

Weekly One Liners 16th to 22nd of January 2023

United States R'Bonney Gabriel crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022

Miss Universe 2022

The United States candidate **R'Bonney Gabriel** has crowned **Miss Universe 2022** at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's **Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu** who had won the 2021 title. She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition. The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, **Andreina Martinez**. Miss Curacao, Gabriela Dos Santos, and Miss Puerto Rico, Ashley Carino, rounded out the top five finalists.

Indian participant

Divita Rai of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. India's participation in the 71st Miss Universe was restricted to the top 16 since she was unable to make it into the top 5. Ms. Rai, a native of Mangaluru, who could not make it to the top-5 cut, hails from a family in Thiruvail. Daughter of Dilip Rai and Pranita Rai, Ms. Divita studied in Mumbai. She was adjudged Liva Miss Diva Universe 2022 and got qualified for the Miss Universe contest. Only two Indians before **Ms. Sandhu** had won the title of Miss Universe— actors **Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000**.

About Miss Universe R'Bonney Gabriel

According to Miss Universe, Gabriel is a former high school volleyball player and graduate of the University of North Texas. A short bio posted on the organization's website said she is also CEO of her own sustainable clothing line. The 28-year-old Gabriel is a fashion designer from Houston, Texas.

Critics Choice Awards 2023 full winners list: RRR bags two more awards

28th Critics Choice Awards

The **28th Critics Choice Awards** were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. **RRR** won Best Song award for **Naatu Naatu**, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

The American Canadian Critics Choice Association CCA show Who shows for the finest In cinematic achievement. The Critics Choice Movie award Formerly known as the Broadcast Film Critics Association award was held. Critics Choice Awards Winner 2023 shows were hosted by **Chelsea Handler**.

Indian Movie

The 28th Critics Choice Awards were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. RRR won Best Song award for Naatu Naatu, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

Critics Choice Movie Awards

The Critics Choice Movie awards were given according to the nominees selected. You can see the Critics Choice Movie awards list in the given. The list is given according to the movie, series etc.

- Best Animated Series: "Harley Quinn"
- Best Foreign Language Series: "Pachinko"
- Best Comedy Special: "Norm Macdonald: Nothing Special"
- Best Talk Show: "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver"
- SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges
- Best Picture: "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Actor: Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
- Best Supporting Actor: Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Supporting Actress: Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
- Best Young Actor or Actress: Gabriel LaBelle, "The Fabelmans"
- Best Acting Ensemble: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery"
- Best Original Screenplay: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sarah Polley, "Women Talking"
- Best Cinematography: Claudio Miranda, "Top Gun: Maverick"
- Best Production Design: Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino, "Babylon"
- Best Editing: Paul Rogers, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"



Critics Choice Super Award 2023

The Critics choose super award 2023 for the films and the television series you can see in the given below. In this above section you see the various actors and their award. But now you can see the Indian movie and the best song award which goes to an RRR movie. The movie was made by SS Rajamouli. The list of the Critics Choice Super award 2023 is given below as you can see it.

- **Best Foreign Language Film: "RRR"**
- **Best Song: "Naatu Naatu," "RRR"**
- **Best Score: Hildur Gudnadottir, "Tár"**

Television

- **Best Drama Series: "Better Call Saul"**
- **Best Actor in a Drama Series: Bob Odenkirk, "Better Call Saul"**
- **Best Actress in a Drama Series: Zendaya, "Euphoria"**
- **Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Giancarlo Esposito, "Better Call Saul"**
- **Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Jennifer Coolidge, "The White Lotus"**
- **Best Comedy Series: "Abbott Elementary"**

Other Category

- **#SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges**

Amazon back as World's Most Valued Brand, Apple down to No 2

Billionaire **Jeff Bezos's** e-commerce company **Amazon** has become the **most valued brand, overtaking Apple**, last year's topper. **Amazon** has reclaimed the top spot as the **world's most valuable brand** despite its brand value falling **15 per cent** this year from **\$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion**. According to brand valuation consultancy **Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023"**, while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by **over \$50 billion** this year, with its rating slipping from **AAA+ to AAA**. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world.

