messi**, has been named Time magazine's **Athlete of the Year for 2023**. This prestigious honor comes on the heels of Messi's historic **eighth Ballon d'Or win**, solidifying his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time. Beyond individual accolades, Messi's impact has transcended the football pitch, notably through his transformative move to Inter Miami, a Major League Soccer (MLS) club in the United States.





Record-Breaking Ballon d'Or Win

Lionel Messi's exceptional skills and consistent excellence on the field have **earned him the Ballon d'Or for an unprecedented eighth time**. This achievement not only cements his personal legacy but also reflects his enduring influence on the global football stage. Messi's ability to maintain a high level of performance year after year is a testament to his dedication and passion for the sport.

World Cup Triumph with Argentina

Messi played a pivotal role in **Argentina's triumph at the 2022 World Cup, securing their first title in 36 years**. The Argentine captain led his team to victory in a thrilling final against defending champions France. Messi's performance in the tournament showcased his leadership and unmatched skill, leaving an indelible mark on the history of Argentine football.

Choosing Inter Miami over Other Offers

Amidst considerable speculation about his next move after leaving Paris St Germain, Lionel Messi surprised many by choosing to sign with **Major League Soccer's Inter Miami**. Despite tempting offers from his former club Barcelona and the allure of a lucrative deal with Saudi side **Al-Hilal**, Messi opted for a new challenge in the rapidly growing American soccer scene.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) December 2023

In the latest **RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting**, the key policy repo rate remains unchanged at 6.5%, reflecting the committee's unanimous decision. This marks the fifth consecutive meeting where the MPC opted to maintain the status quo on the repo rate, following a 25 bps increase in February 2023.

RBI MPC December 2023: GDP Growth and Inflation Projections

The MPC projects a **GDP growth of 7%** for the fiscal year 2023-24. Inflation is anticipated to be at **5.4%** for the same period, with a detailed breakdown indicating 5.6% for Q3 and 5.2% for Q4. Looking ahead to FY25, CPI inflation is projected at 5.2% for Q1, 4% for Q2, and 4.7% for Q3.

RBI MPC December 2023: MPC's Vigilant Stance

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the MPC's vigilance, stating that **5 out of 6 MPC members voted in favor** of withdrawing accommodation. The committee stands ready to take necessary actions to address emerging economic scenarios.

RBI MPC December 2023: Liquidity Measures and UPI Limits

In response to evolving market dynamics, the RBI has allowed the reversal of liquidity facilities under Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) even on weekends and holidays. The UPI limit has been raised from **Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction for hospitals and educational institutions**.

RBI MPC December 2023: Enhancements in Digital Transactions

The RBI has proposed significant enhancements in digital transactions, including an increase in the e-mandate limit for recurring online transactions from **Rs 15,000 to Rs 1 lakh**. Additionally, the central bank plans to establish a fintech repository to better understand the growing fintech ecosystem. Fintech firms are encouraged to voluntarily contribute information to this repository, which is set to be operationalized by the Reserve Bank Innovation Centre in April 2024 or earlier.

RBI MPC December 2023: Regulatory Framework for Digital Lending

Recognizing the importance of digital lending, the RBI has decided to establish a regulatory framework for **web aggregation of loan products**. This move aims to improve customer-centricity and transparency in the digital lending space.

RBI MPC December 2023: Other Key Highlights

- Net FPI inflows amount to **\$24.9 billion** as of December 6.
- The central bank has reduced its balance sheet size to **21.6%** in 2023-24 up to December 1.
- CPI inflation is projected at 5.4%** for the full fiscal year 2023-24, with Q3 at 5.6% and Q4 at 5.2%.

RBI MPC December 2023: Policy Rates at a Glance

- Repo Rate:** 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility Rate:** 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate:** 6.75%
- Bank Rate:** 6.75%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate:** 3.35%

Statutory Ratios

- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** 18%

Supreme Court Upholds Abrogation of Article 370: Key Judgement Highlights

The Supreme Court's landmark decision on December 11, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2019 move to abrogate the **special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370** of the Constitution. The judgment, delivered by a Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, addressed key constitutional questions and outlined significant conclusions.

1. Upholding the Abrogation of Article 370

The **Supreme Court validated** the Union Government's decision to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370, emphasizing that the state had no internal sovereignty. The court clarified that the concurrence of the State Government was not necessary, and Article 370 was deemed a temporary provision.





2. Status of Union Territory (UT) and Election Directive

The Court refrained from adjudicating on the reorganization of J&K into a Union Territory but upheld the **creation of Ladakh as a UT**. It directed the Election Commission to conduct elections for the J&K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024.

3. Constitutional Order 272 and Validity of Presidential Actions

The Court addressed the modification of Article 367 through **Constitutional Order 272**, stating that changes made were ultra vires Article 370. However, this finding did not impact the overall judgment, as the recommendation of the J&K Constituent Assembly was deemed unnecessary for the President to declare Article 370 inoperative.

4. Recognition of J&K's Integration with India

The judgment underscored that Jammu and Kashmir did not retain an element of sovereignty upon joining the Union of India. The constitutional setup indicated that J&K became an integral part of India, with Article 370 being a feature of asymmetric federalism, not sovereignty.

5. Article 370 as Temporary Provision

The Court affirmed that Article 370 was a temporary provision, and the power of the President under Article 370(3) to declare it inoperative persisted even after the dissolution of the J&K Constituent Assembly. The recommendation of the Constituent Assembly was not binding on the President.

6. Presidential Power under Article 370(1)(d)

The Court held that the President's exercise of power under Article 370(1)(d) to apply all provisions of the Constitution to J&K did not require the concurrence of the State government. The principle of consultation and collaboration was not mandatory, and the President's action was deemed valid.

7. Validity of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019

The Court did not find it necessary to adjudicate on the validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, considering the Solicitor General's assurance that J&K's statehood would be restored. The reorganization of Ladakh as a Union Territory was upheld.

8. Directive for Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Justice SK Kaul recommended the establishment of a "Truth and Reconciliation Committee" to investigate human rights violations in J&K since the 1980s and propose reconciliation measures. However, the manner of setting up the committee was left to the government, considering the sensitivity of the issues involved.

9. Restoration of J&K's Statehood

The Court directed the Election Commission to conduct elections for the J&K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024, and emphasized the restoration of J&K's statehood as soon as possible.

Tiriyani Block Clinched Top Spot In NITI Aayog's Inaugural Delta Rankings

In a significant milestone for the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), **Tiriyani Block** of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, **Telangana**, has secured the **top position** in the **first delta rankings announced by NITI Aayog**. The rankings, revealed during a virtual event at NITI Aayog, showcased the outstanding performance and progress achieved by blocks across the country in the month of June 2023.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Drive Competitiveness

- The rankings were determined based on the performance of blocks and progress achieved in the **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** during the month.
- This strategic approach aligns with the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism, marking the first time that the ranking of blocks has been calculated as part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme.

ADP Rankings Recognize Achievements in October 2023

- In addition to ABP, the event also announced the **Achievers of Development Programme (ADP)** rankings for October 2023.
- **Rayagada in Odisha** and **Jamui in Bihar** secured the first and second ranks, respectively, in this initiative.
- The top-performing blocks and districts in thematic and overall categories were felicitated, emphasizing the dual focus on both blocks and districts.

Wall of Fame: Showcasing Excellence and Impact

- A novel initiative was unveiled during the event, where the top rankers of ABP and ADP will be displayed on the **Wall of Fame** at NITI Aayog.
- The **Wall of Fame** serves as a testament to the endeavors and projects undertaken by Aspirational Blocks and Districts to improve their indicators and achieve notable progress.
- Hon'ble Vice Chairman, along with Hon'ble Members of NITI Aayog, inaugurated the Wall of Fame, celebrating the achievements of the best-performing Aspirational Blocks and Districts in the country.

Zonal Rankings Highlight Regional Success

- Geographically dividing the blocks into six zones, the rankings recognized the top performers in each zone.
- Notable winners include:

Zone	Rank	Block	District	State
1	1	Amri	West Karbi Anglong	Assam
1	2	Ngopa	Saitual	Mizoram
2	1	Harraiya	Basti	Uttar Pradesh
2	2	Virno	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh





- Winners from Zones 3 to 6 were:

Blocks	Districts	States
Maski	Raichur	Karnataka
Narnoor	Adilabad	Telangana
Sironcha, Aheri	Gadhchiroli	Maharashtra
Tirla, Pati	Dhar, Barwani	Madhya Pradesh
Andar	Siwan	Bihar
Ramgarh	Dumka	Jharkhand

Recognition and Rewards for Zonal Winners

- The winners from each zone will be felicitated with a prize amount of **Rs. 1.5 crores** for the top rank and **Rs. 1 crore** for the second rank in all zonal categories, acknowledging their exceptional efforts and progress.

About Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

- Launched on **January 7, 2023**, ABP focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life in the most challenging and underdeveloped blocks of India.
- The program includes 500 blocks from 329 districts across 27 states and 4 Union Territories, emphasizing convergence of existing schemes, defining outcomes, and constant monitoring.

Strategic Approach: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Baseline Data

- In consultation with various stakeholders, **40 key performance indicators (KPIs)** were chosen to measure progress, grouped into 5 themes.
- Baseline data as of March 31, 2023, and the first quarter on June 30, 2023, of 500 Aspirational Blocks were sourced through the Management Information System of 11 ministries.
- The first Delta rank was calculated **based on the improvement made in the first quarter**.

Chandrayaan, Jawan, and IPL Dominate India's 2023 Google Search

As 2023 draws to a close, **Google** releases its annual insights into India's search trends, revealing a fascinating tapestry of interests and curiosities that captivated the nation. This year, the data highlights a captivating mix of scientific pursuits, cinematic anticipation, and enduring love for cricket.

Here are the top 10 events that generated interest among internet users in India

- Chandrayaan-3
- Karnataka Election Results
- Israel News
- Satish Kaushik
- Budget 2023
- Turkey Earthquake

- Atiq Ahmed
- Matthew Perry
- Manipur News
- Odisha Train Accident

The list shows that the conflict between Israel and Hamas, which began after the surprise October 7 attack by Hamas operatives inside the Israeli territory, also caught the interest of the users.

Google Search Trends in India: Year in Search 2023

Google Search trends offer valuable insights into the collective interests and curiosities of India's diverse population. From scientific advancements and legal reforms to sporting passions and practical how-to guides, these trends reflect the nation's dynamic and evolving landscape.

What's Trending:

- G20:** Interest in India's G20 presidency highlights the nation's growing global prominence.
- UCC:** Queries concerning the Uniform Civil Code reflect ongoing discussions about legal reform.
- ChatGPT:** Rising awareness and curiosity around AI technology.
- Hamas:** Global events continue to capture attention, with searches about the Palestinian organization Hamas.
- Chandrayaan-3:** India's ambitious space mission generates excitement.
- Instagram Threads:** Users explore the platform's new feature.
- Timed Out in Cricket:** Basic cricket rules remain a topic of interest.
- Impact Player in IPL:** New IPL rule sparks curiosity.
- Sengol:** A specific term or topic generates significant searches.

How-to Guides:

- Sun Damage Prevention:** Focusing on natural solutions for skin and hair.
- YouTube Growth:** Aspiring creators seek advice on audience building.
- Kabaddi Skills:** The popular Indian sport continues to attract interest.
- Car Mileage Improvement:** Practical tips for fuel efficiency.
- Chess Mastery:** Aspiring chess players seek guidance.
- Rakshabandhan Surprise:** Celebrating the special bond between siblings.
- Kanjivaram Saree Identification:** Discerning authentic silk sarees.
- PAN and Aadhaar Linking:** Navigating the legal requirements.
- WhatsApp Channels:** Building communities on the popular messaging platform.
- Instagram Verification:** Aspiring influencers seek recognition.




Sports Dominated by Cricket:

- Indian Premier League:** The nation's premier cricket tournament reigns supreme.
- Cricket World Cup:** International cricket continues to captivate fans.
- Asia Cup:** Regional competition holds significant appeal.
- Women's Premier League:** New women's cricket league generates excitement.
- Asian Games:** Multi-sport event attracts attention.
- Indian Super League:** Domestic football league gains traction.
- Pakistan Super League:** Interest in neighboring country's cricket league.
- The Ashes:** The historic cricket rivalry continues to enthrall.
- Women's Cricket World Cup:** Women's cricket gains global recognition.
- SA20:** South Africa's new cricket league makes its mark.

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 Banhal
	Konkani	Mahabaleshwar Sail
	Maithili	Basukinath Jha
	Manipuri	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
	Rajasthani	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
	Sanskrit	Arun Ranjan Mishra
Novel	English	Neelum Saran Gour
	Hindi	Sanjeev
	Malayalam	E.V. Ramakrishnan
	Marathi	Kusumkhatri Rana
	Punjabi	Swarnjit Savi
	Urdu	Sadiqua Nawab Saher
Short Stories	Assamese	Pranavjyoti Deka
	Bengali	Swapnamoy Chakraborti

Category	Language	Awardees
	Bodo	Vinod Sona Minj
	Santali	Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey)
	Telugu	T. Pattabhi Satyam
Essays	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
Hindi	Mujhe Pahachano (Novel)	Sanjeev
Kannada	Mahabharata Anushandhana Bharata (Poetry)	Lakshmesh Tolpadi
Kashmiri	Yath Wawah Halis Toong Tsolay Zaley (Essays)	Manshoor Banhal
Konkani	Varsal (Short Stories)	Mahabaleshwar Sail
Maithili	Bodha Sanketan (Essays)	Basukinath Jha
Malayalam	Malayala Novelinetu Deshakalangal (Literary Study)	E.V. Ramakrishnan
Manipuri	Yangkhoibagi Nanglo Helli (Poetry)	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
Marathi	Ringan (Novel)	Kusumkhatri Rana
Nepali	Nepali Lokshitya Ra Loksanskritiko Pariyoche (Essays)	Juddhar Rana
Odia	Aprastuta Prutyu (Poetry)	Ashutosh Parida
Punjabi	Mann Di Chip (Poetry)	Swarnjit Savi
Rajasthani	Manak Mati (Poetry)	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit





Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
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 Marikoni 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.

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
Shri Sunil Kumar	Wrestling





Recipient	Sport
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 Devrukhhkar	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

Most Important Current Affairs of November

Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palacios Crowned 72nd Miss Universe 2023

Introduction

Nicaragua's **Sheynnis Palacios**, a 23-year-old TV host and model, achieved a significant milestone by being crowned **Miss Universe 2023**. The **72nd Miss Universe** event concluded with a grand ceremony at the Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena in San Salvador, El Salvador on **18th November 2023**.

Miss Universe 2023

Sheynnis Palacios, 23 years old, hailing from **Nicaragua**, clinched the coveted **title of Miss Universe 2023**, making history as the **first Nicaraguan woman to win the crown**. A TV host and model, Palacios impressed the judges in the final round by expressing her admiration for **18th-century British philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft**, highlighting women's limitless possibilities. She dedicated her victory to aspiring girls and emphasized dreaming big with determination, perseverance and passion. Palacios, a seasoned pageant competitor, had previously won **Miss Teen Nicaragua 2016** and **Miss World Nicaragua 2020**. She studied mass communications and played varsity volleyball at the Central American University, Managua.

The Winning Moment

The pinnacle of the event was reached when the reigning **Miss Universe 2022, R'Bonney Gabriel from the United States**, graciously placed the crown on **Sheynnis Palacios' head**. The stage lit up with applause and admiration from the thrilled audience as Palacios, resplendent in a meticulously embellished gown, embraced the spotlight, embodying elegance and grace in her triumphant moment.

Runner-Up Recognition

Adding to the international flair of the competition, **Anntonia Porslid of Thailand** earned the esteemed position of the **first runner-up** while **Australia's Moraya Wilson was crowned the second runner-up**. These placements not only recognized their individual beauty but also contributed to the celebration of global diversity within the Miss Universe pageant.



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Global Participation

In the grandeur of the **72nd Miss Universe pageant**, contestants hailing from **84 countries and territories competed ardently**, showcasing their unique blend of beauty, intelligence and talent. Notably, **Pakistan made its debut on the Miss Universe stage this year**, underlining the pageant's commitment to fostering inclusivity and representation on a worldwide scale.

Indian Representation

The vibrant and culturally rich representation of India was carried forward by **Chandigarh-born Shweta Sharda**, who made the country proud by **securing a spot among the top 20 finalists**. Sharda's participation not only added a touch of Indian grace to the global stage but also highlighted the diverse and multifaceted qualities of women worldwide.

Transwomen Contestants in Miss Universe 2023

Rikkie Kolle, 22 years old, crowned **Miss Netherlands**, advocates for equality and trans rights. **Marina Machete**, a flight attendant, won **Miss Portugal 2023**, breaking barriers in the history of **Miss Universe 2023**. Both pioneers have messages of resilience, love and kindness, marking historic inclusion as the **first transwomen contestants in the 72nd Miss Universe**, promoting diversity and empowerment.

The 72nd Miss Universe Event

The **72nd Miss Universe pageant** concluded at the **Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena in San Salvador, El Salvador** on **18th November 2023**. This event was elevated to greater heights by the dynamic hosting duo of American television personality **Jeannie Mai** and **Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo**. Their stage presence, along with the contributions of American television presenter **Maria Menounos**, ensured that the event was not merely a competition but a grand spectacle that captivated the global audience.

Australia Won the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 by 6 Wickets

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, Australia has lift the world cup trophy by defeating India with a convincing 6-wicket margin. Australia reached the target in 42.5 overs with six wickets in hand. Australia faced an early setback in the **ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 final** when David Warner (7) fell to Mohammed Shami, and later, Jaspirt Bumrah dismissed Mitchell Marsh (15) and Steven Smith (4). At 47 for 3, the team was in a precarious position.

However, **Travis Head (137)** and Marnus Labuschagne (58 not out) demonstrated remarkable poise, constructing a game-changing partnership of 196 runs. This resilient effort not only put Australia in a commanding position but also paved the way for their sixth World Cup title triumph. With this win Australia has won the World Cup title 6 times viz. **1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015 and 2023**.

Earlier, fast bowler Mitchell Starc took three wickets as Australia dismissed **India for 240** in the World Cup final in front of nearly 130,000 fans in Ahmedabad on November 19. Australia's **Travis Head** was declared the **Player of the Match in his side's 2023 ODI World Cup final** win against India in Ahmedabad. The Australian opener top-scored for his side in a 241-run chase, with a 120-ball 137.

Australia in ICC ODI World Cup Final – Results

- **1987:** Beat England by 7 runs (Kolkata)
- **1996:** Lost to Sri Lanka by 7 wickets (Lahore)
- **1999:** Beat Pakistan by 8 wickets (Lord's)
- **2003:** Beat India by 125 runs (Johannesburg)
- **2007:** Beat Sri Lanka by 53 runs (Bridgetown)
- **2015:** Beat New Zealand by 7 wickets (Melbourne)
- **2023:** Beat India by 6 Wickets (India)

International Emmy Awards 2023, Full List Of Winners

The global television stage lit up on Monday night in New York as the **2023 International Emmy Awards** celebrated outstanding achievements in the industry. The diverse lineup of nominees, spanning 20 countries across six continents, showcased the international prowess of television. Netflix emerged as a standout with two Best Comedy series winners: "Derry Girls" and "Vir Das: Landing," the latter featuring the comedic genius of Vir Das, one of India's top comedians.

Ektaa Kapoor Receives Prestigious Directorate Award

Esteemed film and television producer Ektaa Kapoor was recognized with the coveted Directorate Award, a testament to her significant contributions to the entertainment industry.

Vir Das: Landing and Derry Girls Share Best Comedy Series Honors

In a historic moment, both "Vir Das: Landing" and "Derry Girls" season 3 secured the Best Comedy Series award. Vir Das's stand-up special showcased his comedic brilliance, earning him well-deserved accolades.

Emmy Awards 2023 Winners in Key Categories:

1. Best Drama Series: "The Empress"
2. Best Actress: Karla Souza in "La Caida" (Dive)
3. Best Actor: Martin Freeman in "The Responder"
4. Best TV Movie/Mini-Series: "La Caida" (Dive)
5. Best Non-Scripted Entertainment: "A Ponte – The Bridge Brasil"
6. Best Short-Form Series: "Des Gens Bien Ordinaires" (A Very Ordinary World)
7. Best Live-Action – For Kids: "Heartbreak High"
8. Best Factual And Entertainment For Kids: "Built To Survive"
9. Best Documentary: "Mariupol: The People's Story"
10. Best Sports Documentary: "Harley and Katya"
11. Best Arts Programming: "Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On"





12. Best Telenovela: "Yargi" (Family Secrets)
 13. Best Animation for Kids: "The Smeds and The Smoos"
- This diverse array of winners reflects the richness and variety of global television content, showcasing excellence across genres and cultures.
- As the curtain falls on the 2023 International Emmy Awards, the spotlight remains on the outstanding contributions of artists and creators who continue to push the boundaries of storytelling on the global stage.

7 Comprehensive Changes in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)

In a significant move aimed at providing enhanced flexibility and benefits to senior citizens, the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the Ministry of Finance has notified seven key changes in the **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)**. This government-sponsored savings instrument, designed for individuals aged 60 years or employees aged 55 years or more but less than 60 years, has undergone substantial modifications, as outlined below:

1. Extended Time for Investing Retirement Benefits:

Individuals aged above **55 but below 60** now have a generous **3-month window** to invest in SCSS following receipt of retirement benefits. This is a departure from the previous requirement of investing within 1 month.

2. Investment by Spouse of Government Employee:

Spouses of government employees are now permitted to invest the financial assistance amount in the SCSS, broadening the scope of eligible investors.

3. Broadened Definition of Retirement Benefits:

The definition of retirement benefits has been explicitly outlined to include various payments received due to retirement or superannuation. This encompasses provident fund dues, gratuities, commuted pension values, leave encashment, and other retirement-related benefits.

4. Deduction on Premature Withdrawal:

Norms on premature withdrawals have been relaxed. A **1% deduction of the deposit** will be applied if the account is closed before the completion of **1 year of investment**. This marks a departure from the previous practice of recovering interest paid on premature withdrawals.

5. No Limit on the Extension of SCSS:

Account holders can now extend their SCSS accounts for multiple blocks of **3 years each**. Prior to this change, extension was allowed only once. Each extension requires a separate application.

6. Interest on Extended Deposits:

When extending the SCSS account on maturity, the deposit will earn the interest rate applicable on the date of maturity or the date of the extended maturity, providing more favorable terms for account holders.

7. Maximum Deposit Amount:

The maximum deposit limit for SCSS has been raised to **Rs 30 lakh** from **Rs 15 lakh**, effective from April 1, 2023. This aligns with the announcement made in Budget 2023.

About SCSS:

- Launched in 2004, SCSS is tailored for senior citizens, offering them a secure investment avenue and a regular income stream.
- The scheme provides a competitive interest rate, currently set at **8.20% per annum, compounded quarterly**.
- SCSS is eligible for tax deductions under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961, with a maximum deduction limit of **Rs 1.5 lakh per annum**.
- It is one of the nine small savings schemes offered by the government, including **PPF, SSY, POMIS, NSC, KVP, POTD, APY, and PMVY**.
- These amendments to the SCSS aim to address the evolving needs of senior citizens, providing them with improved financial options and ensuring the scheme remains a viable and attractive investment choice.

"Vision India@2047: Transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047"

The Indian government is working on a comprehensive national vision plan, known as '**Vision India@2047**', aimed at transforming the country into a developed nation by **2047**. The plan is designed to prevent India from falling into the middle-income trap and focuses on various aspects of **economic and social development**.

Vision India@2047: Key Objectives and Timeline

- Objective:** The primary objective of the plan is to ensure India's development into a developed nation by 2047 and avoid the middle-income trap, which has affected several countries at similar stages of development.
- Leadership:** Niti Aayog, a government think tank, has been working on this plan for nearly two years. It was presented to Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** in October.
- Consultation:** In November, consultations will be held with thought leaders, including prominent corporate figures such as **Tim Cook, Sundar Pichai, Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, K.M. Birla, N. Chandrasekharan, and Indra Nooyi**, to gather their insights and expertise.
- Draft Plan:** The draft version of the plan is expected to be ready by December. Several Indian states are also in the process of preparing their own development roadmaps.





Economic Targets

- Economic Growth:** The plan envisions making India a **\$30 trillion economy by 2047**, a significant increase from its current economic size. This ambitious goal aims to position India as one of the world's leading economies.
- Per Capita Income:** To ensure prosperity for its citizens, the plan targets a per-capita income ranging from **\$18,000 to \$20,000**. This represents a substantial increase from the current income levels.

Addressing Middle-Income Trap

- Concern:** The plan acknowledges the risk of falling into the middle-income trap, where economic growth slows down significantly after reaching a certain income level. This issue is exemplified by countries like **Argentina** that have struggled to advance economically.
- Challenges Overcome:** India has made progress in addressing longstanding challenges such as **poverty, infrastructure development** (roads, electricity, and water), and these issues are expected to be resolved in the coming years.
- Next Level:** The plan's focus is on propelling India to the next level of development to avoid stagnation in economic growth.

Regional Development and Disparities

- Regional Cleavages:** The plan also aims to address regional disparities in economic development. While some parts of India are witnessing rapid growth, others, particularly in the **East and North**, are lagging behind.
- Balanced Growth:** Achieving balanced and inclusive growth across all regions of India is considered crucial for the country's overall development.

Global Dominance in Business

- Global Presence:** The plan emphasizes the need for Indian firms to dominate various sectors on the **global stage**. Despite India's economic growth, none of the world's largest banks, contractors, legal, consultancy, or accountancy firms are from India.
- Promoting Sectors:** The plan explores ways to promote certain sectors and companies to become global champions, thereby enhancing India's presence in the global business landscape.

Skill Development and Global Demand

- Skill Sets:** Developing the skill sets required by India's young population to meet global demands is a priority. The plan recognizes the need to align educational and training programs with global market requirements.
- Nursing Sector:** India's potential to fulfill global demands, such as in the nursing sector, is noted. However, there is a need to ensure that educational institutions meet international standards to facilitate the export of skilled professionals.

Lionel Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmatí have been honored as the **2023 Ballon d'Or recipients**. Messi secures his eighth Ballon d'Or, setting a new record, thanks to his pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986. This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who last won the award in 2017. Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up.

Before this, Messi's teammate in the World Cup-winning Argentine squad, Emiliano Martínez, was recognized with the Lev Yashin Award for the world's best goalkeeper. Aitana Bonmatí, a key player in Spain's Women's World Cup victory and a Barcelona midfielder, claimed the women's Ballon d'Or.

Messi, who secured his inaugural Ballon d'Or in 2009 and held a four-year consecutive streak until 2012, was the runner-up to Haaland at the UEFA awards back in August.

Ballon d'Or 2023: All award winners – Complete list

Award	Winner
Ballon d'Or	Lionel Messi (Inter Miami, Argentina)
Ballon d'Or Feminin	Aitana Bonmatí (FC Barcelona Femení, Spain)
Kopa Trophy for the best male U-21 player	Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid, England)
Yachine Trophy for the best male goalkeeper	Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)
Gerd Müller Trophy for the highest-scoring male striker	Erling Haaland (Manchester City, Norway)
Sócrates Award to acknowledge humanitarian work	Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid, Brazil)
Club of the Year	Manchester City and FC Barcelona Femení

7 Indian States & 2 UTs Celebrated Their Formation Day on November 1st

Introduction

1st November is recognized as the formation day of seven Indian states and 2 Union Territories. This special day marks the historical moment when Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, along with the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry, came into existence. In this article, we will delve into the significance of this day and the unique histories of these regions.





Punjab's Vibrant Heritage: Formation Day, 1966

In 1966, Punjab was officially formed as a state on November 1. The division of the former East Former was based on linguistic identity, creating two separate states: **Punjab and Haryana**. People in Punjab celebrate this day to honor their rich agricultural heritage and vibrant culture, taking pride in the establishment of the present boundaries of the state.

Haryana: The Birth of a New State

Haryana, too observes Formation Day on **1st November 1966**. It was created by reorganizing the former state of Punjab, primarily to address the specific regional, linguistic and cultural needs of the people in the region. Since its formation, Haryana has thrived in agriculture, industry and cultural diversity.

Karnataka, Formation Day- 1st November 1956

On 1st November 1956, the state of Mysore was renamed as Karnataka. This change aimed to unite Kannada-speaking regions under one state, acknowledging the **cultural significance of the Kannada language**. Karnataka Formation Day celebrates this linguistic and cultural diversity, reflecting the state's dynastic rule, culture and heritage.

Chhattisgarh, Formation Day- 1st November 2000

On 1st November 2000, the state of Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. It is the **10th largest state in India**. The creation of Chhattisgarh aimed to simplify administration and curb naxalism in this region, making it an important milestone for the state and the nation.

Madhya Pradesh, The Heart of India

Madhya Pradesh came into existence on **1st November 1956**, making it the second largest state in India in terms of area. It is often referred to as the "**Heart of India**" due to its central location and its cultural and historical significance.

Andhra Pradesh, A Journey to Statehood

On 1st November 1956, Andhra Pradesh was formed. Its creation was a **result of the States Reorganization Act**, which aimed to reorganize India's states along linguistic lines. Andhra Pradesh has a rich cultural heritage and has played a vital role in the nation's development.

Kerala, Formation Day- 1st November 1956

Kerala Formation Day, celebrated on **1st November**, marks the **establishment of the state of Kerala in India in 1956**. It commemorates the **unification of Malayalam-speaking regions** and the birth of the vibrant and culturally rich state.

Formation Day of Union Territories- Lakshadweep and Puducherry

- Lakshadweep:** The Union Territory of Lakshadweep was formed on **1st November 1956**, marking its distinct geographical and cultural significance as an archipelago.

- **Puducherry:** Puducherry, also known as Pondicherry, was created by merging the French colonial territories with Indian regions in **1956**, highlighting its unique colonial history and culture.

Shiv Nadar Tops the Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023

HCLTech founder **Shiv Nadar** and his family have retained the top spot on the **EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023**. For the fiscal year 2022-23, they made a substantial donation of **Rs 2,042 crore**, marking the fifth consecutive year that Nadar, aged 78, has claimed this distinguished rank.

Azim Premji's Remarkable Leap and Young Philanthropist's Debut

Wipro founding chairman **Azim Premji** and his family secured the second position with a noteworthy donation of **Rs 1,774 crore**. Notably, Premji's philanthropic contribution witnessed a significant surge of 267% compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the list welcomed its youngest philanthropist, **Nikhil Kamath**, who made a generous donation of ₹110 crore during FY22-23.

Leading Philanthropists:

Rank	Name	Donation (in Crores)
1	Shiv Nadar and Family	Rs 2,042
2	Azim Premji and Family	Rs 1,774
3	Mukesh Ambani and Family	Rs 376
4	Nikhil Kamath	Rs 110
5	Gautam Adani and Family	Rs 285
8	Nandan Nilekani	Rs 189
9	Cyrus Poonawalla and Adar Poonawalla	Rs 179
10	Rohini Nilekani	Rs 170

Philanthropy on the Rise

According to the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023, a remarkable 119 Indians made donations exceeding ₹5 crore during the year. This figure represents a notable 59% increase from the previous year and a remarkable 200% surge compared to the period three years ago. A total of 14 individuals from India showcased their extraordinary generosity by contributing more than ₹100 crore. Additionally, 24 individuals donated over ₹50 crore, reflecting a 100% increase, and 47 individuals gave more than ₹20 crore.

Areas of Impact: Education, Arts, Culture, and Healthcare

The philanthropic contributions in the past year were distributed across various sectors, with a staggering sum of ₹1,547 crore dedicated to the field of Education, making it the most preferred recipient of philanthropic generosity. Arts, Culture, and Heritage received donations worth ₹1,345 crore, further underlining the value placed on preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage. Healthcare also remained a prominent focus, with ₹633 crore allocated to this critical sector.





Diverse Philanthropic Landscape

The list also sheds light on the diverse philanthropic landscape, revealing that the pharma industry boasts the highest number of philanthropists, accounting for 17% of the list. The Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector follows closely behind, with 11% representation among the leading philanthropists.

This year's EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List emphasizes the growing spirit of giving in India and the significant contributions made by individuals and families across various sectors, ultimately contributing to the betterment of society.

State Food Safety Index 2022- 2023

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently released the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2022-2023**, which assesses the performance of Indian states and union territories in ensuring food safety. This annual evaluation employs a dynamic benchmarking model to objectively measure food safety across all regions.

The latest index introduced a new parameter, '**Improvement in SFSI Rank**', altering the weights of existing parameters and shedding light on states' progress over the previous year.

General Decline in State Food Safety Scores

- **19 out of 20** large Indian states, including Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, experienced a decline in their 2022-2023 SFSI scores compared to 2019.

Impact of the 2023 Index Parameter Adjustment

- After adjusting for the new parameter, **15 out of 20 states** recorded lower SFSI scores in 2022-2023 compared to 2019.

Decline in 'Food Testing Infrastructure'

- The availability of adequate testing infrastructure and trained personnel in states for testing food samples decreased significantly.
- The average score dropped from **13 out of 20** in 2019 to **7 out of 17** in 2022-2023.
- **Gujarat and Kerala** were the top performers in this category, while **Andhra Pradesh** performed the worst.

Compliance Scores Decreased

- Scores for the '**Compliance**' parameter, measuring licensing, inspections, and other compliance-related tasks, also declined.
- **Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** received the highest scores, while **Jharkhand** received the lowest.
- The 2022-2023 average compliance score for large states decreased from 16 out of 30 in 2019 to 11 out of 28.

Varied Consumer Empowerment

- **Tamil Nadu** emerged as the leading state in consumer empowering initiatives, followed by **Kerala and Madhya Pradesh**.
- The overall average score increased from 7.6 points out of 20 in 2019 to 8 points out of 19 in 2022-2023.

Decline in Human Resources and Institutional Data Scores

- The availability of human resources, including Food Safety Officers and designated officers, decreased across states.
- The average score dropped from 11 out of 20 in 2019 to 7 out of 18 in 2022-2023.

Improvement in 'Training and Capacity Building'

- The average score for training and capacity building increased from 3.5 out of 10 in 2019 to 5 out of 8 in 2022-2023.

Improvement in SFSI Rank

- In the 'Improvement in SFSI Rank' parameter, Punjab showed significant improvement, while 14 out of 20 large states received 0 points, indicating limited progress.

World Intellectual Property Indicators Report 2022: Global Patenting Activity Hits Record High

In 2022, the global landscape of intellectual property (IP) experienced significant changes and trends, as outlined in the **World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report**. While trademark and design applications dropped, patent filings saw an unprecedented surge, driven primarily by innovators from **India and China**. This article will provide insights into the key findings and trends from the WIPI report.

Patent Filings Reach New Heights

In 2022, the world witnessed an impressive surge in patent applications, marking the third consecutive year of growth. Innovators worldwide submitted a staggering 3.46 million patent applications, demonstrating a remarkable global interest in protecting intellectual property.

Leading Countries in Patent Filings

The top countries contributing to this patenting boom included China, the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Germany. **China maintained its dominant position**, accounting for nearly half of all global patent applications. However, the country's growth rate experienced a decline from 6.8% in 2021 to 3.1% in 2022. In contrast, **India stood out with an exceptional growth rate of 31.6%**, extending an impressive 11-year streak of growth, unparalleled among the top 10 filers.

Challenges Loom for the IP Ecosystem

Despite this remarkable growth in patent applications, the **WIPO Director General, Daren Tang**, expressed concerns about geopolitical instability and an uncertain economic outlook that could impact the global intellectual property ecosystem. These factors could potentially affect the future growth of IP filings.

Asia Dominates IP Filings

Continuing a long-term trend, the majority of IP filing activity occurred in Asia. In 2022, Asia accounted for 67.9% of global patent filings, 67.8% of trademark applications, and 70.3% of industrial design filings, reaffirming the region's central role in the global IP landscape.





Patent Filings by Residents of China and India

Chinese residents led the way with around 1.58 million patent applications in 2022, both domestically and internationally. Following China were the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Germany. China, the Republic of Korea, and the United States saw increases in their patent applications, while Germany and Japan experienced declines. Notably, **India reported substantial growth in patent filings**, along with Switzerland, Austria, and the United Kingdom.

Trademark Applications Experience a Downturn

In contrast to patent filings, trademark applications faced a downturn in 2022, with a 14.5% decrease in application class counts. This drop followed the exceptional growth in 2020 and 2021, influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated changes in work and lifestyle, leading to the introduction of new goods and services.

Trademark Filings by Leading Countries

China led the way in trademark filings with a combined count of around 7.7 million classes, followed by the **United States, Türkiye, Germany, and India**. However, filings from 14 of the top 20 countries experienced a decrease in 2022, with China's filings declining by nearly 21%.

Trademark Growth in Some Countries

Despite the overall decrease, trademark filing grew in six of the top 20 countries, with some recording double-digit growth. Countries like the Russian Federation, Türkiye, and Indonesia experienced notable growth. This growth was driven by both domestic and international filing activities.

Industrial Design Applications Experience a Decline

In 2022, there was a 2.1% decrease in industrial design applications, with a total of 1.1 million applications containing approximately 1.5 million designs. China was the leading country in terms of design count, followed by Türkiye, Germany, the United States, and the Republic of Korea.

Growth in Industrial Design in Select Countries

While most of the top 20 origins saw a decrease in design count, countries like **Türkiye, Brazil, India, Italy, and Switzerland experienced growth**. Additionally, several low- and middle-income economies beyond the top 20 origins, such as Bulgaria, Morocco, and Indonesia, reported high annual growth rates in 2022.

About WIPO

The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** is the global forum for intellectual property policy, services, information and cooperation. A specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO assists its 193 member states in developing a

balanced international IP legal framework to meet society's evolving needs. It provides business services for obtaining IP rights in multiple countries and resolving disputes. It delivers capacity-building programs to help developing countries benefit from using IP. And it provides free access to unique knowledge banks of IP information.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches 12 GST Seva Kendras In Vapi, Gujarat

On a festive occasion at Gyandham School in **Vapi, Gujarat**, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, inaugurated **12 Goods and Services Tax (GST) Seva Kendras**, showcasing the government's commitment to enhancing the Ease of Doing Business in the country. Additionally, she **recognized and rewarded** the participants of the "**Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar**" (MBMA) scheme, which promotes the culture of generating bills during sales and purchase transactions.

GST Seva Kendras: A Step Towards Ease of Doing Business

- The newly launched GST Seva Kendras, located in key cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Godhra, Vapi, Mehsana, Palanpur, Gandhinagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, and Gandhidham, mark a substantial advancement in facilitating GST-related services.
- These centers will serve as dedicated service points for taxpayers, aiming to provide assistance and support regarding Goods and Services Tax-related issues.
- By introducing these state-of-the-art centers, the government is taking concrete steps to simplify and streamline GST-related processes, thereby enhancing the ease of doing business in India.

List of 12 newly launched GST Seva Kendras

Sno.	Location
1	Ahmedabad
2	Vadodara
3	Surat
4	Godhra
5	Vapi
6	Mehsana
7	Palanpur
8	Gandhinagar
9	Rajkot
10	Bhavnagar
11	Junagadh
12	Gandhidham





Promoting Transparency with Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar Scheme

- The “Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar” (MBMA) scheme, launched by the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** on **September 1, 2023**, has gained significant momentum in promoting transparency and accountability in business transactions.
- This initiative encourages citizens to **request a bill from traders or shopkeepers** when making a purchase. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized that it is not only the right of the consumer to receive a bill but also the duty of the trader or shopkeeper to issue one.

Rewarding Transparency: Cheque Awards for MBMA Participants

- A noteworthy highlight of the event was the presentation of **Rs 10 lakh cheque awards to six customers** who actively participated in the Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar scheme.
- These winners **uploaded their valid GST bills on the app after making a purchase**, demonstrating their commitment to promoting transparency and ensuring that their transactions are accurately documented.
- Such incentives aim to motivate more individuals to request bills and actively engage in the MBMA scheme, further strengthening the culture of generating invoices during transactions.

Gujarat Leading the Way

- During her address, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman **applauded Gujarat for taking the lead in establishing these GST Seva Kendras**, which she believes will serve as a role model for other states to follow.
- She noted that the implementation of GST was met with initial concerns, but by prioritizing the interests of the people and through collaborative efforts with members of the GST Council in every state, the dream of “**One Nation, One Tax**” envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has become a reality.

QS Asia University Rankings 2024: IIT Bombay And IIT Delhi Within Top 50

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global higher education think-tank renowned for compiling university rankings, revealed the **QS Asia University Rankings 2024** yesterday. This eagerly anticipated release sheds light on the academic prowess of institutions across the continent.

Indian Excellence in the Top 50

- Two prestigious Indian institutions, **IIT Bombay** and **IIT Delhi**, showcased their academic strength by securing positions within the top 50.
- IIT Bombay**, maintaining its status as India's leading institution, secured an impressive **40th position** in the Asian rankings.

QS Asia University Rankings 2024: Top 10 Universities From India

Sno.	University	Rank
1	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	40
2	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	46
3	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	53
4	Indian Institute of Science	58
5	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur	59
6	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	63
7	University of Delhi	94
8	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	111
9	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	116
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University	117

India Dominates QS Asia University Rankings

- India proudly boasts the **highest number of universities** featured in the QS Asia University Rankings 2024, with a total of **148**. This marks a substantial **increase of 37** from the previous year.

Top Eight Countries With the Highest Number of Featured Universities

Sno.	Country	Number of Universities
1	India	148
2	Mainland China	133
3	Japan	96
4	South Korea	87
5	Pakistan	63
6	Taiwan	46
7	Indonesia	42
8	Malaysia	41

Peking University Tops Asia Again: HKU and NUS Follow

- Peking University of China** retained its **top rank** in Asia for the second consecutive year.
- The **University of Hong Kong (HKU)** and the **National University of Singapore (NUS)** claimed the **second and third spots**, respectively.

QS Asia University Rankings 2024: Top 10 Institutions

Sno.	Institute	Location
1	Peking University	China (Mainland)
2	University of Hong Kong (HKU)	Hong Kong SAR
3	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore





Sno.	Institute	Location
4	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
5	Tsinghua University	China (Mainland)
6	Zhejiang University	China (Mainland)
7	Fudan University	China (Mainland)
8	Yonsei University	South Korea
9	Korea University	South Korea
10	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	Hong Kong SAR

A Showcase of Excellence

- The edition of the rankings is the **largest to date**, encompassing **856 institutions** from 25 countries and territories.

List Of 25 distinct countries and territories Featured

Sno.	Country/Territory
1	Bangladesh
2	Brunei
3	Cambodia
4	China (Mainland)
5	Hong Kong SAR
6	India
7	Indonesia
8	Iran
9	Japan
10	Kazakhstan
11	Kyrgyzstan
12	Macau SAR
13	Malaysia
14	Myanmar (Burma)
15	Nepal
16	Pakistan
17	Philippines
18	Singapore
19	South Korea
20	Sri Lanka
21	Taiwan
22	Tajikistan
23	Thailand
24	Uzbekistan
25	Vietnam

Key Indian Institutions Shine in Top 100 Rankings

- Notable Indian institutions featured prominently include IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, and the University of Delhi, all positioned **within the top 100**.

Individual Institution Performances

- IIT Delhi secured the **46th rank**, IIT Madras stood at 53rd, IISc claimed the 52nd position, IIT Kharagpur was positioned 61st, and Delhi University secured a spot in the rankings.
- IIT Bombay demonstrated outstanding performance with an overall score of **67.2** out of 100.

Outstanding Performance Indicators for IIT Bombay

- IIT Bombay excelled in academic reputation (83.5) and employer reputation (96) and also performed well in faculty-student ratio (14.8), staff with a PhD (100), and papers per faculty (95.7), among other indicators.
- Notably, IIT Bombay's staff with PhD credentials emerged as its strongest indicator. Moreover, IIT Bombay secured the **149th position** in the QS World Rankings 2024.

A Balanced Performance Trend

- An in-depth analysis of the rankings reveals a **balanced performance trend**, with more than half of the ranked universities either maintaining their position, improving, or declining in comparison to last year's rankings.

Methodology and Indicators

- The methodology used for these rankings is akin to that of the QS World University Rankings, with additional indicators and adapted weightings.
- There are **11 indicators** employed in compiling the QS Asia University Rankings.
- These encompass academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, international research network, citations per paper, papers per faculty, staff with a PhD, proportion of international faculty, proportion of international students, proportion of inbound exchange students, and proportion of outbound exchange students.

Kozhikode and Gwalior Join UNESCO Creative Cities Network

In a recent announcement, UNESCO welcomed 55 new cities into its **Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**, which focuses on promoting creativity as a strategic factor in urban development. Notably, two Indian cities, **Kozhikode and Gwalior**, made their mark by joining this esteemed network.

Kozhikode: The City of Literature

Historical Milestone:

Kozhikode, situated in Kerala, stands out as the first Indian city to be designated as the '**City of Literature**' by UNESCO, marking a historic achievement.




Cultural Hub for Literature:

The city has a longstanding tradition of hosting literary events, including the Kerala Literature Festival, one of the largest literary gatherings in Asia, which showcases Kozhikode as a vital center for intellectual exchange and literary discussions.

Library Abundance:

Kozhikode's literary commitment is evident through its 500-plus libraries, highlighting its dedication to knowledge dissemination and fostering a culture of reading.

Home to Literary Luminaries:

The city is also a nurturing ground for renowned writers like S. K. Pottekkatt, Thikkodiyan, and P. Valsala Sanjayan, along with a vibrant community of poets, scholars, and publishers contributing to the richness of Malayalam literature and culture.

Gwalior: The City of Music
Honoring Musical Heritage:

Gwalior, located in Madhya Pradesh, has earned the distinction of being designated as the '**City of Music**' by UNESCO, following in the footsteps of Varanasi, which received this recognition in 2015.

Birthplace of Tansen:

Gwalior is widely recognized as the birthplace of Tansen, one of India's greatest musicians and composers, who was among the 'Navratnas' (nine jewels) in the court of Emperor Akbar, contributing significantly to Indian classical music.

Gwalior Gharana:

The city is the cradle of the Gwalior Gharana, the oldest and most influential school of Hindustani classical music, shaping the musical heritage of the region.

Celebrating Music:

Gwalior hosts the annual Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, one of India's largest music festivals, attracting music enthusiasts and artists from across the country and abroad, underscoring the city's deep-rooted musical traditions.

NICL AO
Generalists
Pre & Mains
100+ Total Tests

Test Series

ICC Announced The Inclusion Of Three Cricket Maestros In The ICC Hall Of Fame

The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently announced the induction of **three** cricketing maestros into the coveted ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. The latest additions to this prestigious list include the explosive opener **Virender Sehwag**, Indian trailblazer **Diana Edulji**, and Sri Lankan superstar **Aravinda de Silva**. Each of these cricketing icons has left an indelible mark on the game, making them worthy recipients of this esteemed honor.

Virender Sehwag: The Destructive Dynamo

- **Virender Sehwag**, renowned as one of the most destructive batters of the modern era, has rightfully earned his place in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. His staggering records across formats showcase his unparalleled prowess with the bat:

Format	Matches	Runs	Average	Wickets
Tests	104	8,586	49.34	40
ODIs	251	8,273	35.05	96
T20s	19	394	21.88	—

- He notched up **23 Test centuries**, including a monumental 319 against South Africa in 2008. His ODI contributions, highlighted by a memorable 219 against the West Indies in 2011, played a pivotal role in India's World Cup triumph in 2011.

Diana Edulji: Spinner Extraordinaire and Trailblazer

- **Diana Edulji**, a trailblazer for Indian women's cricket, has made an immense impact both on and off the field. Her playing career statistics are noteworthy:

Format	Matches	Runs	Average	Wickets
Tests	20	404	25.77	63
ODIs	34	211	16.84	46

- Edulji's significance extends beyond her playing days. As an administrator, she championed the cause of women's cricket in India, working towards increased employment opportunities for talented female cricketers.

Aravinda de Silva: World Cup Winner and Elegant Batsman

- **Aravinda de Silva**, a key figure in Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup triumph, has rightfully earned his place in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. His distinguished career includes:

Format	Matches	Runs	Average	Wickets
Tests	93	6,361	42.97	29
ODIs	308	9,284	34.90	106

- De Silva's ability to adapt his game according to the situation made him a crucial player for Sri Lanka. His unforgettable unbeaten **107*** in the 1996 World Cup final against Australia remains etched in cricketing history.





Uttarakhand's Unique Products Gets Geographical Indication Tags

In a significant recognition of Uttarakhand's rich and diverse heritage, the **Geographical Indications (GI) Registry** has bestowed the coveted GI tags upon more than **15 products** from the state. These products, ranging from traditional teas to textiles and pulses, not only reflect the cultural tapestry of Uttarakhand but also hold immense economic potential.

1. Berinag Tea: Himalayan Elegance in Every Sip

Uttarakhand's Berinag tea, crafted from the leaves of a plant that thrives in the Himalayan wilderness, has earned a spot on the list. The unique process of compressing the leaves into a solid mass sets this tea apart. Widely sought after by London tea houses and blenders, Berinag tea showcases the region's expertise in the art of tea-making.

2. Bichhu Buti Fabrics: Sustainable Fashion from Himalayan Nettles

The recognition extends to Bichhu buti fabrics, made from Himalayan nettle fibers. These fabrics, known for their natural insulation properties, are ideal for clothing in both winter and summer. The hollow fibers trap air, providing a unique and sustainable solution for the fashion industry.

3. Uttarakhand Mandua: A Staple Delight

Uttarakhand's finger millet, known as Mandua, has been an integral part of the local diet in Garhwal and Kumaon. The acknowledgment with a GI tag underscores its significance as a staple food item, marking its distinctiveness in terms of taste and cultural importance.

4. Jhangora: The Himalayan Millet Marvel

Another homegrown millet, Jhangora, found in the rain-fed areas of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, now carries the GI tag. This recognition highlights its unique characteristics and strengthens its identity as a valuable local produce.

5. Gahat: Medicinal Pulse of Uttarakhand

Gahat, a crucial pulse thriving in the dry regions of Uttarakhand, has been granted a GI tag. With known medicinal uses documented in Ayurveda and traditional medicine, Gahat is not only a culinary delight but also a testament to the state's traditional medicinal knowledge.

6. Uttarakhand Lal Chawal: Organically Grown Gem

Organically grown in the Purola region, Uttarakhand Lal Chawal, a red rice variant, now proudly carries the GI tag. This recognition further emphasizes the uniqueness of this locally cultivated rice variety.

Diverse Range of Recognition

The list of GI-tagged products from Uttarakhand is extensive, covering a spectrum of items such as the Uttarakhand Kala Bhat (black soybean), Malta fruit, Chaulai (Ramdana) grain for fasting

days, Buransh juice from Rhododendron arboreum flowers, Pahari Toor Dal, Uttarakhand Likhai or wood carvings, Nainital Mombatti (candles), Kumaon's Rangwali Pichhoda, Ramnagar Nainital Litchis, Ramgarh Nainital Peaches, Chamoli Wooden Ramman Masks, and Almora Lakhori Mirchis, a distinctive chili variant.

Conclusion: A Culmination of Culture and Commerce

The conferment of GI tags on these diverse products not only celebrates Uttarakhand's cultural wealth but also opens up new avenues for economic growth. These products, now recognized on a global scale, are poised to contribute significantly to the state's identity and economy, ensuring their legacy for generations to come.

Irish author Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize

Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the **2023 Booker prize** for his fifth novel '**Prophet Song**' beating London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel "**Western Lane**", at a ceremony in London last night. After being honoured with the award. The novel, Lynch's fifth, seeks to show the unrest in Western democracies and their indifference towards disasters such as the implosion of Syria. The author receives £50,000 and was presented with his trophy.

About the novel

The storyline of the book is set in imagined future Ireland that descends into oppressive rule. The story suggests that civil war leads to families' fleeing Ireland. The story centres on alternate Dublin where members of the newly formed secret police, established by a government proceed towards totalitarianism. The protagonist Eilish is a microbiologist who looks after her four children and her elderly father amid civil war following disappearance of her husband. Eilish's husband, a senior official in the Teachers' Union of Ireland goes into hiding when secret police knocks at their door.

Last Year Winner

Last year, **Shehan Karunatilaka** won the Booker prize for '**The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida**', whose story centres on Sri Lankan civil war. A novel about political conflict won the prize for the second year in a row. Lynch the fifth Irish author to win the prize while the last Irish writer Anna Burns won the award in 2018. Booker Prize is awarded to the best novel of fiction written in English and published in UK and Ireland.

Shortlist Category

- The Bee Sting
- Western Lane
- Prophet Song
- This Other Eden
- If I Survive You
- Study for Obedience





Angkor Wat Becomes the 8th wonder of the world

Angkor Wat, located in the heart of **Cambodia**, has recently earned the prestigious **title of the 8th wonder of the world**, surpassing Italy's Pompeii. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is not only the largest religious structure in the world but also a testament to architectural brilliance and cultural significance.

About Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat is an expansive temple complex that spans approximately **500 acres and serves as the largest religious monument in the world**. Originally constructed in the **12th century by King Suryavarman II**, the temple was dedicated to the **Hindu deity Vishnu**. Over time, it transformed into a major Buddhist temple, reflecting the transition from Hinduism to Buddhism. The site is renowned for its statue of eight-armed Vishnu, revered as a protecting deity by the locals.

Historical Significance

Built in the **12th century**, Angkor Wat's history is marked by its transformation from a Hindu temple to a Buddhist sanctuary. The intricate carvings on the temple walls depict scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology, providing a visual journey through the religious and historical evolution of the region.

Architectural Wonder

Angkor Wat's architectural brilliance is evident in its massive scale, precise symmetry and intricate bas-reliefs. The central temple complex features five lotus-shaped towers representing **Mount Meru, a mythical abode of gods in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology**. Surrounding its outer walls is a vast moat, adding to the grandeur of this ancient marvel.

Intricate Bas-Reliefs

The walls of Angkor Wat are adorned with detailed bas-reliefs that serve as an ancient visual encyclopedia. These carvings depict scenes from Hindu epics, historical events and the daily life of the Khmer people. The level of detail in these carvings showcases the skill and craftsmanship of the artisans who contributed to this colossal project.

Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Beyond its architectural splendor, Angkor Wat holds immense cultural and spiritual importance. It remains an active religious site, attracting Buddhist monks and devotees who engage in prayer and meditation, contributing to the ongoing legacy of this historic monument.

Sunrise at Angkor Wat

One of the most iconic experiences at Angkor Wat is witnessing the sunrise over its majestic towers. As dawn breaks, the temple is bathed in **hues of pink, orange and gold**, creating a breathtaking spectacle that adds to the allure of this 8th wonder of the world.

IFFI 2023: 'Endless Borders' Wins Golden Peacock

The **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** in **Goa** ended on November 28 with an award ceremony. The nine-day festival concluded at **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa**. For the prestigious Golden Peacock, a total of 15 films comprising 12 international and 3 Indian films competed. **'Endless Borders'** took home the award. Iranian actor Pouria Rahimi Sam bagged the Best Actor award for his role in **'Endless Borders'**. **'Kantara'** scripted history as it became the first Kannada film to win an award at IFFI. Kannada actor and filmmaker Rishab Shetty was honoured with the Special Jury Award for his pan-Indian blockbuster film.

Legendary Hollywood actor and producer **Michael Douglas** was conferred with the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** while **'Panchayat Season 2'** got the Best Web Series Award. Closing Film **'The Featherweight'** has its Asia premier at 54th IFFI. The American film has its Asia premier at 54th IFFI in Goa today as the closing film of the festival. Robert Kolodny, the director of the film **The Featherweight**.

Here's the full list of the winners of IFFI 2023

- Golden Peacock Best Film: **'Endless Borders'**
- Best Actor-Male: Pouria Rahimi Sam for **'Endless Borders'**
- Best Actor (Female): Melanie Thierry for **'Party of Fools'**
- Best Director: Stephan Komandarev for **'Blaga's Lessons'**
- Special Jury Award: Rishab Shetty For **'Kantara'**
- Best Debutant Director: Reger Azad Kaya for his Syrian-Arab Republic film **'When the Seedlings Grow'**
- Best Web Series: **'Panchayat Season 2'**
- Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Douglas

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Built in the **12th century**, Angkor Wat's history is marked by its transformation from a Hindu temple to a Buddhist sanctuary. The intricate carvings on the temple walls depict scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology, providing a visual journey through the religious and historical evolution of the region.





Angkor Wat Architectural Wonder

Angkor Wat's architectural brilliance is evident in its massive scale, precise symmetry and intricate bas-reliefs. The central temple complex features five lotus-shaped towers representing **Mount Meru, a mythical abode of gods in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology**. Surrounding its outer walls is a vast moat, adding to the grandeur of this ancient marvel.

Intricate Bas-Reliefs

The walls of Angkor Wat are adorned with detailed bas-reliefs that serve as an ancient visual encyclopedia. These carvings depict scenes from Hindu epics, historical events and the daily life of the Khmer people. The level of detail in these carvings showcases the skill and craftsmanship of the artisans who contributed to this colossal project.

Angkor Wat Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Beyond its architectural splendor, Angkor Wat holds immense cultural and spiritual importance. It remains an active religious site, attracting Buddhist monks and devotees who engage in prayer and meditation, contributing to the ongoing legacy of this historic monument.

Sunrise at Angkor Wat

One of the most iconic experiences at Angkor Wat is witnessing the sunrise over its majestic towers. As dawn breaks, the temple is bathed in **hues of pink, orange and gold**, creating a breathtaking spectacle that adds to the allure of this 8th wonder of the world.

Who is King Suryavarman II?

Suryavarman II, also known as Paramavishnuloka, was a king of the **Khmer Empire** who ruled from **1113 to 1150 AD**. He is best known for building the Angkor Wat temple complex, which is the largest religious monument in the world.

- Suryavarman II was a devout Hindu and a skilled military leader. He expanded the Khmer Empire to its greatest extent and brought much of Southeast Asia under his control. He also oversaw a period of great cultural and artistic flourishing.
- Suryavarman II's most famous achievement is the Angkor Wat temple complex. This massive structure was built to honor the Hindu god Vishnu. It is a masterpiece of Khmer architecture and is considered one of the most important religious sites in the world.
- Suryavarman II's reign was a golden age for the Khmer Empire. He was a powerful and wise leader who left a lasting legacy on Cambodia. His achievements continue to inspire people today.

COP28: A Comprehensive Guide to Key Information

What is COP28?

COP28 is the **28th Conference of the Parties (COP)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It is a global summit where world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and activists come together to discuss and take action on climate change. COP came into existence in 2010. It facilitates the exchange of best practices and innovations across vital sectors crucial to decarbonisation efforts in the areas of energy, transport, buildings, industry, finance and nature.

The COP is a crucial annual gathering where world leaders, policymakers, scientists and activists convene to find out solution to the growing challenges of climate change.

- The COP meetings act as the decision-making body of the UNFCCC in order to address the climate change.
- COP28, the 28th edition of this significant assembly, marks another pivotal moment in the ongoing fight against climate change.

Objectives of COP28

The main objectives of COP28 are to:

- Limiting the increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Assisting the communities who are most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.
- Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. "Net-zero emissions by 2050" aims to balance the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere with their removal through human-made or natural processes by 2050.

The term "climate change" describes notable and persistent alterations to the Earth's long-term climate patterns, usually spanning decades to millions of years. These changes include differences in temperature, precipitation, wind direction, and other Earthly climate factors.

Achievements of COP

COP has already achieved a number of important milestones, including:

- **The Kyoto Protocol:** This international treaty was established in 1997 and set binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The Paris Agreement:** This agreement was adopted in 2015 and aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Challenges

Despite the progress that has been made, there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including:

- The need for more ambitious emission reduction targets
- The need for more financial support for developing countries
- The need for more innovation in clean energy technologies




Initiatives by India

Despite not having legally binding emission reduction targets, India has been actively engaged in addressing climate change and implementing measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated "**Panchamrit**" on India's climate action at the 26th session of the COP 26 held in Glasgow, United Kingdom. This includes commitment towards reaching 500GW Non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.

- Sourcing 50 % of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.
- Reduction of the carbon intensity of the economy by 45 per cent by 2030, over 2005 levels.
- To attain net zero emissions by 2070.

India has prioritized sustainable development projects like, renewable energy targets, promoting energy efficiency, implementing emissions reduction policies, to achieve its climate goals.

COP 28 is scheduled to take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30, 2023, to December 12, 2023. It is expected that around 70,000 participants, including the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, will attend COP28. Participants include journalists, young people, Indigenous Peoples, climate scientists, business executives, and a variety of other professionals and stakeholders.

COP28

COP28 will take place in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**, from **November 30, 2023, to December 12, 2023**. It is expected that around 70,000 participants will attend. COP28 is an important opportunity for world leaders to come together and take action on climate change. The summit is expected to make significant progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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50+ TOTAL TESTS

Most Important Current Affairs of October
Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List
Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List

The **Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List** represents a diverse range of fields and disciplines, but they are all united by their extraordinary contributions to humanity. Their work has had a profound impact on our understanding of the world around us and on our ability to solve some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

The Nobel Prize is the world's most prestigious award, honoring individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace, and economics. The prizes are awarded annually by the Nobel Foundation, based on the will of Swedish industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize.

Check Out the Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List

Nobel Prize Category	Winners	Date	Achievements
Physiology or Medicine	Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman	2 October	For their pioneering work on mRNA vaccines
Physics	Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier	3 October	For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter
Chemistry	Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov	4 October	For the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots
Literature	Jon Fosse	5 October	For his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable
Peace	Narges Mohammadi	6 October	For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all
The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	Claudia Goldin	9 October	for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes





GST Council clears a few measures to boost foreign trade

The 52nd GST Council meeting took place under the leadership of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting covered various important decisions and recommendations related to changes in GST tax rates, trade facilitation measures, and compliance streamlining.

Recommendations on GST Rates for Goods and Services

I. Changes in GST Rates for Goods

1. Food Preparation of Millet Flour:

- The GST rates for food preparations made from millet flour have been adjusted.
- If sold loose, it will have a **0% GST rate**, and if sold pre-packaged, it will have a **5% GST rate**.

2. Imitation Zari Thread:

- Imitation zari threads made from metallized polyester or plastic film will be taxed at a **5% GST rate**.
- However, there will be no refund on the polyester/plastic film used.

3. Foreign Going Vessels:

- Foreign going vessels converting to coastal runs will be subject to **5% IGST**.
- Conditional IGST exemption is recommended for these vessels, provided they reconvert to foreign going vessels within six months.

II. Other Changes Related to Goods:

4. Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)

- ENA used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption will be excluded from GST.

5. Molasses:

- The GST rate on molasses will be reduced from **28% to 5%**.
- This will help mills have more liquidity for clearing cane dues to sugarcane farmers and reduce cattle feed manufacturing costs.

6. Rectified Spirit for Industrial Use:

- A new **8-digit HS code** will be created for rectified spirit used for industrial purposes, with an **18% GST rate**.

III. Changes in GST Rates for Services:

7. Exemptions for Government Services:

- Services provided to Central/State/UT governments, local authorities, and services like water supply, public health, sanitation, conservancy, solid waste management, slum improvement, and upgradation supplied to Governmental Authorities will be exempt from GST.

8. Job Work Services for Barley Processing:

- Job work services for processing barley into malt will have a **5% GST rate**, similar to job work related to food and food products.

9. GST on Bus Transportation Services via ECOs:

- Bus operators organized as companies may be excluded from paying GST under section 9(5) of the CGST Act, 2017, for bus transportation services via **Electronic Commerce Operators (ECOs)**.

10. District Mineral Foundations Trusts (DMFT):

- DMFTs set up by State Governments will be considered Governmental Authorities and eligible for GST exemptions.

11. GST on Indian Railways:

- All goods and services supplied by **Indian Railways** will be taxed under Forward Charge Mechanism to allow them to avail **Input Tax Credit (ITC)**.

Trade Facilitation Measures

i) Amnesty Scheme for Filing Appeals:

- An amnesty scheme will be introduced for taxable persons who couldn't file appeals against demand orders within the allowable time frame.
- They can now file appeals against such orders until January 31, 2024, by paying 12.5% of the disputed tax, with at least 20% being debited from their Electronic Cash Ledger.

ii) Clarifications on Taxability of Personal Guarantees:

- Clarifications will be provided regarding the taxability of personal guarantees offered by directors to banks and corporate guarantees provided for related persons, including those by holding companies to subsidiaries.

iii) Automatic Restoration of Provisionally Attached Property:

- Properties provisionally attached will be automatically released after one year, eliminating the need for a separate order from the Commissioner.

iv) Clarifications on Place of Supply:

- A circular will be issued to clarify the place of supply for various services, including transportation of goods, advertising services, and co-location services.

v) Clarification on Export of Services:

- A circular will be issued to clarify the admissibility of export remittances received in Special INR Vostro accounts for the consideration of supply of services to qualify as export of services.

vi) Supplies to SEZ Units/Developers:

- Amendments will be made to allow suppliers to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developers or units to supply goods or services to them on payment of integrated tax, with a refund route.



**Other Measures Related to Law and Procedures:****i) Alignment of CGST Act with Tribunal Reforms Act:**

- Amendments will be made to the CGST Act to align the provisions with the **Tribunal Reforms Act**, including eligibility criteria and age limits for the appointment of judicial members and Presidents.

ii) Amendment in ISD Procedure:

- The **Input Service Distributor (ISD)** procedure will be made mandatory for distributing **Input Tax Credit (ITC)** in certain cases. Rules will be amended accordingly.

iii) Automatic Restoration of Provisionally Attached Property:

- After one year, properties provisionally attached will be automatically released without the need for a separate order from the Commissioner.

Global Hunger Index 2023: India's Decline to 111th Place

In the latest **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** for 2023, India has been ranked 111 out of 125 countries, marking a decline from its 107th position in 2022. The GHI is an annual assessment of hunger levels globally, published by Irish NGO Concern Worldwide and German NGO Welt Hunger Hilfe.

Key Findings of Global Hunger Index 2023

- The GHI 2023 report highlights that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, standing at 18.7 percent during 2018–22, which signifies acute undernutrition.
- The rate of undernourishment in India is reported at 16.6 percent, and the under-five mortality rate is 3.1 percent.
- The prevalence of anemia among women aged between 15 and 24 years in India is alarmingly high at 58.1 percent.
- India's overall GHI score is 28.7, categorizing the hunger situation in the country as "serious."

Comparison with Neighbors: A Comparative Lens

In comparison to neighboring countries, India's GHI ranking appears stark:

- India: 111th**
- Pakistan: 102nd**
- Bangladesh: 81st**
- Nepal: 69th**
- Sri Lanka: 60th**

India's ranking pales in comparison to its neighbors, raising concerns about the nation's ability to tackle hunger effectively.

Top and Worst Performers in Global Hunger Index 2023:

- Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China and Croatia** are the top five countries in GHI 2023.
- Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, and Central African Republic** are the countries ranked at the bottom of the index.

Bihar Caste Census Reveals Demographic Insights

The Bihar government recently released the results of its caste survey, shedding light on the state's demographic composition. While it is important to note that no detailed analysis has been conducted yet, the survey provides valuable data on caste distribution in Bihar.

Bihar Caste Census: Key Demographic Breakdowns

Here are the key findings from the Bihar caste survey:

1. OBCs and EBCs Dominate:

- Extremely Backward Class (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population.
- Other Backward Class (OBC) constitutes 27.13% of the population.

2. Scheduled Castes and Tribes:

- Scheduled Caste (SC) population stands at 19.65%.
- Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 1.68%.

3. General Caste and Yadavs:

- General Caste population is 15.52%.
- Yadavs represent 14% of the population.

4. Religious Composition:

- Hindus make up 82% of the population.
- Muslims account for 17.71%.

Additional Insights:

The survey also provides insights into specific caste groups:

6. Yadavs, Kushwahas, and Kurmis:

- Among OBCs, Yadavs constitute 14.26%.
- Kushwaha and Kurmi castes make up 4.27% and 2.87%, respectively.

7. Large-Scale Data Collection:

- The caste survey encompassed 17 socio-economic indicators, including caste.
- It was conducted in three phases, involving approximately 2.64 lakh enumerators documenting data from 29 million registered households.
- A total of 214 castes were identified and assigned individual codes.

8. Implications for Reservations:

- The survey's findings may open the door to challenging the 50% ceiling on reservations in the state.

9. Government Initiatives:

- The Bihar government launched the two-phase caste survey in January, recording both economic status and caste data for around 12.70 crore people in the state.

10. Comparison with Previous Data:

- The Union Government had conducted a caste survey in 2011 (SECC-2011), but the data was never made public.





NSO Released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-2023

The **PLFS** (Periodic Labour Force Survey), by the **NSO** (National Statistical Office), has released its results for the period of **April to June 2023**. The report indicates a notable decrease in the country's unemployment rate, a rise in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), and an improvement in the Worker-Population Ratio (WPR).

This survey, which sampled data from 5,639 first-stage sampling units (FSUs) and 1,67,916 individuals across 44,190 urban households, provides valuable insights into the changing dynamics of India's labor market.

Positive Shift in Labor Force Participation

One of the key takeaways from the PLFS is the **increase in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for individuals aged 15 years and above. In urban areas, the LFPR has risen from 47.5% in April-June 2022 to **48.8%** in the same period of 2023. This data reflects a promising trend, indicating growing participation in the labor force.

Gender Disparity in Labor Force Participation

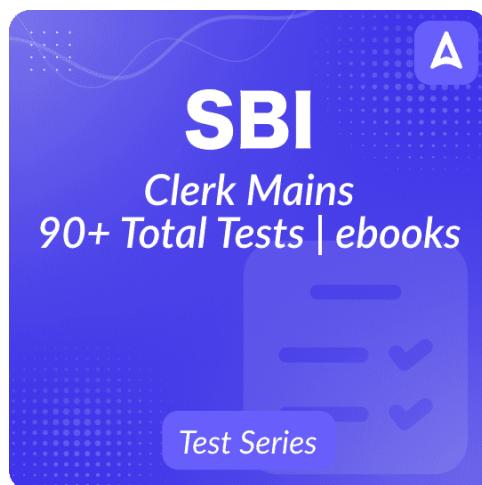
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation noted that while the LFPR remained relatively steady at 73.5% for males during this period, there was a **notable increase for females**, with their LFPR going up from 20.9% to **23.2%**.

Worker-Population Ratio on the Rise

The **Worker-Population Ratio (WPR)** is another important indicator of the health of a nation's labor market. In urban areas, the WPR increased from 43.9% in April-June 2022 to **45.5%** in the same months of 2023 for individuals aged 15 years and above.

A Promising Shift in Employment

The rise in WPR signifies a positive trend in the proportion of the working-age population that is employed. The data shows that **this improvement was seen in both genders**, with the WPR for males increasing from 68.3% to 69.2%, and for females, it rose from 18.9% to 21.1%.



Decreasing Unemployment Rate

Perhaps the most encouraging finding from the PLFS is the decreasing trend in the Unemployment Rate (UR) for individuals aged 15 years and above. In urban areas, the UR decreased from 7.6% in April-June 2022 to **6.6%** in the same period of 2023.

Balanced Decline in Unemployment

The report highlights that this decline was observed in both male and female unemployment rates. For males, the UR dropped from 7.1% to **5.9%**, while for females, it decreased from 9.5% to **9.1%**. This decline in unemployment is a positive sign for the Indian labor market, indicating that more people are finding gainful employment.

Comparing to Pre-Pandemic Levels

The government claims that the improvements in these key labor market indicators in urban areas are not just positive but also **surpass pre-pandemic levels**. Comparing the data to the period between April-June 2018 and October-December 2019, the LFPR ranged from 46.2% to 47.8%, while in the latest report, it reached **48.8%**.

Pre-Pandemic Labor Market Recovery: Robust Gains

Similarly, the WPR was between 41.8% and 44.1% before the pandemic, but now it stands at **45.5%**. The Unemployment Rate ranged between 7.8% and 9.7% in the pre-pandemic period, while the latest survey indicates a lower rate of 6.6%. According to the government, this is notably lower than the unemployment rates observed in the quarters covered in the pre-pandemic period.

Indications of Recovery and Growth

The decrease in the unemployment rate, the rise in the Labor Force Participation Rate, and the increase in the Worker-Population Ratio are indicative of an improving job market. Moreover, the government's claim that these indicators have **surpassed pre-pandemic levels** suggests that India's labor market has not only recovered but is also on a growth trajectory. These trends can be seen as a positive sign for the country's economic stability and the well-being of its citizens.

Global Remote Work Index, India among world's worst countries

In a significant shift in the global remote work landscape, **India** has been ranked **64th out of 108 countries** in the **Global Remote Work Index (GRWI)**. This marks a substantial decline of 15 places from the previous year, raising concerns about the country's readiness for remote work.

Global Remote Work Index (GRWI) Criteria

The GRWI, developed and published by cybersecurity firm NordLayer, evaluates countries based on four fundamental criteria crucial for remote work success:

1. Cyber Safety
2. Economic Safety
3. Digital and Physical Infrastructure
4. Social Safety





India's Weaknesses in Digital and Physical Infrastructure

India's remote work challenges are largely rooted in subpar digital and physical infrastructure. The nation ranked 77th in this category, indicating that its e-infrastructure is among the least developed globally (95th position). India's internet services, although widely available, are plagued by issues of cost (78th) and quality (70th), hampering remote work efficiency.

Social Safety Concerns and Isolation

India's social safety indicators have raised concerns, with the nation appearing to be one of the most isolating countries worldwide. This is attributed to a low personal rights index (88) and an environment lacking inclusiveness (65), which can hinder the remote work experience.

Cyber and Economic Safety at Average Levels

In the domains of cyber safety and economic safety, India's performance remains middling, with rankings of 56 and 55, respectively. While the nation boasts a reasonably robust cyber infrastructure (13th position) and a decent response capacity (19th position), there is room for improvement.

India's Cost-Effective Advantage

Despite its remote work challenges, India remains one of the most cost-effective destinations, with the third-lowest cost of living. However, its healthcare system ranks poorly at 93, potentially impacting the well-being of remote workers.

Top 10 Countries Leading in Remote Work

Meanwhile, The top 10 countries which scored the highest on the Global Remote Work Index (GRWI) are

1. Denmark,
2. Netherlands,
3. Germany,
4. Spain,
5. Sweden,
6. Portugal,
7. Estonia,
8. Lithuania,
9. Ireland, and
10. Slovakia.

Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission

In a historic moment for India's ambitious human space mission, the **Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1)**, designed for the **ISRO's Gaganyaan program**, successfully took flight from **Sriharikota, Island in Andhra Pradesh**. The launch, which marked a significant milestone in India's space endeavors, was not without its share of challenges.

Mission Objectives and Significance

The TV-D1 launch aimed to achieve several critical mission objectives, bringing India closer to realizing its dream of sending humans into space. These objectives included:

1. Flight Demonstration and Evaluation of Test Vehicle Subsystems

The TV-D1 mission allowed for a comprehensive assessment of the various subsystems that make up the test vehicle. This evaluation is crucial in ensuring the safety and reliability of future human spaceflights.

2. Crew Escape System Evaluation

One of the paramount concerns in human space missions is the safety of the crew in case of an emergency. TV-D1 provided a platform for the evaluation of the Crew Escape System (CES), which encompasses various separation systems to ensure a safe escape for astronauts.

3. Crew Module Characteristics Assessment

Understanding the characteristics of the Crew Module (CM) is vital for the success of future missions. TV-D1 helped gather critical data about the CM's performance, improving our knowledge of its behavior during the flight.

4. Deceleration System Demonstration at Higher Altitudes

As missions venture into deeper space, deceleration systems become increasingly important. TV-D1 demonstrated the deceleration system's capabilities at higher altitudes, adding to the knowledge base for future missions.

Technical Challenges and Resilience

The road to this historic launch was not without its share of challenges. Initially scheduled for 8 a.m., the liftoff was postponed due to adverse weather conditions and poor visibility. The delay, however, was not the end of the hurdles. Technical glitches further pushed the launch time, eventually taking place at 10 a.m. These challenges underscore the resilience and determination of India's space program in the face of adversity.

The Test Vehicle-D1 and Its Significance

The TV-D1, a single-stage liquid rocket developed for this critical abort mission, played a pivotal role in simulating an abort scenario during the ascent trajectory. It corresponded to a Mach number of 1.2, mirroring conditions anticipated in the Gaganyaan mission. The payloads onboard included the **Crew Module (CM)** and **Crew Escape Systems (CES)** with their fast-acting solid motors, alongside the CM fairing (CMF) and Interface Adapters.

In summary, the successful TV-D1 launch not only signifies a remarkable achievement for India's space program but also reaffirms the nation's commitment to exploring the possibilities of human space travel. As India moves closer to its goal of launching astronauts into space, this mission paves the way for a brighter future in space exploration.





"Vision India@2047: Transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047"

The Indian government is working on a comprehensive national vision plan, known as '**Vision India@2047**', aimed at transforming the country into a developed nation by **2047**. The plan is designed to prevent India from falling into the middle-income trap and focuses on various aspects of **economic and social development**.

Vision India@2047: Key Objectives and Timeline

Objective: The primary objective of the plan is to ensure India's development into a developed nation by 2047 and avoid the middle-income trap, which has affected several countries at similar stages of development.

- **Leadership:** Niti Aayog, a government think tank, has been working on this plan for nearly two years. It was presented to Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** in October.
- **Consultation:** In November, consultations will be held with thought leaders, including prominent corporate figures such as **Tim Cook, Sundar Pichai, Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, K.M. Birla, N. Chandrasekharan, and Indra Nooyi**, to gather their insights and expertise.

Draft Plan: The draft version of the plan is expected to be ready by December. Several Indian states are also in the process of preparing their own development roadmaps.

Economic Targets

- **Economic Growth:** The plan envisions making India a **\$30 trillion economy by 2047**, a significant increase from its current economic size. This ambitious goal aims to position India as one of the world's leading economies.
- **Per Capita Income:** To ensure prosperity for its citizens, the plan targets a per-capita income ranging from **\$18,000 to \$20,000**. This represents a substantial increase from the current income levels.

Addressing Middle-Income Trap

- **Concern:** The plan acknowledges the risk of falling into the middle-income trap, where economic growth slows down significantly after reaching a certain income level. This issue is exemplified by countries like **Argentina** that have struggled to advance economically.
- **Challenges Overcome:** India has made progress in addressing longstanding challenges such as **poverty, infrastructure development** (roads, electricity, and water), and these issues are expected to be resolved in the coming years.
- **Next Level:** The plan's focus is on propelling India to the next level of development to avoid stagnation in economic growth.

Regional Development and Disparities

- **Regional Cleavages:** The plan also aims to address regional disparities in economic development. While some parts of India are witnessing rapid growth, others, particularly in the **East and North**, are lagging behind.
- **Balanced Growth:** Achieving balanced and inclusive growth across all regions of India is considered crucial for the country's overall development.

Global Dominance in Business

- **Global Presence:** The plan emphasizes the need for Indian firms to dominate various sectors on the **global stage**. Despite India's economic growth, none of the world's largest banks, contractors, legal, consultancy, or accountancy firms are from India.
- **Promoting Sectors:** The plan explores ways to promote certain sectors and companies to become global champions, thereby enhancing India's presence in the global business landscape.

Skill Development and Global Demand

- **Skill Sets:** Developing the skill sets required by India's young population to meet global demands is a priority. The plan recognizes the need to align educational and training programs with global market requirements.
- **Nursing Sector:** India's potential to fulfill global demands, such as in the nursing sector, is noted. However, there is a need to ensure that educational institutions meet international standards to facilitate the export of skilled professionals.

Lionel Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi and **Aitana Bonmatí** have been honored as the **2023 Ballon d'Or recipients**. Messi secures his eighth Ballon d'Or, setting a new record, thanks to his pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986. This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival **Cristiano Ronaldo**, who last won the award in 2017. Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up.

Before this, Messi's teammate in the World Cup-winning Argentine squad, **Emiliano Martínez**, was recognized with the **Lev Yashin Award** for the world's best goalkeeper. Aitana Bonmatí, a key player in Spain's Women's World Cup victory and a Barcelona midfielder, claimed the women's Ballon d'Or.

Messi, who secured his inaugural Ballon d'Or in 2009 and held a four-year consecutive streak until 2012, was the runner-up to Haaland at the UEFA awards back in August.



**Ballon d'Or 2023: All award winners – Complete list**

Award	Winner
Ballon d'Or	Lionel Messi (Inter Miami, Argentina)
Ballon d'Or Feminin	Aitana Bonmatí (FC Barcelona Femení, Spain)
Kopa Trophy for the best male U-21 player	Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid, England)
Yachine Trophy for the best male goalkeeper	Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)
Gerd Müller Trophy for the highest-scoring male striker	Erling Haaland (Manchester City, Norway)
Sócrates Award to acknowledge humanitarian work	Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid, Brazil)
Club of the Year	Manchester City and FC Barcelona Femení

Most Important Current Affairs of September**Waheeda Rehman to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award**

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur**, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, **Waheeda Rehman**, will be honored with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award**, India's highest recognition in the world of cinema.

A Legendary Career in Indian Cinema

Waheeda Rehman's illustrious career is synonymous with excellence. She has worked in over 90 films. Known for her versatility, she has delivered unforgettable performances in a myriad of iconic films, including "Pyaasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul." Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations.

**SBI CLERK
PRE + MAINS**
150+ Total Tests
Test Series

An Announcement of Joy and Honor

Union Minister Anurag Thakur, taking to Twitter, expressed his immense happiness and honor in bestowing this prestigious award upon Waheeda Rehman. He highlighted her **stellar contributions to Indian cinema**, acknowledging her role in shaping the industry into what it is today.

"I feel an immense sense of happiness and honor in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award **this year** for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema," the minister wrote.

A Glowing Tribute to an Iconic Career

Waheeda Rehman's journey in cinema spans over five glorious decades. She has portrayed her roles with finesse and dedication, earning critical acclaim for her exceptional performances. Notably, she was honored with a **National Film Award** for her portrayal of a clanswoman in "**Reshma and Shera**." Additionally, she holds the **Padma Shri** and **Padma Bhushan** awards, further underscoring her exceptional contributions to Indian culture and cinema.

