

# THE HINDU REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2023

**Monthly  
Capsule**

**Current  
Affairs**



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## The Most Important Current Affairs May 2023

### Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palcios Crowned 72nd Miss Universe 2023

#### Introduction

**Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palcios**, 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.

#### 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, **Jasprit 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 PMVVY**.
- 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.

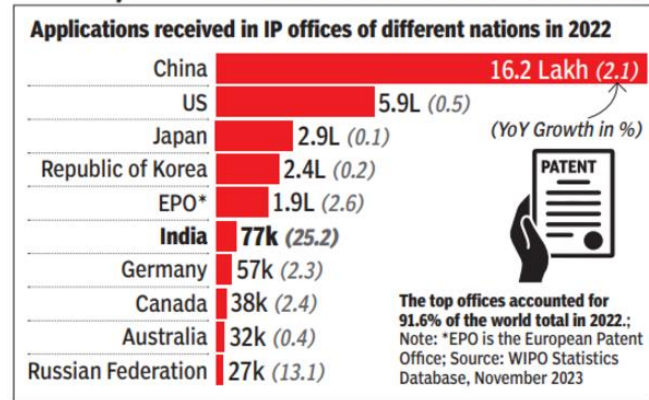
**World Intellectual Property Indicators Report 2022: Global Patenting Activity Hits Record High**

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.

**Indian, Chinese Innovators Fuel Growth**



**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

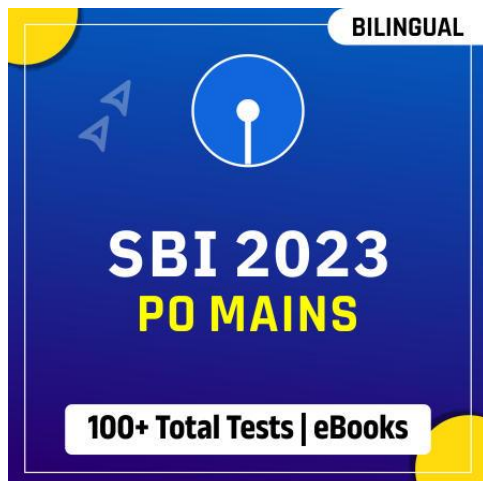
- India proudly boasts the **highest number of universities** featured in the QS Asia University Rankings 2024, with a total of **148**. This marks a substantial **increase of 37** from the previous year.

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
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.

**“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**

**Growth path**

What does the future hold? Scenario building for macroeconomic indicators



Indicator	Units	2030	2040	2047
GDP at current prices	₹ trillion	609.04	1,759.79	3,604.94
Per capita GDP at current prices	₹	4,02,008	10,93,037	21,84,812
Exports	\$ trillion	1.58	4.56	8.67
Imports	\$ trillion	1.88	5.92	12.12
Investment	₹ trillion	195.5	591.1	1,273.40
Savings	₹ trillion	207.8	649.4	1,339.70



- **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 Bonmati** 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 Martinez, was recognized with the Lev Yashin Award for the world’s best goalkeeper. Aitana Bonmati, 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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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 Punjab 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2000, the state of Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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
T20Is	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 Puroala 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 **12<sup>th</sup> 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 **12<sup>th</sup> 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 54<sup>th</sup> 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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**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.

**Banking and Financial Current Affairs**

- **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**. This adjustment carries significant implications for the operational framework of RRBs and aims to create a more equitable banking landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB)** is set to merge with **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** starting from **February 1, 2024**, pending necessary approvals and regulatory endorsements. This significant merger aims to create a robust financial institution with enhanced capabilities and a broader reach. Under the merger agreement, shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive 579 shares in AU SFB for every 2,000 shares they hold in Fincare SFB. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. This decision aims to streamline the functioning of DCCBs and ensure that the process of branch closure is carried out responsibly and transparently. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent circular, **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. This chair will play a pivotal role in **advancing financial inclusion and financial literacy in India**, aligning with the vision of equitable and sustainable transformation for the nation. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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**. This license will allow PayGlocal to onboard merchants onto its platform for online payment processing. Founded in 2021, the company offers a technology platform that facilitates secure online payments through various instruments, including cards and global alternative payment methods. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))



- 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). ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a significant move, the **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. The central bank anticipates potential disruptions to the progress made in the past two months due to the firming up of various constituent prices. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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.'** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. This collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of seamless and versatile payment options for customers. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Karnataka Bank**, a leading Mangaluru-based private sector lender, has 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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'**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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." ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced a two-year extension of the **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** scheme until **December 31, 2025**. This move is aimed at promoting digital transactions at the grassroots level and includes an expansion of beneficiaries under the scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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 partnership with AWS is anticipated to yield substantial benefits, including a remarkable 50% reduction in annual IT infrastructure and management costs compared to traditional on-premises solutions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. This move aims to curb illegal forex trading activities and protect consumers from potential financial risks. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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 index is expected to trigger a massive \$28 billion global equity reshuffling, with India emerging as a key beneficiary. ([Click here to read the article](#))