Apple slipped to the second spot:

iPhone maker Apple slipped to the second slot to be ranked the **world's second most valuable brand** (brand value down 16% to \$297.5 billion from \$355.1 billion). This year's fall in brand value relates to a fall in forecast revenue with supply chain disruptions and a constrained labour market expected to limit the supply of its marquee hardware products. Among all, 48 tech brands featured in the ranking, which is two less than the earlier 50 rated in 2022. This is after Snapchat and Twitter dropped out.

list of the Top 10 most valuable brands according to the report:

1. Amazon- Worth \$299.3 billion
2. Apple- Worth \$297.5 billion
3. Google-Worth \$281.4 billion
4. Microsoft-Worth \$191.6 billion
5. Walmart-Worth \$113.8 billion
6. Samsung Group-Worth \$99.7 billion
7. ICBC-Worth \$69.5 billion

8. Verizon-Worth \$67.4 billion
9. Tesla-Worth \$66.2 billion
10. TikTok/Douyin-Worth \$65.7 billion

India's Top-Valued Brands:

From India, over **150-year-old Tata Group** is the only brand to feature in the **top 100**. The conglomerate's brand value jumped up to **69 from 78 last year**. However, reasons for the ranking going up were not available. Among Indian **IT tech giants, Infosys** jumped to the **150th slot from 158 last year**. According to the report, Infosys has seen an 84% increase in its brand value since 2020.

Mukesh Ambani Number 1 Among Indians And 2 Globally On Brand Guardianship Index

Brand Guardianship Index 2023

Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani** ranked **No.1** among Indians and **second** globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2023, overtaking the likes of Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Google's Sundar Pichai. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang topped the list globally, with Microsoft's Satya Nadella occupying third place.

S.NO	CEO	CORPORATION
1	Jensen Huang	Nvidia
2	Mukesh Ambani	Reliance
3	Satya Nadella	Microsoft
4	Shantanu Narayen	Adobe
5	Sundar Pichai	Google
6	Punit Renjen	Deloitte
7	Fabrizio Freda	Estee Lauder Companies
8	Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Tata
9	Piyush Gupta	DBS
10	Huateng Ma	Tencent

About Brand Guardianship Index

1. The Brand Guardianship Index by **Brand Finance**, a leading global independent brand consultancy, is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by balancing the needs of all stakeholders — employees, investors, and the wider society.
2. The Brand Guardianship Index includes **'equity'** factors, which reflect current perceptions, **'performance'** factors which reflect the tangible results of these perceptions, and **'Investment'** factors which support future performance.

About Brand Finance

Brand Finance is the world's leading independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy. Headquartered in the City of **London**, we are present in over 20 countries. **Founded in 1996** with the aim of **'bridging the gap between marketing and finance'**, for more than 20 years we have helped companies and organisations of all types to connect their brands to the bottom line.