Beyond the Silver Screen

As India celebrates her accomplishments, the timing of this award is significant. Parliament's recent passage of the historic **Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam** underscores the achievements of women in various fields. Waheeda Rehman's recognition is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema. Her dedication to philanthropy and the betterment of society after her retirement from films reflects her commitment to the greater good.

A Legacy of Iconic Films

Waheeda Rehman's cinematic journey commenced with the Telugu film "**Rojulu Marayi**" in 1955, and since then, she has graced numerous films with her exceptional talent. Her filmography includes timeless classics such as "**Pyaasa**," "**Guide**," "**Khamoshi**," "**Phagun**," "**Kabhi Kabhie**," "**Chandni**," "**Lamhe**," "**Rang De Basanti**," and "**Delhi 6**," among others.

As the Indian film fraternity and admirers from around the world celebrate this well-deserved honor, it is a moment to reflect on the enduring impact of Waheeda Rehman's contributions to the cinematic legacy of India. Her name will forever be synonymous with excellence, dedication, and the embodiment of a **Bharatiya Nari** achieving the highest level of professional excellence through her unwavering commitment and hard work.

Times Higher Education (THE) Releases World University Rankings 2024**Introduction**

The **20th edition** of the **World's Best Universities** by the **Times Higher Education (THE)** rankings has been unveiled, showcasing the top higher education institutions globally. Oxford University in the United Kingdom has clinched the coveted first place for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year, with Stanford University in the United States securing second place. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)





is third in the rankings. The 2024 edition is the largest to date, featuring 1,904 universities from 108 countries and regions, evaluated across 18 performance indicators reflecting their core missions.

Top 10 Universities Worldwide

British and American Dominance

The list's top 10 universities is a blend of British and American institutions. Leading the pack is the **University of Oxford**, followed by **Stanford University**, and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**. **Harvard University**, **University of Cambridge (UK)**, **Princeton University**, **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**, **Imperial College London**, **University of California, Berkeley**, and **Yale University** round out the top 10. This list continues to be predominantly dominated by U.S. universities.

Indian Universities Make Significant Strides

91 Indian Universities Ranked

India, a burgeoning force in higher education, has seen notable growth in the latest World University Rankings 2024. A total of 91 Indian universities have secured positions on the list, surpassing last year's count of 75. This surge in representation highlights India's commitment to fostering academic excellence and research across its institutions.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Takes the Top Spot

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has made history by securing the top position among Indian universities. This achievement marks the first time since 2017 that IISc has claimed the top spot, underscoring its dedication to research and academic prowess.

IITs Continue Boycott

Intriguingly, the top Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have continued their longstanding boycott of the rankings for the fourth consecutive year. Their absence from the rankings raises questions about the methodology or criteria used by the rankings, which have not aligned with the IITs' assessment of academic excellence.

India Rises in Global Representation

India's ascent in the 2024 rankings extends beyond the number of universities featured. India has now risen to become the fourth most well-represented nation, advancing from sixth place in the previous year's rankings. This upward trajectory reflects the increasing recognition of Indian universities on the global stage.

Other High-Performing Indian Universities

Among the Indian universities making notable strides in the rankings are **Anna University**, **Jamia Millia Islamia**, **Mahatma Gandhi University**, and **Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences**. These institutions have secured positions within the 501-600 band, reaffirming their commitment to academic excellence and research contributions.

[Here's the list of Indian universities ranked among top 800-1000 band](#)

University
Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
Anna University
Jamia Millia Islamia
Mahatma Gandhi University
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
Alagappa University
Aligarh Muslim University
Banaras Hindu University
Bharathiar University
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad
Indian Institute of Technology Patna
International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad
Jamia Hamdard University
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar
Malviya National Institute of Technology
Manipal Academy of Higher Education
National Institute of Technology Rourkela
National Institute of Technology Silchar
Panjab University
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology
Vellore Institute of Technology
Amity University
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
Institute of Chemical Technology
University of Delhi
Delhi Technological University
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur (JNTUA)
Jaypee University of Information Technology
JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education





University
Lovely Professional University
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli
University of Petroleum Energy Studies, Dehradun
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan

India Ranks 40th in Global Innovation Index 2023

India retains **40th rank out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization**. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.

Collaborative Efforts in Innovation

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has also been collaborating in India's journey towards an innovation-driven economy. This year, the **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **CII and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the GII 2023 on 29th September 2023.

Which are the most innovative economies in 2023?

For the 13th year in a row, Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore**. Discover how other economies are performing in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.

- **Denmark (9th) and the Republic of Korea (10th) remain in the top 10.** France (11th) gets closer, improving one rank this year, while Japan remains strong as the 13th most innovative economy. Israel re-enters the top 15, reaching 14th place.
- After a rapid ascent, gaining 23 positions over the last decade, China ranks 12th this year, dropping one rank relative to 2022.1 China remains the sole middle-income economy to secure a position among the top 30, retaining 3rd place in the SEAO region and top spot in the upper middle-income group (see Figure 11 and Table 3). Belgium (23rd) re-enters the top 25, climbing three ranks.
- All eight Nordic and Baltic economies improved their ranking this year, except for Iceland, which stays at 20th spot. Estonia gains two ranks and edges the top 15, at 16th place. Norway (19th) reenters the top 20. Lithuania (34th) and Latvia (37th) make the largest improvements, gaining five and four ranks respectively, with Latvia re-entering the top 40.
- Apart from China, there are only four other middle-income economies among the top 40 economies, namely, **Malaysia (36th), Bulgaria (38th), Türkiye (39th) and India (40th)**.

- The United Arab Emirates stabilizes at 32nd place, close to the top 30. Saudi Arabia (48th) and Qatar (50th) make it into the top 50. Middle East economies Bahrain (67th), Oman (69th), Jordan (71st) and Egypt (86th) also experience notable improvements in their innovation ranking – Global Innovation Index 2023 51 with Bahrain and Oman entering the top 70, and Jordan just outside. In sum, these are some systematic and positive innovation rank developments in the Middle East.
- Brazil (49th) makes it into the top 50 in 2023, following a gradual ascent over recent years, overtaking Chile (52nd) as the most innovative economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Uruguay (63rd) and El Salvador (95th) are the only two other economies within the region that improve their ranking in 2023.
- Thailand (43rd) and Viet Nam (46th) consolidate their positions in the top 50, while the Philippines (56th) gets closer. Viet Nam and the Philippines continue marching forward, after a setback in 2022, gaining two and three ranks, respectively. Indonesia (61st) moves rapidly toward the top 60, following a rise over recent years. Together with **China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran (62nd), the Philippines, Türkiye and Viet Nam, Indonesia joins the group of middle-income economies within the GII top 65** that climbed fastest in the GII ranking over the last decade.
- In the last four years, and since the start of the pandemic, Mauritius (57th), Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Pakistan ascended most in the GII, in order of their rank progression.
- In Central and Southern Asia, **Kazakhstan (81st) and Uzbekistan (82nd) are close to the top 80**, while Pakistan (88th) follows closely, the latter overperforming on innovation once again in 2023.
- Nine out of the 26 economies from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) covered this year improve their ranking. South Africa (59th) enters the top 60. Rwanda (103rd and low-income group leader) continues moving ahead. Senegal (93rd) and Nigeria (109th) take two of the biggest leaps forward. Excluding island economies, Senegal becomes the region's third most innovative economy in 2023.

Global Innovation Index 2023 in Tabular form:

Country/Economy	2023 Innovation Rank	Change from 2022
Switzerland	1st	–
Sweden	2nd	+1
United States (US)	3rd	-1
Singapore	4th	–
Finland	6th	+3





Country/Economy	2023 Innovation Rank	Change from 2022
Denmark	9th	–
Republic of Korea	10th	–
France	11th	+1
Japan	13th	–
Israel	14th	–
China	12th	-1
Belgium	23rd	+3
Estonia	16th	+2
Norway	19th	–
Lithuania	34th	+5
Latvia	37th	+4
Malaysia	36th	–
Bulgaria	38th	–
Türkiye (Turkey)	39th	–
India	40th	–
United Arab Emirates	32nd	–
Saudi Arabia	48th	–
Qatar	50th	–
Bahrain	67th	–
Oman	69th	–
Jordan	71st	–
Egypt	86th	–
Brazil	49th	–
Chile	52nd	–
Uruguay	63rd	–
El Salvador	95th	–
Thailand	43rd	–
Viet Nam	46th	–
Philippines	56th	–
Indonesia	61st	–
Islamic Republic of Iran	62nd	–
Kazakhstan	81st	–
Uzbekistan	82nd	–
Pakistan	88th	–
South Africa	59th	–
Rwanda	103rd	–
Senegal	93rd	–
Nigeria	109th	–

About the Global Innovation Index

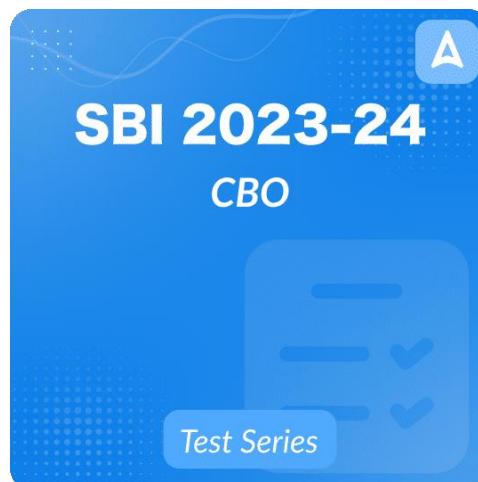
Now in its **16th edition**, the **Global Innovation Index** is a leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation ecosystem performance. Published annually, it is also a valuable benchmarking tool used by policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders to assess progress in innovation over time.

TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

In the latest edition of the **Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023**, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained its prestigious position at the top of the list with an impressive brand value of \$43 billion. This article delves into the key findings and rankings of the report, shedding light on the Indian brands that continue to thrive despite economic challenges.

The Top 10 Brands in the 2023 Report

- **TCS** continues to demonstrate its dominance in the Indian market, maintaining its top spot with a remarkable brand value of \$43 billion. The company's consistent performance and global presence have solidified its position as India's most valuable brand.
- **HDFC Bank**, a stalwart in the Indian banking sector, retains its second-place ranking. Its unwavering brand strength and customer trust contribute to its brand value.
- **Infosys**, a tech industry titan, maintains its third position in the rankings. Its strong focus on innovation and digital transformation has ensured its enduring presence among India's top brands.
- **Airtel**, a leading telecom provider, secures the fourth spot. Its continued investment in network infrastructure and customer-centric approach contribute to its brand's resilience.
- **State Bank of India** makes a notable entry into the top five, underscoring its significance as a financial institution in India. Its brand strength and reach across the nation are key factors in this achievement.





- ICICI Bank** retains its prominence in the top 10, underscoring its significance in the financial sector. Customer trust and innovative banking solutions are driving its brand value.
- Asian Paints**, a leader in the paint industry, maintains a strong presence in the top 10. Its commitment to quality and innovation has earned it a place among India's most valuable brands.
- Reliance Jio**, a disruptor in the telecom sector, secures a position in the top 10. Its affordable data plans and expansive network coverage have reshaped the Indian telecom landscape.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank's** consistent performance keeps it in the top 10. Its customer-centric approach and financial services offerings contribute to its brand's strength.
- HCL Technologies** rounds up the top 10. Its prowess in providing IT services and solutions has established it as a significant player in the technology sector.

Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

The 2023 ranking is based on the opinions of over 127,634 respondents who evaluated 1,500 brands across 106 categories. This extensive survey provides valuable insights into the perceptions and preferences of Indian consumers.

In conclusion, despite economic challenges and global uncertainties, Indian brands continue to demonstrate their resilience and strength in the market. TCS's consistent reign at the top, along with the performance of other leading brands, underscores India's diverse and thriving business landscape.

What India achieved in its G20 presidency?

India's presidency of the G20 has seen significant accomplishments and highlights, as it brought together member countries to address critical global issues, particularly the war in Ukraine, and amplified the voice of emerging markets as mediators. **The New Delhi Declaration**, issued during the two-day G20 Summit, outlined the direction for future negotiations on key economic matters.

India's G20 Presidency: Key Achievements and Initiatives

- New Delhi Declaration:** The G20 Summit's first day featured the issuance of the New Delhi Declaration, which set the stage for discussions on crucial economic topics. Notably, it introduced a groundbreaking figure of \$5.9 trillion for green financing requirements in developing nations, emphasizing climate financing.
- Geopolitical Diplomacy:** India played a pivotal role in facilitating consensus on geopolitical issues, particularly the Russia-Ukraine crisis. It engaged closely with Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia, demonstrating the influence of emerging markets in shaping diplomatic outcomes.
- Inclusive Partnerships:** The declaration recognized the contributions of Turkey and the UN-brokered Istanbul Agreements in ensuring the unhindered delivery of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizers between Russia and Ukraine.

- Diplomatic Endeavor:** India's diplomatic efforts during the G20 presidency were extensive, involving over 200 hours of non-stop negotiations, 300 bilateral meetings, and 15 drafts to achieve consensus.

Global Impact and Recognition

- Global Implications:** The decisions made at the G20 Summit were acknowledged to have far-reaching consequences for the future, given the current global challenges such as climate change, fragility, and conflict. The summit reaffirmed the G20's capacity to address pressing global issues.
- Diplomatic Breakthrough:** The joint communique issued by the G20 leaders, amid intense negotiations, marked a substantial diplomatic breakthrough. It underscored the commitment of all states to refrain from the use of force for territorial acquisition and deemed the use or threat of nuclear weapons as unacceptable.

Key Transformations and Commitments

- African Union's Inclusion:** One of the significant outcomes of India's G20 presidency was the African Union joining the G20 as a permanent member, signifying a milestone in global diplomacy.
- Enhanced Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):** The G20 Independent Expert Group recommended strengthening MDBs, with a focus on enhancing the World Bank's financing capacity. Additionally, a roadmap for implementing capital adequacy framework recommendations for MDBs was endorsed, potentially unlocking \$200 billion in lending capacity over the next decade.
- Crypto Regulation:** A global consensus on the need for clearer policies and regulations for cryptocurrencies gained momentum under India's leadership.
- Debt Relief Framework:** India facilitated a consensus on a debt relief framework for Zambia, Ghana, and Ethiopia, addressing their financial challenges.
- Sustainable Cities:** The financing of sustainable and resilient cities for the future was integrated into the framework, making it accessible to MDBs.
- Unanimous Agreement:** All 83 paragraphs of the joint declaration enjoyed 100% consensus among all countries, exemplifying India's ability to foster unity and cooperation on the global stage.
- Inclusive G20 Declaration:** The G20 Declaration, without any footnotes or chair's summary, demonstrated India's prowess in bringing diverse nations together for constructive dialogue and collaboration.





65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023 Winners List

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, often called the '**Nobel Prize of Asia**', is a notable accolade that represents exceptional spirit and influential leadership. This year, in the ceremony's **65th edition**, four Asians were given the Ramon Magsaysay Award, joining the ranks of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama, Satyajit Ray, and many others. They are **Korvi Rakshand from Bangladesh**, **Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste**, **Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from the Philippines**, and **Dr Ravi Kannan R. from India**. The award carries a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize of **USD 50,000**.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 Winners List

Awardee Name	Country	Contribution
Korvi Rakshand	Bangladesh	Developing inclusive education for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh
Eugenio Lemos	Timor-Leste	Notable contributions to how young Timorese views nature and their surroundings.
Miriam Coronel-Ferrer	Philippines	Unwavering belief in the transformative power of non-violent strategies in peacebuilding
Dr Ravi Kannan R.	India	Strong devotion to his medical profession, focusing on what medicine is truly for: pro-health and people-centred treatment.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 Winners

Korvi Rakshand, Bangladesh

Korvi Rakshand, the founder of the non-profit organisation **JAAGO Foundation**, is the 13th Bangladeshi to have received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award. Since its inception in 2007, JAAGO has grown exponentially; providing free, government-recognised English language education to over 30,000 students throughout Bangladesh.

Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Rakshand was recognised for his notable work in developing inclusive education for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh, which has further led to local youths adopting much-needed societal changes.

Eugenio Lemos, Timor-Leste

Eugenio Lemos, from the Southeast Asian country of **Timor-Leste**, is an agriculture expert who has helped the Timorese community embrace new ways to appreciate agriculture and nature preservation. Since his university days, Lemos promoted organic farming, and after being introduced to modern sustainable agrosystems, he started working on implementing similar methods alongside the traditional Timorese culture.

In 2001, Lemos established the organisation called **Permakultura Timor-Lorosa'e (Permatil)**, which hosts training camps for youths aged seventeen and above. In this training program, the students are taught lessons on water and natural resource management, agriculture, aquaculture, and agroforestry.

According to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Lemos is an activist, a songwriter, and a singer, who isn't shy of using his songs to talk about social issues to the general public. He is known by his local community as a down-to-earth individual who has made notable contributions to how young Timorese views nature and their surroundings.

Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Philippines

Since the late 1970s, **Miriam Coronel-Ferrer** has played notable contributions in settling war disputes and resisting her country's martial rule. This peace negotiator from the Philippines was part of the drafting of the country's first '**National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security**', an agenda that was eventually officially adopted in 2010.

Coronel-Ferrer is known for her strong stance on global political issues and for endorsing inclusivity, being appointed the Chairperson for the Philippine Government's Peace Panel in 2012. She co-founded the group called Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators in 2020, providing a safe dialogue space for women in the Philippines and other Asian countries such as Myanmar and Afghanistan.

According to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Coronel-Ferrer was recognised for the award due to her "unwavering belief in the transformative power of non-violent strategies in peacebuilding", among other notable contributions that have made her a powerful voice that promotes inclusion, demotes violence, and preaches peace for women everywhere.

Dr Ravi Kannan R., India

Dr Ravi Kannan R., the first formally trained oncologist in the **Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC)**, helped develop the non-profit facility to become the full-fledged, comprehensive treatment centre it is known as today. The current CCHRC is home to twenty-eight departments, including but not limited to various aspects of cancer care such as oncology, radiology, tumour registry, etc.

CCHRC, under Kannan's leadership, aims to become a state-of-the-art cancer centre where no patient, regardless of background or status, will be denied appropriate cancer treatment. The hospital's mantra revolves around taking care of anyone in need of cancer care, with special emphasis on taking care of families suffering from poverty or grief.

According to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Kannan was selected for this year's award because of his strong devotion to his medical profession, focusing on what medicine is truly for: pro-health and people-centred treatment. Kannan and his institution have helped millions in India, including locals from Assam, find a reliable and inclusive healthcare facility.





India Forms Committee To Explore Possibility Of 'One Nation, One Election': Report

On 1st September, the Indian government announced the formation of a committee led by former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, to delve into the feasibility of '**One Nation, One Election**'. This development follows the government's announcement to hold a **special parliamentary session** from **September 18th to 22nd, 2023**, which has led to curiosity about the session's purpose.

Understanding 'One Nation, One Election'

'**One Nation, One Election**' is a concept aimed at **synchronizing elections for the Lok Sabha** (the lower house of India's Parliament) and all state assemblies. The central idea is to hold these elections simultaneously, either on a single day or within a specific time frame. This proposal has garnered strong support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting the government's seriousness as a series of elections loom on the horizon. Notably, assembly polls in **five states** are scheduled for November or December this year, followed by the expected Lok Sabha elections in **May-June 2024**.

Pros of 'One Nation, One Election'

- **Cost Efficiency:** One of the primary benefits of this proposal is the **significant reduction in the cost of conducting elections**. Currently, separate elections at various levels require substantial financial resources, and streamlining them could result in substantial savings.
- **Administrative and Security Efficiency:** Simultaneous elections would **alleviate the burden on administrative and security forces**, which are repeatedly engaged in election duties during separate polls. This streamlining could lead to better resource allocation and efficiency in these critical areas.
- **Enhanced Governance:** With '**One Nation, One Election**', the government can **focus more on governance** rather than being in a perpetual election mode. Frequent elections often disrupt policy implementation and hinder the continuity of important initiatives.
- **Higher Voter Turnout:** According to the Law Commission, simultaneous elections have the potential to increase voter turnout. It **simplifies the voting process for citizens**, making it easier to participate in multiple elections at once.

Cons of 'One Nation, One Election'

- **Constitutional and Legal Challenges:** Implementing '**One Nation, One Election**' would necessitate changes to the Constitution and other legal frameworks. It would **require a constitutional amendment and approval from state assemblies**. While not a new concept, it has been attempted only four times in the 1950s and 60s when India had fewer states and a smaller population.

- **Potential Overshadowing of Regional Issues:** Critics argue that '**One Nation, One Election**' could **overshadow regional issues with national ones**, potentially affecting the electoral outcomes at the state level. This could undermine the representation of regional interests.
- **Political Consensus:** Gaining the **consensus of all political parties** is a significant hurdle. Opposition parties have expressed reservations and opposition to '**One Nation, One Election**', citing concerns over its feasibility and implications for federalism.

Anticipating Insights from the September 2023 Special Parliamentary Session on Electoral Reform

The forthcoming special session of Parliament in September 2023 is expected to provide **valuable insights** into the government's intentions and its approach to this ambitious electoral reform. Regardless of the outcome, the debate surrounding '**One Nation, One Election**' underscores the importance of **ensuring efficient, transparent, and representative democratic processes** in India.

ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Launched

ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Launched

ISRO Aditya L1 mission was launched successfully on **September 2, 2023 at 11:50 AM IST** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota, India. The mission is India's first dedicated solar mission and will study the Sun's atmosphere, including the chromosphere and corona. It will also study the solar wind and its interaction with the Earth's atmosphere.

The Aditya L1 spacecraft is a **1.5-ton satellite** that is equipped with seven payloads. The payloads will study the Sun's atmosphere using a variety of methods, including remote sensing and in-situ measurements. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), which is located about **1.5 million kilometers from Earth**.

The Aditya L1 mission is expected to last for five years. During this time, it will collect valuable data about the Sun that will help scientists to better understand its behavior and its impact on Earth.

Here are some more details about the Aditya L1 mission:

- The mission is named after Aditya, the Hindu god of the Sun.
- The spacecraft is about the size of a refrigerator and weighs 1.5 tons.

It is equipped with seven payloads:

1. **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC):** This payload will image the solar corona in the visible light spectrum. It will help to study the structure and dynamics of the corona, and to understand the mechanisms that heat it up.
2. **Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT):** This payload will image the solar chromosphere and transition region in the ultraviolet light spectrum. It will help to study the heating and dynamics of these layers, and to understand the origin of the solar wind.





3. **Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS):** This payload will measure the spectrum of the solar X-rays. It will help to study the solar flares and coronal mass ejections, and to understand the physics of the solar atmosphere.
4. **High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS):** This payload will measure the spectrum of the solar X-rays in the high-energy range. It will help to study the solar flares and coronal mass ejections, and to understand the acceleration of particles in the solar atmosphere.
5. **Plasma Analyser Package For Aditya (PAPA):** This payload will measure the properties of the solar wind plasma, such as its density, temperature, and composition. It will help to study the interaction between the solar wind and the Earth's magnetosphere.
6. **Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment(ASPEX):** This payload will measure the properties of the energetic particles in the solar wind, such as their energy, charge, and mass. It will help to study the acceleration of particles in the solar atmosphere, and the effects of these particles on the Earth's atmosphere and environment.
7. **Solar Irradiance Monitor (SIM):** This payload will measure the solar irradiance, which is the total amount of energy emitted by the Sun. It will help to study the variability of the solar irradiance, and its effects on the Earth's climate.
 - The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1(L1), which is located about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.
 - The mission is expected to last for five years.

The Aditya L1 mission is a major milestone for the Indian space program and will contribute significantly to our understanding of the Sun. The data collected by the mission will help scientists to better understand the Sun's atmosphere, its magnetic field, and its impact on Earth. This information will be invaluable for predicting space weather events, which can have a significant impact on our planet

Mohun Bagan SG defeats East Bengal 1-0 at Durand Cup finals

Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat East Bengal (1-0) to win the Durand Cup 2023 trophy at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles. With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles. With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup.

Durand Cup 2023 began on August 3. The tournament's 132nd edition saw 24 teams, four more than last year, compete for the coveted title.

Awards and Honours

Nandhakumar Sekar wins Golden Ball

- East Bengal forward Nandhakumar Sekar wins the Golden Ball award for the Durand Cup. He won three Player of the Match awards and had also scored the winner in the previous Kolkata derby.

David Lalhlansanga wins Golden Boot

- Mohammedan Sporting's David Lalhlansanga is presented with the Golden Boot. He was just unlucky as his team failed to make it to the knockouts with a one goal margin.

Vishal Kaith wins Golden Glove

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant Vishal Kaith wins the Golden Glove in this tournament after winning the same in the ISL last season. He is awarded a cheque of three lakh rupees as well.

Mohun Bagan starting line-up!

Mohun Bagan Super Giant: Vishal Kaith (GK), Anwar Ali, Hector Yuste, Subhasish Bose, Asish Rai, Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul Samad, Hudo Boumous, Ashique Kuriniyan, Dimitri Petratos, Armando Sadiku

East Bengal Starting XI

Prabhsukhan Gil (GK) – Harmanjot Khabra, Jordan Elsey, Lalchungnunga, Mandar Rao Desai, Borja Herrera, Mohamad Rakip – Nandhakumar Sekar, Saul Crespo, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Javier Siverio.

National Teachers' Day 2023: Date, History & Significance

National Teachers' Day 2023

National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on **September 5th every year**. It is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions of teachers to society. The day is also observed as a tribute to the memory of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a scholar, philosopher, and teacher. He was also a strong advocate for education and believed that teachers played a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. In 1962, when his students asked him to celebrate his birthday, he requested that they instead observe September 5th as Teachers' Day. This year **National Teacher's Day 2023** is celebrated on Monday.

On National Teachers' Day, schools and educational institutions hold special events to honor teachers. Teachers are given gifts, flowers, and other tokens of appreciation. Students also perform cultural programs and give speeches to express their gratitude to their teachers. National Teachers' Day is a day to reflect on the importance of teachers in our lives. Teachers are the ones who help us learn and grow, and they deserve our respect and appreciation.

Teachers' Day History

In 1962, when Dr. S Radhakrishnan assumed office as the President of India his students approached him seeking permission to celebrate September 5 as a special day. Instead, Dr. Radhakrishnan asked his students to observe the date as Teacher's Day in a bid to acknowledge the contribution of teachers to society. Globally, **World Teachers Day is observed on October 5**. It is an initiative led by organisations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO.





Dr. Radhakrishnan's students agreed to his suggestion and since then, September 5th has been celebrated as Teachers' Day in India. The day is a reminder of the importance of teachers in our lives and the need to appreciate their hard work and dedication.

National Teachers' Day 2023 Significance

Teacher's Day is celebrated to show gratitude to teachers and other educators and schools and colleges all across India celebrate the day by paying their tribute to Dr. Radhakrishnan. The day is not restricted to students in schools and colleges to show their gratitude for their teachers but also extends to working professionals to show gratitude to mentors and appreciate them for helping them grow in their careers.

Teachers Day is one such event to which students and teachers equally look forward. The Day is important for the students as it gives them a chance to understand the efforts put in by their teachers to ensure that they get a proper education. Similarly, teachers also look forward to the Teachers' Day celebration as their efforts get recognised and honoured by students and other agencies as well.

Teachers, like Radhakrishnan, are builders of the nation's future as they ensure their students are armed with proper knowledge and wisdom to lead their lives responsibly. Teachers' Day helps highlight their role, their plight and their rights in our society.

Here are some ways to celebrate National Teachers' Day:

- Write a letter to your favorite teacher expressing your gratitude.
- Give your teacher a small gift, such as flowers, chocolates, or a book.
- Volunteer at your child's school to help out in the classroom.
- Donate to a scholarship fund for aspiring teachers.
- Spread the word about the importance of teachers by sharing positive stories about them on social media.

Telangana Grabs India's First Gorilla Glass Factory

In a significant development for India's electronics manufacturing sector, **Corning Inc.** is gearing up to establish its **cutting-edge Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility** in **Telangana**. The proposed manufacturing unit will specialize in producing cover glass for leading players in the smartphone market. The establishment of Corning Inc.'s Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana is poised to **revolutionize India's electronics manufacturing landscape**.

A Transformative Investment

The ambitious project is set to become a reality with a proposed investment of **Rs. 934 crore**. Moreover, it promises to create **employment opportunities for over 800 individuals**, thereby contributing significantly to the local economy. This manufacturing facility holds the potential to be a pivotal force in propelling the smartphone manufacturing ecosystem in Telangana and the wider nation.

Hyderabad Emerges as the Preferred Hub for Electronics Manufacturing

Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is garnering the attention of numerous electronics manufacturing giants as their **preferred hub**. The state has already experienced substantial investments from industry leaders such as **Foxconn** earlier this year. With the substantial capital infusion by **Corning Inc.** into Telangana, the nation is on the brink of a **new era in smartphone manufacturing**, one that will impact not only the state but also resonate across the entirety of India.

Corning Inc.: A Pioneer in Materials Science

Headquartered in **New York**, Corning Inc. is a **Fortune 500** materials science company with a rich legacy spanning over 172 years. The company has been at the forefront of innovation, with expertise in **glass science, ceramics science, and optical physics**. Most notably, Corning Inc. is renowned as the **inventor of Gorilla Glass**, a fortified glass that has found widespread use in portable devices such as **mobile phones, tablets, and laptops**.

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Unveiling the World's Premier Fintech Conference

In a remarkable comeback, the **Global Fintech Fest (GFF)** is set to reclaim its title as the world's largest fintech conference in 2023. This year's event promises to be a spectacular showcase of innovation and collaboration in the fintech industry. Let's delve into the highlights of GFF 2023.

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Event Overview

- Duration: 3 Days
- Diverse Tracks: 13
- Eminent Speakers: 800+
- Cutting-Edge Reports: 15+
- Academic Insights: 81 Papers
- Interactive Workshops: 50+
- Global Reach: 125+ Countries
- Engaging Sessions: 250+
- Investor Presence: 250+
- Exhibitors: 500+
- Expansive Venue: 150K Sq. Ft
- Innovation Hub: 3 Hackathons
- Distinguished Delegates: 50,000+

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Key Supporters and Organizers

GFF 2023 enjoys unwavering support from esteemed governmental and regulatory bodies, affirming its significance in the fintech landscape.

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)



**This monumental event is organized by:**

- Payments Council of India (PCI)
- Fintech Convergence Council (FCC)
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Inauguration by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

The conference commenced with a prestigious inauguration ceremony graced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Minister of Finance, Government of India. Her remarks emphasized the transformative role of fintech in India's financial landscape.

- **Fintech's Inclusive Role:** Smt. Sitharaman highlighted how fintech is fostering greater financial inclusion in India.
- **Building a Global Responsible Financial Ecosystem:** She stressed the importance of fintech in shaping a responsible global financial ecosystem.
- **Dynamic Financial Inclusion Tool:** Fintech, in her words, has evolved into a robust and dynamic tool for financial inclusion.

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Conference Theme

GFF 2023 revolves around a central theme that embodies the fintech industry's aspirations and responsibilities.

- **Theme:** 'Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem: Inclusive | Resilient | Sustainable'

Global Fintech Fest 2023: Global Partnerships

GFF 2023 has garnered support and participation from renowned international agencies and countries.

- **International Collaborators:** Notable partners include the World Bank, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), and Women's World Banking.
- **Country Partners:** Leading nations such as Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, and Israel have joined as Country Partners for GFF 2023.

Prime Minister Modi Participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Modi participated in the **20th ASEAN-India Summit** and engaged in comprehensive discussions with ASEAN partners to reinforce the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He reaffirmed the central role of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the alignment between **India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI)** and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Emphasis was placed on the timely review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA).

12-Point Proposal for Cooperation

1. **Multi-Modal Connectivity:** Proposal for a South-East Asia-India-West Asia-Europe economic corridor.
2. **Digital Public Infrastructure Sharing:** India offered its Digital Public Infrastructure Stack to ASEAN nations.

3. **Digital Future Fund:** Announcement of an ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future, focusing on digital transformation and financial connectivity.
4. **Support for ERIA:** Renewed support for the Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) as a knowledge partner.
5. **Global South Representation:** Collective advocacy for Global South issues in multilateral forums.
6. **Traditional Medicine Center:** Invitation for ASEAN countries to join the WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India.
7. **Mission LiFE:** Call for cooperation on Mission LiFE.
8. **Affordable Medicines:** Offer to share India's experience in providing affordable and quality medicines through Jan-Aushadhi Kendras.
9. **Counterterrorism Cooperation:** A call for a collective fight against terrorism, terror financing, and cyber-disinformation.
10. **Disaster Resilience:** Invitation for ASEAN countries to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
11. **Disaster Management:** Cooperation in disaster management.
12. **Maritime Safety:** Enhanced cooperation on maritime safety, security, and domain awareness.

East Asia Summit Highlights**Support for EAS Mechanism**

At the 18th East Asia Summit, Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the EAS mechanism and India's commitment to its strengthening. He reaffirmed India's support for ASEAN centrality and advocated for a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Quad's Vision and ASEAN

PM Modi highlighted the alignment of visions for the Indo-Pacific between India and ASEAN and emphasized ASEAN's pivotal role in the Quad's vision.

Global Challenges and Initiatives

Prime Minister called for a cooperative approach to address global challenges, including terrorism, climate change, resilient supply chains for essential items, and energy security. He showcased India's initiatives in climate change, such as ISA, CDRI, LiFE, and OSOWOG.

Financial Connectivity and Think Tank Support

PM Modi announced the establishment of the ASEAN India Fund for Digital Future, aimed at enhancing financial connectivity between ASEAN and India. He also expressed support for ERIA, an ASEAN think tank that will deepen ASEAN-India relations.

Regional and International Issues

Leaders exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues during the summit.





East Asia Summit Participants

The East Asia Summit includes eighteen participating countries:

- ASEAN Member States:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.
- Other Nations:** Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America.

US Open 2023 Winners Complete list

US Open 2023 came to an end on Sunday, September 10, with the champions of all 19 disciplines being decided. **Novak Djokovic** won his fourth title at the US Open and 24th Grand Slam title by beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 in the final. **Coco Gauff** capped off her sensational American summer by winning her maiden Grand Slam title at the US Open by beating Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final. This tournament is the **143rd edition**. The tournament is going to be held at **USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, New York**.

The 2023 US Open's overall player compensation will be **\$65 million**, an all-time high for the event, as it's an 8% increase from 2022's total of \$60 million.

Here is the Complete List of US Open 2023 Winners in Different Categories

S. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	Daniil Medvedev
2.	Women's Singles	Coco Gauff	Aryna Sabalenka
3.	Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury	Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden
4.	Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe	Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund
5.	Mixed Doubles	Harri Heliovaara and Anna Dulinina	Jessica Pegula and Austin Krajicek

Other champions at US Open 2023

- Wheelchair Men's singles: Alfie Hewett
- Wheelchair Women's singles: Diede de Groot
- Wheelchair quad singles: Sam Schroder
- Wheelchair men's doubles: Stephane Houdet and Takashi Sanada
- Wheelchair women's doubles: Yui Kamiji and Tgothatso Montjane
- Wheelchair quad doubles: Sam Schroder and Niels Vink

- Boys' singles: Joao Fonseca
- Girls' singles: Katherine Hui
- Boys' doubles: Max Dahlin and Oliver Ojakaar
- Girls' doubles: Mara Gae and Anastasiia Gureva
- Wheelchair boys' singles: Dahnon Ward
- Wheelchair girls' singles: Ksenia Chasteau
- Wheelchair boys' singles: Dahnon Ward and Joshua Johns
- Wheelchair girls' singles: Ksenia Chasteau and Maylee Phelps

What India achieved in its G20 presidency?

India's presidency of the G20 has seen significant accomplishments and highlights, as it brought together member countries to address critical global issues, particularly the war in Ukraine, and amplified the voice of emerging markets as mediators. **The New Delhi Declaration**, issued during the two-day G20 Summit, outlined the direction for future negotiations on key economic matters.

India's G20 Presidency: Key Achievements and Initiatives

- New Delhi Declaration:** The G20 Summit's first day featured the issuance of the New Delhi Declaration, which set the stage for discussions on crucial economic topics. Notably, it introduced a groundbreaking figure of \$5.9 trillion for green financing requirements in developing nations, emphasizing climate financing.
- Geopolitical Diplomacy:** India played a pivotal role in facilitating consensus on geopolitical issues, particularly the Russia-Ukraine crisis. It engaged closely with Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia, demonstrating the influence of emerging markets in shaping diplomatic outcomes.
- Inclusive Partnerships:** The declaration recognized the contributions of Turkey and the UN-brokered Istanbul Agreements in ensuring the unhindered delivery of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizers between Russia and Ukraine.
- Diplomatic Endeavor:** India's diplomatic efforts during the G20 presidency were extensive, involving over 200 hours of non-stop negotiations, 300 bilateral meetings, and 15 drafts to achieve consensus.

IBPS SO
IT Officer (Scale-I) Mains
10 Total Tests

Test Series



**Global Impact and Recognition**

5. **Global Implications:** The decisions made at the G20 Summit were acknowledged to have far-reaching consequences for the future, given the current global challenges such as climate change, fragility, and conflict. The summit reaffirmed the G20's capacity to address pressing global issues.
6. **Diplomatic Breakthrough:** The joint communique issued by the G20 leaders, amid intense negotiations, marked a substantial diplomatic breakthrough. It underscored the commitment of all states to refrain from the use of force for territorial acquisition and deemed the use or threat of nuclear weapons as unacceptable.

Key Transformations and Commitments

7. **African Union's Inclusion:** One of the significant outcomes of India's G20 presidency was the African Union joining the G20 as a permanent member, signifying a milestone in global diplomacy.
8. **Enhanced Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):** The G20 Independent Expert Group recommended strengthening MDBs, with a focus on enhancing the World Bank's financing capacity. Additionally, a roadmap for implementing capital adequacy framework recommendations for MDBs was endorsed, potentially unlocking \$200 billion in lending capacity over the next decade.
9. **Crypto Regulation:** A global consensus on the need for clearer policies and regulations for cryptocurrencies gained momentum under India's leadership.
10. **Debt Relief Framework:** India facilitated a consensus on a debt relief framework for Zambia, Ghana, and Ethiopia, addressing their financial challenges.
11. **Sustainable Cities:** The financing of sustainable and resilient cities for the future was integrated into the framework, making it accessible to MDBs.
12. **Unanimous Agreement:** All 83 paragraphs of the joint declaration enjoyed 100% consensus among all countries, exemplifying India's ability to foster unity and cooperation on the global stage.
13. **Inclusive G20 Declaration:** The G20 Declaration, without any footnotes or chair's summary, demonstrated India's prowess in bringing diverse nations together for constructive dialogue and collaboration.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2022 Winners Name

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has publicised the list of awardees for the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022**, considered among the prestigious prizes for science in India. After an unexplained delay of nearly a year in the announcement always made on September 26, the CSIR's foundation day. The CSIR had announced the Bhatnagar winners for 2021 nearly two years ago.

All the 12 winners for 2022 are men just as they were for 2021. The 2020 winners had included two women scientists.

This year's awardees constitute 12 scientists below the age of 45 and they include

Name	Affiliation	Field of Study
Ashwani Kumar	CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology	Biological Sciences
Maddika Subba Reddy	Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics, Hyderabad	Biological Sciences
Akkattu Biju	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Chemical Sciences
Debabrata Maiti	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Chemical Sciences
Vimal Mishra	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Dipti Ranjan Sahoo	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Engineering Sciences
Rajnish Kumar	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Engineering Sciences
Apoorva Khare	Indian Institute of Science and	Mathematical Science
Neeraj Kayal	Microsoft Research Lab India	Mathematical Science
Dipyaman Ganguly	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata	Medical Sciences
Anindya Das	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Physical Sciences
Basudeb Dasgupta	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Physical Sciences

About the award Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards

The Bhatnagar prizes are named after S.S. Bhatnagar, who was the CSIR's first director general from 1942 to 1954. The SSB Prize, instituted in the memory of the first Director General of the CSIR, is usually announced on the foundation day of the institution on September 26. Bhatnagar Award, each of the value of Rupees five lakh, are awarded annually for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in the following disciplines:

- **Biological Sciences:** This is jointly awarded to Dr. Ashwani Kumar of CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology and Dr. Maddika Subba Reddy of Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics
- **Chemical Sciences:** This is jointly awarded to Dr. Akkattu T Biju of the Indian Institute of Science and Dr. Debabrata Maiti of the Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay)
- **Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences:** This is awarded to Dr. Vimal Mishra of the Indian Institute of Technology (Gandhinagar)
- **Engineering Sciences:** This is jointly awarded to Dr. Dipti Ranjan Sahoo of the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) and Dr. Rajnish Kumar of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras)





- Mathematical Sciences:** This jointly awarded to Dr. Apoorva Khare of the Indian Institute of Science and Dr. Neeraj Kayal of Microsoft Research Lab
- Medical Sciences:** This is awarded to Dr. Dipayan Ganguly of CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
- Physical Sciences:** This is jointly awarded to Dr. Anindya Das of the Indian Institute of Science and Dr. Basudeb Dasgupta of Physics Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Switzerland Ranked No. 1 In The World Best Countries Report 2023

Switzerland has once again claimed the title of the **world's best country**, according to the latest **U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Countries rankings**. This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its **sixth time overall** as the No. 1 nation on the list.

Switzerland excels particularly in entrepreneurship (No. 6), quality of life (No. 6), social purpose (No. 8), and cultural influence (No. 8). It also claims the top spot for being open for business.

The 2023 Rankings: Switzerland Leads the Way

The rankings, released recently, reaffirm Switzerland's supremacy, closely followed by **Canada** at No. 2, **Sweden** at No. 3, **Australia** at No. 4, and the **United States** at No. 5. The United States has slipped one spot compared to its 2022 ranking. In the 2023 rankings, European countries dominate the top tier, securing 16 of the top 25 spots. Notable shifts include **Germany**, which has fallen five spots since 2022, and **Australia** and **New Zealand**, both climbing three places year over year. The Middle East is represented by the **United Arab Emirates**, while Asia boasts Japan, Singapore, China, and South Korea within the top 25.

Top 10 countries globally, as ranked by the U.S. News & World Report:

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Canada
3	Sweden
4	Australia
5	United States
6	Japan
7	Germany
8	New Zealand
9	United Kingdom
10	Netherlands

India Ascends to 30th Place with an Overall Score of 40.8 in 2023, Up from 31st in 2022

In 2023, India's ranking improved by one position, securing the **30th spot** with an **overall score of 40.8**. In the previous year, in 2022, India held the 31st position out of 85.

India achieved its most remarkable performance in the "**Movers**" category, securing the **5th position**. This category evaluates countries based on their potential for future growth and their readiness to face challenges presented by the global economy. In the realm of **cultural influence** and **heritage**, India attained the 29th and 10th positions, respectively. In the **power category**, India claimed the 12th spot.

The Methodology Behind the Rankings

The rankings are developed in collaboration with global marketing communications company **WPP** and the **Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania**. Based on a global survey encompassing **87 countries** and more than 17,000 respondents, these rankings evaluate countries based on **73 attributes** such as dynamism, safety, economic stability, and commitment to social justice. Notably, Cyprus, Honduras, and Zimbabwe have made their debut in the rankings, while **El Salvador** rejoins the list after being absent in 2022.

RBI (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) Directions, 2023

The **Reserve Bank of India** had issued a Discussion Paper (DP) on January 14, 2022 proposing revisions to the current norms for the classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks. After considering the feedback received on the DP, the **Reserve Bank of India (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) Directions, 2023** has been issued.

Revised norms

- The revised Directions include principle-based classification of investment portfolio, tightening of regulations around transfers to/from **held to maturity (HTM) category** and sales out of HTM, inclusion of non-SLR securities in HTM subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and symmetric recognition of gains and losses.
- These Directions are expected to enhance the quality of banks' financial reporting, improve disclosures (disclosures of fair value of investments in HTM category, fair value hierarchy, sales out of HTM, etc.), provide a fillip to the corporate bond market, facilitate the use of derivatives for hedging, and strengthen the overall risk management framework of banks.
- While the revised Directions align the accounting norms for banks' investment portfolios with global financial reporting standards, important prudential safeguards such as investment fluctuation reserve (IFR), due diligence/limits with respect to non-SLR investments, internal control systems, reviews and reporting etc. have been retained and prudential concerns on reliability of valuation have been addressed.





4. The revised Directions shall apply to all commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) from the financial year commencing on **April 1, 2024**.

Categorisation of Investments

The RBI's new directives require banks to classify their investment portfolios into three main categories:

1. **Held to Maturity (HTM):** Under this existing category, banks should hold securities with the intention of keeping them until maturity. These securities should provide regular principal and interest payments.
2. **Available for Sale (AFS):** Securities categorised as AFS are those acquired with the objective of collecting contractual cash flows while also having the option to sell them.
3. **Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL):** This is a new category introduced by RBI and includes securities that do not qualify for HTM or AFS. Securities in this category are valued at fair market value, and any gains or losses are directly reflected in the bank's profit and loss account.

It's important to note that the HTM category does not include certain securities, such as those with convertible features or loss absorbency features. Preference shares and equity shares are also excluded from HTM classification.

Initial Recognition

Under the new RBI guidelines, all investments must be measured at fair value upon initial recognition. The presumption is that the acquisition cost is the fair value unless specific circumstances suggest otherwise. For example, if transactions involve related parties, occur under duress, or take place outside the principal market for that class of securities, the presumption may be tested. Government securities acquired through auctions, switch operations, and open market operations conducted by the RBI will be recognised at the price at which they are allotted.

Subsequent Measurement

The treatment of securities varies depending on their categorisation:

1. **Held to Maturity (HTM):** Securities in the HTM category will be carried at cost and will not be marked to market after initial recognition. Any discounts or premiums on these securities will be amortised over the remaining life of the instrument.
2. **Available for Sale (AFS):** AFS securities will be fair-valued at least quarterly. Amortisation of discounts or premiums on debt securities in this category will be applied over the remaining life of the instrument.
3. **Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL):** Securities in the FVTPL category will be fair-valued, and any gains or losses from this valuation will be directly credited or debited to the profit and loss account.

Investments in Subsidiaries, Associates, and Joint Ventures

Investments in subsidiaries, associates, and joint ventures will be held separately from other investment categories. These investments will be initially recognised at their acquisition cost. If the investee entity later becomes a subsidiary, associate, or joint venture, the carrying value will be adjusted accordingly.

Impairment Evaluation

Banks are required to regularly assess the impairment of investments in subsidiaries, associates, and joint ventures. Various indicators, such as defaults in debt repayments, credit rating downgrades, and significant declines in fair value, will trigger the need for impairment evaluation. In such cases, banks must obtain an independent valuation and make provisions for impairment accordingly.

Asia Cup Final 2023, India beats Sri Lanka by 10 Wickets

India beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final of the Asia Cup 2023 on September 17, 2023 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. It was India's eighth Asia Cup title overall, and their first since 2018. Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat first. Sri Lanka bowled out for just 50 runs, the lowest total in an Asia Cup final. Mohammed Siraj was the pick of the Indian bowlers, taking 6 wickets for 21 runs. In reply, India chased down the target in just 6.1 overs without losing a wicket. **Ishan Kishan scored 23 runs off 18 balls, while Shubman Gill scored 27 runs off 19 balls.**

India's victory was a comprehensive one, and it was a fitting end to a successful tournament for them. They had topped the group stage with a perfect record, and they had beaten Sri Lanka twice in the tournament, including in the final. India's victory in the Asia Cup 2023 was a morale-booster for the team ahead of the ODI World Cup 2023, which will be held in India later this year.

Asia Cup Final 2023, Match Summary

- SL 50 (15.2)
- IND 51/0 (6.1)

Asia Cup 2023 Full List Of Award Winners

- Asia Cup 2023 Winner- India (8th title) (Prize Money- \$1,50000)
- Asia Cup 2023 runner-up- Sri Lanka (Prize Money- \$75,000)
- Asia Cup 2023 Man of the Tournament- Kuldeep Yadav (Prize Money- \$15,000)
- Asia Cup 2023 most runs- S Gill (302)
- Asia Cup 2023 Man of the Match (Final) – Mohammed Siraj (Prize Money- \$5000)
- Asia Cup 2023 most wickets- M Pathirana (SL)- 11

Santiniketan on UNESCO World Heritage List

Santiniketan, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. This recognition marks a significant milestone for India and celebrates the enduring legacy of this unique institution located in Bengal's Birbhum district.





India has long been striving to secure a UNESCO designation for Santiniketan, acknowledging its cultural and historical significance. The decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the **World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia**, reaffirming its importance on the global stage.

The UNESCO Recognition

A Glorious Achievement

Santiniketan's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List is a testament to its cultural and educational significance. This recognition reaffirms the importance of preserving and promoting the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore and the institution he built.

India's Standing on the World Heritage List

With this latest addition, India now ranks **sixth on the World Heritage List**, further highlighting the nation's commitment to safeguarding its cultural and natural treasures. The inclusion of Santiniketan reinforces India's status as a custodian of world heritage. Santiniketan now stands as **India's 41st World Heritage site**, solidifying its place in the nation's rich cultural heritage.

The Journey to UNESCO Recognition

ICOMOS Recommendation

Santiniketan's path to UNESCO recognition was paved by a recommendation from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an international advisory body based in France. Comprising professionals, experts, representatives from local authorities, companies, and heritage organizations, ICOMOS is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of architectural and landscape heritage worldwide. Their endorsement played a pivotal role in Santiniketan's journey to the World Heritage List.

The Legacy of Santiniketan

A Spiritual Haven

Santiniketan, originally an ashram established by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, served as a spiritual retreat. It welcomed individuals, irrespective of their caste and creed, to meditate before the one Supreme God. This inclusive ethos laid the foundation for what would become a cultural and educational powerhouse.

Maharshi Debendranath Tagore's Influence

Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, a prominent figure in the Indian Renaissance, left an indelible mark on Santiniketan. His contributions included the construction of the Santiniketan Griha and the beautiful stained glass Mandir, a non-denominational temple where worship transcended religious boundaries. These structures, dating back to the second half of the 19th century, hold immense historical and spiritual significance.

Visva-Bharati University

A Center of Excellence

Santiniketan is home to Visva-Bharati University, one of India's most prestigious institutions. The university offers degree programs in a wide range of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, sciences, fine arts, music, performing arts, education, agricultural science, and rural reconstruction.

Founded by Rabindranath Tagore

Founded by Rabindranath Tagore, Visva-Bharati was later declared a central university and an institution of national importance through an Act of Parliament in 1951. Tagore's vision of holistic education and cultural exchange continues to shape the institution's ethos.

The Prime Minister as Chancellor

Visva-Bharati holds a unique status as the sole central university of West Bengal, and the Prime Minister of India serves as its chancellor. This distinction underscores the university's significance in the nation's educational landscape.

In conclusion, Santiniketan's inclusion in **UNESCO's World Heritage List** is a momentous achievement for India. It not only celebrates the enduring legacy of Rabindranath Tagore but also recognizes the cultural and educational significance of Santiniketan and Visva-Bharati University. This UNESCO designation ensures that this cultural gem will be preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

RBI releases list of 15 NBFCs in 'Upper Layer' under

In the year 2023-24, RBI released the names of **15 NBFCs that fall under the Upper Layer (UL)/NBFC-UL of the SBR**. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the SBR framework, its layers, and its implications for the NBFC sector in India. In October 2021, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a groundbreaking regulatory framework known as Scale Based Regulation (SBR) for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). This framework aims to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and other critical factors, providing a clear roadmap for regulation.

Understanding Scale Based Regulation (SBR)

Scale Based Regulation (SBR) is a revised regulatory framework introduced by RBI for NBFCs in India. This framework is designed to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and activities, allowing for more tailored regulatory oversight. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects of the SBR:



**I. Base Layer (NBFC-BL)**

The Base Layer primarily consists of non-deposit-taking NBFCs with assets below Rs 1,000 crore. It includes NBFC Peer to Peer (P2P), NBFC-Account Aggregator (AA), Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC), and NBFCs without public funds and customer interface.

II. Middle Layer (NBFC-ML)

The Middle Layer encompasses deposit-taking NBFCs and non-deposit-taking NBFCs with assets exceeding Rs 1,000 crore. It also includes NBFCs engaged in specific activities such as Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs), Infrastructure Debt Fund – NBFCs (IDF-NBFCs), Core Investment Companies (CICs), Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), and Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs).

III. Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)

The Upper Layer includes NBFCs identified by RBI as warranting enhanced regulatory requirements based on specific parameters and scoring methodology. The top 10 eligible NBFCs in terms of asset size will always reside in the Upper Layer, regardless of other factors.

IV. Top Layer (NBFC-TL)

NBFCs in the Upper Layer can be moved to the Top Layer if RBI recognizes a substantial increase in potential systemic risk. As of now, the Top Layer remains ideally empty, but it serves as a contingency for increased risk.

Placement of Other NBFCs

NBFCs falling outside the predefined layers, such as Investment and Credit Companies (NBFC-ICC), Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFI), NBFC-Factors, and Mortgage Guarantee Companies (NBFC-MGC), may be placed in any of the layers of the regulatory structure depending on various parameters determined by RBI.

The Implications of SBR

The introduction of the SBR framework by RBI carries significant implications for the NBFC sector in India. It allows for a more nuanced and risk-based approach to regulation, ensuring that NBFCs are subject to appropriate levels of oversight based on their size and activities. Here are some key implications:

1. Tailored Regulatory Oversight

NBFCs will receive regulatory oversight tailored to their specific risk profiles and activities, reducing the burden of excessive regulation on smaller entities while ensuring robust oversight for larger and potentially systemic NBFCs.

2. Systemic Risk Mitigation

The ability to move NBFCs to the Top Layer in the event of increased systemic risk ensures that the RBI can respond swiftly to emerging threats to financial stability.

3. Clarity and Transparency

The SBR framework brings clarity and transparency to the regulatory landscape for NBFCs, allowing market participants to better understand their obligations and requirements.

Here is the list of NBFC-UL for 2023-24:

S. No.	Company Name	Type	Category
1	LIC Housing Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
2	Bajaj Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
3	Shriram Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
4	Tata Sons Private Limited	Core Investment Company (CIC)	–
5	L & T Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
6	Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
7	Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
8	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
9	Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
10	Tata Capital Financial Services Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
11	PNB Housing Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
12	HDB Financial Services Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)





S. No.	Company Name	Type	Category
13	Aditya Birla Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
14	Muthoot Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
15	Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd.	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company

Government Launches Three Transformative Initiatives for Farmers

In a significant move aimed at revolutionizing agriculture in India, the government has announced the launch of three game-changing initiatives. These initiatives, which focus on agri-credit and crop insurance, were unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar. The initiatives are set to amplify financial inclusion, harness technology, and improve the livelihoods of farmers across the country.

1. Kisan Rin Portal (KRP): A Digital Leap in Agri-Credit

Developed in collaboration with multiple government departments, the Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) is poised to transform access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme. This digital platform provides farmers with a comprehensive view of their data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and facilitates efficient agriculture credit. It promises to simplify and streamline the borrowing process for farmers.

2. Door to Door KCC Campaign: Ensuring Universal Financial Inclusion

The Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan is an ambitious campaign that seeks to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer in India. With a total of 7.35 Crore operative KCC accounts and a sanctioned limit of 8.85 lakh crores rupees as of March 2023, this campaign aims to ensure that every farmer has unhindered access to credit facilities. It envisions universal financial inclusion, empowering farmers with the financial resources they need.

3. Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual: Data-Driven Insights for Farmers

The Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative is a groundbreaking innovation that leverages advanced weather data analytics. By providing stakeholders with actionable insights on weather patterns, WINDS aims to assist farmers in making informed decisions about their agricultural activities. This data-driven approach will enhance crop management and help farmers mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions.

Increasing Regular Jobs but Lingering Unemployment Concerns: Report

In a recent report titled "State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes," a group of economists and researchers from Azim Premji University shed light on the employment landscape in India. This report highlights the dynamics of job creation, the prevalence of

regular wage jobs, caste-based segregation, gender-based earnings disparities, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment rates. Let's delve into the key findings of the report.

1. Growth in Regular Jobs

The report reveals that from 2004 to 2017, India witnessed an annual creation of **three million regular jobs**. However, between 2017 and 2019, this figure surged to **five million jobs**, indicating a positive trend in employment opportunities.

2. Diminished Pace Since 2019

Despite the initial growth, the report underlines a significant **slowdown in the creation of regular wage jobs since 2019**. This deceleration is attributed to economic slowdown and the disruptive effects of the pandemic.

3. Limited Social Security

One concerning aspect is that **only 6%** of these regular jobs provide any form of social security, including health insurance or accidental care insurance. This raises questions about the stability and well-being of the workforce.

4. Gender Disparities

Over the years, there has been a positive shift in gender representation in regular jobs. The proportion of men in such roles increased from 18% to 25%, and for women, it rose from 10% to 25%. This indicates progress in **gender inclusivity in the workforce**.

5. Reduction in Caste-based Segregation

The report highlights a decrease in caste-based segregation in employment. In 2004, over 80% of sons of casual wage workers remained in casual employment, but this figure decreased to 53% for non-SC/ST castes by 2018. This suggests a **decline in caste-related employment disparities**.

6. Earnings Disparities

Gender-based earnings disparities have reduced over the past two decades. In 2004, women in salaried positions earned 70% of what men earned. By 2017, this gap had narrowed, with women earning 76% of men's earnings. This trend has remained relatively constant up to 2021-22.

7. Post-COVID Unemployment

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the report notes that the **unemployment rate in India** was lower than pre-pandemic levels for all education levels. However, the unemployment rate for graduates, particularly those under 25 years old, remains a concern, touching a significant 42%. Additionally, the report highlights a distress-led increase in self-employment among women, with 60% of women being self-employed post-COVID. This shift has resulted in a decline in real earnings from self-employment.





Government Comes Out With A New Set Of National Awards Known As "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar"

The Government of India has recently introduced a prestigious set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation, known as the "**Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**" (RVP). These awards serve a vital role in recognizing and honoring the exceptional contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators who have significantly impacted various domains of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

The Vision Behind Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The primary objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable work accomplished by individuals or teams in the realm of science, technology, and innovation. This initiative aims to inspire and motivate scientists, technologists, and innovators to continue their pursuit of excellence, driving progress and innovation in India.

A Landmark Recognition

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar stands as **one of the highest honors within the scientific and technological community in India**. It encompasses individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those working in government, private sector organizations, or as independent contributors to the scientific and technological landscape. The awards recognize path-breaking research, innovative discoveries, and technological advancements that have made a significant impact on society.

The Four Distinct Categories

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar consists of **four distinct categories** to accommodate a wide range of contributions:

1. Vigyan Ratna (VR) Award

This award **honors lifetime achievements** and substantial contributions made by individuals in any field of science and technology. It recognizes the cumulative impact of their work over the years.

2. Vigyan Shri (VS) Award

Distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology are acknowledged through this award. It highlights the **exceptional efforts of individuals** who have made a lasting mark in their respective domains.

3. Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award

This category encourages and recognizes **young scientists under the age of 45** who have made exceptional contributions in the field of science and technology. It aims to nurture and motivate the emerging talent in India.

4. Vigyan Team (VT) Award

Teamwork often leads to groundbreaking discoveries. The VT Award is presented to **teams comprising three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators** who have made an outstanding contribution while working collectively in any field of science and technology.

Eligibility Criteria

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to scientists, technologists, and innovators working in various sectors, including government and private organizations. To be eligible, candidates must have made distinguished contributions through **path-breaking research, innovation, or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology-led innovation**. Individuals of Indian origin residing abroad who have significantly benefited **Indian communities or society as a whole** are also eligible for these prestigious awards.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar encompasses **13 domains**, ensuring comprehensive recognition of achievements in the scientific and technological spectrum. Gender parity is also a crucial aspect, ensuring representation from each field.

SNo	Scientific Domains
1	Physics
2	Chemistry
3	Biological Sciences
4	Mathematics
5	Computer Science
6	Earth Science
7	Medicine
8	Engineering Sciences
9	Agricultural Science
10	Environmental Science
11	Technology & Innovation
12	Atomic Energy
13	Space Science and Technology

Rigorous Selection Process

Nominations for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards are meticulously reviewed by the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee** (RVPC). The RVPC, headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, comprises Secretaries of Science Departments, members of Science and Engineering Academies, as well as distinguished scientists and technologists from various fields of science and technology. This ensures the highest level of transparency and fairness in the selection process.

The Nomination Timeline

Nominations for these prestigious awards are invited annually, beginning on January 14th, coinciding with **National Science Day**, and remaining open until February 28th. The winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar are officially announced on May 11th, **National Technology Day**, and the Award Ceremony for all categories is held on August 23rd, **National Space Day**. Each award includes a certificate (Sanad) and a medal.





Most Important Current Affairs of August

India Becomes 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon

India successfully landed its **Chandrayaan-3 mission** on the lunar surface on **August 23, 2023**, making it the fourth country to do so after the **United States, Russia, and China**. The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India's space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible. It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to collect valuable data about the lunar south pole, which is thought to be rich in water ice. This information could be used to support future human exploration of the moon. The mission is also expected to help scientists to better understand the formation and evolution of the moon.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a proud moment for India and a significant step forward in our exploration of space. I am confident that this mission will pave the way for many more successes in the years to come.

Chandrayaan-3: Team behind India's Moon mission

Indian spacecraft **Chandrayaan-3** has completed the last endeavor and made a soft landing on the surface of the Moon. The touch down took place at 6:04 pm on August 23, 2023, as scheduled. With Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar touchdown, India has joined the ranks of the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union as the fourth nation to master the technology of soft lunar landings. Nearly 54 female engineers/scientists participated in Chandrayaan-3 mission. According to an ISRO official, they are "associate and deputy project directors and project managers of various systems."



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Here are some of the key people behind Chandrayaan-3:

S Somanath, ISRO Chairman

The brain behind India's ambitious Moon mission is **ISRO chief S Somanath**. Somanath has also been given the credits for accelerating ISRO's other missions including **Gaganyaan** and **Sun-mision Aditya-L1**. Somanath has also served as the director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre — the primary centres for development of rocket technologies for ISRO, before heading India's space organisation.

P Veeramuthuvel, Chandrayaan-3 project director

The project director for India's latest lunar touch-down mission is **P Veeramuthuvel**. In 2019, he took charge for the mission. Veeramuthuvel was serving as a deputy director in the Space Infrastructure Programme Office at the ISRO headquarters before the Moon mission started. He is known for his technical skills. Veeramuthuvel played a key role in Chandrayaan-2 mission as well, being the point person for its negotiations with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A native of Villupuram in Tamil Nadu, Veeramuthuvel is an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology in Madras (IIT-M).

Mohana Kumar, Mission director

S Mohana Kumar, a senior scientist from the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre**, is the mission director for Chandrayaan-3. Kumar has worked as the director for the successful commercial launch of the One Web India 2 satellites on board the LVM3-M3 mission.

S Unnikrishnan Nair, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) director

S Unnikrishnan Nair is the head of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** at Thumba in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district. He and his team are responsible for the key functions of the crucial mission. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark –III, which was renamed as Launch Vehicle Mark-III, rocket, was also developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

M Sankaran, U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) director

The director of U R Rao Satellite Centre, **M Sankaran**, is responsible for leading the satellite fraternity to meet the national requirements in the areas like communication, navigation, remote sensing, meteorology and inter-planetary exploration. In June, 2021, he took over as director of the lead centre in India for design, development and realisation of all satellites of ISRO.

A Rajarajan, Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) chief

A scientist and director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, **A Rajarajan**, is an expert in the area of composites. He was looking after the fruition of solid motor production and launch complex infrastructure to meet ISRO's increased demand of launches including launches for Human Space Programme (Gaganyaan) and SSLV. The Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) gives the go-ahead for the launch.





77th Indian Independence Day 2023: Date, Celebrations, Theme and History

India celebrating their 77th Independence Day on **August 15, 2023**. The theme for this year's celebration is "**Nation First, Always First**". This theme is in line with the government's focus on national unity and development. The day begins with the hoisting of the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi by the Prime Minister. This is followed by a military parade and a cultural program. There will also be flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs all over the country.

The 77th Independence Day is a significant milestone for India. It is a time to reflect on the country's journey since independence and to recommit to the values of freedom, democracy, and equality. It is also a time to celebrate the diversity and unity of the Indian nation.

Here are some of the events that will be held on 77th Indian Independence Day:

- The Prime Minister will hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- There will be a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi.
- There will be cultural programs at various places across the country.
- The government will release a commemorative postage stamp and coin.
- There will be special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- People will gather in public places to celebrate the occasion.

Celebrations of Independence Day 2023

Independence Day is a time to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **Flag hoisting ceremonies:** The Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi at the stroke of midnight on August 14-15. This is followed by flag hoisting ceremonies all over the country, in schools, colleges, government offices, and public places.
- **Military parades:** There is a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi, which is attended by the President, Prime Minister, and other dignitaries. The parade showcases the might of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Cultural programs:** There are cultural programs held at various places across the country, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of India. These programs feature music, dance, and drama.
- **Commemorative events:** The government releases a commemorative postage stamp and coin on Independence Day. There are also special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- **Public gatherings:** People gather in public places to celebrate the occasion. They sing patriotic songs, dance, and distribute sweets.

History of Independence Day 2023

The history of Indian Independence Day can be traced back to the early 19th century, when the Indian independence movement began to gain momentum. The movement was led by a number of prominent figures, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The movement was met with much resistance from the British, who ruled India at the time. However, the movement continued to grow in strength, and eventually led to India's independence on August 15, 1947.
- The date of August 15 was chosen as Independence Day because it was the day that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 came into effect. This act transferred power from the British to the Indian government.
- The first Independence Day celebration was held in 1947. The Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, hoisted the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. He gave a speech in which he outlined the challenges that India faced as an independent nation.
- Independence Day is a national holiday in India. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

Here are some of the key events that led to India's independence:

India's independence was a major achievement for the Indian people. It was the culmination of decades of struggle and sacrifice. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India, and to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **1857:** The Indian Rebellion, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, was a major uprising against British rule in India. The rebellion was suppressed by the British, but it helped to raise awareness of the growing Indian independence movement.
- **1885:** The Indian National Congress was founded. The Congress was a political party that advocated for Indian independence.
- **1905:** The Partition of Bengal was a plan by the British to divide the province of Bengal into two parts, one Hindu-majority and one Muslim-majority. The partition was met with widespread protests, and it helped to further divide the Indian independence movement.
- **1920:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement. The movement was a major turning point in the Indian independence movement. It was based on the principle of nonviolent resistance, and it helped to mobilize millions of Indians against British rule.
- **1930:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Salt March. The Salt March was a major protest against the British salt monopoly. It helped to further popularize the Indian independence movement.





- **1942:** The Quit India Movement was launched by the Indian National Congress. The movement called for the British to immediately quit India. It was met with widespread protests, and it led to the imprisonment of many Indian leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi.
- **1947:** India gained independence from Britain. The independence was marked by the partition of India into two countries, India and Pakistan. The partition was a bloody and chaotic process, and it led to the deaths of millions of people.

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate

In 1973, the Government of India launched **Project Tiger**, a comprehensive conservation project aimed at protecting the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved remarkable success, with India currently harboring **almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population**. On Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Ashwini Kumar**, released a comprehensive report revealing India's tiger population estimate of 3,925, with an annual growth rate of 6.1%.

I. Project Tiger's Success and Evolution:

- Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km². It has now expanded to 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km², effectively covering **2.3% of India's total land area**.
- The first phase of tiger conservation focused on enacting the **Wildlife Protection Act** and establishing protected areas, while the second phase in 2005 adopted a landscape-level approach, community involvement, strict law enforcement, and scientific monitoring.

II. The Growth of India's Tiger Population:

- In 2022, during the celebration of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the minimum tiger population estimate of 3,167 from the camera-trapped area.
- Further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, considering both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, resulted in an estimated **tiger population of 3,925** with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- Notably, Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains saw significant increases in tiger population, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. However, certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, requiring targeted conservation efforts.

III. States with Largest Tiger Populations

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population

State	Tiger Population
Madhya Pradesh	785
Karnataka	563
Uttarakhand	560
Maharashtra	444

IV. Tiger Reserve Abundance

Tiger Reserve	Tiger Population
Corbett	260
Bandipur	150
Nagarhole	141
Bandhavgarh	135
Dudhwa	135
Mudumalai	114
Kanha	105
Kaziranga	104
Sundarbans	100
Tadoba	97
Sathyamangalam	85
Pench-MP	77

V. Conservation Challenges and Measures:

- Approximately 35% of tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.
- Challenges like poaching continue to pose a threat to tiger conservation.
- To preserve ecological integrity, eco-friendly development, minimizing mining impacts, and addressing human-wildlife conflict are crucial steps.
- Fortifying protected area management and intensifying anti-poaching measures are essential for the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems.

Hiroshima Day 2023: Date, Background and Significance

On **6th August 1945**, the world witnessed the most devastating events in human history when the **United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima**. This act resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives and forever altered the course of humanity. Since, then August **6th has been observed as Hiroshima Day**, a solemn occasion to commemorate the victims and reflect on the horrors of nuclear warfare. **6th August 2023, 78th Hiroshima Day**, holds a significant position in the history.





History of Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima, a city of cultural significance, was instantly transformed into a haunting landscape of death and destruction in the blink of an eye. The atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy', killed an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation. Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.

The tragedy of Hiroshima serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the devastating potential of nuclear weapons.

Pursuit of Peace

Over the decades, Hiroshima has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope. The city, once a monument of destruction, has risen up from the ashes and rebuilt itself, focusing on fostering peace and understanding among nations.

Significance of Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima Day holds a significant position in the history as it remembers the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, causing immense destruction and loss of lives. This day reminds us the **devastating consequences of war and the need of peace and the nuclear disarmament**. This day plays a significant role in promoting understanding, reconciliation and a more peaceful future.

Quit India Movement

Quit India Movement: Introduction

The Quit India Movement was a historic event in India's struggle for Independence from British colonial rule. The year 2023 marks the **81st anniversary of this momentous movement** that changed the course of India's history. As we commemorate this significant milestone, it is essential to reflect the ideals and sacrifices of the past, drawing inspiration for the present and the future.

Launch and leadership

The **Quit India Movement**, also known as the **August Movement**, was initiated by the **Indian National Congress** on **8th August, 1942**, led by Mahatma Gandhi, who called for "**Do or Die**" in the struggle for India's independence.

Objective of Quit India Movement

The primary objective of the Quit India Movement was to achieve immediate and complete independence from British colonial rule. It demanded to end the control of British over India and establish a sovereign and self-governing nation.

Civil Disobedience and Non-violence

The Quit India Movement adapted the principles of civil disobedience and non-violence, inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi's** philosophy of Satyagraha. The hallmarks of this movement were peaceful protests, non-cooperation and non-violent resistance.

Mass Participation in Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement witnessed the participation from people of all ages, genders and backgrounds. This movement got the support from students, farmers, laborers and women which unite the diverse population of India under a common goal.

Regression and Arrests

The British colonial authorities responded to the movement with brutal repression. Many leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested, and the British administration resorted to violence to suppress the protests.

Acts of Resistance

Indians organized strikes, boycotted British goods and launched acts of civil disobedience across the country. Public servants resigned from their posts and students boycotted educational institutions run by the British government.

Unity and National Pride

The Quit India Movement fostered a sense of unity and national pride among Indians, who were determined to stand together in their fight for independence.

Significance of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement had a significant impact on India's struggle for independence. It represented the power of non-violent resistance and united people from all backgrounds stood together for independence. Despite harsh repression, the movement fuelled the demand for self-rule and forced the British government to negotiate with Indian leaders.

Legacy of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement left a lasting legacy which showed how non-violent protests and unity can lead to big changes. This movement played a crucial role in achieving independence on 15th August, 1947.

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting Highlights

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy meeting highlights encompass the RBI's decisions, economic assessments, inflation forecasts, and policy measures discussed during the August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting.

1. Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the repo rate at 6.50% during its August 2023 monetary policy meeting.
- The decision was taken unanimously by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

2. Inflation Trends and Forecasts:

- Headline inflation, which dropped to 4.3% in May 2023, experienced a rise in June and is expected to further surge in July and August due to higher vegetable prices.
- The RBI has projected India's Q2 retail inflation at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2% for the current fiscal year.





- The CPI inflation forecast for FY2023-24 has been revised from 5.1% to 5.4% due to shocks in vegetable prices.

3. Economic Outlook:

- Despite weak external demand, domestic economic activity remains robust and is likely to maintain its momentum.
- The RBI has retained the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year at 6.5%, with balanced risks.

4. Monitoring Inflation Trajectory:

- The MPC remains committed to aligning inflation with the target of 4% and anchoring inflation expectations.
- The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points implemented by the MPC is gradually affecting the economy.
- The MPC decided to stay vigilant and assess the evolving situation before making any policy changes.

5. Liquidity Measures:

- The RBI has instructed banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the growth in deposits between May 19 and July 28, effective from the August 12 fortnight.

6. UPI Payment Updates:

- The RBI announced changes in UPI payments, allowing offline payments using near-field communication.
- The payment limit via UPI Lite has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

7. Transition to Fixed-Rate Regime:

- Home loan and other borrowers are permitted to switch to a fixed-rate regime, according to the RBI's directive.

8. Consistent Policy Stance:

- This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC has chosen to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.
- Previously, the MPC had increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.

9. Positive Indian Economic Outlook:

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that the Indian economy remains a bright spot in the global landscape.

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RBI's Strategic Announcements Set to Transform UPI and UPI Lite Landscape

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently unveiled a trio of groundbreaking initiatives poised to revolutionize the digital payments landscape in India through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and **UPI Lite**. These initiatives were announced by Governor Shaktikanta Das during the RBI's bi-monthly policy review, emphasizing their potential to usher in a new era of the payments revolution.

Conversational Payments on UPI:

In a move to enhance the ease and reach of UPI, the RBI has unveiled plans to introduce Conversational Payments on the platform. This innovative feature empowers users to engage in transactions by conversing with an AI-powered system, ensuring safety and security throughout the process.

Enhancing Accessibility: The integration of AI-driven conversational instructions is set to make UPI more user-friendly, thereby reducing barriers to adoption, particularly among senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Multilingual Support: Initially available in Hindi and English, the Conversational Payments feature will subsequently extend to encompass various Indian languages, catering to the linguistic diversity of the nation.

UPI Lite Payment Limit Enhancement:

Acknowledging the evolving needs of users, the RBI has raised the transaction limit for UPI Lite from Rs 200 to Rs 500, aiming to facilitate more substantial and convenient transactions.

Optimized Processing: UPI Lite, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), allows swift small-value transactions by streamlining processing resources for banks. This optimization minimizes transaction failures and enhances overall efficiency.

Balancing Security: While the transaction limit has been elevated, the balance ceiling for UPI Lite remains unchanged at Rs 2,000, ensuring a cautious approach towards relaxing two-factor authentication for higher transaction limits.

Offline UPI Payments with NFC Technology:

In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. This pioneering approach not only enables retail digital payments in scenarios of weak or absent internet connectivity but also guarantees speed and minimal transaction declines.

Addressing Connectivity Challenges: The incorporation of NFC technology allows users to conduct transactions even when internet or telecom connectivity is compromised, making digital payments more reliable and accessible.

Seamless Transactions: The use of NFC technology not only circumvents connectivity issues but also ensures smoother and more efficient transactions, adding to the appeal of UPI Lite as a dependable digital payment solution.



**Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023 full winners****list**

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, honouring the finest cinematic gems from the Indian film industry. The **14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards** were held in Melbourne, Australia, on 11 August, honouring the best of film and OTT content from India globally.

Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry as a Filmmaker. He received a huge round of applause for his immense contributions in the field of entertainment.

Here is the complete list of winners:

Category	Winner
Jury Awards	
Best Documentary	To Kill A Tiger
Best Indie Film	Agra
Best Performance in Film (MALE)	Mohit Agarwal for Agra
Best Performance in a film (FEMALE)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Director	Prithvi Konanur – Hadineleantu (Seventeeners)
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best Performance (MALE) in a Series	Vijay Varma for Dahaad
Best Performance (FEMALE) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Trial By Fire
Best Series	Jubilee
Best Short Film – People's Choice	Connection Kya Hain by Nilesh Naik
Best Short Film – Australia	Home by Mark Russel Bernard
Honourary Awards	
Equality in Cinema Award	Darlings
People's Choice Award	Pathaan
Award to Karan Johar	For his 25 years as a filmmaker
Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema	Kartik Aaryan
Diversity in Cinema Award	Mrunal Thakur
Disruptor Award	Bhumi Pednekar
Rainbow Stories Award	Onir for Pine Cone

About IFFM

This annual event, held in the heart of Australia, honours the remarkable talents of the Indian film fraternity, spanning movies and OTT series. The prestigious awards night was an evening of glamour and recognition, where the best of Indian cinema and the OTT landscape were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions. The awards ceremony, held at the iconic Hamer Hall in Melbourne in all its grandeur, witnessed the convergence of artists, filmmakers, and enthusiasts. The 2023 IFFM awards night not only paid tribute to the excellence achieved in the past year but also showcased the dynamic and evolving landscape of Indian entertainment celebrating the diversity of the films and content from the subcontinent.

Ashleigh Gardner and Chris Woakes Named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named **ICC Players of the Month** for July 2023. Australia's spin bowling all-rounder **Ashleigh Gardner** and England's seamer **Chris Woakes** have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for July 2023.

Ashleigh Gardner

Australia's prolific all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win back-to-back awards, claiming her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month prize following another scintillating set of performances against England and Ireland in July.

Gardner scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in eight ODI and T20I matches during the month, including a Player of the Match performance in the second ODI against England, where she scored 65 runs and took three wickets. She was also named Player of the Series in the ODI series against Ireland.

Chris Woakes

England seamer Chris Woakes wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his fruitful contributions with the ball, helping his side claw back a two-nil deficit to close out their Ashes series on level terms.

Woakes took 19 wickets in three Tests against Australia, including a Player of the Match performance in the final Test at The Oval, where he took seven wickets and scored a vital 36 runs in the first innings. He was also named Player of the Series.

Other nominees

The other nominees for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award were Ellyse Perry and Nat Sciver-Brunt, while the other nominees for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award were Zak Crawley and Bas de Leede.

ICC Player of the Month awards

The ICC Player of the Month awards are voted for by a panel of experts, including former cricketers, journalists and broadcasters. The awards are designed to recognize the best performances by international cricketers across all three formats of the game. Last month, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced **Wanindu Hasaranga**, the Sri Lankan





spinner, and **Ashleigh Gardner**, the Australian women's team all-rounder, as the recipients of the 'Player of the Month' award for their remarkable performances in **June**.

BRICS Summit 2023 Highlights: Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Expansion Ambitions

The **15th BRICS Summit** took place in Johannesburg, bringing together leaders from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. The summit aimed to enhance cooperation among these emerging economies, discuss global concerns, and potentially expand the group's membership.

BRICS Summit 2023: Opening and Leaders' Participation

- The 15th BRICS Summit occurred in Johannesburg, focusing on the cooperation of the **BRICS nations** – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The summit marked the first in-person meeting of BRICS leaders since 2019, reflecting the significance of discussing shared issues.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** of India and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** were among the leaders attending.
- Modi emphasized the importance of the summit for addressing issues concerning the Global South and developmental matters.

BRICS Summit 2023: Expanded Dialogue and Outreach

- Prime Minister Modi announced his participation in BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events, highlighting the intention to engage with other nations beyond the core BRICS grouping.
- The inclusion of guest countries provided an opportunity for broader discussions on global challenges and development.

Diplomatic Engagements

- Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Johannesburg for the summit, focusing on enhancing China's involvement in global affairs.
- Xi's change of plans, skipping a business forum and sending the Chinese Commerce Minister, raised questions about the reasons behind this decision.
- African countries urged China to shift its focus from infrastructure development to local industrialization to align with the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

BRICS Summit 2023: Key Addresses and Vision

- Leaders like Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva emphasized the significance of BRICS in fostering cooperation among developing nations.
- Ramaphosa highlighted the need for global financial institutions to undergo reform to better address the challenges faced by developing economies.
- Brazilian President Lula da Silva clarified that BRICS aimed to organize the Global South and was not meant to rival established powers like the United States and G7 economies.

BRICS Summit 2023: Expansion Ambitions

- The possibility of expanding BRICS to include more countries generated discussions during the summit.
- China and Russia's aspirations to bolster BRICS aimed to counterbalance the influence of Western powers amid global tensions.
- South African President Ramaphosa expressed support for expanding BRICS and revealed that over 20 nations, including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Egypt, had formally applied to join.

BRICS Summit 2023: Collective Influence and Global Partnerships

- President Xi Jinping called for increased collaboration between China and South Africa to bolster their influence in international affairs, particularly in the Global South.
- Xi emphasized support for South Africa's greater role in the G20, highlighting the nations' partnership and pursuit of justice in global affairs.

BRICS Summit 2023: Economic and Growth Aspects

- Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's rapid economic growth and projected it to become a \$5 trillion economy in the near future.
- BRICS nations sought to strengthen cooperation to address economic challenges and enhance their combined influence on the global stage.

Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day'

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on August 26 announced to celebrate **August 23**, when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as **National Space Day**. He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as '**Shivashakti**' and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as '**Tiranga Point**'.

The Prime Minister was addressing the scientists at the **ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PM Modi said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.

PM Modi's visit to ISRO in Bengaluru

- To congratulate ISRO team for the successful touchdown of **Chandrayaan-3 lander** on August 23, PM Modi visited to Bengaluru, immediately after returning from his two-nation visit to Greece and South Africa. He was accorded a warm reception as he arrived at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru on Saturday morning.
- Afterwards, he also met the team of scientists with the **Indian Space Research Organisation**, who were involved in the mission. PM Modi joined the ISRO team in witnessing the historic landing of Vikram lander on Moon virtually from South Africa. At that time he was attending the **15th BRICS Summit**.