ENGLISH



**IDBI BANK**  
Junior Assistant Manager  
"GRADE-O"  
30+ TOTAL TESTS

## Economy Current Affairs

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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)**. Despite efforts to contain the deficit, the figures reflected the financial landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. Several factors contributed to this impressive recovery, including increased domestic transactions, higher services imports, and robust GST levies on goods imports. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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

### Business Current Affairs

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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**. This online store caters to the burgeoning demand for official NBA merchandise in India, featuring an extensive array of items including jerseys, apparel, headwear, footwear, basketballs, and accessories from renowned brands like Nike, New Era, Mitchell & Ness, Wilson, and NBA Fanwear by Suditi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 (TIIE) Delhi-NCR**. This initiative aims to support and accelerate the success of tech startups in India, particularly those in the scaling stage, growth stage, product diversification or planning expansion into new geographical locations. With funding support of up to **Rs.1 Crore** and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program, this initiative is set to be a game-changer for the Indian startup ecosystem. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA)** has announced a groundbreaking target for its **14 member airlines**, including newly inducted Air India, to **achieved 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **JSW Infrastructure**, a key player in the **Indian port sector and part of the JSW Group**, has recently announced the reception of a letter of award for the development of a state-of-the-art, all-weather, **deep-water greenfield port at Keni in Karnataka**. The port project, **valued at Rs.4,119 crore**, is set to be executed through a public-private partnership. This significant development is poised to enhance maritime infrastructure and boost trade in the North Karnataka region. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Svatantra 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IndiGo**, India's largest airline, announced on Monday the launch of its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chat assistant** named "6Eskai." This innovative tool is designed to cater to customer inquiries in a diverse range of languages, marking a significant step forward in enhancing customer service in the aviation industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### International Current Affairs

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

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



- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 Catalanian separatists**, a move that has polarized the nation but strategically garnered the necessary votes from lawmakers in the country’s north. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))



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

- **Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano**, situated in the **Sundra 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### National Current Affairs

- 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](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the 21st edition of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, **Ashwini Vaishnav**, 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, **Piyush Goyal**, has launched a significant initiative to provide affordable wheat flour to consumers under the **'Bharat' brand.** This initiative aims to offer a cost-effective alternative to the market prices, contribute to price moderation, and support the welfare of ordinary consumers. The launch of **'Bharat' Atta** is a significant step in the government's commitment to support farmers and ensure essential commodities remain affordable for consumers. This initiative reflects the government's dedication to stabilizing prices, enhancing supply, and benefiting both farmers and consumers. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, inaugurated the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying's **pavilion** on the **World Food India event 2023.** The event was not only a celebration of India's rich food culture but also a testament to the nation's commitment to sustainable agriculture and livestock practices. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Recently, **Bharat Botanics** announced the opening of its cutting-edge wood-pressed **Cold Oil processing facility** in **Gondal, Rajkot Gujarat.** This 16,000 square feet automated facility is one of its kind, promoting **100% hygiene and transparency**, marking a significant step towards healthier living, sustainability, and providing healthy edible oils for every customer it serves. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde**, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in the **Kupwara** district of **Jammu and Kashmir** on **November 7.** The statue, a symbol of cultural pride, was installed at the **41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) camp**, which is located in close proximity to the **Line of Control (LoC)** separating **India and Pakistan.** ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- In line with Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's** appeal for the promotion of locally-made products, the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has taken a significant step towards fostering economic self-reliance for artisans in rural India. Under the leadership of **Shri Manoj Kumar**, Chairman of KVIC, the **'Diwali Utsav' Gramshilpa, Khadi Lounge** was inaugurated in **Connaught Place, New Delhi.** This initiative aims to connect people with the spirit of **'Vocal for Local'** during festive occasions. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- The winter session of the Indian Parliament is set to convene from **December 4 to December 22**, as announced by **Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi** on **November 9.** This session will be marked by significant legislative discussions and other important topics. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- In a recent clarification, the **Supreme Court of India** emphasized that its directive, issued in the 2021 order, **banning the use of barium** and other prohibited chemicals in firecrackers applies not only to the **National Capital Region** but to the entire country. This clarification arose during the hearing of an application seeking compliance from the **Rajasthan government** regarding the apex court's orders, underscoring that these directives are binding on every state in India. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud** inaugurated 'Mitti Cafe', a unique establishment situated within the **Supreme Court premises**. This cafe stands out for being **entirely managed by individuals with disabilities**, encompassing those who are visually impaired, have cerebral palsy, and are paraplegic. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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 Vaishnaw disclosed this ambitious project during a press conference after a comprehensive review of railway projects in Bengaluru. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### States Current Affairs