National Affairs

- This year, SPIC MACAY, in association with the Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi Municipal Council, presents "Shruti Amrut," a new instalment of its wildly popular "Music in the Park" series. Eminent musicians from all over the nation performed to highlight the beauty of Indian classical music. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared snippets titled "**Your Exam, Your Methods-Choose Your Own Style**" from the Exam Warriors Book and has urged students to share how they prepare for exams. PM Modi in his message shared that in the book **Exam Warriors**, one mantra is "Your Exam, Your Methods-Choose Your Own Style". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT)** has released India's first national assessment regulator, **PARAKH**, which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country. The **PARAKH** regulator aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove disparities in the scores of students enrolled with different state boards. PARAKH stands for **The Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**. It is established within the education survey division of the NCERT. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second phase of **Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23** via video conferencing. Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 has been organized in Basti district, **Uttar Pradesh** by Harish Dwivedi, Member of Parliament from Basti since 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) would begin supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis in June of this year, according to State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid. Nasrul Hamid responded to a written inquiry before the national parliament, Jatiya Sangsad, in Dhaka, by stating that a pipeline of 131.5 kilometres long has been built for importing fuel from India. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in different sectors in Mumbai. It is a big step in infrastructure, urban travel, and healthcare ahead of civic polls. This was PM Modi's first visit to Mumbai after **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** took office at June-end last year after replacing the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formed a **seven-member committee**, including **M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt**, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against **Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh** by top grapplers. This comes after the agitating wrestlers had earlier in the day reached out to the IOA, demanding formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- "**Nari Shakti**" (women power) will be driving the theme of this year's **Republic Day** tableau of **Navy**. Not just the front of the tableau will feature a woman aircrew of a Dornier aircraft flying overhead, but **Lt. Commander Disha Amrith** has been tasked with commanding its parade contingent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated several development programs in **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra** ahead of the elections. PM Modi visited the Yadgiri and Kalaburagi districts of Karnataka and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various developmental projects related to irrigation, drinking water, and a National Highway development project at Kodeka in the Yadgir district. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- The renowned Jallikattu bull-taming competition got underway in the Tamil Nadu village of Avaniyapuram. Aneesh Sekhar, the district collector of Madurai, as saying that preparations had been made to ensure a successful Jallikattu. ensuring the players' and bulls' safety. Bulls are protected in the play area by three levels of barricading, as are spectators. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** restored the **old pension scheme** in its first cabinet meeting. The cabinet decided to provide OPS to all government employees who are presently covered under the defined contributory pension scheme, also referred to as NPS. This scheme will benefit about 1.36 lakh NPS employees in the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged as the top location for mobile gamers, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal, according to the India Mobile Gaming Report 2022 issued by the gaming platform Mobile Premier League (MPL). ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Indian district of **Kollam** has become the country's first constitution literate district. The announcement was made by **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**. The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the **Central Electricity Authority of India** for the '**Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage**', India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh. This will be **11 gigawatt (GW)** project. India may spend **₹1.13 trillion** to build the Upper Siang multi-purpose storage project at **Yingkiong** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A rare **orange-colored bat** was spotted in the Banana plantation in Parali Bodal village of **Kanger Valley National Park** in Bastar, Chhattisgarh. The orange-colored bat is identified as a 'Painted Bat' and is characterized by bright orange and black wings. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Higher Education Minister in Kerala **R Bindu** announced that girls students above the age of 18 years will get maternity leave of 60 days. The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73 percent including menstrual leave. The attendance percentage required earlier was 75 percent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Kerala's Wayanad** becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance to all tribespeople. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- **China's population** fell last year for the first time in six decades, a **historic turn** that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers with **profound implications for its economy**. The drop, the worst since the **Great Famine of 1961**, also lends weight to predictions that **India** will become the **world's most populous nation** in this year. Long-term, UN experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has listed **Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist**. Makki is the brother-in-law of **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** chief and 26/11 mastermind **Hafiz Saeed**. The development comes after India last year slammed China after it blocked the proposal to list Makki under the Sanctions Committee. Makki, who has