- The Prime Minister was received personally by ISRO Chairman **S Somanath**. The two greeted each other with a warm hug, which was more of a celebration of the successful culmination of the daunting lunar landing mission. He also posed for a group photo with the team of scientists behind the project. Later, PM Modi received the briefing of ISRO's 40-day journey to the lunar South Pole by S Somanath.
- He said that Chandrayaan-2 left its footprint on the lunar surface in 2019. He also gave credit to the women scientists of ISRO in the success of India's mission to moon.

Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022

The **India Smart Cities Awards 2022**, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, have recognized **Indore** as the best city and **Madhya Pradesh** as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The awards celebrate the progress and achievements of cities and states in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of urban life across India.

Top City and State Recognized:

- Best City Award:** **Indore** has been named the best city in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022. The city has a remarkable track record, being consistently ranked as the cleanest city in the Swachh Bharat Mission for six consecutive years.
- Best State Award:** **Madhya Pradesh** has been recognized as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The state has shown significant commitment to urban development through the implementation of multi-sectoral projects aimed at improving citizens' quality of life.

Top Smart Cities:

- Second Best City:** **Surat** secured the second position among the smart cities for its notable efforts in urban development.
- Third Best City:** **Agra** claimed the third spot for its initiatives contributing to the Smart Cities Mission.

State Rankings:

- Second Best State:** **Tamil Nadu** was placed second among the states, reflecting its strides in urban development and sustainable projects.
- Shared Third Best State:** **Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** shared the third position among the states for their contributions to the Smart Cities Mission.

Award Categories and Winning Projects:

- Built Environment Category:** **Coimbatore's** model roads and restoration of lakes project was recognized as the top project in this category.
- Economy Category:** **Jabalpur's** incubation center project was awarded the top position for its economic impact.

- Mobility Category:** **Chandigarh's** public bike-sharing initiative stood out in the mobility category.
- Governance Category:** Chandigarh also excelled in the governance category, specifically in e-governance services.
- Union Territory Category:** Chandigarh received the overall award for being the best Union Territory in the India Smart Cities Awards.

Progress of Smart Cities Mission:

- The Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, has seen significant achievements. The 100 selected cities have completed 76% of the proposed projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore.
- The remaining projects, valued at Rs. 60,095 crore, are expected to be completed by June 30, 2024. The deadline was extended to accommodate the completion of projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC):

- All 100 Smart Cities have operational Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC), which serve as the urban management nerve center. These centers have enhanced urban services, including crime tracking, safety measures, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster management.

ISAC Awards and Its Goals:

- The India Smart Cities Awards aim to recognize and reward cities, projects, and ideas that contribute to sustainable development and enhance the overall quality of life for urban residents.
- The awards promote inclusivity, equity, safety, health, and collaboration among cities.

Selection Process and Nominations:

- The ISAC 2022 had a two-stage submission process. The Qualifying Stage assessed cities' overall performance, while the Proposal Stage required nominations for six award categories.
- Out of 845 nominations from 80 qualifying smart cities, 66 winners were identified across various categories.

BILINGUAL

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ASSISTANT

50+ TOTAL TESTS





Most Important Current Affairs of July

Government of India reduces GST rate on electronics item

The **Union Finance Ministry** recently announced a reduction in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** for electronic items on the sixth anniversary of the GST implementation on **July 1**. The list of electronic products includes mobile phones, TVs up to 27 inches, refrigerators, washing machines, and others. With the aim of making home appliances more affordable, the Finance Ministry has lowered the GST rates for various items. Refrigerators, washing machines, fans, coolers, geysers, and similar products will now be subject to a reduced GST rate of 18 percent, previously being at 31.3 percent.

In addition, there have been reductions in GST rates for various other household items. Products such as mixers, juicers, vacuum cleaners, LEDs, vacuum flasks, and vacuum utensils have also witnessed a decrease in their GST rates. The GST rate for mixers, juicers, and similar items has been lowered from 31.3 percent to 18 percent, while LEDs now have a reduced GST rate of 12 percent, previously being at 15 percent.

Item	Earlier	Now
TV upto 27 inches	31.3%	18%
Refrigerators	31.3%	18%
Washing machine	31.3%	18%
Mixers, Juicers, Vacuum cleaners,,	31.3%	18%
Fans, coolers, geysers	31.3%	18%
LPG stove	21%	18%
LEDs	15%	12%
Sewing Machine	16%	12%
Static Converter UPS	28%	18%
Kerosene Pressure Lantern	8%	5%
Vacuum flasks, and vacuum Vessels	28%	18%
Mobile Phones	31.3%	12%

About June GST collections

In June, the total GST revenue collected experienced a minimal increase of 2.80 percent, reaching Rs 1,61,497 crore, as compared to the collection of Rs 1,57,090 crore in May. The GST collected in June comprised Rs 31,013 crore under CGST, Rs 38,292 crore under SGST, Rs 80,292 crore under IGST (which includes Rs 39,035 crore collected on imported goods), and Rs 11,900 crore under cess (including Rs 1,028 crore collected on imported goods). From the IGST amount, the government settled Rs 36,224 crore for CGST and Rs 30,269 crore for SGST.

SAFF Championship 2023 Final: India wins 9th title

The **Indian men's football team** emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against **Kuwait 5-4** in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the **SAFF Championship 2023 title** at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.

India, serving as the hosts, remained undefeated throughout the SAFF Championship 2023. They defeated Pakistan and Nepal while drawing against Kuwait in the group stage. In the semifinals, they overcame Lebanon in a penalty shootout and replicated the same feat against Kuwait in a nail-biting final. In addition to the medals, the team was awarded a cash prize of **USD 50,000, equivalent to INR 41 lakh**.

Kuwait football team received the award for finishing runners-up in the SAFF Championship 2023. While all the players received medals, the team also got a cheque of **US Dollar 25,000 which is around 20 lakh and about 50 thousands in Indian currency**.

Awardees of the tournament

Award	Recipient
Fairplay Award	Nepal football team
Best Goalkeeper	Anisur Rahman Zico
Highest Goal-Scorer	Sunil Chhetri (6 Goals)
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	Sunil Chhetri
Runners-up	Kuwait football team

About the SAFF Football Championship

The SAFF Football Championship, also known as the South Asian Football Federation Championship, is a biennial international football tournament contested by the national teams of South Asian countries. The championship aims to promote and develop football in the region. Here is a brief history of the SAFF Football Championship:

1993: The inaugural edition of the SAFF Championship took place in Lahore, Pakistan. India emerged as the champions by defeating hosts Pakistan in the final.

2023 Global Peace Index

The 2023 Global Peace Index, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, provides a comprehensive ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world. The **17th edition** of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI), the world's leading measure of peacefulness, reveals the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated for the ninth consecutive year, with 84 countries recording an improvement and 79 a deterioration.





This demonstrates that the deteriorations were larger than the improvements, as the post-COVID rises of civil unrest and political instability remain high while regional and global conflicts accelerate. This article highlights key findings from the report, including Iceland's continued reign as the most peaceful country and India's ranking.

- Iceland:** The No. 1 Most Peaceful Country: Iceland has retained its position as the most peaceful country since the inaugural study in 2008. It excels in domains such as ongoing domestic and international conflict, societal safety and security, and militarization. Additionally, Iceland ranks as the third happiest country globally, following Finland and Denmark.
- European Dominance in Peacefulness:** Seven out of the top 10 most peaceful countries in the world are located in Europe. Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland are among the nations that contribute to Europe's peaceful reputation. New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, and Slovenia also feature prominently in the top 10.

Overall GPI Score

A composite index measuring the peacefulness of countries made up of 23 quantitative and qualitative indicators each weighted on a scale of 1-5. The lower the score the more peaceful the country.

RANK	REGION	SCORE
1	Iceland	1.124
2	Denmark	1.31
3	Ireland	1.312
4	New Zealand	1.313
5	Austria	1.316
6	Singapore	1.332
7	Portugal	1.333
8	Slovenia	1.334
9	Japan	1.336
10	Switzerland	1.339

India's Peacefulness Ranking:

India's position on the Global Peace Index stands at **126 out of 163 countries**. With an overall score of 2.31, India falls below the global average of 2.314. While the country faces ongoing challenges in achieving high levels of peace, it presents an opportunity for improvement.

Key Findings from the Global Peace Index:

a) **Global Peace Deterioration:** For the ninth consecutive year, the average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated. While 84 countries experienced improvements, 79 witnessed a decline. The post-COVID era has seen a rise in civil unrest, political instability, and regional conflicts.

b) **Increase in Conflict Deaths:** Deaths resulting from global conflict rose by 96% to reach 238,000. Surprisingly, conflict-related fatalities in Ethiopia surpassed those in Ukraine, eclipsing previous peak levels observed during the Syrian war. Several countries, including Myanmar, Israel, and South Africa, reported increased conflict levels.

c) **Economic Impact of Violence:** The global economic impact of violence surged by 17% or \$1 trillion, amounting to \$17.5 trillion in 2022. This figure corresponds to approximately 13% of the global GDP. Notably, a hypothetical Chinese blockade of Taiwan would cause a staggering \$2.7 trillion drop in global economic output, nearly double the impact of the 2008 financial crisis.

d) **Changing Military Dynamics:** Despite the conflict in Ukraine, military expenditure improved in 92 countries, while 110 countries reduced their military personnel. Conflicts are increasingly internationalized, with 91 countries currently involved in some form of external conflict, up from 58 in 2008.

Impact of the War in Ukraine on Peacefulness:

- Ukraine's Deterioration:** Ukraine experienced the largest decline in peace, falling 14 places to 157th position. The economic impact of violence in Ukraine increased by 479% or \$449 billion, accounting for 64% of the country's GDP.
- Positive Trends in Russia:** Despite the conflict, Russia showcased improvements in areas such as incarceration rates, violent demonstrations, terrorism impact, and homicide rates. The homicide rate reached its lowest point since 2008.
- Human Cost:** The conflict in Ukraine has led to significant human losses, with 65% of men aged 20 to 24 either fleeing the country or losing their lives in the conflict.

Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

The Indian Education System is one of the largest globally, with millions of schools, teachers, and students from diverse backgrounds. The Ministry of Education has devised the **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** to assess the performance of the school education system at the state/UT level. The PGI provides a comprehensive analysis and creates an index for evaluating the education system.

Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

Reasons for PGI 2.0:

- The previous versions of PGI have become outdated and redundant.
- The new PGI 2.0 aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and monitors indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It focuses on quality indicators, includes digital initiatives and teacher education, and utilizes data from UDISE+ for better uniformity and comparability.

Structure of PGI 2.0:

- PGI 2.0 comprises 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management (GM).





- These categories are further divided into six domains: Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP), and Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).

Grading System:

Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

- PGI 2.0 classifies States/UTs into ten grades.
- The highest achievable grade is Daksh, awarded to those scoring over 940 points out of a total of 1000.
- The lowest grade is Akanshi-3, given to those scoring up to 460 points.

Objectives of PGI 2.0:

- The aim is to encourage multi-pronged interventions to achieve optimal education outcomes.
- It helps identify gaps and prioritize areas for intervention in the school education system.
- Indicators are aligned with the NEP 2020 and policy initiatives for effective progress tracking.

Efficacy of PGI 2.0:

- PGI 2.0 scores and grades attained by States/UTs in 2021-22 showcase the effectiveness of the system.
- Indicator-wise scores highlight areas for improvement within each State/UT.

Key highlights in short

- The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.
- PGI 2.0 replaces the previous versions and focuses on qualitative assessment, digital initiatives, and teacher education.
- The structure comprises 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management.
- States/UTs are classified into ten grades, with Daksh being the highest achievable grade and Akanshi-3 being the lowest.
- PGI 2.0 aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to improve education outcomes and identify areas for intervention.
- The release of PGI 2.0 demonstrates the efficacy of the system in assessing and improving the education system.

Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashleigh Gardner wins ICC 'Player of the Month' award

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced **Wanindu Hasaranga**, the Sri Lankan spinner, and **Ashleigh Gardner**, the Australian women's team all-rounder, as the recipients of the 'Player of the Month' award for their remarkable performances in June. Hasaranga earned this honor for his outstanding achievements during the World Cup Qualifier matches in Zimbabwe, where he set new records. Ashleigh Gardner, the hero of the Women's Ashes, became the first player to win the Player-of-the-Month accolade three times.

Why Wanindu Hasaranga?

During the ICC World Cup Qualifiers, Wanindu Hasaranga played a crucial role in Sri Lanka's successful qualification for the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, scheduled to begin on September 5. Hasaranga emerged as the top wicket-taker in the qualifiers, impressively securing 22 wickets in 7 matches with an average of 12.90. He made a significant impact from the very start of the tournament, claiming six wickets against UAE in the opening match. He continued his remarkable performance with figures of 5-13 and 5-79 against Oman and Ireland, respectively. Notably, Hasaranga achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first spinner to achieve three consecutive five-wicket hauls in ODI history.

Why Ashleigh Gardner?

Ashleigh Gardner played a pivotal role in Australia's triumph in the Women's Ashes one-off Test match, where they emerged victorious by a margin of 89 runs. Gardner's contribution was instrumental in her team's success. In the first innings, she scored 40 runs and followed it up with a remarkable four-wicket haul. However, her most remarkable feat came in the second innings when she single-handedly secured the win for her country by taking eight wickets for just 66 runs. Gardner's exceptional performance proved to be the decisive factor in Australia's victory in the match.

How they selected?

A vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, media representatives and global cricket fans registered at icc-cricket.com decided the winners, following the announcement of nominees last week.

Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting: Changes in GST Rates and Compliance Measures

The **50th Meeting of the GST Council**, led by Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, marked a significant milestone in the journey of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The council discussed and recommended changes in GST tax rates, measures to facilitate trade, and streamline compliance processes. Here are the key highlights of the meeting.

Changes in GST Tax Rates:

I. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Goods:

A. Changes in GST rates of goods:

- Uncooked/Unfried Snack Pellets:** The rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets will be reduced to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.

B. Other changes relating to goods:

- Dinutuximab (Quarziba) Medicine:** IGST exemption will be provided for imported Dinutuximab (Quarziba) medicine for personal use.





2. Medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP): IGST exemption will be extended to imported medicines and FSMP used in the treatment of rare diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, subject to existing conditions. The exemption will also apply to FSMP imported by Centers of Excellence for Rare Diseases or recommended institutions.
3. Supply of Raw Cotton: Supply of raw cotton, including kala cotton, by agriculturists to cooperatives will be taxable under reverse charge mechanism, and issues related to past periods will be regularized.
4. Imitation Zari Thread or Yarn: GST rate on imitation zari thread or yarn will be reduced from 12% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.
5. Utility Vehicles: Entry 52B in the compensation cess notification will be amended to include all utility vehicles that meet specified parameters. The ground clearance in unladen condition will be clarified.
6. LD Slag: GST rate on LD slag will be reduced from 18% to 5% to promote better utilization and environmental protection.
7. Implants: Issues relating to trauma, spine, and arthroplasty implants prior to 18.07.2022 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues.
8. Fish Soluble Paste: GST rate on fish soluble paste will be reduced from 18% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.
9. Desiccated Coconut: Issues relating to desiccated coconut for the period 1.7.2017 to 27.7.2017 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues.
10. Pan Masala and Tobacco Products: The earlier ad valorem rate applicable on 31st March 2023 will be notified for the levy of Compensation Cess on pan masala, tobacco products, etc., where it is not legally required to declare the retail sale price.
11. Banks for IGST Exemption: RBL Bank and ICBC Bank will be included in the list of specified banks eligible for IGST exemption on imports of gold, silver, or platinum. The list of eligible banks/entities will be updated as per the Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
12. Notifications: Consequential changes will be made in notifications in accordance with the new Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
13. Plates and Cups made of Areca Leaves: Issues relating to GST on plates and cups made of areca leaves prior to 01.10.2019 will be regularized.
14. Biomass Briquettes: Issues relating to GST on biomass briquettes for the period 01.7.2017 to 12.10.2017 will be regularized.

Table 1: Changes in GST Tax Rates for Goods

S. No.	Goods /Items	GST Rate Before Recommendation	Recommended GST Rate	Regularization of Past Payment
1.	Uncooked/Unfried Snack Pellets	18%	5%	"As is basis"
2.	Dinutuximab (Quarziba) Medicine	—	Exempt	—
3.	Medicines and FSMP for Rare Diseases	—	Exempt	—
4.	Raw Cotton (including kala cotton)	—	Taxable (under RCM)	"As is basis"
5.	Imitation Zari Thread or Yarn	12%	5%	"As is basis"
6.	Utility Vehicles	—	—	—
7.	LD Slag	18%	5%	—
8.	Trauma, Spine, and Arthroplasty Implants	—	—	"As is basis"
9.	Fish Soluble Paste	18%	5%	"As is basis"
10.	Desiccated Coconut	—	—	"As is basis"
11.	Pan Masala and Tobacco Products	—	—	—
12.	Banks for IGST Exemption on Gold/Silver/Plat	—	—	—
13.	Notifications	—	—	—
14.	Plates and Cups made of Areca Leaves	—	—	"As is basis"
15.	Biomass Briquettes	—	—	"As is basis"




II. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Services:
A. Changes in GST rates of services:

1. Satellite Launch Services: GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by ISRO, Antrix Corporation Limited, and New Space India Limited (NSIL) may be extended to such services supplied by private sector organizations to encourage startups.

B. Other changes relating to services:

1. Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs): GTAs will not be required to file a declaration for paying GST under forward charge every year. The option to pay GST under forward charge must be exercised by 31st March of the preceding financial year.
2. Services Provided by Directors: Services provided by a director of a company in his private or personal capacity, such as renting immovable property, will not be taxable under reverse charge mechanism (RCM). Only services supplied by a director in their capacity as a director of the company or body corporate will be taxable under RCM.
3. Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls: Supply of food and beverages in cinema halls will be taxable as a restaurant service if supplied independently of the cinema exhibition service.

Table 2: Changes in GST Rates for Services

S. No.	Services	GST Rate Before Recommendation	Recommended GST Rate
1.	Satellite Launch Services	–	Exempt (extended to private sector)
2.	Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs)	–	–
3.	Services Provided by Directors	–	–
4.	Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls	–	–

III. Second Report of Group of Ministers (GoM) on Casinos, Race Courses, and Online Gaming:

The GoM recommended taxing casinos, horse racing, and online gaming at a uniform rate of 28%, with tax applicable on the face value of chips purchased in the case of casinos, the full value of bets placed with bookmakers/totalisator in the case of horse racing, and the full value of bets placed in the case of online gaming.

Table 3: Second Report of GoM on Casinos, Race Courses, and Online Gaming

S. No.	Activities	Current GST Rate	Recommended GST Rate
1.	Casinos	18%	28%
2.	Horse Racing	18%	28%
3.	Online Gaming	18%	28%

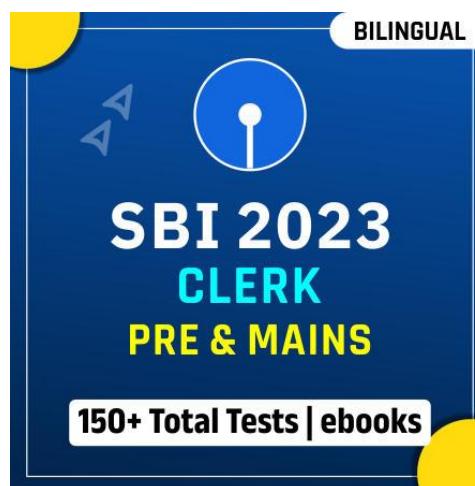
United States holds title for world's most powerful military make new title

According to **Global Firepower**, a prominent data website specializing in defence-related information, the **United States** possesses the most powerful military force worldwide. **Russia and China** follow closely in second and third place, respectively, while **India secures the fourth position**. The recently released 2023 Military Strength list, which evaluates over 60 factors, also highlights nations with comparatively weaker military forces such as Bhutan and Iceland.

Assessment of the report:

The assessment by Global Firepower takes into account various criteria, including the number of military units, financial resources, logistical capabilities, and geographical considerations, to determine each nation's overall score. The report lists 145 countries and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.

- The top four nations remain as they were in the 2022 Global Firepower list. In a shift from the previous year's rankings, the United Kingdom has advanced from eighth to fifth place in terms of military strength. South Korea retains its sixth position from last year.
- Notably, Pakistan has entered the top 10, securing the seventh spot. **Conversely, Japan and France**, which held the fifth and seventh positions respectively last year, have dropped to eighth and ninth this year.





Here are the 10 nations with the most powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country
1	United States
2	Russia
3	China
4	India
5	United Kingdom
6	South Korea
7	Pakistan
8	Japan
9	France
10	Italy

Here are the 10 nations with the least powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country
1	Bhutan
2	Benin
3	Moldova
4	Somalia
5	Liberia
6	Suriname
7	Belize

Poverty Reduction Trends in Selected Countries (2000-2022)

Country	Period	Poverty Incidence (2000/2005)	Poverty Incidence (2019/2021)	Number of People Lifted out of Poverty
India	2005/6-2019/21	55.1%	16.4%	415 million
China	2010-2014	N/A	N/A	69 million
Cambodia	2014-2021/22	N/A	16.6%	2.8 million
Indonesia	2012-2017	N/A	N/A	8 million

Children and Rural Areas: Key Factors in Poverty Reduction:

- Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people, emphasizing the importance of addressing child poverty through comprehensive programs for their well-being, education, and access to essential services.
- Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84% of the country's poor residing in these regions. This underscores the need for targeted measures to uplift rural communities and bridge the urban-rural divide.

Global Outlook

Poverty Incidence in Selected Countries and Regions

Country	Region	Poverty Incidence (%)
Burundi	Sub-Saharan Africa	75.1

Rank	Country
8	Central African Republic
9	Iceland
10	Sierra Leone

2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The latest update of the **global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** highlights India's extraordinary achievement in poverty reduction. The country has lifted a staggering 415 million people out of poverty within a span of 15 years, demonstrating significant progress in improving living conditions. This article examines key highlights from the MPI report released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

India's Journey: From High Poverty Incidence to Impressive Decline:

In 2005/2006, India had a poverty incidence of 55.1%, with approximately 645 million people living in poverty.

- Through concerted efforts and effective policies, poverty rates have dropped to 16.4% in 2019/2021, showcasing substantial improvement in living conditions.
- The decline in poverty has been equal across regions and socio-economic groups, with the poorest states and groups experiencing the fastest progress.

Country	Region	Poverty Incidence (%)
Central African Republic	Sub-Saharan Africa	80.4
Chad	Sub-Saharan Africa	84.2
Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	91
Afghanistan	South Asia	55.9
Haiti	Latin America	41.3
Papua New Guinea	East Asia	56.6
Sudan	North Africa	52.3
Tajikistan	Central Asia	7.4





- Globally, 1.1 billion people (18% of the total population) across 110 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 534 million poor, while South Asia has 389 million, making these regions home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- Children under 18 years old account for 566 million MPI-poor people globally, with a poverty rate of 27.7%, compared to 13.4% among adults.

Outlook for India:

- Despite significant progress, India still has more than 230 million people living in poverty.
- The UNDP highlights the vulnerability of the population, with approximately 18.7% falling under the category of people who are not poor but have deprivations in 20-33.3% of all weighted indicators.

Improvement in Deprivation Indicators:

- India has shown significant progress in all three deprivation indicators: health, education, and standard of living.
- The percentage of people deprived of nutrition decreased from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.

Recommendations:

- There is a need for context-specific multidimensional poverty indices that reflect national definitions of poverty.
- While the global MPI provides a standardized methodology, national definitions offer a comprehensive understanding of poverty specific to each country.
- It is crucial to consider these context-specific indices to evaluate and address poverty effectively.

About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a vital international resource designed to measure acute multidimensional poverty in over 100 developing countries. Launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the MPI provides a comprehensive assessment of poverty beyond monetary measures.

Inauguration of 'Sagar Sampark' DGNSS by Sarbananda Sonowal

Purpose and Scope: The MPI serves as a crucial tool to gauge the extent and nature of multidimensional poverty worldwide. It focuses on capturing various dimensions of poverty, including health, education, and standard of living, to provide a holistic understanding of people's well-being. It is applied across a broad range of developing countries, offering insights into the multifaceted challenges faced by different societies.

- Monitoring Deprivations:** The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 key indicators that span the domains of health, education, and standard of living. These indicators are carefully selected to reflect the essential aspects of individuals' lives and well-being. By analyzing these indicators, the MPI provides a nuanced picture of poverty and identifies the specific areas where people face significant deprivations.

- Incidence and Intensity of Poverty:** The MPI considers both the incidence and intensity of poverty. A person is classified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in one-third or more (33% or more) of the weighted indicators out of the ten indicators. Those who face deprivations in half or more of the weighted indicators are considered to be living in extreme multidimensional poverty. This dual perspective helps to capture the severity and depth of poverty experienced by individuals and communities.

MPI Indicators and Dimensions: The MPI incorporates a diverse range of indicators and dimensions to comprehensively assess poverty. While the specific indicators may vary across countries, the following are commonly included:

- Health Indicators:**
 - Nutrition and food security
 - Child mortality
 - Access to healthcare
- Education Indicators:**
 - School attendance
 - Years of schooling completed
- Standard of Living Indicators:**
 - Access to clean water and sanitation
 - Electricity and cooking fuel availability
 - Housing quality
 - Assets ownership

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar mission, following the Chandrayaan-2 mission, with the goal of achieving a soft landing on the lunar surface and deploying a rover.

Chandrayaan-3 aims to showcase India's capabilities in landing and exploring the **Moon's South Pole**, a region known for the presence of water molecules.

Launch and Landing:

Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched on July 14, 2023, from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the **Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3)**.

- The spacecraft consists of a lander, a rover, and a propulsion module, collectively weighing 3,900 kg.
- The **GSLV Mark 3** heavy-lift launch vehicle, also known as the Bahubali rocket, supports the moon lander Vikram.
- The craft is scheduled to touch down on the Moon's South Pole on August 23, following a journey lasting over 40 days.

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole



**Objective:**

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has three main objectives:

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

- Safe and Soft Landing:** The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to achieve a safe and soft landing of the lander on the surface of the Moon. Learning from the previous mission's setback, this mission aims to successfully land the lander module on the lunar surface without any issues.
- Demonstration of Rover's Capabilities:** Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate the capabilities of the rover by showcasing its roaming and exploration abilities on the lunar surface. The rover will be deployed after the successful landing of the lander and will perform various scientific experiments and observations.
- In-Site Scientific Observations:** The mission seeks to conduct in-site scientific observations and experiments to better understand the composition of the Moon. This includes analyzing the chemical and natural elements, soil, water, and other resources available on the lunar surface. These observations will contribute to expanding our knowledge of the Moon's composition and provide insights into the Moon's history and evolution.

Design:

Chandrayaan-3 consists of three main components:

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

- Propulsion Module:** The propulsion module is responsible for carrying the lander and rover configuration to the lunar orbit of 100 kilometers. It is a box-like structure with a large solar panel and an intermodular adapter cone that acts as a mounting structure for the lander. Additionally, it carries the SHAPe payload, which studies spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.
- Lander:** The lander module is designed for a soft landing on the lunar surface. It has a box-shaped structure with four landing legs and four landing thrusters. The lander carries the rover and various scientific instruments for in-site analysis. It has undergone improvements in terms of structural rigidity, impact legs strength, and instrumentation redundancy compared to its predecessor.

The lander carries three payloads:

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

- Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE):** Measures thermal conductivity and temperature of the lunar surface.
- Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA):** Measures seismic activity around the landing site.
- Langmuir Probe (LP):** Estimates plasma density and its variations.

- Rover:** The Chandrayaan-3 rover is a six-wheeled vehicle weighing 26 kilograms. It is equipped with scientific instruments, including cameras, spectrometers, and a drill. The rover has a range of 500 meters and is designed to communicate with the lander and the ground control team in India. Its expected lifespan is one lunar day, equivalent to 14 Earth days.

The rover aims to make significant scientific discoveries, including studying the lunar surface composition, detecting the presence of water ice in the lunar soil, investigating lunar impacts' history, and studying the Moon's atmosphere evolution.

Modifications and Precautions:

- Chandrayaan-3 has undergone modifications by ISRO to enhance reliability compared to its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2.
- The lander Vikram has been upgraded and carries additional fuel to ensure a successful landing and stay on the intended path to the lunar surface.
- The craft has undergone rigorous testing and incorporates numerous safety measures to increase the mission's chances of success.

Mission Components:

- The 3,900-kilogram Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consists of three major modules: the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover.
- The lander, named Vikram, and the rover, named Pragyaan, are similar to their counterparts in Chandrayaan-2 but have undergone upgrades for improved reliability.
- The mission's budget is Rs. 615 crore.

Wimbledon 2023 Final: Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic

Wimbledon 2023 men's singles final in which **Carlos Alcaraz** beat four-time defending champion **Novak Djokovic** 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win his maiden title at The Championships. The action as it unfolded on Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, England.

On women's singles

Marketa Vondrousova becomes **Wimbledon champion**, the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era. She beats last year's runner-up **Ons Jabeur** 6-4, 6-4 in the final. Marketa Vondrousova is the first **unseeded player** to do so in the Open Era.

Here is the Complete List of Winners in Different Categories:

S.No	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic
2	Women's Singles	Marketa Vondrousova	Ons Jabeur





S.No	Category	Winner	Runner up
3	Men's Doubles	Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski	Horacio Zeballos & Marcel Granollers
4	Women's Doubles	Barbora Strýcová & Hsieh Su-wei	Elise Mertens & Storm Sanders
5	Mixed Doubles	Mate Pavić & Lyudmyla Kichenok	Xu Yi Fan & Joran Vliegen

Wimbledon Championships 2023

The **Wimbledon Championships 2023** is a Grand Slam tennis tournament that takes place at the **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club** in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. The tournament will be played on grass courts, with all main draw matches to be played from Jun 26–Jul 16, 2023, at the All England lawn tennis and croquet club, Wimbledon. The 2023 Championships is the 136th edition, the 129th staging of the Ladies' Singles Championship event, the 55th in the Open Era and the third Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Wimbledon 2023 Prize Money

Men's and Women's Doubles prize money Total amounts for each team in £= Pound

Winner – £600,000

Runner-up – £300,000

How much players earn by round

Winner: £2,350,000

Runner-up: £1,175,000

Semi-Finalists: £600,000

Quarter-Finalists: £340,000

Fourth Round: £207,000

Third Round: £131,000

Second Round: £85,000

First Round: £55,000

Total prize money: £32,154,000

13.5 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in 5 years

According to the latest **NITI Aayog** report, India has achieved a remarkable feat in its efforts to reduce multidimensional poverty. Between **2015-16** and **2019-21**, a staggering 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainable and equitable development.

Comprehensive Methodology and Progress

The report, 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023,' draws its data from the latest **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** conducted between 2019 and 2021. It builds upon the baseline report launched in 2021 and follows a methodology aligned with global standards. The National MPI measures deprivations in health, education, and standard of living through **12 SDG-aligned indicators**.

Striking Improvements Across Indicators

India has witnessed marked improvements in all **12 indicators**, including nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, education, sanitation, and access to basic amenities like drinking water and electricity. The results indicate a decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor, reducing from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.

Rural Areas Leading the Way

The report highlights that the decline in multidimensional poverty was most prominent in rural areas, decreasing from 32.59% to 19.28%. Urban areas also witnessed a reduction, going from 8.65% to 5.27%. Uttar Pradesh showed significant progress, with 3.43 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty, marking the largest decline among all states.

Path Towards SDG 2030

India's progress is commendable as the MPI value has nearly halved from **0.117** to **0.066**, and the intensity of poverty has reduced from **47%** to **44%**. This puts India well on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2 of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half much ahead of the **2030 timeline**. The government's strategic focus on inclusive development and poverty eradication has played a pivotal role in this achievement.

Government Initiatives Driving Change

Flagship programs like **Poshan Abhiyan**, **Anaemia Mukt Bharat**, **Swachh Bharat Mission**, **Jal Jeevan Mission**, **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**, **PMAY**, **PMJDY**, and **Samagra Shiksha** have significantly contributed to improving access to healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, housing, and education. The efforts have resulted in reduced deprivations across various indicators, showcasing the impact of consistent implementation of well-linked initiatives.

Tamil Nadu topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022

Context:

Tamil Nadu topped the **third edition** of the **NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022** with an overall score of **80.89**, piping Maharashtra (**78.20**) and Karnataka (**76.36**).

Overview of the Export Preparedness Index 2022:

The third edition of the NITI Aayog's Preparedness Index 2022 has released on **17th July 2023**. According to the report, out of the **680 districts** engaged in exports, the top 100 districts contribute about **87% of the total exports** from India. To promote exports, **647 districts** have formed a **District Export Promotion Committee**, while **557** have formulated a **District Export Action Plan**.

- According to the Export Preparedness Index 2022, Tamil Nadu topped the ranking with an overall score of 80.89 while Maharashtra with a score of 78.20 was second and Karnataka was third with a score of 76.36.
- Gujarat** scored **fourth** position with a score of **73.22** followed by Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Kerala in the ranking of coastal areas.





- Among hilly/Himalayan states **Uttarakhand** topped the ranking with a score of **59.13** followed by Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in that order.
- Among the **landlocked regions**, **Harayana** topped the ranking with a score of **63.65** followed by Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- In the category of **Union Territories/small states**, **Goa** topped the ranking with a score of **51.58** followed by Jammu-Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh.
- Among export districts, **Jamnagar in Gujarat** topped the chart which was followed by Surat, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai, Pune, Bharuch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bengaluru Urban.
- Gujarat has **8 districts**, the highest number of districts in the top 25 export districts in the country.

About the Export Preparedness Index:

- The Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive assessment of the export preparedness of the States and UTs in the country.
- The index conducts a comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters to identify their strengths and weaknesses.
- The methodology of the index is an evolving process that constantly incorporates stakeholder feedback.

Objectives of Export Preparedness Index:

- To provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the export preparedness of the States and UTs.
- To highlight the achievements and best practices adopted by the States and UTs to improve their ranking in the index.
- To foster a competitive spirit among States and UTs.
- To enhance cooperation between them and the Centre, to achieve sustainable growth and development for India.

Pillars of Export Preparedness Index:

The index uses 4 pillars to assess the export preparedness and the performance:

- Policy Pillar:** This pillar evaluated how well the states and UTs adopted and implemented export related policies at state and district level.
- Business Ecosystem:** This pillar assesses the quality and availability of business supportive infrastructure such as power, water, land and logistics as well as the transport connectivity of the States and UTs to domestic and international market.
- Export Ecosystem:** This pillar focuses on the export supportive infrastructure and trade services provided by the States and the UTs.
- Export Performance:** This pillar measures the actual export outcomes of the states and UTs such as export growth, diversification and competitiveness.

Singapore Passport Tops Henley Passport Index 2023 as World's Most Powerful

According to the Henley Passport Index, **Singapore** now holds the title of the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to **192 out of 227 global travel destinations**. Three European countries, namely Germany, Italy, and Spain, have moved up one rank to share the second position, with visa-free access to 190 destinations. For the first time in five years, Japan has been dethroned from the top spot and now ranks third, with its passport providing visa-free access to 189 destinations.

India's ranking in Henley Passport Index

India has made significant progress in the Henley Passport Index, improving its ranking by 5 spots compared to the previous year. It currently shares the **80th position** on the index with **Togo and Senegal**. Indian passport holders now enjoy visa-free access to 57 countries, reflecting the country's enhanced global travel privileges.

Overview of the Henley Passport Index

- The **United States**, formerly the top-ranked country almost a decade ago, has now slipped to the eighth position in the Henley Passport Index. It shares this position with Lithuania, with both countries offering visa-free access to 184 destinations.
- On the other hand, the **United Kingdom** has made significant progress, jumping two places to claim the fourth spot in the index. British passport holders can now access 188 countries without a visa, a position they last held in 2017.
- At the opposite end of the spectrum, **Afghanistan** holds the lowest rank in the ranking, with its passport holders having visa-free access to only 27 destinations. Just above Afghanistan are Iraq with a score of 29 and Syria with 30, making them the three weakest passports in the world.
- The influx of migrants into Singapore, driven by a crackdown on private enterprise in China and concerns over geopolitical tensions, has resulted in increased citizenship grants in the nation. Approximately 23,100 people were granted Singaporean citizenship last year.

Passports of these countries hold the top 10 spots on the Henley Index:

Rank	Country	Visa-free travel to (out of 277 nations)
1	Singapore	192
2	Germany, Italy, Spain	190
3	Austria, Finland, France, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Sweden	189
4	Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, UK	188
5	Belgium, Czech Republic, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland	187





Rank	Country	Visa-free travel to (out of 277 nations)
6	Australia, Hungary, Poland	186
7	Canada, Greece	185
8	Lithuania, US	184
9	Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	183
10	Estonia, Iceland	182

Passports of these countries hold the bottom 10 spots on the Henley Index:

Rank	Country	Visa-free travel to (out of 277 nations)
103	Afghanistan	27
102	Iraq	29
101	Syria	30
100	Pakistan	33
99	Yemen, Somalia	35
98	Palestinian territory, Nepal	38
97	North Korea	39
96	Bangladesh	40
95	Sri Lanka, Libya	41
94	Kosovo	42

About the Henley Passport Index

Invented nearly 20 years ago by **Dr Christian H Kaelin, Chairman, Henley & Partners**, the index is based on the exclusive and official data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. It is the original ranking of all the passports according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. It's worth noting that the Henley Passport Index relies on data from the International Air Transport Association to calculate its rankings. The methodology used by this index differs from other passport rankings, such as the one published by financial advisory Arton Capital, which placed the United Arab Emirates in the top position last year.

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur confers 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards

Union Minister, **Shri Anurag Thakur** presented the **8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards** during the Inaugural session of the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelson.

What's in News?

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting presented the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards during the Inaugural Session of two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelson held at the **Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi**.

Award Winners:

Thematic Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Raah.
- Second Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odisha. Programme: Adhar O Poshan Bigyan.
- Third Prize: Green Radio, Sabour, Bihar. Programme: Poshan Shrinkhla.

Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards:

- First Prize: Radio SD, Mazaffarnagar, UP. Programme: Hizra in Between.
- Second Prize: Kabir Radio, Sant Kabir Nagar, UP. Programme: Selfie Le Le Re.
- Third Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Book Bugs.

Promoting Local Culture Awards:

- First Prize: Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odissa. Programme: Asmita.
- Second Prize: Friends FM, Tripura, Agartala. Programme: Revived a dying art: MASK & POT.
- Third Prize: Pantnagar Janvani, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Programme: Dadi Maa Ka Batua.

Sustainability Modern Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambhalpur, Odissa.
- Second Prize: Vayalaga Vanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- Third Prize: VAGAD Radio "90.8", Banswara, Rajasthan.

Role of Community Radio Stations:

Community Radio Stations played a vital role in realizing Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan**. Union Minister, Anurag Thakur praised these stations for their contributions in keeping listeners informed during calamities and highlighted their significance in education, awareness generation, and problem solving across the remotest concerns of India.

Significance:

Community Radio Stations play a significant role by making people aware about any calamities and also plays key role in the fields of education, health and awareness generation.

Union Minister during the Inaugural Session emphasized the increasing popularity of Community Radio Stations and expressed the government's commitment to realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of having a Community Radio Station in each district.

Apurva Chandra, Secretary, highlighted the need for a platform to bring together the experiences of Community Radio Stations and lauded their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government's Efforts:

- The licensing time has been significantly reduced **from four years to six months**.
- The number of processes involved has been **reduced from thirteen to eight**.





- The Government will auction 808 channels in 284 cities during the 3rd e-auction, thereby expanding the reach of radio in India.

Amended Rules Relating to Retirement Benefits of IAS, IPS, IFoS Pensioners

The central government has made significant amendments to the rules governing retirement benefits for officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS).

The amendments empower the central government to take action against pensioners, including withholding or withdrawing their pension, even without a reference from the state government. Such actions can be taken if the pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a **serious crime**, particularly one involving an offence under the **Official Secrets Act**.

Definition of 'Grave Misconduct' and 'Serious Crime'

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued a notification on **July 6, 2023**, specifying that 'grave misconduct' includes the communication or disclosure of any document or information mentioned in the **Official Secrets Act**. Additionally, a 'serious crime' encompasses any offence under the Official Secrets Act.

Eliminating Dependency on State Government References

- The amended All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, have removed the dependency on state government references for action against retired officials.
- Previously, the central government required a reference from the respective state government if a pensioner was convicted.

- However, the amended rules now include the phrase "**or otherwise**" after "...the State Government concerned," allowing the central government to act on its own if a pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a serious crime.

Addressing Challenges in Taking Action Against Officers

- The rationale behind this amendment was to address instances where state governments did not send references for action against retired officials, even after their conviction by courts of law.
- This lack of cooperation from state governments made it challenging for the central government to take appropriate action against the concerned officers, especially when dealing with **All India Services officials**.

Final Decision on Withholding or Withdrawing Pension

The amended rules now state that the decision of the central government regarding withholding or withdrawing pension shall be considered final.

Restrictions on Publication of Sensitive Information

- The amended rules also introduce new provisions regarding the publication of sensitive information by officers who served in intelligence or security-related organizations.
- Such officers must seek prior clearance from the **Head of the Organization** before making any publication related to the domain of the organization, including any reference or information about personnel and their designations, as well as expertise or knowledge gained while working in that organization.
- Failure to adhere to this undertaking may result in severe action, including treating it as grave misconduct.

National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of December

- In a bid to boost Rural Tourism and enhance sustainable development, the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**, has announced the **National Best Tourism Village Competition 2024** and the **National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024**. Building on the success of the previous edition in 2023, where **25 villages were recognized** for their excellence, these competitions aim to strengthen rural economies and foster community involvement. This initiative is part of the comprehensive National Strategy and Roadmap for the Development of Rural Tourism in India.
- India, a notable absentee from the list of signatories at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), refrained from endorsing the **COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health**. The primary point of contention arises from India's apprehensions about the practicality and achievability of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cooling within its healthcare infrastructure.

- India has successfully slashed its GDP emission intensity by 33% between 2005 and 2019, exceeding its target 11 years ahead of schedule. A government report, '**The Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**', outlines the nation's substantial progress in decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Indian Railways** has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "**Gajraj system**," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks. This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants' presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.
- India** has been re-elected to the **International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2024-25 biennium** with the highest tally. This re-election underscores India's influential role in the international maritime arena and





reflects the global community's recognition of the country's contributions to seaborne trade. The **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, expressed gratitude for the international support, highlighting the government's commitment to bolstering India's role in global maritime operations.

- India has unveiled the **world's first portable disaster hospital**, Aarogya Maitri Cube, a groundbreaking facility in Gurugram that can be airlifted and consists of **72 cubes**. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "**Project BHISHM**" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022.
- In a bid to address the soaring prices of essential food items, the central government is set to launch **retail stores at major metro stations** in Delhi. This initiative aims to make kitchen essentials, including onions, pulses, and atta, available to metro commuters at subsidized prices. The first proposed store will be situated at Central Delhi's Rajiv Chowk metro station, marking the commencement of this ambitious project. The establishment and operation of this store will be overseen by the **National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India (NCCF)**.
- Cyclone Michaung, initially a severe cyclonic storm, made landfall on the **south coast of Andhra Pradesh**, wreaking havoc and leaving a trail of destruction. The storm weakened into a depression as it crossed the coast, centered in Central Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Currently, it is positioned approximately 100 km north-northwest of Bapatla and 50 km southeast of Khammam.
- PM Modi emphasized that the restructuring of naval ranks is part of a broader initiative to shed colonial military legacies. The renaming process is intended to reflect India's rich cultural heritage, aligning the naval hierarchy more closely with indigenous traditions.
- In a significant tribute to the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, a wax statue has been unveiled at the **Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort**. The Founder Director of the museum, Anoop Srivastava, shared the motivation behind this addition, citing the demand from tourists and visitors. The wax statue was inaugurated on December 6, coinciding with Mahaparinirvan Day, commemorating the passing of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.
- On December 8th, at **COP28, UNICEF's Generation Unlimited**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**, unveiled the "**Green Rising**" initiative. This groundbreaking initiative, carried out through India's YuWaah campaign, places a special emphasis on **engaging youth in impactful environmental actions** at the grassroots level, drawing inspiration from the Mission Life movement.
- India voted in favor of a **UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution** calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict and the unconditional release of hostages.

- India has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change by joining the United Nations' '**Race to Resilience**' global campaign. This decision, announced during the recently concluded COP28 event in Dubai, reflects India's commitment to building climate resilience in its urban areas.
- Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), inaugurated the **India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES)** on December 6, 2023, in New Delhi. The ceremony was attended by Mr. KO Kwang Hyo, Commissioner of Korea Customs Service (KCS), and his delegation.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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National Current Affairs of November

- Turkish Republic celebrated its **100th anniversary**, marking a century since its establishment as a modern, secular state following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The celebration was relatively subdued, featuring a firework and drone show in Istanbul and a procession of 100 naval ships. Notably, there was no grand gala reception.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate and launch various developmental projects in **Gujarat's Mehsana district**, valued at **₹5,950 crore**. The two-day visit includes paying homage to India's first deputy prime minister, **Sardar Patel**, at the **Statue of Unity in Ektanagar**.
- President Droupadi Murmu, upon her arrival in Leh for her first two-day visit to Ladakh, participated in the **5th Union Territory Foundation Day** ceremony held at Sindu Sanskriti Kendra. During this event, she underscored the historical significance of the day, as in **2019, Ladakh was designated as a Union Territory**. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to visit Ladakh and partake in the festivities marking this momentous day.
- In a significant development, the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has embarked on a mission to assign a unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of **2024**. The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the **National Medical Register (NMR)**, which will serve as a centralized repository for doctors practicing in India. This move is expected to streamline the healthcare sector and enhance transparency.
- The participation of women in India's workforce has seen a significant increase, reaching **37 per cent during the 2022-23 fiscal year**, according to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. This remarkable upsurge, compared to the **23 per cent recorded in 2017-18**, reflects the impact of the government's focused efforts to empower women in the workplace.
- In a significant development, the **Supreme Court of India** has issued a comprehensive set of directives aimed at reforming the police force across the country. These directives, passed by a bench headed by **Chief Justice Dipak Misra**, come in response to a plea by the Centre to modify the court's **2006 judgment** on police reforms. The court's recent ruling includes several crucial provisions to ensure **transparency, merit-based appointments, and fixed tenures** for top police officials.
- During the 21st edition of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, outlined India's **core strengths**, growth potential, and key initiatives in the semiconductor and technology sectors. He also expressed his expectation that the **global semiconductor market will double** in the next 6-7 years, surpassing a trillion dollars in value.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **World Food India 2023**, a celebration of India's culinary heritage and its global food potential. This **second edition** unites culture, cuisine, and commerce, providing a platform for discussions, partnerships, and agri-food sector investments. The event will commence in **Bharat Mandapam** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will do the honors.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has developed an in-house software named '**ENCORE**', which stands for **Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment**. **ENCORE** is a comprehensive software suite designed for efficient candidate and election management, offering a range of features for smooth operations during the electoral process.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the **Ministry of Power**, unveiled two groundbreaking initiatives, the **National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP)** and the **Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP)** on November 2, 2023, in New Delhi.
- Shri Rajnath Singh, inaugurated the three-day '**India Manufacturing Show**' in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. This is the **sixth edition** of the show. Organized jointly by **Laghu Udyog Bharti & IMS Foundation** and supported by the **Department of Defence Production**, Ministry of Defence, this event carries the central theme of '**Make in India, Make for the World**'. The event not only serves as a platform for showcasing cutting-edge technologies and innovations but also emphasizes the significance of small-scale industries in India's economic landscape.
- India is set to host the prestigious **World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA)** in **2024**, marking a significant step towards the advancements of **5G and 6G networks**. Union Communication & IT Minister, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, made this announcement at the **India Mobile Congress 2023**, emphasizing the country's growing importance in the global technology landscape.
- In a historic moment, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, flagged off the maiden voyage of Costa Serena, India's first **International Cruise Liner** from Mumbai. This monumental event marks the initiation of a transformative phase in India's cruising and tourism industry, driven by the visionary "**Dekho Apna Desh**" initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been elected as the chairman of the **Shree Somnath Trust (SST)** for a five-year term, marking a significant departure from the traditional one-year tenure for the trust's chairman.





- More than 22 lakh 'diyas' illuminated the banks of the Saryu river in **Ayodhya** during the **seventh edition** of the **Deepotsav**, setting a new world record for lighting a large number of lamps simultaneously at one place.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the **PM-PVTG Development Mission**, a groundbreaking scheme aimed at fostering the comprehensive development of approximately 28 lakh people belonging to **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups** (PVTGs). This significant event is scheduled to coincide with the birth anniversary celebration of the revered tribal freedom fighter, **Birsa Munda**, observed as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas** for the past three years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to make history by becoming the first **Prime Minister to visit Ulihatu Village**, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This monumental visit is scheduled for November 15th, where the Prime Minister will pay homage at the **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park** cum Freedom Fighter Museum in Ranchi.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently addressed the **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue**, highlighting India's remarkable economic trajectory amidst global challenges. She predicted that **by 2027, India would surpass Japan and Germany** to become the **world's third-largest economy**, underlining the resilience of the Indian economy amid global uncertainties.
- In a remarkable initiative, two solar-powered 'mini-cruise' ships are set to commence operations in the sacred **Saryu River in Ayodhya**, just ahead of the inauguration of the **Ram Temple in January next year**. Varanasi-based Alaknanda Cruise, under the leadership of director Vikas Malviya, will pioneer this unique service, providing an immersive experience centered around the life and teachings of Lord Ram. The introduction of solar-powered '**Ramayana' vessels** along the Saryu River represents a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.
- In a significant development, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the Indian patent office has achieved an unprecedented milestone by granting a **record-breaking 41,010 patents** in the current fiscal year, up until November 15. This remarkable figure starkly contrasts with the 2013-14 fiscal year when only 4,227 patents were granted.
- The Ministry of Tourism Government of India, is set to host the **11th edition of the International Tourism Mart in Shillong, Meghalaya, from November 21st to 23rd, 2023**. This annual event aims to provide a significant platform for stakeholders in the North Eastern States to engage with counterparts from across the country and international markets. The focus is on promoting the unique tourism potential, biodiversity and rich cultural heritage of the **North East Region (NER)**.

- The Centre for Research on Startups and Risk Financing (**CREST**), an Institute of Eminence Research Centre at **IIT Madras**, announced the development of an exclusive information platform for incubators and accelerators.
- **India** has once again demonstrated its commitment to **providing humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip** amidst the escalating conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas terrorists.
- **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the **VFX and Tech Pavilion** at the **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** in **Goa**. This pavilion, a **first in the history** of Film Bazaar by NFDC at IFFI, is set to be a focal point for showcasing the latest advancements in film-making technology, encompassing animation, visual effects, virtual reality, and CGI.
- In a significant move towards fostering values and uplifting the consciousness of students, the **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu**, launched the '**New Education for New India**' campaign by **Brahma Kumaris**, Sambalpur, in Sambalpur, Odisha on November 22, 2023. The campaign aims to instill moral values in students, contributing to the creation of a better society.
- In a groundbreaking development, the **Survey of India (Sol)**, the nation's premier **National Survey and Mapping Organization**, has joined forces with Genesys International, a leading Indian mapping company specializing in **Geospatial solutions**. This strategic partnership marks a historic collaboration, as Genesys becomes the first company to establish a public-private agreement with Sol for the creation of a **three-dimensional (3D) digital twin-mapping program in India**.
- **India** is set to take the helm as the chairman of the **International Sugar Organisation (ISO) in 2024**, marking a significant milestone for the country. As the world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar, this leadership role reflects India's growing influence in the global sugar sector. The announcement came during the **63rd council meeting of the ISO, headquartered in London**.
- On the auspicious occasion of **Constitution Day**, President Droupadi Murmu revealed a **statue of Dr B R Ambedkar** within the Supreme Court premises. This symbolic gesture aimed to honor the renowned architect of the Indian Constitution. The event drew the attendance of numerous judges from the Supreme Court, emphasizing the significance of commemorating Constitution Day.
- In a significant move towards energy sustainability, the Indian government has announced a phased **introduction of blending compressed biogas with natural gas**. This initiative aims to bolster domestic demand, decrease reliance on natural gas imports, and contribute to India's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2070.





- In a landmark move towards a pollution-free Varanasi, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the city's second floating **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU)** station at Ravidas Ghat. Developed by GAIL (India) Limited, this initiative signifies a significant stride in adopting sustainable energy solutions.
- The Union Government has recently made a significant decision to rebrand the existing **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** as '**Ayushman Arogya Mandir**' with the tagline '**Arogyam Parmam Dhanam**'. This move, communicated through a letter to all States and Union Territories by the Union Health Ministry, aims to enhance the identity and outreach of these primary healthcare facilities. The rebranding process is expected to be completed nationwide by the end of 2023.
- Bengaluru**, the bustling IT hub of India, is poised to witness a groundbreaking development in its transportation infrastructure with the announcement of a **287-km circular railway**. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav disclosed this ambitious project during a press conference after a comprehensive review of railway projects in Bengaluru.
- Nitin Gadkari** virtually marked the inauguration of '**Classic Imperial**', a luxury cruise vessel, in Kochi. This event was a significant milestone in the efforts to promote cruise tourism in the region. The Union Minister commended the commissioning of the vessel, emphasizing the display of professional excellence and entrepreneurial skills.
- The **Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs**, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, recently launched the **Anganwadi Protocol Divyang Children** in a national outreach program at **Vigyan Bhawan** on **November 28, 2023**. The event aimed to strengthen the overall well-being of Divyang children and was attended by key officials, experts and stakeholders from various ministers and organizations.

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- Indian government has granted approval to two multinational corporations, Siemens AG from Germany and Kyosan Electric Manufacturing Co from Japan, to deploy the automatic train collision avoidance system known as **Kavach on the Indian Railways**. This marks a significant expansion of the initiative, which was previously undertaken by three Indian companies—**Medha Servo Drives, HBL Power Systems, and Kernex Microsystems**.

National Current Affairs of October

- In a bid to bridge the generational gap and ignite a renewed interest in the age-old fabric, the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** inaugurated a revamped **Khadi India outlet** at the prestigious **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus in Delhi** on October 2.
- The **Union government of India** has notified the constitution of the **national turmeric board**, which will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. Turmeric is majorly cultivated in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana state, Karnataka, MP, Odisha, Bengal and Gujarat**.
- The **Ministry of Tourism**, India, took center stage as it organized the inaugural ceremony for the **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023** in the vibrant city of New Delhi. The **46th edition** of this prestigious event is being held at the magnificent **International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC)** within Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- On **October 4th**, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in **Telangana**, named **The Sarakka Central Tribal University**. This university, with a budget of **Rs 889 crore**, will be located in **Mulugu district**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**. This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the **Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports**.
- The recent introduction of the **Digital India Act 2023 (DIA)** is a noteworthy stride towards creating a forward-looking legal framework capable of accommodating the growing digital landscape within the country. This initiative, led by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**, demonstrates a proactive stance in governing and molding India's digital future. The **Digital India Act 2023** aims to harmonize and consolidate digital laws in India, working alongside other key legislation like the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, National Data Governance Policy and Indian Penal Code amendments for cybercrime**. Together, these laws create a framework to govern India's digital realm.





- In the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries, **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the **26th Energy Technology Meet at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri spoke about the country's achievements in the green and clean energy sector during the 26th Energy Technology Meet, shedding light on the nation's accomplishments and its future goals.
- India** has launched **Operation Ajay**, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from **Israel** amidst the ongoing developments in the region. External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** announced this operation, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, inaugurated a **month-long celebration drive** in a curtain raiser press conference at the media center, emphasizing the significance of Ayurveda and its role in promoting holistic well-being across India. This celebration marks the **8th National Ayurveda Day**, observed as a tribute to **Lord Dhanvantari**, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with **Dhanteras**, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health.
- The Union Cabinet**, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body named "**Mera Yuva Bharat**" (**MY Bharat**). This body is designed to serve as a pivotal mechanism for youth development, with a strong emphasis on technology-driven solutions. **MY Bharat** aims to enable equitable access for young individuals to realize their aspirations and contribute to the holistic development of the nation across various government sectors. This initiative aligns with the **National Youth Policy** and targets individuals between the **ages of 15-29**, with a subset of programs catering to those **aged 10-19**.
- The Ministry of Education and Government of India has initiated the **APAAR ID**, known as the "**One Nation One Student ID Card**." This groundbreaking program aims to digitally centralize academic data, including degrees, scholarships, rewards, and other credits for students.
- The Supreme Court** decided to refer a group of petitions challenging the **electoral bond scheme** for political party funding to a five-judge **Constitution bench**. The bench, led by Chief Justice **D Y Chandrachud**, received an urgent application requesting a conclusive judgment. The matter is set to be heard on October 30.

- The **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** unveiled the **IndiaSkills 2023-24 program** and celebrated the remarkable achievements of the **WorldSkills 2022 winners**. India, securing the **11th position** in the global competition last year, is now poised to make giant strides in skill development. This event witnessed the announcement of ambitious goals by Union Minister for Skill Development, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, emphasizing the need for a quantum leap in skill acquisition.
- India's expanding transportation infrastructure is set to reach new heights with the **country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service, Namo Bharat**. Previously known as **RapidX**, this innovative project is on the cusp of revolutionizing regional connectivity. This also marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India.
- The **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** has officially announced its **Indian Panorama selection for 2023**, featuring a diverse array of **25 feature films and 20 non-feature films**. These cinematic gems will be showcased during the festival, scheduled to run from November 20 to November 28 in Goa.
- The **Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust** extended a significant invitation to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, asking him to attend the installation of **Lord Ram's idol** in the '**Garbhagriha**' of the Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya temple, which Prime Minister Modi politely accepted. The date set for this auspicious occasion is **January 22, 2024**.
- The **Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust** has extended an invitation to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to participate in the installation of **Lord Ram's idol** in the **Garbhagriha** of the **Ram Mandir** in **Ayodhya temple** on **January 22nd, 2024**. PM Modi gladly accepted the invitation, expressing his excitement to be part of this historic event.
- India marked a significant milestone in its quest for **self-reliance in the automotive sector** by introducing the production of '**reference**' **petrol and diesel**. This development places India among a select group of nations capable of producing these highly specialized fuels, which are crucial for calibrating and testing vehicles.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **7th Edition** of the **India Mobile Congress** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. This prestigious event brought together leading figures from the **telecommunications industry** to showcase cutting-edge technologies, discuss vital issues, and promote innovation.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** recently inaugurated the **logo, website, and brochure** of the **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)** during a grand event in New Delhi. This momentous occasion marked the formal establishment of NCEL, a significant step towards enhancing the cooperative sector's role in India's export ecosystem.





- The 37th National Games were officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a ceremony held in Panaji, Goa. The event witnessed a massive gathering of sports enthusiasts and supporters, who eagerly awaited the commencement of this sporting spectacle. As a symbol of Goa's culture and identity, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant f
- As the nation celebrates the birth anniversary of the revered 'adivasi' icon, Birsa Munda on November 15, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is gearing up to launch its ambitious "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra." This 72-day nationwide outreach and awareness campaign is aimed at promoting government schemes and reaching the vulnerable sections of society.
- Turkish Republic celebrated its 100th anniversary, marking a century since its establishment as a modern, secular state following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The celebration was relatively subdued, featuring a firework and drone show in Istanbul and a procession of 100 naval ships. Notably, there was no grand gala reception. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and launch various developmental projects in Gujarat's Mehsana district, valued at ₹5,950 crore. The two-day visit includes paying homage to India's first deputy prime minister, Sardar Patel, at the Statue of Unity in Ektanagar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Current Affairs of September

- Gabon, an oil-producing country in Central Africa, has experienced a coup led by military officers. President Ali Bongo was placed under house arrest after being declared the winner of a disputed election. This marks the eighth coup in West and Central Africa since 2020, reflecting a trend of democratic setbacks in the region. Other countries like Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Chad have also witnessed military takeovers, raising concerns for regional stability and foreign interests.
- Russia is set to embark on a historic journey by launching its first Islamic banking pilot program on September 1. With a considerable Muslim population of approximately 25 million, the move aims to tap into the potential of Islamic finance, which has already had a presence through institutions but lacked official recognition. President Vladimir Putin's recent endorsement of the initiative signifies a significant step towards embracing Islamic banking principles in the country.

- In a remarkable endeavor to strengthen trade relations between India and the United States within the electronics sector, the Indian Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) has established a dedicated task force. With a goal to elevate the current Indo-US electronics trade, currently at \$8 billion, to an ambitious \$100 billion within the next decade, this initiative follows collaborative efforts initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States last month.
- In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as 'Hindu Heritage Month' within the state. This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.
- In a significant political development, Indian-origin economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam has emerged victorious in Singapore's presidential election. This victory is especially noteworthy as it comes after a gap of ten years, marking the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011.
- In a recent development, the Nobel Foundation has decided to cancel its invitation to the Russian Ambassador for this year's Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm. This decision comes after significant controversy surrounding their initial invitation. In 2022, the Nobel Foundation made a notable decision not to invite Ambassadors from Russia and Belarus to the Stockholm award event due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. A similar decision was made regarding the Iranian envoy, citing Iran's crackdown on protests.
- The three-day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival, a vibrant and culturally enriching event concluded in Lalitpur, Nepal. The festival, which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, NP Saud, served as a platform for the exchange of culture in South Asia, while promoting literary and cultural activities in the region. This gathering of literary minds and artists from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka showcased the diversity and richness of South Asian literature and arts.
- Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands.
- The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world. The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all,' focuses on several critical areas.





- After a two-year post-Brexit standoff regarding science funding, the **United Kingdom** has decided to rejoin the European Union's Horizon science research programme. This move is seen as a significant development in bilateral relations between the **UK and the EU**, following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months prior.
- During the opening session of the **two-day G20 Summit**, the **African Union** (AU) received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member. This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape.
- India and the United Kingdom have jointly announced the launch of the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the **12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD)**. This collaborative initiative signifies the continued commitment of both nations to work closely together to unlock substantial infrastructure investment opportunities in India.
- In a significant announcement at the G20 Leaders Summit held in New Delhi, **Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** declared that the United Kingdom would allocate \$2 billion to the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**. This commitment marks the largest single funding pledge made by the UK to address global climate change challenges, according to an official government statement.
- North Korea** has made headlines by launching its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine," designated **Submarine No. 841** and named **Hero Kim Kun Ok**, an ex-commander of the North Korean navy. The launch ceremony took place with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in attendance, where he highlighted the significance of this new addition to their naval force.
- Mayor Craig Greenberg** has declared **September 3** as **Sanatana Dharma Day** in **Louisville, Kentucky** in the United States emphasizing the significance of fostering peace, tolerance, and understanding within diverse communities.
- In a significant announcement during the **G20 summit**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled plans for the **India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor**, a groundbreaking initiative that promises to reshape global trade and connectivity. The corridor, which involves **India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, European Union, Italy, Germany and the United States**, is poised to be historic venture, surpassing even the legendary Silk and Spice routes of the past.
- Eastern Libya** is in a state of emergency after a powerful **storm named Daniel** caused terrible damage. Thousands of people have been affected, with more than 5,300 lives lost and many still missing. Here's what you need to know: During the storm, several dams broke, leading to severe flooding in neighborhoods. Many houses were washed away, and people had to search for their missing family members.

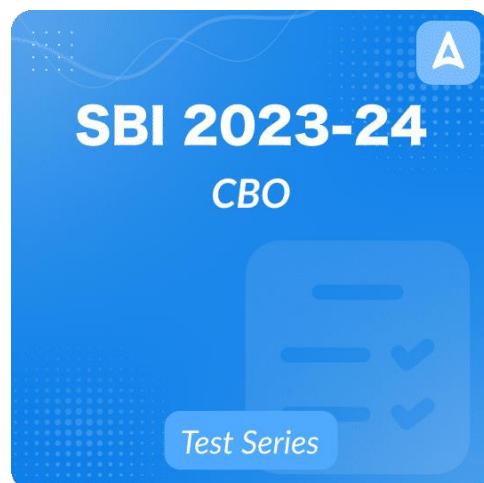
- NATO** member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era. Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a **Russian-led coalition known as Occasus**. The overarching objective of this exercise, codenamed "**Steadfast Defender**," is to refine NATO's transformation from a crisis response organization into a robust war-fighting alliance. The scenario envisages repelling a hypothetical Russian-led attack on a NATO member state.
- Units from the countries of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** recently embarked on their inaugural joint military exercises in **Indonesia's South Natuna Sea**. These drills come at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions between major global powers and rising concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea.
- The **African Union** is set to launch its own credit ratings agency in the coming year as a direct response to concerns regarding what it perceives as biased credit assessments given to African nations. This move aims to provide a more balanced evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries and bolster investment in the continent. The **African credit rating agency** will primarily function within the African continent and will be financially self-sustaining.
- The two-day Summit of the **G77+China** recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system. This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government.
- The **35th edition** of the annual **Gandhi Walk**, a cherished event in the predominantly Indian suburb of Lenasia in **Johannesburg**, finally returned after being postponed for three long years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Canada's prime minister, **Justin Trudeau**, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties.
- Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** extended an invitation to **U.S. President Joe Biden** to be the chief guest at **India's Republic Day** celebrations on January 26 next year. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed the invitation, stating that it is under consideration by the U.S. government. President Biden is also scheduled to visit India in 2024 for the **Quad Summit**, and efforts are being made to align the summit with his visit.





- In a recent announcement, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its **Net Zero climate action targets**. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035.
- Azerbaijan's military operation in **Nagorno-Karabakh** has ignited concerns of a renewed conflict in the region. This long-standing dispute revolves around an ethnic Armenian region within Azerbaijani territory. The recent attacks have escalated tensions and raised international alarm.
- **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger** have come together to address the pressing issue of jihadism in the **Liptako-Gourma region** by signing a mutual defense pact known as the **Alliance of Sahel States (AES)**. This landmark agreement aims to establish a framework for collective defense and mutual assistance among these nations to protect their populations from the growing threat of terrorism. Here, we delve into the key aspects of this development.
- Since the summer of 2020, the **United Kingdom** has witnessed a concerning surge in cases of **Brucella canis infection** among dogs, originating primarily from **Eastern Europe**. This incurable disease, which has been spreading among canines, has now made the alarming leap to infect humans, with three British citizens falling victim to its debilitating effects. This article explores the nature of Brucella canis, its transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures.
- The **Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)** has officially declared that the **general elections in Pakistan** will be held in the last week of January 2024. This announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census.
- The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has embarked on an impeachment inquiry against Democratic **President Joe Biden**. Spearheaded by Speaker **Kevin McCarthy**, this move signifies an attempt to score political points at the onset of the election campaign cycle. This development is steeped in political context, partly influenced by **former President Donald Trump's** two impeachments and the desire to balance the score. We delve into the charges against President Biden, largely centered around allegations related to his son Hunter Biden's business dealings.
- In a significant diplomatic development, **China and Syria** have formally announced the establishment of a strategic partnership. This announcement came during a meeting between Chinese leader **Xi Jinping** and Syrian President **Bashar Assad** in **Hangzhou, China**, as the city prepared to host the Asian Games. The partnership reflects China's growing engagement with countries in the Middle East and its quest to assert itself on the global stage.

- In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the **Swaminarayan Akshardham temple** in **Robbinsville Township, New Jersey**, is set to be inaugurated on **8th October 2023**, under the guidance of its spiritual head, **Mahant Swami Maharaj**. This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the **second-largest Hindu temple in the world, following the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia**. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry.
- Nepal's Prime Minister, **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, recently concluded his week-long visit to **China**, which was expected to address critical issues such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, cross-border energy trade, and past agreements. However, the agreements signed during this visit did not cover these key areas. Instead, they focused on various other aspects of bilateral cooperation.
- Following **India's lead**, the **United States** has expressed concerns regarding the planned visit of a Chinese research vessel to **Sri Lanka** in October. The **Chinese vessel**, named Shi Yan 6, is set to undertake scientific research projects during an 80-day operation in the Indian Ocean, with 13 research teams on board.
- The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of **75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice** to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season. **The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies.
- Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in **Kazan, Russia**, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition. This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul.





National Current Affairs of August

- In a groundbreaking move, India and the United Nations have jointly introduced a significant capacity-building initiative known as the “**India-UN Capacity Building Initiative.**” This initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of India’s development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.
- Sri Lanka is facing delays in receiving the second tranche of its **\$2.9 billion IMF bailout package** due to unresolved issues with its external debt restructuring. This crisis comes as the nation grapples with its worst economic downturn in history, characterized by dwindling foreign exchange reserves and public protests over shortages of vital commodities.
- In a move that underscores Russia’s unwavering commitment to its military endeavors, the country is poised to substantially increase its defense spending by nearly **70% in 2024**. This financial shift, as revealed in a document published by the **Russian Finance Ministry**, comes as Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its extensive offensive operations in Ukraine.
- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, often referred to as simply “**Five Eyes**,” is a secretive international intelligence coalition comprising five English-speaking countries. Established in the aftermath of **World War II**, this alliance has played a pivotal role in shaping global intelligence and security strategies. In this article, we will delve into the history, purpose, and controversies surrounding the Five Eyes alliance. The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**. Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share **signals intelligence (SIGINT)** to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War.
- In a remarkable achievement, the US Mission in India exceeded its target by processing a staggering **one million non-immigrant visa applications in 2023**. This milestone signifies the growing interest of Indians in visiting the United States.
- **Inflation in the Eurozone** has dropped to its lowest level in almost two years, providing potential relief for the **European Central Bank (ECB)** and raising questions about the continuation of its rate-hiking cycle. Official data from Eurostat reveals that consumer prices in the **20-nation Eurozone** rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, down from 5.2 percent in August. This marks the lowest level of inflation since October 2021.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of “**Meri Mati Mera Desh**” campaign in run-up to Independence Day to honor the martyred bravehearts of the country.
- The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023**, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.
- Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, in line with India’s G20 Presidency, launched the **Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** in Chennai. The coalition aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices worldwide, bringing together companies from various sectors and countries. The event took place during the G20’s Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting.
- The **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** recently conducted a comprehensive analysis of the assets of MLAs from various political parties in India. The report sheds light on the average wealth of MLAs, the percentage of **billionaire MLAs**, and the representation of women in state assemblies. **Karnataka** emerges as the state with the highest average assets per MLA and the highest number of billionaire MLAs, while Uttar Pradesh lags behind in both categories.
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023**, was recently passed by the Indian Parliament, enabling the private sector to undertake mining operations for six out of **12 atomic minerals, including lithium**, as well as deep-seated minerals like gold and silver. This landmark decision seeks to boost domestic exploration and production of critical minerals and accelerate the growth of industries relying on these resources.
- The **Union Education Ministry** on **2nd August** constituted an **Expert Panel to revise anti-discrimination guidelines** with respect to the Scheduled caste, ST, OBC, person with disabilities and other minorities in higher educational institution.
- The National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) Consortium has unveiled the **Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy** for public consultation, seeking to meet the demands and **strengthen the Indian deep tech startup ecosystem**.





- The President of India commenced the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival and the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. These festivals, organized by the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region. With the participation of over 800 artists from various states and Union Territories, the events promise to be a vibrant showcase of artistic expressions.
- To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step by introducing the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application. This unified app aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, replacing the ordinance on control of services in Delhi. The passage of the Bill was met with protests and a walkout by some Opposition parties.
- The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh, to the esteemed Maharatna and Navratna categories, respectively, granting them increased autonomy for investment, joint venture establishment, and other financial decisions.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced a new Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga. With this, a new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments have been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019. AYUSH is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recognized 98,911 entities under the Startup India initiative since its launch on January 16, 2016. The primary goal behind this initiative is to create a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation, encourages entrepreneurship, and attracts private investments in the startup sector, thereby driving sustainable economic growth and generating employment opportunities on a large scale.
- In a significant late-night decision, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced the postponement of the licensing mandate for the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers in India. The government had earlier imposed import restrictions on these products due to security concerns and to boost domestic manufacturing. However, in light of recent developments, the implementation of the restrictions has been deferred until November 1, 2023.

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed The 'MASI' application for real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection process across the country.
- As of 5 August 2023, it has been four years since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision to abolish the special status of the region and end its autonomy was a significant and historic move made by the Indian Government on August 5, 2019. The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs.
- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an anti-dumping duty on Dispersion Unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia.
- Recently, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jaydeep Dhankar raised complaints against two prominent opposition members- Derek O'Brien from the TMC and Raghav Chadha from Aam Aadmi Party. The complaints, which pertain to alleged breaches of parliamentary privileges, have further intensified the ongoing political tussle during the sittings.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project. This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project.
- The Delhi Services Bill, officially known as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed with total 131 votes in favour and 102 against in Rajya Sabha. It aims to replace an existing ordinance that has caused conflicts between the Aam Aadmi Party, led by the Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the Central Government.
- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) scheme has reached a remarkable milestone as it completes eight years of successful implementation, gathering an impressive enrollment of over 5.25 crore subscribers.
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative.
- In a proactive effort to modernize and streamline access to justice, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud unveiled the 'SuSwagatam' portal. This innovative platform offers a convenient way for advocates, litigants, and citizens to secure QR code-based ePasses, granting them entry to the esteemed halls of the Supreme Court.





- In a recent development, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** of the Government of India has taken a significant step by replacing the existing **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** with a more comprehensive entity called the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS). This new committee has been entrusted with a broader mandate, involving the review of both the framework and outcomes of all surveys conducted under the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has flagged off the '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' motorcycle rally at **Pragati Maidan** in Delhi. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, the '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' campaign is scheduled to take place nationwide from August 13 to 15. The campaign aims to inspire individuals to proudly display the national flag at their residences.
- India is embarking on a bold journey to significantly enhance its current 6% share of **natural gas** within its energy mix to a robust 15% by the year 2030. This audacious endeavor is being spearheaded by **Rameswar Teli**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The government is resolutely pursuing an array of far-reaching strategies to realize this vision, as elaborated by the minister in a written response to the Lok Sabha.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** introduced three new bills in **Lok Sabha** to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill**, which aims to replace the outdated **Indian Evidence Act of 1872**. This move is in response to the need for legal reforms that align with technological advancements and societal changes.
- Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to **strengthen apprenticeship training** and encouraging the involvement of both industries and young individuals.
- The **Railways Ministry** is embarking on a significant endeavor aimed at establishing **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)** at **railway stations** throughout the country. This initiative holds the primary objective of ensuring the **availability of top-notch medicines** to the public, all while maintaining an **affordable price point**.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has given its approval for seven ambitious railway projects, signaling an investment of **₹32,500 crore**. These projects, announced by Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, are set to revolutionize Indian Railways' efficiency and capacity through transformative initiatives. The projects, adopting the **Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model**, are expected to usher in a new era of connectivity and accessibility across various regions.

- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting **electric mobility**, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the "**PM-eBus Seva**" scheme. This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying **10,000 electric buses** through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The historical use of air power in **Mizoram** during the 1966 insurgency has recently gained attention due to its mention by **Prime Minister Modi** in response to a no-confidence motion. This article delves into the events surrounding the Mizoram insurgency of 1966, the government's response, the involvement of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, and the aftermath of **Operation Jericho**.
- Bengaluru**, often hailed as **nation's tech capital**, has welcomed the **India's first** 3D-printed post office. Located in **Cambridge Layout** near Ulsoor, this post office has set a new benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and design.
- The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri **Kushvinder Vohra**, has taken a groundbreaking step towards **enhancing flood preparedness and response** by unveiling the "**FloodWatch**" mobile application. This revolutionary app is designed to harness the power of mobile phones to disseminate **real-time flood-related information and forecasts** to the public, up to **7 days in advance**. The app, which offers both readable and audio broadcasts, is available in two languages, **English** and **Hindi**, making it accessible to a wider audience.
- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the '**Likaru-Mig La-Fukche**' road in the Demchok sector of Ladakh.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** has officially granted her assent to two crucial pieces of legislation, namely the **Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, and the **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**. Both of these bills, which had recently received approval from the Parliament, have now become law with the President's endorsement.
- In a significant tribute to the tireless efforts and remarkable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has introduced a new lotus species called '**Namoh 108**'. This unveiling took place during a special event at the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)** in Lucknow. The lotus, which boasts an astonishing 108 petals, was discovered several years ago in the region of Manipur and has since been part of the institute's collection of flora under study.
- India has announced the definition of **Green Hydrogen**. The **Green Hydrogen Standard for India** sets a criterion of **2 kg CO₂ equivalent per kg H₂ as a 12-month average emission threshold**. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.





- The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders.
- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of green hydrogen, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched strategic partnerships between HSBC India and prominent institutions, namely the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).
- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a commemorative coin in honor of the legendary actor and former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, late N T Rama Rao. The ceremony took place at the esteemed Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, marking the centenary year of N T Rama Rao's remarkable life and contributions.
- Akashvani, India's national public radio broadcaster, organized a special event on 28th August in New Delhi as part of the Know India Programme (KIP), an initiative under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs. The event witnessed the participation of around 55 students of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who had gathered from various corners of the world.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has taken a significant step towards fostering patriotism and inculcating core values in school children by introducing a new chapter in the Class 7 English textbook. The chapter, titled "A Homage to Our Brave Soldiers," revolves around the National War Memorial and its profound significance in the history of India.
- India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Earlier, India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine. WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine was set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- In a groundbreaking move towards a more sustainable automotive industry, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari introduced the world to a remarkable innovation: a 100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's Innova HyCross car. The newly unveiled car stands as the world's premier BS-VI (Stage-II) electrified flex-fuel vehicle, demonstrating the union of cutting-edge technology and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

- India, as the current chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and the G20, is set to host the first-ever Global IndiaAI 2023 Summit on October 14 and 15. This momentous event will bring together prominent figures in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including researchers, startups, investors, and leading AI players, from around the world.

National Current Affairs of July

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. The grand event witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world. The Convention Centre, constructed by the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, stands as a testament to the vision of promoting cultural exchange, spirituality, and global harmony.
- The Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, concluded successfully in Gurugram. This two-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem.
- The foundation stone-laying ceremony of Shri Motibhai R. Chaudhary Sagar Sainik School in Boriyavi village of Mehsana, Gujarat marked a significant milestone in the education sector.
- The Union Government approved the draft Digital Personal Data Bill and came before Parliament in the monsoon season. Sources in the government said the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology received and considered 21,666 suggestions to the draft bill that have been circulated for comments in November, 2022.
- India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General. The GCRG was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently unveiled a series of development projects worth Rs 12,100 crores in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi. These initiatives, spanning various sectors, reflect the government's focus on transforming the city and fostering growth in key areas such as infrastructure, education, and more.
- The DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) has issued a notification declaring that the import of potatoes from Bhutan will continue without the need for an import license until June 30, 2024.





- **National Law University (NLU), Delhi**, has recently introduced a pioneering academic initiative called '**Eklavya**' – a Research Affiliate programme. This innovative scheme aims to strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration and draw upon the expertise and diverse perspectives of individuals without traditional law degrees.
- The Indian government is launching a groundbreaking initiative known as **Nari Adalats**, which are women-only courts established at the village level. These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system. By providing a platform for resolution outside of the traditional **judicial system**, the government aims to empower women and promote gender justice.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France's **Bastille Day** celebrations, which will take place on **July 14**. The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India.
- A Parliamentary committee has given a go-ahead to the **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023** without objections. The bill proposes amendments to the **Forest Conservation Act 1980** and aims to exempt certain forest lands from legal protection. The bill is expected to be tabled during the monsoon session of the Parliament.
- Delhi police has imposed **Section 144 CrPC** in the **flood prone areas** as the **water level** in the Yamuna River was **recorded at 207.55 metres**, which is the highest ever.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to virtually inaugurate the new integrated terminal building of **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in Port Blair on July 18 at 10:30 am via video conferencing. The event will witness the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V K Singh, and other senior officials attending the ceremony in person.
- **New Delhi:** In a groundbreaking move, **NITI Aayog**, India's premier policy think tank, introduced the **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix)** framework. Aimed at transforming technology assessment, the framework seeks to ignite innovation and entrepreneurship across the country.
- Shri **Amit Shah**, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, officially inaugurated the CRCS – Sahara Refund Portal (<https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in/>) in New Delhi. This user-friendly portal has been specifically designed to facilitate genuine depositors of Cooperative Societies of **Sahara Group**, including Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited, and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, to submit their claims conveniently.

- The leaders of 26 Opposition political parties from across India have united to create the **INDIA coalition**, which stands for the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance**. The main objective of this alliance is to challenge the ruling **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** led by the BJP in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha election.
- **Indian Railway** has taken an effective initiative to provide the passengers of the general coaches with the economic meal at an affordable price of **Rs.20 and snacks would cost Rs. 50 with glasses of water of 200ml at affordable prices**.
- **India** has donated **\$1 million** to the United Nations to support the promotion of the Hindi language. **Melissa Fleming**, the Global Communications under-secretary-general, expressed gratitude to **@IndiaUNNewYork** and **@ruchirakamboj** for their generous investment in the **@UNinHindi service**, aimed at delivering UN news and stories to Hindi-speaking audiences in India and beyond.
- **The Supreme Court** has issued new guidelines for designating senior advocates, replacing the existing 2017 guidelines. Under the new regulations, lawyers with a minimum of **10 years** of standing and **aged 45 years or above** are eligible to apply. The applications will be reviewed by a committee comprising the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, two senior most judges, the **Attorney General**, and a bar representative, who will meet twice a year to assess the candidates.
- India has thrown its weight behind the **United Nations' efforts** to continue the **Black Sea Grain** initiative and has called for a swift resolution to the impasse. The Black Sea Initiative holds significant importance for Ukraine's agricultural sector, known as "**Europe's breadbasket**," which faces disruptions due to the Russian invasion in February 2022.
- On **July 20, 2023**, the **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti** revealed that **21 states and union territories** in India have successfully implemented the **Ground Water Act**. This legislation includes a crucial provision for rainwater harvesting, aimed at promoting sustainable water management. In response to a question in the **Lok Sabha**, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, **Bishweshwar Tudu**, informed that the ministry has prepared a model bill to assist all states and union territories in enacting suitable groundwater laws.
- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd(PFC)** has achieved a milestone by becoming the **first** Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), an initiative spearheaded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries. By becoming a part of this initiative, PFC will not only contribute India's perspective but also collaborate on devising policy considerations to facilitate efficient energy transition financing.





