

Weekly One Liners 16th October to 22nd of October 2023

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.

National Affairs

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

States in the News

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 Chief Minister **K. Chandrashekar Rao** outlined these pledges, highlighting their commitment to uplift the marginalized sections of society. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 Duhai 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

International Affairs

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))



Books and Authors

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched a book titled **'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation'** authored by **Ashok Tandon**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. The penalties were levied due to **non-compliance** with various regulatory norms, reflecting the RBI's commitment to maintaining the integrity and transparency of the Indian banking sector. 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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)**. This change aims to provide greater clarity regarding the individuals responsible for furnishing information. It ensures that senior management is held accountable for compliance with KYC regulations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On the occasion of the **106th birth anniversary** of its visionary founder, **K.P Hormis** yesterday, the Federal Bank recently inaugurated the '**Mookkanoor Mission**,' a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive change and progress in the village of Mookkanoor, 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI, inaugurated the sub-office on October 20, 2023, marking a milestone in the central bank's regional presence. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. The E-Rupee pilot project is a remarkable endeavor that seeks to harness the potential of blockchain technology and digital currency to revolutionize the way inter-bank transactions are conducted in India. The pilot project is believed to have been introduced via **nine prominent banks**, which were already part of the G-Sec pilot. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty** officially assumed the role of **Director (Finance)** at the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)**. Dr. Mohanty, a highly respected senior finance professional with an impressive career spanning over 25 years in the Indian power sector, brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that promises to enrich IREDA's leadership. The appointment of Dr. Mohanty as Director (Finance) of IREDA was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Justice **Siddharth Mridul** was appointed as the chief justice of **Manipur High Court** three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommendation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Arindam Bagchi**, currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador/Permanent Representative** to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva. This significant appointment marks a key change in India's diplomatic representation in Geneva. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Dr. Meenesh Shah**, the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has been elected to the **Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)** during the General Assembly of IDF on October 15. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Former Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** and Telangana BJP leader **Indra Sena Reddy** Nallu have been appointed as the Governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively, the Rashtrapati Bhavan. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Sanjay Kulshrestha** has joined as the **Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO** from 16th October 2023. He is an electrical engineer with over 32 years of expertise in Infrastructure Financing, Hedging, Risk Management, ALM, thermal power plant management, Power Sector Project Financing etc. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In an exciting development for sports enthusiasts and fans, **Puma**, the renowned sports brand, has announced the inclusion of **Mohammed Shami**, a prominent Indian fast bowler, as its brand ambassador. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Hewlett-Packard (HP)** has announced a significant leadership change with the appointment of **Ipsita Dasgupta** as the **Senior Vice President & Managing Director** for its India market. Ms. Dasgupta's role will encompass overseeing all facets of HP's strategy and profitability in the India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka regions. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Defence News

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Naval** is all set to host **Mid-Planning Conference For Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN-24)**, a significant multilateral naval 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The beautiful **Nawanpind Sardaran village**, located in **Gurdaspur, Punjab**, was recently awarded the title of "**Best Tourism Village of India 2023**" by the Union Ministry of Tourism. This recognition was a testament to the remarkable efforts of the **Sangha sisters**, who have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving their ancestral homes, Kothi and Pipal Haveli, and promoting sustainable tourism in their village. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** received a prestigious **UN award** for its top-ranked sustainability initiatives, including the **Sustainability Reporting Standards Board**. The United Nations Conference on **Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** honored ICAI during the **8th World Investment Forum** for its contributions to sustainability reporting. ICAI's efforts aim to promote sustainable practices in India and align with international standards. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The European Parliament President, **Roberta Metsola**, announced the laureate of the **2023 Sakharov Prize** in the Strasbourg plenary chamber. Jina Mahsa Amini and the Iranian “**Woman, Life, Freedom**” movement were awarded this prestigious prize, joining the ranks of remarkable past recipients like Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Hindustani classical vocalist and composer **Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty** has been conferred with the prestigious ‘**Durga Bharat Samman**’ by the Governor of West Bengal, **C V Ananda Bose**. The award, a testament to his remarkable contributions to the world of music, is a recognition of his invaluable role in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Indian classical music. Bose also conferred the award, in its first edition, on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its recent successful ‘Chandrayaan’ mission, besides the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). ([Click to read complete article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Sports News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