been involved in **raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing the youth** to plan attacks in India, especially in **Jammu and Kashmir**, has already been listed as a terrorist by **India and the United States**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **India** will support **Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan** as the island nation looks to trim its huge public expenditure to win approval for a **crucial bailout** from the **International Monetary Fund**. India formally notified that it would support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan. New Delhi's backing comes at a critical time for Sri Lanka as it has to put its **massively indebted public finances** in order to unlock a **\$2.9 billion IMF loan** that was agreed in September. The IMF has stressed the importance of joint talks involving three of Sri Lanka's main bilateral creditors – **China, Japan and India**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** has announced donation of 12,500 doses of **pentavalent vaccines** to Cuba. Minister of State for External Affairs **Meenakshi Lekhi** announced this during her official visit to Cuba. This was her first visit to Cuba. Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **New Zealand** Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern**, a global figurehead of progressive politics, shocked the country. She was re-elected for a second term in 2020, the victory buoyed by her government's "go hard and go early" approach to the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw New Zealand impose some of the world's strictest border rules, separating families and shutting out almost all foreigners for almost two years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Nations General Assembly(UNGA)** adopted a resolution titled '**Education for Democracy**' that reaffirms the right of everyone to education. The resolution, which was co-sponsored by India, recognises that "**education for all**" contributes to the strengthening of democracy. The resolution encourages member states to **integrate education for democracy** into their education standards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Aruna Miller** has scripted history by becoming the **first Indian-American politician** to be sworn in as the **Lieutenant Governor** in the state of **Maryland**, adjoining the US capital. Aruna, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, made history when the Democrat became the **10th Lieutenant Governor of the state**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **FITUR** is the global meeting point for tourism professionals and the leading trade fair for inbound and outbound markets in **Latin America**. FITUR is the **second** most important tourism fair in the world. Around 10,000 national and international companies take part in each edition and there are more than 50,000 visitors spread over the different days of the event. The fair is being organized in Madrid, Spain. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A 30-year-old Indian-American attorney, **Janani Ramachandran** has emerged as the youngest and the first queer woman of colour to take oath as the Oakland City Council member in the U.S. state of California. She took the ceremonial oath wearing a saree as the Oakland City Council member for District 4 in an inauguration ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The continuous anti-corruption campaign has prompted President Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam to announce his resignation. In Vietnam, the anti-corruption campaign has resulted in the dismissal of several ministers. Two of President Phuc's deputy prime ministers had resigned earlier. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Arab Emirates** is in early discussions with **India** to trade non-oil commodities in **Indian rupees**, Minister for Foreign Trade **Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi** said in **World Economic Forum, Davos**. The minister said other countries, including **China**, had also raised the issue of settling non-oil trade payments in **local currencies**. He added that the UAE is hoping to conclude a trade agreement with Cambodia in the first quarter. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** has extended a concessional USD 40 million Line of Credit for developing sporting infrastructure in the Maldives. It is a part of New Delhi's efforts to bring **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** flagship projects such as **fit India and Khelo India** into the stretch of the Neighborhood First Policy. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is on a visit to the Maldives to further expand bilateral engagement with the key maritime neighbor of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- New Zealand's former COVID-19 response minister, **Chris Hipkins** will replace **Jacinda Ardern** as prime minister. The 44-year-old senior politician must be formally backed by Labour members of parliament to take over as the country's 41st prime minister, following Ardern's shock resignation. As leader of the governing party, Hipkins will also become prime minister when Ardern steps down. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **State Bank of India** to help farmers in getting low-interest-rate loans. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to promote awareness about the new loan product called 'Produce Marketing Loan' to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Taiwan-headquartered** electric vehicle and infrastructure company **Gogoro** is advancing its plans to deploy **battery swapping** network in India. The company along with **Belrise Industries** (formerly known as Badve Engineering) has inked a **strategic energy partnership** with the **Maharashtra government** to establish a battery swapping infrastructure. This follows up to Gogoro's earlier announced partnership with Hero MotoCorp and Zypp Electric among others. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Ports Association (IPA)** and **Research & Information System** for Developing Countries (RIS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement for setting up a Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity in the presence of the Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**. During the function, various other dignitaries were also present including senior officials from MoPSW, RIS, and IPA. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- The English version of the book titled '**Come! Let's Run**' by Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Minister, **Ma. Subramanian** was released by **Krishnamachari Srikkanth**, former Captain of the Indian Cricket team. The Tamil version of the same book titled 'Odalam Vanga' was released on March 8, 2021. The book was published by Emerald Publishers and the English translation was done by Geeta Padmanaban (a teacher) along with J. Joicy and Sharon. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A book titled '**COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team**' authored by **R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar**. The book reflects primarily on R. Sridhar's seven-year coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach. This book isn't as technical as it is anecdotal. It throws light, for instance, on how Virat Kohli overcame a dismal Test series in England in 2014 to smash four hundreds in as many matches in his next overseas outing, in Australia. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Group (SMBC Bank) of Japan and Oaktree Capital Management** are among those that have submitted **expressions of interest (EoIs)** for the **strategic stake sale in IDBI Bank**. Oaktree is a US alternative assets firm founded by Howard Marks, one of the world's most formidable distressed debt investors. The stake being sold is held by the **Centre and LIC**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Regulator **SEBI** allowed **Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs)** to participate in the **Credit Default Swaps(CDS)** market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment. The new norms, which will come into force with immediate effect, allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In December 2022, the wholesale price-based inflation fell to 4.95 percent, primarily as a result of lower costs for food items and crude oil. Inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 5.85% in November 2022 and 14.27% in December 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said that the **finances of Indian states** are projected to improve in 2022-23 with the consolidated **gross fiscal deficit** to gross domestic product ratio seen falling to 3.4 percent from 4.1 percent for the previous year. The **fiscal health of the states** has improved from a sharp pandemic-induced deterioration in 2020-21 on the back of a broad-based economic recovery and resulting high revenue collections. During the pandemic years, states' finances were under pressure due to rising expenditures and limited revenue growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India** tweaked norms related to acquisition and holding of shares in banks to ensure that their ultimate ownership and control remain **well diversified** and the major shareholders are **'fit and proper'** on a continuing basis. The central bank has issued **'Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies) Directions, 2023'**. The directions are applicable to all banking companies, including **Local Area Banks (LABs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and Payments Banks (PBs)** operating in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The upcoming **Indian budget** for 2023-24 will be a challenging one for the government to follow the roadmap for **fiscal consolidation** amidst a global environment of **declining inflation**, said a top economist of **State Bank of India** in a report. For India, this could make things difficult to set a nominal **gross domestic product (GDP)** number significantly higher than 10 per cent, with a deflator about 3.5 per cent. But this could also mean a **higher GDP growth** than anticipated at about 6.2 per cent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Paytm Payments Bank** said it has received final approval from the **Reserve Bank of India** to operate as a **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)**. Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Adani Enterprises** has an agreement with **Ashok Leyland**, India, and **Ballard Power**, Canada to launch a pilot project to develop a **hydrogen fuel cell electric truck (FCET)** for mining logistics and transportation. The collaboration between Adani Enterprises and Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada marks Asia's first planned hydrogen-powered mining truck. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Bank** forecast **Pakistan's economic growth** to slow further to two percent during the current year. This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the **World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report**. The report said that Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well. Forecasting **Pakistan's GDP growth rate** to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024, the report said, "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook" of Pakistan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Google** is actively working on a **Soundbox for the India market**, similar to the **Paytm or PhonePe ones** that you see at your neighbourhood shop which gives a sound alert on the digital payment that has been made. The search giant is piloting a soundbox of its own in the country to alert sellers of confirmations for Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **SBI** said it has raised **Rs 9,718 crore** through its **second infrastructure bond** issuance at a coupon rate of **7.70 per cent per annum** for the **15-year money**. This is the **second** fund-raising since early December when it had mopped up **Rs 10,000 crore** via infra bonds. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Mastercard** announced the expansion of its signature **Girls4Tech, STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program in India. The **Girls4Tech** is supported by Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB)** has bagged the **Best Small Bank award** in the Best Banks survey for the year 2022. The Best Banks survey was conducted by **Business Today- KPMG (BT-KPMG Best Banks Survey)**. The bank has won the Best Small Bank Award under the category of banks with a book size of less than Rs 1 Lakh crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Bharti Airtel Group** announced that it will be investing **Rs 2,000 crore** for setting up a large **hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad**. The announcement was made at the **Telangana Lounge** at Davos, Switzerland in the presence of Telangana Minister for IT and Industries **K T Rama Rao**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective** is to hold **inflation** within the mandated **tolerance band** and guide it towards the **medium-term target of 4% by 2024**, it said in its monthly bulletin published. Recent data indicated "the first milestone of monetary policy is being passed - **bringing inflation into the tolerance band**", the RBI said. The objective during 2023 is to tether inflation therein so that it aligns with the target by 2024 - the second milestone, it added. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** offers **credit cards** against **Fixed Deposit** to customers who don't meet the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards. This facility will be available for salary account customers, and they shall be able to apply through the **mobile banking app PNB One**, website or Internet Banking Service (IBS), the lender said. Customers can avail loan without visiting a bank branch, adding there is a concession of **0.25 per cent** on the interest rate when applied through digital platforms like **PNB One**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Air India Ltd** orders 500 aircraft from **Airbus SE and Boeing Co** is being held up by an impasse with engine makers powering the 737 Max dragging out one of the biggest single purchases in the history of civil aviation. **CFM International**, the General Electric Co., and Safran SA Joint venture are reluctant to offer big discounts on engines and maintenance that typically accompany mega orders. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a new set of rules governing **loan loss provisioning** by banks as it looks to enhance the resilience of the **banking system**. The central bank proposes to amend the regulations governing loan loss provisioning to incorporate a more forward looking "**expected credit losses approach**" as against the current "**incurred loss**" approach, the RBI says in a discussion paper. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched **LIC Jeevan Azad Plan**. It is a limited period premium payment plan that offers financial support for the family in case of **unfortunate death** of the life assured during the policy term. If the LIC policyholder survives the maturity term, then the plan offers a guaranteed base sum-assured amount. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Canara Bank** said it plans to sell its stake in **Russian Joint Venture(JV) Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL)** to the other venture partner **State Bank of India (SBI)** for about **Rs 114 crore**. CIBL, incorporated in 2003, is a joint venture in Russia between **SBI (60 per cent)** and **Canara Bank (40 per cent)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, **Clare Lombardelli**, has been appointed as the new **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Chief Economist**. She will lead the OECD's economic work, replacing France's **Laurence Boone**, who has held the post since 2018. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Retired director general of the Border Security Force (BSF), **Pankaj Kumar Singh** was appointed as the **Deputy National Security Adviser** in **National Security Council Secretariat** for a period of two years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Praveen Sharma** has been selected for appointment as **Director** in the National Health Authority (**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**) under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nick Walker** has been announced as the Chief Executive Officer of **Cairn Oil & Gas**, A unit of Vedanta Ltd. The appointment is effective from 5th January 2023. Nick Walker has previously served as the President and CEO at **Lundin Energy**, a large European independent E&P company. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- Captain **Surbhi Jakhmola** of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**). The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project Dantak. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is an executive road construction force in India that supports the Indian armed forces. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the Ministry of Defence, the **21st edition** of "**Varuna**" the bilateral naval exercise between **India and France** commenced on the western seaboard. This edition of the exercise will witness participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer **INS Chennai**, guided missile frigate **INS Teg**, maritime patrol aircraft **P-8I** and **Dornier**, integral helicopters and **MiG29K** fighter aircraft. The French Navy will be represented by the aircraft carrier **Charles De Gaulle**, frigates **FS Forbin** and **Provence**, support vessel **FS Marne** and maritime patrol aircraft **Atlantique**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Army** has organized the second edition of the Hackathon named "**SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0**" from October 2022 to January 2023 under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC). The "**SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0**" aims to seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and jump-start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of **Cyber Security**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL)** has delivered the first **fuselage** for six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters ordered by the Indian Army from its state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The first joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian and the Egyptian Army, '**Exercise Cyclone - I**' started on 14 January at **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, said the Ministry of Defence**. The exercise aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two countries and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of special forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Navy** is set to commission the **fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir** on 23 Jan 2023. The Chief of the Naval Staff Adm R Hari Kumar will be the Chief Guest for the ceremony. These submarines are being built in India by the **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Noted writer **K Venu** was conferred with **Federal Bank Literary Award 2022** for his autobiography '**Oranweshananthinte Katha**.' Venu received the award from Balagopal Chandrasekhar, Chairman and Independent Director of Federal Bank, at a special event held as part of the Kerala Literature Festival. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Rajasthani film, **Naanera**, directed by Deepankar Prakash bagged the '**Golden Kailasha**' award for the best movie at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival. Naanera (Grandfather's House) revolves around Manish (Main Character). After the death of his father, Manish's uncle starts taking his life's decisions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **New Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA)**, built by the **GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL)**, a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited, won the prestigious "**Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport**" award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 at New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder **Dr Sanduk Ruit** has won the **ISA Award** for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain. The award carries a cash prize of **USD 1 million**, a certificate of merit and a gold medal. He is pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions in advancing the goal of **financial inclusion** and supporting **inclusive growth**. This award is a recognition of ESAF's unique spectrum of Financial Inclusion projects **ESAF Dhansree, ESAF Udyog Jyothi, LSEDP (Local Sustainable Economic Development Project), ESAF Balajyothi, ESAF Vayojyothi, and ESAF Garshom**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summit and Conference