- The Lok Sabha was informed about the significant increase in the number of **MGNREGA** job card deletions in the financial year 2022-23 compared to the previous year. Rural Development Minister **Giriraj Singh** provided a written reply outlining the reasons for the deletions, which included issues like fake job cards, duplicates, people opting out, relocations, and deaths.
- In the Lok Sabha, both the Congress party and **K Chandrashekhar Rao's Bharat Rashtra Samithi (TRS)** separately submitted notices for a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. The motion was related to the Manipur issue. Subsequently, the no-confidence motion was accepted by the Speaker.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, officially inaugurated a centralized **Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC)** established by the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** in New Delhi. The primary objective behind this initiative is to effectively address the prevailing security challenges. The ASCC will be responsible for monitoring all potential threats and social media activity pertaining to the **66 civil airports** currently under the CISF's security coverage.
- S Phangnon Konyak**, a distinguished **BJP** leader and Nagaland's first female Rajya Sabha MP, achieved a historic feat as she took on the role of presiding over the Rajya Sabha. This remarkable milestone in her political journey marks her as the **first woman** from Nagaland to assume this prestigious position.

- India has recently launched the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah**.
- On a recent occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the newly revamped **Pragati Maidan** complex in Delhi, unveiling the impressive International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), also known as '**Bharat Mandapam**' The IECC is set to become the largest conference and exhibition site in India and will be the venue for the upcoming **G-20 Summit** in September.
- The Union Home Ministry has introduced a new Bill to amend the **Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969** in the ongoing session of Parliament. The proposed amendments seek to digitize birth records and make Aadhaar mandatory for **birth and death registration**. The key objective is to streamline documentation processes, ensure accurate record-keeping, and facilitate various government services.
- During the Sri Lanka President's visit to India, Indian PM expressed his hope to implement **13th Amendment to Sri Lanka Constitution** which flows from the **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord 1987**.

International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of December

- Recent reports highlight **Ohio** as the first U.S. state to experience a surge in cases of a pneumonia-like illness dubbed 'white lung syndrome.' The outbreak, primarily affecting children, has led to a significant number of hospitalizations, causing concern among health officials. Global attention is drawn to the situation as the **World Health Organization (WHO)** monitors rising respiratory infections in Chinese children, with other countries like India also remaining vigilant.
- Indian refiners, including Reliance Industries, have reinitiated the import of Venezuelan crude oil through intermediaries. The move comes in the wake of the temporary lifting of **U.S. sanctions on Venezuela**, opening avenues for direct deals between Indian companies and Venezuela's state-owned oil firm, PDVSA.
- The President of the World Bank, **Ajay Banga**, has outlined a strategic initiative aimed at scaling up climate financing through securitization. This innovative approach, led by the **Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL)**, focuses on creating a model of "**originate-to-distribute**" to attract substantial investments from deep-pocketed investors for climate-related projects.

- Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto** recently embarked on a three-day state visit to India, emphasizing the enduring friendship between the two nations dating back to 1948. The visit aims to consolidate diplomatic ties and explore opportunities for collaboration in various sectors. During a joint press meet with Prime Minister Modi, it was announced that India would provide a **line of credit of USD 250 million** to Kenya for modernizing its agricultural sector. Both leaders expressed commitment to exploring new opportunities for economic cooperation, with Prime Minister Modi noting India's role as a trusted development partner for Kenya.
- Italy** has officially withdrawn from **China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** marking a significant departure from its previous stance as the only **G7 nation to participate**. This move comes more than four years after Italy initially joined the initiative in **2019** under the government of then **Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte**. The decision was long-anticipated and signals a strategic shift in Italy's approach to its relationship with China and the broader global geopolitical landscape.
- Indonesia's Mount Marapi**, located in **West Sumatra**, recently erupted, leading to a tragic incident resulting in the loss of lives and the disappearance of several climbers. The eruption occurred on **December 3, 2023**, catching many by surprise as authorities scrambled to evacuate those in the vicinity.





- Often referred to as the **Jewish Christmas, Hanukkah** or Chanukah is a festival celebrated for eight days, usually in the month of December. It is also known as the “festival of lights.” This year, Hanukkah festivities are taking place from **December 7 to December 15.**
- China's National Financial Regulatory Administration**, led by Li Yunze, is introducing a groundbreaking approach to tackle financial risks at the provincial level. This move comes in the wake of concerns about the country's economic struggles, exacerbated by the lingering effects of restrictive Covid Zero policies and a persistent property crisis.
- China** has achieved a significant milestone in its quest to shift away from traditional coal-fired power plants and decrease its reliance on foreign technologies. Recently, the **Shidao Bay nuclear power plant** in eastern Shandong province commenced commercial operations, heralding the era of next-generation gas-cooled nuclear reactors. This development is crucial for China's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and securing a sustainable energy future.
- In a historic vote on **December 11**, former EU leader **Donald Tusk** returned as **Poland's Prime Minister** after nearly a decade, marking a significant shift from **eight years** of stormy national conservative rule. Tusk's leadership is expected to usher in a new-pro-European era, with promises to restore democratic standards and improve ties with European allies.
- The **United Nations** has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping **mission in Mali after 10 years**, responding to the government's claim that the force was inadequate in addressing the escalating threat of violent extremism. This move marks the conclusion of the deadliest peacekeeping mission globally, with over **300 personnel casualties**. The withdrawal comes as Mali grapples with persistent challenges from Islamic extremist insurgency **since 2012**.
- In a surprising turn of events, the long-standing stand-off between **Azerbaijan and Armenia** has found an unexpected resolution, setting the stage for **Baku, Azerbaijan**, to host the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in 2024**. The resolution emerged as part of a prisoner swap settlement, underscoring the intricate relationship between geopolitical dynamics and global efforts to combat climate change.
- Myanmar** has emerged as the world's largest source of **opium in 2023**, surpassing **Afghanistan**, according to a new report by the United Nations. This shift is attributed to a third consecutive year of expanding cultivation fueled by Myanmar's civil war and a significant decline in opium cultivation in Afghanistan.
- China and Egypt** have achieved a significant breakthrough in their collaborative efforts with the successful launch of the **MisrSat-2 satellite**. Developed and assembled jointly by the two nations, this marks a pivotal moment in their burgeoning space partnership. The satellite, assembled in

- Egypt with Chinese support, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, utilizing the **Long March-2C carrier rocket**.
- On Sunday, December 10, a significant cultural milestone unfolded in the **French town of Cergy** with the inauguration of a **statue dedicated to Thiruvalluvar**, a revered cultural icon among Tamilians. This event holds special significance, emphasizing the enduring cultural ties between India and France.
 - In a groundbreaking development, **China** has achieved a significant milestone in the field of physics with the operationalization of the **world's deepest and largest underground laboratory**. According to a report, the physics laboratory, known as the Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF), reaches an impressive depth of **2,400 meters**.
 - The digital age has ushered in unprecedented connectivity but also raised concerns about the potential harm children may face on social media platforms. The **UK government**, led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, is contemplating additional measures to **protect teenagers below the age of 16 from online dangers**, despite the recent implementation of the Online Safety Act.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.





- **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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

International Current Affairs of November

- FATF announced the removal of several countries from its ‘grey list.’ These countries include the **Cayman Islands**, Panama, Jordan, and Albania. This development is a testament to the significant progress these nations have made in enhancing their AML/CFT systems, ultimately addressing the strategic deficiencies identified by FATF. While several countries celebrated their removal from the ‘grey list,’ FATF added **Bulgaria** to the list.
- **Norway** has embarked on a significant initiative to support India’s ‘Hunger Project’ in **Uttarakhand**. This project aims to empower women leaders, enhance food security, and protect the environment, particularly in the ecologically sensitive region of Uttarakhand. With a budget of **₹44.7 million** and a **three-year duration until September 2026**, this endeavor holds great promise for the marginalized households in the state.
- In a significant event of remembrance and gratitude, a memorial dedicated to the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971** is nearly completion in **Ashunganj, Bangladesh**. This monument serves as a symbol of solidarity and shared history between the two nations.
- A recent visit by a **Chinese communist party delegation** to the **Solomon Islands** has highlighted the growing cooperation between the two nations and its significance for their people. The delegation, led by **Guo Yezhou**, the deputy head of the international department under China’s Communist Party central committee, engaged in high-level meetings with Solomon Islands’ leadership during their visit.





- In recent developments in the **Middle East**, the armed wing of Hamas, known as the **Al-Qassam Brigades**, claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on the northern **Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona**. This attack resulted in injuries and damage to buildings. Simultaneously, Hezbollah, the **Lebanese Shia militant group**, launched an attack on **19 positions in Israel**, marking an escalation on Israel's northern border. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are considered proxies of Iran.
- Thailand** is taking steps to revitalize its tourism industry by allowing visa free entries for the citizens of **India and Taiwan**. This move comes as the high season approaches and is part of a broader strategy to attract more visitors to the country. Thailand had previously visa requirements for Chinese tourists, a significant source of visitors before the pandemic.
- The **energy and climate change landscape** has recently been electrified by the discovery of vast reserves of natural or "**white hydrogen**". This development has sparked enthusiasm, with many seeing it as a potential game-changer in the fight against climate change. Amidst the excitement, it is crucial to dissect the reality behind this newfound energy source.
- Chile** has recently become the **95th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a significant development in the global effort to promote solar energy. During a meeting in New Delhi, Ambassador Juan Angulo of Chile handed over the Instrument of ISA ratification to Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) in the Ministry of External Affairs, reinforcing the country's commitment to solar energy cooperation.
- The **Group of Seven (G7)** foreign ministers' meetings held this week have taken center stage in addressing the **Israel-Hamas conflict** and the ensuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the importance of member countries speaking with "one clear voice" in response to these critical issues.
- The highest active volcano in **Eurasia**, **Klyuchevskaya Sopka**, recently erupted on the **Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia**, spewing a significant amount of ash into the air. This eruption marked the third time it erupted in the year **2023**. While no injuries were reported, authorities took precautionary measures by closing schools in two nearby towns.
- The conflict in the eastern province of **North Kivu, DRC**, between **M23 rebels and government-backed militias** has worsened since October. This conflict is causing massive displacement, and the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation.

- IIT Madras** has become the first Indian Institute of Technology to establish an **international campus** on the picturesque **Zanzibar Island in East Africa**. Inaugurated by the President of Zanzibar, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, this historic initiative signifies a brighter educational future, facilitated by a memorandum of understanding between India and Tanzania, ushering in a new era of global education and cooperation.
- Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** recently arrived in **India** on a highly anticipated trip, receiving a **red carpet welcome**. The visit holds significant importance as it coincides with renewed efforts by Bhutan and China to resolve their longstanding border dispute. New Delhi is closely monitoring these negotiations due to potential implications for India's security interests, particularly in the **Doklam tri-junction**.
- India and Bhutan** have recently announced several key initiatives to strengthen their bilateral relationship. During a meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bhutan King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**, both countries discussed trade, technology, and cross-border connectivity. This comes at a time when **China and Bhutan** are in negotiations to resolve their border dispute.
- The United States International **Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has revealed a substantial investment of \$553 million in Adani Ports' container terminal project located in the **Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka**. This significant financial commitment aims to boost private-sector investments that support economic development and strategic partnerships in the region.
- China**, the world's second-largest economy, encountered a setback as it slipped back into **deflation in October**, posing a challenge for officials working to stimulate demand. This development comes on the heels of optimistic figures earlier in the week, indicating a surge in imports that fueled hopes of a revival in consumer activity. The National Bureau of Statistics reported a **0.2 percent year-on-year decline** in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), marking a return to deflation. The CPI had shown marginal improvement in September and August following a **0.3 percent drop in July**.
- In a recent development, the United Kingdom has put forth plans to include India in an expanded **list of safe states**, which will have significant implications for individuals arriving in the UK illegally from these countries. This move, which aims to expedite the process of returning Indian nationals who have traveled illegally from India and simultaneously eliminate their chances of seeking asylum in Britain, has been met with both support and criticism.
- Russia** has formally withdrawn from the **Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)**, citing **NATO's expansion** as a barrier to cooperation. The move follows Russia's recent revocation of the **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)** and a test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.





- The Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday, November 11, 2023, wrapped up yesterday. The summit was convened to address the escalating Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, opened the summit, welcoming leaders and representatives from member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar embarks on a five-day official visit to the United Kingdom. This visit aims to strengthen the bilateral partnership between India and the UK, marked by a warm and thriving relationship.
- The Iceland Met Office has issued a stark warning of a "considerable" likelihood of a volcanic eruption in the coming days, following a series of seismic events that have rattled the country. This seismic activity has prompted the declaration of a state of emergency in Iceland.
- In a closely contested parliamentary election, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has secured a second term, navigating the political landscape with a razor-thin majority. The focal point of this victory is an amnesty deal for Catalonian separatists, a move that has polarized the nation but strategically garnered the necessary votes from lawmakers in the country's north.
- The Northeast Bay of Bengal is currently under the influence of a cyclonic storm named "Midhili," causing widespread concern and disruptions in the region. Government authorities in several northeastern states have issued alerts following substantial rainfall, and the impact of the storm has been felt across various areas, affecting not only daily life but also cultural events.
- China, in a strategic move, is actively pursuing the extension of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) to Sri Lanka. This development signals China's intent to enhance its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) influence in South Asia.
- In a recent bilateral meeting between India and Australia, defense ministers Rajnath Singh and Richard Marles explored avenues to enhance their defense partnership. The discussions centered around strategic collaborations in hydrography and the potential for joint air-to-air refueling. These initiatives aim to bolster maritime security and surveillance capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Argentina has witnessed a seismic shift in its political landscape as Javier Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist and right-wing populist, secured a decisive victory in the recent presidential runoff. Milei's triumph over Economy Minister Sergio Massa marks a departure from the traditional political order, promising a radical overhaul of the state in response to the nation's deep-seated discontent with soaring inflation and increasing poverty.

- Luxembourg, a small but influential European nation, is set to undergo a significant political shift as former finance minister Luc Frieden assumes the role of prime minister. This change comes on the heels of the recent election, where Frieden's Christian Social People's Party (CSV) emerged victorious, reshaping the country's political dynamics.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to participate in a virtual G20 leaders meeting on November 22, as reported by Russian state television. This follows his absence from the in-person summit in India in September. Notably, Putin has refrained from attending such meetings in person since the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The upcoming virtual meeting aims to build on the outcomes of the September session, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasizing its significance.
- Negotiations between the UK and India for a free trade agreement (FTA) are currently underway, with a key unresolved issue revolving around the level of protection for Geographical Indication (GI) products from the agricultural sector. The UK seeks heightened safeguards for its GIs, including renowned items like Scotch whisky, Stilton cheese, and Cheddar cheese.
- A cargo ship named "Galaxy Leader," en route from Turkey to India, has been hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. Approximately 50 crew members from various nations were on board. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed the hijacking but clarified that the ship is not Israeli.
- The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurated the Film Bazaar, the largest South Asian film market at Marriott Resort, Goa. The film bazaar is a bustling marketplace of ideas, a haven for filmmakers, producers, and storytellers from around the world. It is described as a confluence of creativity and commerce, where ideas and inspirations form the foundation of a thriving cinematic marketplace.
- Israel and Hamas have reached a significant diplomatic breakthrough in their ongoing conflict. The deal, announced involves the release of at least 50 hostages and numerous Palestinian prisoners. The agreement also includes a four-day truce for besieged Gaza residents after weeks of intense warfare.
- The ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023, a collaborative effort between the Indian Mission to ASEAN and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has taken center stage in Indonesia from November 22 to 26. This festival serves as a platform to raise awareness about millets, promote culinary diversity, and foster sustainable agriculture.





- Ahead of the **15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks**, Israel has officially declared the Pakistan-based terror outfit **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** as a terrorist organization. This move is part of Israel's commitment to supporting the global war on terror.
- **Health officials** in China are currently investigating a surge in cases of an unidentified illness, particularly affecting children who are being hospitalized with **pneumonia**. While the situation remains unclear, initial assessments suggest that these outbreaks may be linked to a resurgence of common respiratory pathogens following strict **coronavirus lockdowns**, rather than the emergence of a **new infection**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant, the **2-gigawatt (GW) Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Independent Power Project (IPP)**. The plant, located 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city, will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes and is expected to displace 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.
- In a surprising turn of events, **Geert Wilders**, leader of the Freedom Party (PVV), secured a landmark win in the recent **Dutch elections**, signaling a growing shift towards far-right ideologies in Europe. Wilders, known for his anti-immigration stance and admiration for leaders like **Donald Trump** and **Viktor Orban**, is eyeing the position of the **Netherlands' next prime minister**.
- The **Afghanistan embassy** in New Delhi has officially announced its **permanent closure**, citing persistent challenges from the Indian government as the primary reason. This decision comes after the embassy had already ceased operations on September 30, hoping for a favorable change in the Indian government's stance.
- According to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, the **United States** emerges as the **foremost aid provider** in 2022. The data from ForeignAssistance.gov, an official US government platform, reveals key insights into the patterns and destinations of US aid between 2001 and 2023.
- In a significant move, Malaysia has joined Thailand and Sri Lanka to offer **30 days of visa-free travel to visitors from India**, starting from December 1. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also announced a similar provision for Chinese citizens.
- The **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** has recommended a comprehensive review of India's bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), specifically focusing on the agreements with Singapore and Thailand. GTRI suggests that this evaluation should be carried out in conjunction with the broader Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc, highlighting the interconnected nature of regional trade dynamics.

- In a significant diplomatic move, **Robert Shetkintong**, the current **Ambassador of India to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**, has been designated as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique**. This strategic appointment marks a key transition for Shetkintong, a seasoned diplomat and a **2001 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer**.
- **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)** disclosed the **first human case of H1N2**, or the **pig virus**, discovered through routine national flu surveillance. The affected individual experienced mild illness and fully recovered, raising questions about potential pig-to-human transmission.
- **Dave Sharma**, the trailblazing Indian-origin politician, has secured a significant political comeback by winning the **New South Wales Liberal Senate race**. Sharma, who initially made history in **2019 as the first Indian-origin lawmaker in Australian Parliament**, brings a wealth of diplomatic and foreign policy expertise to the Senate.
- **New Zealand's** recently elected government has decided to abandon its groundbreaking law aimed at banning smoking for future generations. The move is driven by the government's intention to finance tax cuts, but public health officials are expressing concerns about the potential consequences, foreseeing thousands of lives at risk, especially within Māori communities. The **2022 legislation**, considered a world-first, established a progressively increasing smoking age, preventing those born after **January 2009** from legally purchasing cigarettes.
- **Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano**, situated in the **Sunda Strait**, unleashed a powerful eruption on Tuesday morning, casting a volcanic ash cloud approximately **1 km high into the sky**. The event, monitored by the volcano's Observation Post, marks a continuation of heightened volcanic activity since April last year, underscoring the growing concern over the volcano's potential danger.
- The **4th edition** of the annual **ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF)** took place in **Langkawi, Malaysia**, on **November 28, 2023**, showcasing the collaborative efforts of India and the **10 ASEAN Member States (AMS)** in the fields of **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**. With the participation of 200 representatives, this year's AIGIF aimed to strengthen the relationship between the nations and promote social innovations at the grassroots level.
- The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, took a bold step by explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. **Nepal became the first South Asian country to formally register a case of same-sex marriage**. This event occurred in the Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung district in Western Nepal, where the union of trans-woman Maya Gurung, 35, and gay man Surendra Pandey, 27, was legally recognized.





International Current Affairs of October

- Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** officially inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the nation's infrastructure development. The ambitious project, known as the "Whoosh" high-speed railway, is a key component of **China's Belt and Road Initiative** and is poised to dramatically reduce travel times between two vital Indonesian cities.
- **Pakistan's inflation rate** surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices. This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation.
- The tallest statue of the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution,' **B.R. Ambedkar**, known as the '**Statue of Equality**', is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14. This statue of Ambedkar is an integral component of the Ambedkar International Center (AIC), currently under construction on a 13-acre plot in Accokeek city, Maryland.
- **Uganda Airlines** announced a significant milestone in its operations by commencing direct flight services between **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport** and **Entebbe International Airport** in Uganda. This development marks a historic moment as it reconnects India and Uganda with a non-stop air service after more than 50 years of hiatus. The maiden flight for this route, **UR 430**, is scheduled to take off from Entebbe on 7 October, with the return flight, **UR 431**, departing from Mumbai on 8 October.
- The **eurozone economy** likely contracted in the third quarter of the year. Demand in the region saw a significant decline in September, marking the fastest pace of decrease in nearly three years. The final Composite **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**, compiled by S&P Global and considered a reliable indicator of overall economic health, inched up to 47.2 in September, compared to August's 46.7.
- **Bangladesh** recently received its first shipment of **uranium from Russia**, which will be used to fuel the country's **Rooppur nuclear power plant**. The plant, financed and constructed by **Russia's Rosatom**, is a significant project aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's electrical grid and supporting its growing economy.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** recently announced the successful testing of a new nuclear-powered missile called "**Burevestnik**" during a speech that covered various topics, including nuclear weapons and international relations. This missile, known as "**Storm Petrel**," has raised concerns and questions about its capabilities and reliability.
- In a closely-watched election in the Maldives, **Mohamed Muizzu**, the candidate from the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), emerged victorious in the presidential polls after a runoff vote. This victory came after a first round of polling failed to produce a clear winner.

- **BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham**, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, October 8, in Robbinsville, New Jersey. This architectural marvel is not only a testament to the vibrant Hindu community in the US but also a symbol of the enduring spirit of artistry, spirituality, and human dedication.
- **India and Tanzania** are set to boost their bilateral cooperation as Tanzanian President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** visits India after an **eight-year gap**. The visit aims to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership and enhance trade and investment ties. Tanzanian Foreign Minister **January Yusuf Makamba** anticipates the signing of **15 agreements** covering various areas of cooperation.
- **India and Switzerland** recently celebrated **75 years** of their enduring friendship and fruitful collaboration in a beautiful Kumaon village nestled in the **Uttarakhand** region of India. The three-day event, aptly named '**Swiss Himalayan Bounty**', unfolded last week at a charming homestay in Satoli village, positioned at an altitude of 6,000 feet near Mukteshwar in the **Nainital district**. This celebration saw the convergence of participants representing various NGOs, stakeholders, and beneficiaries of the longstanding partnership between these two nations.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** marked a historic moment in the country's infrastructure development by inaugurating the **82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link**. This significant project, executed under **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, is poised to transform Bangladesh's connectivity and economic landscape.
- **India and China** held their **20th corps commander-level meeting** at the Chushul-Moldo border in Ladakh. Both countries engaged in a series of diplomatic discussions to address the persisting issues along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in eastern Ladakh. These talks, held at the Corps Commander level, aimed to foster an open and constructive atmosphere, fostering an early and mutually acceptable resolution. While these discussions did not yield a clear breakthrough, they emphasized the commitment of both nations to peaceful dialogue and negotiation.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** embarked on his first foreign trip since the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for him in March, raising international attention and scrutiny. The visit took place in **Kyrgyzstan**, a **Central Asian nation** historically tied to **Moscow**.
- Sri Lanka's State Minister of Finance, **Shehan Semasinghe**, has announced the country's intentions to renegotiate its **free trade agreements (FTAs)** with key bilateral partners. This move is part of Sri Lanka's strategy to boost its economic growth and reduce external debt by promoting market access, foreign direct investment, and export-oriented initiatives.





- In a historic event, a **19-foot tall statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the principal architect of India's Constitution, was formally inaugurated in a **suburb of Maryland, Washington**. This statue is being considered as the tallest of its kind outside of India and holds significant importance for both Indian-Americans and the Indian diaspora around the world.
- **The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** recently convened its Council of Ministers meeting in **Colombo on October 11**, drawing interest from countries worldwide. With **23 member nations** and **11 dialogue partners**, IORA plays a crucial role in fostering regional cooperation around the **Indian Ocean**.
- **India and Vietnam**, two countries with deep-rooted historical connections dating back almost two millennia, have been forging an enduring bond rooted in Buddhism. This relationship has been further solidified by literary exchanges and cultural influences. In a recent diplomatic gesture, India's External Affairs Minister, **S. Jaishankar**, inaugurated a bust of Nobel Laureate writer and poet **Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh city**, symbolizing the historical and cultural ties between the two nations.
- Poland's recent parliamentary elections marked a significant turning point, ending eight years of populist rule by the **Law and Justice (PiS) party**. The liberal opposition, led by former EU chief **Donald Tusk**, emerged victorious, promising a fresh era for the nation.
- An age-old sea route between **India** and **Sri Lanka** has been rejuvenated with the inauguration of a passenger ferry service from **Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu** to **Kankesanthurai in Jaffna**, Northern Sri Lanka. This initiative aims to bolster bilateral ties, boost tourism, and increase people-to-people relations while benefiting local traders on both shores.
- United States President **Joe Biden** is set to visit **Israel** amid an ongoing conflict with **Hamas fighters**. The trip was confirmed by US Secretary of State **Anthony Blinken**, and the **White House** released an official statement emphasizing strong support for Israel.
- Israel tested its new laser-based '**Iron Beam' missile defence system**'. The system is designed to destroy short-range rockets, artillery, and mortar bombs. The system could also intercept unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It has a range of up to **7 km**. Iron Beam constitutes the sixth element of Israel's integrated missile defense system, in addition to **Arrow 2, Arrow 3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome**.
- The **U.S. Pentagon** has released a report on China's military power, indicating that **China** is expanding its nuclear weapons arsenal at a faster rate than previously estimated. This report also suggests that China may be drawing lessons from Russia's conflict in Ukraine for potential scenarios related to Taiwan.

- Recently, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** embarked on a significant official visit to **Vietnam**. This visit marked not only the strengthening of bilateral relations but also a celebration of the enduring principles and values adopted by **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Rabindranath Tagore**. The visit underscored the deep-rooted connections between India and Vietnam and the shared commitment to addressing global issues.
- **Japan** has recently achieved a significant milestone in the realm of defense technology. On October 17, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in collaboration with the **Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA)**, a division of the Japanese Ministry of Defense, successfully test-fired a **medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun** from an offshore platform.
- In a significant development, the **United States** has imposed sanctions on **three Chinese companies** for their alleged involvement in supplying missile components to Pakistan. These sanctions were issued under Executive Order 13382, which focuses on entities involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- **Sri Lanka**, in a bid to revitalize its tourism sector, has taken a significant step by waiving **visa fees** for tourists from **seven countries**, including **India**. This move aims to attract more visitors and help the country recover from recent economic challenges.
- **China and Bhutan** are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited **Beijing** for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process.
- The **India-Canada** relationship faced difficulties due to a dispute over the killing of a **Sikh separatist** in **British Columbia**. Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** alleged that Indian agents were involved in the incident, causing tension.
- Republican Congressman **Mike Johnson** from **Louisiana** has been elected as the **Speaker of the House of Representatives**, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the **United States**.
- China's Defense Minister, **Li Shangfu**, was recently removed from his position in a surprising turn of events. His disappearance from public view two months earlier had sparked rumors about his fate. Li's removal follows a series of unexplained personnel changes in China's government, raising questions about how power is concentrated and party discipline is enforced under **Chinese leader Xi Jinping**.
- China is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the **western Pacific Ocean**. The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as "**ghost particles**" or neutrinos. This ambitious undertaking will result in the **world's largest neutrino-detecting telescope**.





- Slovakia's newly appointed Prime Minister, Robert Fico, has taken office for the fourth time amidst promises to prioritize **Slovakian interests**, reduce military aid to **Ukraine**, and curb immigration. His nationalist stance raises concerns among **EU leaders** regarding potential obstructionist policies.
- Italy** is experiencing a severe **demographic crisis**, with the number of births hitting a new low this year. Preliminary data from the national statistics bureau **ISTAT** reveals a concerning trend, indicating a continuation of the country's longstanding population decline.
- Mike Johnson**, a relatively lesser-known Republican from Louisiana, has been elected as the new speaker of the **US House of Representatives**. He has earned the nickname "MAGA Mike" among his hard-right colleagues, a reference to Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again", which continues to be associated with Trumpian ideals. Addressing the House after his election, Johnson promised to quickly move forward on conservative priorities, such as support for Israel and border security.
- As the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalates, Israeli forces are planning to employ a unique array of tactics. Among these tactics is the use of an innovative type of bomb referred to as "**sponge bombs**." These sponge bombs have the capability to **seal off the intricate network of tunnels** beneath Gaza without causing explosions.
- In a historic move, **Malaysia's** royal families have elected **Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor state** as the country's new king. This decision, made within Malaysia's distinctive rotating monarchy system, marks a significant transition for the nation.
- The United Nations**, under the leadership of Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**, has taken a significant step toward managing the opportunities and challenges posed by **artificial intelligence (AI)**. Guterres emphasized the vast potential of AI for positive transformation, yet acknowledged the pressing need to address associated risks. To facilitate international cooperation and consensus on AI governance, a **39-member** advisory body has been established, comprising tech industry leaders, government officials, and academics from diverse backgrounds.
- FATF announced the removal of several countries from its 'grey list.' These countries include the **Cayman Islands**, Panama, Jordan, and Albania. This development is a testament to the significant progress these nations have made in enhancing their AML/CFT systems, ultimately addressing the strategic deficiencies identified by FATF. While several countries celebrated their removal from the 'grey list,' FATF added **Bulgaria** to the list.

- Norway** has embarked on a significant initiative to support India's '**Hunger Project**' in **Uttarakhand**. This project aims to empower women leaders, enhance food security, and protect the environment, particularly in the ecologically sensitive region of Uttarakhand. With a budget of **₹44.7 million** and a **three-year duration until September 2026**, this endeavor holds great promise for the marginalized households in the state.
- In a significant event of remembrance and gratitude, a memorial dedicated to the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971** is nearly completion in **Ashunganj, Bangladesh**. This monument serves as a symbol of solidarity and shared history between the two nations.

International Current Affairs of September

- Gabon**, an oil-producing country in Central Africa, has experienced a coup led by military officers. **President Ali Bongo** was placed under house arrest after being declared the winner of a disputed election. This marks the eighth coup in West and Central Africa since 2020, reflecting a trend of democratic setbacks in the region. Other countries like Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Chad have also witnessed military takeovers, raising concerns for regional stability and foreign interests.
- Russia** is set to embark on a historic journey by launching its first Islamic banking pilot program on September 1. With a considerable Muslim population of approximately 25 million, the move aims to tap into the potential of **Islamic finance**, which has already had a presence through institutions but lacked official recognition. **President Vladimir Putin's** recent endorsement of the initiative signifies a significant step towards embracing Islamic banking principles in the country.
- In a remarkable endeavor to strengthen trade relations between India and the United States within the electronics sector, the **Indian Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA)** has established a dedicated task force. With a goal to elevate the current Indo-US electronics trade, currently at **\$8 billion**, to an ambitious **\$100 billion** within the next decade, this initiative follows collaborative efforts initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States last month.
- In a significant move, **Governor Brian Kemp** of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the **month of October** will be celebrated as '**Hindu Heritage Month**' within the state. This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.





- In a significant political development, Indian-origin economist **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** has emerged victorious in **Singapore's presidential election**. This victory is especially noteworthy as it comes after a gap of ten years, marking the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011.
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- The **three-day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival**, a vibrant and culturally enriching event concluded in **Lalitpur, Nepal**. The festival, which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **NP Saud**, served as a **platform for the exchange of culture in South Asia**, while promoting literary and cultural activities in the region. This gathering of literary minds and artists from **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka** showcased the **diversity and richness** of South Asian literature and arts.
- **Vanuatu's** parliament elected **Sato Kilman** as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands.
- The 78th session of the **United Nations General Assembly** commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world. The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed '**Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all**', focuses on several critical areas.
- After a two-year post-Brexit standoff regarding science funding, the **United Kingdom** has decided to rejoin the European Union's Horizon science research programme. This move is seen as a significant development in bilateral relations between the **UK and the EU**, following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months prior.
- During the opening session of the **two-day G20 Summit**, the **African Union** (AU) received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member. This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape.
- India and the United Kingdom have jointly announced the launch of the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the **12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD)**. This collaborative initiative signifies the continued commitment of both nations to work closely together to unlock substantial infrastructure investment opportunities in India.
- In a significant announcement at the G20 Leaders Summit held in New Delhi, **Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** declared that the United Kingdom would allocate \$2 billion to the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**. This commitment marks the largest single funding pledge made by the UK to address global climate change challenges, according to an official government statement.
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- In a significant announcement during the **G20 summit**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled plans for the **India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor**, a groundbreaking initiative that promises to reshape global trade and connectivity. The corridor, which involves **India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, European Union, Italy, Germany and the United States**, is poised to be historic venture, surpassing even the legendary Silk and Spice routes of the past.
- **Eastern Libya** is in a state of emergency after a powerful **storm named Daniel** caused terrible damage. Thousands of people have been affected, with more than 5,300 lives lost and many still missing. Here's what you need to know: During the storm, several dams broke, leading to severe flooding in neighborhoods. Many houses were washed away, and people had to search for their missing family members.
- **NATO** member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era. Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a **Russian-led coalition known as Occasus**. The overarching objective of this exercise, codenamed "**Steadfast Defender**," is to refine NATO's transformation from a crisis response organization into a robust war-fighting alliance. The scenario envisages repelling a hypothetical Russian-led attack on a NATO member state.
- Units from the countries of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** recently embarked on their inaugural joint military exercises in **Indonesia's South**





- Natuna Sea.** These drills come at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions between major global powers and rising concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea.
- The **African Union** is set to launch its own credit ratings agency in the coming year as a direct response to concerns regarding what it perceives as biased credit assessments given to African nations. This move aims to provide a more balanced evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries and bolster investment in the continent. The **African credit rating agency** will primarily function within the African continent and will be financially self-sustaining.
 - The two-day Summit of the **G77+China** recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system. This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government.
 - The **35th edition** of the annual **Gandhi Walk**, a cherished event in the predominantly Indian suburb of Lenasia in **Johannesburg**, finally returned after being postponed for three long years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Canada's prime minister, **Justin Trudeau**, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties.
 - Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** extended an invitation to U.S. President **Joe Biden** to be the chief guest at **India's Republic Day** celebrations on January 26 next year. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed the invitation, stating that it is under consideration by the U.S. government. President Biden is also scheduled to visit India in 2024 for the **Quad Summit**, and efforts are being made to align the summit with his visit.
 - In a recent announcement, British Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its **Net Zero climate action targets**. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035.
 - Azerbaijan's military operation in **Nagorno-Karabakh** has ignited concerns of a renewed conflict in the region. This long-standing dispute revolves around an ethnic Armenian region within Azerbaijani territory. The recent attacks have escalated tensions and raised international alarm.
 - Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger** have come together to address the pressing issue of jihadism in the **Liptako-Gourma region** by signing a mutual defense pact known as the **Alliance of Sahel States (AES)**. This landmark agreement aims to establish a framework for collective defense and mutual assistance among these nations to protect their populations from the growing threat of terrorism. Here, we delve into the key aspects of this development.

- Since the summer of 2020, the **United Kingdom** has witnessed a concerning surge in cases of **Brucella canis infection** among dogs, originating primarily from **Eastern Europe**. This incurable disease, which has been spreading among canines, has now made the alarming leap to infect humans, with three British citizens falling victim to its debilitating effects. This article explores the nature of **Brucella canis**, its transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures.
- The **Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)** has officially declared that the **general elections in Pakistan** will be held in the last week of January 2024. This announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census.
- The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has embarked on an impeachment inquiry against Democratic **President Joe Biden**. Spearheaded by Speaker **Kevin McCarthy**, this move signifies an attempt to score political points at the onset of the election campaign cycle. This development is steeped in political context, partly influenced by **former President Donald Trump's** two impeachments and the desire to balance the score. We delve into the charges against President Biden, largely centered around allegations related to his son Hunter Biden's business dealings.
- In a significant diplomatic development, **China and Syria** have formally announced the establishment of a strategic partnership. This announcement came during a meeting between Chinese leader **Xi Jinping** and Syrian President **Bashar Assad** in **Hangzhou, China**, as the city prepared to host the Asian Games. The partnership reflects China's growing engagement with countries in the Middle East and its quest to assert itself on the global stage.
- In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the **Swaminarayan Akshardham temple** in **Robbinsville Township, New Jersey**, is set to be inaugurated on **8th October 2023**, under the guidance of its spiritual head, **Mahant Swami Maharaj**. This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the **second-largest Hindu temple in the world, following the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia**. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry.
- Nepal's Prime Minister, **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, recently concluded his week-long visit to **China**, which was expected to address critical issues such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, cross-border energy trade, and past agreements. However, the agreements signed during this visit did not cover these key areas. Instead, they focused on various other aspects of bilateral cooperation.





- Following India's lead, the United States has expressed concerns regarding the planned visit of a Chinese research vessel to Sri Lanka in October. The Chinese vessel, named Shi Yan 6, is set to undertake scientific research projects during an 80-day operation in the Indian Ocean, with 13 research teams on board.
- The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of **75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice** to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies.
- Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in **Kazan, Russia**, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition. This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul.
- In a groundbreaking move, India and the United Nations have jointly introduced a significant capacity-building initiative known as the "**India-UN Capacity Building Initiative**." This initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.
- Sri Lanka** is facing delays in receiving the second tranche of its **\$2.9 billion IMF bailout package** due to unresolved issues with its external debt restructuring. This crisis comes as the nation grapples with its worst economic downturn in history, characterized by dwindling foreign exchange reserves and public protests over shortages of vital commodities.
- In a move that underscores Russia's unwavering commitment to its military endeavors, the country is poised to substantially increase its defense spending by nearly **70% in 2024**. This financial shift, as revealed in a document published by the **Russian Finance Ministry**, comes as Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its extensive offensive operations in Ukraine.
- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, often referred to as simply "**Five Eyes**," is a secretive international intelligence coalition comprising five English-speaking countries. Established in the aftermath of **World War II**, this alliance has played a pivotal role in shaping global intelligence and security strategies. In this article, we will delve into the history, purpose, and controversies surrounding the Five Eyes alliance. The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**. Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share **signals intelligence (SIGINT)** to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War.

- In a remarkable achievement, the US Mission in India exceeded its target by processing a staggering **one million** non-immigrant visa applications in 2023. This milestone signifies the growing interest of Indians in visiting the United States.
- Inflation** in the **Eurozone** has dropped to its lowest level in almost two years, providing potential relief for the European Central Bank (ECB) and raising questions about the continuation of its rate-hiking cycle. Official data from Eurostat reveals that consumer prices in the **20-nation Eurozone** rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, down from 5.2 percent in August. This marks the lowest level of inflation since October 2021.
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International Current Affairs of August

- China's capital, **Beijing**, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall over the course of five days. This torrential downpour, the **highest in 140 years**, was triggered by the remnants of **Typhoon Dokuri**, leaving streets submerged and residents stranded. The disaster has resulted in tragic fatalities, with at least 21 people losing their lives and 26 others still reported missing. Beijing and the surrounding **province of Hebei** faced severe flooding, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and posing a significant challenge to rescue operations.
- On July 26, an attempted **coup in Niger** shook the country's political stability and raised concerns over its efforts to combat the growing Islamist insurgency in the Sahel region. **President Mohamed Bazoum**, who came to power in 2021 through the country's first peaceful democratic transition, was ousted by mutinous soldiers. This article delves into the reasons behind the coup, its implications for the region, and the international response.
- In a significant development, the federal cabinet of **Pakistan** has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the **United States**. The Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) will pave the way for enhanced defense ties between the two nations and may allow Pakistan to procure **military hardware** from Washington DC. This move comes after the previous agreement, signed in 2005, expired in 2020.
- In recent news, **Fitch**, one of the top-three global ratings agencies, downgraded the **United States' credit rating** from AAA to AA+. The AAA rating is the highest possible rating, indicating a country's strong ability to repay its debts. This article explores the significance of a AAA credit rating, lists the nations still holding the prestigious rating, and discusses the consequences of the U.S. losing its AAA status.
- **Iraq** has been officially recognized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone.
- A new **COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1** is rapidly spreading across the country **United Kingdom**. Startlingly, one out of every seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant. The spread of Eris is not limited only to **UK** but also across **Europe, Asia and North America**, marking its impact globally.
- **Cambodia's King appointed Hun Sen's son** as the country's new leader, beginning a handover of power that ends nearly four decades of rule, but the outgoing Premier promised this was "not the end" of his political career. King Norodom Sihamoni issued a royal decree appointing **Hun Manet as Prime Minister**, after Mr. Hun Sen had announced last month that he was stepping down and handing power to his eldest son.

- The **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** held the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the **India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH)** in Lumbini, **Nepal**.
- In **July 2023**, our planet experienced an unprecedented rise in temperatures, marking it as the **hottest month** ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the urgency of addressing global climate change and its root cause, greenhouse gas emissions. Let's delve into the key highlights and findings of this extraordinary month.
- **China**, facing a significant economic challenge, saw its exports plummet by double digits in July, raising concerns for the Communist Party to steer the nation's economy out of its current slump. The decline, encompassing a 14.5% drop in exports compared to the previous year, is intensifying the urgency for policy measures to revive economic growth.
- The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a prohibition on the usage of the term '**homosexuality**' instructing both media and social media entities to employ the term '**sexual deviance**' in its place.
- In a significant political development, **Pakistan's President** took the step of dissolving the country's parliament as per the recommendation of Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**. The lower house of the Parliament's five-year term is due to end on August 12. This move comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan grapples with both political and economic challenges.
- Australia's involvement in the **AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States)** pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact.
- **Deflation, the inverse of inflation**, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in **China**, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing.
- In the aftermath of a recent **coup in Niger** on July 26, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** faces a critical situation. The coup leaders have defied ECOWAS' deadline to reinstate the ousted president, prompting discussions among regional leaders. This article delves into the ongoing crisis, ECOWAS' response, and the potential implications for the region.
- In a significant development for **international students** aspiring to study in **Canada**, the country's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has officially sanctioned the use of Pearson's **PTE Academic test** as an English language proficiency assessment.





- **Anwarul Haq Kakar**, a prominent ethnic Pushtun leader with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the country's caretaker prime minister. With this appointment, Kakar is entrusted with the responsibility of heading an impartial administration, supervising the forthcoming general elections, and addressing the economic hurdles confronting the country.
- **The Dutch economy** has entered a recession, shrinking 0.3% on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year. The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year. Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023.
- **China's Inner Mongolia region** has reported two cases of bubonic plague, causing concerns amid previous infections and highlighting the need for vigilant containment efforts. The new cases involve close relatives of a previously infected individual. **Bubonic plague** is a highly infectious disease, primarily transmitted through rodents, and can be fatal if not treated promptly. The region's health authorities are taking proactive measures to prevent the further spread of the disease.
- India's collaboration with **Russia's Arctic region** is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at **Murmansk port**. This strategic port, positioned about 2,000 km northwest of **Moscow**, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India.
- **Russia** has launched an **e-visa facility for Indians** from August 1, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies.
- Deep within the heart of the **Amazon rainforest** lies an extraordinary tale – that of the **Piripkura tribe**. This story revolves around Tamandua Piripkura, one of the last remaining three survivors of this indigenous community. Their journey encapsulates the unyielding struggle of Indigenous people against the encroachment of the modern world.
- Thai property tycoon **Srettha Thavisin** has been elected as the new **prime minister of Thailand** following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote. The 60-year-old Thavisin's victory in the parliamentary vote, with the support of two-thirds of the assembly, ends weeks of political uncertainty that followed an election held 100 days ago.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently grants approval to the **first vaccine** created to forestall **(Respiratory Syncytial Virus) RSV-associated LRTD (Lower respiratory tract disease)** and severe cases in infants spanning **birth to 6 months**. This momentous decision is fostering optimism among parents and healthcare providers working diligently to protect the well-being of these susceptible infants.
- Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious **African Swine Fever (ASF) virus** has rampantly spread across the globe, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. The virus, infamous for its nearly **100% fatality rate** among domestic and wild pigs, has wrought havoc on pig populations, with over 1.5 million animals lost within this timeframe. The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**, a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting animal diseases, released a report detailing this alarming spread on August 21, 2023.
- In a significant geopolitical development, the **BRICS** alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation. The expanded BRICS now welcomes **Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt** into its fold.
- In a significant event attended by senior Iranian officials, the Islamic Republic recently introduced its latest achievement in unmanned aerial technology – the **Mohajer-10 drone**. As reported by state media, this cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle boasts an impressive range of **2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles)**.
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** embarked on a landmark visit to **Greece**, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit is aimed at fortifying the bilateral relationship between India and Greece, and it comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**.
- On his visit to **Greece**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** engaged in a solemn and symbolic act by paying his respects to the '**Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**' in Athens. This gesture took place amidst a series of diplomatic activities during his European tour, highlighting India's commitment to global partnerships.
- **Emmerson Mnangagwa** has been declared the winner of **Zimbabwe's presidential election**, securing a **second term** as the nation's leader. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced Mnangagwa as the victor with **52.6% of the vote**, while his closest rival, **Nelson Chamisa** of the **Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC)**, trailed behind at 44%.
- The **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMC)** is a significant agreement adopted by **48 African countries** to address the complex relationship between human mobility





and climate change. This declaration, initially signed by 15 African states in 2022, provides an action-oriented framework for member states to manage climate-induced migration effectively.

- The **ORON aircraft**, a result of **Israel's Defense Ministry's** groundbreaking progress, signifies a remarkable advancement in the nation's military capabilities. This **intelligence-gathering aircraft** is poised to revolutionize Israel's defense strategy with its cutting-edge technology and capabilities.

International Current Affairs of July

- New Zealand** has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the **first country** to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.
- Iran has officially become a full member of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on this significant occasion.
- In a significant ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, **King Charles III** of the **United Kingdom** was presented with the Scottish Crown Jewels, solidifying his authority in Scotland. The event took place two months after his official coronation and included the unveiling of a new sword named after the late Queen Elizabeth.
- During **India-EU Aviation summit** held at New Delhi, India, the **Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has signed a MoU with the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** for cooperation in unmanned aircraft and systems and innovative air mobility.
- Taiwan** has announced its decision to open its third representative office in India, this time in Mumbai. The move comes after more than a decade since Taiwan last expanded its presence in the country. The establishment of the **Taiwan Economic and Cultural Center (TECC)** in Mumbai aims to facilitate trade, investment, and provide various services to Taiwanese nationals and Indian businesspeople and tourists.
- Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's** coalition government collapses due to "insurmountable" differences on handling migration. After days of crisis talks, the four-party coalition fails to reach a deal.
- Peru declared a **state of National emergency** amid a surge in patient suffering from **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)** which is a neurological condition characterized by an uncommon immune system mistakenly attack on nervous system.
- Bangladesh and India** have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade. This **bilateral trade agreement** marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country.

- The **Ukraine war** has led to the increased recognition of the term "**Global South**" as many influential countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have shown hesitation in aligning themselves with NATO.
- Israel's parliament** in the first reading **adopted a controversial bill** that would **limit the oversight powers of the Supreme Court**.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is embarking on a visit to **France** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from July 13-15, aimed at deepening cooperation between the countries. With a focus on areas such as defence, security, energy, and global partnerships, PM Modi's visit holds significance for strengthening bilateral ties. This article provides an overview of the key highlights and objectives of the visit.
- UAE** or United Arab Emirates is participating with observer status in the plenary of the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a **Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB)**, taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG.
- Australian Treasurer **Jim Chalmers** and Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced **Michele Bullock** would head the **Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)** for the next seven years, having chosen not to reappoint Governor Philip Lowe for a second term.
- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has announced its support for **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission** by offering a loan facility of up to **€1 billion**. The loan aims to assist India in developing its nascent green hydrogen ecosystem and renewable energy projects. EIB **Vice-President Kris Peeters** will confirm the lender's interest in providing the loan during his visit to India this week to attend G20 events.
- Jakarta, Indonesia** – On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, **Saudi Arabia** has officially become the **51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)**. The accession signing ceremony took place on July 12, and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, on behalf of ASEAN, expressed her appreciation to Saudi Arabia for joining the treaty.
- A private Chinese company launched the World's first **methane-fuelled space rocket** into orbit named "**Zhuque-2**".
- Talim** made landfall in Zhanjiang city, located in **Guangdong** province. China typically experiences its primary flood season from late July to early August. During this period, there is an upsurge in tropical cyclone and typhoon activity, particularly in the South China Sea and Western Pacific regions, with particular emphasis on the southern and southeastern coastal areas of the country. Hong Kong hoisted the **Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No 8**, the **third-highest** warning level first time this year.





- India and the United States have recently agreed to enhance cooperation on various fronts, including strengthening multilateral development banks, promoting climate action, and facilitating energy transition. The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, met with US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, during a G20 event to discuss their bilateral interests and explore new investment opportunities in renewable energy. The collaboration between the two nations spans economic, commercial, and technological issues, with a focus on supply chain strengthening and catalyzing clean energy transition.
- North Korea recently tested its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) – Hwasong-18. Hwasong-18 is a three stage solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) developed by North Korea.
- The external minister of India S. Jaishankar met his Myanmar counterpart Tha Swe to discuss the expeditions projects especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and the challenges faced in the smooth implementation of the project. The total distance of this highway is approximately 1,400 km (845 miles) which starts from Moreh in Manipur, India and passes through Myanmar and ends at Mae Sot in Thailand.
- In a significant move, India and Japan have solidified their partnership by signing an agreement to jointly develop the semiconductor ecosystem. The deal aims to bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry. This marks Japan as the second Quad partner, after the United States, to join hands with India in this endeavor.
- "The "V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial" was jointly unveiled by the Commune of Monotone in Italy and Italian military historians at Montone, Perugia, Italy. This memorial stands as a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War.
- As per a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, India, world's top rice exporter, has implemented a ban on all exports of "non-basmati white rice" to stabilize domestic prices. However, the government will permit the export of white rice to other nations upon request, subject to the fulfillment of their food security requirements and their government's formal approval.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the LGBTQ+ community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia's embattled LGBTQ+ population.
- According to WHO, a first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has been identified in a 28-year old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- Pan Gongsheng was named China's central bank governor on July 25 in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling Communist Party's once-a-decade change of power. Mr. Pan, a deputy central bank governor and veteran of China's state-owned banking industry, succeeds Yi Gang, an American-trained economist who held the post for five years.
- On 13th July, the World Bank issued an official approval for the Bank of Israel to join the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR), consists of worldwide committees on credit reporting.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has urged to prohibit the use of smartphones in schools, asserting the need for a more "human-centred vision" of education.
- Cambodia's Prime Minister, Hun Sen recently announced his decision to step down and appoint his eldest son, Hun Manet, as the new prime minister. Despite leaving the prime ministerial position, Hun Sen will continue to hold leadership roles as the head of the ruling Cambodian People's Party and as a member of the National Assembly.
- Antarctica's sea ice has been recorded low level of about 14.2 million sq. km, significantly below the normal extent of 16.7 million sq. km for this time of year.
- China's issuance of stapled visas to Indian citizens from Arunachal Pradesh has sparked controversy and diplomatic tensions between the two neighboring countries. This practice involves attaching a separate piece of paper to the visa instead of directly stamping it on the passport. The recent incident involving three Indian wushu players receiving stapled visas led to India's withdrawal of its wushu contingent from the Summer World University Games in Chengdu.
- James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea of the United Kingdom was elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in Nairobi, Kenya. Skea beat his nearest rival, Thelma Krug of Brazil, in a run-off. He won 90 votes while Krug won 69. Krug, an IPCC vice-chair and former researcher at Brazil's national space institute, narrowly missed a chance to be the first female chair of the IPCC.

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Current Affairs Related to States in India

Current Affairs Related to States in India of December

Andhra Pradesh

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, inaugurated the **Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam** at **Tummalapalli Kalakshetram** in **Vijayawada**. The event took place in the presence of notable dignitaries, including **Smt R K Roja**, Minister for Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and **Shri Buggana Rajendranath**, Minister for Finance, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- 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.

Bihar

- The actions undertaken by the **Bihar government** in the field of **afforestation**, particularly through the **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan** (Rural Development Department), received praise from the international community at the ongoing **United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-28)** in **Dubai**.
- Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth an impressive **Rs 50,530 crore** have been successfully inked with approximately 300 companies, reflecting a resounding success for Bihar. These agreements span diverse sectors, underlining the state's appeal to investors.

Goa

- 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.

Gujarat

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**, recently addressed the **Khadi Mati Kala Mahotsav** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, emphasizing the multidimensional and multi-purpose aspects of the Khadi movement. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including Union Minister **Shri Narayan Rane** and **Shri Bhanupratap Singh Verma**.
- 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.

- 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.

Haryana

- 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.

Karnataka

- The Karnataka government is embarking on a strategic journey to elevate the state's economic landscape, eyeing an impressive annual investment of **Rs 1.4 trillion**, a substantial **75% increase** from the current levels. The overarching goal is to position Karnataka as a premier investment destination in Asia, particularly focusing on future technology and advanced manufacturing.
- 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.

Kerala

- 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.

Maharashtra

- On **December 4, 2023**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment by unveiling the statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** at **Rajkot Fort** in **Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district**. This gesture not only pays tribute to the legendary Maratha warrior king but also emphasizes the importance of preserving and celebrating India's rich maritime heritage.



**Meghalaya**

- Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric**, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. Agriculture Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh made the announcement, highlighting the positive impact on local farmers and authentic product access for consumers. Alongside Lakadong turmeric, three more products from Meghalaya were honored with the GI tag: **Garo Dakmorda (traditional dress)**, **Larnai pottery**, and **Garo Chubitchi (alcoholic beverage)**.

Mizoram

- Lalduhoma**, the **Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)** leader and legislature party leader, is poised to be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 8. A Raj Bhavan official confirmed that Lalduhoma, along with other members of his council of ministers, will take the oath of office at 11 am in a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan.

Nagaland

- The **5th Nagaland Honey Bee Day** was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, under the theme "**Bee & Honey Trials**." The event witnessed the presence of Deputy Chief Minister, Planning & Transformation and National Highway, **T.R. Zeliang**, who congratulated the mission and the accomplished Honey Bee farmers at both the State and District levels.

Punjab

- Punjab Chief Minister **Bhagwant Mann** and AAP national convenor **Arvind Kejriwal** recently launched the "**Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar**" scheme in **Ludhiana**, marking a historic day for the state. This initiative, inspired by the successful Delhi Model, aims to revolutionize governance by **providing doorstep delivery of essential services**. **Mann and Kejriwal** inaugurated the "**Mobile Sahayaks**," a fleet of delivery men adorned in distinctive yellow T-shirts featuring Mann's image. These sahayaks will play a crucial role in providing doorstep delivery of 43 critical services to the citizens of Punjab.

Rajasthan

- Bhajan Lal Sharma**, a prominent figure in Rajasthan's political landscape, is set to become the **state's next Chief Minister**. At 56 years old, he brings a wealth of political experience and accomplishments to the position. This article delves into his background, political journey, recent electoral victory, and key details about the upcoming leadership in Rajasthan.
- 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**.

Tamil Nadu

- 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.
- 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**.

Telangana

- Telangana**, known for its vibrant culture and rapid urbanization, is set to embark on a transformative journey as the state government unveils its ambitious plan to decentralize development. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan recently announced the **strategic division of the state into three zones**, positioning **Hyderabad as the central hub** for this groundbreaking initiative.
- In a landmark decision, the Indian Parliament has given its nod to the establishment of the **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University** in Telangana. The approval comes in the form of **The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which successfully passed through the Rajya Sabha, having been previously cleared by the Lok Sabha. This move signifies a significant stride towards providing quality education in tribal regions and fostering inclusive learning environments.
- 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.

Uttarakhand

- The **Uttarakhand government** is set to host the **Global Investors Summit** in Dehradun from December 8-9, focusing on showcasing over 15 investor-friendly policies. The summit aims to highlight good governance measures, a supportive regulatory framework, and sustainable practices to attract potential investors.

Uttar Pradesh

- A high-level delegation from the Uttar Pradesh government is set to participate in the **World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland**, scheduled from January 15 to 19. The delegation aims to showcase the state's strides towards becoming a trillion-dollar economy and transforming metropolitan towns into focal points across various sectors.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Uttar Pradesh, **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **state's first intra-district helicopter service in Bateshwar**, 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.

West Bengal

- The **FITEXPO INDIA 2023**, one of Asia's premier sports, fitness, and wellness trade expos, commenced on December 1 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan in **Kolkata**. The grand inauguration ceremony was attended by notable dignitaries, including the Guest-of-Honour, **Shri Radhe Shyam Goenka**, Chairman, Emami, and prominent figures from the fitness, sports, and wellness industry.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of November

Assam

- In a significant move towards educational reform, the **Assam Cabinet** has given its nod for the merger of the **Secondary Education Board of Assam (SEBA)** and the **Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC)**. The amalgamated entity will now be known as the '**Assam State School Education Board**'(ASSEB). This decision is aimed at **enhancing the quality and standards of school education** in the state.

Bihar

- In a significant move towards addressing social inequality, the **Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, approved the '**Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill**' on **November 17**. The bill raises the reservation quota for **Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** from **50%** to **65%**, surpassing the **50% ceiling** set by the Supreme Court.

Gujarat

- In a significant move to recognize and promote the rich aquatic biodiversity of the region, the '**Ghol**' fish has been officially **declared the state fish of Gujarat**. The announcement was made by Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** during the inaugural ceremony of the first Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 held at Gujarat Science City. Union Minister for Fisheries **Parshottam Rupala** was also present at the event, which brought together stakeholders from across the globe.

Karnataka

- November 1, 2023**, marks the **50th anniversary of Karnataka's formation**, a significant day in the state's history. Originally founded on **November 1, 1956**, as a result of the **State Reorganisation Act**, Karnataka was initially known as **Mysore State**. It was later renamed Karnataka on **November 1, 1973**. This day, known as **Karnataka Rajyotsava**, celebrates the merger of Kannada-speaking regions into a single state.

Kerala

- Kerala**, the southern state of India, has achieved a remarkable milestone by inaugurating a hallmarking centre in **Idukki**. This achievement has solidified Kerala's position as the **first state** in India to establish **hallmarking centres** in all of its **14 districts**. The inauguration of these hallmarking centres is a significant step in ensuring the quality and reliability of gold ornaments for consumers.
- In a significant legal move, the Kerala Government has approached the Supreme Court of India, seeking a declaration that **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** has failed to fulfill his Constitutional powers and duties in dealing with Bills passed by the State Legislature.
- In an attempt to promote pilgrimage tourism, **Kerala tourism** is taking some major steps with the launch of a series of microsites. These **microsites** are crafted to not just illuminate the state's abundant heritage but also to emphasize the profound importance of its primary religious destinations.
- Kochi**, a vibrant city in the Indian state of **Kerala**, has earned a prestigious spot on **Conde Nast Traveller's list of the best places** to visit in Asia in 2024.
- Kerala's** pioneering Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission has achieved global acclaim by securing a spot on the prestigious list of Case Studies curated by the **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**. This recognition not only reflects the mission's commitment to eco-friendly tourism but also serves as an inspiration for further advancements in promoting sustainable travel.



**Madhya Pradesh**

- In a landmark development, **Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh** is poised to become the home of the country's largest tiger reserve, marking a significant stride in wildlife conservation efforts. The central government has greenlit the merger of **Noradehi Sanctuary with the Durgavati Sanctuary in Damoh**, creating an expansive tiger reserve spanning an impressive **2,300 square kilometers**.

Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** sent a powerful message of unity and harmony as he participated in this year's **Mera Houchongba celebrations in Imphal on 28th October 2023**. The event, which brought together the diverse communities of the state, emphasized the strong bond between the people of the hills and the valley. In this article, we will have the closer look at the significance and celebrations of Mera Hounchongba 2023.

Meghalaya

- In a significant move to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among the younger generation regarding water conservation, Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K. Sangma** launched the '**Meghalaya Water Smart Kid Campaign**'. This initiative, operating under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, aims to **educate children about the vital importance of water conservation**.

Nagaland

- The **Hornbill Festival 2023** is scheduled to occur from **Friday, December 1, 2023**, to **Sunday, December 10, 2023**. The Hornbill Festival, celebrated at the heritage village of **Kisama**, becomes the epicenter where the **state's 16 major tribes** unite to showcase their rich heritage, diverse traditions, and distinctive customs.

Odisha

- Odisha Chief Secretary P K Jena** announced a significant milestone in the state's economic landscape during the **77th annual technical meeting of the Indian Institute of Metals**. The mining sector, a crucial contributor, has propelled Odisha's revenue from **Rs 4,900 crore** in **2016-17** to an impressive **Rs 50,000 crore** in the fiscal year **2021-22**.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has given the green light to 12 pivotal projects, signaling a significant **investment of Rs 84,918.75 crore**. These initiatives are poised to generate substantial employment, benefiting 42,281 individuals across various sectors.

Telangana

- Telangana** has unveiled the **world's first 3D-printed temple**, a groundbreaking structure situated in Burugupally, Siddipet district. This innovative construction, achieved through a three-month 3D printing process, marks a significant technological milestone.

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand** is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the **first state in India** to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**. In a move towards **legal uniformity** and gender equality, the state government is set to convene a special session post-Diwali to clear the UCC Bill, marking a significant departure from the diverse personal laws that currently govern citizens based on their religious affiliations.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh government** has imposed an immediate ban on the production, storage, **distribution and sale of halal certified products** within the state. The decision encompasses a wide range of items, including dairy products, sugar, bakery goods, peppermint oil, beverages, edible oil, certain medicines and cosmetic products. However, the ban excludes products intended for export.
- Uttar Pradesh** government recently made a significant announcement, declaring **November 25** as "**no non-veg day**" in commemoration of the birth anniversary of **Sadhu TL Vaswani**, a prominent advocate for a vegetarian lifestyle. This decision involves the closure of all slaughterhouses and meat shops in the state on that day.
- Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University (CSMUJ)** in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**, has achieved a significant milestone by securing the **highest grading, A++**, from the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**. This accomplishment places CSMUJ among select state universities in Uttar Pradesh with a similar prestigious status. The university's remarkable journey from a '**B' grade in 2006 and 2015** to the top-tier '**A++**' rating reflects its dedication to academic excellence and overall institutional development.
- Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has given approval for the establishment of the country's inaugural **Telecom Center of Excellence in Saharanpur**. The foundation stone for this groundbreaking initiative is set to be laid on December 5, 2023, marking a significant leap in telecom and technology innovation.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of October**Andhra Pradesh**

- The **Eastern Ghats**, known for their captivating landscapes and diverse ecosystems, have long captured the fascination of nature enthusiasts. Now, an exciting development is on the horizon for those eager to delve into this unique environment. '**Miniature Eastern Ghats**' (MEG) forest arena, scheduled to become a prominent tourist destination in Visakhapatnam from **November 2023**, will offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the stunning mountain landscape.



**Arunachal Pradesh**

- Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This recognition not only celebrates the culinary heritage of the region but also plays a vital role in the conservation of the yak population in the Himalayan region. Churpi, rich in protein, has been a lifeline for tribal yak herders in the harsh, vegetation-starved, cold, and hilly mountainous regions of the state.
- The **Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet** gave the green light to a host of transformative measures aimed at safeguarding the state's biodiversity and promoting the preservation of indigenous languages. Among the notable decisions were the establishment of a **Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)** for **three tiger reserves**, the **allocation of honorariums to third language teachers**, the amendment of the state's industrial and investment policy, and the formulation of the **Arunachal Pradesh Home Guard Rules for 2023**.

Assam

- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated the newly constructed '**Shraddhanjali flyover**' in Guwahati on October 19, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the state's infrastructure development as it was completed in just **60 days**. This achievement stands out, considering that it was completed 300 days ahead of the original schedule.

Bihar

- In a significant move, the **Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota** for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state's judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities.

Goa

- The **inaugural edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** – NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was organized at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Auditorium, **Goa**. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Goa with a focus on the western region of the country.
- The **54th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, known for its celebration of cinema from around the world, is scheduled to take place from **November 20 to 28** in the beautiful coastal state of Goa. This iconic event promises to be a cinematic extravaganza, showcasing the best of contemporary and classic films from India and across the globe.

Gujarat

- The beautiful village of **Dhordo** in Gujarat has garnered international recognition after it secured a place on the list of the **54 best tourism villages** announced by the **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**.

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**, inaugurated the Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant of the **Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO)** at Kalol in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. The event, attended by several dignitaries, witnessed Shri Amit Shah addressing the audience on the significance of the day and the critical role played by innovative agricultural solutions in India's progress.

Jharkhand

- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, Government of India, recently unveiled the '**A-HELP**' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) **programme** in the state of **Jharkhand**. The launch event, graced by dignitaries, shed light on the vital role that women play in the state's livestock sector and the potential of this new initiative to transform the landscape of animal husbandry.
- Jharkhand** is making history by becoming the first state in India to take steps towards including gig workers, such as **Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees**, under the ambit of minimum wages.

Karnataka

- The **12th edition of the Bengaluru Literature Festival**, a two-day event, is set to take place at The Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru starting on **December 2**. The festival will feature around **250 authors**, including renowned names such as Jnanpith awardee, **Chandrashekhar Kambara**, Chetan Bhagat, Ramachandra Guha, and Perumal Murugan, among others.

Kerala

- Kerala** has marked a significant milestone in the world of construction with the inauguration of **Amaze-28**, the state's **first building constructed using 3D printing technology**. This innovative architectural wonder, with its 380-square-foot, one-room summer house, was unveiled in the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus at PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram.



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- Kerala government has announced a pioneering project to establish a **graphene production facility**, marking a significant leap in material technology. Graphene, often referred to as a “**wonder material**” for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, is set to become a cornerstone of Kerala’s innovation landscape.
- Kerala, the southern state of India, has achieved a remarkable milestone by inaugurating a hallmarking centre in **Idukki**. This achievement has solidified Kerala’s position as the **first state** in India to establish **hallmarking centres** in all of its **14 districts**. The inauguration of these hallmarking centres is a significant step in ensuring the quality and reliability of gold ornaments for consumers.

Madhya Pradesh

- In an important development towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, the **Madhya Pradesh government** has announced a groundbreaking policy to **reserve 35% of all state government job positions for women**, excluding the Forest Department. This progressive amendment to the **Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997**, comes just ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections.

Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh sent a powerful message of unity and harmony as he participated in this year’s **Mera Houchongba celebrations in Imphal on 28th October 2023**. The event, which brought together the diverse communities of the state, emphasized the strong bond between the people of the hills and the valley. In this article, we will have the closer look at the significance and celebrations of Mera Hounchongba 2023.

Nagaland

- **Hornbill Festival 2023** will start on **December 1** and conclude on December **10**, promising ten days of cultural immersion and spectacle. The Hornbill Festival stands out as one of the most anticipated and celebrated events of the year. This colorful festival not only showcases the rich cultural heritage of **Nagaland** but also draws thousands of curious travelers from around the world to partake in its festivities.

Odisha

- A **Green Tourism Conclave** took place in **Shillong** with the primary objective of nurturing environmentally conscious and responsible tourism in India, with a special emphasis on the **Northeastern region and Odisha**. The event featured engaging discussions, informative presentations, and captivating cultural performances, emphasizing the importance of sustainable tourism practices.

Rajasthan

- **NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL)**, a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the **Ministry of Coal**, has recently achieved a remarkable feat in the renewable energy sector by securing an **810 MW solar photovoltaic power project**. This project is awarded by **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)** and marks a significant step forward in NLCIL’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions.
- The **Rajasthan government**, in collaboration with the **Environment and Forest Department**, is making concerted efforts to elevate **Udaipur**, also known as the ‘**City of Lakes**,’ to international prominence by aiming to become **India’s first wetland city**. According to recent reports, the city has been chosen as a potential Ramsar Convention site of International Importance, a recognition coveted by wetland-rich regions around the globe.
- **Rajasthan government** unveiled the ‘**iStart Talent Connect Portal**’ at Jaipur’s Techno Hub. This new portal is a significant addition to the state’s flagship initiative, iStart Rajasthan, and is a collaborative effort with the Jaipur-based startup, HyreFox.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India’s space program. In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists and unveiled plans for a scholarship program to encourage scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students.
- Tamil Nadu’s Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched “**Project Nilgiri Tahr**,” an initiative aimed at conserving and protecting the endangered Nilgiri Tahr species. The project, with a budget of ₹25 crore, seeks to better understand the Nilgiri Tahr’s population, distribution, and ecology, as well as address immediate threats to their survival. The launch of this project took place at the Secretariat in Chennai, where Chief Minister Stalin also distributed books to school students to raise awareness about this unique species.
- Tamil Nadu is nearing the completion of its pioneering artificial intelligence (AI)-based early warning system designed to **safeguard wild elephants from train collisions**. This innovative project is being implemented along the **Ettimadai–Walayar railway section**, serving as an additional layer of protection for these majestic pachyderms.

Telangana

- In a remarkable stride towards promoting eco-friendly and active mobility, **Hyderabad, India**, proudly inaugurated its **first solar roof cycling track, Healthway**.





- The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) recently unveiled its manifesto, promising a host of transformative initiatives aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged citizens. In a press conference on October 15th, party president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao outlined these pledges, highlighting their commitment to uplift the marginalized sections of society.

Uttarakhand

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda, inaugurated the **4th Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav-2023** in the picturesque city of **Dehradun** on the 3rd of October, 2023.
- The **49th All India Police Science Congress** (AIPSC) organized by the **Uttarakhand Police** commenced today, October 7th at the **Forest Research Institute in Dehradun**. With the theme of "Policing in Amrit Kaal," this annual event, held under the auspices of the **Bureau of Police Research and Development** (BPR&D), promises to be a platform for insightful discussions on various aspects of modern policing. The event will be graced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** as the Chief Guest and **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** as the Guest of Honor.
- The state government of **Uttarakhand** took a significant step towards empowering its youth by launching the '**Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application**'. The primary objective of this innovative app is to provide valuable information about self-employment opportunities to the state's unemployed youth.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently marked a historic day in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**, as he laid the foundation stone and dedicated several development projects worth approximately **Rs 4200 crore**. These initiatives spanned various sectors, including rural development, road infrastructure, power generation, irrigation, drinking water supply, horticulture, education, healthcare, and disaster management, among others.
- The Indian central government has given the green light to include the **Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project** in **Uttarakhand** under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)**. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has made a significant announcement regarding the **Gangetic Dolphin**, designating it as the state's aquatic animal. This move highlights the importance of conserving these unique creatures and preserving the purity of the rivers and ponds they inhabit. Uttar Pradesh's decision to declare the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal and the launch of the "**Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023**" campaign demonstrate the government's commitment to wildlife conservation, environmental preservation, and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining the purity of rivers and ponds.

- The **Yogi Adityanath government** in **Uttar Pradesh** has launched a special cleanliness campaign, '**Swachh Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar**' (Clean Festival, Healthy Festival), with a focus on maintaining cleanliness in and around temples during Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali festivals. This initiative aims to promote the idea that 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' and calls for active participation from municipal bodies and citizens.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** announced a special gift for the beneficiaries of the **Ujjwala scheme**. The **Ujjwala** scheme, a central government initiative aimed at providing free LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to economically disadvantaged households, is set to bring joy to approximately 1.75 crore families in the state.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is all set to mark a historic moment in India's transportation landscape as he inaugurates the priority section of the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor** and simultaneously launches the **RapidX train** connecting Sahibabad to the Duhi Depot, symbolizing the beginning of RRTS operations in India. The event will take place at the Sahibabad RapidX Station in **Uttar Pradesh** on October 20, 2023.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of September

Arunachal Pradesh

- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** recently announced the imminent launch of three additional air routes in Arunachal Pradesh, set to be operational by October of this year. These new routes will connect **Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, to Rupsu, Jorhat, and Delhi** as part of the **UDAN-5 scheme**. UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik, is a regional connectivity initiative designed to enhance accessibility to aviation services for the common citizens. The development comes after the inauguration of enhanced infrastructure at the Tezu airport in Lohit district.

Assam

- In a significant step towards empowering grassroots leaders, **Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria** unveiled the '**Sarpanch Samvad**' app in a grand launch ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize the way **Sarpanches**, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources. The event witnessed the participation of more than 30 Sarpanches from various corners of the country, signifying the app's importance in fostering community development.
- In a recent announcement, the **Ministry of Tourism** has declared **Biswanath Ghat in Assam** as the **Best Tourism Village of India for the year 2023**. This recognition comes after an extensive selection process that involved reviewing 791 applications from 31 different states and union territories across the country. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed his delight at this achievement, highlighting the immense efforts made by the government to promote rural tourism in the state.



**Bihar**

- In a significant development for wildlife conservation in Bihar, the state is preparing to establish its second tiger reserve within the **Kaimur district**. The upcoming tiger reserve in Kaimur district will complement the existing **Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)** located in the **West Champaran district of Bihar**.

Goa

- In a significant move aimed at bolstering the financial independence and well-being of homemakers in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant distributed **Griha Adhar sanction orders** to a multitude of beneficiaries across the state. This proactive step not only acknowledges the invaluable contributions of homemakers but also seeks to uplift their socio-economic status.
- Goa**, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient," is a coastal paradise in India known for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and rich history. Recently, the government of Goa has approved a groundbreaking policy named "**Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026**" to enhance the beach experience for tourists while promoting sustainable tourism and economic opportunities for the **local community**. This policy is set to redefine the beach scene in Goa.

Gujarat

- President Droupadi Murmu officially unveiled the Gujarat legislative assembly's Digital House project, **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, in Gandhinagar. The launch ceremony was graced by the distinguished presence of Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel. This endeavor draws inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary concept of 'One Nation, One Application' and signifies a substantial leap towards achieving a **completely paperless Assembly process**.

Haryana

- In a significant development for the entertainment industry in **Haryana**, the state government has appointed renowned film actress **Mita Vashisth** as the chairperson of the governing council tasked with overseeing the implementation of the **Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy**.

Jharkhand

- In a significant move aimed at fostering social inclusion and providing much-needed support, the **Jharkhand government** has taken a progressive step by including the **transgender community** in its universal pension scheme. This decision was announced during a cabinet meeting presided over by **Chief Minister Hemant Soren**, marking a watershed moment in the state's commitment to address the needs of its transgender population.

Karnataka

- Officially known as **Kalyana-Karnataka Liberation Day** (Vimochana Diwas), Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day is an important annual observance celebrated across

various districts of Karnataka, India. This event, held on the **17th of September** each year, commemorates the integration of Hyderabad into India in 1948. Union Home Minister Amit Shah actively participated in the 'official' Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day ceremony at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, highlighting its significance.

- In a significant move aimed at safeguarding the interests and well-being of platform-based gig workers, the **Karnataka government** unveiled a groundbreaking initiative that offers a comprehensive insurance package worth **Rs 4 lakh**, including **Rs 2 lakh** in life insurance and an additional **Rs 2 lakh** in accidental insurance.

Kerala

- The Higher Organising Committee of the **Zayed Charity Marathon** has announced a groundbreaking development for India—the **inaugural edition** of the renowned marathon is set to take place in the vibrant state of **Kerala** in **2024**. This event marks a significant collaboration between **Kerala State authorities** and the **Indian community** residing in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions.
- The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** has granted approval for the use of the Truenat test to diagnose **Nipah virus (NiV)** in Kerala. This development is significant as hospitals equipped with Biosafety Level 2 (BSL 2) laboratories can now conduct the test. The Health Minister, Veena George, has announced that a standard operating procedure (SOP) will be formulated for conducting the Truenat test.

Madhya Pradesh

- The World Heritage Site **Sanchi** in **Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district** has become India's first solar city. Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** formally launched it has a capacity of 3 megawatts in Nagauri near Sanchi, which will reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by **13,747 tonnes**. This is equivalent to more than **2,38,000 trees**.
- In a significant move, the **Madhya Pradesh (MP) cabinet**, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has given the green light to a series of transformative initiatives aimed at addressing critical issues within the state. These initiatives encompass compensation for **mob lynching victims**, housing schemes for homeless families, enhanced honorarium for guest faculty, flood relief packages, and the expansion of public services.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated a **108-foot-tall statue** of the 8th-century spiritual leader, **Adi Shankaracharya** on **21st September**. This significant event occurred amidst political dynamics and is evident to the promotion of Sanatan Dharma and cultural unity.
- Madhya Pradesh**, which is home to the most number of tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named '**Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**'. The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, becoming the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the **54th in India**.



**Maharashtra**

- The **Maharashtra** government has issued an official notification regarding the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar** and **Dharashiv**, respectively. Following a period during which suggestions and objections were sought several months ago, the decision to change these names at various levels, including sub-division, village, taluka, and district, has been finalized. This notification has been issued by the Revenue Department of the state.

Manipur

- The Manipur government has decided to extend the imposition of the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** for an additional six months in the entire state, except for specific areas within the Imphal Valley. This decision has been made in response to the security situation, particularly in the hill districts dominated by tribal communities, where ethnic violence and insurgent activities have been on the rise. The government's decision contrasts with the army's demand for the re-imposition of AFSPA in the valley districts to aid counterinsurgency efforts.

Nagaland

- Nagaland** has taken a pioneering step in the **North Eastern** region by launching the **Aadhaar-Linked Birth Registration (ALBR)** system. This groundbreaking initiative focuses on simplifying the procedures of birth registration and Aadhaar enrolment for children aged **0 to 5 years**.

Odisha

- In a significant development for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) **Dongria Kondhs** of **Rayagada district** in **Odisha**, their exquisite handwoven shawls, known as **Kapdaganda**, are on the verge of acquiring the prestigious Geographical Indicator (GI) tag while Koraput district's '**Koraput Kalajeera Rice**', often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice,' has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) status.
- Biju Janata Dal (BJD)** party member **Pramila Malik** became the first woman Speaker of the **Odisha Assembly**. The election of Pramila Malik as the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly and she was elected unopposed. The post became vacant due to the resignation of Bikram Keshari Arukha in May 2023.

Punjab

- In a significant healthcare initiative, the State Health Minister of Punjab, **Balbir Singh**, inaugurated "**Mission Intensified IndraDhanush**" 5.0. The launch took place at Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College in Mohali, Punjab. This mission, initially scheduled for August but delayed due to flooding in the state, aims to provide vaccination against **12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD)**.

- In a formal ceremony held in **Ferozepur, Punjab**, Chief Minister **Bhagwant Singh Mann** made a significant announcement that marks a profound tribute to the valiant Sikh warriors who gave their lives in the historic **Battle of Saragarhi**. A state-of-the-art monument, dedicated to commemorating the martyrdom of 21 brave Sikh soldiers, will grace the landscape of Ferozepur, with an ambitious timeline of completion within six months.

Tamil Nadu

- In a groundbreaking move, the **Tamil Nadu** government is all set to launch the **Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam**, the largest social welfare initiative aimed at providing monthly financial assistance. This scheme is set to benefit over **1.06 crore** eligible women who are the heads of their families.

Uttarakhand

- Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, inaugurated the logo and **website** for the **Investor Global Summit** set to take place in **Dehradun** on **December 8-9, 2023**. This summit is poised to explore **investment opportunities** across a wide range of sectors and holds the potential to usher in a significant transformation in the state's economic landscape.
- Uttarakhand** government made a significant stride in boosting its tourism and infrastructure sector by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Poma Group**, a renowned **French ropeway construction company**. The MoU, valued at a substantial Rs 2,000 crore, was officially inked by **Vinay Shankar Pandey**, the Secretary of Industries on behalf of the Uttarakhand government.
- The Minister of Tourism and Culture of Uttarakhand, **Satpal Maharaj**, inaugurated the **George Everest Cartography Museum** in the picturesque town of **Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**, on the occasion of **World Tourism Day**.

West Bengal

- The **West Bengal assembly** made a significant decision by passing a resolution to officially observe **Bengali New Year's Day**, known as **Poila Baisakh**, as the state's foundation day on **April 15th**.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of August**Assam**

- The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate change by announcing a massive initiative called '**Amrit Brikshya Andolan**'. This ambitious project aims to plant **1 crore** saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its **green economy** and contribute to the fight against global warming.





- In a significant stride towards enhancing the air travel experience in the Northeastern region of India, Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LBBI) has become the first airport in the area to introduce the innovative 'Digi Yatra' facility. This cutting-edge service is set to revolutionize the way passengers navigate through airports, providing a seamless and hassle-free journey.
- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the Assam Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from October 2 this year, reflects Assam's commitment to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- In a significant move aimed at enhancing decentralization of governance and improving the convergence of line departments, the Assam cabinet has taken a bold step by creating four new districts that were previously abolished last year in December. With the addition of these new districts, Assam's total district count will reach 35. The newly formed districts are Hojai, Biswanath, Tamulpur, and Bajali.

Bihar

- The Patna High Court ordered to resume the caste based survey in Bihar, which was first started by Patna DM Chandrashekhar himself in Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna.
- The Bihar government to constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' in West Champaran district.

Goa

- The Bharti Institute of Public Policy, a renowned think tank under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of Goa have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a knowledge partnership. This strategic alliance is geared towards advancing evidence-based policy formulation and fostering impactful governance in the state of Goa.
- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free In vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment. This groundbreaking initiative, coupled with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.
- In a significant step towards preserving and celebrating India's rich socio-cultural heritage, Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant unveiled a groundbreaking initiative – The Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village.

Jharkhand

- Illegal coal mining poses a significant risk to both the environment and the economy of India. In response to this issue, the government has introduced the Kanan Prahari App. This mobile application allows citizens to report any suspicious activities related to coal mining in their vicinity, thereby contributing to the fight against this illegal practice.

Karnataka

- According to a report on Asian Elephant population and demography 2023, the state of Karnataka has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population. The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive 6,395, making it the highest elephant-populated region in the country. The report was introduced ahead of the approaching World Elephant Day on August 12, with the aim of raising awareness about the critical need to conserve and safeguard these animals.

Kerala

- In a significant move aimed at embracing its cultural and linguistic heritage, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.
- The enchanting festivities of Onam, a significant cultural celebration in the state of Kerala, have graced the calendar from August 20 to August 31 this year. Stretching over a span of ten days, the Thiru-Onam or Thiruvonam celebrations carry an air of excitement and exuberance as they commemorate the return of the revered King Mahabali, also known as Maveli. This vibrant festival is an emblem of Kerala's rich heritage and cultural splendor.
- The state of Kerala introduces its first AI school situated at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. It was inaugurated by the Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. This inaugural ceremony heralded the inception of a fresh era in the educational domain, distinguished by innovative technology and forward-looking pedagogical methods.