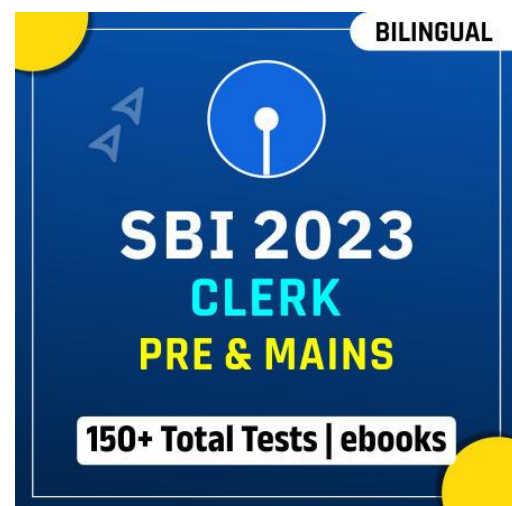
Science and Technology News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Food Day** is an annual observance that takes place on **October 16**. It is a global initiative aimed at addressing the pressing issues of hunger, food security, and access to proper nutrition. This article delves into the history, significance, and the theme for World Food Day 2023. The theme for World Food Day 2023 is **"Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind."** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Central Electricity Authority**, the organization under the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India, which provides technical and policy support to the government and to all other stakeholders in the power sector, celebrated its **50th Foundation Day** on October 15, 2023. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a momentous announcement, the Indian government has designated **August 23rd** as **National Space Day**, a day to celebrate the remarkable success of the **Chandrayaan 3 mission**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Anaesthesia Day**, celebrated on **October 16** each year, is a significant occasion that highlights the critical role of anaesthesia in modern medical treatments. The theme for World Anaesthesia Day in 2023 is **'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.'** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, celebrated annually on **October 17th**, is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness and addressing the pressing issue of poverty. In 2023, the focus is on **"Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all."** ([Click to read complete article](#))



- **World Trauma Day**, observed every year on **17 October**, is dedicated to raising awareness about trauma, its causes, symptoms, and prevention. Trauma encompasses emotional responses to accidents, injuries, physical violence, rape, natural disasters, or any incident affecting an individual both physically and mentally.
- **Kati Bihu**, also known as **Kongali Bihu**, is a significant festival celebrated by the Assamese people in the northeastern state of Assam. It falls on the **first day of the 'Kati' month**, which typically occurs in the middle of October. **Kati Bihu 2023 is celebrated on 18th October** and it marks the beginning of the rice crop's growth and the start of the new harvest season. This article explores the history, traditions and significance of Kati Bihu. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Every year, on **October 20th**, the world observes **World Osteoporosis Day** to shed light on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. This bone disorder affects millions worldwide, making it a critical global public health concern. "**Step Up for Bone Health – Build Better Bones**" serves as the central theme for World Osteoporosis Day in 2023. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Statistics Day**, observed every year on **October 20**, is a global celebration dedicated to raising awareness about the pivotal role that advanced, reliable, and high-quality statistics play in the development of nations worldwide. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Every year, on **October 20th**, **International Chefs Day** is celebrated worldwide, paying tribute to the art and science of cooking. This day, introduced by the late chef **Dr. Bill Gallagher in 2004**, serves as a platform to honor the contributions of chefs across the globe. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On **October 21, 1959**, ten courageous Policemen laid down their lives in a fierce ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. In their memory and that of all Police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty, **October 21** is observed as **Police Commemoration Day**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Obituaries News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi;
- Jharkhand Chief minister: Hemant Soren;
- Jharkhand Official flower: Sacred Tree;
- Jharkhand Bird: Koel.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Founded: 31 July 2008;

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Headquarters: New Delhi;
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) CEO: Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari.
- International Dairy Federation Brussels, Belgium;
- International Dairy Federation President Piercristiano Brazzale;
- International Dairy Federation as we know it was founded 1903.
- HUDCO Founded: 25 April 1970;
- HUDCO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- Google Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–)
- Qualcomm Headquarters: San Diego, California, United States
- Qualcomm CEO: Cristiano Amon (30 Jun 2021–)
- Qualcomm President: Cristiano Amon
- Qualcomm Founded: July 1985, San Diego, California, United States
- Tamil Nadu Formation – 26 January 1950;
- Tamil Nadu Capital – Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister – M K Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Governor – R N Ravi.
- Hewlett-Packard (HP) Headquarters: Palo Alto, California, United States;
- Hewlett-Packard (HP) President: Enrique Lores.
- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das;
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata;
- RBI Founder: British Raj;
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru
- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969
- ISRO Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- ISRO Officeholder: S. Somanath (Chairperson)



BILINGUAL



RBI 2023
ASSISTANT
PRELIMS+MAINS

140+ TOTAL TESTS


BILINGUAL



MAESTRO
NABARD GRADE A
ASSISTANT MANAGER
Generalist Pre + Mains

140+ TOTAL TESTS

TEST SERIES
BILINGUAL
VIDEO SOLUTIONS



IBPS 2023
PO MAINS

110+ Total Tests | eBooks