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister for Science and Technology, launched the Geospatial Hackathon to encourage innovation and start-ups in India's geospatial ecosystem. Speaking at the event in New Delhi, Dr. Singh stated that the hackathon's goal was to encourage collaborations between the public and private geospatial sectors as well as to develop the nation's environment for geospatial start-ups. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The first 15 meetings of the **Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting** will be held in Gandhinagar from January 22nd to 24th, 2023. The **Gujarat** Government to host a dinner for G20 delegates followed by a delegation visiting the Dandi Kutir. India has been assumed as the G20 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The nation aspires to play an important role on the world stage by finding practical global solutions for the welfare of all. The G20 chairman for India is a historic event as it comes while celebrating the '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The first instance of solo electromagnetic waves has been discovered by Indian researchers. The results were established using information from the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Using high-resolution electric field data from MAVEN's captured by Langmuir Probe and Waves sensors, scientists have detected the lone waves in the Martian magnetosphere. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A two-day Think-20 summit under the auspices of the G20 will bring together prominent individuals from around the world to debate a range of issues, including "Global Governance with LiFE, Values, and Wellbeing." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The sole centre in India with a focus on healthcare and life sciences will be created in Hyderabad as the World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- World Economic Forum in an effort to assist raise the \$3 trillion in funding needed annually to achieve net-zero, stop the destruction of the environment, and restore biodiversity by 2050. More than 45 partners, including HCL Technologies through its chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, are supporting the global movement to fund and build new and existing public, private, and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The **richest one per cent** of Indians own over **13 times more wealth than the bottom 50 per cent**, according to a report by **Oxfam India**. The **top five per cent own 61.7 per cent of the total wealth**, nearly 20 times more than the 3 per cent owned by the bottom half. According to the "**Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement**", released by the non-government organisation (NGO), wealth inequality gets denser on the top. More than half of the wealth of the top 10 per cent of richest Indians is owned by the top 1 per cent. The combined wealth of **India's 100 richest persons** reached Rs 54.12 lakh crore in 2022. The total wealth of the 10 richest Indian stood at Rs 27.52 lakh crore in 2022, a 32.8% rise from 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The world faces a set of risks that feel both wholly new and eerily familiar. **The Global Risks Report 2023** explores some of the most severe risks we may face over the next decade. As we stand on the edge of a **low-growth and low-cooperation era**, tougher trade-offs risk eroding climate action, human development and future resilience. The **World Economic Forum** taking place in **Davos, Switzerland** released the 18th edition of the Global Risk Report 2023 based on the 2022-2023 Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million), making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world. Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like **Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney**, **Shah Rukh Khan** took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released by **World of Statistics**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Global Firepower Index** ranks the countries based on their potential **military strength**. **India** is ranked **fourth** in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked **145 countries**. The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns. The Global Firepower Index, 2022, puts the **US at the top, Russia at the second spot, China at No. 3, and India at No. 4**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata Consultancy Services** and **Infosys** grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy **Brand Finance** for the year 2023. Accenture retained the top slot for the fifth year straight, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion. It is the strongest IT services brand in the ranking with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.8 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA brand rating. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Ernst & Young, released a report titled **India@100: Realizing the potential of a US\$26 trillion economy**. According to the estimates Indian economy will reach GDP size of US\$26 trillion by 2047, the 100th year of the country's independence. The per capita income is expected to increase to **US\$15,000**, putting the country among the ranks of developed economies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Jio** has been ranked as the **strongest brand in India** and placed **ninth among the world's strongest brands**, according to the latest report '**Global 500 - 2023**' published by **Brand Finance**. 