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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 Houchongba 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Jaipur Literature Festival**, often referred to as the "greatest literary show on Earth," is an annual gathering of some of the most brilliant minds in the world. The **17th edition** of this iconic event is set to take place from **February 1 to February 5, 2024**, promising to be a magnificent congregation of intellectual exploration. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has marked a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey by declaring the commercial operation of its first project. This project, a **50 MW wind farm located in Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat** is a first-of-its-kind effort in India's renewable energy journey. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On November 9, **Uttarakhand** observes its **23rd Foundation Day**, and President Draupadi Murmu will participate, marking the **first instance in 23 years** that a President has been part of Uttarakhand's Foundation Day program. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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

## Schemes and Committees

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Program (LLAP)** 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))

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



- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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

### Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

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

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

## New Appointments: International

- **The State Bank of India (SBI)**, the nation's largest lender, has appointed the legendary cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its official **Brand Ambassador**. Dhoni, who is widely regarded as one of India's greatest cricket captains, will assume a crucial role in various marketing and promotional campaigns for SBI. This development reflects SBI's commitment to engaging with a younger, more diverse customer base. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, **Bangladesh's Saima Wazed**, daughter of Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**, emerged victorious in the election for the next **World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for South-East Asia**. She secured a significant majority of votes, surpassing her opponent, **Nepal's Shambhu Prasad Acharya**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata Power**, one of India's leading integrated power companies, announced a significant leadership change as it appointed **Deepesh Nanda** as the **President-Renewables** and the **CEO & MD** of its subsidiary, **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)**. This move, effective from **November 1, 2023**, marks a strategic step in Tata Power's journey towards becoming a dominant force in the renewable energy sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Chief Justice **Rajendra Menon** of the Delhi High Court has been re-elected as the Chairman of the **Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)** for a four-year term, ensuring his leadership until June 6, 2027. This marks his second consecutive term as Chairman, having initially been nominated for the position in 2019. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Senior Indian diplomat, **Surendra Adhana**, has been re-elected to serve on the **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)** at the United Nations for the term 2024-26. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as the Surveyor General of India. Prior to this appointment, he served as an Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **Rohit Rishi** has assumed the position of **Executive Director** at the **Bank of Maharashtra**. The appointment is for a tenure of three years, starting from November 1, 2023 in place of **Shri A.B. Vijayakumar**. His extensive experience, academic qualifications, and professional acumen make him a valuable addition to the bank's leadership team. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed **Manoranjan Mishra** as the new **Executive Director**, effective from November 1, 2023. With over three decades of experience in the RBI and a strong background in various aspects of banking and finance, Mishra's appointment brings a wealth of expertise to the central bank. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In an official announcement dated November 6, 2023, **Shri Heeralal Samariya** was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. He formally assumed his new role on the same day. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- The Public Enterprises Selection Panel (PESB) has recommended **Santosh Kumar Jha** as the next **Chairman & Managing Director of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)**, a significant PSU under the Ministry of Railways. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **Andhra Pradesh** cadre IAS officer **N. Srikant** has been appointed as the additional secretary of the Union Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy, as per an official release. This marks a new chapter in Mr. Srikant's illustrious career, adding to his already impressive list of accomplishments in the field. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- In a significant move to enhance awareness and security on digital payment platforms, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has appointed **Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi** as the **"UPI Safety Ambassador."** This strategic partnership aims to address growing concerns about the safety of digital payment systems, particularly the **United Payments Interface (UPI)**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- Rear Admiral **Rajesh Dhankhar** assumed **command of the Eastern Fleet**, a significant and prestigious position within the Eastern Naval Command. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Rishi Sunak**, upon his return from the Deepavali celebrations in his hometown of Southampton, U.K., made waves in the political landscape by resurrecting the political career of **former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron**, appointing him to the role of **Foreign Secretary**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- US President **Joe Biden** has recently announced several key appointments, including the notable selection of **Indian American Shakuntla L Bhaya** to serve in a crucial role. According to the White House, Bhaya has been appointed as a **member of the Council of the Administrative Conference** of the United States. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its approval for the appointment of key individuals as directors of **Jio Financial Services**, marking a significant development in the leadership structure of the company. Isha Ambani, a prominent figure in the business world and a key player in the success of Reliance Retail, has been appointed as one of the directors. Another noteworthy addition to the board is Anshuman Thakur, a graduate in Economics and an MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad. The appointment of Hitesh Kumar Sethia as Managing Director and CEO of RSIL (presumably Reliance Strategic Investments Limited) adds further strength to the leadership team. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Board of Directors of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** made a significant announcement on Friday, appointing **Ashok Vaswani** as Managing Director & CEO, and a key managerial personnel of the bank. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **NITI Aayog**, the eminent policy think tank of the Government of India, has recently added **four new Distinguished Fellows** to its ranks for a **period of one year**. These individuals, known for their extensive work experience and expertise in various domains, are expected to contribute significantly to addressing key social, economic, and technical challenges facing the nation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Government of India made a significant announcement on Monday, appointing **Vinay M. Tonse** as the **Managing Director** of the **State Bank of India (SBI)** until **November 30, 2025**. This appointment fills the vacancy left in June after the appointment of **Swaminathan Janakiraman** as **Deputy Governor** of the Reserve Bank. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **OpenAI**, the prominent artificial intelligence research and deployment company, made headlines by announcing the **dismissal of its CEO and co-founder, Sam Altman**. The decision came following an official statement released by the company's board on November 17. In the wake of Altman's departure, **Mira Murati** has been appointed as the **interim Chief Executive Officer of OpenAI**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The Bengal Global Business Summit, an annual event held in Kolkata, marked a significant moment this year as Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** declared former cricketer and ex-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), **Sourav Ganguly**, as the **"Brand Ambassador of Bengal."** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Microsoft** has recently announced the appointment of **Aparna Gupta** as the new **Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader**. In this role, Ms. Gupta is set to **spearhead customer innovation and delivery excellence**, playing a pivotal role in advancing Microsoft's commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions to its global clientele. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The former 110m hurdles world record holder, **Colin Jackson**, has been announced as the **International Event Ambassador** for the upcoming edition of **Tata Steel Kolkata 25K** event scheduled on Sunday, 17th December 2023. This move adds a new dimension of prestige and excitement to an already prestigious event. Colin Jackson, an iconic figure in the world of athletics, brings a wealth of experience and inspiration to the event. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has been elected as the vice-chair of the **UN Panel of External Auditors**. This recognition not only highlights India's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of external audit but also showcases its active role in shaping the global audit landscape. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, the country's oldest and largest industry body, is set to welcome **Anish Shah** as its **President-Elect**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Mumbai-based **Fino Payments Bank** has recently received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for the appointment of **Rajat Kumar Jain** as **Part-time Chairman**. The approval is effective from **November 24, 2023, until November 01, 2025**, signifying a crucial development for the bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, **HDFC Bank's Board of Directors** has greenlit the nomination of **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala** as the Additional Independent Director. The tenure for this position is set for three years, commencing from **January 25, 2024**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Colonel Sunita BS**, an officer in the **Army Medical Corps**, etched her name in history by becoming the first woman to assume the role of Commanding Officer at the **Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC) in Delhi Cantt**. Col Sunita's journey is marked by significant achievements and a commitment to providing top-notch medical support, culminating in her groundbreaking leadership role at AFTC. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Rural Marketing Association of India (RMAI)**, a leading organization for rural marketers, announced key leadership changes during its **18th Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. **Puneet Vidyarthi** has been appointed as the President for the term 2023-2025, succeeding Biswabaran Chakrabarti, who served as the incumbent President since 2019. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati** has appointed **Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi**, a distinguished officer from the **2015 batch of the Indian Air Force**, as **India's first Woman Aide-De-Camp (ADC)** from the Indian Armed Forces. This groundbreaking decision not only marks a significant milestone but also serves as a powerful testament to the ability of women to break gender norms and excel in diverse fields. ([Click here to read the article](#))

## Sports Current Affairs

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. His remarkable performance not only brought joy to his hometown but also marked a significant step towards representing his nation at the Paris 2024 Olympics. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. The statue, capturing the legendary batsman in the midst of a cricket stroke, finds its place adjacent to the Sachin Tendulkar stand, paying tribute to the 'Little Master.' ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. Willey, who has made significant contributions during England's recent World Cup campaign in India, will play his final international match for England at the World Cup. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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**. With his remarkable five-wicket haul against the Sri Lankans, Shami's tally of ODI World Cup wickets now stands at an **impressive 45**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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 Johar, 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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 Astro turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi**. India displayed exceptional prowess by **defeating Japan 4-0 in the final match**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))

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- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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**. Lanning, at 31, leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered for her exceptional contributions both as a player and a captain. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))