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 27 August raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna Scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹1,250 per month. Apart from this, the MP CM also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and said cooking gas cylinders will be provided to women at ₹450 in August to mark 'Sawan'.

Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra Government will confer Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata with the first prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year, state industries minister Uday Samant announced in the State Legislative Assembly.





- In the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, **Maharashtra** has emerged as the front-runner in attracting **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis proudly announced that the state secured the top position by attracting FDI amounting to **Rs 36,634 crore**. This noteworthy achievement places Maharashtra ahead of other prominent states like Delhi, Karnataka, and Telangana, whose cumulative FDI values trail behind.

Mizoram

- Under the “**100 Microsites**” initiative, the **National Health Authority (NHA)** of India has unveiled the **first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite** in the capital city of **Mizoram**. This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the **advantages of digitalization** to the forefront.

Meghalaya

- In a significant step towards harnessing renewable energy and reducing power deficits, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the **Chief Minister's Solar Mission**, a pioneering initiative aimed at ushering in a **new era of green progress** for the north eastern hill state.
- In a significant move towards improving early childhood development and maternal mental health, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of **Meghalaya**. This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of USD 15.27 million, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as **Anganwadi centers**.

Odisha

- Odisha Government expanded the coverage of Social Security Scheme to **50 more categories** of unorganised workers which include **delivery boys, boatmen and photographers**, the scheme aims to provide financial assistance in case of accidental or natural death.

Rajasthan

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a total amount of Rs 1,974.07 crore to the **Rajasthan government** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2023-24. This substantial funding aims to uplift the living conditions of rural communities and drive economic growth in the region.

Tamil Nadu

- Foxconn Technology Group**, a prominent Taiwanese company and a key supplier to Apple Inc., has pledged to invest ₹1,600 crore in establishing a manufacturing facility in **Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu**. The commitment was made in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu during Mr. Liu's first visit to the state. The investment is expected to create significant employment opportunities and boost the electronics manufacturing sector in Tamil Nadu.

- The **Tamil Cultural community** celebrates **Aadi Perukku**, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the **monsoon season** and the fertility of the soil.
- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** is set to conduct a public hearing on the proposed expansion of **Adani group's Kattupalli Port** in Tiruvallur district. The project, which was initially scheduled for a hearing in January 2021 but was delayed due to COVID-19, has drawn strong opposition from environmentalists and opposition parties.
- Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)**, the nodal agency overseeing the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's **first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre** at an outlay of Rs 45 crore.
- In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping **Chennai** city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become **South East Asia's largest water desalination project**.

Telangana

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and the **Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana** have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the **Ethics of AI** into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** launched **Command Centre and CM Dashboard** to ensure needy and deserving have access to the benefits of the government schemes and services.
- According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research Cancer Registry data**, **Uttar Pradesh**, registered the highest count of cancer cases in India. During the year 2022, the state documented an astonishing **210,000** new cases, marking a significant uptick from the 201,000 cases registered in 2020.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has given the green light to several important proposals, highlighting the government's commitment to education and youth empowerment.

West Bengal

- The Indian city of **Kolkata** has taken a significant step forward by adopting an **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)**, developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** based in **Pune**. This system offers both **real-time air pollution data and forecasts**, with the objective of enhancing readiness and facilitating measures to **tackle the escalating air pollution levels** within the city.





Current Affairs Related to States in India of July

Andhra Pradesh

- Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh has taken a significant step towards promoting education and empowering mothers through the implementation of the **Jagananna Amma Vodi** scheme. By releasing a substantial amount of **₹6,392 crore**, the government is demonstrating its commitment to providing quality education for all.
- The Greater Chennai City Police (GCP) has** launched '**Police Drone Unit**' for aerial surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities. The project, which costs approximately **Rs 3.6 crore** according a press release by the GCP, was inaugurated by outgoing Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, in the presence of Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal at Besant Avenue, Adyar.

Assam

- Assam's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has established itself as one of the **top 20 CPSEs** in India in terms of both sales revenue and profitability. It has gained widespread recognition as a high-performing refinery in the country, setting industry benchmarks for distillate production, specific energy usage, and gross refining profit.
- In an effort to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue, **Assam** has launched the "**Gajah Kotha**" campaign, involving more than 1,200 individuals and promoting coexistence.
- The local graziers of the Tawang region near Bumla Pass, **Arunachal Pradesh**, celebrated the **Chachin grazing festival** on July 14-15. The two-day event held at Chachin saw enthusiastic participation from Graziers from all over the Tawang region. The event was attended by nearly 100 graziers and their herd of yaks numbering more than 400.

Bihar

- Bihar** has overtaken **Tamil Nadu** to become the state with the highest **microlending borrowings in India** as of March 2023, according to a report released. The report, published by credit information company Crif High Mark, highlighted Bihar's impressive growth with a **13.5 percent** increase in the gross lending portfolio during the March quarter compared to the previous quarter.

Gujarat

- The state government of **Gujarat** has taken a significant step towards improving healthcare access for its citizens by doubling the insurance cover under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**. Starting from the 11th of July, beneficiaries of PMJAY in Gujarat will now receive an insurance cover of **Rs 10 lakhs**, a twofold rise from the previous coverage of Rs 5 lakhs.

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister of State for communications Devusinh Chauhan** on July 8 launched the '**Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojna**' an accident insurance scheme, from **Nadia of Kheda district in Gujarat**.
- To set up a '**Satellite Network Portal Site**', **Gujarat signed a MoU on 19th July** with London-Based Company, OneWeb Company and the Department of Science and Technology.

Karnataka

- Bengaluru**, the capital of Karnataka became the first Indian city to be part of the **World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)**, a global network of cities that share research and intelligence to explore the role of culture in future prosperity. Bengaluru became the 41st city to join the forum and the network currently includes 40 cities across six continents. The forum includes cities like **New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai**.

Madhya Pradesh

- Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** in Madhya Pradesh, India, has made history by becoming the **first urban body** in the country to receive Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items.
- Madhya Pradesh** is set to launch its first online gaming industry named "**MP State Esports Academy**" to provide the young **esports player** an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level.

Maharashtra

- Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **Ajit Pawar**, who took oath as the **Deputy chief minister of Maharashtra** after joining the Eknath Shinde-led government, is the son of Sharad Pawar's elder brother Anantrao. He made his first foray into politics by being elected to the board of a sugar cooperative in 1982.
- Tomato farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka** have attributed the decline in their yields earlier this year to two distinct viruses. Those in Maharashtra reported that their tomato crops were adversely affected by the **cucumber mosaic virus (CMV)**, whereas growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states attributed their losses to the **tomato mosaic virus (ToMV)**. In the past three years, farmers cultivating tomatoes have observed a rise in the prevalence of these two viruses, resulting in varying degrees of crop damage, ranging from partial to total loss.
- The **Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)**, the Maharashtra government, and the Indian Ministry of Textiles joined hands by signing a memorandum of understanding to establish the **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park)** in **Amravati, Maharashtra**. The inauguration of the PM MITRA mega textile park took place with the aim of attracting an investment of ₹10,000 crore and creating 300,000 job opportunities.



**Nagaland**

- Nagaland** has been officially declared as a **Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State**. The declaration is made following the detection of the Lumpy skin disease in four districts of the state, under The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.

Odisha

- The **Odisha state cabinet** gave an approval to a proposal which recommended the inclusion of the **Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India**. The cabinet is of opinion that the inclusion of language to 8th schedule will not have any financial implications.
- Naveen Patnaik of Odisha** has become the second longest serving chief minister of a state in India with a tenure of 23 years and 139 days on Sunday, surpassing the record of former West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu.
- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the **Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana**, a scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter.

Rajasthan

- The **Rajasthan Assembly** passed '**The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023**', aiming to provide a guarantee of wages or pension to the entire adult population in the state. The bill is hailed as "**incomparable and historic**" by Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Shanti Dhariwal**, as it promises employment guarantee for **125 days every year** and a minimum pension of **Rs 1,000 per month** to all families, including those in urban and rural areas. The pension will also see an annual automatic increase of **15 percent**.
- The **Rajasthan government** presented the **Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023**, becoming the first state in India to ensure social security assurance for gig workers. As part of this initiative, the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be established, enabling gig workers in the state to register with all the state's aggregators.
- Noor Shekhawat** became the first transgender person in **Rajasthan** to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender. In her old birth certificate, her gender was marked as male. Shekhawat was handed her new birth certificate by municipal and state government officials. She runs an NGO for the transgender community and also wants to complete her graduation.

Tamil Nadu

- In a significant achievement, **Tamil Nadu** has reclaimed its position as the leader in electronic exports in India. The state's electronic exports, valued at USD 5.37 billion in the 2022-23 financial year, now account for a 23% share in the electronics market.
- India's aviation education landscape has witnessed a significant boost with the recent approval of the **first Flying Training Organisation (FTO)** in **Tamil Nadu** by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd has been granted permission to operate from Salem Airport, marking a significant milestone for aspiring pilots in the region.
- The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum have awarded a **Geographical Indication (GI)** certificate to the **Authoor betel leaves** from Thoothukudi district in **Tamil Nadu**. The certificate is granted in the name of **Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam**. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Authoor betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential.

Telangana

- The **Telangana High Court** recently made a landmark judgment, declaring the Telangana Eunuchs Act as unconstitutional. The Act, which had been in place since 1919, was deemed discriminatory and a violation of the human rights of the transgender community. The court's decision has significant implications for the recognition and protection of transgender rights in Telangana.

Tripura

- Ker Puja** is an annual festival celebrated in the state of **Tripura, India**. During this festival, Prime Minister Modi extended his wishes for happiness, unity, good health, and prosperity to the people of Tripura.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has given its approval for the construction of **two "Obra D"** thermal power projects in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. These projects, with a capacity of **800MW** each, aim to address the rising power demand and provide cheaper electricity to the people of the state.
- Water experts and river rights activists have criticized a government order (GO) issued by the irrigation department of the **Uttar Pradesh** government on September 3, 2020 which declared the **Gomti river** as a "non-perennial river".
- The Agriculture Department of **Uttar Pradesh** is gearing up to implement the **Mukhya Mantri Khet Suraksha Yojana**, intending to uplift the welfare of farmers across the entire state.





Union Territories of India

Union Territories of India of November

Jammu and Kashmir

In a groundbreaking initiative, **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha**, flagged off the Gyanodaya Express from the Katra railway station in Reasi district. This unique project, also known as the "College on Wheels," aims to empower approximately 700 girl students from universities in the Union Territory. The initiative is set to revolutionize education by providing immersive and collaborative learning experiences beyond traditional classroom boundaries.

In a significant move to stimulate the local economy, the Jammu and Kashmir administration, under the leadership of **Lt Governor Manoj Sinha**, has given the green light for the establishment of four new industrial estates in the Union Territory.

Union Territories of India of October

Jammu and Kashmir

- All 6,650 villages of **Jammu and Kashmir** have been declared **Open Defecation-Free (ODF) Plus Model** under

the Swachh Bharat Mission. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a status that extends beyond constructing toilets; it encompasses the management of greywater and solid waste in each village.

Union Territories of India of September

Delhi

- The fourth edition of '**Nadi Utsav**', a celebration of India's rich river culture, begins today on September 22nd and will continue until September 24th, 2023. Organized by the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) of IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) in collaboration with the Janapada Sampada Division, this year's 'Nadi Utsav' promises to be an enlightening and culturally immersive experience. The event will be hosted in the vibrant city of Delhi, situated on the banks of the sacred River Yamuna.

New Appointments: National

New Appointments: National of December

- Kanchan Devi**, 1991-batch Indian Forest Service Officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the **Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)**. This marks a historic milestone, with Kanchan becoming the first woman officer to ascend to this esteemed position within the premier council operating under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- Madagascar's Constitutional Court** has recently confirmed the re-election of **President Andry Rajoelina** from the **Young Malagasy Determined political party**, marking his **third term** in office. The court declared Rajoelina the winner with **59% of the votes cast**.
- Dr. Akshata Krishnamurthy** has made this incredible achievement in space exploration. With a special degree from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), her journey is a great example of not giving up on your dreams. Her work at NASA, especially with the Perseverance rover, is like a guide for other people who love space.
- In a historic development, **Captain Geetika Koul**, a woman army doctor, has been deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, marking a significant stride towards gender inclusivity in India's armed forces. This follows the deployment of Captain Shiva Chouhan, from the Corps of Engineers, at the same location almost a year ago.

- The U.K. government has selected **Samir Shah** to serve as the **new chair of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**. A 71-year-old media executive, Shah was born in **Aurangabad** and immigrated to the U.K. in 1960. With over **four decades of experience in the media industry**, Shah has held various positions, including a stint as a non-executive director at the BBC.
- In a recent development, **Max Life Insurance**, a prominent player in the insurance sector and a material subsidiary of Max Financial Services, witnessed a significant leadership change. The outgoing Chairman, **Analjit Singh**, stepped down from the Chairmanship and membership of the Board of Directors. The Board, in response, approved the appointment of **Rajiv Anand** as the new Chairman, marking a pivotal moment in the company's leadership.
- Swiggy**, a prominent player in the online food ordering and delivery space, has made a strategic move by appointing **Anand Kripalu** as the Chairperson and Independent Director of its Board.
- Kothakota Srinivas Reddy**, a distinguished officer with a track record of effective leadership, is set to assume the role of **Hyderabad Police Commissioner**.
- In a recent development, **Parama Sen**, Additional Secretary in the Department of Expenditure at the Finance Ministry, has been appointed as a part-time member of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. This appointment completes the trio of part-time members on the PFRDA board.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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).
- 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.

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.

New Appointments: National of November

1.	State Bank of India (SBI) official Brand Ambassador	Mahendra Singh Dhoni
2.	World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for South-East Asia	Bangladesh's Saima Wazed
3.	Tata Power	Deepesh Nanda as the President-Renewables and the CEO & MD of its subsidiary, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL).
4.	Chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)	Former Chief Justice Rajendra Menon
5.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Member	Surendra Adhana
6.	Appointed as the Surveyor General of India	Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana
7.	Assumed the position of Executive Director at the Bank of Maharashtra	Rohit Rishi
8.	RBI appointed as the new Executive Director	Manoranjan Mishra
9.	Appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission	Shri Heeralal Samariya
10.	Next Chairman & Managing Director of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL),	Santosh Kumar Jha
11.	Appointed as the additional secretary of the Union Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy	N. Srikant
12.	UPI Safety Ambassador	Pankaj Tripathi





13.	Assumed command of the Eastern Fleet	Rajesh Dhankhar
14.	Appointing him to the role of Foreign Secretary	Former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron
15.	Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd	Ashok Vaswani
16.	Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI)	Vinay M. Tonse
17.	Brand Ambassador of Bengal	Sourav Ganguly
18.	New Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader of Microsoft	Aparna Gupta
19.	Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of External Auditors	Girish Chandra Murmu
20.	FICCI new President	Anish Shah
21.	Fino Payments Bank Part-time Chairman	Rajat Kumar Jain
22.	HDFC Bank's Board of Directors	Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
23.	First Female Commanding Officer at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC) in Delhi Cantt	Colonel Sunita BS
24.	Rural Marketing Association of India (RMAI) New President	Puneet Vidyarthi
25.	India's first Woman Aide-De-Camp (ADC)	Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi

New Appointments: National of October

1.	28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	Raghu Srinivasan
2.	Afghanistan Cricket team Mentor	Ajay Jadeja
3.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PayU India	Anirban Mukherjee
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Executive Director (ED)	Muneesh Kapur
5.	Deloitte Touche Senior Adviser	Aditya Puri
6.	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)	Ramaswamy N.
7.	New police commissioner of Hyderabad	Sandeep Shandilya
8.	Director (Finance) at the IREDA	Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty
9.	Chief justice of Manipur High Court	Siddharth Mridul
10.	India's next Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations	Arindam Bagchi
11.	Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)	Dr. Meenesh Shah
12.	Governors of Odisha	Raghubar Das
13.	Governors of Tripura	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
14.	Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO	Sanjay Kulshrestha
15.	Puma Brand Ambassador	Mohammed Shami
16.	Hewlett-Packard (HP) Senior Vice President & Managing Director	Ipsita Dasgupta
17.	Chair as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank	Ashok Vaswani
18.	Henry Harvin Education (HHE) appoints as its Brand Ambassador	Chetan Bhagat
19.	Lay's appoints as its Brand Ambassador	Mahendra Singh Dhoni
20.	National Icon by the Election Commission (EC)	Rajkummar Rao
21.	Appointed as a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)	Professor Sarang Deo
22.	Head coach of the India women's national team.	Amol Muzumdar
23.	Global Brand Ambassador of Luxury Swiss watch brand, Rado	Katrina Kaif
24.	IRCTC new Chairman and MD	Sanjay Kumar Jain
25.	State Bank of India (SBI)	Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official Brand Ambassador





New Appointments: National of September

1.	Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) as Chairman	Dhananjay Joshi
2.	CEO of Penguin Random House	Nihar Malaviya
3.	Reappointment as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank.	Sashidhar Jagdishan

Constitutional & Other Posts

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
1.	First woman Chairperson of the Railway Board	Jaya Verma Sinha	
2.	Chief, to lead the Press Information Bureau (PIB)	Manish Desai	
3.	Principal Director General of Akashvani	Dr. Vasudha Gupta	
4.	Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank	Dipak Gupta	
5.	Chairman and Managing Director of NASSCOM	Rajesh Nambiar	
6.	Principal Chief Operations Manager of Central Railway	Shyam Sunder Gupta	
7.	International Esports Federation committee member	Lokesh Suji	
8.	Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications	Neeraj Mittal	
9.	"W" Brand Ambassador	Anushka Sharma	
10.	Vice-Chairperson of the NASSCOM	Sindhu Gangadharan	
11.	Chairman of Mastercard India	Rajnish Kumar	
12.	Exxon Mobil Brand Ambassador	Hrithik Roshan	

CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Swaraj Tractors	Mahindra Singh Dhoni
2.	ICICI Lombard General Insurance appointed as new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)	Sanjeev Mantri
3.	Uniqlo brand's first ambassador in India	Katrina Kaif
4.	Oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).	Dr. Dinesh Dasa
5.	Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors	K.N. Shanth Kumar

New Appointments: National of August

1.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) as its new brand ambassador	Rahul Dravid
2.	Part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India	Neelkanth Mishra

Constitutional & Other Posts

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court	Justice Subhasis Talapatra
2.	The Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
3.	Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)	Prakash Srivastava
4.	India's new chargé d'affaires at its high commission in Islamabad, Pakistan	Geetika Srivastava
5.	member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC)	N.V. Ramana




CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer	Vaibhav Taneja
2.	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited	Amit Jhingran
3.	Brand ambassador of Pluckk	Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan
4.	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director	R. Doraiswamy
5.	SEBI Whole-Time Members	Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh
6.	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)	Parminder Chopra
7.	Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank	PR Seshadri
8.	Viacom18 new CEO	Kiran Mani
9.	State Bank of India (SBI) appointed four directors	Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat
10.	"National icon" of the Election Commission (EC)	Sachin Tendulkar
11.	Infosys brand ambassador	Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek
12.	New Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)	Mr. Umesh Revankar

New Appointments: National of July

S.No.	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL),	P M Prasad
1	State Bank of India appoints as Chief Financial Officer	Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti
2	president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).	Aadhav Arjuna
3	chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)	B. Neeraja Prabhakar
4	Asics India Private Limited appoints as its new brand ambassador	Shraddha Kapoor
5	Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)	B. Neeraja Prabhakar
6	President of the NAREDCO Delhi Chapter	Harshvardhan Bansal

Constitutional & Other Posts

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by nine months	Brajendra Navnit's
2.	Solicitor General of India	Tushar Mehta
3.	Judges of the Supreme Court	Ujjal Bhuyan
4.	Judges of the Supreme Court	S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti
5.	Member in the Board of International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)	Pramod Rao
6.	Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)	Manoj Yadava
7.	25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).	Rakesh Pal
8.	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court	Justice Alok Adarhe
9.	38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.	, Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai
10.	Chief Justice of Bombay High Court	Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
11.	Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court	Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur




CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Google government affairs executive in India	Sreenivasa Reddy
2.	Lloyds Banking Group appoints the chief executive officer and managing director	Sirisha Voruganti
3.	Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) of India appoints as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Krishan Mishra ,
4.	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appoints as executive director	P. Vasudevan
5.	ITC Ltd reappoints Chairman and Managing Director	Sanjiv Puri
6.	Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) President	Neeraj Akhoury
7.	Chief at SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS).	Rajay Kumar Sinha
8.	Managing Director & CEO of Invest India	Ms. Nivruti Rai
9.	Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Chief Executive Officer	Adrian Mardell
10.	Chairman-elect of the Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)	S. Vincent Rajkumar
11.	Noida Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Lokesh M
12.	Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Tata Steel	T V Narendran
13.	Chairman of Asian Paints' board of directors	R Seshasayee
14.	Director of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED)	SK Mishra

New Appointments: International
New Appointments: International of July
President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
1.	Russian energy giant Rosneft as its board member	Govind Kottis Satish
2.	Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	K Rajaraman
3.	President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)	Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings
Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of December

- Sri Lanka**, in the throes of a severe economic crisis, has taken a significant step towards resolving its debt issues. An **"agreement in principle"** has been reached with India and the Paris Club group of creditors, including Japan. This development is crucial for Sri Lanka as it paves the way for accessing the next tranche of the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) nearly \$3 billion** recovery package.
- ACKO General Insurance** and **PhonePe** have joined forces to revolutionize the landscape of insurance accessibility in India. This strategic collaboration aims to **provide users with a comprehensive range of car and bike insurance products directly through the PhonePe platform**. Beyond just convenience, the partnership reflects the shared commitment of both companies to democratize insurance, making it a readily available financial option for millions of PhonePe users.

- In a significant move towards digital advancement, **Union Bank of India** has joined forces with **Accenture**, a global professional services company. The collaboration is poised to bring about a transformative journey through the implementation of advanced analytics and cutting-edge technologies.
- Ministry of Power**, achieved a significant milestone by signing a **200 million Euro loan agreement with the German bank KfW**. This agreement, marking **REC's sixth line of credit** under the Indo-German Development Cooperation, emphasizes the corporation's commitment to strengthening the distribution infrastructure of DISCOMs in alignment with the **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** of the Government of India.
- In a significant move towards bolstering the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in India, **Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd** (TPEVCSL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**. The collaboration aims to **set up more than 500 EV charging points** across the country, with a focus on creating a robust intercity charging network.





- A team of officials from India's Department of Commerce is currently in Muscat, engaged in negotiations for a **comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA)** with Oman. The department has set an internal deadline to finalize the deal by the end of the month. Oman currently stands as **India's 29th largest trading partner**, with bilateral trade showing robust growth. From \$3.15 billion in FY22, trade has surged to \$4.48 billion during FY23, marking a substantial 42% YoY increase.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In a significant move towards empowering self-help groups (SHGs) in **Arunachal Pradesh**, the **Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSLRM)** 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**.

- 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**.
- 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.
- In a landmark development, the pro-talks faction of the **United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)** inked a historic peace accord with the central and state governments, marking a significant stride towards ending decades of insurgency in Assam.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of November

- Nokia**, a global technology leader, has made a significant stride in the Indian broadband market by joining forces with **TATA Play Fiber** to introduce the country's first **WiFi6-ready broadband network**. The move comes in response to the escalating demand for high-capacity broadband connections, both in residential and enterprise sectors, as digital connectivity becomes an integral part of daily life.
- In a significant milestone for educational cooperation between **India** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UAE Minister of Education, **Dr. Ahmad Al Falasi**. The MoU, recognized as **the first of its kind in the Gulf Cooperation**, opens up new avenues for collaboration and academic exchange between the two nations.
- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aimed at bolstering their **educational cooperation**. The agreement covers various aspects, including student and faculty mobility, exchange of information, capacity development, and academic collaboration between educational institutions in both countries.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the renowned global retail giant, **Lulu Hypermarket LLC**. The MoU, which centers on **promoting Brand India** on a global scale, was officially signed at the **World India Food (WIF) 2023** event on November 3, 2023, in New Delhi.





- India has taken a significant step towards the development of high-quality urban infrastructure with the signing of a **\$400 million** policy-based loan agreement with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. The agreement, aimed at **improving service delivery and promoting efficient governance systems**, underscores the nation's commitment to fostering planned and sustainable urbanization.
- India and the United States have taken a significant step to boost collaboration among startups and promote innovation through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on November 14 in San Francisco. This partnership, established under the framework of the **India-US Commercial Dialogue**, aims to enhance innovation ecosystems and address regulatory challenges in the startup landscape.
- In a significant move **aimed at empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** and **boosting e-commerce exports** from the country, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has initiated collaborations with various e-commerce players. The focus of this collaboration is to leverage the "**Districts as Export Hubs**" initiative and promote e-commerce exports across the nation.
- India and the **European Union (EU)** marked a significant milestone on Friday by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **semiconductors**. This collaborative effort aims to establish a robust supply chain, promote innovation, and align both regions with global developments in the semiconductor industry.
- In a significant step towards advancing vaccine research initiatives and strengthening global efforts to combat infectious diseases, **Bharat Biotech International**, a leading vaccine manufacturer and the **University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute (SydneyID)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. This collaboration aims to foster academic-industry partnerships, design novel methodologies for tackling future epidemics and leverage the strengths of both entities to advance the science of vaccines and biotherapeutics.

BILINGUAL

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ASSISTANT

50+ TOTAL TESTS

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of October

- In a groundbreaking development, Indian fintech unicorn **Slice** has officially confirmed its merger with **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**. This announcement comes following the approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, marking a rare feat in the financial technology sector. The collaboration between Slice and NESFB aims to **revolutionize banking services** and expand financial inclusion in India.
- India and **Saudi Arabia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on securing a **green hydrogen supply chain** and collaborating on power grid interconnection. This significant agreement was formalized in Riyadh during the **MENA Climate Week 2023**, with Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **RK Singh**, representing India and Saudi Minister of Energy, **Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud**, representing **Saudi Arabia**. This MoU sets the stage for multifaceted collaboration in the energy sector between the two nations.
- Tyre manufacturer **Bridgestone India** has announced a significant collaboration with **Tata Power** to promote electric mobility in the country. Under this partnership, Tata Power will install **high-capacity DC fast chargers** at Bridgestone dealerships across India, making it easier for electric vehicle (EV) owners to recharge their vehicles quickly and conveniently. This initiative represents a major step toward supporting the growing EV ecosystem in India.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** with the **Olympic Museum** has aligned with **Reliance Foundation** to build on the success of the **Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India** and signed a new cooperation agreement. This agreement underscores the organisations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people.
- India and **Italy** have cemented their **defense cooperation** with the signing of a significant agreement. The agreement, signed during the official visit of India's Defense Minister, **Rajnath Singh**, to **Italy**, encompasses various aspects of security and defense collaboration.
- Shri **Rajnath Singh**, the Indian Defence Minister, concluded his two-nation European tour with a significant meeting in **Paris** with the French Minister of Armed Forces, **Mr. Sébastien Lecornu**. The **5th Annual Defence Dialogue** between the two ministers was marked by discussions spanning various aspects of defense cooperation.





- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken a significant step towards fostering innovation and technological growth in India by signing three memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with tech giant IBM. These agreements aim to accelerate developments in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductor technology, and quantum computing.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has joined forces with the popular food delivery platform, Zomato. This strategic alliance aims to enhance the dining experience of railway passengers by offering a wider array of food options through IRCTC's E-Catering segment.
- State-owned QatarEnergy recently announced a significant development in its efforts to expand its presence in the European gas market. The company has entered into a long-term agreement with Italy's Eni to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) for a period of 27 years.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This landmark agreement, signed, aims to significantly enhance the aerospace sector's talent pool in India through research and education initiatives.
- Reliance Jio, India's leading telecom operator, has entered into a strategic partnership with Plume, a California-based company specializing in cloud-based AI-powered services to enhance the digital lives of its nearly 200 million subscribers.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines, a leading French aero engine design, development, and manufacturing company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration. This strategic partnership encompasses various key areas within the aviation sector and marks a pivotal moment in India's aerospace landscape.

SBI
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90+ Total Tests | ebooks

Test Series

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of September

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defense company, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems. The Memorandum of Understanding was officially signed in Bengaluru.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Education, and Meta (formerly known as Facebook) have teamed together in a three-year alliance in a significant move intended to strengthen India's digital capabilities. This ground-breaking program, titled "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a Generation of Students, Educators, and Entrepreneurs," aims to provide aspiring and established business owners with crucial digital marketing knowledge. It is aimed at a mind-boggling 5 lakh people.
- In a significant stride towards enhancing the quality of education and nurturing creativity in classrooms across India, the Union Ministry of Education has joined forces with software giant Adobe. This groundbreaking collaboration seeks to promote creative expression and digital literacy among students and educators through the utilization of Adobe Express, an innovative application developed by Adobe.
- Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus, a global aviation giant, have recently embarked on a strategic collaboration aimed at fortifying the Indian aviation sector. This partnership, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, signifies a significant milestone in fostering industry-academia alliances to propel India's aviation industry to new heights.
- In a significant stride towards advancing skill development and entrepreneurship in India, the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore) has forged a strategic partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in these crucial domains.
- India and Saudi Arabia, two major players in the global energy landscape, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), paving the way for a stronger partnership between these nations in various aspects of the energy sector. This historic agreement was signed by Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, R. K. Singh, on behalf of India and by Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, representing Saudi Arabia.





- Thomas Cook (India) Limited, India's leading omnichannel forex services company, has entered into a groundbreaking partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to introduce a pioneering **RuPay prepaid forex card** tailored for Indian travelers visiting the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This significant technological endeavor is being enabled by NPCI Certified Partner, **CARD91**.
- In a significant development, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India and the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard)** have solidified their commitment to revolutionize Indian agriculture through data-driven innovations. Their collaborative effort is aimed at bolstering the agricultural and food systems to uplift the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.
- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has joined forces with **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** in the field of renewable energy sector.
- In a strategic move, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, a prominent player in the IT industry, has joined forces with Norway's national payment and electronic identity system, **BankID BankAxept**. This collaboration is set to fortify Norway's financial infrastructure, focusing on resilience, security, and availability.
- In a significant move towards revolutionizing the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) applications, **Infosys**, one of India's leading IT majors, has announced a strategic collaboration with tech giant **Microsoft**. The partnership aims to develop **cutting-edge solutions** harnessing the combined prowess of **Infosys Topaz**, **Azure OpenAI Service**, and **Azure Cognitive Services**. This collaborative effort seeks to bring AI capabilities to the forefront of enterprise functions across various industries, promising to enhance productivity and drive new revenue growth.
- In a significant development for the Indian power and infrastructure sectors, state-run **REC Ltd.** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to explore collaborative opportunities for funding projects in these sectors under a consortium arrangement. This partnership aims to **co-finance loans** amounting to a substantial ₹55,000 crore over the **next three years**, according to an official statement released by REC.
- In a significant development, **HP** has announced a partnership with **Google** to manufacture **Chromebooks in India**, with production set to commence on October 2. This collaboration aims to make affordable computing devices accessible to Indian students and support the government's "Make in India" initiative.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of August

- On July 31, 2023, a meeting was held between the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Sushri Shobha Karandlaje**, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture & Food Industries of Moldova, **Mr. Vladimir Bolea**, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The **Ministry of Railways** and the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** signed a memorandum of understanding ((MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.
- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** and the **World Bank** have joined forces to develop a comprehensive roadmap for integrating **hydrogen blending** in natural gas and establishing the **infrastructure** for their transmission through gas pipelines in the country.
- Travel company **MakeMyTrip** has announced a collaboration with the **Ministry of Tourism** to introduce over 600 unique and unconventional **travel destinations**. The company has introduced a specialized **microsite** named 'Traveller's Map of India' to facilitate this initiative.
- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has taken a significant step towards advancing the integration of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Data Science (DS)** within the realm of education. Partnering with the renowned **Jio Institute**, AICTE has unveiled a **comprehensive faculty development programme** aimed at equipping academic leaders and senior faculty members with an in-depth understanding of AI and DS.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago** have recently entered into a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the renowned **INDIA STACK** technology. This collection of open APIs and digital public goods, pioneered by India, is designed to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This move reflects India's commitment to aiding the digital transformation of nations through collaboration and technology sharing.
- In a significant move, **India and the ASEAN** countries have come to an agreement to reevaluate their existing **free trade pact for goods**. The aim of this review is to address the existing trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties. The announcement was made by the Commerce Ministry, indicating the commitment to enhance bilateral trade relations.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has made a significant announcement, revealing a thrilling collaboration with **Mastercard**, which is set to become a Global Partner for the upcoming **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**. Scheduled to take place in India from **October 5 to November 19, 2023**, the partnership between Mastercard and ICC is poised to enhance the cricketing experience for fans worldwide.





- In a significant step towards elevating the status of football in **Maharashtra**, the state government has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the renowned German professional football league, **Bundesliga**.
- In a significant move aimed at **bolstering collaboration in the field of civil aviation**, the governments of **India** and **New Zealand** have recently inked a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU). The MoU encompasses a wide array of aspects within the **aviation sector**, ranging from the introduction of **new flight routes** to code share services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement.
- With its efforts to **enhance security of the Indian Ocean Region** (IOR), especially on the eastern coast of Africa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Goa Shipyard Limited** (GSL) and **Kenya Shipyards Limited** (KSL) to strengthen **maritime security cooperation** between the two nations.
- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)**, the central think tank responsible for monitoring India's progress towards **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at expediting India's journey towards achieving its SDGs. This collaboration underscores the commitment to drive sustainable and inclusive development in the country.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July

- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India and the South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO)** joined forces through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in anti-doping efforts.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of India and the Public Service Division of the Republic of Singapore** recently signed a protocol document to extend their memorandum of understanding for five more years until 2028. The MoU encompasses various areas of cooperation aimed at promoting administrative reforms, public sector transformation, and capacity building.
- Spain's Navantia, Larsen & Toubro** signed a Teaming Agreement in the premises of Spanish Embassy on **July 10**, with the purpose of submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's prestigious **Project-75 (India)** submarine program.
- Dell Technologies** and **Intel** have joined forces to establish an **artificial intelligence (AI)** lab in **Telangana** institute. The partnership aims to bridge the digital skills gap and empower students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana by integrating Intel's '**AI for Youth**' program into their curriculum..

- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has announced a strategic partnership with **DCB Bank Ltd.**, a new-generation private sector bank in India. The collaboration aims to provide a diverse range of life insurance products to DCB Bank's customers, including term, savings, and retirement plans, enabling them to secure their financial future and expand their investment portfolio.
- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the **UAE, India and the UAE** agreed to facilitate trade settlement in their respective currencies and integrate their **fast payment systems**. The move aims to simplify international financial interactions and promote bilateral economic cooperation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish the first IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of **UAE President HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and **Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.
- On **July 15**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE)** signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at bolstering economic ties between the two nations. The MoUs focus on promoting the use of local currencies for **cross-border transactions** and interlinking their payment systems, including the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with the **Instant Payment Platform (IPP) of UAE**.
- During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** state visit to France, India and France signed a groundbreaking agreement that allows Indian tourists to use India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** for transactions in rupees.
- Indian Oil**, a government-owned enterprise, has signed lucrative agreements worth billions with France's **Total Energies** and Abu Dhabi's **Adnoc**. According to the list of agreements released by the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Total Energies Gas and Power Ltd (TotalEnergies) have signed a Head of Agreement (HoA) to establish a long-term **LNG Sale and Purchase agreement (SPA)**.
- In a significant gesture of cultural repatriation, the **United States** handed over **105 trafficked antiquities to India** during a repatriation ceremony at the Indian Consulate in **New York**. The restitution of these artefacts is a result of an agreement made during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** state visit to the U.S. last month.
- The collaboration of **OPPO India** with **NITI Aayog's Atal innovation mission** established the first ever **Atal Tinkering Lab** which is based on the **PPP model**.
- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** and **Meta**, the parent company of **Facebook**, have announced the expansion of their '**WhatsApp Se Wyapaar**' program. The initiative aims to digitally train and upskill **10 million** local traders using the **WhatsApp Business App**, with the goal of empowering small enterprises across India. This collaboration comes as a continuation of Meta's commitment to upskill one million traders on the WhatsApp Business App, as announced in June.





- The Indian government and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have joined hands once again to enhance infrastructure in **Bihar**. Through a \$295-million loan, the

project aims to upgrade approximately **265 km of state highways in Bihar**, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient designs and road safety measures.

Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of December

- In a significant development in the realm of banking security, **iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud**, has officially partnered with **ICICI Bank** to enhance the distribution of cutting-edge e-surveillance services across the bank's branches. This strategic alliance **leverages state-of-the-art AI/ML and IoT Technology** to offer services such as real-time video monitoring, facial recognition, incident detection, reporting and data analytics.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** (Ujjivan SFB) has recently unveiled a strategic partnership with **Water.org**, a renowned global non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing solutions. This collaboration holds significant promise for **addressing the pressing issue of water and sanitation in India**, which boasts the world's highest population.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** made a significant move on Monday by canceling the license of Kolhapur-based (Maharashtra) **Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited**, Ichalkaranji. The apex bank instructed the bank to cease all banking operations, effective from the close of business on December 4, 2023.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a significant step by cancelling the license of **Urban Co-operative Bank (UCB)** located in **Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh**. This decision comes into effect from the close of business on December 07, 2023, marking a crucial development in the banking sector.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** took a significant step on Friday by announcing an increase in the UPI payment limits **from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh**. This decision is expected to reshape the dynamics of financial transactions, particularly in the domains of healthcare and education. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, during the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announcement, highlighted the rationale behind the move and its potential impact on consumers.
- In a significant move towards women's financial empowerment, **Bank of India** has recently introduced the **Nari Shakti Savings Account**. This exclusive savings bank product is **designed to cater specifically to women aged 18 and above** who possess an independent source of income, marking a progressive step in fostering economic independence for women.
- In a significant move towards sustainable energy, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to sign a **€70 million Line of Credit (LoC)** with the **German Development Bank KfW** to support solar projects in India. The agreement is scheduled to be inked on December 14 at SBI's IFSC Gift City Branch in Ahmedabad, marking a pivotal step in fostering solar

photovoltaics (PV) initiatives across the country. As SBI gears up to sign Line of Credit with KfW, it not only reinforces the commitment to sustainable energy solutions but also positions India on a brighter path towards increased solar power capacity.

- In a significant move to ensure fair and affordable access to Aadhar Services, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has implemented strict measures against operators found guilty of overcharging and also **imposed penalty of Rs.50,000 against them**. The move aims to ensure fair and accessible services for all citizens, **Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, revealed the details of these measures in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
- Indian banks significantly increased their overseas presence, reaching **417 subsidiaries** in the fiscal year 2022-23, up from **399 in the previous year**, according to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey. The survey encompasses **14 Indian banks** with foreign branches or subsidiaries and 44 foreign banks with a presence in India.
- Bandhan Bank recently announced its official authorization by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to facilitate pension disbursement through **e-Pension Payment Orders (e-PPOs)** on behalf of the **Ministry of Railways**. The bank is in the process of integrating with the Ministry of Railways to streamline and operationalize the pension disbursement process. This mandate extends the bank's reach to approximately **50,000 average Indian Railways retirees annually**, covering all offices, including 17 zonal railways and 8 production units of Indian Railways.
- Deposits and advances of all scheduled banks witnessed a remarkable surge, each exceeding **₹2-lakh crore** in the reporting fortnight concluding on December 1, 2023, as per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India. Deposits experienced an impressive growth of ₹2,30,727 crore during this period. Advances also recorded a substantial increase, reaching ₹2,15,584 crore.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently taken strict action against **five cooperative banks**, issuing monetary penalties for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. These cooperative banks include **Indapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd**, Janakalyan Sahakari Bank Ltd, The Patan Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Pune Merchants Co-operative Bank Ltd, and **Pune Municipal Corporation Servant's Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd**. The penalties were imposed under the powers granted to the RBI by certain provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Banking Current Affairs of November

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB)	Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) is set to merge with AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) starting from February 1, 2024.
2.	Bank of Baroda (BOB)	Bank of Baroda (BOB) is facing a significant change in its digital leadership as Akhil Handa , the head of digital lending, has decided to leave the organization. Handa was a key figure in the development of BOB's mobile banking application ' bob World ', but his departure comes in the wake of regulatory restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3.	State Bank of India (SBI)	During her three-day visit to Sri Lanka , Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a new branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Trincomalee and engaged in crucial discussions with her Sri Lankan counterparts as part of the 12th round of the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) .
4.	Axis Bank	Recently, Axis Bank and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Axis Bank Chair for financial inclusion at IRMA .
5.	IndusInd Bank	In a groundbreaking move, IndusInd Bank has achieved the significant milestone of becoming the inaugural bank to go live as a ' Financial Information Provider (FIP) under the recently introduced ' Account Aggregator Framework ' by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
6.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank has taken a significant leap in the realm of digital payments with the launch of its groundbreaking initiative – the ' IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card ' on the UPI platform.
7.	Karnataka Bank	announced a strategic partnership with HDFC Life , one of India's premier life insurance providers. This collaboration aims to provide customers with a comprehensive suite of innovative and customer-centric financial solutions. This strategic tie-up between Karnataka Bank and HDFC Life is a significant step forward in providing customers with value-added financial solutions.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
8.	IDBI Bank Ltd	In a recent development, the government announced the cancellation of the bid process for appointing an asset valuer for the strategic sale of IDBI Bank Ltd. The decision stems from a lack of sufficient interest from bidders, as only a single bid was received. A corrigendum issued by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) stated, "It has been decided with the approval of the competent authority to cancel the present RFP and to issue a fresh RFP for the selection of an asset valuer for the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank."
9.	Bandhan Bank	The board of directors at Bandhan Bank has given the green light for the reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO). The Kolkata-based private sector lender has extended Ghosh's tenure for a period of three years. The current term is set to expire on July 09, 2024.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted a review of bulk deposit limits for financial institutions, specifically focusing on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). As a result, the bulk deposit limit for RRBs has been significantly increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore .
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made an important announcement regarding District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs). These banks are now permitted to close their un-remunerative branches without seeking prior permission from the central bank, although they will require approval from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective state .
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its decision to directly regulate all entities that facilitate cross-border payment transactions related to the import and export of goods and services. This directive is aimed at ensuring transparency, security, and adherence to financial regulations in these cross-border transactions.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided an update on the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes as of October 31, 2023 . The central bank's initial goal for introducing these banknotes was to meet the currency needs of the economy after the withdrawal of ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes in November-December 2016 . The update highlights the status of these ₹2,000 banknotes and the ongoing procedures for their exchange or deposit. More than 97% of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023 , have been returned by October 31, 2023 .
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took action on November 3 by announcing monetary penalties against several financial institutions for violating regulations. The penalties were imposed on Punjab National Bank, Federal Bank, Kosamattam Finance, and Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India . The central bank issued these penalties to ensure that financial institutions comply with regulatory requirements.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against several financial institutions for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. Monetary penalties have been imposed on four co-operative banks and a non-banking financial company (NBFC) as a result of their failure to adhere to RBI's guidelines.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a plan to gradually discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) in response to evolving liquidity conditions. This strategic move aims to ensure that the financial system remains stable and money markets operate smoothly.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a notification, granting Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) unrestricted investment access to the Government's Sovereign Green Bonds for the fiscal year 2023-24 .
9.	Reserve Bank of India	Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was honored with the ' Changemaker of the Year ' award. Governor Shaktikanta Das accepted it on behalf of the RBI. The recognition was part of the Hindu Businessline Changemaker Awards 2023 , held at ITC Maurya in New Delhi on November 3.
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a directive on November 15, instructing Bajaj Finance to cease the sanction and disbursal of loans under two of its lending products, namely ' eCOM ' and ' Insta EMI Card '. This immediate action stems from the company's non-adherence to the existing provisions outlined in the Digital Lending Guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has identified rising food prices as the primary challenge to achieving its 4% Consumer Price Index (CPI) target, according to its 'State of the Economy' report.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently levied a substantial monetary penalty of ₹90.92 lakh on Axis Bank Ltd, citing non-compliance with several key directives issued by the apex bank. The penalties were related to the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016,' 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions,' 'Guidelines on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks,' and 'Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts.'
13.	Reserve Bank of India	Is reportedly contemplating a comprehensive review of its penalty system . The proposed changes under consideration involve a potential increase in penalty amounts. This adjustment could be based on factors such as the size of the regulated entities , their systemic importance, and the frequency of repeat offenses.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	Recent regulatory measures implemented by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are set to reshape the landscape of unsecured retail loans in Mumbai. Crisil Ratings predicts a notable deceleration in the growth of these loans, contrasting sharply with the robust 45% expansion observed last year.
15.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Friday that it has superseded the board of Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank for a duration of 12 months. This action comes as a response to certain material concerns arising from observed poor governance standards within the bank.
16.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Indian rupee closed at a new low of 83.38 against the US dollar, marking a slight decline from the previous close of 83.34. This drop was attributed to increased dollar demand from oil companies and intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to mitigate a steeper fall.
17.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India, on 24 November, took stringent measures against Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Overseas Bank, imposing penalties totaling ₹10.34 crore. The penalties were imposed for contravention of regulatory norms, shedding light on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
18.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Has announced a two-year extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme until December 31, 2025.
19.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step in safeguarding the interests of investors by updating its 'Alert List' of unauthorised forex trading platforms. The latest update includes 19 additional entities, bringing the total number to 75.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has introduced new National Pension System (NPS) withdrawal rule changes, providing subscribers with greater flexibility in managing their retirement funds. In addition, the PFRDA has made 'penny drop' verification mandatory for NPS fund withdrawals.
- **Zurich Insurance Company** is set to make a substantial investment in **Kotak General Insurance**, marking a significant move in the insurance industry. The **Swiss-based Zurich Insurance** will acquire a **51% stake in Kotak General Insurance**, with plans to increase its ownership over-time. This development is poised to bring innovation and growth to the Indian insurance market.
- **IndiaFirst Life**, a Mumbai-based life insurance company, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first life insurance company to secure registration within the **GIFT City International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**. This registration, which was granted following approvals from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** in **August 2023** and subsequent registration from the **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)** in **September 2023**, positions **IndiaFirst Life** to expand its services beyond the borders of India.
- HSBC India, in collaboration with the **National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)**, has introduced electronic bank guarantee services, a groundbreaking initiative that aims to streamline trade finance processes. This digital solution is designed to replace the traditional and time-consuming paper-based bank guarantee system.
- **PayGlocal**, a payment platform with a focus on cross-border transactions, has been granted in-principle approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a **Payment Aggregator (PA) license**.
- In the initial seven months of the financial year 2023-24 (April-October), India's export landscape witnessed notable dynamics, with the **Netherlands, the UK, and Australia** emerging as pivotal drivers of the nation's outbound shipments. Preliminary data from the commerce ministry underscores the positive impact of these markets on India's export performance during this period.
- India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) predicts a remarkable surge in the country's e-commerce exports, projecting a potential rise from the current **\$1.2 billion to an impressive \$200 billion** within the next six to seven years. The DGFT, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, shared these insights at the 'E-commerce Exports' conference organized by Ficci, underlining the vast potential inherent in India's e-commerce sector.





- In response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) introduced a special window allowing non-refundable withdrawals for its subscribers. This measure aimed to alleviate financial strains during the unprecedented times. Over 22 million EPFO subscribers, constituting more than a third of the total, availed themselves of the non-refundable withdrawal option during the pandemic.
- ACKO**, the insurtech company making insurance convenient, transparent, and accessible for Indians, has partnered with renowned actor **R Madhavan** as its 'Voice of the Customer'.
- In recent developments, both the **United States** and the **United Kingdom** have experienced a slowdown in inflation. This has led to growing speculation that **central banks** on both sides of the **Atlantic** may initiate interest rate cuts by the middle of the next year.
- Madhabi Puri Buch**, the Chairperson of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, has officially launched the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform** at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Developed under the guidance of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) overseen by SEBI, the IRRA platform is designed to mitigate risks faced by investors during technical glitches at Trading Member (TM) ends, encompassing both primary and disaster recovery sites.

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala. This transformative initiative aims to enhance urban living standards, ensure clean water access, and fortify climate resilience.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange. In a significant move, the regulator is introducing flexibility measures to facilitate this process. To support NPOs on the social stock exchange, SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of **Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP)** from **Rs 1 crore** to **Rs 50 lakh**.
- HDFC Securities**, a leading investment service provider in India, has successfully launched its mobile trading app, **HDFC SKY**, on Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has unveiled an ambitious plan to revolutionize the settlement process in the country's financial markets. In a recent announcement, SEBI Chief **Madhabi Puri** revealed that the regulatory body is actively working on a roadmap to **implement same-day settlement of trades by March 2024**. Additionally, there are plans for the introduction of an optional parallel system for instantaneous settlement.

Banking Current Affairs of October

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced the ' Mobile Handheld Device ' for its Financial Inclusion (FI) customers. This pioneering initiative, unveiled by the Chairman of SBI, Shri Dinesh Khara, seeks to empower financial inclusion and extend essential banking services to the masses.
2.	State Bank of India	Centre has decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) , the nation's largest lender, until August of the following year.
3.	State Bank of India	To support the Indian government's Digital India initiative , the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new card called NAV-eCash on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya . The launch took place on October 1, 2021 , at Karwar .
4.	YES Bank	YES Bank , a prominent financial institution in India, has taken a significant leap forward in the digital commerce space by introducing the ONDC Network Gift Card .
5.	IDFC FIRST Bank	Outlook Group is excited to announce the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, " 40After40 ," in association with IDFC FIRST Bank. This two-day event and expo will take place at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on January 23-24, 2024.
6.	Bank of Baroda's	Bank of Baroda's board approved a plan to raise up to Rs 10,000 crore through long-term bonds. These funds will be used to support infrastructure development and affordable housing

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	IDFC First Bank	The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the merger of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and IDFC First Bank. This approval was communicated through a regulatory filing on October 17, 2023.
2.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance. This acquisition marks a crucial step for Kotak Mahindra Bank in expanding its footprint in the microfinance sector.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
3.	RBL Bank	Announced the launch of its cutting-edge digital banking product, the GO Savings Account.
4.	HDFC Bank	Introduced its cutting-edge digital platform, XpressWay, to streamline and expedite its banking products and services. This innovation empowers customers to enjoy a more rapid and hassle-free banking experience.
5.	Fincare Finance (Fincare SFB)	Small Bank Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) is set to merge with AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) starting from February 1, 2024

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by forming an external working group (WG) to address the expected credit loss (ECL) framework for loan loss provisioning. This initiative aims to gather independent insights into the intricacies of this substantial shift in the banking sector.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) underscored the significance of addressing high inflation to maintain macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the central bank's commitment to achieving a durable 4% inflation target while keeping benchmark interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive meeting.
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made an important announcement regarding gold loans offered by urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
4.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering Bank of Baroda (BoB) to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, 'bob World'.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a significant fine of ₹5.39 crore on Paytm Payments Bank, highlighting various instances of non-compliance with the RBI's guidelines.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently taken a significant regulatory action by canceling the Certificate of Registration of Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a stern stance on non-compliance with its regulatory directives by imposing penalties on Union Bank of India, RBL Bank, and Bajaj Finance, all of which have faced penalties for various breaches of RBI's regulatory guidelines.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank, by imposing significant penalties. Kotak Mahindra Bank, a well-known player in the Indian banking industry, faced a penalty of Rs 3.95 crore from the RBI. This action was taken primarily due to a series of serious violations.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made significant revisions to its master direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) for regulated entities. These changes incorporate amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering rules and, importantly, deal with the requirement of beneficial owner (BO) identification for partnership firms. Under the revised norms, the definition of "Principal Officer" has been clarified. A Principal Officer is now defined as an officer at the management level nominated by the regulated entity (RE).
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a sub-office in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, bolstering its commitment to financial inclusion and development in the region.
11.	The Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India has taken a significant step in the digital transformation of the nation's financial landscape by initiating a pilot run to test the E-Rupee, a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), for inter-bank borrowing.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently taken regulatory action against L&T Finance Limited by imposing a monetary penalty of ₹2.50 crore (Rupees Two crore Fifty lakh only) on the company.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
13.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	This directive places the onus on private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to establish a robust senior management team. The primary objective is to effectively steer these institutions through the present and emerging obstacles.
14.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Has informed lenders, financial institutions, and credit bureaus that they must resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or face a fine of ₹100 per day to ensure that customers' complaints related to credit information are addressed promptly.
15.	Reserve Bank of India	Has granted in-principle authorization to Zaakpay, the secure payment gateway arm of MobiKwik to operate as a payment aggregator.
16.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	conducted a review of bulk deposit limits for financial institutions, specifically focusing on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). As a result, the bulk deposit limit for RRBs has been significantly increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- In a recent announcement, the government has decided to keep the interest rate on **General Provident Fund (GPF) savings** unchanged at 7.1% for the October-December quarter. This marks the 15th successive quarter where the government has maintained the status quo, ensuring stability for government employees' retirement savings.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has announced its ambitious plan to deploy '**Bima Vahaks**' in every **Gram Panchayat** across the country by **December 31, 2024**.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released its quarterly bulletin of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, shedding light on the urban unemployment situation in India during the first quarter of the fiscal year. In the April-June quarter of this fiscal year, the urban unemployment rate in India dropped to **6.6%**.
- In a meeting with the **Export Promotion Councils**, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles **Shri Piyush Goyal** unveiled a significant initiative to issue system-based automatic '**Status Holder**' certificates under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**. This transformative step not only reduces compliance burden and promotes ease of doing business but also underscores the importance of government collaboration.

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched an investigation into the relationship between the **Adani Group**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, and the **Gulf Asia Trade & Investment fund** based in the British Virgin Islands.
- Bharti Group** has announced its acquisition of French insurer **AXA's 49% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co.** This move marks the consolidation of a venture that was jointly run for nearly two decades.
- The Indian government has announced its plans to **divest 7% equity in Housing and Urban Development Corp. Ltd (Hudco)** via an **offer for sale (OFS)** scheduled for October 18-19. This strategic move is expected to generate approximately ₹1,100 crore in revenue.
- India** has decided to extend its restrictions on sugar exports beyond **October** in an effort to stabilize domestic prices, particularly in the lead-up to key **state elections**. This decision could potentially affect global sugar prices and raise concerns about increased food price inflation worldwide.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has given the green light to the **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)** for a massive 13-gigawatt (GW) Renewable Energy (RE) project in **Ladakh**. This ambitious project is poised to reshape the renewable energy landscape in India.

Banking Current Affairs of September

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Punjab National Bank	Become the first public sector bank to facilitate effortless credit availability for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) via GST invoices.
2.	YES Bank	Announced a significant development in the digital currency space by launching UPI interoperability on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app.
3.	The State Bank of India	New Delhi – The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant leap in the world of digital currency by announcing the successful implementation of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability with its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the Digital Rupee.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
4.	State Bank of India	Has taken a significant step in enhancing the commuting experience and promoting digital payment adoption with the launch of the 'Nation First Transit Card.'
5.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank has announced that it has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert I-Process Services (India) Pvt Ltd (I-Process) into a wholly-owned subsidiary, subject to specific conditions, according to the Bank's latest regulatory disclosure.

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank, the country's second-largest private sector bank, has announced that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of the bank. This approval comes as a crucial step in ensuring the stability and leadership continuity of the bank.
2.	YES BANK	BriskPe, a pioneering cross-border payments FinTech company, has teamed up with YES BANK to introduce "BriskPe A2A," a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.
3.	Indian Bank	Indian Bank has introduced a new initiative called 'IB SAATHI' (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion) to bolster its financial inclusion efforts.
4.	Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd	Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.'s independent director Sridhar Kalyanasundaram has resigned from the board with effect Sept. 16., citing "factionalism" to "unethical" business conduct.
5.	State Bank of India (SBI),	In a groundbreaking move, the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has launched a cutting-edge digital platform for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to seamlessly open NRE (Non-Residential External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) savings and current accounts.
6.	Axis Bank	In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Axis Bank has recently unveiled its groundbreaking Transaction Banking platform, 'NEO for Business.'

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	In July 2023, India witnessed a significant surge in bank credit outstanding to the real estate sector, reaching an all-time high of Rs 28 trillion, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2.	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant expansion of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) System, allowing users to transact with pre-sanctioned credit lines issued by banks. This move marks a major development in India's digital payment landscape, enabling greater financial flexibility and convenience for consumers.
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have recently unveiled the winners of the G20 TechSprint 2023 challenge in a prestigious award ceremony held in Mumbai. This initiative, launched by the RBI last May under India's G20 presidency, sought to foster innovative solutions that enhance cross-border payments.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is gearing up to launch a pilot program for the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), commonly referred to as the Digital Rupee. This initiative is expected to facilitate interbank transactions, specifically in the call money market, and is set to kick off around October.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other regulated entities to address the issues faced by the borrowers and towards promoting responsible lending conduct among such entities. The REs shall release all the original movable / immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within a period of 30 days after full repayment/ settlement of the loan account. In case where the delay is attributable to the RE, it shall compensate the borrower at the rate of ₹5,000/- for each day of delay.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed that as of March 2023, the circulation of the E-rupee, India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), has reached ₹16.39 crore.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced significant developments in its guidelines concerning wilful defaulters and large defaulters. These developments include broadening the scope of the definition and mandating lenders to finalize the identification and classification of borrowers as wilful defaulters within six months of loans turning bad.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
8.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on three prominent state-owned banks, State Bank of India (SBI), Indian Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank, for their non-compliance with various regulatory norms. These penalties serve as a stern reminder of the importance of adherence to banking regulations and directives issued by the RBI.
9.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Central government has granted a one-year extension to M Rajeshwar Rao's term as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Significant step by cancelling the license of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited, a Mumbai-based cooperative bank. This decision was made primarily due to concerns regarding the bank's inadequate capital and earning prospects, which raised questions about its ability to fulfill its commitments to depositors.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp's collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card. This initiative is expected to have a profound impact on the financial landscape in India.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its ongoing commitment to maintain the integrity and adherence to banking regulations, has imposed monetary penalties on three co-operative banks. These banks, namely Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, and Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, were found to have deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in India has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **10 billion monthly transactions in August**. This achievement was confirmed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Reserve Bank's non-profit agency. UPI has been a key driver of digital payments in India, and its rapid growth is noteworthy.
- Bajaj Auto's subsidiary, **Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance**, has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commence its **non-banking financial institution (NBFC)** operations. This significant development allows the company to expand its financial services without accepting public deposits.
- Karnam Sekar**, Chairman of the **National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL)** tendered his resignation due to disagreements concerning the institution's structure and operations. This resignation follows a proposal for merging NARCL with **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)**.
- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** Chairman, Deepak Mohanty, recently made a significant announcement that the combined **Asset Under Management (AUM)** of the **National Pension System (NPS)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** has crossed an impressive figure of **Rs 10 lakh crore**. This remarkable feat signifies the **rapid growth and increasing popularity** of these pension schemes.
- SBI Card**, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has introduced the '**SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card**', a specialized credit card tailored for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- SBI Card**, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card '**AURUM**', targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals. With the enhancements, AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending. The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.
- In a significant move aimed at enhancing convenience and accessibility for users, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** unveiled two conversational payments initiatives during the Global Fintech Fest. These initiatives, '**Hello UPI**' and '**Bharat BillPay Connect**', mark a significant step forward in facilitating seamless digital transactions through natural language conversations.
- In a significant move aimed at enhancing **India's digital payment ecosystem**, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das unveiled a slew of new UPI (Unified Payments Interface) features developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. These introduced features are set to revolutionize the way Indians transact and manage their finances.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced a groundbreaking contactless payment wearable ring known as the '**OTG Ring**'. This innovative device has been developed in collaboration with the Indian fintech startup **LivQuik**. Let's delve into the details of this exciting development.





- Cashfree Payments, a prominent player in the payments and API banking solutions sector, has joined forces with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to unveil a groundbreaking solution called '**AutoPay on QR.**' This innovative offering is poised to empower subscription-based businesses, boosting their customer acquisition, retention, and overall growth prospects.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, a key player in SME loan refinancing, has unveiled plans to raise **Rs 10,000 crore** through a rights issue in the upcoming fiscal year. This strategic move is aimed at bolstering its equity capital as the institution anticipates an expansion of its assets, targeting Rs 5 lakh crore by March 2024 from its current standing at approximately Rs 4 lakh crore as of March 2023.
- In a significant development, the Finance Ministry has granted approval for a range of welfare measures aimed at benefiting both **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** agents and its employees. These measures, which have been approved today, are expected to bring substantial advantages to the vast LIC workforce comprising over 13 lakh agents and more than one lakh regular employees.
- ACKO, a leading insurance company, has unveiled its latest health insurance offering called the "**ACKO Platinum**

- Health Plan.**" This comprehensive plan boasts several notable features, including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, and zero waiting periods.
- The Afghani**, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the **best-performing currency of the September quarter** in 2023. This unexpected surge is attributed to a combination of factors, including massive dollar inflow in the form of humanitarian aid and currency control measures imposed by the ruling Taliban. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar.
 - Insurance has always been a vital aspect of financial security, offering individuals and families a safety net during unforeseen circumstances. Recognizing the importance of extending insurance coverage to every corner of India, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has introduced '**Bima Vistaar**'.
 - In a significant move, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has recently endorsed capital management reforms, unleashing a substantial \$100 billion fund over the next ten years. These reforms, integrated into ADB's updated **Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF)**, mark a vital step in addressing the multifaceted crises and climate challenges faced by Asia and the Pacific region.

Banking Current Affairs of August

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India (SBI),	Reported its financial results for the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The bank achieved its highest-ever quarterly profit at ₹ 16,884 crore, representing a significant jump from ₹ 6,068 crore in the same period the previous year.
2.	HDFC Bank	In the fiscal year 2023, Sashidhar Jagdishan, the CEO of HDFC Bank has taken the top spot as the highest paid bank CEO. With an overall package of Rs. 10.55 crore, Jagdishan's compensation stands out among his peers in the banking sector.
3.	Airtel Payment Bank	India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will be crafted from recycle- Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards.
4.	AU Small Finance Bank	AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform.
5.	Canara Bank	unveiled a specialized savings account aimed at pensioners and those nearing retirement, designed to provide an array of benefits catering to their unique financial needs. This new offering, known as Canara Jeevan Dhara , extends its advantages to retirees who've opted for voluntary or regular retirement.
6.	Axis Bank	In a significant partnership, Axis Bank has joined forces with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) , a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) , a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH.
7.	Canara Bank	Canara Bank , a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature.
8.	YES BANK	In a significant leap forward for India's digital banking landscape, YES BANK has introduced its groundbreaking mobile banking app, IRIS by YES BANK. This innovative app is poised to redefine the way customers engage with their financial institutions, offering an unparalleled combination of convenience, efficiency, and personalization.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
9.	HDFC Bank	HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy , the acclaimed travel program by Marriott International, to unveil the ' Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card '.
10.	Airtel Payments Bank	Mastercard Center and Frontier Markets, has introduced a transformative initiative named She Leads Bharat:Udyam. This initiative is designed to uplift 100,000 women-owned small businesses by providing them with opportunities to learn and earn.
11.	State Bank of India	Taken a significant step towards enhancing financial inclusivity and social welfare by introducing an innovative Customer Service Points (CSP) functionality.
12.	IDFC First Bank	Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years. The IDFC First Bank will provide a sum of Rs.4.2 crore per international match .
13.	Axis Bank	Taken a groundbreaking step by launching the ' Infinity Savings Account '. This innovative savings account variant is designed to cater to the needs of digitally savvy customers who are avid users of subscription-based services.
14.	Bandhan Bank	In a significant development, Bandhan Bank has been granted authorization by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to serve as an authorized pension disbursement bank.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI). The RBI-DPI, a comprehensive measure of payment digitization, displayed a substantial increase across all parameters during this period, driven by significant advancements in payment infrastructure and performance across the country. The index for March 2023 recorded a value of 395.58, marking a 13.24% growth compared to September 2022 (377.46), as announced on January 31, 2023.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Imposed late submission fees amounting to ₹2,000 crore on four major public sector undertakings namely, ONGC Videsh Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd for failing to promptly report their overseas investments.
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stringent action by imposing monetary penalties totaling Rs4.20 lakh on four co-operative banks. These banks – Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd – have been found to be in breach of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to floating rate home loans.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is taking a significant step towards bolstering its regulatory supervision over banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal, this centralized web platform is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Introduced updated guidelines for Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs).
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes to the offline payment transaction regulations, aiming to enhance user convenience and digital payment adoption. The central bank has decided to increase the upper limit of offline payment transactions from ₹200 to ₹500, with immediate effect.
9.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Granted its approval for the amalgamation of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank with The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank. This strategic move is set to be enacted from August 28, as announced by the central bank.





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Kiwi, a fintech company specializing in enabling credit on UPI, has partnered with Axis Bank to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit cards through its app.
- The public sector banks (PSBs) have registered an **impressive profit** of over **Rs 34,774 crore** in the **first quarter** of June 2023 showcasing a substantial increase that more than doubles their previous earnings. As per the quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to **Rs 15,306 crore**, during the corresponding April-June period in the prior fiscal year.
- In a move to provide enhanced financial security and stable income to its policyholders, **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company** has recently launched a groundbreaking insurance product – the **Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan**. This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan is designed to offer regular, **long-term income** to policyholders to ensure a prosperous and worry-free future.
- As per a Finance Ministry report, both **state-owned banks** and **leading private banks** have garnered more than **₹21,000 crore** in fees primarily from account holders **failing**

to maintain the minimum balance. Charges amounting to over ₹35,000 crore have been amassed **since 2018** due to reasons such as non-compliance with minimum balance requirements, **additional ATM transactions**, and SMS services.

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign named "**UPI Chalega.**" Collaborating with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, the campaign aims to emphasize the ease, safety, and swiftness of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has announced its acquisition of a 6.7% stake in **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)**, a non-banking financial services unit that emerged from the conglomerate helmed by Mukesh Ambani – **Reliance Industries**. The acquisition, carried out through a **demerger action** by Reliance Industries, is poised to have a notable impact on both entities and the broader financial markets.
- After a four-year interval, standalone **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)** have reclaimed their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-induced setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now holding a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country.

Banking Current Affairs of July

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	IDFC First Bank and IDFC Ltd	Announced their merger plans, with a share exchange ratio of 155 equity shares of IDFC First Bank for every 100 equity shares of IDFC.
2.	State Bank of India	Announced the appointment of Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
3.	State Bank of India (SBI)	68th foundation day on 1st July
4.	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Announced the launch of PNB Metaverse, a virtual branch that offers a unique banking experience.
5.	National Housing Bank	Announced the operationalization of the ₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) , as outlined in this year's Budget.
6.	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Announced the launch of UPI 123PAY , an IVR-based UPI solution. This offering is in line with the Digital Payment Vision 2025 , aiming to propel India towards a cashless and cardless society.
7.	Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	Utkarsh Small Finance Bank IPO will begin accepting subscriptions this week. Having a presence across all of India, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is one of the top small finance institutions.
8.	HDFC Bank	Achieved a significant milestone by entering the \$100 billion market-capitalization club.
9.	State Bank of India (SBI)	Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds worth Rs. 10,000 crore at the coupon rate of 8.1% recently issued by the State Bank of India (SBI). But the issue did not get a good response by the subscribers as only Rs.3,100 crore worth of bonds were subscribed.
10.	IDBI Bank	Announced revised interest rates for fixed deposits (FDs) under ₹2 crore , effective from April 1st, 2023 . The bank has launched the " Amrit Mahotsav FD " scheme, offering attractive returns for both elderly individuals and the general public.
11.	HDFC Bank	Achieved a significant milestone by surpassing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the second most valuable company in India based on market capitalization . The recent merger of its parent company HDFC into itself further bolstered the bank's position.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
12.	Canara Bank	Canara Bank has once again emerged as the leading public sector bank in lending to state-owned corporations and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for the fifth consecutive year.
13.	HDFC Bank	Swiggy , a popular food delivery platform, has collaborated with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card. This move follows the trend of various ecommerce platforms partnering with banks to introduce similar credit cards.
14.	HDFC Bank	In 2023, HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, achieved a significant milestone by overtaking State Bank of India (SBI) to secure the top spot in CRISIL's Greenwich market share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking. The report by Coalition Greenwich, a division of CRISIL, highlights the changing dynamics in India's corporate banking landscape, with larger private and foreign banks gaining traction at the expense of smaller banks, including public sector banks.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Introduced the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) to revolutionize its data handling, analysis, and governance.
2.	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Unveiled a draft regulation that grants debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders the authority to select their desired card network, marking a potentially revolutionary development on a global scale.
3.	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Set to implement interoperability between its central bank digital currency (CBDC) and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by the end of this month, according to Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar. This move will allow customers to use UPI QR codes for transactions using digital currency.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Announced the cancellation of registration for four non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and the surrender of licenses by 11 other entities.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	Outlined the significant growth targets India must achieve over the next 25 years to become a developed economy with high per capita income. Currently estimated at \$2,500, India's per capita income needs to surpass \$21,664 by 2047 , as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a high-income country.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Set to introduce a standard operating procedure (SOP) to enable banks to expedite the issuance of Foreign Inward Remittance Certificates (FIRC) and Electronic Bank Realization Certificates (e-BRCs) . This proactive step comes in response to the challenges faced by exporters using the rupee-based trading mechanism for foreign trade.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru .
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the next auction of Treasury bills and state development loans (SDLs) with attractive yields for various maturities. The T-bill yields for three-month, six-month, and 364-day maturities are set at 6.71 per cent, 6.83 per cent, and 6.86 per cent, respectively. The auction will see the participation of 11 states, including Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and others.
9.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the addition of " NongHyup Bank " to the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 . This significant move marks a pivotal moment for NongHyup Bank, which hails from Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea , and has been actively operating in India since its establishment in 2016 .
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	In the fiscal year ending March 2023, Indian banks wrote off bad loans amounting to Rs 2.09 lakh crore, bringing the total loan write-off by the banking sector to Rs 10.57 lakh crore in the past five years. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disclosed this information in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The RBI has taken a pivotal step by permitting 20 banks operating in India to open 92 Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) with partner banks from 22 countries. This allows exporters and importers from these nations to conduct trade transactions in domestic currencies, facilitating smoother and more efficient trade practices.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Banknotes with a Star (*) symbol have recently become a subject of discussion on social media platforms. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a press release to clarify that these banknotes, known as the " Star Series " banknotes, are legitimate and have a specific purpose. The Star symbol is added to identify banknotes used as replacements for defectively printed ones in a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes.





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The Union government has cancelled the **Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA)** licence of the **Sadbhavana Trust**, a Delhi-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been actively working to empower Dalit and Muslim women. This cancellation prohibits the trust from receiving or utilizing foreign grants.
- SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card)**, the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed **Abhijit Chakravorty** as **MD & CEO**. Chakravorty, who is presently a Deputy Managing Director at SBI, will assume charge of his new role on August 12, SBI Card said in a filing with stock exchanges.
- Mumbai-based used car platform Car Trade Tech will acquire online marketplace OLX India's auto sales business for Rs.537 cr.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the lending arm of the **European Union**, has expressed its intention to invest approximately **€1 billion in India's renewable energy sector**. EIB's Vice President, **Kris Peeter**, confirmed that discussions are underway with the Central government to provide **€500 million** during the first phase of funding. The investment aims to bolster renewable sectors, focusing on **green hydrogen and solar panels**.

- The **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot in India is gaining traction as banks accelerate their efforts to onboard customers, with the pilot now in its second phase. After covering major cities like **Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, and Chandigarh**, banks are extending their reach to select customers in cities like **Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna, Shimla, Goa, Guwahati**, and Tier-II locations such as **Varanasi**. This expansion aims to attract more users to enrol in the pilot.
- Due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to cancel the registration certificate of **United India Cooperative Bank Ltd**, based in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the '**GST Bhawan**' in **Agartala, Tripura's capital**. The newly established office complex will serve as the headquarters for **CGST, CX, and Customs** for the **Agartala, Guwahati Zone under CBIC**. Situated at **Mantri Bari Road**, Agartala, the GST Bhawan is designed to offer quick and easy accessibility to all taxpayers in the region, with its proximity to the newly created **Agartala Airport complex**.
- Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** announced that **Algeria** has formally submitted an application to join the BRICS group of nations. The move aims to create new economic prospects for the oil and gas-rich nation in North Africa, as it seeks to diversify its economy and strengthen ties with countries like China.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of December

- In November, India's manufacturing **Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)** exhibited a positive trajectory, reaching 56, a slight uptick from October's 55.5. While still below the September figure of 57.5, this rise indicates a rebound from the slowest rate of expansion recorded in October since February. The PMI, a key economic indicator, maintains the 50-mark threshold, distinguishing between expansion and contraction.
- GST collection surpassed the **Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark** every month in the current fiscal year. April 2023 recorded a historic high, reaching **Rs 1.87 lakh crore** in GST collection. The average gross monthly GST mop-up for FY 2023-24 stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore, reflecting an 11% YoY increase from the previous fiscal year. Monthly average GST collection for 2022-23 showed a substantial growth of 30%, following a 22% YoY increase in 2021-22. In 2020-21, the average monthly GST collection was Rs 94,734 crore.
- India's GDP data for July-September has showcased the **construction sector's stellar performance**, growing by an impressive 13.3% year-on-year. This surge, the best in five quarters, has propelled India's overall economic expansion to a forecast-beating 7.6%, positioning it as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally.

- Himachal Pradesh stands out with the **highest overall unemployment rate at 33.9%**, making it the state with the most significant joblessness challenge in the 15-29 age group in urban areas during the specified quarter. Rajasthan closely follows with a rate of 30.2%. The overall unemployment rate in the 15-29 age group in urban areas across the country is 17.3%, with females experiencing a higher rate of 22.9% compared to males at 15.5%. This data provides a snapshot of the employment landscape, highlighting the challenges faced by the youth in various states.
- The **Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** in India revealed a decline to 56.9 in November, marking a one-year low compared to October's 58.4. However, the sector maintained its expansion streak for the **28th consecutive month**, remaining above the crucial 50-point threshold that separates expansion from contraction.
- India's stock market achieved a significant milestone, surpassing a **market value of over \$4 trillion**. This development highlights the rapid growth of the world's fifth-largest equity market, closing the gap with a struggling Hong Kong. In less than three years, the market capitalization of companies listed on India's exchanges has surged by \$1 trillion.





- The World Bank and research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, have jointly forecasted a **6.5% decline in global grain prices in 2024**. However, rice is expected to be an exception due to India's export restrictions and concerns related to El Nino.
- India's economy is poised for a strong rebound, with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) projecting a growth of **6.8% in the current fiscal year (FY24)** and an acceleration to **7% in the subsequent fiscal year (FY25)**. CII attributes this optimistic outlook to the government's unwavering commitment to infrastructure development and the facilitation of ease of doing business.
- As of October 31, 2023, a total expenditure of **Rs 4.10 lakh crore** has been incurred under **Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I (BPP-I)**, according to Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari**. The minister addressed concerns raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) regarding the increase in the cost of Phase I of the project.
- India's foreign exchange reserves have witnessed a notable upswing, reaching **\$604 billion as of December 1**, marking a significant milestone after a four-month hiatus. The last instance of the reserves crossing the \$600 billion threshold was recorded on August 11 earlier this year.
- In a strategic move targeting the dynamic preferences of Millennials and Gen Zs, IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced the **"FIRST SWYP" credit card**, a youth-centric offering designed to cater to the unique demands of the new-age customer.
- India witnessed contrasting trends in its economic indicators in October and November, with the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) surging** to a 16-month high while **retail inflation** experienced an uptick, reaching a three-month high. These developments have significant implications for GDP projections and monetary policy. The IIP recorded an impressive **11.7% year-on-year growth** in October, marking a substantial increase from the 6.8% reported in September. Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased to **5.55% year-on-year in November**, up from 4.87% in October.
- In November, nine states in India experienced a **higher rate of inflation** compared to the national average, according to recent data. The average cost of living for Indian consumers rose by 5.55% compared to the same period last year.
- In a recent development, the Lok Sabha has given its approval for a net **additional spending of ₹58,378 crore** in the ongoing fiscal year, set to conclude in March 2024. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's commitment to fiscal prudence while maintaining a focus on social welfare programs.
- In the fiscal landscape of India, a concerning trend has emerged as twelve states are projected to witness their debt surpassing **35% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** by the end of the financial year 2023-24. This

- revelation, detailed in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest annual publication, points to potential fiscal mismanagement and raises alarms about the fragile fiscal situation of these states. The states drawing attention from the RBI for fiscal mismanagement include **Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal**.
- Global rating agency **Moody's Investors Service** has recently reaffirmed the **Baa2 rating for Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, maintaining a stable outlook. This affirmation reflects RIL's substantial market presence and strong performance across its diverse business sectors. Moody's projects a significant growth in RIL's consolidated EBITDA, estimating a **14% increase to ₹1.7 trillion (around \$21 billion)** for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. This growth is expected to be driven by robust performances in digital services, retail, and the upstream oil and gas segment.
 - The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved the release of the second tranche, amounting to approximately **\$337 million**, under the **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** to **Sri Lanka**. This financial support is a crucial component of Sri Lanka's recovery plan, aimed at overcoming the economic challenges resulting from a historic financial crash in the previous year.
 - India's logistics cost for the fiscal year 2021-22 has been revealed to be in the range of **7.8-8.9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, according to a government survey. This figure is notably lower than previous private survey estimates, which suggested a cost exceeding 10%.
 - The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has adjusted India's growth projection for the current financial year, FY24, from 6.3% to a more optimistic 6.7%, citing a robust second-quarter performance that exceeded expectations.
 - In the first eight months of the current fiscal year, **net direct tax collection** has witnessed a substantial surge, reaching Rs 10.64 trillion. This marks a remarkable 23.4% increase compared to the corresponding period last year. The Ministry of Finance reported that this collection represents 58.34% of the Budget Estimates (BE) for the fiscal year.
 - India's economic landscape in November 2023 witnessed a decline in merchandise exports by 2.83%, totaling \$33.90 billion, compared to \$34.89 billion in the corresponding month the previous year. This downturn, however, contributed to a positive trend in the **trade deficit**, which narrowed to \$20.58 billion, as revealed by government data released by the Commerce Ministry.
 - 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of November

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently unveiled its latest economic projections, revealing that global growth is expected to remain at **3 percent in 2023** and further decline to **2.9 percent in 2024**, marking one of the lowest growth rates in decades. In its "**Navigating Global Divergences**" report for October 2023, the IMF outlines the key factors contributing to this subdued outlook and highlights the significant challenges the global economy faces.
- In September 2023, the growth rate of eight key infrastructure sectors in India witnessed a slowdown, reaching a **four-month low of 8.1%**. This decline is notable compared to the 8.3% growth recorded in the same month the previous year. Several of these sectors experienced deceleration, with crude oil output registering negative growth.
- In the first half of the 2023-24 financial year, India's central government faced a fiscal challenge, with the fiscal deficit rising to **39.3% of the annual target**, a slight increase from the previous year's 37.3%. This widening gap between expenditure and revenue amounted to Rs 7.02 lakh crore by the end of September 2023, as reported by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.
- In October, India witnessed a significant rebound in its Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, reaching a **10-month high of ₹1.72 lakh crore**. This growth of 13.4% year-on-year is the sharpest uptick since December 2022, reversing a three-month trend of deceleration.
- India's manufacturing sector** experienced a significant slowdown in October, with the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to 55.5**, marking an eight-month low compared to the previous month's 57.5. The data, released on November 1, highlighted the impact of cost pressures and subdued demand for specific products.
- In a recent development, Fitch, the renowned rating agency, has upgraded **India's mid-term GDP growth forecast to 6.2%**. This favorable revision has implications for India's economic outlook, as well as the emerging markets globally.
- Foreign brokerage UBS** recently revised its FY24 real GDP growth estimate for India, raising it to **6.3%**. The brokerage's chief economist, Tanvee Gupta Jain, highlighted various factors contributing to this uptick despite challenges such as slower global growth and upcoming elections.
- S&P Global Ratings**, a major credit rating agency, anticipates that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** might reduce interest rates in the fiscal year 2024-25, contingent on the containment of food inflation and the performance of the monsoon. Despite the potential interest rate cut, S&P Global Ratings remains optimistic about India's economic growth, forecasting a 6% GDP growth in the current year and 6.9% over the next two years. This growth outpaces many of its **BBB- to A-rated peers** in the Asia-Pacific region. However, higher interest rates pose a fiscal challenge.





- In its recently released "**2024 India Economics Outlook**," Morgan Stanley Research predicts that India's economy will experience substantial growth, hovering around 6.5% for both FY2024 and FY2025. The investment bank attributes this positive outlook to the country's resilient domestic fundamentals, strong corporate and financial sector balance sheets, and the impact of recent policy reforms.
- India's retail inflation, as measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, witnessed a **4-month low in October**, settling at **4.87%**. A combination of a supportive economic base and moderation in non-food prices contributed to this decline from **September's 5.02%**. However, despite this apparent relief, economists express concerns about underlying issues that may impact the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decisions**.
- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate** continued its downward trend, reaching a three-month low of **-0.52%** in October. This marks the seventh consecutive month of deflation, with various factors contributing to the sustained negative trajectory.
- The central government has announced a substantial reduction in the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on crude oil imports. The tax, which was previously set at Rs. 9,800 per tonne, has been slashed by 35.71% to Rs. 6,300 per tonne. This adjustment reflects the government's proactive response to the evolving dynamics of international crude oil prices.
- S&P Global, in its latest report, has forecasted robust economic growth for India in the medium term, estimating a GDP expansion ranging between **6 to 7.1 percent** annually from FY24 through FY26.
- Goldman Sachs**, the US-based investment bank, forecasts India's economy to grow at a rate of **6.5%** in the fiscal year **2024-25**, surpassing the projected **6.2%** for the current financial year. The key driver for this growth is anticipated to be increased private sector investment.
- In a significant economic achievement, **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** has crossed the **\$4 trillion mark** in nominal terms. This milestone underscores India's robust economic growth and solidifies its position as a major global economic force.
- As the central government continues its efforts to address economic challenges, recent data from the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** reveals a concerning trend in India's inflation dynamics. Despite initiatives like the extended free-food programme and ongoing efforts to stimulate rural demand, rural inflation has consistently surpassed urban inflation in 18 of the past 22 months, spanning from January 2022 to October 2023.
- Foreign direct equity investments in India have experienced a significant downturn, recording a **24% decline to \$20.5 billion** during the first half of the financial year 2023-24. This notable decrease follows a larger trend of diminishing FDI inflows over the past year.