- **Novak Djokovic** made history on **November 19**, by securing his **seventh ATP Finals title in Turin, Italy**. The world number one defeated local favorite Jannik Sinner in a commanding fashion with a **6-3, 6-3 victory**. In the doubles category, **Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury** successfully retained their **ATP Finals title with a convincing 6-3, 6-4 victory over Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. However, despite Kohli-record breaking feats, Australia emerged victorious in the high-stakes final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, marking their sixth ODI World Cup win. Kohli's stellar performance in the tournament set new records, with the **total score of 765 runs in 11 innings**, the highest-ever runs scored by a batter in a single edition of the World Cup. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 Australian opener's remarkable innings played a pivotal role in his team's successful pursuit of a challenging **241-run target set by India**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. This decision comes in the wake of the ICC's provisional suspension of **Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC)**, prompted by concerns of government interference in the administration of cricket in the island nation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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 2028 Olympics**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **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**. Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian and Dutch racing driver and the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Formula One World Champion. **Ferrari's Leclerc** passed **Sergio Perez** on the final lap to clinch second place, while British star Lando Norris ended up in hospital after a third-lap 180mph crash. Lewis Hamilton finished seventh. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Marlon Samuels**, the **former West Indies batter**, was handed a **six-year ban from all forms of cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC)**. The ban was imposed due to his failure to disclose benefits received during the Abu Dhabi T10 league, actions that could have brought the sport into disrepute, concealing information, and non-cooperation with the investigation officer. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a remarkable turn of events at the **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. The young prodigy faced off against **Tanvi Khanna** in the final, where Khanna was unfortunately forced to retire midway through the match due to a knee injury. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a momentous event held in New Delhi, Shri **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Summits And Conferences

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

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

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



- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Ranks and Reports News

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and nitrous oxide – sets the stage for intensified climate impacts, including soaring temperatures, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))

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

**Important Days**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Day in India   Theme: For every child, every right’</li> <li>• World Diabetes Day   Theme: Access to Diabetes Care</li> </ul>
15th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas’</li> </ul>
16th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Philosophy Day 2023</li> <li>• International Day for Tolerance   Theme: “Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation,”</li> <li>• National Press Day</li> </ul>
November 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Students’ Day 2023</li> <li>• National Epilepsy Day</li> <li>• World Prematurity Day   Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere</li> </ul>
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