- Recent data from the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** reveals a **10.1% decline** in new subscribers during the first half of the fiscal year **2023-24**, indicating a slowdown in formal job creation. This downturn is significant in light of the continuous rise in self-employment, prompting concerns about the informal nature of job growth in the Indian economy.
- After a four-month decline, India's crude oil imports surged in October, rising by **5.9% month-on-month** to reach **18.53 million metric tons**. This rebound follows a one-year low in September, signaling a shift in the country's energy consumption trends.
- S&P Global Ratings has upgraded its GDP growth projection for India in the financial year 2024 to **6.4%**, up from the previous estimate of **6%**.
- In a recent report titled '**China Slows India Grows**', S&P Global Ratings anticipates a significant shift in the economic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region. The report projects India's GDP growth to outpace China's, highlighting a forecasted **7% growth** for India by 2026, in contrast to China's estimated **4.6%**.
- India's 18 largest states** are poised to witness a significant surge in capital expenditure for the fiscal year **2023-24**, as per a recent report by **Crisil**. The report projects an **18-20%** increase in spending compared to the previous year, attributing this growth to factors such as robust goods and services tax collections, stable central government devolution, and the allocation of interest-free loans totaling **'1.3 lakh crore** to states.
- The second quarter of FY24 witnessed a historic surge in women's labor force participation, reaching **an all-time high of 24%**, according to official data. While this is a positive development, deeper analysis reveals nuances in the employment landscape for women.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has revised its growth projections for India, anticipating a further slowdown in the coming fiscal years. The Indian economy is expected to grow at **6.3%** in **FY24**, slightly under the **6.7% growth** seen in **Q2FY24**. However, the outlook for FY25 is even more conservative, with a projected growth of **6.1%**. This downward revision is attributed to adverse weather conditions and a globally weakened economic environment.

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Economy/Financial Current Affairs of October

- In September 2023, India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues witnessed a significant slowdown, growing at the slowest pace in 27 months. The growth rate dropped to 10.2% from the previous months' approximately 10.8%. This decline, although notable, was coupled with some intriguing state-wise variations in GST collections. Despite the slowdown, GST collections improved by 2.3% over August, reaching ₹1,62,712 crore.
- Despite substantial external challenges, India's economy remains robust, prompting the World Bank to maintain its growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.3%. This decision reflects India's remarkable resilience within a demanding global environment.
- In September, India's manufacturing sector saw a notable slowdown, reaching a five-month low, as reported by the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This index slipped to 57.5 from 58.6 in August, indicating a deceleration in activity. A PMI reading of 50 represents no change in activity levels.
- The World Bank, in its latest India Development Update, has revised its retail inflation forecast for India for the fiscal year 2023-24. The new projection stands at 5.9 percent, up from the earlier estimate of 5.2 percent made in April. This upward revision is attributed to certain factors which caused a sharp increase in food prices in July 2023.
- In its latest trade and development report, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 upward to 6.6% from the earlier projection of 6%. However, the report also anticipates a slowdown in India's growth to 6.2% in 2024. Furthermore, the UNCTAD highlights concerns about the global economic outlook, with a deceleration to 2.4% in 2023, followed by a marginal improvement to 2.5% in 2024.
- In September, the services sector in India experienced a significant boost in both domestic and international demand, reaching a 13-year high, according to a survey-based index by S&P Global Market Intelligence. This index, known as the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), climbed to 61, up from 60.1 in August. Despite this growth, job creation was moderate.
- According to the data, released by the Controller General of Accounts, the fiscal deficit for the April-August period in FY24 stood at Rs 6.42 trillion. This accounts for 36 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 trillion. Comparatively, during the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was 32.6 per cent of the full-year target.
- India has witnessed a remarkable increase in its net direct tax collections, with a substantial growth rate of 21.8% amounting to ₹9.57 lakh crore by October 9. This surge has exceeded over half of the annual Budget estimates. The boost is primarily attributed to a 32.5% rise in personal income tax revenues and a 12.4% increase in corporate taxes.

- In its October 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24. The growth projection was increased from 6.1% to 6.3% due to stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June. The report also highlighted India's resilient domestic economic activity and the positive impact of robust domestic demand, contrasting global economic trends.
- In September, India experienced a notable drop in retail inflation, marking a significant shift from the peak levels seen 15 months earlier. This decline, attributed largely to softer vegetable prices, brought the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a three-month low. Despite this decrease, inflation remained above the 4% target set by the central bank, hindering potential rate adjustments.
- India has shown remarkable resilience amidst global challenges, as per the latest India Development Update (IDU) by the World Bank. Despite a tough global environment, India's economy grew at 7.2% in FY22/23, making it one of the fastest-growing major economies.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given the green light for a \$181 million loan to enhance the quality of life in the peri-urban areas around Ahmedabad, a city in the state of Gujarat, India. The aim is to improve urban living conditions and mobility in these rapidly growing areas.
- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) remained in the negative zone for the sixth consecutive month in September, standing at -0.26 percent. This means that prices for goods at the wholesale level continued to decrease.
- The Union Government recently took a significant step to benefit Central government employees and pensioners by increasing the Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 4%. This increase will be effective from July 1, 2023.
- Krishna Srinivasan, Director of IMF Asia & Pacific Department, has stated that India's contribution to global economic growth will increase from its current 16% to 18% within the next five years. He emphasized that India's rapid economic growth is a significant factor in this rise.
- India's economy is on the rise! By 2030, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is predicted to reach a whopping \$7.3 trillion, making it the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region, just after China.
- Euro Zone businesses faced a significant setback this October, with a widespread drop in demand, raising concerns about a possible recession. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the region fell sharply, indicating economic challenges. The PMI for services hit a 32-month low, indicating a sharp decline in demand. Manufacturing also suffered, with a prolonged period below the growth threshold.





- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently unveiled its latest economic projections, revealing that global growth is expected to remain at **3 percent in 2023** and further decline to **2.9 percent in 2024**, marking one of the lowest growth rates in decades. In its "**Navigating Global Divergences**" report for October 2023, the IMF outlines the key factors contributing to this subdued outlook and highlights the significant challenges the global economy faces.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of September

- In a significant economic development, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) demonstrated robust growth, surging to **7.8% in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-2024**, compared to a 6.1% growth rate recorded in the preceding January-March quarter of the fiscal year 2022-23. This acceleration is indicative of a positive economic trajectory and holds great implications for the nation's financial landscape.
- In the first four months of the 2023-24 financial year, **India's fiscal deficit** has surged, surpassing a third of the full-year target. This financial imbalance, measured as the difference between government expenditure and revenue, is a critical indicator of the government's borrowing needs. India's spending exceeded its earnings by **33.9% of the annual target for 2023-24 in just 4 months**. Revenue collection also dipped.
- In August, India witnessed a notable surge in **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection**, amounting to ₹1.59 trillion, signifying an 11% increase compared to the same period last year. This impressive growth can be attributed to enhanced compliance and anti-evasion measures put in place.
- Global rating agency **Moody's Investor Service** has revised its economic growth projection for India, providing a positive outlook for the year 2023. The agency has increased its forecast for **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** to 6.7 percent, up from the previous estimate of 5.5 percent. This adjustment is attributed to the notable performance in the second quarter, driven by robust expansion in services and capital expenditures, resulting in a **7.8 percent real GDP growth** compared to the previous year.
- In light of a positive surprise in the April-June quarter data, **Morgan Stanley**, the multinational investment bank, has revised its **economic growth forecast for India** for the fiscal year 2024. The bank has raised its projection from an earlier estimate of 6.2 percent to a more optimistic 6.4 percent.
- The Ministry of Finance has recently issued a significant notification outlining amendments to the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rules pertaining to online gaming and casinos. These amendments aim to address taxation methodologies employed by online gaming companies and casinos.
- In August, India's retail inflation, as measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, showed signs of moderation, dropping to **6.83%** from **7.44%** in July. However, it remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range of **4+/-2%**.
- In a recent update, **Fitch Ratings** decided to maintain its growth forecast for India for the fiscal year **2023-24 (FY24)** **at 6.3%**. Despite facing challenges such as tighter monetary policy and weakened exports, India's economy displayed remarkable resilience. Notably, the Indian economy posted a strong growth rate of 7.8% in the April-June quarter, primarily driven by robust demand and a thriving services sector.
- Indian government unveiled the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data** for the month of August, revealing a persistent trend of declining wholesale inflation. In August, the wholesale inflation rate plummeted to **-0.52 percent**, marking the fifth consecutive month in which it has remained in the negative territory. Notably, in July, the wholesale inflation rate had been **-1.36 percent**, and in June, it had reached as low as **-4.12 percent**.
- LIC Chairman **Siddhartha Mohanty** presented a significant dividend cheque of **₹1,831.09 crore** to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This dividend represents the Centre's share for the fiscal year 2022-23.
- S&P Global Market Intelligence** has reevaluated India's economic growth prospects for the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). This upward revision is attributed to robust economic performance in the April-June quarter. Notably, the revised projection stands at **6.6%**, a significant improvement from the **5.9%** estimate put forth by the analytics firm in August.
- The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has revised its GDP growth projection for India in the fiscal year 2024, forecasting a growth rate of **6.3%**. This upward revision represents a notable increase from the previous estimate of **6%**. The OECD attributes India's positive growth surprises to favorable agricultural outcomes driven by favorable weather conditions.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **India Ratings and Research** have released contrasting forecasts for **India's economic growth** in the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). While ADB has lowered its projection to **6.3%**, India Ratings has raised it to **6.2%**.
- The Union Ministry of Finance recently released its **Monthly Economic Review for August 2023**, confirming its confidence in a **6.5 percent** real GDP growth projection for FY24, characterized by balanced risks. The report paints a promising picture of India's economic performance in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24).





- S&P Global Ratings** has reaffirmed India's growth forecast for the current fiscal year at **6 percent**, citing several factors affecting the economic landscape. This announcement comes amid a backdrop of global economic challenges, concerns over subnormal monsoons, and the delayed effects of interest rate hikes.
- The Indian government has chosen to keep its borrowing plan unchanged for the second half of the fiscal year 2023-2024 (H2FY24). The government's projected **gross market borrowing** for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, stands at Rs 15.43 lakh crore. Between April and September, the government successfully borrowed Rs 8.88 lakh crore.
- In a recent report by **CRISIL MI&A (Market Intelligence and Advisory)**, India's power demand for September 2023 reached an impressive five-year high. The report also offers insights into the factors driving this surge and the challenges faced by the power sector. Here, we break down the key findings and observations. **India's power demand** in September witnessed remarkable year-on-year growth, reaching 140-142 billion units (BUs), marking a five-year high.
- In a significant economic development, **India's core sector** witnessed impressive growth in August, reaching a **14-month high of 12.1%**. This remarkable surge in core sector performance is attributed to several key factors, primarily the favorable base effect. In this report, we delve into the details of this growth, including the sectors driving it and the broader implications for India's industrial landscape.
- India's fiscal deficit** for the first five months of the 2023-24 financial year has reached 36% of the full-year target, according to data from the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. The fiscal deficit represents the gap between government expenditure and revenue, indicating the government's borrowing needs. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit amounted to Rs 6.42 lakh crore as of the end of August.
- Indian government has announced significant changes to its tax policies related to the petroleum industry. These changes include an increase in the **special additional excise duty (SAED)** on domestically produced crude petroleum, as well as reductions in levies on **diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**. Effective from September 30, 2023, the government has raised the **windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil** to Rs 12,100 per tonne.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of August

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced the establishment of the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**. This fund, regulated by SEBI, is designed to function as a 'backstop facility,' providing support during stressed market conditions by purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities. The Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD) aims to offer guarantee cover against debt raised or to be raised by the CDMDF, adding stability to the market in times of dislocation.
- On July 28, 2023, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** announced a significant change in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules in India**. As per the new guidelines, companies with a turnover of more than ₹5 crore will be required to generate electronic invoices (e-invoices) for their business-to-business (B2B) transactions or exports.
- The **fiscal deficit of the Indian government** has reached **25.3%** of the full-year target at the end of June 2023, as per data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. This article provides an overview of the fiscal deficit situation in India, comparing it to previous years and the government's projected targets for the current financial year (2023-24).
- The **Ministry of Finance** has released data showing that the gross goods and services tax (GST) collection for July 2023 has surpassed the **Rs 1.65 lakh crore mark**. This marks the fifth instance of GST revenue crossing this threshold since its inception. The revenue for July 2023 is 11 percent higher than the same month last year, reflecting a positive trend in the country's economic growth.
- India's manufacturing sector experienced a slight dip in growth momentum in July, with the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** falling to **57.7** from **57.8** in June and **58.7** in May. However, the figure still indicates expansion in the sector. The buoyant demand, both domestic and in exports, played a crucial role in maintaining the growth momentum. Despite the recent easing in inflation, higher inflationary pressures remained a challenge for manufacturers.
- In March 2023, the Indian government's debt stood at **₹155.6 lakh crore**, accounting for **57.1%** of the country's GDP. This represents a reduction from 61.5% of GDP in 2020-21, indicating efforts to manage debt levels.
- The **51st meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has decided to impose a 28% tax on the full face value of bets placed on online gaming, which will be implemented from 1st October.
- In July, India's services sector experienced a significant rebound, achieving its highest growth in **13 years**. The recovery was driven by robust demand and new business gains, leading to an increase in the **S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** to a record high of 62.3. The PMI is a survey-based index that measures





activity levels in the services sector. An index reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 suggests contraction. This positive trend has been ongoing for 23 consecutive months since August 2021.

- **S&P Global's report, titled "Look Forward: India's Moment," projects India's economic growth trajectory from fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to FY31.** The country is set to remain the fastest-growing large economy, with an expected GDP growth rate of 6% in FY24. S&P Global is optimistic about India's potential, forecasting an average growth rate of 6.7% per year during this period, driven primarily by capital expansion. The report envisions India's GDP to reach \$6.7 trillion by FY31, and per capita GDP to rise to approximately \$4,500.
- In a recent mid-year macroeconomic review, the **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)** has forecasted that **India's economic growth** will likely decelerate to 6% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), down from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This projected slowdown is attributed to prevailing headwinds in the global economy. The NIPFP analysis takes into consideration various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into the potential trajectory of **India's economy**.
- In July, **retail inflation** in India experienced a significant upswing, reaching 7.44%, marking the highest rate since April 2022. This surge contrasts with the preceding four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold. The increase is largely attributed to an 11.5% spike in food prices, making it the first time since September 2022 that the **price rise** has crossed the 7% mark.
- In July, the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall **WPI deflation** shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift.
- In a recent development, the Indian government has decided to enhance the **windfall profit tax** on domestically produced crude oil and exported diesel. This decision is accompanied by the reintroduction of the tax on **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** shipments abroad. These changes are being implemented through a **special additional excise duty (SAED)** mechanism, aimed at regulating profits derived from these energy sources.
- India's journey towards becoming a developed economy by 2047 has gained momentum, with a recent study conducted by SBI Research economists projecting a remarkable increase in per capita income. The study suggests that **India's per capita income** is poised to surge by 7.5 times, from Rs 2 lakh (\$2,500) in FY23 to **Rs 14.9 lakh (\$12,400)** per annum by FY47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized this objective, aiming to turn the vision of a developed India into a reality by 2047.

- Crisil, a prominent rating agency, anticipates **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth** to reach 6% in the fiscal year 2024. This projection is lower than the 7% estimated by the **National Statistical Organisation (NSO)** for the fiscal year 2023.
- ICRA Ratings recently released a comprehensive report projecting a robust economic growth for India in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023 (FY24). The report suggests that the country's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** is expected to accelerate to **8.5% during the April-June period**, a significant increase from the **6.1% growth rate** witnessed in the preceding quarter (January-March). This projected growth is attributed to multiple factors, including a supportive base effect and a notable recovery in the services sector.
- The latest government data reveals a noteworthy **decline in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows into India during the **first quarter** of the fiscal year 2023-24. The decline, amounting to **34%**, saw FDI plummeting to **\$10.94 billion** from **\$16.58 billion** in the same period of the previous fiscal year. This downward trend was primarily influenced by **reduced investments** in key sectors such as **computer hardware and software, telecommunications, automotive, and pharmaceuticals**.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of July

- **India's Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection for the month of June reached **₹1.61 trillion**, according to the Ministry of Finance. This amount represents a significant **12% increase** compared to the revenue collected from GST in the same month of the previous year.
- India's external debt has witnessed a slight increase, reaching **USD 624.7 billion** at the end of March 2023, according to data released by the Reserve Bank. However, the debt-to-GDP ratio has declined during the same period. Valuation gains resulting from the appreciation of the US dollar against major currencies, including the Indian rupee, yen, SDR, and euro, amounted to USD 20.6 billion.
- According to official data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government's fiscal deficit for the financial year **2023-24 stood at Rs 2.1 lakh crore or 11.8% of the full-year budget estimates at the end of May 2023**. This marks a significant improvement compared to the previous year when the fiscal deficit was 12.3% of the budget estimates.
- In a bid to tackle fake registrations and enhance the integrity of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** system, the GST Council is considering implementing new measures. These measures include reducing the time period for submission of PAN-linked bank account details, introducing mandatory physical verification for "high risk" applicants, and amending GST Rules regarding the presence of applicants during verification.





- India received its highest-ever **FDI inflow** of **US\$83.57 billion** in the fiscal year 2021-2022. However, FY 2023 saw a drop in FDI inflows due to global uncertainties. Total FDI inflows in FY 2023 amounted to US\$70.97 billion.
- The **net direct tax collection** in the current fiscal year has witnessed a significant growth of 16%, reaching Rs 4.75 lakh crore, indicating a surge in economic activity. According to the Income Tax department, this collection represents 26.05% of the total budget estimates of **direct taxes** for the full 2023-24 fiscal, which is set at Rs 18.23 lakh crore.
- **India's retail inflation experienced a surge of 4.81% in June**, ending a four-month decline, as food prices increased due to uneven monsoon rains and supply disruptions. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**-based inflation was 4.31% in May, and food inflation rose to 4.49% in June.
- The third edition of the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** for States/UTs of India for the year **2022** is set to be released by **NITI Aayog on July 17, 2023**. This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22. The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.
- **India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves have increased by \$1.229 billion**, reaching a total of \$596.280 billion as per the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marks a nearly 2-month high and the second consecutive weekly rise in reserves. The rise in reserves was primarily driven by the growth in foreign currency assets (FCA) and gold reserves, while special drawing rights (SDRs) experienced a slight dip.
- **Goldman Sachs** analysts project India to become the **world's second-largest economy** by 2075. The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075. China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s.

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently projected India's economic growth to moderate in the current financial year, **FY24**, to **6.4 per cent**, down from the **6.8 per cent** expansion witnessed in **FY23**. The slowdown is attributed to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices. However, ADB remains optimistic about India's economic prospects, expecting growth to accelerate to **6.7 per cent** in **FY25**.
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** have recorded their most substantial weekly surge in four months, witnessing a remarkable increase of **\$12.74 billion**, reaching an impressive total of **\$609.02 billion**, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This surge comes after a previous uptick of \$1.23 billion in the preceding week ending on July 7.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has recently revised **India's GDP growth** forecast for the current fiscal year to **6.1%**, up from the previous prediction of **5.9%**. This upward revision is attributed to stronger domestic investments and reflects the momentum from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 (FY23).
- The Union government has approved an increased interest rate of **8.15%** on **Employees Provident Fund (EPF) deposits** for the financial year 2022-23. This decision comes after the EPFO trustees ratified the proposal to raise the interest rates, which had been at a four-decade low of **8.10%** for the previous fiscal year. The higher interest rate will benefit over six crore EPF subscribers and is expected to be credited to their accounts soon.
- **India will become the third largest economy by FY28**, two years earlier than projected, said SBI Research economists in a note. SBI economists said India will likely grow **8.1%** in the first quarter of **FY24**, pushing the overall growth rate to **6.5%**. India recorded a **13.5%** growth in the first quarter of **FY23**.
- Standard Chartered's India research team has projected a transformative growth trajectory for **India's economy**, expecting it to reach **\$6 trillion by 2030**.

Business Current Affairs

Business Current Affairs of December

- **Indian IT services giant Infosys** has recently announced a strategic partnership with energy company **Shell** to drive the adoption of immersion cooling services in data centers. This collaboration aims to harness the strengths of both organizations in digital and energy domains, supported by a network of partners, to create an integrated solution for environmentally friendly data centers.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India witnessed a substantial contraction from the **Cayman Islands and Cyprus** during April-September in the current fiscal year, contributing to an overall decline of 24% in FDI inflows.
- Since April 2020, India has attracted FDI proposals totaling ₹1 lakh crore from countries sharing its land borders, including **China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan**. A crucial development came in

April 2020 when the government mandated prior approval for such investments to safeguard domestic firms amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, a leading insurance and investment corporation in India, has announced a significant update in its governance structure. As per the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Shareholders' Director) Regulations, 2023**, notified in the Gazette of India on December 1, 2023, LIC has outlined a new framework for the addition of a shareholder's director to its board.
- **Bajaj Group** achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **Rs.10 lakh crore in market capitalization**, making it the **fifth business houses to attain this feat**. This elite club already includes prominent names like **Tata, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and the Adani Group**. Let's delve into the key factors contributing to this remarkable achievement and the individual companies that played a pivotal role.





- Bharti Airtel**, one of India's leading telecommunications companies, achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **8th company** to surpass **Rs.6 lakh crore on December 4**. This surge was attributed to the positive market sentiment following the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victory in state elections. The company's stock witnessed a **2% increase** during Monday's trade, contributing to a **year-to-date gain of 28%**.
- Crude oil futures faced a downward trend on Wednesday morning, with **February Brent oil futures reaching \$77.23**, a marginal increase of 0.04 per cent. Simultaneously, **January crude oil futures** on WTI (West Texas Intermediate) experienced a dip, settling at **\$72.31**, down by 0.01 per cent. This decline comes amid various global factors impacting the oil market.
- ACKO General Insurance** and **PhonePe** have joined forces to revolutionize the landscape of insurance accessibility in India. This strategic collaboration aims to **provide users with a comprehensive range of car and bike insurance products directly through the PhonePe platform**. Beyond just convenience, the partnership reflects the shared commitment of both companies to democratize insurance, making it a readily available financial option for millions of PhonePe users.
- In a significant move towards sustainability, **Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IndianOil)** and **EKI Energy Services** have joined forces to promote "**Surya Nutan**," an innovative indoor solar cooking system developed by IndianOil. This collaboration aims to leverage carbon finance and other sustainable means to enhance the production, distribution and adoption of this eco-friendly cooking solution.
- In a strategic move to stabilize pulse prices, the Indian government, through the **Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, has lifted restrictions on the import of yellow peas. The move allows duty-free shipments of yellow peas **until March 31, 2024**, aiming to enhance the supply of pulses in the market.
- In a strategic move following its acquisition by TPG Capital Asia, Poonawalla Housing Finance has undergone a significant rebranding, emerging with a new identity — **Grihum Housing Finance**. This transformation comes as TPG Capital Asia acquired a substantial 99.02% equity stake in the company from Poonawalla Fincorp earlier this year.
- In a significant move, **Foxconn**, the Taiwan-based giant responsible for assembling around **70% of iPhones globally**, is set to invest an additional **139.11 billion rupees (\$1.67 billion)** in the state of **Karnataka**. This decision underscores Foxconn's ongoing efforts to diversify production away from China, driven by disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions.

- In a significant move towards promoting sustainable and greener energy solutions, **Reliance Industries** has forged a strategic partnership with **DBS Bank India** to establish a financing program targeting farmers and aggregators. The primary objective of this collaboration is to **manage crop residue effectively, utilizing it in the production of compressed biogas (CBG)**.
- Tata Steel**, a global steel leader, as embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration with **Imperial College London** to establish the **Centre for Innovation in Sustainable Design and Manufacturing in London**. This Memorandum of Understanding signifies a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating technology development and deployment in critical areas, attracting talent and fostering a robust industry-academia collaborative ecosystem. To realize this vision, Tata Steel has committed a substantial **investment of Rs.104 crore over the next four years**.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** recently unveiled ambitious plans for Uttar Pradesh's aviation infrastructure. The Modi government, displaying a strong commitment to the civil aviation sector, is set to construct nine new airports in the state within the next two years. This initiative will propel the total number of airports in Uttar Pradesh to an impressive 18. Scindia highlighted the government's remarkable achievements in the aviation domain, citing the development of 75 airports over the past nine years.
- Air India**, the national carrier, recently revealed its revamped uniforms for **cabin crew and pilots**, designed by renowned **fashion designer Manish Malhotra**. The grand unveiling took place on **December 12**, adding a touch of glamour and sophistication to the airline's image.
- After seven consecutive months of deflation, **India's wholesale prices rebounded**, recording a growth of 0.26% in November, compared to the -0.52% rate observed in October. The **Commerce and Industry Ministry** attributes this upturn primarily to increased prices in various sectors, including food articles, minerals, machinery & equipment, computer, electronics & optical products, motor vehicles, other transport equipment, and other manufactured goods.
- Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB)** has inked a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Gujarat**, indicating a massive investment of **Rs.3000 crore**. This strategic move showcases HCCB's dedication to establishing a cutting-edge manufacturing facility for juices and aerated beverages in Rajkot by 2026.
- The **e-retail market in India** is poised for substantial growth, with a report by **Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart** projecting a surge past the **USD 160 billion mark by 2028**. The report highlights key factors contributing to this growth, including affordable data, improved logistics, fintech infrastructure and a robust digital consumer ecosystem.





- Stellantis N.V. CEO Carlos Tavares** highlighted the strategic importance of India in the company's global operations and outlined his vision for the country as part of the **Dare Forward 2030 global strategic plan**. The merged companies that formed **Stellantis** have invested **over \$1 billion since 2015** to establish a sustainable footprint in India, aligning with the Government of India's "**Make in India**" initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- In the automotive sector, **India** has stood out as a significant example of progress, surpassing its counterparts in the world's largest markets. According to **S&P Global Mobility forecasts**, India is set to witness a **remarkable 36% growth** in its light vehicle market in 2023, reaching 4.8 million units—a testament to the country's resilience and quick recovery in the post-pandemic era.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has taken a significant stride in fostering sustainable urban development by approving a **USD 200 million loan** to bolster the **Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0**. This initiative, committed to making **all cities garbage-free by 2026**, aims to introduce international best practices, integrate new technologies, and adopt climate- and disaster-resilient approaches in municipal solid waste management.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





Business Current Affairs of November

- 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.
- 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.
- 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."
- 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 Bhalerao**, Chairperson and Managing Director of Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited.
- 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.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is set to spearhead a fundraising round worth Rs 2,500 crore for the Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvlIT) 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.
- 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.

- Tata Motors** has secured a significant ₹766 crore arbitration award from the **West Bengal Industrial Development Corp. Ltd (WBIDC)**, concluding a prolonged dispute stemming from the closure of its Singur plant in 2008. This plant was intended for manufacturing the Nano, the world's most affordable car.
- SBI Card**, one of India's leading credit card issuers, has joined hands with **Reliance Retail** to introduce the **co-branded Reliance SBI Card**, a lifestyle-focused credit card aimed at revolutionizing the shopping experience for customers. This partnership allows cardholders to **access a world of rewards and benefits** while engaging within Reliance Retail's extensive and diverse ecosystem.
- Swan Energy**, a Mumbai-based conglomerate, recently acquired **Reliance Naval and Engineering** through its special purpose vehicle, **Hazel Infra**, solidifying its position in the commercial and naval defence vessel manufacturing and ship repairing segments. The move aligns with the government's **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, emphasizing self-reliance in shipbuilding.
- In **October**, UPI achieved a remarkable milestone, crossing an astonishing **11.4 billion transactions** with a total transaction value surpassing **Rs 17.6 lakh crore**. This extraordinary feat is indicative of the growing popularity and trust in UPI as a secure and efficient payment platform.
- The European Union's proposed **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** has stirred controversy, with India's Commerce and Industry Minister strongly criticizing it as "**ill-conceived**".
- Sephora**, a well-known global beauty retailer, has teamed up with **Reliance Beauty & Personal Care Limited**, a subsidiary of **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)**, to grow and redefine the future of luxury beauty retail in India. This partnership grants RRVL exclusive rights to expand Sephora's presence across various channels in India.
- The cotton industry in India faces challenges in the upcoming season due to factors like pink bollworm infestation and insufficient monsoon rains. The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption recently estimated a **6% decrease** in cotton production for the **2023-2024** season compared to the previous year.
- Mudra Port**, the flagship of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, continues to break records in India's maritime industry. With its strategic location, superior infrastructure and consistent growth, the port has achieved remarkable milestones, including **handling over 16.1 million metric tons (MMT) of Cargo in October 2023**. This article explores the significant achievements of Mudra Port, its historical timeline and its ambitious target of reaching **200 MMT in cargo volumes by FY25**.





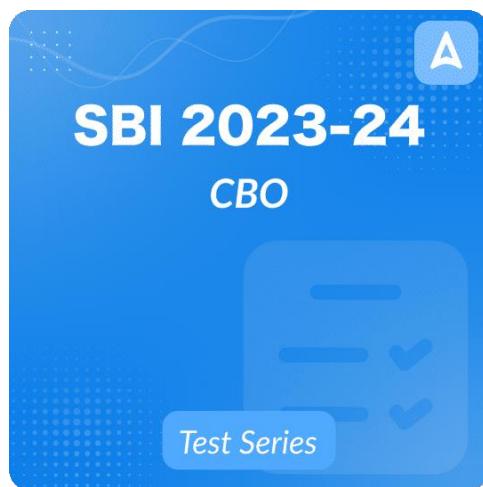
- The State-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has acquired **Mercator Petroleum Limited (MPL)** through an insolvency proceeding. The acquisition, valued at approximately **Rs 148 crore**, was approved by the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** under the relevant provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- French luxury group Kering's esteemed menswear brand, **Brioni**, has officially landed in India, with the help of **DS Luxury**, a distinguished entity under the umbrella of **Dharampal Satyapal Group Limited**.
- InterGlobe Enterprises**, a major shareholder in IndiGo, has announced a strategic partnership with Archer Aviation Inc, a US-based company specializing in **electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL)** aircraft. The collaboration aims to introduce and operate an all-electric air taxi service in India.
- The **Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA)** has announced a groundbreaking target for its **14 member airlines**, including newly inducted Air India, to **achieve 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030**. This move aims to address the aviation industry's carbon emissions challenges, signaling a significant demand for sustainable fuel production.
- In a significant leap forward for the telecommunications landscape in India, the **Department of Telecom (DoT)** has granted **Internet Service Provider (ISP)** licenses to **Jio Satellite Communications and OneWeb**. This developmental follows a year after both companies obtained permits to offer satellite communication services, marking a crucial milestone in their efforts to revolutionize internet connectivity.
- In a groundbreaking move, **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)**, the country's leading gas firm, has successfully executed the **world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG)** transfer. This innovative approach aims to reduce shipping costs and cut emissions significantly, marking a pivotal moment for GAIL as it explores unconventional methods to enhance its business operations.
- PwC India** is anticipating a historic milestone, projecting gross revenue to surpass **₹9,000 crores** in the current fiscal year. **Sanjeev Krishan**, the chairperson, expresses confidence in achieving this remarkable feat, attributing it to robust growth across all business segments.
- India, the leading global exporter of rice, is anticipated to **prolong its restrictions** on overseas sales into the next year. This decision is poised to keep rice prices near their highest levels since the 2008 food crisis. For the past decade, India has been a major player in global rice exports, constituting almost **40% of the total**. However, to maintain domestic supplies and curb price surges, the Indian government has imposed export duties and minimum prices. Notably,

- certain rice varieties, including broken and non-basmati white rice, are prohibited from export.
- India's startup landscape has witnessed remarkable growth, emerging as the **third-largest hub in the world**, following the **United States and China**. Bengaluru, the capital of **Karnataka**, topped the **list of women-led startups**, **boasting 1,783 women-led startups**, leading the charge for gender diversity in entrepreneurship. Despite the overall success of the startup ecosystem, the gender gap remains a significant challenge. According to the data of **Traxon**, Bengaluru is at the forefront of **women-led startups**, with **1,783 ventures, followed by Mumbai (1,480) and Delhi (1,195)**. Noida, Kolkata and Ahmedabad also make notable contributions, ranking eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively, showcasing the geographic distribution of women entrepreneurs in India.
 - The **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** in **Kozhikode** has achieved a significant milestone in the field of agriculture with the successful development of a groundbreaking black pepper variety named '**IISR Chandra**'. This achievement is the culmination of an innovative research and development process that deviates from conventional methods, providing the agricultural sector with a potential game-changer.
 - In the dynamic financial landscape of **Mumbai**, **Nippon Life India Asset Management** has strategically entered the realm of private credit, aligning with the shifting trends following regulatory tightening by banks and mutual funds withdrawing from promoter funding. This move echoes similar initiatives by **Centrum and Avendus**.
 - In a groundbreaking move, **Blue Dart Express** has announced a strategic partnership with **India Post** to introduce **automated Digital Parcel Lockers at selected post offices**. This innovative collaboration aims to redefine the landscape of efficient and reliable logistics solutions, providing customers with an additional and convenient delivery method.
 - Mastercard, a prominent global technology company in the payments industry, has forged a strategic partnership with **U GRO Capital**, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) financing**. This collaboration aims to provide financial solutions to small businesses in India, addressing the longstanding challenge of limited access to capital faced by MSMEs.
 - Svantra Microfin Private Limited**, founded by Ananya Birla, is set to acquire **Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited**, a subsidiary of Sachin Bansal's Navi Group, in a significant deal valued at Rs 1,479 crore. The transaction is anticipated to be finalized by the end of 2023.





- Warren Buffett-led Berkshire Hathaway has made headlines by completely divesting its 2.46% stake in One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm. The move resulted in a significant loss of about Rs 507 crore for the legendary investor.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released a report, highlighting the critical need for a substantial decline in global demand for oil and gas to **limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050**.
- IndiGo, India's largest airline, announced the launch of its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chat assistant** named "6Eskai."
- Tata AutoComp Systems**, a prominent player in the automotive industry, has successfully sold a substantial land parcel spanning over **13.26 acres** in **Pune's Maan area**. The transaction, valued at **₹134 crore**, involved the sale of both land and a **1,00,000 sq ft** structure on the premises.
- Hong Kong-based flexible workspace provider, **The Executive Centre (TEC)**, is strategically focusing on its fastest-growing markets, India and the **Middle East**, with plans to add approximately **500,000 sq ft**. Despite global economic uncertainties, these regions have displayed resilience and robustness, making them prime targets for TEC's expansion.
- Indian companies** are undergoing a transformative shift as they increasingly prioritize sustainability in their operations. According to a survey conducted by **IBM** and **Morning Consult**, a staggering **82%** of Indian business leaders express a strong intent to hire professionals with expertise in green and sustainability technologies.
- In a groundbreaking move, a **Virgin Atlantic** passenger jet, fueled entirely by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), completed a London-to-New York journey, showcasing the aviation industry's commitment to **low-carbon** options. Despite challenges, the flight signifies a crucial step towards reducing emissions in an industry responsible for **2-3%** of global carbon emissions.



- Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB)**, a major U.S. pension fund with assets surpassing \$600 billion, is poised to bring substantial investments to Indian equity markets. The FRTIB's decision to transition from the MSCI EAFE index to the MSCI ACWI IMI ex USA ex China ex Hong Kong index is expected to trigger a massive \$28 billion global equity reshuffling, with India emerging as a key beneficiary.
- Adani Power Ltd (APL)** has announced its pioneering green ammonia combustion pilot project at the **Mundra power plant** in **Gujarat**. This initiative aligns with **APL's** commitment to adopting sustainable practices and reducing its carbon footprint.

Business Current Affairs of October

- Beverage company **Coca-Cola India** made a significant announcement, unveiling its latest sustainability initiative with the launch of fully recycled PET bottles for its flagship **Coca-Cola brand**. This initiative is set to make a positive impact on both the environment and the Indian consumer market.
- REC Limited**, a prominent Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in Power Sector Financing and Development, announced the launch of its latest digital innovation, the '**SUGAM REC**' mobile application. This exclusive app has been specifically designed to cater to the needs of investors interested in **REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds**. With '**SUGAM**', REC aims to simplify the investment process and enhance the overall experience for both existing and prospective investors.
- The stock price of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, an entity under the **Gautam Adani-led group**, experienced a significant decline of over **5 percent** on **NSE** (National Stock Exchange) amid certain events affecting the region. APSEZ operates the **Haifa port in Israel** and has emphasized its vigilance in ensuring business continuity despite the challenges faced.
- Microsoft** has successfully completed its acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the renowned developer behind popular video game franchises like **Call of Duty** and **World of Warcraft**. This monumental deal, valued at \$69 billion, signifies **Microsoft's largest-ever acquisition** in its history, surpassing the \$26 billion purchase of LinkedIn in 2016 and the \$7.5 billion acquisition of Bethesda in 2021.
- Indian Oil Corporation's** board has given the green light for an equity investment of **₹1,660.15 crore**, securing a 50% stake in the joint venture company Indian Oil NTPC Green Energy. This strategic move aligns with their commitment to renewable energy initiatives.





- The prominent Indian food tech company, **Zomato**, has introduced a hyperlocal delivery service called '**Xtreme**'. This service aims to leverage the extensive fleet of over 3 lakh two-wheeler delivery executives that Zomato has at its disposal. Xtreme is designed to cater to the needs of both **small and large businesses** for the intracity delivery of small packages.
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** (FICCI) recently unveiled its latest Economic Outlook Survey, providing insights into the anticipated growth of India's economy in the upcoming fiscal year, FY24. The survey, conducted in September 2023, brings together eminent economists from the banking, financial services, and industry sectors to provide a comprehensive analysis of the economic landscape. The survey's central projection foresees a 6.3% growth in the Indian economy for FY24.
- In a significant move to empower the retailer community in the states of **Odisha and Uttar Pradesh**, the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, operating under the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, has joined forces with **Coca-Cola India**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated a series of significant maritime projects, including the unveiling of a long-term vision document for the **blue economy**. These initiatives are aligned with the '**Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**' for the **Indian maritime blue economy**.
- Tata Motors**, a prominent name in the Indian automotive sector, announced a significant move that would reshape the country's logistics landscape. The company revealed its plan to acquire a **27% stake in Freight Tiger**, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform specializing in end-to-end logistics solutions. This strategic partnership represents a crucial step in advancing efficiency within the truck and freight ecosystem in India.
- NLC India**, a **Navratna** public sector company, has unveiled its latest venture into the renewable energy sector. On a mission to bolster India's green energy capacity, the company has established a wholly-owned subsidiary known as **NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL)**.
- State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has successfully secured a bid to acquire **PTC India Ltd's** wind power unit for **Rs 925 crore**.
- Illegal instant loan apps** have become a significant problem in India, leading to financial scams and even driving some victims to suicide. These apps offer quick money but compromise users' **privacy and security**. To address this, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** in India has proposed a solution.
- Zomato** has taken a big step to support its women delivery partners by introducing a **maternity insurance plan**. The goal is to make the Zomato community more welcoming

and helpful for these women and their families during pregnancy. This initiative is the first of its kind in the industry.

- Swan Energy**, a Mumbai-based conglomerate, recently acquired **Reliance Naval and Engineering** through its special purpose vehicle, **Hazel Infra**, solidifying its position in the commercial and naval defence vessel manufacturing and ship repairing segments. The move aligns with the government's **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, emphasizing self-reliance in shipbuilding.
- Tata Motors** has secured a significant ₹**766 crore** arbitration award from the **West Bengal Industrial Development Corp. Ltd (WBIDC)**, concluding a prolonged dispute stemming from the closure of its Singur plant in 2008. This plant was intended for manufacturing the Nano, the world's most affordable car.

Business Current Affairs of September

- Viacom 18**, a Reliance-owned media outlet, has emerged victorious in the auction for media rights, encompassing both digital and TV broadcasting, of India's domestic matches and BCCI-hosted domestic tournaments for the next five years. The auction took place on August 31, 2023. This significant acquisition complements Viacom 18's existing digital rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the FIFA World Cup rights for India. Let's delve deeper into the details.
- The **Department of Public Enterprise (DPE)** conferred '**Navratna Status**' upon **Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF)**. Navratnas constitute a group of public sector firms endowed with the financial independence to invest **up to Rs 1000 crore** without necessitating approval from the central government. Prior to this, the company had attained '**Miniratna Status**' from the Department of Public Enterprise.
- India's first **UPI-ATM**, a **White Label ATM (WLA)** by **Hitachi Payment Services** in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, was introduced to enable seamless cash withdrawals without the need for physical ATM cards. This innovation allows customers of certain banks to enjoy QR-based cashless withdrawals. The **UPI-ATM**, also known as **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW)**, offers a simple process for users of participating banks who use UPI to withdraw cash from compatible ATMs.
- ITI Limited**, a premier telecom company and multi-unit central public sector undertaking in India, has made significant strides in the technology market by developing its own branded Laptop and Micro PC, branded as '**SMAASH**'. These products have taken the market by storm, competing successfully against well-established MNC brands like Acer, HP, Dell, and Lenovo.





- Air India**, one of India's prominent airlines, has introduced '**Project Abhinandan**', a new initiative aimed at providing passengers with a personalized and hassle-free experience, particularly in managing baggage issues and dealing with missed flights. Under this initiative, Air India has stationed specially trained service assurance officers (SAOs) at 16 major airports across the country to offer on-ground assistance and support to travelers.
- Volvo Cars**, a prominent name in the automotive industry, has recently made a groundbreaking announcement. The **Swedish** car manufacturer has declared its intention to cease the production of diesel-powered vehicles by early 2024, marking a significant step toward its goal of becoming an **all-electric carmaker**. This decision aligns with Volvo's commitment to transitioning fully to electric vehicles by 2030.
- Apple**, the renowned iPhone maker, is gearing up to significantly expand its manufacturing operations in India. Government sources report that the company aims to increase its production in the country by over fivefold, reaching approximately **\$40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore)** within the next 4-5 years.
- E-commerce giant **Amazon.com** has announced a strategic investment of up to **\$4 billion in Anthropic**, an AI startup, marking a significant move to enhance its presence in generative artificial intelligence. This partnership, as reported by Bloomberg (Software company), not only involves a substantial financial commitment but also provides Anthropic with access to Amazon's formidable computing power.
- Maruti Suzuki India**, the leading automobile manufacturer in the country, has embarked on a unique journey of collaboration and empowerment by teaming up with the **Indian Navy**. Their joint mission is to create awareness about career opportunities among the youth of Northeastern India through the '**Khamree Mo Sikkim**' outreach programme. This partnership not only reflects the commitment of all stakeholders to the Northeast region but also demonstrates the potential for positive change through collective efforts.

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Business Current Affairs of August

- Amazon India** has inaugurated its first-ever floating store on **Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir**. This initiative aligns with Amazon India's commitment to providing customers with reliable and convenient delivery services, while simultaneously enabling small businesses to seize profitable earning prospects.
- India's eight core infrastructure sectors have shown a notable growth rate of **8.2% in June**, marking the highest in five months, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's latest data released on July 31. These core sectors, including coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas, play a crucial role in the country's industrial production.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network witnessed remarkable growth in July 2023, setting new records in both transaction volume and value. After a minor dip in June, **UPI transactions surged by 44% year-on-year (YoY)** and reached a staggering ₹15.34 lakh crore. The number of transactions also hit a new high of **996 crore**, a significant increase of 58% compared to July 2022.
- In a special event in New Delhi, **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, **revealed the new logo of NMDC**. The launch of new logo is a big step for NMDC, showing its commitment to responsible mining and global standards.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has taken a significant step to enhance the efficiency of **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)** by halving the timeline for listing shares on stock exchanges after the IPO closure. This move aims to provide substantial benefits to both investors and issuers in the capital markets.
- Tata Sons, the parent company of **Air India**, has introduced a new appearance and brand identity for the airline. This change includes a new logo and design, replacing the well-known mascot "**Maharaja**." This move comes as part of Tata Group's ongoing efforts to transform Air India since its acquisition more than a year ago.
- Viacom18**, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, **JioCinema** and **Voot**. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema.
- Hyundai Motor** Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intention to acquire **General Motors' Talegaon plant** located in **Maharashtra**. This strategic move not only allows General Motors to exit the Indian market but also presents Hyundai with the opportunity to **increase** its annual production capacity.





- **Wipro Limited** has announced the establishment of a groundbreaking **Center of Excellence (CoE)** on **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**. This collaboration manifests Wipro's commitment to drive **continuous innovation** in emerging technologies, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in the tech industry.
- **OpenAI** has successfully acquired **Global Illumination**, an ingenious startup based in **New York**, which harnesses the power of AI to **craft innovative creative tools**, digital experiences, and robust infrastructure. The acquisition signals OpenAI's commitment to amplify its capabilities and revolutionize the AI landscape.
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)**, a prominent state-owned engineering company, has successfully developed the first set of indigenous **Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts**. These catalysts play a crucial role in mitigating nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. Previously reliant on imports, this achievement underscores the 'Make in India' initiative championed by the government.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has recently taken a stern stance against **Bharti Airtel**, imposing a **penalty of Rs 1 crore** for its failure to adhere to the stipulations outlined in **Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002**. This move comes in relation to Bharti Airtel's acquisition of a stake in **Bharti Telemedia** from Lion Meadow Investment Limited, an affiliate entity of **Warburg Pincus**.
- **Reliance Retail**, the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd, has taken a significant step in the fashion retail sector with the introduction of its new brand, **Yousta**. The brand's debut was marked by the opening of its flagship store in **Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall**.
- Online grocery delivery startup **Zepto** has successfully raised **\$200 million** in a Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of **\$1.4 billion**. This achievement marks Zepto as the first unicorn of 2023. The funding was led by StepStone Group, a US-based private markets investment firm, and is StepStone Group's inaugural direct investment in an Indian company.
- In a significant partnership, **ACME Group**, a prominent renewable energy company, has joined forces with **Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL)** to establish an expansive green hydrogen and green ammonia project within **Odisha's Gopalpur Industrial Park**.

Business Current Affairs of July

- The Indian government has taken a significant step towards establishing India's first carbon market by notifying a draft **framework for the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023**. The framework outlines the regulatory structure and key stakeholders responsible for the formation and functioning of the carbon market.

- The **Ministry of External Affairs** declared that trade between India and Malaysia can now be conducted using the **Indian Rupee (INR)** as a mode of settlement, in addition to other currencies. This announcement follows the launch of the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** by the Ministry of Commerce the day before, which reaffirmed the government's determination to establish the rupee as a global currency.
- According to a recent report by the **World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO)**, India has witnessed a significant increase in its share of global commercial services exports. The country's share has doubled from **2% in 2005 to 4.4% in 2022**. This growth is attributed to various factors, including the rise of the services sector and the implementation of reforms to facilitate **foreign direct investment (FDI) in services**.
- **Piramal Finance**, a leading housing finance company, has taken a significant step towards empowering women by opening its first all-women branch called "**Maitreyi**" in Tripunithura, a suburban area in Kochi.
- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)**. The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA.
- India's small drugmakers in the **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector** will soon be required to adhere to the good manufacturing practices outlined in Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced this decision after engaging with industry representatives, emphasizing the need for quality assurance and reducing compliance burdens.
- India's renowned fintech giant and leading Full-Stack Payments and Business Banking Platform, **Razorpay**, has made a significant announcement regarding its first-ever international Payment Gateway for the **Malaysian** market as it acquires Malaysian fintech start-up '**Curlec**' for \$20 million, which has been rebranded as '**Curlec by Razorpay**'.
- Reliance Brands Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries' retail arm, Reliance Retail Ventures, is nearing the acquisition of actor Alia Bhatt's kidswear brand, **Ed-a-Mamma**, at an estimated value of ₹300-350 crore. The agreement is anticipated to be concluded in the next seven to ten days, and it is poised to transform the children's wear market Reliance Brands' acquisition of Ed-a-Mamma not only broadens the retail powerhouse's children's wear offerings but also opens up new prospects for Ed-a-Mamma to strengthen its presence in physical stores.
- **Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFS)** of the Reliance Industries Ltd Group and global asset manager **BlackRock** have joined forces to create a groundbreaking 50:50 joint venture called "**Jio BlackRock**." This strategic partnership aims to provide millions of Indian investors with access to affordable and innovative investment solutions through technology-enabled platforms.





- On July 26, 2023, **Mahindra & Mahindra**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, confirmed its investment in **RBL Bank** by acquiring a 3.53% stake for ₹417 crores. The acquisition was announced through a regulatory filing, and Mahindra & Mahindra expressed its potential to make

further investments in RBL Bank, subject to pricing, regulatory approvals, and required procedures. However, the company clarified that it would not exceed a stake of 9.9%.

Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of December

- In a significant achievement for India's maritime capabilities, the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** delivered the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country, **INS Sandhayak**, to the Indian Navy. The **110-meter-long vessel** is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the navy, marking a crucial milestone in the indigenous shipbuilding industry.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has recently signed a significant contract worth ₹588.68 crore with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for the implementation of the "**Digital Coast Guard (DCG)**" project. This initiative is a crucial step towards bolstering the Indian Coast Guard's technological capabilities.
- In a significant step towards **fostering gender inclusivity** and strengthening the capabilities of women military personnel in peacekeeping operations, the **Indian Army** recently conducted a **table-top exercise (TTX)** for women officers from the **Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**. This exercise, held at the **Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi** from December 4 to 8, is part of the ongoing joint military training initiatives between India and ASEAN member states.
- As part of its ongoing long-range deployment to Africa, the **Indian Naval Ship Sumedha** made a historic arrival at **Port Lamu, Kenya** on 09 December 2023. This visit is significant as it marks the **first port call by any Indian Naval Ship** at the recently developed port in Kenya, showcasing the growing maritime collaboration between India and Kenya.
- The **Indian Navy**, in collaboration with various defense, state, and civil agencies, recently concluded a comprehensive two-phased exercise named '**Prasthan**' in the Offshore Development Area off the Mumbai coast. This exercise, conducted every six months, is pivotal in validating and refining measures and procedures aimed at addressing various contingencies that may arise in oil production platforms.
- In a tribute to the historic military triumph during the **Kargil War**, the Indian Army orchestrated the '**Honour Run – Indian Army Veteran's Half Marathon**' in Delhi on December 10, 2023. The event, conducted under the theme 'Honour Run,' aimed to foster a stronger connection between the Indian Army, veterans, and the public, especially the youth. Participants from diverse backgrounds paid homage to the bravehearts, showcasing the nation's caliber, potential, and energy.

- The **Indian and Vietnamese Armies** have initiated an **11-day military exercise** in Vietnam, commencing on December 11. This collaborative endeavor, named "**VINBAX-23**," reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations and is a response to shared concerns over China's assertive actions in the South China Sea.
- Raksha Rajya Mantri **Shri Ajay Bhatt** ceremoniously flagged in a team from the **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling**, which successfully completed '**Mission Antarctica**.' The expedition, initiated in 2021, was led by Group Captain Jai Kishan and comprised three trekkers. The apex of their achievement was the hoisting of the National Flag, an impressive 7,500 sq ft and weighing 75 kilograms, atop **Mt Rhenock in Sikkim Himalayas** at an astounding altitude of 16,500 feet.
- The **Indian Navy** is set to re-induct a refurbished 22-year-old fast attack craft, **INS Tarmugli**, in a ceremonial commissioning ceremony at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This event marks a significant milestone, as INS Tarmugli returns to active service more than seventeen years **after being gifted to the Maldives** and subsequently returned to India in May of the current year.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** recently achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting a flight trial of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, an indigenous high-speed flying-wing **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)**. This successful demonstration places India in an elite group of countries that have mastered the controls for flying wing technology.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a **Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking**, has recently clinched a significant order worth **Rs.4,522 crore from the Indian Army**. The order, pertaining to the supply of fuses for various calibres, is a testament to BEL's continued commitment to contributing to the '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' (**Self-Reliant India**) initiative. The project is set to involve the collaboration of Indian Electronics and associated Industries, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) serving as sub-vendors for BEL.
- The **Ministry of Defence**, in a significant development on December 15, 2023, sealed a landmark contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Pune**. This groundbreaking agreement entails the procurement of **Electronic Fuzes** for the Indian Army over a 10-year period, amounting to a total cost of Rs 5,336.25 crore.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 **Bharatiya** 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.

Defense Current Affairs of November

- Commodore **Sunil Kaushik**, launched the remarkable vessel, the 25T Bollard Pull Tug named '**Mahabali**', on the 28th of October 2023 at M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd in Bharuch, **Gujarat**. This launch not only represented a new addition to India's naval fleet but also a significant milestone in the 'Make in India' initiative of the Ministry of Defence.
- In a significant development, a contingent from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, comprising 120 personnel, embarked on a mission to Kazakhstan today. Their objective is to participate in the **7th edition** of the Joint Military '**Exercise KAZIND-2023**'. This collaborative endeavor will take place in Otar, Kazakhstan, spanning from **30th October to 11th November 2023**.
- India has taken a decisive step in enhancing its naval capabilities by submitting a **Letter of Request (LoR)** to the **French government**. This formal communication signifies India's intent to **acquire 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft** for the Indian Navy. The procurement will be carried out through a government-to-government deal, reinforcing the strategic cooperation between India and France.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken significant steps to bolster its air defense capabilities along the borders with China and Pakistan by deploying **three out of the five agreed-upon S-400 air defense missile squadrons**. However, the remaining two squadrons' delivery schedule has been affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and officials from both countries are set to meet soon to finalize the timeline.
- In a significant milestone, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted a ceremony at the **Uttarlai Air Force Station in Rajasthan's Barmer**, marking the phase-out of another squadron of the iconic **Mig-21 Bison fighter aircraft**. This action has reduced the active number of Mig-21 Bison squadrons to just two.
- The **United States military** recently conducted a **Minuteman III missile launch**, showcasing its **nuclear capability**. The Minuteman III is a vital component of the nation's strategic deterrent forces, managed by the **Air Force Global Strike Command**.
- On 6th November, Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** unveiled the **crest** of the Indian Navy's latest warship '**Surat**'. This event took place in the very city that the warship is named after, a historic first for the Indian Navy. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chief of Naval Staff **Admiral R Hari Kumar**, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, and Rear Admiral Anil Jaggi, among other senior officers.





- The Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023, a two-day event hosted by the Indian Army in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), took place on November 3rd and 4th, with a focus on addressing security challenges in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. The event featured six different sessions and aimed to foster collaborative security solutions.
- India has recently granted approval for Sweden's Saab to establish a new manufacturing facility in the country, marking a significant milestone as the first foreign company to receive 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's defense projects. While India previously permitted up to 74% FDI in the defense sector under the automatic route, clearances beyond that threshold were subject to individual assessment. The government relaxed these regulations in 2015 to encourage foreign investments, yet until now, no foreign firm had received permission for 100% FDI in defense.
- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has touched down at the Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, signalling their participation in the prestigious Dubai Airshow, a biennial event set to enthral aviation enthusiasts from November 13 to 17, 2023.
- The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023. Ships and aircraft from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.
- The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise, known as "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023," kicked off in Aundh (Pune). Running from November 16th to 29th, 2023, the exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between the Indian and Sri Lankan military forces. Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 represents a significant step in promoting collaboration and understanding between India and Sri Lanka. It emphasizes the importance of joint military efforts and modern techniques in addressing challenges, ultimately contributing to regional security and stability.
- On 16th November 2023, a significant milestone in India's naval capabilities was achieved as 'Amini,' the fourth of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Project, was successfully launched at M/s L&T Shipbuilding in Kattupalli. The Launch Ceremony, presided over by Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, showcased the culmination of efforts towards indigenous shipbuilding.
- On December 1, President Droupadi Murmu is set to confer the prestigious President's Colour to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in a grand ceremony, marking its platinum jubilee year. This event holds significant importance, considering AFMC's reputation as a

- premier establishment within the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and its standing as one of the leading medical colleges in the country.
- The 14th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, known as "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023," commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, signaling a renewed commitment to enhancing military collaboration and interoperability between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces.
 - Indian Naval Ship Sumedha arrived at Maputo, Mozambique on November 21, 2023, as part of the ongoing Extended Operational Deployment to Africa. This strategic port call aims to fortify long-standing diplomatic relations, enhance maritime cooperation, and promote interoperability between the Indian and Mozambican navies.
 - In a significant development following the India-Australia 2+2 summit, an Indian Armed Forces contingent, comprising personnel from all three services, embarked on a journey to Perth for the second edition of AustraHind-23 – a collaborative military exercise between the two nations. This joint exercise, spanning two weeks from Nov 22 to Dec 6, aims to enhance inter-operability and conduct multi-domain operations in urban and semi-urban terrains, adhering to the United Nations peacekeeping operations protocol.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially inked between the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The agreement, focused on technical collaboration, joint research, and development in the realm of defence technology, is poised to significantly impact India's defence capabilities.
 - The 17th edition of the Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN is set to strengthen the longstanding ties between India and Nepal as military contingents from both nations converge in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, for this annual event. The exercise, scheduled from 24th November to 7th December 2023, alternates between the two countries, underscoring their commitment to mutual cooperation.
 - In a significant stride towards enhancing self-reliance in the defence sector, the Indian Coast Guard and Navy are set to acquire 15 C-295 transport aircraft. The proposals for the acquisition are currently in advanced stages within the defence ministry, with the Navy eyeing nine planes and the Indian Coast Guard planning to procure six.
 - The 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) was carried out by the Indian Coast Guard on November 25, 2023, off Vadinar, Gujarat. This event aimed to assess the readiness and coordination of various agencies in responding to a marine oil spill, as per the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).





- The **Mitrashakti 2023** joint military exercise, a collaborative effort between the **Indian Army** and the **Sri Lankan Army**, concluded at **Pune's southern command** foreign training node. The **12-day exercise** aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of each other's operational strategies and tactics.
- The **crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal)**, Indian Navy's **third stealth guided missile destroyer**, was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a momentous ceremony held in New Delhi on Tuesday. The occasion was graced by the presence of Manipur Chief Minister **N Biren Singh**, marking a historic moment in the country's naval history.
- The **Military Literature Festival**, an event aimed at spreading awareness about the crucial role of the armed forces and inspiring the youth, is set to return for its second district-level edition in Amritsar. Organized by the **Military Literature Festival Association and chaired by Lt-Gen TS Shergill (retd.)**, this event follows the successful inaugural edition held in Patiala in January.
- Chennai-based drone manufacturer, **Garuda Aerospace**, has achieved a significant milestone by securing the **second type certificate for medium category drones** from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This achievement was announced by the company on Tuesday, signifying a crucial advancement in the field of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the inaugural edition of **MAHASAGR**, a high-level virtual interaction aimed at promoting active and security and growth in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. The event brought together heads of navies and maritime agencies from key littorals, fostering a collective maritime approach to counter common challenges. On the auspicious occasion of its 1-year anniversary, the Indian Navy's outreach initiative, MAHASAGR, marks a significant milestone in fostering high-level virtual interactions among **Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region**. The chosen theme, "**Collective Maritime Approach towards Countering Common Challenges**," underscored the imperative for harmonizing and collaborating capacities and capabilities in the IOR.

Defense Current Affairs of October

- The **Indian Navy** is preparing to host the **second edition** of the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar, known as **Swavlamban**, scheduled to take place on October 4th and 5th in the vibrant city of New Delhi. This eagerly anticipated event promises to be a milestone moment, showcasing groundbreaking developments in naval technology. In particular, the Indian Navy is set to unveil two remarkable platforms at this event: the **Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms** and the **Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV)**.

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is making significant strides towards enhancing its air defense capabilities with the impending induction of indigenous **Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR)** Air-to-Air Missiles. The IAF has entered into contracts with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for these advanced missiles, marking a crucial step towards reducing import dependency and bolstering national security.
- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi**, AVSM, VSM, took over as the **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff**, marking a significant transition in the leadership of the Indian Navy. With a distinguished career spanning over 35 years, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.
- Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhari** announced that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to procure a range of weapon systems, including aircraft, helicopters, and missiles, with an estimated cost ranging from **Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Rs 3 lakh crore** over the next six to seven years. This move aligns with the government's push for self-reliance in defense production.
- India and Bangladesh** commenced the **11th edition** of their annual joint military exercise, **SAMPRITI**, in **Umroi, Meghalaya**. This collaborative endeavor, organized alternately by both countries, highlights their robust bilateral defence cooperation initiatives. Since its inception in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009, SAMPRITI has successfully conducted ten editions until 2022.
- Amidst its ongoing efforts to modernize and replace its aging **Russian-origin aircraft**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced plans to retire its iconic **MiG-21 fighter jets** and replace them with the indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A**. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari made this significant revelation during a press conference held in Delhi ahead of the **Air Force Day celebrations** scheduled for **October 8th** in Prayagraj.
- India and Bangladesh** commenced the **11th edition** of their annual joint military exercise, **SAMPRITI**, in **Umroi, Meghalaya**. This collaborative endeavor, organized alternately by both countries, highlights their robust bilateral defence cooperation initiatives. Since its inception in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009, SAMPRITI has successfully conducted ten editions until 2022. SAMPRITI-XI, spanning 14 days, engages approximately 350 personnel from both sides, emphasizing the significance of enhancing interoperability, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.





- State-run aircraft manufacturer **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** (HAL) recently delivered the first trainer version of the **Light Combat Aircraft** (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF). This milestone is significant, as the twin-seater Tejas trainer will play a crucial role in training IAF pilots and can also serve as a fighter aircraft when needed.
- The Emergency Procurement Power (EP)** was granted to India's armed forces as an interim measure following the **2016 Uri attacks**. This power allowed them to bypass the lengthy procurement process and quickly acquire essential equipment and technology. The EP was extended to all three branches of the military – **the Army, Navy, and Air Force**. In EP-IV, all schemes, amounting to nearly **Rs 11,000 crore**, were contracted with Indian vendors.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** celebrated its **91st anniversary** at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of the **new IAF ensign** by Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari. This significant event witnessed several historic firsts, including the inclusion of the Air Force crest and the first-ever woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade, Group Captain **Shaliza Dhami** among others.
- The **Indian Navy**, known for its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, has embarked on a transformative initiative known as the '**360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism**'. This initiative recognizes the invaluable contributions of both women and men in whites and aims to enhance their professional and personal development.
- The **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, the nation's oldest think tank, is set to host the **first-ever Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)**, scheduled for October 21 and 22. This groundbreaking event aims to fill a void in the national discourse and cultural calendar by shedding light on India's rich military history, contemporary security concerns, and the pursuit of self-reliance in military capabilities through the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** programs.
- The **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE)** is a significant initiative that has evolved since its inception in 2015. It is a direct outcome of the directive issued during the Combined Commanders' Conference of 2015 by India's Honorable Prime Minister. Since then, AJHE, known as **CHAKRAVAT**, has grown into a multi-agency endeavor that includes the active participation of India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and international organizations. The 2023 edition of AJHE promises to further synergize national efforts and expand its scope by involving eight countries from the Indian Ocean Region.

- India** is in the process of finalizing a significant defense deal with the **United States**. According to reliable sources, the agreement involves the purchase of **31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** from **General Atomics (GA)**. This deal is expected to enhance India's military capabilities significantly.
- The **Indian Army** showcased its exceptional military prowess on the international stage by securing a **gold medal** at the prestigious **Cambrian Patrol Competition** in **2023**. The event, held in **Wales, UK**, witnessed the participation of an elite team from the **3/5 Gorkha Rifles** (Frontier Force), marking a significant achievement for the Indian Army.
- In a significant development for the **Indian Navy**, the state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyer, **Yard 12706 (Imphal)**, has been officially transferred to Indian Navy on **October 20, 2023**. This momentous occasion marks a major milestone in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, enhancing its maritime strength in the Indian Ocean region.
- The **Indian Naval** is all set to host **Mid-Planning Conference For Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN-24)**, a significant multilateral naval exercise exercise, at **Visakhapatnam** from **19th February to 27th February 2024**. This event follows a long-standing tradition of hosting the MILAN exercise, showcasing India's commitment to fostering international maritime cooperation.
- The Indian Army recently launched '**Project Udbhav**' with the aim of rediscovering the profound **Indian heritage** of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts. "Project Udbhav, initiated by the military, aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's **Arthashastra**, Kamandaka's **Nitisara**, and the **Thirukkural** by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.
- The **Indian Military Heritage Festival** took center stage at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, who was joined by Chief of Army Staff General **Manoj Pande**. The **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, the oldest tri-service think tank of India working since 1870 conducted the annual 'Indian Military Heritage Festival'. This grand occasion served as a tribute to India's rich military history and aimed to inspire the youth of the nation.
- Israeli forces** have introduced the cutting-edge "**Iron Sting**" system, designed to neutralize rocket launchers with remarkable accuracy, marking the first-ever use of this technology. The Magellan unit, in collaboration with the Air Force, has successfully thwarted dozens of terrorists using various weapons, including the innovative and highly precise mortar bomb known as "**Steel Sting**".





Defense Current Affairs of September

- In a testament to their ongoing defense cooperation, the **Indian and Malaysian** armies have initiated “**Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023.**” This joint bilateral training exercise, held at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to strengthen military capabilities and enhance the synergy between the two nations.
- In a groundbreaking development, Air Marshal **Sadhna S Nair** has taken on the distinguished role of Director General **Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**, marking a significant milestone in the Indian military. Notably, she is the first woman to hold this esteemed position upon her promotion to the rank of Air Marshal.
- In a significant display of international cooperation, **India and the European Union (EU)** recently carried out their first joint naval exercise in the **Gulf of Guinea**, aimed at strengthening maritime security in the region. This exercise marked a milestone in their maritime security partnership and came following the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels.
- The Indian Army** inaugurated its first **Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT)** at the **Special Forces Training School (SFTS)** in **Himachal Pradesh**. This cutting-edge facility provides military trainees with a controlled environment to enhance their **Combat Free Fall (CFF)** skills by simulating real-life free fall conditions.
- Commodore **Sunil Kaushik**, launched the remarkable vessel, the **25T Bollard Pull Tug named 'Mahabali,'** on the 28th of October 2023 at M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd in Bharuch, **Gujarat**. This launch not only represented a new addition to India's naval fleet but also a significant milestone in the 'Make in India' initiative of the Ministry of Defence.
- In a significant development, a contingent from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, comprising 120 personnel, embarked on a mission to Kazakhstan today. Their objective is to participate in the **7th edition** of the Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023.' This collaborative endeavor will take place in Otar, Kazakhstan, spanning from **30th October to 11th November 2023.**
- India** has taken a decisive step in enhancing its naval capabilities by submitting a **Letter of Request (LoR)** to the **French government**. This formal communication signifies India's intent to **acquire 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft** for the Indian Navy. The procurement will be carried out through a government-to-government deal, reinforcing the strategic cooperation between India and France.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken significant steps to bolster its air defense capabilities along the borders with China and Pakistan by deploying **three** out of the five agreed-upon **S-400 air defense missile squadrons.** However, the remaining two squadrons' delivery schedule has been affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and officials from both countries are set to meet soon to finalize the timeline.

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has kicked off its annual mega training exercise, **Trishul**, which is a crucial event aimed at bolstering its operational readiness and capabilities. This extensive exercise is organized by the **Western Air Command (WAC)** and spans a vast geographical area, from **Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan.**
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is collaborating with the **Drone Federation of India** to co-host '**Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.**' This upcoming event, scheduled for the **25th and 26th of September 2023,** will take place at the IAF's airbase in **Hindan** (Ghaziabad). It is anticipated to be a pioneering exhibition highlighting the prowess of the Indian drone industry, with more than 50 live aerial demonstrations.
- Indian Navy's **INS Sumedha** arrived at Port Alexandria, **Egypt** to participate in '**Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23**'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from **34 countries**. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in the **Middle East and North Africa region**. This joint military exercise, hosted in Egypt, marks a historic milestone for the Indian Navy and strengthens India's diplomatic and strategic ties with partner nations.
- The Indian and French Navies, steeped in rich maritime traditions and strategic cooperation, recently concluded the **Phase II of the 21st edition** of the Varuna naval exercise, **Varuna-23.** Held in the **Arabian Sea**, this exercise exemplifies the commitment of both nations to enhance their warfighting capabilities, improve interoperability, and promote peace, security, and stability in the region.
- A groundbreaking collaboration between global defense and security company **BAE Systems and India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** is set to revolutionize the Indian defense landscape. The partnership aims to introduce the world-leading **Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), known as the 'BvS10,'** to the Indian armed forces.
- '**Operation Sajag**', a comprehensive drill was conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard** along the west coast on September 18, 2023. It is a significant event in the realm of coastal security. This operation involves all stakeholders in the coastal security construct and plays a pivotal role in revalidating the coastal security mechanism while enhancing awareness among fishermen operating at sea.
- The **Indian Navy** is all set to host the **second edition** of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, known as '**Swavlamban 2023**', scheduled to take place on 4th and 5th October 2023. This event follows the maiden edition of the seminar, which was held in July 2022 and marked a significant milestone in the Navy's quest for innovation and self-reliance.
- India's defense capabilities receive a significant boost with the development of the **P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System**, an indigenous marvel designed to enhance the paratrooping capabilities of the country's Armed Forces. This innovative system, entirely developed within India, promises to revolutionize the way military stores are paratrooped on the battlefield.





- After an order was approved by the **Jammu and Kashmir administration** regarding the renaming of **Udhampur railway station**, the Northern Railway has notified the change in the name to '**Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station**', in honour of the Army braveheart..
- The **30th edition** of the **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** has commenced, marking another milestone in the strong and enduring partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). This annual naval exercise, which began in **1994**, stands as a testament to the deep-rooted maritime cooperation between the two nations. Indian Naval Ships **Ranvijay** and **Kavaratti**, alongside the submarine **INS Sindhukesari**, have arrived in Singapore to participate in SIMBEX-2023. The exercise also sees the inclusion of the **Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I**.
- **Israel** unveiled its cutting-edge main battle tank, the **Merkava Mark 5**, known as "**Barak**," signifying a significant leap in technological advancement and military capability. The development of the Barak tank involved collaboration between the Israeli Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate, the IDF's Ground Forces, Armored Corps, and multiple Israeli defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, and the Israel Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, Elta.
- In a significant development, **India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous **Dhruvastra** short-range air-to-surface missile. This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built **DHRUV MK-IV helicopters** and is poised to elevate India's combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armored vehicles significantly.
- The **19th edition** of **YUDH ABHYAS** is set to commence in Alaska, USA. This annual exercise is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the US Army, aimed at strengthening military cooperation and readiness. The lead battalion representing India hails from the esteemed **MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to inaugurate the **Bharat Drone Shakti-2023** exhibition at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the exhibition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the **C-295 transport** aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Key military officials, including **IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari**, will be in attendance for this significant event.
- India, on a mission to enhance its infrastructure along the country's remote frontiers, has recently unveiled a groundbreaking policy aimed at dignifying the lives of **casual workers** employed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved this policy, which not only addresses the preservation and transportation of mortal remains but also raises funeral expenses. This move emphasizes the perilous nature of the work undertaken by these individuals in challenging terrains.

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to inaugurate the **Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 exhibition** at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the exhibition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the **C-295 transport** aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Key military officials, including **IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari**, will be in attendance for this significant event.
- On a momentous day in the history of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the **first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft** into the IAF's arsenal. This landmark event took place in the presence of **Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari** and other top military officials in Ghaziabad. The C-295 aircraft represents a significant upgrade for the IAF, offering versatility and modern capabilities for a wide range of missions.
- The **13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)** took place from September 26 to 27, 2023, at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi. This biennial event, co-hosted by the **Indian Army** and the **US Army Pacific**, brought together army chiefs from 30 Indo-Pacific nations to deliberate on security cooperation, collective strategies, and pressing regional issues.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has recently celebrated the arrival of the **first** of six state-of-the-art **Dornier Do-228 aircraft**, exclusively manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**. This upgraded version of the aircraft is set to bolster the IAF's operational capabilities with its advanced features, marking a significant milestone in the modernization efforts of the Indian defense forces.
- **Taiwan**, a self-governing island in East Asia, has recently unveiled its **first domestically-made submarine**, named the **Haikun**, in a move to bolster its defenses against the ever-present threat of a possible Chinese attack. President **Tsai Ing-wen** presided over the launch ceremony in the port city of Kaohsiung, marking a significant milestone in Taiwan's military capabilities.

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Defense Current Affairs of August

- Indian Air Force (IAF) received air-launched Israeli Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles(ATGM) from Israel which can hit targets upto 50 km from a helicopter and 32 km from the ground. The NLOS missiles will be integrated with the fleet of Russian-origin Mi-17V5 helicopters, manufactured by Kazan Helicopters.
- India's indigenous Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF) after clearing all the trials. Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited(BDL). Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.
- The Indian Army has recently inducted a new addition to its arsenal, the "Swathi Mountains," a lighter and more compact version of the indigenous Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M). This advanced radar system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, holds a pivotal role in enhancing military operations, particularly in challenging terrains. Let's delve deeper into the features, capabilities, and significance of this cutting-edge technology.
- The eagerly anticipated Malabar series of naval exercises, involving the maritime forces of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is about to kick off along the eastern coast of Australia. This iteration of the exercises will be centered on enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, signaling the participants' shared commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- In a significant step towards strengthening its cyber defenses, India's Ministry of Defence has taken a decisive step by opting to replace the Microsoft operating system with a domestically developed alternative named the 'Maya' operating system. This strategic move aims to elevate the nation's cybersecurity measures in the face of escalating cyber threats.
- The Indian Air Force has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself. The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- In a significant stride towards indigenous manufacturing and innovation, the state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is all set to unveil 'Prabal', India's first long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms.

- In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette INS Kulish made its presence felt during Singapore's 77th Independence Day festivities. As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore.
- In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct five fleet support ships. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing warships with essential supplies including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions.
- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, various Air Force Stations in and around Delhi celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) from 09 to 15 August 2023. The events were organized under the aegis of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign', launched by the Government of India as a continuation for celebration of AKAM.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, 'Tarang Shakti', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the middle of 2024. The decision to push the exercise to next year comes as several participating air forces expressed their inability to join the wargame if held in the current year.
- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyaigiri. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) took a significant step towards bolstering the Indian Navy's operational capabilities by signing a groundbreaking contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a state-owned company based in Visakhapatnam. This pioneering endeavor is set to provide unprecedented advantages to the Indian Navy, enabling prolonged and sustained missions without the need to return to port. The overall cost of this venture is estimated to be approximately ₹19,000 crore.
- The Indian Navy's submarine, INS Vagir, has made history by achieving an impressive milestone – it now holds the record for the longest-ever deployment of any scorpene-class submarine. The submarine covered an astonishing distance of 7,000 kilometers on its journey to Australia to participate in joint military exercises, marking a significant moment for both naval prowess and international cooperation.
- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas achieved a significant milestone as it successfully fired the Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. This achievement marks a notable advancement in the Indian defense capabilities and showcases the country's progress in developing cutting-edge military technology.





- Chief of the Naval Staff and Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for exchange of **White Shipping Information** on 23 August 2023. The signing of the SOP between Philippine Coast Guard and Indian Navy would facilitate the operationalization of information exchange on merchant shipping traffic, which will contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region.
- An **Indian Air Force** (IAF) contingent has embarked on a significant journey, marking the **first-ever participation** in Exercise **BRIGHT STAR-23**. This biennial multilateral tri-service exercise is taking place at **Cairo (West) Air Base in Egypt**, spanning from **August 27 to September 16, 2023**. The participation of the IAF in this exercise underscores a new chapter of cooperation and collaboration among nations.
- India's defence sector is poised to achieve a significant milestone as the country's latest warship, **Mahendragiri**, is set to be launched on **September 1 at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai**. The launch of Mahendragiri, the **seventh and final stealth frigate of Project 17A**, symbolizes the remarkable progress India has made in constructing a self-sufficient naval force.

Defense Current Affairs of July

- The government has named **Lt Gen M U Nair** as the newly appointed **National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC)**. Lt Gen Nair, who took on the role of the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the areas of cyber warfare, signal intelligence, and communication and information technology.
- The seventh edition of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)** is set to take place from 5th to 10th July 2023 in Visakhapatnam, India. This exercise marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012 and aims to enhance the interoperability and cooperation between the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy.
- The Indian Navy and the US Navy** successfully concluded the seventh edition of the **Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX**, held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in Kochi. This joint exercise has been a regular feature since 2005, promoting collaboration and cooperation between the two navies in the fields of salvage and EOD operations.
- India and the United States** recently joined forces in **Operation Broader Sword**, a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS). The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.

- North Korea** has launched an **unidentified ballistic missile** off its eastern coast, as confirmed by statements from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Japan's military. The missile launch followed a series of strongly worded grievances from North Korea regarding US military operations, including accusations of airspace violations by American spy planes in its economic zones and condemnation of the visit of a US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine to South Korea.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, convened on July 13, 2023, and approved three significant proposals aimed at bolstering India's naval capabilities. Under the first proposal, the DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine aircraft** from the French Government. This procurement will include associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulators, spares, documentation, crew training, and logistic support for the **Indian Navy**.
- With the aim of fostering **digitalization** in the maritime domain, **Sarbananda Sonowal**, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, launched Sagar Sampark, an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS).
- A group of 43 Indian Army personnel departed for Mongolia today to take part in the **15th edition** of the joint military exercise called "**NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23**." The exercise is set to occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17th to July 31st, 2023. NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event between India and Mongolia, held alternately in both countries. The previous edition took place in October 2019 at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, India.
- A joint naval exercise called "**Security Bond-2023**" has been initiated by China, Russia, and Iran in the **Gulf of Oman**. This exercise, spanning five days, aims to safeguard critical maritime routes. The exercise will encompass various activities such as aerial search operations, sea rescue operations, fleet formation exercises, and other assigned tasks.
- Jammu-Kashmir continues **Operation Trinetr-II** in **Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil** on 17th July to neutralize hiding terrorists.
- INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata**, the two flagship ships of the Indian Navy, reached Jakarta to take part in a bilateral maritime exercise alongside the Indonesian Naval Forces. Upon their arrival in Jakarta, The Indonesian Navy extended a warm welcome to both naval ships deployed for the South-Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) mission.
- The commercial vehicles manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland** recently disclosed securing defense contracts valued at Rs 800 Crore. These contracts entail the supply of specialized 4x4 Field Artillery Tractors and 6x6 Gun Towing Vehicles to the Indian army within the next 12 months.





- The Defence Minister of Argentina visited Bengaluru where he signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to foster cooperation between the two parties for the acquisition of Light and Medium Utility Helicopters for the armed forces of Argentina. This LoI signifies a commitment to productive collaboration between HAL and the Ministry of Defence of The Republic of Argentina.
- The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have collaborated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to revive and preserve the ancient 2000-year-old shipbuilding technique known as the 'stitched shipbuilding method' or 'Tankai method'.
- The second edition of "G20 THINQ" has been launched by the Indian Navy and the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA), with the support of the G20 Secretariat. Its purpose is to unite youth from diverse regions and geographies, fostering lasting friendships with the spirit of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' – World is One Family.
- Indian Naval Ship Kirpan, a corvette that served the Indian Navy for 32 years, has been decommissioned and handed over to the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) in a ceremony held at Cam Ranh, Vietnam. The momentous occasion marked the first time India has transferred a fully operational corvette to a foreign country.

- Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with United States, Exercise Talisman Sabre, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra. Now in its tenth edition, 2023 is the largest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of its geographical area and the number of participating partners.
- Shri Sanjay Chander, Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF), unveiled the recently constructed National Martyr's Memorial and National Museum for Railway Security at Jagjivan RPF Academy, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 85th Raising Day on 27 July 2023. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Pixxel, a prominent space-tech startup supported by renowned entities such as Google, Blume Ventures, and Omnivore VC, has been awarded a significant grant from iDEX (Innovations For Defence Excellence), an initiative established by the Ministry of Defence. This grant will enable Pixxel to develop small, multi-purpose satellites for the Indian Air Force, contributing to India's ambitious space and defense plans. The grant is part of the Mission DefSpace Challenge under the broader iDEX Prime (Space) initiative.

Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of December

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities witnessed a grand ceremony in New Delhi as President Droupadi Murmu bestowed the National Awards for the Empowerment of Divyangjan 2023 upon 21 individuals and 9 institutions. Recognizing exemplary contributions across various fields, the awards underscored the government's commitment to prioritizing the empowerment of Divyangjan, constituting 15% of the global population.
- In a celebration of athletic excellence, Olympian M. Sreesankar has been honored with the prestigious 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for emerging as the best sportsperson of Kerala. This recognition comes as a testament to Sreesankar's outstanding achievements, including securing the long jump silver medal in both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.
- In a historic moment on August 23, India's Chandrayaan-3 achieved remarkable lunar landing, making India the first country to reach the Lunar South Pole. The successful mission, a testament to India's scientific prowess, has solidified its status as a space superpower. Notably, this achievement did not only resonate in the scientific

community but also garnered recognition in the business world. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Chandrayaan-3 team were recently honored with the "Outstanding Contribution to Brand India" award at the 19th India Business Leader Awards (IBLA), held in Mumbai on December 2.

- Indian para archer Sheetal Devi emerged victorious at the fourth edition of the Asian Awards in Riyadh securing the prestigious title of Best Youth Athlete. The Asian Awards, organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee, is a ceremony dedicated to honoring outstanding achievements of Asian para athletes and officials.
- In a momentous occasion at the Red Sea International Film Festival, Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh was honored for his significant contributions to cinema. The prestigious accolade was presented to him by the iconic Hollywood actress Sharon Stone, adding a touch of glamour to the event attended by luminaries like Johnny Depp. As the festival unfolds until December 9, it promises to be a captivating cinematic experience, blending cultures and stories on the shores of the Red Sea.