## Awards Current Affairs

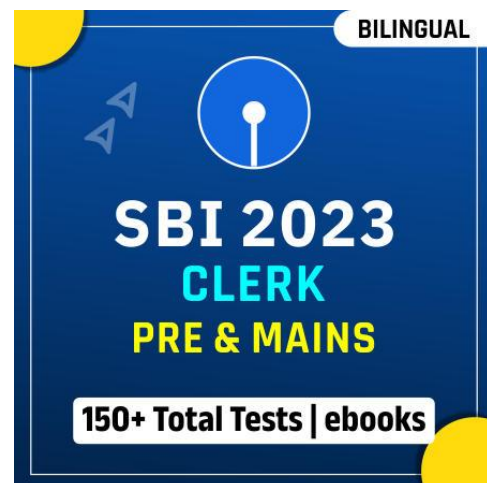
- **Nita Ambani**, Founder and Chair of Reliance Foundation, was honored with the **2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility**. The award was presented by **John Chambers, Chairman of USISPF**, at a reception in **New Delhi** attended by prominent figures from the USISPF, Indian business leaders, and Government of India officials. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Deenanath Rajput**, an engineer-turned-social worker, was awarded the Second **Rohini Nayyar Prize** for his outstanding contribution to rural development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vihaan Talya Vikas**, a 10-year-old prodigy from **Bengaluru**, has captured the hearts of photography enthusiasts and conservationists alike by winning the top prize in the **'10 years and under'** category renowned **Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY) competition**. This prestigious competition, often hailed as the **'Oscars of Photography'**, is organized by the Natural History Museum and serves as a global platform for showcasing the world's most exceptional wildlife photography. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding**, a prestigious international non-fiction award has been claimed by India-born author **Nandini Das** for her debut book, **'Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire.'** This remarkable work, hailed as the **"true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts,"** secured the **top spot** this year at a ceremony held at the British Academy in London. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Kerala government has selected renowned writer **T. Padmanabhan** as the recipient of the prestigious **Kerala Jyothi award**. This highest civilian honor in the state was awarded to Padmanabhan in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Malayalam literature. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **19th edition** of the prestigious **'Kalakar Puraskar'**, organized by the **Carvalho Household of Kundapura** in association with **Mandd Sobhann, Mangaluru**, was awarded to **Apolinaris D'Souza**, a prominent Konkani singer, lyricist, and composer. The award ceremony took place on the 5th of November 2023, during a public event held at Kalaagann, Mangaluru. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Falguni Shah**, a Grammy Award-winning Indian vocalist and songwriter, has been nominated for the Best Global Music Performance category at the 2024 Grammy Awards for her song **"Abundance in Millets"**, which features a speech written and delivered by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. ([Click here to read the complete article](#))
- World-renowned author **Salman Rushdie**, celebrated for groundbreaking works like **'The Satanic Verses,'** received the inaugural **'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award'** from the Vaclav Havel Center. Simultaneously, Egyptian activist **Alaa Abdel-Fattah** was honored with the **'Disturbing the Peace Award for a Courageous Writer at Risk'** during a ceremony held on November 14. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a groundbreaking achievement, **Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard emerged victorious at the 'ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific' finals**, showcasing their innovative biodegradable and plastic-free sanitary product. The startup's mission is to transform banana crop waste into affordable, eco-friendly sanitary napkins, addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, public health and solid waste management in Pakistan. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Maharashtra government** has chosen the esteemed playback singer and National Award winner, **Suresh Ishwar Wadkar**, as the recipient of the prestigious **'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' for 2023**. The announcement was made by Cultural Affairs Minister **Sudhir Mungantiwar**, recognizing Wadkar's remarkable contribution to the world of music. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences** has announced that **Jimmy Kimmel** will return as the host for the **96th Academy Awards in 2024**, marking his second consecutive year and fourth overall. This decision comes after **Kimmel's successful stint in 2023**, where the ceremony garnered **18.7 million viewers**, the highest since the pre-pandemic broadcast in 2020. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Legendary actress **Madhuri Dixit** has been honored with the **'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema'** award at the **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh**, under the leadership of the **Yogi Adityanath** government, has secured a notable **'Best State' award for inland fisheries (plain areas)**. The state is set to receive this prestigious accolade at the **two-day Global Fisheries Conference-2023 in Delhi on November 21 and 22**. **Cabinet Minister for Fisheries, Sanjay Nishad**, announced this achievement, attributing it to the relentless efforts of the government to promote fisheries and elevate the income of fishermen. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **Deepti Babuta** has etched her name in literary history by becoming the first woman to clinch the prestigious **Dhahan Prize**, the largest international literary award for fiction in the Punjabi language. Her outstanding achievement is attributed to her compelling short story collection, **'Bhukh Eon Sah Laindi Hai'** ('Hunger Breathes Like This'). ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The prestigious **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2022** was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Trained Nurses Association of India**. The award ceremony took place on **November 19**, where former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the honor to Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, President of the IMA and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President of the Trained Nurses Association of India. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Acclaimed Tamil writer **Perumal Murugan** has garnered a significant literary achievement with his novel **'Fire Bird'**, skillfully translated into English by **Janani Kannan**, securing the prestigious **2023 JCB Prize for Literature**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Ishwak Singh** won the **Best Actor award** at the **Stars Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF)** for his performance in the film **'Berlin'**, serving as a testament to the universal appeal of his work and highlighting not only his exceptional talent but also his dedication to his craft. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** recently unveiled its 11th edition of the **BBC 100 Women list for 2023**, featuring inspiring and influential women from various fields around the world. This prestigious list is categorized into Culture and Education, Entertainment and Sport, Politics and Advocacy, and Science, Health, and Tech. **Actress Dia Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati KumarRao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On **November 26**, the **Maharashtra Government** announced a heartfelt tribute to the late National Award-winning actor-director **Vikram Chandrakant Gokhale**. As the first death anniversary of the legendary figure approaches, a street in **Andheri West, Mumbai, is set to be named in his honor**. This initiative serves as a testament to Gokhale's significant contributions to the world of cinema and his enduring impact on the entertainment industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, achieved a significant milestone by receiving the **"Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" Award** at the 4th Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conclave organized by **Assocham**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **NHPC Limited**, the leading hydropower company in India, secured the **second prize** in the **'Annual Report' category at the 'PRSI National Awards 2023'**. This accolade was bestowed upon NHPC during the **International Public Relations Festival** hosted by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) from November 25th to 27th, 2023, in New Delhi. The award specifically acknowledges the exceptional quality, layout, and design of NHPC's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022-23. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Power**, Government of India, has been recognized and honored with the **Special Appreciation Medal for Excellence in Display** at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023. The prestigious award was bestowed upon the Ministry for its outstanding contribution to the **42nd edition of the IITF**, held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from November 14 to 27, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Vijayawada Railway Station** has been awarded the prestigious platinum rating by the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** for its commitment to environmental sustainability and eco-friendly practices. This is the highest recognition that can be bestowed by the IGBC, a leading certification body in India that promotes environmentally responsible construction. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Abdullahi Mire**, a Somali refugee, has been named the **2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate** for his work championing the right to education for displaced children. Mire, who grew up in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, has put over 100,000 books in the hands of displaced children and youth in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Defence Current Affairs

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

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



- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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, MAHASAGAR, 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

## Science and Technology

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

- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chennai-based startup Agnikul** 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Books & Authors

- Prime Minister Modi released three books during this visit, each offering unique insights into Hinduism and its rich traditions. The books unveiled were **'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya,' 'Ramanandacharya Charitam,'** and **'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtroleela.'** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Vice President released a book titled "Building Partnership: India & International Cooperation for Maritime Security" authored by Capt Himadri Das.
- **Prasoon Joshi**, celebrated poet, lyricist, and Chief of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), recently unveiled **'Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main,'** a book authored by the esteemed academician **Dr. Hema Joshi**. The book, a fictionalized account, intricately weaves together the author's literary prowess with her deep affection for two Indian cities – Almora, her birthplace, and Prayagraj, where she spent her later years. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- A book, **Thread by Thread**, on the life of **Shambhu Kumar** or **'the' S Kumar** released by Kapil Dev, at The Palace Halls, NSCI, Mumbai. Kapil Dev has been a brand ambassador for S.Kumars for their tv and print campaigns in the 80s and 2000s. The book has been written by noted journalist and author Sathya Saran and published by Penguin Random House. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The book, titled **'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers'** authored by **Sharmishtha Mukherjee**. The book is being brought out by **Rupa Publications**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, **Vikram K. Doraiswami** launched the book titled **India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World**, by Professor (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Dean, Strategic & International Initiatives, O.P. Jindal Global University last week. This book dwells on some of those fundamental factors and traces how India's positions in international negotiations have evolved over time. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

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



- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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 'Migiaum'** in accordance with the nomenclature suggested by Myanmar. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**". ([Click here to read the article](#))

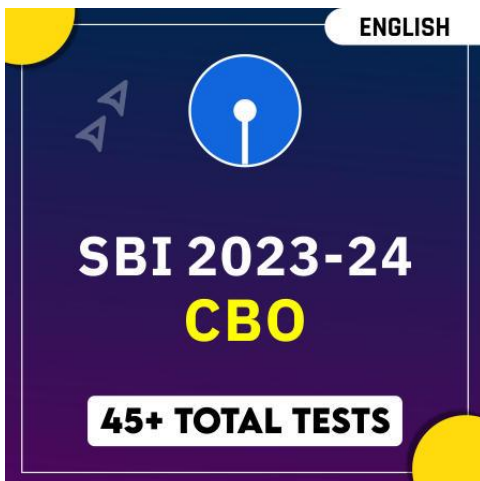
- With controversies surrounding ‘deepfake’ videos making headlines, **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** recently disclosed some of the **most searched words of the year 2023**. The revelation, made by editor **Peter Sokolowski** highlighted ‘deepfake’ as one of the top searches, but the word of the year was declared to be “authentic.” ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Obituaries Current Affairs

- **Bajinath 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- “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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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



- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- On Sunday, 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **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. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Static Current Affairs

- Nokia Headquarters: Espoo, Finland;
- Nokia CEO: Pekka Lundmark (1 Aug 2020–);
- Nokia Founders: Fredrik Idestam, Leo Mechelin, Eduard Polón;
- Nokia Founded: 12 May 1865, Tampere, Finland;
- Nokia President: Pekka Lundmark
- State Bank of India Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara;
- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999;
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States;
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Founders: United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, India, France, Iran;
- United Nations Secretary general: António Guterres.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France
- UNESCO Founders: India, United States, France, Mexico, China, Brazil, MORE
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General)
- UNESCO Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- WHO Head: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Indian School of Business Founded: 2001
- Indian School of Business Chairperson: Harish Manwani
- Indian School of Business Dean: Madan Pillutla
- Indian School of Business Campus: Urban, 260 acres (105.2 ha)
- Indian School of Business Founders: Rajat Gupta, anil kumar
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;
- European Union Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.
- Chairperson, Co-founder & COO of MobiKwik: Upasana Taku
- 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
- 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)
- Universal Postal Union Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland;
- Universal Postal Union Founded: 9 October 1874;
- Universal Postal Union Founder: Heinrich von Stephan;
- Universal Postal Union Head: Director-General; Masahiko Metoki;
- Universal Postal Union Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- President of the World Federation for Mental Health: Dr. Nasser Loza;
- World Federation for Mental Health Founded: 1948.
- Bihar Capital: Patna
- Bihar Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Bihar Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018–);
- IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd: Mumbai.
- CEO & Managing Director of The Tata Power Company Limited: Praveer Sinha
- MD of Bridgestone India: Stefano Sanchini
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach;
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France;
- International Olympic Committee Director General: Christophe De Kepper;
- International Olympic Committee Founders: Pierre de Coubertin, D. Bikélas;
- International Olympic Committee Official language: French.
- Association of Mutual Funds in India Founded: 22 August 1995;
- Association of Mutual Funds in India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Health Organization (WHO) Founded: 7 April 1948;
- World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Founded: 1975;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Chief Executive: Peter Holland;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Headquarters: London.
- Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Press Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Press Council of India Founder: Parliament of India;
- Press Council of India Founded: 4 July 1966, India.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is chairman of the council .
- All India Football Federation President: Kalyan Chaubey;
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937;
- All India Football Federation HQ: Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007–);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh;
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967;
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.
- United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Secretary-General: Zurab Pololikashvili;
- United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Headquarters: Madrid, Spain;
- United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Establishment: 1975.
- Mozambique Capital: Maputo;
- Mozambique Official language: Portuguese;
- Mozambique Currency: Mozambican metical;