- **Singapore** recently bestowed its prestigious Cultural Medallion upon three distinguished individuals, recognizing their artistic excellence and significant contributions to the nation's rich arts and culture. Among them, **Meira Chand**, an eighty-one-year-old Indian-origin writer, shares this esteemed accolade with novelist **Suchen Christine Lim** and **Malay dance veteran Osman Abdul Hamid**.
- The 4th edition of the ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF), hosted by **Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)**, concluded on **November 30, 2023**. The event celebrated grassroots and student innovators from India and across the ASEAN Member States (AMS). Among the notable winners were **Dr. Dipak Bharali, Mr. Sunil Shinde** and **Ms. Aanchal Aggrawal** from India.
- Amidst the global efforts to combat climate change, two remarkable individuals, **Michelle Zárate Palomec** from Mexico and **Sebastian Mwaura** from Kenya, are set to be honored as winners of the **UN Global Climate Action Awards**. Their outstanding contributions, aimed at creating sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities, will be celebrated during the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai.
- In a ceremony organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, **Prashant Agrawal**, the President of Narayan Seva Sansthan, was honored with the prestigious **National Award for 'Best Personality- Empowerment of Differently-abled'**. The award was presented by President **Draupadi Murmu** at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The event highlighted Agrawal's commitment to the cause of disability empowerment.
- Indian social activist **Nikhil Dey** has been honored as an **International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US government for 2023**. This recognition highlights his decades-long commitment to empowering peasants and workers while exposing corruption in the delivery of government services. Dey is the **co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)**, a Rajasthan-based organization at the forefront of transparency and anti-corruption movements in India.
- **Kabir Bedi** was awarded the "**Order of Merit of the Italian Republic**" (**Merito della Repubblica Italiana**), the country's highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai.
- In a momentous ceremony on Nov 27, 2023, in New Delhi, **Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar** was honored with the **Karmaveer Chakra Medal** and **Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship** by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to R&D in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.
- The literary world is set to celebrate as the **33rd Vyas Samman, 2023**, is announced to honor the accomplished Hindi writer **Pushpa Bharati** for her 2016 memoir, "**Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein**." This prestigious award is bestowed by the **KK Birla Foundation**, recognizing outstanding contributions to Hindi literature.

- Former UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, along with three distinguished diplomats, was honored at the annual '**Diwali Power of One Awards**.' This prestigious ceremony, often hailed as the 'Oscars of Diplomacy,' celebrated their selfless contributions to shaping a more perfect, peaceful, and secure world.
- The veteran lyricist-screenwriter **Javed Akhtar** is set to be honored with the **Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award** at the upcoming **Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival**.
- **Dr. Atul Shah**, a plastic surgeon, has been honored with the **2023 REACH Game Changing Innovator award** for his groundbreaking contribution to leprosy care. Three decades ago, Dr. Shah devised a simple surgery technique, 'One in Four Lasso,' to address deformities in leprosy patients. His journey took a transformative turn when he observed the challenges of managing unhealed foot wounds.
- **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023** has been jointly conferred upon renowned classical pianist and conductor **Daniel Barenboim** and Palestinian peace activist **Ali Abu Awwad**. The award recognizes their exceptional contributions in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- Legends **Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes** have etched their names into the annals of the sport as the first Asian men to be inducted into the esteemed International Tennis Hall of Fame. This achievement not only crowns their remarkable careers but also elevates India to the 28th nation represented in this prestigious institution.
- In a significant recognition of her outstanding contributions to chemistry education, **Professor Savita Ladage** from Mumbai's Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious **Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize** for Education. Her unwavering dedication to advancing chemistry education in India and mentoring fellow educators has placed her among the esteemed winners of this accolade.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has taken a significant stride in fostering sustainable urban development by approving a **USD 200 million loan** to bolster the **Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0**. This initiative, committed to making **all cities garbage-free by 2026**, aims to introduce international best practices, integrate new technologies, and adopt climate- and disaster-resilient approaches in municipal solid waste management.
- In a remarkable event that celebrated beauty, talent, and cultural pride, the annual **Miss India USA 2023 pageant** held in New Jersey showcased the triumph of **Rijul Maini**, a 24-year-old medical student from Michigan. The pageant, now in its 41st year, witnessed contestants from over 25 states participating in three categories: **Miss India USA, Mrs India USA, and Miss Teen India USA**.





- Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd proudly announces the remarkable achievement of its esteemed Chairman, Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath, who has been honored with the **Visionary Leader Icon Award of the Year 2023** by the Advocates Association For Social Responsibility And Awareness (AASRAA). The prestigious award was presented at the 5th National Summit held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi on 24th Nov 2023.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





Awards & Recognition of November

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility	Nita Ambani
2.	Second Rohini Nayyar Prize	Deenanath Rajput
3.	Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY)	Vihaan Talya Vikas
4.	British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding	Nandini Das for her debut book, 'Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire.'
5.	Kerala Jyothi Awards	T. Padmanabhan
6.	Kalakar Puraskar	Apolinaris D'Souza
7.	Nominated for the Best Global Music Performance category at the 2024 Grammy Awards	Falguni Shah
8.	Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award	Salman Rushdie
9.	'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' for 2023	, Suresh Ishwar Wadkar
10.	'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award	Madhuri Dixit
11.	'Best State' award for inland fisheries (plain areas)	Uttar Pradesh
12.	Dhahan Prize	Deepti Babuta
13.	Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2022	Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Trained Nurses Association of India
14.	2023 JCB Prize for Literature	Perumal Murugan for his novel 'Fire Bird'
15.	Stars Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF) Best Actor award	Ishwak Singh
16.	BBC 100 Women list for 2023	Actress Dia Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati Kumar-Rao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo.
17.	The "Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" Award	REC Limited
18.	'Annual Report' category at the 'PRSI National Awards 2023.'	NHPC Limited
19.	Prestigious platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)	Vijayawada Railway Station
20.	2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate	Abdullahi Mire

Awards & Recognition of October

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	Global Indian Award	N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy
2.	Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award	Tamil writer Ambai
3.	Bal Sahitya Puraskar	Dilip Nongmaithem
4.	Dutch Spinoza Prize	Dr. Joyeeta Gupta
5.	Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award	Michael Douglas
6.	President's Colour award	3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment, also known as 3 Naga
7.	Best Tourism Village of India 2023	Nawanpind Sardaran village, Punjab
8.	UN award	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
9.	2023 Sakharov Prize	Roberta Metsola
10.	Durga Bharat Samman	Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty





S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
11.	Award for Global Leadership	Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud
12.	White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation and the National Medal of Science	Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh
13.	Top 10 finalists for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize 2023	Deep Narayan Nayak
14.	2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award	Nita Ambani

Awards & Recognition of September

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum	Shanta Thoutam
2.	Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023	Satyajit Majumdar
3.	Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction for book 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human'	Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee
4.	Miss International India 2023	Praveena Anjana
5.	'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)	Vijayawada Railway Station
6.	Safety Innovation Award 2023'	RITES Limited
7.	Dr AM Gokhale Award	Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra
8.	'Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia	Professor Najma Akhtar
9.	Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres	Rahul Mishra
10.	Recognition Status from the World Federation for Medical Education	National Medical Commission (NMC) of India
11.	Borlaug Field Award for 2023	Swati Nayak
12.	2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize	Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang

Awards & Recognition of August

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	Lokmanya Tilak National Award	Narendra Modi
2.	Lifetime Achievement Award of RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors)	Subhash Runwal
3.	Gold Award	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
4.	Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize	Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist
5.	2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award	Eiha Dixit, Manya Harsha, Nirvaan Somany, Mannat Kaur Karnav Rastogi.
6.	Udyog Ratna' award	Ratan Tata
7.	Grand Cross of the Order of Honour	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
8.	National Award for e-Governance 2023	The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme
9.	Miss Earth India 2023	Priyan Sain





Awards & Recognition of July

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	PEN Pinter Prize 2023.	Michael Rosen
2.	Points of Light award	Rajinder Singh Dhatt
3.	Elephant Family environmental award	Kartiki Gonsalves
4.	ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023	NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation),
5.	Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
6.	SKOCH Award	Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRL)
7.	Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023	SJVN Limited
8.	Eni Award	Prof Thalappil Pradeep
9.	British Prime Minister's Points of Light award	Moksha Roy
10.	Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award	Kartik Aaryan
11.	2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens'.	Shankari Chandran
12.	UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award	Mumbai's Byculla Railway Station

Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International)

Summits |Events |Festivals
(National/International) of December

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the **second edition of the Infinity Forum**, a premier Financial Technology event scheduled for December 9, 2023. The event, hosted by the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** and **GIFT City**, is under the auspices of the Government of India. Building on the success of its inaugural edition in December 2021, the Infinity Forum 2.0 promises to be a global thought leadership platform focusing on financial services.
- In a significant development within the **Indian Navy**, a major reshuffle is set to take place at the top echelons of the force, with **Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi** slated to assume the position of **Vice Chief of Naval Staff on January 4**. This transition marks a crucial moment for the Navy, as Vice Admiral Tripathi steps into a role responsibility for overseeing the modernization efforts of the force.
- In a momentous achievement, **Federal Bank**, a prominent financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious title of "**Bank of the Year (India)**" by **The Banker**, a renowned publication under the Financial Times umbrella. This accolade, one of the few global awards recognizing banks on a worldwide scale, reflects Federal Bank's exceptional commitment to innovation, **customer-centric services**, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry in the past year.

- Currently serving as the incoming Support Chair of GPAI, India is set to take on the Lead Chair position for GPAI in 2024. To showcase its commitment to the advancement of AI, **India is hosting the Annual GPAI Summit from December 12 – 14, 2023**. The event is anticipated to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on December 12, 2023.
- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the **first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023** at the iconic Red Fort. The event also marked the launch of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design' and the student Biennale, Samunnati. During the inaugural ceremony, Shri Modi unveiled the '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design**' and explored the exhibition, emphasizing the Red Fort's historical importance. The establishment of cultural spaces in **five major cities namely Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi** was highlighted as a historic step to enrich these cities culturally.
- Invest India**, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, is set to host the **27th World Investment Conference (WIC)** from December 11-14, 2023. The event, under the aegis of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, promises to be a groundbreaking platform for global investment promotion and innovation stakeholders. This year's conference will delve into the theme of "**Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth**".
- India has decided to defer the **Quad summit meeting**, originally scheduled for January 2024, citing scheduling conflicts for certain Quad partners. The summit involves the participation of India, Australia, the US, and Japan.





- The annual **Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** Summit commenced at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on December 12, emphasizing crucial discussions on **AI safety** and development challenges. With participation from 29 countries across North and South America, Europe, and Asia, India stands as the **lead chair for GPAI in 2024**, excluding China from the member list.
- The 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded with a groundbreaking decision – the “**UAE Consensus**” – marking a historic step towards addressing the climate crisis. However, the agreement has stirred debates due to perceived discrepancies between words and actions and a lack of financial commitments.
- The **two-week-long COP28 in Dubai**, United Arab Emirates (UAE), concluded on December 13 with member nations engaging in extended talks on the final text. In the closing plenary, **COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber** highlighted the summit’s achievements, emphasizing a robust action plan aimed at limiting global warming to the **targeted 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times set in the 2015 Paris deal**.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of November

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **Agartala-Akhaura rail link project** virtually. This cross-border initiative aims to strengthen business ties and provide direct access between India’s landlocked northeastern region and the Chittagong port in Bangladesh.
- The United Kingdom’s Prime Minister, **Rishi Sunak**, is set to host the **AI Safety Summit 2023** on **1st and 2nd November at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire**. This summit brings together global leaders, AI experts and industry representatives to discuss the growing concerns surrounding the safety of advanced AI technologies and the need for international cooperation to address these concerns.
- US Secretary of State **Antony J Blinken** and Defence Secretary **Lloyd J Austin** are scheduled to visit India for the **India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue**, amidst ongoing international crises and challenges.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the aegis of **India’s G20 presidency**, is hosting the **G20 Standards Dialogue 2023**. The 2-day event commenced at the iconic **Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi. Shri **Ashwini Kumar Choubey**, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, inaugurated the event. The theme of this G20 Standards Dialogue is ‘**Zero Defect Zero Effect**,’ which reflects the critical role that standards play in our global community.
- NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**, organized a workshop in **New Delhi** focused on implementing the commitments from the **New**

Delhi Leaders’ Declaration (NDLD) signed at a recent **G20 Conference**. The workshop aimed to strengthen cooperation between **India and the African Union (AU)** in three key areas: inclusive growth, sustainable infrastructure, and migration management.

- The **Union Ministry of Tourism**, in collaboration with various stakeholders, including travel operators and state tourism departments, is participating in the prestigious **World Travel Market (WTM) in London from 6 to 8, 2023**. This event serves as an excellent platform for India to showcase its diverse tourism offerings under the theme ‘**Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023**.’ The inauguration of the Indian Pavilion marked the beginning of an exciting journey to promote India as a global tourist destination.
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- The **AI Safety Summit 2023**, hosted at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, on November 1 and 2, marked a significant global event driven by the vision of **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak**. This summit sought to position the UK as a post-Brexit intermediary between economic blocs like the United States, China, and the EU.
- The central focus was to assess the risks associated with **cutting-edge AI models** and formulate strategies for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance AI safety for the public good. Importantly, this event is just the beginning, as two more summits are scheduled for the following year in South Korea and France.
- 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific**. The event, slated from **November 13 to 16, 2023**, is unfolding in the city of New Delhi.
- The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 kicks off at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The esteemed event will be inaugurated by **Anupriya Patel**, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.
- The **6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue** took place on 9 November 2023, at the OPEC Secretariat in **Vienna, Austria**. The co-chairs of the meeting were **HE Haitham Al Ghais**, Secretary General of OPEC, and **HE Hardeep Singh Puri**, Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Republic of India.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to attend the **10th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus)** in Jakarta, Indonesia, spanning from November 16th to November 17th, as announced by the Ministry of Defence.





- In a landmark four-hour meeting at the picturesque Filoli estate near San Francisco, **U.S. President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping** engaged in discussions that spanned critical issues ranging from military conflicts to drug trafficking. This meeting preceded the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum**, adding significance to the deliberations.
- The **9th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF)** is set to be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad, Haryana from **17th January to 20th January 2024**. The mega science fair promises a unique blend of scientific exploration, innovation and public engagement.
- The **International Conference on Plant Health Management (ICPHM) 2023** is set to take place in Hyderabad, India, from **15th to 18th November**. This significant event is organized by the **Plant Protection Association of India (PPAI)**, an institution with a rich legacy of **50 years** in advancing plant protection both nationally and internationally.
- The recently concluded **Second Voice of Global South Summit** marked a significant virtual gathering hosted by India on November 17. This summit, a follow-up to the January event, showcased India's commitment to fostering collaboration among countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania — collectively known as the Global South. The inaugural summit, themed "**Energy Security and development: Roadmap to Prosperity,**" united 125 nations to discuss shared perspectives in preparation for the G20 Leaders Summit in September 2023.
- The **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, founded in **1870** as the country's premier think-tank for national security and military affairs, is hosting the **Annual UN Forum 2023** in New Delhi on November 21-22. In collaboration with the **International Committee of the Red Cross** and the **Centre for UN Peacekeeping Operations**, the forum will focus on the pressing theme of '**International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Peacekeeping.**'
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** of India did not participate in the virtual **BRICS-Plus** joint meeting on the **Middle East situation in Gaza**, a move that set him apart from other BRICS leaders. The meeting, attended by leaders such as **Putin, Xi Jinping, Lula da Silva, and Ramaphosa**, addressed the crisis in Gaza and featured key figures like **UN General-Secretary António Guterres**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** recently engaged in bilateral talks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister **Richard Marles** in New Delhi. The discussions were part of the **India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**, aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and strengthening the strategic relationship between the two nations.
- The 2nd edition of the CII India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave is taking place in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2023. This initiative, in collaboration with the MEA, GOI, aims to foster collaboration between India and the **Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) countries**, known for their prowess in innovation and technology.
- The **7th edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS)** concluded with a resounding success, as Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** revealed investment pledges worth an impressive **Rs 3.76 trillion**. This marked a significant increase from the previous year's figures, demonstrating a robust economic momentum.
- **Nitin Gadkari**, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, recently inaugurated the **8th Edition of the Indian Water Impact Summit (IWIS) on 22nd November 2023 in New Delhi**. Organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga), the three-day summit from **November 22 to 24, 2023**, brought together scientific experts, stakeholders and government representatives to address the dynamic challenges and opportunities in India's water sector.
- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated the **two-day 'International Seminar on Santha Kavi Bhima Bhoi and the legacy of Mahima Cult'** in **Bhubaneswar**. The event witnessed the participation of numerous academicians, dignitaries, Vice-Chancellors, and eminent speakers, showcasing a profound exploration of the cultural and literary heritage of Odisha.
- The upcoming **Conference of Parties (COP28)** in the UAE will witness an unusual alliance between developed nations like the US and emerging economies like India, united under the banner of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)**. While traditionally a security-focused alliance, the QUAD, currently presided over by India, is making climate action a focal point of its agenda.

BILINGUAL

UIIC 2023-24
ASSISTANT

50+ TOTAL TESTS





Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of October

- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** took a significant step towards realizing the vision of a "Garbage Free India." Aligning with the national initiative championed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a unique event titled 'Shramdaan' was organized by the Ministry. The event aimed to foster a spirit of collective responsibility and action, bringing together participants from various MSME offices nationwide.
- In a significant diplomatic gathering held in the **Russian City of Kazan**, representatives from various countries convened for the **fifth meeting of the Moscow Format Consultation on Afghanistan**. The meeting, which took place on **September 29, 2023**, featured special representatives and senior officials from **India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**, among others. Notably, the acting minister for Foreign Affairs appointed by the Taliban in Afghanistan was also in attendance, alongside representatives from **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the 10th edition of the **Vibrant Gujarat Summit** on January 10, 2024. Gujarat's Chief Minister, Bhupendrabhai Patel, has emphasized the state's status as an attractive investment destination and has extended an invitation to global businesses to participate in the Summit. The summit is scheduled to take place from January 10 to 12, 2024, at the Mahatma Mandir in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** is an intergovernmental organisation of **23 member states and 11 dialogue partners** from **Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania**. It was established in **1997** to promote regional cooperation and development. Sri Lanka to take over as **Chair of IORA** for the next two years.
- **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL)** has once again clinched the prestigious '**Best Innovation in Refinery**' award for the year **2022-23**, bestowed by the **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** at the **26th Energy Technology Meet 2023**. This significant achievement comes after a stiff competition with prominent players in the industry, including IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL, marking the **second consecutive year** that MRPL has received this accolade.
- The **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** has recently renewed and restructured its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**. This renewed partnership aims to **enhance academic collaboration** between these two esteemed institutions, ushering in a new era of educational opportunities for students in the field of Chartered Accountancy.

- The **Ninth P2o Summit**, in collaboration with the **International Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, is hosted by the **Parliament of India**. This significant event will take place in New Delhi on **13-14 October 2023**, with a Pre-Summit Parliamentary Forum scheduled for **12 October 2023**. The summit's theme, "**Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future**," derives its essence from the ancient **Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world as one family.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the **141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session** at the **Jio World Centre** in Mumbai on October 14. This marks India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the **86th IOC session** was held in New Delhi in 1983.
- The inaugural **India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue**, held on Monday, marked a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom. The dialogue saw both sides focusing on ways to enhance cooperation in **various critical areas** such as trade and investment, defense, critical technologies, civil aviation, health, and energy.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the **third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023)**, set to be held from 17th to 19th October at MMRDA Grounds in **Mumbai**. This prestigious maritime event is organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** and promises to be a significant gathering for the global maritime community.
- The **2023 World Health Summit** took place from October 15 to October 17 under the theme "**A Defining Year for Global Health Action**" in Berlin, Germany, and online.
- Indian External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** recently visited **Kyrgyzstan** for a two-day trip. During his visit, he discussed various areas of cooperation with **Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov**. This visit also includes Jaishankar's participation in a meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**.
- In a significant event held in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the **16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023**, with the theme, "**Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport**". The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the **Institute of Urban Transport (India)** and the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.**, aims to address critical aspects of urban transportation in the country.
- In a pioneering move, the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** in India, in partnership with **IIT-BHU**, has launched the '**Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023**'. This initiative aims to harness the collective power of hackers to develop cutting-edge solutions that protect consumers from the deceptive practices of dark patterns in e-commerce platforms.




Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of September

Summits Held Nationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1.	B20 presidency	In a significant development for global business and economic collaboration, India has gracefully handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil, making the transition towards the G20 summit in 2024.
2.	G20 Summit in Delhi	The G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023 is an important international event that brings together leaders from member nations and guest nations to discuss various global issues. The G20 Summit 2023 is scheduled to take place on September 9th and 10th, spanning two days. The summit will be held at the prestigious 'Bharat Mandappam,' which is located within the ITPO Convention Centre in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.
3.	43rd summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta, Indonesia
4.	10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of SCO countries	Shanghai, China
5.	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference	India
6.	World Spice Congress (WSC)	Vashi, Navi Mumbai
7.	Climate Ambition Summit (CAS)	United Nations General Assembly
8.	Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit	Ahmedabad

Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of August

Summits Held Nationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1.	5th World Coffee Conference	Bengaluru
2.	BRICS Summit	South Africa
3.	9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023	New Delhi
4.	WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
5.	G20 summit in 2024	Brazil

Summits Held Internationally

S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue	
1.	G20 Pandemic Fund		Granted a significant sum of \$25 million to India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
2.	Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)		The eagerly awaited Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) took place in the historic city of Udaipur, located in the state of Rajasthan. Stretched across a duration of two days, the event received its inauguration from the distinguished Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla. Theme "Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era,"
3.	B20(Business 20) Summit India 2023		Theme for the B20 India 2023 is Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses.
4.	Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023		In a stride towards nurturing innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) have unveiled the much-anticipated sixth edition.





Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of July

Summits Held Nationally

S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1.	The Startup20 Shikhar Summit	Gurugram, India
2.	The 33rd Conference of the State Finance Secretaries Theme: 'Debt Sustainability: States' Perspective.'	Mumbai
3.	3rd World Hindu Congress	Bangkok
4.	Urban 20 Mayoral Summit	Ahmedabad, in Gandhinagar
5.	Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)	Colombia
6.	ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines	India
7.	International Temple Convention and Expo (ITCX)	Varanasi
8.	3rd Sherpas meeting	Hampi, located in Karnataka
9.	India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
10.	India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023	Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
11.	Global Food Regulators Summit	New Delhi
12.	Global Maritime India Summit	Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Summits Held Internationally

S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1.	International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)	New Delhi
2.	67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAI) convention	Colombo, Sri Lanka
3.	NATO summit	Vilnius, Lithuania
4.	13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
5.	Heli Summit 2023	Madhya Pradesh
6.	SemiconIndia 2023	Gandhinagar, Gujarat

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on December

- In a testament to their commitment to social causes, three prominent Indian business leaders – **Nandan Nilekani, KP Singh and Nikhil Kamath**, have earned a coveted spot on the **17th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list**. Released recently, this unranked compilation recognizes individuals who leverage their fortunes and personal resources to contribute significantly to various charitable causes.
- In the recent **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**, concerning data has emerged regarding unemployment rates in the age group of 15 to 29 years in urban areas during the July-

September quarter of 2023. The study covered 22 states, revealing notable variations in joblessness across regions. Himachal Pradesh stands out with the **highest overall unemployment rate at 33.9%**, making it the state with the most significant joblessness challenge in the 15-29 age group in urban areas during the specified quarter. Rajasthan closely follows with a rate of 30.2%.

- In a recent report by S&P Global Market Intelligence, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has secured its position as the **world's fourth-largest insurer**. The ranking is based on the life and accident & health reserves of companies for the year 2022.





- Lahore**, the second-largest city in Pakistan, is grappling with a severe smog crisis that poses significant threats to the health and well-being of its residents. According to IQAir, an organization that monitors global air quality, Lahore recently earned the dubious distinction of having the **worst air quality in the world**, with a hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) of 400 in the morning. This alarming revelation underscores the urgent need to address the underlying causes of the city's deteriorating air quality.
- In a major leap towards sustainable practices, India has clinched the **7th position** in the latest edition of the **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)**. The announcement, made during the COP-28 in Dubai, solidifies India's status as a top performer for the fifth consecutive year.
- India**, once a powerhouse in the global startup ecosystem, has experienced a significant downturn in its funding trajectory, slipping to the **fourth position** in the **global ranking** among the highest-funded geographies in **2023**. This decline comes after securing the third spot in both 2021 and 2022.
- In a significant market shift, **ITC Ltd** has emerged as the **third** most valuable **tobacco company globally**, overtaking **British American Tobacco (BAT)**. The transition follows a sell-off in BAT shares, underscoring ITC's dynamic business diversification.
- In a recent survey conducted by US-based consultancy firm '**Morning Consult**', Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has secured the top position as the world's most popular leader, boasting an impressive **approval rating of 76%**. This notable achievement places him more than 10 percentage points ahead of the next leader in the rankings.
- Quality of Living Index 2023** by **Mercer**, a renowned global consultant for businesses, **Pune** has secured the **second-best position** in terms of '**quality of life**' in India. The city trails just behind Hyderabad, marking a significant improvement from the previous rankings. The Quality of Living City Index by Mercer positions Pune at **154th**, with **Hyderabad** slightly ahead at **153rd**, and **Bengaluru** following closely at **156th**.
- 58-years-old iconic actor, Shah Rukh Khan**, has etched his name in the annals of box office history with two action-packed thrillers, "**Pathaan**" and "**Jawaan**", and is now gearing up for the release of the **comedy-drama film, "Dunki."** While Shah Rukh Khan claimed the top position, the talented and popular actress **Alia Bhatt** secured the **second spot on the list**. **Priyanka Chopra Jonas**, a global icon, clinched the third position on the '**Eastern Eye**' annual list. Securing the fourth place on the prestigious list is **Diljit Dosanjh**, celebrated as the **biggest Punjabi star**.

- The recently unveiled **Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023** has showcased inspiring success stories of young entrepreneurs making waves in various industries. Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22), the founders of the Quick Commerce app Zepto, have claimed the top spots.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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**.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on November

- The Fairwork India Team, led by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), assessed 12 digital platforms in India to gauge their adherence to fair work principles for **gig workers**. The report revealed significant disparities in fair pay, conditions, contracts, management, and representation among these platforms.
- Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index**, in its latest report, reveals that for the quarter ending in September 2023, **Mumbai** has achieved the **fourth-highest** year-on-year growth in prime residential prices among global cities. This significant surge has reshaped the city's real estate dynamics, catapulting it 18 places above its September 2022 ranking. **New Delhi's** National Capital Region (NCR) has made a significant leap, climbing from the 36th rank a year ago to secure the **10th spot** in the September 2023 rankings. This growth is underpinned by a substantial 4.1% year-on-year increase in prime residential prices.
- India's National Coal Index (NCI)** witnessed a significant increase, rising **3.83 points to 143.91** in September. This boost was the first since **April 2023** and was driven by a temporary spike in global coal prices, according to the **Union Coal Ministry**.





- A recent survey conducted by the **McKinsey Health Institute** sheds light on the well-being of employees across 30 countries, emphasizing factors such as physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. This survey highlights significant disparities in employee well-being, with Japan ranking at the bottom and India securing a notable position.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **largest renewable energy company in India**, reaching an installed capacity of 8.4 gigawatts (GW) last week. This remarkable achievement is attributed to the commissioning of a 0.15 GW solar power park in Rajasthan, further solidifying AGEL's position in the market.
- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** recently released the 2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report titled '**Making our Future: New Directions for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific**' which paints a mixed picture of India's development journey. The report acknowledges the substantial reduction in multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 but highlights the urgent need for new directions to address growing human insecurity and disparities.
- A recent survey conducted by the **McKinsey Health Institute in 2023** shed light on the state of employees' well-being in workplaces, with India taking the lead in workplace burnout. According to the survey, a staggering **59%** of Indian respondents reported experiencing burnout symptoms.
- The **World Health Organization's (WHO) 'Global TB Report 2023'** highlighted that India's commitment to combating tuberculosis (TB) has yielded impressive results. The Union Health Ministry, in a statement on Wednesday, emphasized the significant progress made by India in case detection and the overall impact on the TB program.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with Jocata, a digital lending transformation platform, to launch a groundbreaking initiative named '**Sumpoorn—a unique MSME Economic Activity Index**'. This index aims to provide a real-time snapshot of India's vital MSME sector, which contributes significantly to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) and exports.
- The **United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has issued a stark warning, revealing that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere reached unprecedented levels in 2022. The surge in the three primary culprits – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and nitrous oxide – sets the stage for intensified climate impacts, including soaring temperatures, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels.

- In a recent fund manager survey (FMS) conducted by **Bank of America (BofA)**, Japan and India emerged as the most favored markets in the Asia Pacific region. The survey revealed that **Japan** holds the top position with a net 45 percent overweight, followed by **India** at 25 percent. In contrast, **Thailand, China, and Australia** are perceived as less attractive, with net underweight figures of 13 percent, 9 percent, and 9 percent, respectively.
- In the dynamic world of startups and unicorns, **India** has secured the **third position** globally with an impressive count of **72 unicorn companies**. The cumulative valuation of these unicorns stands at a staggering **\$195.75 billion**, showcasing the country's growing prowess in the international startup ecosystem.
- Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield** has unveiled its '**Main Streets Across the World**' report, shedding light on prime retail rental rates globally. Delhi's upscale **Khan Market** has secured the **22nd spot**, marking a slight drop from the 21st position last year. The annual rent per square foot stands at **USD 217**.
- The inaugural **State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) 2023**, conducted on 3rd November 2023, marked a significant milestone in the education sector. Organized by the **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH)**, the national assessment regulator, this survey aimed to identify areas for improvement in student learning across various grades.
- Indian IT giant **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has achieved remarkable success in **Spain**, securing the **number one position in service delivery quality and commercial competitiveness**, according to an independent survey conducted by Whitelane Research.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on October

- The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** has released a **biennial report** highlighting the alarming annual losses in global infrastructure due to the worsening impacts of climate change and disasters. This report underscores the critical challenges faced by low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) in maintaining resilient infrastructure systems.
- According to the **360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List for 2023** released recently, Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has surged ahead of Adani Group's **Gautam Adani** to claim the title of the **richest Indian**. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, saw his wealth grow by a modest 2 percent, reaching a staggering **Rs 8.08 lakh crore**.





- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently unveiled data indicating a remarkable surge in India's industrial output in August. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) reported a staggering growth of **10.3 percent**, marking the highest growth in **14 months**. This figure surpassed the consensus estimate of **9.1 percent**, demonstrating the sector's robust performance.
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey Report for 2022-23, released on October 9, 2023, by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, brings encouraging news. It reveals that more women in India are actively participating in the workforce. The Female Labor Force Participation Rate, a measure of women engaged in work or actively seeking employment, has risen by **4.2 percentage points**, reaching **37.0% in 2023**.
- India is gearing up for a substantial infrastructure spending spree, with a plan to invest nearly **₹143 lakh crore** between fiscal years 2024 and 2030. This represents more than double the **₹67 lakh crore** spent on infrastructure over the past seven financial years starting from 2017. The rating agency CRISIL shared this information in its Infrastructure Yearbook 2023, underlining the significance of this ambitious undertaking.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, also known as the Bengaluru International Airport, has earned a remarkable distinction. It has been recognized as the "**world's most punctual airport**" for the past three consecutive months. This accolade underscores the airport's exceptional commitment to on-time departures and an impressive travel experience for passengers.
- In April 2017, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with the primary objective of providing more frequent and detailed labor force data for policymakers, researchers, and the general public. This survey is a significant initiative that aims to estimate key employment and unemployment indicators in both rural and urban areas across India.
- The 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) recently revealed the ranking of retirement income systems in various countries. The **Netherlands** secured the top position, followed by **Iceland and Denmark**. India showed improvement, moving up to the **45th rank out of 47 systems analyzed**.

- The European Union Tax Observatory has published the '**Global Tax Evasion Report 2024**', calling for a **2% global wealth tax** on billionaires. The report emphasizes the urgent need to combat tax evasion, which enables some billionaires to effectively pay between 0% to 0.5% of their wealth in taxes. The report advocates for the implementation of a global minimum tax on billionaires, set at 2% of their wealth. This measure is expected to address tax evasion and generate approximately **\$250 billion from fewer than 3,000 individuals**. The report justifies this proposal by highlighting the modest nature of the tax rate in light of billionaires' wealth growth, which has averaged 7% annually since 1995, adjusted for inflation.
- India is grappling with severe air pollution issues, with **Mumbai** ranking as the second most polluted city according to IQAir, a leading air quality measurement company. **Delhi**, the capital, also faces significant air quality challenges, ranking sixth globally. The air quality index (AQI) measures pollution levels, indicating the health risks associated with breathing the air.
- According to global research firm Statista, India has secured the **third position** worldwide in the number of financial technology (fintech) unicorns. The **United States** and the **United Kingdom** continue to dominate the field, holding the first and second positions, respectively, both in terms of quantity and overall value.
- The Fairwork India Team, led by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), assessed 12 digital platforms in India to gauge their adherence to fair work principles for **gig workers**. The report revealed significant disparities in fair pay, conditions, contracts, management, and representation among these platforms.

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List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on September

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1.	Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023		The recently released Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (Clean Air Survey) report, conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, reveals that Indore, Amravati, and Parwanoo boast the cleanest air in India. These cities have diligently worked towards improving their air quality and have emerged as leaders in the battle against air pollution.
2.	"The Gender Snapshot 2023,"		The report underscores that deeply entrenched biases against women, prevalent across various sectors such as health, education, employment, and politics, threaten to derail this ambitious goal. It identifies active resistance to gender equality and chronic underinvestment as pivotal roadblocks, even leading to reversals in some instances.
3.	Elephant Corridors of India		The country boasts at least 150 elephant corridors, spread across 15 range-states, and encompassing four major elephant-bearing regions.
4.	International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates		India's Union Consumer Affairs Ministry has announced that the country is now the 13th nation authorized to issue International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates.
5.	Economic Freedom of the World Index		Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the title of the world's freest economy
6.	India Ageing Report 2023		India is set to experience a rapid aging of its population in the coming decades, with the elderly projected to comprise over 20% of the total population by the year 2050.
7.	2023 World Talent Ranking		India has shown improvements in infrastructure, it has slipped four spots to the 56th position (Out of 64 economies) compared to its 52nd position in the 2022 ranking. In the IMD World Talent Ranking for 2023, Switzerland secured the top position, followed by Luxembourg in second place, and Iceland, Belgium, and the Netherlands rounding out the top five.
8.	'Indian Real Estate: Taking Giant Strides – 2023 Mid-Year Outlook' report		Bengaluru has emerged as the city with the highest green-certified office space.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on August

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1.	Fortune Global 500 list	Fortune	Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has maintained its highest ranking among Indian corporates in the latest Fortune Global 500 list
2.	FAO All Rice Price Index	Food and Agriculture Organization	As reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the FAO All Rice Price Index witnessed a 2.8 percent escalation in July compared to the preceding month, with an average value of 129.7 points. This reflects an approximate 20 percent surge from the same period in the previous year and marks the most elevated level observed since September 2011.
3.	Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023)		The Srinagar district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), outshining 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India.
4.	Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan - 2023		The city of Indore has clinched the top spot in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs. The results of the survey reflect not only the city's dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh.





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1.	Report on Panchayat Development Index (PDI)	Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj	The workshop saw the participation of over 250 stakeholders, including senior government officials, ministry representatives, and key stakeholders in the field.
2.	World Investment Report 2023	UNCTAD	Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to developing Asia remained unchanged at \$662 billion in 2022 compared to the previous year. However, the report highlights significant variations among countries in the region.
3.	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)		World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has published an updated bulletin on the ozone layer, signaling promising signs of recovery.
4.	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific		India has achieved significant progress in digital and sustainable trade facilitation, according to the latest global survey conducted by the UNESCAP.
5.	The Forbes 2023 list of America's 100		most successful women is released. As many as four Indian-origin women Jayshree Ullal, Indira Nooyi, Neha Narkhede, and Neerja Sethi have made it to this coveted list of America's 100 richest self-made women.
6.	United Nations report titled "A World of Debt"		Highlights the severity of the global debt crisis, urging immediate action to address the issue. The report reveals that global public debt reached an all-time high of \$92 trillion in 2022, with 30% of that burden falling on developing nations.
7.	QS Best Student Cities 2024 ranking		Mumbai has been ranked as the best Indian city for students in the QS Best Student Cities 2024 ranking.
8.	UN Women and UNDP		UN Women and UNDP at the Women Deliver Conference, highlights the challenges in achieving gender parity and women's empowerment worldwide. The report introduces two indices – Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI) – as tools to assess progress in women's human development.

- In June, 1958, the First Geological Survey of India (GSI) of the Siachen took place by an Indian geologist, V.K. Raina. It is just northeast of the point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of December

Name of Book	Author
'RESILIENT INDIA: How Modi Transformed India's Disaster Management Paradigm's	Pushkar Singh Dhami
'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero.'	Huma Qureshi
Naye Bharat ka Samaveda	Ramnath Kovind
Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future	Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba

Books & Authors of November

Name of Book	Author
'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya,' 'Ramanandacharya Charitam,' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela'	Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
"Building Partnership: India & International Cooperation for Maritime Security"	Capt Himadri Das
'Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main'	Prasoon Joshi
Thread by Thread	Sathy Saran
Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers'	Sharmishtha Mukherjee
India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World	Vikram K. Doraiswami





Books & Authors of October

Name of Book	Author
The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success	Vivek Agnihotri
Going Viral – Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story'	Balram Bhargava
'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation'	Ashok Tandon

Books & Authors of September

Name of Book	Author
Ajay to Yogi Adityanath	Shantanu Gupta
Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras	Radhika Iyengar
People's G20	Apurva Chandra
Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangal	Election Commission

Books & Authors of August

Name of Book	Author
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die	Dr. Nazema Maraikayar and the distinguished ISRO scientist Dr. Y.S. Rajan
Western Lane'	Chetna Maroo's
Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani	Rishi Raj
How Prime Ministers Decide	Neerja Chowdhury
Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing	Abhay Kumar (Abhay K)
'Heritage Trees of Goa', 'When Parallel Lines Meet', and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems' a collection of poems)	PS Sreedharan Pillai
Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket	Amrit Mathur

Books & Authors of July

Name of Book	Author
Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva	Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar
Colours of devotion	Anita Bharat Shah
Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77	Abhishek Choudhary
Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow	Vinod Mankara
India Rising Memoir of a Scientist	R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra
Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography	T.N. Seshan
Krishna – the 7th Sense	Debashis Chatterjee
As the wheel turns	Ranjit Pratap

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of December

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.)

- The International cricket scene is abuzz with excitement as the **ICC T20 World Cup** undergoes a dynamic makeover with the **launch of its new brand identity on December 7**. The transformation aims to encapsulate the inherent drama, fast-paced action and high-octane moments that define T20 cricket – a format celebrated for its relentless energy.

- The cricket world witnessed outstanding performances in **November 2023**, with Australian batter **Travis Head** and spin maestro **Nahida Akter** earning the prestigious **ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards**, respectively. Let's delve into their remarkable achievements that secured them these honors.
- Pakistan's cricket fraternity bids farewell to one of its stalwarts as **Asad Shafiq**, the middle-order batter, announces his retirement from all forms of the game at the age of 37. Shafiq, who made his international debut in 2010, leaves behind a legacy of resilience and reliability, particularly in Test cricket.





- In a major milestone, the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** has achieved decacorn status, with its combined brand value seeing a remarkable **28% surge** to reach an impressive **\$10.7 billion**. This significant growth is reported by Brand Finance, marking a phenomenal **433% increase** in the IPL system's brand value since its launch in 2008.
- In a move echoing the tribute to cricket legends, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has decided to retire the iconic **No.7 jersey** worn by former captain **MS Dhoni**. This decision follows the precedent set by **Sachin Tendulkar's No.10, retired in 2017**. Going forward, no other Indian cricketer will sport the No.7 jersey.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is reportedly considering the **introduction of a T10 format cricket league**, aiming for a launch window between **September and October 2024**. This move aligns with the flourishing popularity and valuation of cricket leagues, particularly the Indian Premier League (IPL), which recently attained a decacorn status with a valuation of **approximately \$10.7 billion**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.

- 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.
- Former Indian cricketer **Ambati Rayudu** embarked on a new journey as he officially joined the **Yuvajana 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.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- Vaishali Rameshbabu**, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain. This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the footsteps of **Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli**. Her victory over Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes was pivotal in crossing the 2500 FIDE rating threshold required for the Grandmaster title.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland} **No. of Players: 11**

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- In a rare doping case within Indian football, Kerala footballer **M Viknesh**'s appeal against a two-year ban has been turned down by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) appeal panel**. This decision stems from Viknesh's failed dope test during the National Games in Gujarat, where his sample revealed the presence of the banned substance 'Terbutaline,' commonly found in cough syrups.
- 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.

Hockey

- 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**.





Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- 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.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs
Other Sports Current Affairs

- The **12th edition** of the eagerly awaited **Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta** concluded at Ettikulam Beach, INA, Ezhimala. The event concluded with a glittering closing ceremony, celebrating the triumphs and sportsmanship displayed by sailors from around the world. The top honor of the Admiral's Cup 23 went to **Team Italy**, represented by **Midshipman Avallone Antonio** and **Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo**. Their exceptional sailing skills and strategic prowess secured the coveted Admiral's Cup for Italy.
- Indian wrestler **Antim Panghal** has been named the **Rising Star of the Year among women** by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**, the sport's global governing body. The 19-year-old dynamo, competing in the 53 kg category, has had a remarkable season that has not only garnered accolades but has also overshadowed senior stalwart Vinesh Phogat in the same weight class.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.

Sports Current Affairs of November

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- The iconic **Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai** is set to witness a momentous occasion as a statue of cricket legend **Sachin Tendulkar** will be unveiled, coinciding with the World Cup match between India and Sri Lanka.
- David Willey**, the renowned all-rounder of the England cricket team, has declared his retirement from international cricket at the age of 33. This decision comes in the wake of the **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** choosing not to offer him a central contract for the 2023-24 cycle.
- India and Sri Lanka during the 2023 ODI World Cup match** at Mumbai's iconic Wankhede Stadium, Mohammed Shami etched his name in the annals of cricket history. Shami's exceptional performance in the match made him India's highest wicket-taker in ODI World Cups, surpassing the legendary **Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath**.
- Australia** women's national team captain **Meg Lanning**, a stalwart of the cricketing world, has officially announced her retirement from international cricket, marking the end of a remarkable career that spanned **241 matches** and included **seven World Cup titles**.
- In a historic moment at the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, **Virat Kohli**, the Former Indian cricket captain, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first batter in the world to score **50 One Day International (ODI) centuries**. In doing so, he surpassed the iconic **Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries**, solidifying his place as the leading century-scorer in ODI cricket.
- In a groundbreaking moment, Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has left an indelible mark on cricket history by becoming the first player to hit **50 sixes in the World Cup**. Achieving this remarkable feat during the semifinal clash against New Zealand in Mumbai, the 36-year-old scored an impressive 47 runs from 29 balls, surpassing **Chris Gayle's record of 49 sixes in World Cups** with a powerful pull shot off fast bowler Trent Boult.
- In a historic display of skill and precision, **Mohammed Shami** etched his name in cricketing history by becoming the **first Indian bowler** to pick seven wickets in a One Day International (ODI). This extraordinary feat unfolded during India's World Cup semifinal clash against New Zealand in Mumbai.
- In a decision resonating with the euphoria of India's semi-final victory in the Cricket World Cup and **Virat Kohli's** extraordinary feat of completing 50 centuries in one-day cricket, a **wax statue** immortalizing the star cricketer is poised to join the distinguished ensemble at the **Wax Museum within Jaipur's Nahargarh Fort**.





- The **ICC World Cup 2023** witnessed a spectacular display of cricketing prowess, with Indian batting maestro **Virat Kohli** earning the “**Player of the Tournament**” title for his exceptional performance.
- In a thrilling **2023 ODI World Cup final** clash between Australia and India in Ahmedabad, **Travis Head** emerged as the standout performer, earning the well-deserved title of **Man of the Match**.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has made a decisive move by relocating the upcoming men's **Under-19 World Cup** from Sri Lanka to South Africa.
- International Cricket Council (ICC)** has recently implemented a ban on transgender cricketers from participating in international women's cricket at the highest level. This decision has raised discussions around inclusivity, athlete rights and the impact of the ban on transgender individuals. The move is said to be in alignment with the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) guidelines**, considering cricket's inclusion in the **2008 Olympics**.
- Cricket's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), is set to implement **shot clocks in men's One Day International (ODIs) and T20 International (T20Is)** as part of its ongoing efforts to regulate and enhance the pace of play. The trial, scheduled to run from **December to April**, involved imposing penalty runs on the bowling side if they fail to commence a new over within 60 seconds on three occasions during a match.
- Marlon Samuels**, the former West Indies batter, was handed a **six-year ban from all forms of cricket** by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- In a strategic move, Gujarat Titans have named **Shubman Gill** as the captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season. This decision follows the departure of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who was traded to Mumbai Indians.
- Rahul Dravid** has accepted the **Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI)** offer to extend his term as India's head coach, ensuring his continued leadership of the national team until at least the 2024 T20 World Cup in June.
- New Zealand's **Rachin Ravindra** has claimed his first **ICC Men's Player of the Month** award for his outstanding performances in the group stages of the **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023** in India. West Indies' **Hayley Matthews** has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for October** after her scintillating performances in the T20I series against Australia.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken a significant step by **suspending Sri Lanka Cricket's membership**, citing serious breaches of its autonomy and government interference. The move comes in the wake of the Sri Lankan government's decision to sack the cricket board due to the national team's disappointing performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- Novak Djokovic** made history on November 19, by securing his seventh **ATP Finals title** in Turin, Italy.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- Saudi Arabia** is ready to host the **2034 Men's FIFA World Cup**. This development right after Australia unexpectedly pulled out from the bid race just hours before the deadline. This move positions Saudi Arabia to make a substantial mark on the global sports stage.
- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** to establish a world-class football academy is set to materialize in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on November 21, 2023. The AIFF-FIFA academy, initiated under the **FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS)**, will be inaugurated by Mr. Arsene Wenger, Chief of Global Football Development at FIFA. The inauguration of the AIFF-FIFA academy in Bhubaneswar marks a significant milestone in Indian football.
- Indian football as the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** and the **Government of Odisha**, in collaboration with **FIFA**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the **AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy**. The ceremony, graced by the presence of **Mr. Arsene Wenger**, FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development, marked a crucial step toward nurturing and developing football talent in India.

Grand Prix

- Max Verstappen**, the Red Bull racing sensation, showcased his exceptional skills at the Formula One **Mexico City Grand Prix**.
- Max Verstappen** emerged on top at the end of an action-packed Las Vegas Grand Prix, beating Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.
- Formula One champion a record-extending **19th victory** of the campaign and **54th** overall to move into third on the all-time list. **Max Verstappen's** outstanding season ended with a comfortable victory at the Abu Dhabi.

Hockey

- The **Indian junior men's hockey team** added another feather to their cap by securing the **bronze medal** in a heart-stopping match at the **Sultan of Johor Cup 2023**, in **Johor, Malaysia**. In an electrifying 3rd/4th place contest, they faced arch-rivals Pakistan and emerged victorious in a dramatic penalty shootout. This victory marks a significant milestone for the young Indian hockey talents and it is an evident of their relentless hard work and determination.





- The Indian women's hockey team has emerged victorious in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023, securing the gold medal for the second time in the competition's history. The team's remarkable journey to victory was celebrated and praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The tournament's final match, which sealed India's triumphant moment, took place on 5th November 2023, at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Mundra Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi. India displayed exceptional prowess by defeating Japan 4-0 in the final match.
- The recently concluded 2023 National Games showcased an extraordinary display of athleticism, determination, and sportsmanship, with nearly 11,000 athletes from across India participating in 45 different sports. Maharashtra emerged as the undisputed champions, claiming the top spot in the medal tally and securing the prestigious Raja Bhalindra Singh Rolling Trophy for the overall championship.
- In a thrilling final match, Hockey Punjab emerged victorious over Hockey Haryana to clinch the gold medal at the 13th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2023. The tournament was held from November 17 to 28, 2023, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Other Sports Current Affairs

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) and Bhaane, a leading contemporary clothing brand, have joined forces in a groundbreaking multi-year partnership to introduce NBAStore.in.
- The 37th edition of the National Games kicked off in style as Paytm, India's renowned fintech giant, emerged as the official sponsor. The tournament was inaugurated with great fervor by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, South Goa.
- At the 37th National Games, Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist Jyothi Yarraj, and Tejas Shirse displayed their athletic prowess, smashing National Games records in the 100m and 110m hurdles events.
- Hailing from the beautiful town of Anantnag, Kashmir, Zahid Hussain achieved a remarkable feat by securing the silver medal at the prestigious Asian Shooting Championship held in South Korea.
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event 2023 at the Asian Shooting Championship 2023. Tomar's impressive score of 463.5 in the final secured the top spot, making him the most successful Indian shooter at the event.

- Deepika Kumari, the former world No. 1 archer, demonstrated her exceptional talent and determination at the National Games by clinching two gold medals and one silver. The Asian Championships gold medal-winning shooter, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, also secured the top spot in the 50m rifle 3-positions event.
- Indian chess players Vidit Gujrathi and R Vaishali achieved remarkable victories at the FIDE Grand Swiss Chess 2023 held on the Isle of Man, earning them a coveted spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament. The Candidates Tournament is a crucial spot in determining a challenger for the reigning world chess champion. Let's delve into the details of their outstanding performances.
- Indian chess players Vidit Gujrathi and R Vaishali achieved remarkable victories at the FIDE Grand Swiss Chess 2023 held on the Isle of Man, earning them a coveted spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament. The Candidates Tournament is a crucial spot in determining a challenger for the reigning world chess champion. Let's delve into the details of their outstanding performances.
- On November 5, India celebrated a historic moment as both Vidit Gujrathi and R. Vaishali emerged victorious at the Grand Swiss tournament held at the Isle of Man, securing coveted spots in the Candidates tournament, set to take place in Toronto early next year.
- In a captivating sporting environment, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, inaugurated the 3rd Hockey India Senior Women Inter Department National Championship 2023 at Shivaji Stadium. The ceremony was a thrilling kickoff to an event that promises to showcase the best of women's hockey talent from across the nation.
- Senior National Squash Championships 2023, 15-year-old Anahat Singh scripted history by becoming the second youngest title winner in the tournament's prestigious history.
- Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, unveiled the logo and mascot for the first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023. This historic occasion was graced by the presence of eminent athletes and para athletes, marking a significant step towards inclusivity and recognition in Indian sports. The official mascot, 'Ujjwala,' a sparrow, was revealed during the ceremony.
- Anish Bhanwala etched his name in history by becoming the first Indian shooter to clinch a medal in the men's 25m Rapid Fire event at the ISSF World Cup Final. This accomplishment surpassed the efforts of past Indian shooters like Vijay Kumar in 2009 and Gurpreet Singh in 2015, who had reached the final but fell short of claiming a medal.





- Seasoned cueist **Vidya Pillai** achieved a monumental milestone in her illustrious career as she secured the **IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship title** in Doha, Qatar, just days before her 46th birthday. The Bengalurean showcased a stellar performance, dominating her opponents throughout the championship, with a standout victory of **4-1 against compatriot Anupama Ramachandran in the title clash.**
- Italy** fulfilled their potential as one of the most promising tennis nations in the world by defeating **Australia 2-0** to become Davis Cup champions for the first time since 1976.
- Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK)** is all set to enthrall audiences with its grand second edition, scheduled to commence on December 24, 2023 and conclude on January 13, 2024. The Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha, will play host to this high-octane sporting event, promising excitement and entertainment to the millions of fans eagerly anticipating its return.

Sports Current Affairs of October

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut{}

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** as the '**Global Ambassador**' for the highly anticipated **Cricket World Cup 2023**. This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India.
- Australia opener **David Warner** became the fastest batter to complete **1000 runs in ODI World Cup** during his side's match against India in Chennai.
- After completing 100 runs in World Cups, **Rohit Sharma** rewrote another record, edging past **West Indies legend Chris Gayle** hitting most sixes in International Cricket Matches. The Indian skipper hit six off Naveen-ul-Haq's bowling in the 8th over to go past Gayle's tally of 553 sixes in international cricket.
- India captain **Rohit Sharma** smashed his **31st ODI century** and put India on course for a mammoth win against **Afghanistan in their World Cup 2023 tie** at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. Rohit Sharma completed his hundred off **63 balls**, fetching him the record for the fastest century ever by an Indian in the history of World Cup. Before Rohit, the milestone belonged to **Kapil Dev off 72 balls** against Zimbabwe in 1983, the India captain bested the former all-rounder's accomplishment by nine balls as India dominated Afghanistan in their chase of 273 and won by 8 wickets.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has once again acknowledged outstanding cricketing performances by awarding the 'Player of the Month' titles for September 2023. This prestigious recognition highlights the exceptional skills and contributions of cricketers on the global stage. In this edition, India's **Shubman Gill** clinches the **ICC Men's 'Player of the Month,'** while Sri Lanka's **Chamari Athapaththu** emerges as the **ICC Women's 'Player of the Month.'** Let's dive into their remarkable achievements.
- Ashutosh Sharma**, a middle-order batter for the Railways cricket team, broke **Yuvraj Singh's** record for the fastest fifty by an Indian. Ashutosh achieved this milestone during a **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group C** clash in Ranchi against **Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Mohammad Shami** became the first Indian bowler to pick two five-wicket hauls in **ICC ODI World Cups.** Shami picked the wickets of Will Young, Rachin Ravindra, Daryll Mitchell, Mitchell Santner and Matt Henry in India's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 clash against New Zealand.
- Shubman Gill**, the dynamic Indian opener, has created a significant mark in the world of **One Day International (ODI)** cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format. His achievement, which surpasses a previous record held by South African great Hashim Amla, adds to his growing reputation as a rising star in the world of cricket.

Important Terms associated: tennis

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick{}

- India won the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF Under-19 Championship** after defeating **Pakistan 3-0** in a dominating display in the finals at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in **Kathmandu, Nepal.** It was India's eighth youth title in the SAFF championships, a clear testimony of their regional supremacy.

Grand Prixes

- Max Verstappen**, the Red Bull racing sensation, showcased his exceptional skills at the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix. He snatched the lead by the first corner after splitting the Ferrari front row occupied by Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz. Verstappen's incredible start marked his record-breaking 16th victory of the season, surpassing his own previous season's record.





Other Sports Current Affairs

- Kenya's **Kelvin Kiptum** left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just **two hours and 35 seconds**, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. He broke the previous record set by **Eliud Kipchoge** in the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- Kenya's **Kelvin Kiptum** left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just **two hours and 35 seconds**, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. He broke the previous record set by **Eliud Kipchoge** in the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- The **62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023** kicked off with a bang in **Bengaluru**, as **Manikanta Hoblidhar** from **Services** etched his name in the record books by smashing a new national record in the **men's 100m category**. He powered his way to victory, crossing the finish line in first place with a remarkable timing of **10.23 seconds**. Manikanta Hoblidhar surpassed the previous national record of **10.26 seconds** held by **Amiya Kumar Mallick** since **April 2016**.
- The **11th edition** of the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2023 is scheduled to be held in **Johor, Malaysia**. Hockey India has announced the 20-member Indian junior men's hockey team that will participate in the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup. This prestigious tournament is set to take place from **October 27 to November 4**. Notably, this year's edition will feature **eight teams**, expanding from the customary six.
- World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics, has officially nominated **Neeraj Chopra** for the prestigious **Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023**. This honor underscores Neeraj's remarkable achievements in the field of javelin throwing and his impressive gold medal victories at the Olympics and World Championships.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session** at the **Jio World Centre in Mumbai**. The event marked a significant moment in India's sporting history, with PM Modi expressing India's eagerness to host the **Olympics** and **Youth Olympics** in the coming years.
- Grandmaster **Raunak Sadhwani** won the **FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship** in Sardinia, Italy. Raunak scored 8.5 over 11 rounds to win the Championship ahead of Arseniy Nesterov of Russia, who scored 8.
- India is set to be well-represented at the **fourth Asian Para Games** scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China, from October 22 to 28. The nation is sending a robust contingent of **446 members, including 303 athletes**, demonstrating a commitment to para sports.

- In a remarkable turn of events at the ongoing **Qatar Masters**, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster **Karthikeyan Murali** achieved a stunning feat by defeating the world's number one player, **Magnus Carlsen**.
- In a thrilling showdown at the **Abu Dhabi Masters 2023**, young Indian badminton talent **Unnati Hooda** emerged as the champion in the women's singles event. This remarkable win marks her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title, further solidifying her reputation as a rising star in the sport.
- Reigning **Paralympics champion Sumit Antil** on Wednesday bettered his own javelin throw **F64 world record** with a stunning **73.29m effort** on the way to winning gold as he led India's whopping **30-medal haul** on the third day of competitions at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.
- Indian para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the **Asian Para Games** in Hangzhou, China, with **Sundar Singh Gurjar** breaking a world record and Sumit Antil successfully defending his gold medal. In the men's javelin throw-F46 final, **India's Sundar Singh Gurjar** delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of **68.60 meters**.
- The **37th edition** of the **National Games** kicked off in style as **Paytm**, India's renowned fintech giant, emerged as the **official sponsor**. The tournament was inaugurated with great fervor by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, South Goa.
- At the **37th National Games**, Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist **Jyothi Yarraji**, and **Tejas Shirse** displayed their athletic prowess, smashing National Games records in the 100m and 110m hurdles events.





Sports Current Affairs of September

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- For the first time in international cricket, a **transgender woman player** will feature in ICC-related tournaments. **Danielle McGahey, 29**, is set to become the first transgender woman player to play in international cricket. The right-hand batter from Australia, who moved to Canada in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for male-to-female (MTF) transition, per ICC.
- Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner **Nattaya Boochatham** created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket.
- **IndusInd Bank**, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**. The partnership is set to commence with the highly anticipated **Men's Cricket World Cup**, which is scheduled to begin on **October 5th**, showcasing the world's best cricketing talent on the Indian subcontinent.
- For the very first time, **Chennai** will be the host city for "**Street 20**," an incredibly heartwarming cricket tournament exclusively dedicated to street children, aiming to captivate the hearts of both cricket enthusiasts and advocates for children's rights alike.
- India's **Virat Kohli** became the fastest batter to reach **13,000 ODI runs** during the Asia Cup Super 4 against **Pakistan** at the **R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** completed **10,000 ODI runs** during the Asia Cup 2023 Super Four match against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Rohit Sharma has crossed the landmark after reaching 23 with a six during his 241st innings in the format.
- Cricketer **Deepak Chahar**, known for his stellar performances on the cricket field, has ventured into the world of sports equipment with the launch of **DNINE Sports**.
- Adidas has revealed **Team India's jersey for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023**. The upcoming tournament is a historic one for India as they will be hosting the ODI World Cup alone for the very first time.
- **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced **SBI Life** as the official partner for the **BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-26** on September 20, 2023.

- After their 5-wicket win against **Australia**, **India** became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. **Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**. India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings.

- In a significant announcement, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has officially designated three prestigious venues in the **United States** for hosting the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. This marks a historic moment as the tournament makes its debut on American soil, with **Dallas, Florida, and New York** being selected as the host cities.
- In the second ODI between **Team India and Australia in Indore**, India achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **3000 ODI sixes**.

Asian Games 2023

- India, known for its strong sporting culture, had a promising start on the first official day of the **2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China**. India wrapped up the first official day of the Asian Games 2023 with five medals – three silver and two bronze.
- In a remarkable display of equestrian prowess, India clinched the gold medal in dressage at the **Asian Games 2023**, marking a historic moment for the nation. The Indian equestrian team, consisting of **Anush Agarwal, Hriday Vipul Kheda, Sudipati Hazel, and Divyakriti Singh**, achieved this victory with a stellar score of **209.205**. This triumph comes after a 41-year-long wait for India, as the country had previously won gold in horse riding during its debut appearance at the Asian Games in 1982.
- In an impressive display of marksmanship, the **Indian trio of Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, and Rhythm Sangwan** secured the gold medal in the **women's 25m pistol team event** at the **Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China**. With a total score of **1759**, Team India outshone the competition, narrowly edging out China for the top spot. This victory adds to India's growing medal tally at the ongoing Asiad, where they have notched up an impressive haul of **16** medals, including four golds.
- Indian shooter **Sift Kaur Samra** made history with a spectacular performance, clinching gold in the **women's 50m rifle 3 position event**. She not only won the gold but also shattered world, Asian, and Games records along the way. This remarkable achievement marks a significant moment in her shooting career.
- **Indian shooters** have continued to make their mark at the Asian Games, clinching their 6th gold medal in the **Men's 10m Air Pistol Team event**. **Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal, and Arjun Singh Cheema** displayed exceptional prowess, securing victory by a single point over the home Chinese team.





- In a stunning display of skill and precision, the Indian men's shooting trio comprising **Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Swapnil Suresh Kusale, and Akhil Sheoran** secured a gold medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Team event. Their remarkable achievement didn't stop there; they broke the world record with an extraordinary score of 1769 points.
- Nepal cricket** team rewrote the record books in the **Asian Games 2023**, achieving remarkable milestones in T20 International cricket. Nepal's extraordinary performance in the tournament led them to become the first team ever to cross the 300-run mark in T20Is. **Nepal's No. 5 batter, Dipendra Singh Airee**, also made headlines with his explosive batting. Airee blazed his way to a **nine-ball fifty**. At just **19 years old**, **Kushal Malla**, a talented left-handed batter, etched his name in cricket history by smashing the **fastest-ever T20I century**. Nepal's innings was punctuated by a sensational display of power-hitting, as they smashed a total of **26 sixes**.
- Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale** claimed mixed doubles gold with a **2-6 6-3 10-4** win over Chinese Taipei's **Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan**. It was India's second medal in tennis at the continental event after Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni had won a silver in men's doubles.

Important Terms associated: tennis

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: **11**}

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- World governing body **FIFA** has lifted the ban on the **Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL)**. The ban was imposed in January 2023 due to government interference in the federation's affairs.
- India secured the championship title by triumphing over Bangladesh with a 2-0 victory in the final match of the **SAFF U-16 Championship 2023**, which took place on September 10 at the **Changlimithang Stadium** in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- Germany beat Serbia** 83-77 to lift basketball's **2023 FIBA World Cup**. Germany went 8-0 in the tournament, becoming the fifth consecutive World Cup champion to go unbeaten.
- The **Subroto Cup International Football Tournament**, India's oldest national inter-school football competition, is set to make history in its **62nd edition**. **Bengaluru**, the Silicon Valley of India, has been added to the list of host cities for this prestigious event.

Grand Prixes

- Max Verstappen** has won the **Dutch Grand Prix** for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race. With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row.

- Max Verstappen** has won the **Italian Grand Prix** and sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with **10**. **Sergio Perez** made it a Red Bull 1-2 after he got ahead of **Carlos Sainz** following a fierce battle with the Ferrari driver in the closing stages.
- Ferrari's **Carlos Sainz** won the **Singapore Grand Prix** to end Formula 1 leader **Max Verstappen's** record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten.
- MotoGP Bharat** is being held at the **Buddh International Circuit** in **Greater Noida** from September 22 to September 24. The three-day extravaganza is one of the biggest racing events to be held in India since hosting three Formula 1 races between 2011 to 2013.
- Italian rider **Marco Bezzecchi**, representing the Mooney VR46 Racing Team, emerged victorious in the inaugural **Indian Grand Prix** for the 2023 MotoGP season.

Hockey

- India defeated Thailand** 7-2 in the final to win the inaugural Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier. The final match witnessed an outstanding performance by the Indian side, as they triumphed over Thailand with an impressive score of 7-2.
- In Hockey, **India beat Pakistan** in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural **Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023** in Salalah, Oman.

Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- Indian badminton player **HS Prannoy** secured the bronze medal in the men's singles category at the prestigious **BWF World Badminton Championships 2023**.
- Indian badminton player **Kiran George** secured a remarkable victory at the **Indonesia Masters 2023**, held in Medan, North Sumatra.

Sports Events |Tournaments Current Affairs

Other Sports Current Affairs

- Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.
- Divya Deshmukh**, a 17-year-old Chess Woman Grandmaster hailing from **Nagpur, Maharashtra, India** clinched victory in the women's category of the rapid section at the **Tata Steel Chess India tournament**.
- Amul** is named as the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the **19th Asian Games 2022** to be held in **Hangzhou, China** from September 23 to October 8, 2023.
- Governor of Goa, **Shri. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**, officially introduced the **Mashaal** (torch) to mark the commencement of the 37th National Games. This splendid event was organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of Goa, at the Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan, Donapaula.





- At the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India tournament held in Kolkata, **R Praggnanandhaa** from India achieved an impressive **third-place finish**, establishing himself as the leading Indian contender. In the Open Blitz category, world champion **Alexander Grischuk** exhibited his dominance by securing the top position, while **Arjun Erigaisi** secured the second-best position among Indian participants, securing **fourth place** in the Chess tournament.
- During the **2023 Archery World Cup Final** held in Hermosillo, Mexico, **Prathamesh Jawkar**, the Indian compound archer, embarked on a memorable journey in his first-ever World Cup Final appearance. He clinched a **silver medal** as Jawkar's incredible run in the competition concluded with a thrilling face-off against **Denmark's Mathias Fullerton**.
- Maharashtra** clinched the title of champions in the **5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023** by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka, concluding with a final score of 31-10. This championship, which took place at Balewadi in Pune from September 10 to September 11, 2023, was marked by intense competition and served as a testament to the impressive development of wheelchair rugby in India.
- Neeraj Chopra**, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the **Diamond League finals** in Eugene. His best throw of **83.80 meters** secured him the **second position** in this prestigious competition, where he engaged in a remarkable battle against formidable opponents.
- Mondo Duplantis**, the **Swedish** pole vault sensation and reigning world and Olympic champion, brought the athletics season to a spectacular close at the **2023 Diamond League Final** in Eugene on September 17th.
- Indian shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** secured a remarkable victory in the women's **10m air rifle event** at the **ISSF World Cup 2023** held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a thrilling Saturday. The 24-year-old Olympian showcased her exceptional skills and nerves of steel as she outperformed her competitors to clinch the coveted gold medal.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has decided to have not one, but two flag-bearers to lead the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the upcoming **Asian Games 2023** in Hangzhou, China. The distinguished honor of flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2023 has been bestowed upon two exceptional athletes: **Harmanpreet Singh** and **Lovlina Borgohain**.
- Union Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** has called off his trip to the Asian Games in protest of **China's** refusal to grant entry to **Indian Wushu players** from Arunachal Pradesh. This decision has come amidst an official protest by the Indian government against China's discriminatory treatment of these athletes.

Sports Current Affairs of August

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- England pacer **Stuart Broad** has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series.
- Alex Hales** has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect, at the age of 34. He signs off from his England career as a T20 World Cup winner, having played his last game in their five-wicket win over Pakistan at the MCG in November last year.
- Sri Lankan all-rounder **Wanindu Hasaranga** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 26-year-old made the decision to focus on his limited-overs career, where he is a key figure for Sri Lanka.
- Pakistan** fast bowler **Wahab Riaz** has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 15-year career. The 38-year-old made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play **27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is**, taking **237 wickets in total**.

Important Terms associated: tennis

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- Former Uruguay defender **Diego Godin** retired from professional soccer, ending a 20-year career at age 37. Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019.
- Brazil forward **Neymar Jr** has signed for Saudi Arabia's **Al-Hilal** from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG in six injury-plagued seasons.
- World governing body **FIFA** has lifted the ban on the **Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL)**.

Grand Prix

- Defending Formula One champion **Max Verstappen** emphatically won the Belgian Grand Prix for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season.





- The Tamil Nadu government and Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL) have launched a new street circuit in Chennai. The 3.5km track will be located around the Island Grounds and will be the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race.
- Max Verstappen** has won the Dutch Grand Prix for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race.

Hockey

- The Indian women's hockey team wins the title of **Torneo del Centenario 2023** by defeating hosts Spain 3-0 in Terrassa, Barcelona on 30th July.
- On 28th August, India defeated Thailand 7-2 in the final to win the inaugural **Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier**.

Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- Iga Swiatek achieved a significant achievement by securing her fourth WTA title of the year and her very first on home soil. The Polish tennis player showcased her dominance in the final, defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund with an incredible 6-0, 6-1 scoreline in just 68 minutes, denying her opponent any break points throughout the match.
- Mohit Kumar** has made a permanent mark in the records of Indian wrestling. He has achieved the distinction of being the **first Indian wrestler** to attain the junior world championship title **since 2019**. In the final match, Mohit Kumar was trailing 0-6 against Russia's **Eldar Akhmaduninov**. Through adeptly executed maneuvers, he garnered nine consecutive points, ultimately securing the coveted **gold medal**.
- Indian wrestler **Priya Malik** has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the **gold medal** at the **U20 World Wrestling Championships** held in **Jordan**. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career.
- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**, India's governing body for wrestling, has faced suspension from the **United World Wrestling (UWW)** due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections.
- Indian badminton player **HS Prannoy** secured the **bronze medal** in the men's singles category at the prestigious **BWF World Badminton Championships 2023**.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

Other Sports Current Affairs

- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, **D. Gukesh**, has dethroned Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings.
- The Indian women's compound archery team etched their names in history by clinching a gold medal at the **World Archery Championships held in Berlin, Germany**.
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the **Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India'** has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.

- India ended their **2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships**, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at **Istanbul, Turkey**. Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division.
- Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand**, renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has been handed a significant blow with a four-year ban following her failure in an out-of-competition dope test. The test revealed the presence of **selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs)**, leading to the decision to suspend her from competitive sports. Chand's remarkable athletic career has now been marred by this doping incident.
- Adille Sumariwalla** has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of **World Athletics**, the highest post ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body. The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**, received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term.
- Anahat Singh** secured the **gold medal** in the **U-17 category** of the prestigious **Asian Junior Squash Individual Championship**.
- Raja Anirudh Sriram**, a fourth-standard student hailing from Tirupati, has clinched a silver medal at the prestigious **Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC)**.
- Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed **Khelo India Women's League** will be recognized as the "**Asmita Women's League**" from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government's commitment to advancing gender equality and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports.
- Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** finished **second in FIDE World Cup**. After three days and four games of intensely nervy chess across two formats, **Magnus Carlsen** finally managed to win the **FIDE World Cup** for the first time in his career.
- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds of sports and technology, **Infosys**, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1, **Iga Swiatek**.
- Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the **World Athletics Championships** held in **Budapest, Hungary**.





Sports Current Affairs of July

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) has appointed **Ajit Agarkar** as the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.
- Indian cricketing legend **Virat Kohli** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **10th cricketer in history** to make **500 international appearances**.
- South Zone** outclassed **West Zone** to win the **Duleep Trophy** with a 75-run victory at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. In pursuit of a target of 298 runs, West Zone, who resumed their innings at 182/5 on the final day, were eventually bowled out for 222.
- Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **ICC World Cup 2023**. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan launched the World Cup 2023 campaign 'It takes one day' in his iconic voiceover.
- Star India batter **Virat Kohli** has surpassed South Africa's **Jacques Kallis** to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket history. Kohli achieved this upward movement in the batting charts during India's second Test against West Indies at Port of Spain. On the first day of the match, which is also his **500th international game**.
- England's Stuart Broad** has become the second pace bowler to take **600 wickets in Test cricket**. The 36 year cricketer reached the mark by removing Australia's Travis Head on day one of the fourth Ashes Test at Old Trafford. England team-mate James Anderson is the only other quick bowler to achieve the feat.
- Sri Lanka batter **Lahiru Thirimanne** has announced his retirement from international cricket after a 13-year career. The 33-year-old top-order batter made his international debut in 2010 and went on to represent Sri Lanka in 44 Tests, 127 ODIs, and 26 T20Is.
- Pakistan A** cricket team won **Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023** by defeating **India A** in the finals at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This marks Pakistan's second consecutive win in the tournament, previously it won the cup in the 2019 finals against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The Indore-based Buley sisters, **Nidhi and Ritika Buley**, are among the four retired female cricketers who have made their way into the BCCI umpires' panel with a distinction. Nidhi played a Test and ODI for India back in 2006 while her younger sister Ritika represented Madhya Pradesh in 31 First-Class games.

- India captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been suspended for her team's next two international matches following two separate breaches of the **ICC Code of Conduct** during the third match of their **ICC Women's Championship** series against Bangladesh in Dhaka. Harmanpreet Kaur becomes 1st women cricketer to breach ICC Code of Conduct.

Important Terms associated: tennis

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11}

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- The **132nd edition of the Durand Cup**, India's oldest football tournament is scheduled to commence at Kolkata from 03 August to 03 September 2023.
- Indian football team midfielder **Lallianzuala Chhangte** was named the **AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23** while Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.
- England** emerged victorious in the Under-21 European Championship final against **Spain** in **Georgia**, securing their first title since 1984. 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship Best player: **Anthony Gordon**.
- DD Sports** has partnered with **1Stadia** to broadcast the highly anticipated 9th edition of the **FIFA Women's World Cup**, bringing joy and excitement to fans. The tournament, starting on July 20, 2023, will mark the inaugural occasion when the World Cup is co-hosted by two countries, namely Australia and New Zealand.

Grand Prix

- Max Verstappen**, the reigning Formula One champion, continued his impressive performance by securing a commanding victory at the **Austrian Grand Prix 2023**.
- Max Verstappen** reeled off his sixth straight wins **British Grand Prix** with Lando Norris for McLaren in second. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton completed the Silverstone podium.
- Max Verstappen** won the **Hungarian GP** at the Hungaroring, by a comfortable 33.731 secs margin over **McLaren's Lando Norris**.

Hockey

- Netherlands men** team finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the **FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season**. With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second title, successfully defending their first title, won in the competition last year.



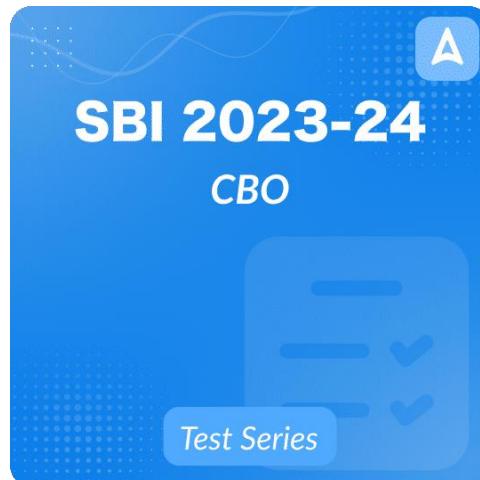
**Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting**

- **Lakshya Sen** clinched the men's singles title at the **58th Canada Open 2023**. In an exhilarating final match, Sen defeated Li Shi Feng, the reigning All England champion, in straight games. This remarkable victory marks Sen's second BWF World Tour title and adds another prestigious accolade to his growing list of accomplishments.
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**, achieved the remarkable feat of setting a new Guinness world record for the fastest hit by a male player in badminton in the ongoing Korea Open 2023.
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** secured their **fourth** championship this year as they emerged triumphant in the men's doubles final at the Korea Open.

Sports Events |Tournaments Current Affairs**Other Sports Current Affairs**

- In a remarkable achievement, India has emerged as the overall winner at the **34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO)** held in **Al Ain, UAE** from 2-11 July. The Indian student team clinched an unprecedented all-gold performance, securing the top position on the medals tally for the first time.
- **India** has secured the **second** position with an impressive haul of **11** medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze in the recently concluded biannual event, **2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland**.
- **Australia's Victoria state** has withdrawn as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games** because of a massive increase in the projected cost of staging the multi-sports event. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said his government last year agreed to host the next edition of the quadrennial event "but not at any cost."
- **Australia's Victoria state** has withdrawn as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games** because of a massive increase in the projected cost of staging the multi-sports event. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said his government last year agreed to host the next edition of the quadrennial event "but not at any cost."
- India's lone medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in **Lonato, Italy** came from **Prithviraj Tondaiman**, who clinched the **bronze medal** in the **trap event**. In the final round, Prithviraj secured the **third** position with a total of 34 points which marked his second individual ISSF World Cup medal, as he had previously won a bronze in Doha back in March.
- India achieved a historic milestone at the recently concluded **25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023** in **Bangkok, Thailand**. The Championship took place from July 12 to 16. With an impressive tally of 27 medals, including **six gold, 12 silver, and nine bronze**, India secured the **third** position overall, following China and Japan.

- **R Praggnanandhaa**, the 17-year-old Indian Grandmaster, achieved a remarkable triumph in the Super GM chess tournament 2023, scoring an impressive 6.5 points.
- **Shubhankar Sharma** achieved a remarkable feat, securing the best result ever by an Indian golfer at the Open At the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, **England**.
- Denmark's **Jonas Vingegaard** of the Jumbo-Visma, Dutch professional bicycle racing team, has won **110th edition of the Tour de France** for a second straight year on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France. The Tour de France (Tour of France) is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race primarily held in France.
- **Aditya Samant**, hailing from Maharashtra, achieved the title of India's **83rd Grandmaster** by obtaining his third GM norm during the Master Tournament (MTO) at the Biel International Chess Festival.
- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has made the decision to grant official recognition to the **Handball Association of India (HAI)** as the National Sports Federation (NSF) responsible for promoting and regulating the sport within the country.
- **Asmita Dey**, representing Tripura, has achieved remarkable success by securing a **gold medal** at the **Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship** hosted in Macau, China. In addition to her gold medal at the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 in Macau, China, she had secured a silver medal at the Asian Open 2023 held in Kuwait City in April of this year and a bronze medal at the Asian Junior Championships in 2022.
- The **ISSF Junior World Championships 2023** took place at Changwon Shooting Range, **South Korea** from July 16 to 24. In its **third edition** this year, the event featured 90 skilled Indian shooters participating in pistol, rifle, and shotgun disciplines within the under-21 age category, all striving to secure medals. India's impressive performance led to a total of **17 medals**, including **six gold, six silver, and five bronze** at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023. Remarkably, **seven** Indian shooters managed to secure more than one medal during the competition.





Science & Technology

Science & Technology of December

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has recently announced its ambitious plan to launch the country's **first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)**. This groundbreaking mission aims to delve into the polarization of intense X-Ray sources, introducing a novel dimension to X-Ray astronomy. With a focus on simultaneous studies of temporal, spectral and polarization features, **XPoSat** is poised to make significant contributions to our understanding of cosmic X-Ray sources.
- In a historic moment for the field of nuclear fusion research, the **JT-60SA**, the world's largest and most advanced experimental **nuclear fusion reactor**, has officially commenced operations in **Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture**. Developed as a collaborative effort between the European Union and Japan, the JT-60SA represents a significant step forward in harnessing the potential of nuclear fusion as a clean and sustainable energy source.
- Google parent company **Alphabet** made a significant announcement on December 6, unveiling **Gemini**, its latest and most advanced AI model to date. In a bid to outpace competitors like OpenAI's GPT-4 and Meta's Llama 2, Gemini represents a major leap forward for the tech giant in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.
- In a significant development within the **artificial intelligence (AI) community**, **Meta** and **IBM** have joined forces to establish the **AI Alliance**. This aims to promote an "**open-science**" approach to AI development, setting them apart from competitors such as Google, Microsoft and Open AI. The crux of the debate revolves around whether AI technology should be developed in a manner that is widely accessible or kept proprietary, raising questions about safety, profit distribution and regulatory influence.
- IBM** has recently unveiled its latest quantum computing milestone with the introduction of **Condor**, a quantum processor boasting an impressive **1,121 qubits**. This marks a significant advancement in IBM's quantum roadmap, showcasing a quantum machine with over 1,000 qubits for the first time. However, the company is now shifting its focus from sheer qubit quantity to prioritizing error resistance in its quantum machines.
- In a landmark collaboration, scientists from the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and **Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs** have united their expertise to develop **Aktocyte tablets for the treatment of pelvic cancer**. The tablets, designed as an adjuvant to cancer radiotherapy, regenerative nutraceutical, immunomodulator, and antioxidant, mark a significant advancement in cancer care, according to a statement from the DAE.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Science & Technology of November

- Researchers at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI)** in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of mushroom, named **Candolleomyces albosquamosus**, found on the **JNTBGRI campus** in the **Western Ghats**. This discovery sheds light on the region's remarkable biodiversity and encourages further exploration of fungal diversity in the area.
- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)** has embarked on a groundbreaking space initiative, the '**SS AMU SAT**' project, approved by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**. Led by AMU's **Robo Club**, this initiative aims to develop a **3U CubeSat**, marking the first satellite named after AMU's founder, **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**.
- India's Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)** marks a significant stride in underwater exploration, aiming to delve **6,000 meters** into the ocean depths. Spearheaded by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, **DOM** encompasses diverse pillars, each contributing uniquely to India's ambitious foray into the oceans.
- Ken Mattingly**, the renowned astronaut best known for his vital role in the safe return of the damaged Apollo 13 spacecraft to Earth, has passed away at the age of 87. His contributions to space exploration, both on the ground and in orbit, have left an indelible mark on NASA's history.