- Mozambique Government: Republic, Semi-presidential system, Unitary state, Constitutional republic;
- Mozambique Population: 3.21 crores (2021) World Bank;
- Mozambique President: Filipe Jacinto Nyusi;
- Prime Minister of Mozambique: Adriano Afonso Maleiane.
- SEBI Formed: April 12, 1988;
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- SEBI Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch.
- Survey of India (Sol) Surveyor General of India– Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana;
- Survey of India (Sol) Headquarters– Dehradun, Uttarakhand;
- Survey of India (Sol) Established in– 1767.



**Important Military Exercises**

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
CORPAT	India & Thailand
Exercise Indra	India & Russia
Ajeya Warrior	India & UK
Indradhanush	India & UK
Eastern Bridge	India & Oman
Ekuverin	India & Maldives
Austra Hind	India & Australia

**List of Countries Who Import Defence Products From India**

Sr. No.	Country	Item
1	Australia	5.56x45mm Ball MK N(SS109)
2	Azerbaijan	Sleeves-Mechanical Part, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR, Ballistic Vest Level IIIA, Hard...
3	Botswana	Round 84mm Models
4	Estonia	Sleeve 2 bady
5	Finland	Passive Night Sight
6	Germany	Over-vest with 2 Plate, Helmet, PE Panel, Bomb Suppression Blanket, Soft Armor Panel,...
7	Guinea	MK-4 Sleeping Bag Complete with inner lining
8	Indonesia	Modules and Programming cards
9	Israel	an empty outer cover of the Mortar Shell a SLEEVE 2- BADCY
10	Malaysia	Brake Parachute with Pulley, Repair Kit and Manual for Brake.
11	Namibia	Unit Level Switch Board (ULSB) Mk III
12	Norway	Rifle
13	Seychelles	Costal Surveillance System, DO-228 Aircraft
14	Singapore	Spare part of the Radar like Power Supply Module Card, Radar Distribution Card, Ampli...
15	South Africa	Rail Detonators
16	Sweden	Shelter SDGM, Technical Platform, 155x52mm Cal Barrel
17	Turkey	Laser Transmitter
18	UAE	Mine Protected Vehicle & Primer and Ammunition, Over-vest, Helmet, Soft Armor Panel,...
19	USA	Date Link, Errogator, Over-vest, Helmet, Hard Armor Panel, Soft Armor Panel, Polyethy...
20	Vietnam	Acoustic Test Facility and Pressure Test Facility
21	Oman	Over-vest, Helmet, Ceramic Plate
22	France	Flexar Panel, Soft Armor Panel, Vehicle Armor Panel
23	Czech Republic	Ceramics Plate (tender)
24	Philippines	Over-vest
25	Netherlands	Hard Armor Plates
26	Spain	Over-vest with 2 ceramic plate, Vehicle Armor Panel, Ceramic Plate, Helmet
27	Korea	Over-vest
28	Saudi Arabia	BOMB BLANKE, TCeramic Plate, Helmet with Accessories, Over-vest, Night Vision Monocul...
29	Sri Lanka	Over-vest, PE plate, Bulk Memory control Card, Power Supply, Trigger Board Raw DC Sup...
30	Thailand	Night Vision Binocular, Over-vest, PE plate
31	Somalia	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR
32	Burkina Faso	Overvest with 2 Plate
33	Mexico	Vehicle Armor Panel
34	Columbia	Bullet Proof Vest, Hard Armor Plates, Bullet Proof Helmet
35	Qatar	Soft Armor Plate, Over-vest
36	Iraq	Body Protecting Items
37	Lebanon	Body Protecting Items
38	Ecuador	Body Protecting Items
39	Uruguay	Body Protecting Items
40	Bahrain	Body Protecting Items
41	Japan	Body Protecting Items
42	Egypt	Body Protecting Items like Helmet and Over-vests