- In a groundbreaking discovery that has astounded the scientific community, researchers have identified the **most ancient black hole** ever detected. This celestial behemoth came into existence a mere **470 million years** after the birth of the universe during the **Big Bang**.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** (IITK) has established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named **ATMAN** (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNDicators). The CoE is a significant step towards the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative of the Government of India, focusing on building **indigenous low-cost sensor manufacturing** and Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) capabilities to enhance air quality across urban and rural areas of India.
- Wolbachia** is a type of intracellular bacteria that infects a wide range of arthropods, including insects and other invertebrates. It has garnered significant attention in recent years due to its intriguing biological properties and potential applications in various fields.
- ISRO's maiden solar mission, **Aditya L1**, has marked a significant achievement by capturing its **first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares**. During its initial observation period starting from around October 29, the **High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer** (HEL1OS) on board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, as announced by the space agency.
- Seven, a consumer electronic startup, has introduced the **7 Ring smart ring** in India. The new wearable comes with an interesting standout feature, which is the ability to make contactless payments with its help.
- IBM** and **Amazon Web Services** (AWS) have announced the launch of an **Innovation Lab** situated at the IBM Client Experience Center in **Bengaluru, India**. This marks a significant expansion of their collaborative services, with a focus on empowering mutual clients through the capabilities of generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- In a groundbreaking move, **Hanson Robotics and Dictador**, a Polish run company, have appointed the **world's first humanoid robot CEO named Mika**. This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the unique values of the company. While this development sparks excitement about the potential of AI in leadership roles, it also raises concerns among workers about job security.
- SpaceX's Cargo Dragon** embarked on its **29th mission** to the International Space Station (ISS), launching from the iconic Pad 39 at the Kennedy Space Center in **Florida** at 8:28 p.m. EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) on November 9th.
- Samsung** has taken a significant leap into the world of generative artificial intelligence (AI) with the public revelation of its groundbreaking model, Samsung Gauss. Named after the renowned mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, credited with establishing the normal distribution theory, Samsung Gauss marks the South Korean tech

- giant's ambitious stride toward utilizing AI to enhance the lives of consumers globally. The announcement was made at the Samsung AI Forum, an annual event that has been a focal point for experts and academics since 2017.
- Omegle**, a once-popular online chat service founded in **2009** by Leif K-Brooks, has recently announced its **shutdown after more than 14 years** of operation. The platform, which allowed individuals to connect and talk with strangers, experienced a surge in popularity but ultimately faced challenges that led to its demise.
 - Google** is taking a significant step in catering to the educational needs of teenagers with the launch of its **AI chatbot, Bard**. In a blog post by **Tulsee Doshi**, Google's Product Head for Responsible AI, the company outlined its commitment to creating a secure and engaging learning experience for younger users.
 - OneWeb India**, a subsidiary of the **Bharti Group** and part of the **Eutelsat Group**, has recently obtained approval from India's space regulator, **IN-SPACe**, to initiate Eutelsat OneWeb's commercial satellite broadband services in the country. This significant milestone positions OneWeb India as the **first organization to receive such authorization**, making it the **sole satellite broadband services provider** to secure all necessary regulatory approvals ahead of its commercial launch.
 - India** and the **United States** are set to elevate their space collaboration to new heights with the upcoming joint launch of the **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite**. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, in a recent meeting with a high-level NASA delegation led by Administrator Mr. Bill Nelson, announced the launch schedule for the first quarter of the next year.
 - Chennai-based startup Aagnikul** is gearing up to launch its groundbreaking rocket, **Agnibaan**, featuring the **world's first 3D-printed engine**. The company, incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, is set to conduct a technology demonstrator mission by the end of this year, paving the way for its first **commercial launch in 2024**.
 - In a bid to enhance railway safety and address concerns over increasing accidents, Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the Ministry of Railways' plans to **upgrade its indigenous anti-collision system, Kavach, to 4G/5G (LTE-based) technology**.

Science & Technology of October

- In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended **24 start-ups** for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of **Rs 20 crore**. This transformative initiative was announced during the **ATMAN** (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) **2023 program**.
- Telecom giant **Nokia** has made a significant stride towards the future of wireless technology with the establishment of its state-of-the-art **6G lab** at the company's global R&D center in **Bengaluru, India**. This "first-of-its-kind" project is set to revolutionize the way we perceive and interact with the digital and physical worlds.





- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the **first** in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated **Gaganyaan mission**, which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have joined hands to create an exciting and educational initiative called the "**Space on Wheels**" program. This program is designed to take the wonders of space exploration to the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, making it accessible to students and space enthusiasts in the region.
- India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has announced ambitious plans to expand the country's space activities, including sending its **first astronaut to the moon by 2040** and establishing a native **space station by 2035**.
- The partnership between Qualcomm and Google to produce wearable devices based on RISC-V technology marks a significant step in the development of open-source hardware and its application in consumer electronics.
- Tech giant Google has taken a proactive step to address the growing concern of online financial frauds in India. Through its new program, **DigiKavach**, Google aims to combat these fraudulent activities by understanding the strategies employed by scammers and implementing countermeasures.
- In a momentous event for India's space industry, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled **Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket** in Hyderabad on Tuesday, October 24th. With the hope of achieving a fully commercial launch in the later months of 2024, Skyroot's co-founder and CEO, Pawan Kumar Chandana, has emphasized the partly commercial nature of Vikram-1's inaugural launch.
- China's space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of **Shenzhou 17** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**. This mission highlights China's determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the United States.
- Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, India's leading telecommunications provider has introduced '**JioSpaceFiber**' satellite broadband service. This groundbreaking initiative was officially unveiled at the **India Mobile Congress** and represents the nation's **first** satellite-driven giga fiber service. The primary goal of this satellite broadband service is to **extend high-speed internet access** to previously underserved and remote regions in India.
- Researchers at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI)** in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of mushroom, named **Candolleomyces albosquamulosus**, found on the **JNTBGRI campus** in the **Western Ghats**. This discovery sheds light on the region's remarkable biodiversity and encourages further exploration of fungal diversity in the area.

- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has embarked on a groundbreaking space initiative, the '**SS AMU SAT**' project, approved by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**. Led by AMU's Robo Club, this initiative aims to develop a **3U CubeSat**, marking the first satellite named after AMU's founder, **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**.

Science & Technology of September

- In a remarkable feat of innovation and technological prowess, Hyderabad-based private sector firm Grene Robotics has introduced Indrajaal, world's only autonomous wide area, **counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS)**. This state-of-the-art system is touted as capable of safeguarding against micro, mini, small, large, and extra-large drones, signaling a significant advancement in Indian defense technology.
- Japan has launched "moon sniper" its lunar exploration spacecraft aboard a homegrown H-IIA rocket, clearing a path to become the world's fifth country to land on the moon early next year. **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** said the rocket took off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan as planned and successfully released the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM).
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is all set to host its annual "One Week One Lab" programme from 11th to 16th September 2023, an exciting event where each of its 37 cutting-edge laboratories situated across the nation will unveil their remarkable research outcomes and accomplishments.
- A newly discovered **green comet** is zipping by Earth and is now visible for the first time in more than **400 years**. Comet Nishimura was discovered by amateur Japanese astronomer **Hideo Nishimura** on August 11 and named after him. Nishimura first spotted it by taking long exposure shots using a Canon digital camera and a telephoto lens.
- The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, commonly referred to as **MOXIE**, has achieved a remarkable feat by producing a substantial 122 grams of oxygen, a quantity sufficient for sustaining a small dog's breathing for approximately 10 hours.. This compact device, roughly the **size of a microwave**, possesses an extraordinary capability: it can convert the tenuous and inhospitable Martian atmosphere into vital, life-sustaining oxygen.





- Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, a major player in the cloud computing industry, has entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe). This collaboration aims to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing, opening up exciting possibilities in the space sector.
- Apple's **iPhone 15 Pro** and **iPhone 15 Pro Max** are the company's latest flagship smartphones, and they come with a number of notable upgrades, including a new brushed titanium frame, a powerful **A16 Bionic chip**, and a more advanced camera system. However, one of the most significant changes under the hood is the integration of precision dual-frequency **GPS, including support for NavIC, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**.
- The **Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)**, located in Hyderabad, recently forged a significant collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, headquartered in Bengaluru. This momentous partnership was sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on September 11, marking the initiation of a five-year partnership under the **National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)** programme. The MoU signing event was attended by key representatives from both organizations, emphasizing the commitment to enhancing expertise in critical areas.
- An international group of scientists, including botanists from the **University of Oxford's Botanic Garden**, has issued a dire call to action to save the iconic **genus Rafflesia**. These remarkable plants, known for their massive, foul-smelling flowers, are under severe threat due to habitat destruction and lack of protection. A recent study has shed light on the precarious status of Rafflesia, urging immediate conservation efforts to prevent their extinction.

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- The **I2U2 group** comprising **India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States** has unveiled an ambitious joint space venture. This collaborative initiative aims to create a groundbreaking space-based tool with wide-ranging applications for policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs. The announcement follows India's recent successful lunar mission, marking a significant milestone for the quartet's space exploration efforts.
- The climactic end of a **seven-year voyage** comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the **Utah desert**, carrying to Earth the **largest asteroid samples** ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system and how Earth became habitable.
- Health experts from around the world are sounding the alarm about a potential global pandemic referred to as "**Disease X**," which could surpass the lethality of COVID-19 and claim over 50 million lives. They warn that COVID-19 might be just a precursor to more devastating pandemics in the future. Dame Kate Bingham, who chaired the **UK's Vaccine Taskforce**, issued a grim warning about the severity of Disease X. She emphasized that the world has been fortunate that COVID-19 was not more lethal and cautioned that the next pandemic could be exponentially more deadly.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has faced a setback in its Chandrayaan-3 mission as they strive to re-establish communication with the **Vikram lander and Pragyan rover** on the lunar surface. Despite encountering difficulties, ISRO remains optimistic about the possibility of waking up the lander and rover during the lunar day, which **spans 14 Earth days**. In this article, we delve into the challenges faced by ISRO, the potential reasons for the communication failure and the hopes for a successful revival.
- Search giant **Google** has unveiled its **Earthquake Alerts System** for **Android smartphone users in India**. Developed in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **National Seismology Center (NSC)**, this system offers early warnings of seismic activities and is available in multiple Indian languages.
- The **Psyche mission** represents an ambitious venture to explore a distinct metallic asteroid positioned in orbit between **Mars and Jupiter**. The exceptional feature of this asteroid, named Psyche, is its composition, believed to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an ancient planet – a fundamental building block of our solar system.





- The mission is spearheaded by Arizona State University, with **NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory** overseeing mission management, operations, and navigation. The spacecraft's solar-electric propulsion system will be constructed by Maxar (formerly SSL), complemented by a suite of scientific instruments.
- NASA's **Perseverance Mars rover** has accomplished an impressive feat by traversing a massive boulder field at a record speed, taking only a third of the time it would have taken its predecessor, Curiosity. The rover's journey through the challenging terrain of **Snowdrift Peak** in the Jezero Crater is a testament to its advanced autonomous navigation capabilities and highlights its commitment to maximizing scientific exploration time.

Science & Technology of August

- Open AI CEO **Sam Altman** along with two co-founders launched the **Worldcoin crypto project** to grant users a verified digital identity and access to a financial project.
- The **Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft**, which marks India's third lunar exploration mission, has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence. This successful entry was made possible through a TransLunar Injection (TLI) executed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The upcoming crucial step is the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) scheduled for August 5, during which the spacecraft's liquid engine will be activated once more to position it into a lunar orbit.
- Astronomers have made a stunning discovery of "Einstein Cross," where light from a distant galaxy is split and magnified by a foreground elliptical ground. This event was **first predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915** as a consequence of his theory of general relativity.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Health are actively engaged in the development of an **Organ Donation Registry**, aimed at introducing structural improvements to the **National Organ Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO)**. The NOTTO is responsible for arranging **organ transplantation operations** throughout the nation. The establishment of this digital registry is anticipated to **eradicate intermediaries** within the system.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) unveiled a recent publication titled "**75 Endemic Birds of India**" on the occasion of its **108th** foundation day. This publication highlights a surprising fact: A remarkable **5%** of India's bird species are confined solely within the nation's boundaries, making them true avian treasures that are not reported anywhere else on the planet.
- Astronomers used the **James Webb Space Telescope** to capture this striking new image of **Messier 57**, more popularly known as the **Ring Nebula**. The nebula in the image is actually the glowing remains of a sun-like star and at its centre is the star's hot core, which is called a white dwarf.

- In a strategic partnership, **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** teams up with **Tata Play** to introduce **GSAT-24**. The objective of this partnership is to augment **satellite broadcasting capabilities** and provide **high-quality entertainment** to every part of the nation. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in India's telecommunications sector, propelled by state-of-the-art indigenous technology.
- Russia** is to launch its first lunar landing spacecraft, **Luna-25**, on August 11, marking a significant step in its renewed lunar exploration efforts. This mission follows closely after India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander launch, reflecting a global interest in exploring the moon's south pole, potentially rich in resources like ice for future human habitation.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is launching its first solar mission, **Aditya-L1**, to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts.
- The Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)** is making groundbreaking advancements in aviation with the development of "**Pibot**," a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities. Pibot's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergency situations showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries.
- Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos** has commenced the **integration process** of its groundbreaking launch vehicle, **Agnibaan SOrTeD** (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad situated at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota. While the exact launch date remains undisclosed, the recent event marks a pivotal milestone in Agnikul Cosmos's pursuit of space innovation.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has achieved an impressive feat on **YouTube's live streaming platform**. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over **80 lakh peak concurrent viewers (PCVs)**, making it the most-watched live stream globally.
- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)** Chief **S Somanath** announced that Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun will be likely launched by the first week of September. This announcement comes hours after ISRO's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 made a successful landing on the lunar surface.





- The awe-inspiring image of the **irregular galaxy ESO 300-16** has been captured by none other than the renowned **Hubble Space Telescope**. This remarkable deep space observatory is celebrated for its unrivaled ability to provide high-resolution and meticulously detailed images of celestial objects, truly unlocking the mysteries of the universe.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, **The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**. This mission, called **LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration**, is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well. LUPEX will offer ISRO another opportunity to probe the surface of the Moon.
- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** provided a significant update on the progress of the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan mission**, stating that trials for the mission will commence in **October**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing its innovative device named '**Nabhmitra**'. This device, developed at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, aims to enhance the safety of fishermen during their sea expeditions. The successful testing took place at **Neendakara**, where the device was installed on a fishing vessel, and its capabilities were assessed in the presence of both scientists and officials from the Fisheries department.
- In a groundbreaking announcement, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** revealed that **Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover module** has successfully confirmed the presence of **sulphur (S)** on the surface of the Moon. This significant revelation comes as a result of the first-ever in-situ recordings conducted near the **lunar south pole**. The confirmation of sulphur's presence holds paramount importance in unraveling the **Moon's elemental composition** and furthering our understanding of its geological history.

Science & Technology of July

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the assembly of the **Chandrayaan-3 rocket** and is now preparing for the final round of tests before the anticipated launch. The spacecraft, including the indigenous lander module, propulsion module, and rover, is fully integrated, and the payload fairing has also been completed. The launch is expected to take place between July 12 and July 19.
- India has taken a significant stride forward in the field of telecommunications, with the acquisition of over **200 patents for 6G technology**. The announcement was made by the Communications and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, during the launch of the Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi.

- Meta, the owner of Instagram, has introduced a new social media platform called Threads. With Twitter facing instability under its billionaire owner Elon Musk, Meta aims to capitalize on the situation.
- India's lunar mission **Chandrayaan-3** is going to be launched on July 14, at 2:35 P.M. from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota announced by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The date was later confirmed by Secretary of Space department and ISRO Chairman S. Somnath at a press briefing on the sidelines of the G-20 Fourth Economy Leaders Meeting in Bengaluru.
- In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country's first handheld navigation device based on the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC)**.
- SpaceX**, the aerospace company founded by Elon Musk, has achieved two significant milestones in its quest to expand global internet connectivity through its Starlink satellite communications service. The Mongolian government has granted **SpaceX** licenses to operate as an internet service provider.
- India, the interest of **producing green hydrogen** has been increasing which is hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources. **Green house significantly reduce greenhouse gas emission as it does not contain any carbon dioxide when burned**.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) has recently launched the **Euclid Space Telescope**, a specially designed instrument aimed at revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. This state-of-the-art telescope will enable scientists to create a detailed **three-dimensional map** of billions of galaxies spread across a vast area of 10 billion light-years.
- Indian Space Research Organization** decided to transfer the **SSLV** completely to the private sector, not just the manufacturing but full transfer.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources** has unveiled draft and roadmap to outline the research and development priorities for **manufacturing and storing of Green Hydrogen**.
- SpaceX founder, **Elon Musk**, the well-known billionaire entrepreneur recognized for his accomplishments in electric vehicles, space exploration, and social media, has introduced his highly anticipated artificial intelligence startup, **xAI**. The primary objective of the company is to disrupt the dominance of major technology corporations in the AI industry, with a particular focus on developing an alternative to **OpenAI's ChatGPT**.
- India launched its ambitious **Chandrayaan-3 mission** to the Moon. The spacecraft launched aboard India's heaviest rocket, Launch vehicle **Mark-III a.k.a LVM3** on a journey to the Moon. The spacecraft will complete the **3,84,000 kilometers-long journey** in nearly **45 days** to attempt a soft-landing on the Moon by end of August.





- ISRO successfully tested **Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission** on 19th July at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- HCL Tech, a multinational IT company, has joined the **XR Startup Program**, a collaborative effort between **Meta** and the MeitY Startup Hub, to bolster and accelerate extended reality (XR) technology startups in India.
- Elon Musk**, owner of Twitter launched the **new logo of Twitter 'X'** by replacing the iconic bird logo. The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app". Before he bought Twitter for \$44 billion, Musk described the platform as "an accelerant to creating X, the everything app" - something he plans to launch eventually.

- ISRO to launch **PSLV-C56** with six co-passenger satellite on 30th July at 6:30 AM from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- A new Internet ransomware virus called '**Akira**' has surfaced in cyberspace, designed to steal crucial personal information and encrypt data, thereby coercing individuals into paying ransom money. The Indian **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** said in a latest advisory to Internet users.
- India AI** and **Meta** have forged a collaborative partnership with the shared objective of propelling the progress of AI & Emerging Technologies research and development. The partnership's primary aim is to achieve groundbreaking advancements in AI technology and its practical applications.

Schemes/ Apps

Schemes/ Apps of December

- In a significant move towards transparency and accountability, the **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** has mandated the display of the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)** logo and beneficiary details on all houses constructed under the scheme. The directive applies to all States and Union Territories, aiming to streamline the implementation of the flagship mission of the Government of India.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned an additional **Rs 2,500 crore for the Interest Equalisation Scheme**. The scheme is extended until June 30, 2024, aiming to support exporters from specific sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters.
- Union Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**, responsible for culture, tourism, and the development of the North Eastern Region, announced a groundbreaking project in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The initiative, titled "**Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar**" (MGMD), is set to spotlight the cultural richness embedded in villages across the nation.
- Women's empowerment is crucial for building a strong and developed nation, especially when women thrive economically, contributing to rural prosperity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, **NAMO Drone Didi**, announced on November 30, aims to **empower 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural purposes**. This innovative approach harnesses technology to empower rural women, positioning them at the forefront of the agricultural revolution.
- The **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme**, launched during the **COVID-19 outbreak**, has emerged as a crucial initiative in supporting urban street vendors. The scheme, designed as a micro-credit program, has disbursed an impressive total of **Rs 9,790 crore** in loans to beneficiaries, as disclosed by the government in the Rajya Sabha.

- YUVAi-Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI**, a collaborative initiative of the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and **Intel India**, is poised to take center stage at the upcoming Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit. This groundbreaking program, designed to impart essential AI skills to the youth, is gaining recognition for its innovative approach and commitment to building a future-ready workforce.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** has introduced the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**. This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India. The scheme encompasses forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- The Ministry of Food Processing reveals substantial growth in the sector, with beneficiaries of the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** investing a staggering ₹7,126 crore. Notably, cumulative sales reached ₹49,825 crore during the April-September period. The PLI Scheme, spearheaded by the Ministry, aims to address critical aspects of the food processing industry. With a focus on generating employment for **approximately 250,000 individuals**, the scheme incentivizes manufacturing in four key categories: ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products, processed fruits and vegetables, marine products, and mozzarella cheese.
- The Government of India, unwavering in its commitment to providing safe and potable tap water to every rural household in the country launched the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** in August 2019. This mission, implemented in collaboration with states, aims to ensure the provision of water in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis. Consequently, out of the 19.24 Crore rural households in the country, **approximately 71.51% (13.76 Crore)** now have tap water supply in their homes.





- EPFO recorded a substantial rise to 28.69 lakh women subscribers in FY23, a significant increase from 15.94 lakh in 2019-20, signaling positive job creation trends.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- 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. **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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Samridhi 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%.

Schemes/ Apps of November

- A recent data analysis by **LibTech India**, a consortium of academics and activists, has revealed significant changes in the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** for the period from April to September 2023. The data, sourced from the **Union Rural Development Ministry**, shows a **7.5%** reduction in the number of active **MGNREGS** workers compared to the previous fiscal year.
- On **October 31st**, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the '**Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**' platform, a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower the youth of India. This autonomous body, established by the **Union Cabinet on October 11, 2023**, aims to serve as a technology-driven facilitator for youth development and youth-led progress, fostering equitable opportunities and fostering a sense of social responsibility among young individuals.
- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) Secretary, Shri S Krishnan, recently launched the **LEAP AHEAD initiative**, a collaborative effort between the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR.





- The Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Program (LLLAP) under the DISHA scheme, facilitated by the Department of Justice, extends its reach to over 600,000 individuals through the collaborative efforts of 14 implementing agencies.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is launching the Swachh Diwali Subh Diwali Campaign from November 6th to 12th 2023, under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 with an objective of celebrating Diwali in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. It emphasizes the importance of local products, reducing single-use plastic and maintaining cleanliness during and after the festival. In this article, we will delve into the various aspects of this initiative.
- In a recent public meeting held in Durg, Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a significant announcement regarding the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, a free ration scheme aimed at assisting 80 crore impoverished individuals. The scheme, which was initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, provides 5 kg of free food grains every month to those in need. Prime Minister Modi declared the extension of this vital initiative for another five years, emphasizing the importance of the people's support and blessings in making such decisions.
- In a significant move towards reinforcing transparency and accountability, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), operating under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has recently unveiled a dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal. This portal marks a crucial step in IREDA's commitment to social responsibility and sustainability, providing a platform to manage CSR initiatives with increased transparency and efficiency.
- In a significant move towards fostering economic empowerment and financial inclusion among persons with disabilities, the government has introduced a one percent interest rate rebate for divyang borrowers. This initiative is part of the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), signaling a commitment to alleviating financial burdens and promoting responsible financial practices within this community. The government's decision entails a one percent interest rate rebate specifically designed for divyang individuals availing financial support through the NDFDC.
- The Indian government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, is gearing up to launch a groundbreaking initiative aimed at supporting small and marginal farmers who face challenges in storing their produce while waiting for optimal market conditions.
- In a significant move to support coconut farmers and enhance coconut cultivation practices, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) has recently launched the "Hello Naariyal" Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCT) call centre facility. This initiative aims to provide valuable assistance to farmers in various aspects of coconut harvesting and plant management operations.

- In a bid to empower rural communities, the government is set to launch the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative, aiming to deliver skill training directly to the doorsteps of rural individuals, with a particular focus on equipping rural youth, especially women, with foundational digital skills.
- In a significant move to enhance connectivity and infrastructure in the Northeast region, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced a substantial grant of over Rs 1,100 crore for the development of 25 inland waterways projects. The focus is on expediting crucial projects and ensuring their completion by January 2024.
- The recent cancellation of the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institutes) program under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has ignited a wave of apprehension among researchers and academics. This move has raised concerns regarding its potential impact on research funding, particularly in the context of the anticipated introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the potential influence of the private sector in shaping the research landscape.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme for an additional two years, now effective until December 31, 2025. This initiative aims to stimulate the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in various regions. The PIDF scheme's scope is broadened to include beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.
- In a pioneering move towards fostering innovation and research in Ayurveda, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, has introduced the "Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative" (AGNI). This initiative is strategically designed to encourage Ayurveda practitioners to contribute, document, and validate innovative medical practices for the betterment of educational and academic realms.
- Buoyed by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and favorable free trade agreements with the UAE and Australia, India's manmade fibre (MMF) textile industry is poised for substantial growth. Forecasts indicate a staggering 75% increase in exports, reaching \$11.4 billion by 2030, up from around \$6.5 billion in 2021-22.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has unveiled the 'Hot Cooked Meal Scheme' in Uttar Pradesh, a landmark initiative aimed at providing nutritious meals to children aged 3 to 6 years at Anganwadis. The scheme, modeled after the successful Midday Meals program, is designed to offer 70 grams of food grains per beneficiary per day in the form of hot-cooked meals. Additionally, Adityanath laid the foundation stone for 3,401 Anganwadi centers and inaugurated a transit hostel for police personnel during the event.





- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the “**AMA Bank**” scheme, a historic initiative aimed at providing banking services through **CSP Plus banking outlets** in all unbanked Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Odisha. This visionary project, unveiled in the first phase, marks **Odisha as the pioneer state in India** to conceptualize and implement such a comprehensive scheme for financial inclusion.
- In preparation for the upcoming general elections in April-May, the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has announced a five-year extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** scheme. This initiative aims to provide 5 kilograms of free foodgrains per month to 81.35 crore poor citizens, incurring a cost of approximately **₹11.80 lakh crore** for the exchequer.
- An impressive launch marked the initiation of the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra** in South West Garo Hills, orchestrated by the **District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)** at **MFC, Ampati**. The nationwide initiative, a pivotal component of the Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat campaign, aims to inform and empower citizens about the various flagship schemes programs introduced by the Central Government.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, the Union Cabinet has greenlit a Central Sector Scheme, allocating **Rs. 1261 Crore for 2024-25 to 2025-26**, aimed at **providing drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs)**. The objective is to bring about a positive transformation in the lives of women engaged in agriculture and contribute to the overall growth of the sector.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has recently approved the **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)**, a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the challenges faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This scheme, with a substantial total outlay of **Rs 24,104 crore**, reflects the government's commitment to uplift tribal communities across the country.

Schemes/ Apps of October

- The **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign**, which kicked off on September 15, reached its culmination on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary. This nationwide initiative, also known as the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign, was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and garnered widespread participation from citizens across India. The campaign was not just a standalone effort but a precursor to the grand celebration of ‘Swachh Bharat Diwas’ or ‘Swachhta Diwas,’ observed on October 2 each year. The theme for SHS-2023 was ‘**Garbage Free India**,’ with a particular focus on visual cleanliness and the welfare of SafaiMitras (sanitation workers).

- The Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi, or **PM SVANidhi scheme**, has achieved a significant milestone by providing assistance to over 50 lakh street vendors across the country. Street vendors have long been essential contributors to the urban informal economy, offering vital goods and services to urban residents.
- In a groundbreaking initiative to empower women, the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** kick-started an all-female bikers’ expedition rally named ‘**Yashasvini**’ from **Srinagar to Gujarat** on Tuesday. The rally, an ode to women empowerment, was flagged off from the iconic Ghanta Ghar near the city center of **Lal Chowk in Srinagar**. The esteemed guest who inaugurated this remarkable journey was the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, **Manoj Sinha**.
- In a remarkable move towards enhancing education and bolstering the socio-economic advancement of **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has unveiled the ‘**Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas**’ (SHRESHTA). The primary objective of this initiative is to extend the influence of government development programs and address service gaps in regions predominantly inhabited by SC communities within the education sector.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, inaugurated the Special Campaign 3.0 in the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**. This campaign, themed “**Digital DARPG**,” aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices.
- The Union Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, recently announced the approval of **seven bridge projects in Arunachal Pradesh**. These projects, with a cumulative cost of **Rs 118.5 crore**, are part of the **Setu Bandhan scheme** and are aimed at enhancing connectivity and fostering economic development in the state.
- India’s Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0**, a flagship immunization campaign launched by the Health Ministry, is nearing its conclusion today. This campaign, which strives to reach **children** who have missed vaccine doses or fallen behind their vaccination schedule, along with **pregnant women** across the country, has undergone some remarkable transformations this year. As of September 30, the campaign had already made impressive strides, with over **34,69,705 children** and **6,55,480 pregnant women** receiving vaccine doses during the first two rounds. A significant achievement given the challenges posed by the ongoing global pandemic.
- On the occasion of the **106th birth anniversary** of its visionary founder, **K.P Hormis** yesterday, the Federal Bank recently inaugurated the ‘**Mookkannoor Mission**,’ a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive change and progress in the village of Mookkannoor, located in the **Ernakulam district of Kerala**. This initiative is a testament to the bank’s commitment to community development, environmental sustainability, and digital transformation, aligning perfectly with the ideals of its illustrious founder.





- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** has achieved remarkable success, with over **50 crore** beneficiaries and a significant increase in total balance. The scheme's growth, especially **post-Covid-19**, reflects its effectiveness in promoting financial inclusion.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved an increase in the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for **Rabi Crops** for the **Marketing Season 2024-25**. This decision aims to ensure fair prices for farmers and encourage crop diversification.
- India Semiconductor R&D Committee** recently handed over a **comprehensive report** on the **India Semiconductor Research Center (ISRC)** to Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**. This report outlines a **strategic roadmap** that aims to place India at the forefront of global semiconductor research and innovation.
- The **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme**, launched on **June 1, 2020**, has been a game-changer for India's urban street vendors. This micro-credit scheme aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors, with a focus on empowering this marginalized community. A recent report by the **State Bank of India's** economic research department (ERD) sheds light on the remarkable impact of the scheme, particularly in terms of gender equality and socio-economic transformation.
- RCS-UDAN**, launched in **2016**, has significantly improved air connectivity in India, focusing on remote areas and underserved regions. It completed six successful years in **2023**, marking a milestone in the country's aviation sector.
- The **43rd edition of PRAGATI**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, involved a review of eight projects that are crucial for various states in India. PRAGATI, which stands for "**Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**," is an ICT-based platform that serves as a tool for intergovernmental coordination and project monitoring. The platform was launched by the Government of India in **2015**, and its primary purpose is to streamline governance and expedite the implementation of critical projects.
- The **Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi** is inviting applications from eligible students belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS categories for free coaching under the "**Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna**." This initiative aims to provide coaching for various competitive examinations and entrance tests.
- A recent data analysis by **LibTech India**, a consortium of academics and activists, has revealed significant changes in the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** for the period from April to September 2023. The data, sourced from the Union Rural Development Ministry, shows a **7.5%** reduction in the number of active MGNREGS workers compared to the previous fiscal year.

Schemes/ Apps of September

Name	Ministry	Purpose
Jal Jeevan Mission		Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water connections to an impressive 13 crore rural households, marking a remarkable journey since its launch on India's 73rd Independence Day, August 15, 2019 .
'Savera' scheme,		The Prayagraj police have taken a proactive step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of senior citizens in their community. They have recently launched the 'Savera' scheme, aimed at offering essential services during health and other emergencies to senior citizens residing in seven districts within the Prayagraj zone.
Tele-Law 2.0	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice	Access to justice is a fundamental right that every citizen should enjoy, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic status. In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched Tele-Law 2.0, a revamped version of the Tele-Law program.
Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme		The Indian government has initiated the 2023-24 Series II of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme, which has begun its subscription phase today and will remain open until September 15 . While the bond's nominal value stands at Rs 5,923 per gram of gold, the government, in consultation with the RBI, offers a discount of Rs 50 per gram over the nominal value to online applicants, reducing the issue price to Rs 5,873 per gram of gold.
Ujjwala scheme		The Indian government has unveiled the third phase of its Ujjwala scheme. This initiative aims to provide free gas connections, along with a stove and a refill, to 7.5 million impoverished households for three years. The move extends the program's total coverage to an impressive 103.5 million households.





Name	Ministry	Purpose
SHREYAS scheme		The Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS scheme), comprising four central sector sub-schemes, has been instrumental in empowering thousands of students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) since its inception in 2014. This umbrella scheme encompasses "Top Class Education for SCs," "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs," "National Overseas Scheme for SCs," and "National Fellowship for SCs."
'PM Vishwakarma' scheme		Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme on the auspicious occasion of 'Vishwakarma Jayanti.' This initiative is designed to provide crucial support to traditional craftsmen and artisans by offering them low-interest loans without requiring collateral. With a substantial financial allocation of Rs 13,000 crore over a five-year period, this scheme aims to benefit approximately 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers.
'Skills on Wheels' initiative		In a significant move to empower rural youth, especially women, and equip them with essential digital skills, Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, alongside Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, inaugurated the groundbreaking 'Skills on Wheels' initiative. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the employability of rural youth and prepare them for the challenges of the future job market.
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS)		Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has felicitated players under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) in New Delhi. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) was formulated to help sportspersons who play well but are from poor and needy family. The scheme helps in procurement of sports equipment and training and till date 270 sportspersons have been provided support of around 8 crore 15 lakhs rupees.
Arogya Manthan'		This event is being organized to commemorate two significant milestones in India's healthcare sector: the 5th anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the 2nd anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme		The Central Government extended support for exports under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme till 30 June 2024. The RoDTEP support was originally notified until 30 September 2023, but this extension comes at a crucial time when the country's exports are facing challenges due to the global economic slowdown.

Schemes/ Apps of August

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)	Union Minister for State for Finance		In Financial Year (FY) 2022-23, the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) has achieved a significant milestone by sanctioning over 6.23 crore loans.
National Mission on Libraries	Ministry of Culture		Ministry of Culture under the Government of India, aimed at the modernization and digital interconnection of almost 9,000 libraries throughout the country. Its primary goal is to grant readers easy access to a vast array of books and information
Project Tiger and Elephant Division			Project Tiger and Project Elephant, two significant conservation initiatives in India, have been merged under a new division called 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
YASASVI Scheme			The NTA has started the registration procedure of the applicants for the scholarship programme on the NTA's website by 10 th August 2023 under the YASASVI Scheme.
Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)			The migration will help make DIKSHA more accessible and lower its IT costs. Under the seven-year collaboration pact, OCI will help the ministry use DIKSHA to provide educational resources to millions of additional students, teachers and collaborators across the country.
Vivad se Vishwas 2.0	Ministry of Finance		The Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance has launched Vivad se Vishwas 2.0 also known as Contractual Disputes scheme to settle long-standing contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings.
Amrit Bharat Scheme			Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across India on August 6. The ambitious project, executed under the Amrit Bharat Scheme, aims to enhance passenger amenities and improve railway infrastructure.
Shubhayatra			The State government of Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'. The scheme aims to provide much-needed financial support to first-time overseas emigrants from Kerala, facilitating a positive and productive migration ecosystem.
'Naya Savera' scheme			The Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme to assist students/candidates belonging to the six minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations.
Godhan Nyay Yojna			Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY) initiated by the Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel conducted online transfers exceeding Rs 15 crore to support cattle rearers, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and 'gauthan' committees.
Bhu-Vision (also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System)			Bhu-Vision (also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System) is a revolutionary IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform that was recently launched in India. This system is a game-changer for India's agriculture sector.
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)			According to the recent data, a significant backlog of pending crop insurance claims totally approximately Rs.2,716.10 crore was revealed till 2021-22 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). The maximum pendency of crop insurance claims is in Rajasthan, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023			Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan has launched the "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023." This program provides free mobile phones, internet, and voice call services to women in the state. The distribution of smartphones will take place from August 10 to August 30, 2023, prioritizing widows and divorced women.
Vishwakarma Yojana		2023	Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of the Vishwakarma Yojana in his Independence Day address has paved the way for a new scheme aimed at bolstering the livelihood prospects of traditional artisans and craftspeople.
Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)			The Ministry of Education has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), a central scheme aimed at enhancing access, equity, and excellence in higher education across States and Union Territories.





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Digital India project			In a significant development, the cabinet has given its nod to the extension of the Digital India project, allocating a substantial budget of ₹14,903 crore. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced this decision, highlighting that the extended initiative will build upon the achievements of its previous iteration.
'Lakhpatti Didi' scheme			In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the 'Lakhpatti Didi' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale.
Bhagwan Munda Birsa Jodaraste Scheme			The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to link all tribal villages in 17 districts of Maharashtra with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services.
	Jan Dhan accounts		In an impressive achievement, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts in India has crossed the significant 50 crore mark within a span of fewer than 9 years. This successful initiative has brought about substantial changes in the nation's financial landscape, according to an official statement from the finance ministry.
	North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)		On August 21, 2023, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region announced the continuation of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved budget of Rs. 8139.50 crore for the period 2022-2023 to 2025-2026.
	Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice		
	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)		completes nine years of successful implementation

Schemes/ Apps of July

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Mission Vatsalya'	Central Government		relation to the abandonment of the families of minor girls who are victims of rape when they become pregnant.
The Swarnima Scheme	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	2023	To provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes. The scheme aims to empower women by offering social and financial security through term loans. Implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and carried out by State Channelising Agencies (SCAs), the scheme facilitates access to loans of up to ₹2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum.
Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States"	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation	2023	with a significant allocation of Rs. 5,000 Crore.
National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission(NSCAEM)		2023	The mission aims to tackle the challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population in India. PM Modi also unveiled a portal and released guidelines for disease management, along with different monitoring modules.





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme	2018	Department of agriculture and farmers welfare	For the benefits of the small and marginal farmers with the aim to provide Rs.6,000 per year given in three instalments.
SAMARTH schemes		Textile Ministry	43 new implementing partners empanelled under SAMARTH schemes with an additional training target of 75,000 beneficiaries and 5% increment in support to implementing partners.
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)			The Centre has recently made a significant change to the income criteria for individuals falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).
Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)			Southern Railway has taken a significant step towards enhancing the facilities at railway stations by identifying 90 stations for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The scheme aims to prepare master plans for these stations and implement them in a phased manner.
The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) scheme			Pension scheme for unorganised workers in India, has witnessed a significant number of subscribers leaving the program in less than six months. This trend has raised concerns about the scheme's viability and sustainability.
Advance Authorisation Scheme			The Ministry of Commerce & Industry , through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) , oversees the Advance Authorisation Scheme, enabling duty-free import of inputs for export purposes.
Gruha Lakshmi Scheme			Registration for Gruha Lakshmi starts on 19 th July 2023, an effective scheme launched by the Karnataka Government to provide financial assistance to women heads of a household. The beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi Yojana would be able to register for free without being lured by any middleman.
PMAY-G			The Union Government has diverted the allocation of 1.44 lakh houses under PMAY-G from about 24 States and UTs to U.P. as they missed the deadline 30 June 2023 to sanction them.
Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna			CM Bhupesh Baghel announced the launching of New Rural Housing Scheme named Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna on 19th July to provide free housing facility to the poor.
Credit Guarantee Scheme			The Indian government has introduced a pioneering "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the Livestock Sector aimed at revitalizing the rural economy and empowering Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna			CM of Himachal Pradesh announced the launching of a collateral-free loan scheme, namely Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna to economically empower women.
STAR-C initiative			India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C initiative operated by ISA, to a number of Pacific Island countries. Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) is one of the initiative of International Solar Alliance (ISA) .





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
PM-DevINE scheme			Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme was announced as a new Central Sector Scheme. This scheme was 100% funded by Central Government in the Union Budget of 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs.1500 crore. PM-DevINE scheme got approval by the Cabinet on 12th October 2022 with an overall outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the 4 years period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period).
'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' scheme			Ministry of Cooperation has taken various initiatives in order to envision 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' scheme, strengthening the cooperation movement in the country, deepening its reach to the grassroots and to enhance the performance, productivity and profitability of cooperative societies.
ACROSS scheme			The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi , has been given its nod for the continuation of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" for the next finance cycle of five years (2021-2026). The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is implementing the ACROSS scheme through its units, namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) scheme			Under the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) scheme , the Government of Gujarat has successfully completed the construction of Package 8 and Package 9 of Link-3 . Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and dedicate this significant project to the people of Saurashtra in the near future.
Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna			Minister of State for health S.P. Singh Baghel told about the target achievement of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna which has resulted in huge out-of-pocket expenditure savings related to hospitalisations for the targeted beneficiaries. Minister of State for health stated a total of 3.14 crore beneficiaries are benefitted under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna during the last two years.

Committees in News

Committees in News of August

- Chief Justice of India, **D.Y. Chandrachud** has announced the formation of an all-women panel to help bring healing and relief to the violence-stricken region in Manipur. The panel will consist of three former High Court judges, with Justice Gita Mittal as its head. The panel aims to provide healing touch to the situation in Manipur.

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, India's top advisory body for school education, has taken a significant step towards textbook revision. The council has formed a 19-member committee responsible for aligning school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**. The committee's mandate covers Classes 3 to 12, and it also aims to ensure a seamless transition from Classes 1 and 2 to subsequent grades.





- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India has taken a proactive step towards promoting **gender equality** within the nation's **aviation sector**. On August 10, 2023, the DGCA established a four-member committee composed of senior officers to devise strategies and

recommendations aimed at achieving gender parity in the industry. The committee's objective is to propose actionable measures that the DGCA can implement to foster gender equality in the aviation sector.

Important Days

Important Days of December

Date	Day & Theme
December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Computer Literacy Day 2023 National Pollution Control Day 2023 Theme: "Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet,"
December 3	The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) or World Day of the Handicapped 2023
December 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Navy Day Theme: "Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain." International Cheetah Day
December 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Volunteer Day (IVD) theme: The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did World Soil Day Theme: 'Soil and Water, a Source of Life'
December 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Civil Aviation Day Theme: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development," Armed Forces Flag Day
8th December	SAARC Charter Day
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day Theme: UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.'
9 December	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide
December 10	Human Rights Days
December 11	International Mountain Day Theme: "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems."
December 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Neutrality Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day Theme: "Health For All: Time for Action,"
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day
December 16	Vijay Diwas
December 18	International Migrants Day 2023 Theme: Promoting Safe Migration
December 20th	International Human Solidarity Day 2023
December 21	World Basketball Day
December 23	National Farmer's Day 2023, also known as Kisan Diwas
December 24th	National Consumer Rights Day
December 25	Good Governance Day 2023
26th December	Veer Bal Diwas'
December 27th	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness





Important Days of November

Date	Day & Theme
November 1	World Vegan Day Theme: "Celebrating for a Good Cause,"
November 2nd	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
November 3	International Day for Biosphere Reserves
November 5th	World Tsunami Awareness Day
November 7	Marks the 135th birth anniversary of the renowned Indian physicist, Sir Chandrasekhar Venkata Raman
November 8	World Radiography Day
November 9 to 15	International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP)
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development Theme: "Building Trust in Science."
November 11th	National Education Day
November 13	World Kindness Day Theme: Be Kind Wherever Possible
November 14th	Children's Day in India Theme: For every child, every right' World Diabetes Day Theme: Access to Diabetes Care
15th November	Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas'
16th November	World Philosophy Day 2023 International Day for Tolerance Theme: "Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation," National Press Day
November 17	International Students' Day 2023 National Epilepsy Day World Prematurity Day Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere
November 18	World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence
19th November	International Men's Day Theme: "Zero Male Suicide,"
November 19th	Women's Entrepreneurship Day
November 20	World Children's Day
November 21	World Television Day
November 18 to 24	World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week Theme: Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together,"
November 21st	World Fisheries Day Theme: 'Celebrating the Wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture'.
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Theme: "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls."
November 26	World Sustainable Transport Day Theme: theme "Sustainable transport, sustainable development".
November 27	75th anniversary National Cadet Corps (NCC),
November 29th	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
November 30	Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare





Important Days of October

Date	Day & Theme
October 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gandhi Jayanti Theme: "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath" Birth anniversary Lal Bahadur Shastri
October 3	World Nature Day
October 4 to 10	World Space Week (WSW)
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day Theme: Great or Small, Love Them All
October 5 th	World Teachers' Day
October 2 to October 8	69th Wildlife Week Theme: Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation
October 7	World Cotton Day
October 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Post Day Theme: Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day
10th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day World Mental Health Day Theme: Mental health is a universal human right
October 11	International Day of the Girl Theme: Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being
12th October	World Sight Day Theme: Love Your Eyes at Work
13th October	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction Theme: Fighting inequality for a resilient future
October 14	World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023 Theme: Water: Sustaining Bird Life
October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Food Day Theme: "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind." World Anaesthesia Day Theme: 'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.'
October 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Theme: "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all." World Trauma Day
October 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Osteoporosis Day Theme: Step Up for Bone Health – Build Better Bones World Statistics Day International Chefs Day
October 21	Police Commemoration Day
October 24 th	United Nations Day
October 24 to 31	Global Media and Information Literacy Week Theme: "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda."
October 24 to 30, 2023	UN Disarmament Week
October 24 th	World Development Information Day
October 24	World Polio Day Theme: A healthier future for mothers and children
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Audiovisual Heritage Theme: "Your Window to the World." 76th 'Shaurya Diwas' in Jammu and Kashmir
29 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Care and Support World Stroke Day Theme: 'Together we are #Greater Than Stroke.'
October 30	Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha 114th birth anniversary
October 30 to November 5, 2023	Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 Theme: "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation," or "भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करें; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें"
October 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Cities Day Theme: Financing sustainable urban future for all National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas





Important Days of September

Date	Day & Theme
1st to 7th September	National Nutrition Week
September 2	World Coconut Day
September 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day of Charity ● 26th death anniversary of Mother Teresa
September 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day of Police Cooperation ● International Day of Clean Air for blue skies
1st September to 8th September 2023	Literacy week
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Literacy Day ● World Physiotherapy Day 2023 Theme: "Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis"
September 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day to Protect Education from Attack ● World EV Day
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day Theme: "Creating Hope Through Action".
September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Forest Martyrs Day
September 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● United Nations' Day for South-South Cooperation
September 14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hindi Diwas
September 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Engineers' Day Theme: Engineering for a Sustainable Future ● International Day of Democracy Theme: Empowering the next generation ● World Lymphoma Awareness Day
September 16	International Red Panda Day, Third Saturday in September
18 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Equal Pay Day ● World Bamboo Day
September 18 to 24	International Week of the Deaf
21 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day of Peace Theme: Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals ● World Alzheimer's Day Theme: Never Too Early, Never Too Late
September 22nd	World Rose Day
September 23rd	International Day of Sign Languages
Fourth Sunday in September (September 24)	World Rivers Day
25th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Pharmacists Day Theme: Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems ● Antyodaya Diwas
26 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons ● World Environmental Health Day Theme: "Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day"
27 September	World Tourism Day 2023 Theme: "Tourism and green investment"
28 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Day for Universal Access to Information ● World Maritime Day ● World Rabies Day
29 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Heart Day Theme "Use Heart, Know Heart" ● International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction Theme: Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems
30 September	International Translation Day




Important Days of August

Date	Day & Theme
August 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Mountain Climbing Day August 1 while it concludes on August 7. World Breastfeeding Week Theme: "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!" Muslim Women's Rights Day World Lung Cancer Day World Wide Web Day
August 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Javelin Day National Handloom Day Death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore
August 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of the World's Indigenous People Theme: Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination. Nagasaki Day World Tribal Day
August 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Lion Day World Biofuel Day
August 11th	World Steelpan Day
August 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Elephant Day International Youth Day
August 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Left-Handers Day Theme: Left-Handers in Sports World Organ Donation Day 2023 Theme: "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
14 August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
16th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death Anniversary Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee The Parsi New Year, also referred to as Navroz or Nowruz
August 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Humanitarian Day World Photography Day
August 20	World Mosquito Day
August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism World Senior Citizen Day
August 22nd	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
August 20 to 24	World Water Week
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition Theme: Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
August 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Equality Day International Dog Day
29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sports Day International Day Against Nuclear Tests
August 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances National Small Industry Day International Whale Shark Day
August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for People of African Origin World Sanskrit Day





Important Days of July

Date	Day & Theme
July 1st or First Saturday of July	The International Day of Cooperatives Theme: Cooperatives for Sustainable Development
July 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Sports Journalist Day World UFO Day
July 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Plastic Bag Free Day Dharma Chakra Divas
July 6th	World Zoonoses Day
7th July	World Kiswahili Language Day
July 10th	National Fish Farmer's Day
July 11th	World Population Day Theme: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities
July 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms International Malala Day I Am Malala World Paper Bag Day National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation
July 15th	World Youth Skills Day Theme: Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future
July 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) commemorated its 95th Foundation and Technology Day World Snake Day
17 July	Day of International Criminal Justice
July 18	Nelson Mandela day
20th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Moon Day World Chess Day
July 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pi Approximation Day International Brain Day Theme: Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind National Mango Day
July 23rd	National Broadcasting Day
July 24	Income Tax Day or 'Aaykar Diwas'
July 25	World Drowning Prevention Day
July 26th	Kargil Vijay Diwas
July 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Hepatitis Day Theme: 'one life, one liver' World Nature Conservation Day Theme: "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".
July 29th	International Tiger Day
July 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Friendship Day
July 30th	World Day against Trafficking in Persons theme, "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind,"





Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of December

- Actor **Dinesh Phadnis**, renowned for his portrayal of the funny and innocent CID officer **Fredericks on the popular Sony TV show CID**, has passed away. His demise was confirmed by his co-star Dayanand Shetty, who clarified that Dinesh suffered from liver damage and not a heart attack. The actor had been undergoing treatment at Mumbai's Tunga Hospital.
- Veteran character actor **Junior Mehmood**, known for his roles in iconic Bollywood films such as Caravan, Haathi Mere Saathi, and Mera Naam Joker, passed away at 67. **Mehmood Junior**, whose real name was **Naeem Sayyed**, began his acting journey when he was very young.
- Joe Solomon**, the former **West Indies and Guyana cricket player**, has passed away at the age of 93. Solomon was a big part of West Indies cricket in the late 1950s and 1960s, and he's remembered for his amazing performances on the field.
- In a poignant moment for fans and the film fraternity, the revered Kannada actor **Leelavathi** has passed away at the age of 86. The seasoned artist, known for her versatile performances, left an indelible mark on the **Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu film industries**.
- Dr. Gao Yaojie**, a trailblazing **Chinese doctor and activist**, passed away at the age of 95 in her home in the United States. She was **known for her fearless exposure of the AIDS virus epidemic in rural China** during the 1990s. Columbia University professor Andrew J. Nathan, who had legal power of attorney for Gao, confirmed her passing.
- Emmy-winning actor **Andre Braugher**, renowned for his notable roles in series such as "**Homicide: Life on The Street**" and "**Brooklyn Nine-Nine**," has sadly passed away at the age of 61. His publicist, Jennifer Allen, confirmed the news, citing a brief illness as the cause. Born in Chicago, Braugher gained widespread recognition with his breakthrough role in the 1989 film "Glory," alongside Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.

Obituaries (National/International) of November

- Baijnath Agarwal**, the dedicated trustee of Gita Press Gorakhpur, passed away at the age of 90, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to social welfare. As a trustee for 40 years, Agarwal's life was marked by his relentless efforts to create positive social change. He had been associated with Gita Press for an astounding 73 years, having joined in 1950.
- "Friends" star **Matthew Perry** was found dead in a hot tub at his Los Angeles home. He was 54. Matthew Perry's unexpected passing has left the world in shock and mourning. The iconic actor, known for his portrayal of Chandler Bing in the legendary TV series "**Friends**," was not just a beloved entertainer but a true comedy genius.
- Saleemul Huq**, a Bangladeshi-British scientist who gained renown as a "climate revolutionary" for his efforts to make high-polluting countries help the world's poorest and most vulnerable states deal with the devastating impacts of climate change has passed away in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka. He was 71.
- The **state of Assam** is in mourning as it bids farewell to a prominent political figure, **Sarat Barkotoky**, a former MLA, and minister who passed away in the early hours of October 30.
- The political landscape of India mourns the loss of veteran politician and former minister **D B Chandre Gowda**, who passed away at the age of 87. Mr. Gowda's illustrious political career was marked by his diverse roles, spanning multiple Houses of the legislature and a journey through various political parties.
- The world of arts and literature lost a significant figure with the passing of **Gieve Patel** at the Palliative Care and Training Centre in **Pune**. Gieve Patel, who had been battling cancer, was admitted to the Pune center a few weeks ago. He leaves behind a legacy of remarkable contributions as a playwright, poet, painter, and physician.





- Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya**, a former governor of Nagaland and senior BJP leader, passed away in Mumbai on November 11, 2023, at the age of 92. Acharya was a respected figure in Indian politics and society, and his death is a significant loss.
- Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal**, the visionary entrepreneur and founder of the renowned sweets and snacks brand **Bikanervala**, breathed his last at the age of 86. His journey from a humble street vendor to the chairman of a successful business empire is a testament to his indomitable spirit and dedication. Sahara Group's visionary founder and chairman, **Subrata Roy**, breathed his last at the age of 75 in a Mumbai hospital. The news comes after a prolonged battle with illness, as stated in an official company announcement.
- N Sankaraiah**, one of the **oldest communist leaders** in the country, passed away in a Chennai hospital after a brief illness on Wednesday morning. At the age of **102**, he had dedicated his life to the principles of communism and the struggle for a just society. Leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) confirmed his demise, marking the end of an era.
- Renowned art historian and prolific writer, **B. N. Goswamy**, breathed his last at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in **Chandigarh** on Friday at the age of **90**. His passing marks the end of an era in the world of art scholarship and leaves behind a legacy that has enriched the understanding of Pahari paintings.
- Former US First Lady Rosalynn Carter**, often referred to as the '**Steel Magnolia**', passed away on Sunday at the age of 96. She was the wife of **President Jimmy Carter**, who described her as 'an extension of myself,' highlighting her influential role during his presidency and beyond.
- Former Governor** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **S. Venkitaramanan**, breathed his last at the age of 92 on November 18, succumbing to age-related issues at a private hospital in Chennai.
- November 19, the film industry lost a creative force with the sudden demise of renowned filmmaker **Sanjay Gadhvi**. Best known for directing the blockbuster films "**Dhoom**" (2004) and its sequel "**Dhoom 2**" (2006), Gadhvi's contribution to Indian cinema has left an indelible mark.
- Award-winning Malayalam writer **P. Valsala**, aged 85, breathed her last in Kozhikode. Ms. Valsala, a trailblazer among women writers in Malayalam, leaves behind a rich literary legacy marked by accolades and critical acclaim.
- Justice Fathima Beevi**, the first female Supreme Court judge, passes away at the age of 96. Her remarkable journey, spanning the corridors of justice and governance, leaves an indelible mark on the nation's legal landscape.

- Banking community and shareholders of **Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank** mourned the sudden demise of **Mr. C.K. Gopinathan**, a **director** on the bank's board and a **significant shareholder**. The loss was attributed to a major heart attack, marking the end of a distinguished career spanning more than 25 years in the banking and finance sectors.
- Henry Kissinger**, a towering figure in American foreign policy, passed away on November 29, 2023, at the age of 100. He served as the United States Secretary of State under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, and played a pivotal role in shaping US foreign policy during the 1970s. Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 for his role in the Paris Peace Accords.

Obituaries (National/International) of October

- Veteran **CPI(M)** leader and former legislator **Anathalavattom Anandan**, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old. Anandan's demise occurred while he was undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital in Kerala for a prolonged illness.
- British filmmaker **Terence Davies**, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away at the age of 77 at home after a short illness. He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including '**Distant Voices, Still Lives**' and '**The Long Day Closes**'.
- Chef Michael Chiarello**, a culinary expert known for his extraordinary talent and passion for food, passed away at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, **California**. He succumbed to an acute allergic reaction that led to **anaphylactic shock**, as announced by his company Gruppo Chiarello in a statement.
- Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Manohar Singh Gill** passed away at a South Delhi hospital on Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of public service and dedication. He served as a significant figure in both the Indian bureaucracy and politics.



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- Noted Malayalam film producer and director of Mathrubhumi group of publications **P.V. Gangadharan** passed away in Kozhikode on October 13 morning. He was 80.
- Richard Roundtree**, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in "Shaft," passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the "first black action hero."
- Li Keqiang**, the former premier of China, passed away due to a sudden heart attack on October 27, 2023. Aged 68, he concluded his career in March, 2023 after completing two terms in office alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- Baijnath Agarwal**, the dedicated trustee of Gita Press Gorakhpur, passed away at the age of 90, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to social welfare. As a trustee for 40 years, Agarwal's life was marked by his

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Obituaries (National/International) of September

S.NO.	Person Died	Profession / Famous In?
Politician (National-International)		
Former Italian President	Giorgio Napolitano	
'Singer/Musician (National-International)		
Noted Hindustani classical vocalist	Malini Rajurkar	
Noted Rudra veena exponent	Ustad Ali Zaki Hader	
Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)		
Renowned writer-filmmaker	Gita Mehta	
Renowned actor	Akhil Mishra	
Veteran filmmaker	K G George	
British actor	David McCallum	
Dumbledore in the Harry Potter film series	Michael Gambon	
Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)		
Renowned political cartoonist	Ajit Ninan	
Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)		
Former international umpire	Piloo Reporter	
Zimbabwe's former cricket captain	Heath Streak	
Others (National-International)		
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist, who lent her voice to countdowns for rocket launches in Sriharikota	N Valarmathi	
Director of the Special Protection Group	Arun Kumar Sinha	
Father of India's 'Green Revolution,'	M.S. Swaminathan	
Co-founder & non-executive director of Asian Paints	Ashwin Dani	




Obituaries (National/International) of August

S.NO.	Person Died	Profession / Famous In?
'Singer/Musician (National-International)		
Renowned folk singer and activist	Gaddar	
Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)		
Renowned Malayalam director and screenwriter	Siddique Ismail	
Veteran actor	Seema Deo	
Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)		
Noted Marathi poet and lyricist	Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor	
Oscar-winning American director of films	William Friedkin	
British chat show host	Michael Parkinson	
India's best known English poets	Jayanta Mahapatra	
Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)		
Former India captain and legendary footballer	Mohammed Habib	
Others (National-International)		
Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre	N Vittal	
Renowned nuclear physicist	Bikash Sinha	
Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research	Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao	
Former Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chief	V S Arunachalam	
Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University	Deven Dutta	
Adobe co-founder	Dr. John Warnock	
Mathematicians and Statisticians of India	C Radhakrishna Rao	
American professional wrestler	Windham Rotunda or Bray Wyatt	

Obituaries (National/International) of July

S.NO.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
Politician (National-International)		
Former Chief Minister of Kerala	Oommen Chandy	
Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)		
Veteran US actor	Alan Arkin	
Marathi actor	Ravindra Mahajani	
Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)		
Renowned artist of painting and sculpture	Namboothiri	
Veteran Marathi writer and columnist	Shirish Kanekar	
Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)		
Renowned basketball player and coach	Nikki McCray-Penson	





S.NO.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
Former Australia and New South Wales wicketkeeper	Brian Taber	
Others (National-International)		
Eminent mathematician	Dr Mangala Narlikar	
Most wanted computer hackers in the world	Kevin Mitnick	

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of December

- The deep depression looming over the Bay of Bengal has rapidly intensified, evolving into a **severe cyclonic storm** named '**Michaung**' as per the latest update from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). The transformation occurred at 8:30 am today, signaling an escalating threat to the eastern coast of India.
- Oxford University Press** has unveiled "**Rizz**" as its Word of the Year, reflecting the linguistic choices of Generation Z. The term, used to describe someone's ability to attract or seduce another person, triumphed over finalists like "**Swiftie**," "**situationship**," and "**prompt**" in the annual decision made by language experts at the renowned publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary.
- In a momentous announcement, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel declared that the vibrant and culturally significant **Garba dance** has been officially recognized by **UNESCO**, earning a coveted spot on the "**Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**." The announcement was met with enthusiasm from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who commended the global acknowledgment of this traditional Indian dance form.
- In a momentous occasion for India, **Pune** has etched its name in the prestigious '**Guinness World Record**' books by hosting the **largest reading activity** in collaboration, surpassing China's previous record. On December 14th, 2023, from 8-10 am at SP College, a remarkable total of **3,066 parents gathered to read aloud to their children**, creating a magical atmosphere and leaving an indelible mark in history.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has granted an aerodrome license for the **Ayodhya Airport**, paving the way for its inaugural flight on December 30. Developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at a cost of **₹350 crore**, the airport is strategically timed for inauguration ahead of the upcoming **Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya**.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of November

- In a recent announcement, IFFI unveiled the distinguished members of its international jury panel, with acclaimed filmmaker **Shekhar Kapur** leading the team. **Shekhar Kapur** is widely recognized for his cinematic masterpieces, including 'Bandit Queen,' 'Mr. India,' and 'Masoom.' He has earned multiple awards, including two National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards, and a BAFTA Award.
- In 2022, India faced a severe road safety crisis, witnessing a shocking increase in road accidents and fatalities. According to data released by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, the country experienced 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, amounting to a staggering 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths daily. This alarming situation demands urgent attention and effective measures to ensure road safety for all citizens.
- Zojila Day**, celebrated on **November 1st** at the **Zojila War Memorial near Drass**, is a tribute to the valorous actions of Indian troops during '**Operation Bison**' in **1948**. This operation was a significant milestone in Indian military history, as it unfolded in the challenging terrain of the Zojila pass, the gateway to Ladakh.
- In a significant move, the iconic '**Throne Room**' at the **Raj Bhavan in Kolkata**, which stands as a testament to the British era's grandeur, has been renamed to commemorate the legacy of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Independent India. This decision, a tribute to the stalwart freedom fighter, was made by Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on the occasion of Patel's birth anniversary.
- Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, inaugurated the **71st Foundation Day of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** on **1st November** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event featured a documentary film titled "Achievements of EPFO," showcasing the organization's remarkable journey over seven decades. Additionally, the occasion witnessed the presentation of awards to various offices and establishments for their outstanding contributions and performance.





- In a bid to address voter apathy among young Indians, the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** is set to introduce **electoral literacy content** in textbooks and advising State Education Boards to follow suit. The focus is on **engaging young urban voters**, as a significant portion of the electorate abstained from voting in the 2019 General Election. At 76 years old, **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** has earned a prominent place in global politics. In a **Time cover story**, she was hailed as a political phenomenon who has played a pivotal role in guiding Bangladesh's growth from a rustic jute producer to the Asia-Pacific's fastest-expanding economy over the past decade.
- Pablo Picasso's** famous painting "**Femme à la montre**" ("Woman with a Watch") sold for a record-breaking **\$139 million** at a Sotheby's auction in New York on November 8, 2023.
- In a groundbreaking achievement, Indian skydiver **Shital Mahajan** has etched her name in history by jumping off a helicopter from a staggering height of **21,500 ft near the world's highest peak, Mt Everest**. This remarkable feat marks her as the first woman to accomplish such a daring skydive. Mahajan skillfully landed at **Kalapatthar peak, situated at an altitude of 17,444 ft**.
- A groundbreaking discovery has been made by a team of researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**. Led by **Dr. Resmi Sebastian**, an assistant professor at the institute's Civil Engineering Department, the team has identified **the presence of tantalum**, a rare metal, in the sand of the **Sutlej River in Punjab**.
- Kishtwar saffron**, a prized spice cultivated and harvested in the **Kishtwar Region of Jammu and Kashmir**, has recently been bestowed with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry. This recognition solidifies the unique identity and quality of saffron produced in the Kishtwar region of Jammu, complementing its already legendary reputation.
- The **Bay of Bengal** is once again on high alert as meteorological conditions indicate the potential development of another cyclonic storm, closely following the impact of cyclonic storm 'Midhili' on several northeastern states. Named 'Michaung,' **pronounced as 'Migjaum'** in accordance with the nomenclature suggested by Myanmar.
- Five years ago, in **2018**, **Dr. Langlands** was awarded the **Abel Prize**, one of the highest honors for mathematicians, for "his visionary program connecting representation theory to number theory." This groundbreaking initiative, known as the **Langlands Program**, has its roots in a 17-page

letter written by Dr. Langlands to the French mathematician André Weil in 1967, setting forth a series of tentative ideas.

- Kambala**, the popular **buffalo racing contest** native to the coastal Karnataka region, is all set to captivate the urban landscape of **Bengaluru** this weekend. The traditional folk sport, usually held in the aftermath of the southwest monsoon, will unfold its excitement at the iconic Palace Grounds on **November 25 and 26**. Organized by **Tulukoota Bengaluru**, this marks the **first time** Kambala has found a venue in the heart of Bengaluru.
- The **world's largest iceberg**, named **A23a**, has embarked on a rare journey after being largely stationary for more than three decades. Weighing nearly a **trillion metric tonnes** and spanning an area of **4,000 square km**, this colossal iceberg originated from **West Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986**.
- Guru Nanak Jayanti**, also known as **Gurpurab**, holds immense significance in the **Sikh community** as it marks the birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the revered founder of the Sikh religion. **This year, Guru Nanak Jayanti falls on Monday, November 27**, and is celebrated with utmost love and reverence by Sikhs worldwide.
- After Gir National Park and Sanctuary, the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS)** is set to become the second home to Asiatic lions. The Gujarat Forest Department presented its proposal to make BWLS the second home to the lions as part of "**Project Lion @ 2047**".
- With controversies surrounding 'deepfake' videos making headlines, **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** recently disclosed some of the **most searched words of the year 2023**. The revelation, made by editor **Peter Sokolowski** highlighted 'deepfake' as one of the top searches, but the word of the year was declared to be "authentic."
- A live-attenuated MR vaccine named **Mabella** was launched in Udhagamandalam (Ooty), **Tamil Nadu**, as part of the **25th-anniversary** celebrations of the **Human Biologicals Institute (HBI)**, a division of the Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL). Developed through an exclusive partnership with the **Polyvac Institute of Vietnam**, Mabella promises to be a crucial tool in the global fight against deadly measles and rubella.
- The **Silkyara tunnel** collapse presented a unique challenge. The trapped workers were located deep within the collapsed tunnel, making it difficult to reach them using conventional rescue methods. Modern machinery, such as auger drilling machines, proved ineffective due to the presence of obstructions and challenging terrain.





Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of October

- On October 2nd, **Google Doodle** pays tribute to the **Appalachian Trail**, the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. This iconic trail has captivated the hearts of adventurers, nature enthusiasts, and explorers for nearly a century.
- Basohli Pashmina**, an age-old traditional craft originating from the picturesque district of **Kathua** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, has recently earned the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This recognition not only celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship of the artisans but also protects the authenticity and uniqueness of this artisanal heritage.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month** is observed throughout the entire month of **October each year**. During this time, individuals, healthcare organizations, and nonprofits collaborate to raise awareness and promote breast cancer prevention and treatment.
- The **Neev Literature Festival 2023** is scheduled to take place on October 7th and 8th, 2023, at the Neev Academy in **Yemalur, Bengaluru**. This year, the theme of the event is '**What is childhood without stories?**'.
- Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur has launched the trailer of "**Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum**", an animated series consisting of two seasons, produced by **Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Graphiti Studios**. The series consists of 52 episodes, 11 minutes each, featuring stories from Indian Freedom struggle from 1500s to 1947. The series is hosted by the iconic animated characters **Krish, Trish and Balti boy**. The series has been created by the creator duo of Munjal Shroff and Tilakraj Shetty from Graphiti Studios.
- RITES Ltd**, a prominent **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious '**Navratna**' status, becoming the 16th CPSE in India to be granted this distinction. This article explores why RITES Ltd earned this coveted status and the potential benefits it offers.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has penned down a Garba song, titled '**Maadi**', composed by Meet brothers, **Manmeet Singh and Harmeet Singh**. The song, which celebrates the splendour of the Navratri festival and the vibrant traditions of Gujarat, was penned by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- A biographical film about **Nitin Gadkari**, who serves as the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, is scheduled for release on **October 27th**. Titled '**Gadkari**', the movie will explore different facets of his life. Actor **Rahul Chopda** has been cast to portray the role of Nitin Gadkari in this biopic.

- Tata Group-owned **Air India Express** has unveiled a dynamic new brand identity, characterized by a striking color scheme dominated by shades of orange and turquoise. The unveiling of this fresh visual identity took place at the Mumbai airport, marking a significant milestone in the airline's evolution. The airline's new visual identity features an energetic and premium color palette of **Express Orange** and **Express Turquoise** with **Express Tangerine** and **Express Ice Blue** as secondary colors. The airline's new branding also extends to its aircraft livery, with the first of the modern Boeing 737-8 aircraft taking inspiration from **traditional Bandhani textile designs**.
- The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued a cautionary notice regarding a potential cyclonic storm forming in the Arabian Sea. This impending weather event, likely to be named '**Cyclone Tej**', has the potential to impact **Mumbai, Pune**, and other regions of Maharashtra and the Konkan area.
- India's tourism industry is experiencing an unprecedented boom, especially in the wake of the global pandemic and the country is poised to become the **fourth-largest global spender** in the travel sector by **2030**, with total expenditures estimated to soar to a staggering **\$410 billion**. This represents a massive 173 percent increase compared to pre-Covid times in 2019 when Indian travellers spent a total of \$150 billion, ranking India as the **sixth-largest** global spender.
- Cyclone Hamoon**, a severe weather phenomenon, struck the **southeastern coast of Bangladesh** on the **25th October 2023**, causing widespread concern and necessitating the evacuation of thousands of people. The storm, originating from the **Bay of Bengal**, has further raised questions about the increasing frequency and intensity of such weather events in the region, driven by the impacts of climate change. This meteorological event is being closely monitored by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** and is expected to weaken in the hours to come.

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- The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival made a return after a four-year interval with a grand ceremony at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai on October 27. The festival once again brought a diverse selection of Indian, South Asian, and world cinema to the city. The festival opened with a spectacular master ceremony, led by Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the chairperson of Jio MAMI.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of September

- In a significant development for the region, **Bhaderwah Rajmash** and **Sulai honey**, both hailing from the picturesque districts of **Doda and Ramban** in Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted coveted **Geographical Indication (GI) tags**. These tags serve as a testament to the **unique qualities and characteristics** of these local specialties and open up doors for their promotion and recognition on an international scale.
- In a significant development for sustainable infrastructure and environmental responsibility, **Tabreed**, an Abu Dhabi-based cooling-as-a-service provider, has unveiled plans for a massive **\$200 million investment**. This investment is directed towards the development of a cutting-edge cooling infrastructure with a capacity of **125,000 refrigeration tons (RT)** for **Hyderabad Pharma City**, a burgeoning hub for the pharmaceutical industry in India.
- Salem district** in the state of **Tamil Nadu** has gained acclaim for its sago production, which is widely recognized as **Sabudana**. Salem Sago, locally known as Javarisi, is derived from the wet starch powder extracted from tapioca roots. Indian tapioca roots are known to contain approximately 30-35% starch content.
- A coalition of **56 organizations** in **Tripura**, under the banner of '**Roman Script For Kokborok Choba**', has taken to the streets to demand the adoption of the Roman script for the **Kokborok language**. This move comes as a culmination of decades of efforts by the indigenous community in the state to preserve and promote their native language.
- In a significant development, **Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha**, inaugurated the much-anticipated **Bangus Valley Festival** in the picturesque Kupwara district. The festival's primary objective is to shed light on the untapped rural and adventure tourism opportunities within the Bangus Valley.
- India's southern state of **Kerala** has once again found itself grappling with the ominous threat of the **Nipah virus**, a rare and deadly brain-damaging viral disease. In response to the deaths of two individuals from this infection, the state government has taken swift action by shutting down schools and offices and declaring containment zones in certain areas.

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recently recognized the mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use. The recognition of Mithun as a 'food animal' and the efforts to promote its meat as a commercial product can indeed have significant economic and cultural implications for the region.
- A cluster of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindos in Epirus, known as the **Zagorochoria** (or villages of Zagori), was recently inducted onto **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. This momentous decision was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking a significant milestone in Greece's cultural heritage preservation efforts.
- Google**, the search engine giant, is commemorating its **25th birthday with a special Google Doodle**. While the company always focuses on the future, milestones like birthdays offer a chance for reflection. In this article, we delve into the origins of Google, its evolution, and its enduring mission to organize the world's information for universal accessibility and utility.
- SP Singh**, the principal of the **UPSRTC Model Driving Training and Research Institute**, has earned a remarkable distinction by securing a place in the prestigious **India Book of Records**. This recognition is a testament to his exceptional contributions, particularly through his innovative '**Jhaadu Daan**' (broom donation) initiative, which aligns with the nationwide **Swachh Bharat Campaign**. Singh's commitment to promoting cleanliness and hygiene has made a substantial impact on various districts, fostering a cleaner environment and empowering communities.
- A dedicated team of international geologists and seismologists has embarked on a mission to chart the depths of **Zealandia**, a relatively unknown landmass submerged beneath the **Pacific Ocean**. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of an updated and highly detailed map that sheds light on the continent's intriguing geological features. Zealandia, often referred to as the eighth continent, remains shrouded in oceanic mystery, with a staggering 94% of its expanse concealed beneath the sea's surface. The remaining 6% peeks above the waves, encompassing islands such as New Zealand and its neighboring isles.
- India's southern state of **Kerala** has once again found itself grappling with the ominous threat of the **Nipah virus**, a rare and deadly brain-damaging viral disease. In response to the deaths of two individuals from this infection, the state government has taken swift action by shutting down schools and offices and declaring containment zones in certain areas.





Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of August

- A female cheetah named Dhatri (Tbilisi) has recently passed away at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This brings the total number of deaths to nine, including six adult cheetahs relocated from Namibia and South Africa, along with three cubs born in India, all since March this year. Currently, a post-mortem examination is underway to determine the cause of death.
- The Assam State Zoo recently recorded the breeding of a Himalayan Vulture in captivity for the first time in India. Details of the successful breeding were recently published in a paper titled 'Breeding of Himalayan **Vulture Gyps himalayensis Hume, 1869**' in the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, Assam. The species categorised as 'Near Threatened' with an estimated population of 66,000, witnessed a significant moment of hope in their conservation journey.
- According to a notification issued by the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** on July 31, 2023, the production, sale, and distribution of '**ketoprofen**' and '**aceclofenac**', along with their formulations, for animal use is prohibited under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 40). The recommendation of this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** have been bestowed upon **Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft** from Rajouri district and the prized **Mushqbudji Rice variety** from Anantnag district. These labels signify the unique nature and exceptional qualities of these products, tracing their origins to specific regions. This achievement is a result of a collaborative effort involving NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, and the Department of Agriculture, commencing in December 2020.
- Central Railway's **New Amravati station** has engraved its place in history as the **first** station in **Bhusaval Division** and the **third** station within the **Central Railway** to be designated a "**Pink Station**" – a station that is wholly managed by women staff.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in his speech in the Parliament during the No Confidence debate on August 10, mentioned the island of Katchatheevu. Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi for his now expunged Bharat Mata remarks, PM Modi said it was the Indira Gandhi government which gave away **Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974**.
- In a significant stride towards showcasing the **rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship** and fostering self-reliance, the **One District One Product (ODOP)** program has joined hands with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the captivating and innovative '**ODOP Wall**'.

- In a momentous celebration, the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)** launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower, **Lotus**, named '**Namoh 108**'. This unique flower boasts an astonishing **108 petals** and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, underscoring its significance in the **cultural** and religious tapestry of India.
- **Typhoon Lan** made landfall in **Japan, August 15**, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas, and authorities have issued evacuation warnings for some residents. The typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama prefecture, about 400 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane.
- In a display of grandeur and deep religious devotion, the Jammu and Kashmir administration inaugurated the yearly **Budha Amarnath Yatra** across the rolling terrains of **Poonch district**. The pilgrimage, spanning over a period of 10 days, is a journey of profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from **Lord Shiva**.
- The **first G20 film festival**, organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs and India International Centre**, commenced in Delhi with the screening of the renowned drama film "**Pather Panchali**" by **Satyajit Ray**.
- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** has etched its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as **Asia's largest** and most spectacular park of its kind. The garden, adorned with a enchanting variety of **1.5 million blooming flowers**, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature.
- The **Matti banana variety** native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste.
- In a remarkable feat that's reverberating through steel circles, the **Nagarnar Steel Plant** has achieved an unprecedented milestone. A mere 9 days after commencing hot metal production, the plant has successfully rolled out its inaugural **Hot Rolled (HR) Coil**. This achievement by **NMDC**, a mining major stepping into steel production, is indeed astonishing and underscores the plant's technological prowess.
- **Zika virus**, initially identified in **Uganda in 1947**, is primarily transmitted by **Aedes mosquitoes**, which are active during the day. While many infections are asymptomatic, those who show symptoms typically experience rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache for around 2-7 days.





- Chokuwa rice, fondly known as "**Magic rice**," has recently been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition of its exceptional attributes and heritage. This remarkable rice variety is deeply intertwined with the culinary legacy of Assam and has a rich historical connection with the powerful Ahom dynasty.
- In an exciting announcement, **Julia Eric Morely**, the CEO of **Miss World**, held a press conference in the **picturesque region of Kashmir, India**. The occasion marked the anticipation and preparation for the **71st edition of the prestigious Miss World beauty pageant**, which is scheduled to be hosted in **India**. **Morely's** words echoed the sentiment of excitement and emotion surrounding the event, saying, "**Truthfully, I am so happy. It is emotional for us, to see such beauty.**"

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of July

- The **full moon in July 2023** will be called the **Buck Moon**. It is also known as the Thunder Moon, Berry Moon, Salmon Moon, Feather Moult Moon, and Raspberry Moon. The name Buck Moon comes from the fact that the antlers of male deer are in full growth at this time of year.
- Dalai Lama**, the revered Tibetan spiritual leader, marked his **88th** birthday with a joyous celebration at his headquarters in **Dharamsala, India**.
- India's G-20 Presidency recently achieved a remarkable feat by setting a **new Guinness World record**. The record-breaking involved the **largest display of Lambani items**, showcasing the rich heritage of India.
- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, **Odisha TV**, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "**Lisa**," India's first **regional AI news anchor**.
- Microsoft** researchers have achieved a significant milestone in the field of **quantum computing** by making progress in the creation of **Majorana zero modes**. These particles, which are their own antiparticles, possess remarkable properties that could revolutionize the field of quantum computing. This breakthrough has garnered attention due to the potential impact it could have on the development of more robust and powerful quantum computers.
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA)** provides an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants.
- Recently, the **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has intensified its efforts to curb **poaching** in the Mukurthi National Park (MNP) and its surrounding areas in the Nilgiris district in an effort to safeguard the park's wildlife.
- Recently, a rare disease called **Brucellosis**, caused by bacteria capable of infecting both animals and humans, afflicted a young girl hailing from **Kerala**.

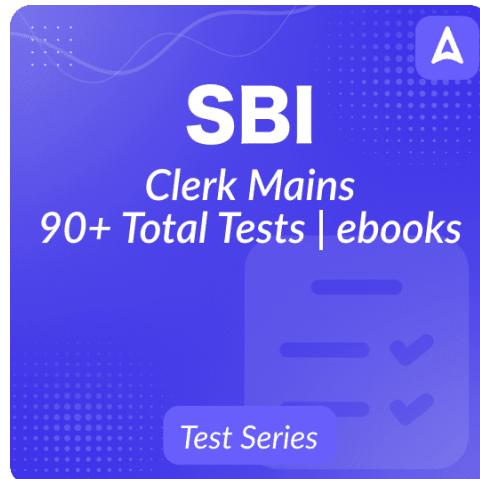
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved a significant milestone as it became India's first airport to have four runways. The civil aviation minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurated the airport's fourth runway, increasing its throughput capacity from approximately 1400-1500 air traffic movements per day to almost 2000 air traffic movements per day.
- Jammu-Kashmir launched a path breaking Mobile-Dost App in sync with the vision of Apka-Mobila-Humara-Daftari, an effective initiative for mobile based delivery of citizen-centric services in the Union Territory.
- Google honours Asma Hamza, a prominent Sudanese composer and oud player, with Doodle. On this day in 1997, Hamza achieved a remarkable milestone by emerging as one of the winners in the prestigious Laylat AlQadr AlKubra music competition held in Sudan.
- With an engaging slideshow on its homepage, Google Doodle honors the 204th birthday of Eunice Newton Foote, an American scientist and advocate for women's rights. Foote, born in 1819 in Goshen, Connecticut, USA, achieved a noteworthy milestone in climate science by being the first to discover the greenhouse effect and its impact on the Earth's warming.
- India and many other countries are facing outbreak of Measles, the cases of which are increasing at a faster rate after the Covid-19. According to the data of WHO, the maximum number of cases of measles are seen in India which is about 73,536 and after that in Yemen and Pakistan.
- In a historic move, S Phangnon Konyak, the lone Nagaland MP in the Upper House, has been nominated as one of the vice chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha. This appointment comes as a recognition of BJP's commitment to women empowerment.
- In Andhra Pradesh, a fascinating combination of prehistoric rock painting from Mesolithic period and exquisite artwork from the Kakatiya dynasty were found in the Rudragiri hillock.
- Christopher Nolan's movie Oppenheimer hits theatres across the world. Oppenheimer film chronicles the story of the scientist Julius Robert Oppenheimer the "Father of the Atomic Bomb".
- Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** unveiled Delhi's first '**water ATM**' aiming to offer water access in regions without piped supply and reducing reliance on water tankers. These water ATM machines will grant underprivileged sections of the city the same quality of RO(Reverse Osmosis) water that has traditionally been available to more affluent segments of society.
- The '**Cannabis Research Project**' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks the first-ever initiative of its kind in India. This groundbreaking project is carried out in partnership with a Canadian firm '**IndusScan**' with the aim of harnessing the potential of cannabis, a substance known for its abuse potential, for the benefit of humanity, particularly for patients afflicted with neuropathies, cancer, and epilepsy.





- **Ladakh**, the Union Territory, has marked a momentous occasion with the establishment of its first-ever women police station. This significant step is aimed at empowering women and ensuring their safety within the region. **The inauguration of the police station in Kargil**, overseen by Additional Director General of Police **S D Singh Jamwal**, demonstrates the commitment to addressing crimes against women.
- **27th July** is celebrated as **death anniversary of Missile Man of India APJ Abdul Kalam**. 27th July 2023 is celebrated as **8th death anniversary** of APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The **Batagaika crater**, the world's largest permafrost crater is expanding at an alarming rate in **Russia's Far East**. Aerial footage of the world's largest permafrost crater, the Batagaika crater has revealed its details. The crater has been seen in the **far-eastern Siberian taiga** (that is, boreal forest). It's a **rapidly growing 1 km (0.6 mile) pit**.
- The **Boarder Road Organization** is cutting a new road through which the devotees will soon be able to visit **Mount Kailash** from Indian Territory.
- The yearly **Machail Mata Yatra** began as numerous devotees gathered to pay their respects at the high-altitude temple located in the Kishtwar district of **Jammu and**

- **Kashmir**. The yatra was initiated with a ceremonial "Pratham Pooja" at the shrine, which is devoted to goddess Durga, also known as 'Kaali' or 'Chandi'.
- Scientists from the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and **Japan's Niigata University** have made a groundbreaking discovery by finding water droplets in rocks from the **Himalayas**. These water droplets are believed to be from an ancient ocean that existed around **600 million years ago**.



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