'Jio' was placed ninth among the world's strongest brands ahead of brands like **EY, Coca Cola, Accenture and Porsche**, and behind the likes of **Google, YouTube, Deloitte and Instagram**. With a **Brand Strength Index of 90.2**, Jio is the only brand of India among the world's strongest **25 brands**, according to the Brand Finance listing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- In Cricket, **India** scripted history by defeating **Sri Lanka** by the largest ever margin of 317 runs in the third and final ODI in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. With this, India also clean swept the series by 3-0. Previous record of a win by a largest ever margin was with the **New Zealand, for 290-run win over Ireland in 2008**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Star cricketer **Virat Kohli** became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan legend **Mahela Jayawardene** to enter into top-five. At the time of becoming the fifth-highest run-scorer, Virat had 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 tons and 65 half-century. His best score in the format is 183. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced that **Viacom 18** have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming **Women's IPL** for a whopping **Rs 951 crore** for five years, pipping other bidders, including Disney Star and Sony, in the auction. The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- **Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen** won the **Malaysia Open Super 1000 women's and men's singles titles** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Yamaguchi, the reigning world champion, registered a come-from-behind win over world no. 4 An Se Young to clinch the Super Series Premier title. Yamaguchi won her maiden Super Series Premier title at the China Open in 2017. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Barcelona** have won the **Spanish Super Cup** for the first time since the competition was revamped and moved to Saudi Arabia with a 3-1 victory over **Real Madrid**. Robert Lewandowski, Gavi and Pedri scored a goal each at King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh to give Barcelona its first Super Cup trophy since 2018, and the first since the tournament's Final-Four format began in 2020 in a lucrative deal for the Spanish football federation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian batter **Shubman Gill** has smashed three sixes on the trot to reach his double hundred (**208 off 149 with 4s-19 and 6s-9**) and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI history. He also became the fastest Indian to complete **1000 runs in ODIs as he reached the mark in 19 innings**, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hashim Amla** ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of **South Africa's all-time cricketing greats**. Amla was a key member of one of South Africa's most powerful teams when they clinched the Test championship mace with a series win in England in 2012. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Rwanda** fast bowler, **Geovanis Uwase** has been suspended by **ICC** from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after her action was found illegal at **Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup**. The decision was taken by the Event Panel, which comprises members of the ICC Panel of Human Movement Specialists. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has shattered a long-standing record held by **MS Dhoni** to become India's most prolific six-hitter in the history of ODI cricket. At the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad, Rohit achieved this remarkable feat during the first ODI between India and New Zealand. The Indian captain's knock included two maximums, breaking MS Dhoni's long-standing record. Rohit is now India's leading six-getter in the history of ODI cricket, with a total of **125 sixes to his name**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The global governing body of cricket, the International Cricket Council (**ICC**), reportedly lost nearly **\$2.5 million** in online scam last year. The incident of phishing, which originated in the US, took place last year. As per reports, the ICC was repeatedly cheated by the scamster not once, not twice, but four times. Surprisingly, the authorities at the ICC's Dubai office did not have a clue that they were being cheated. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Laxman Rawat** of PSPB overcame fellow PSPB challenger Aditya Mehta 9-6 in a best-of-17-frame final. Laxman Rawat of PSPB emerged victorious in the **'Baulkline'** NSCI All India Snooker Open. Previously, Laxman Rawat won the runner-up in the last edition of the All India Snooker Open losing to Sourav Kothari in the finals. This win marks Laxman Rawat's first major title after 2 to 3 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- Under its campaign of **Nirogi Rajasthan**, Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** has implemented the policy for Blindness Control with the objective of **'Right to Sight'**. With this, **Rajasthan** has become the **first state to have such a policy**. This policy has been brought with an aim to bring light in the lives of more than **3 lakh people** suffering from **visual impairment in the State**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The success of **"Womaniya on Government eMarketplace"** was commemorated in New Delhi. The event was held by Government eMarketplace (GeM) in partnership with the self-employed women's association, Bharat (SEWA Bharat), and attended by women entrepreneurs and participants from stakeholders' organizations and associations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)** has discontinued the scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities (**Padho Pardesh**). All banks were notified by the Indian Banks' Association last month about the discontinuation of the **Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme from 2022-23**. The scheme so far was being implemented through Canara Bank, the designated nodal bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The **Centre** is about to launch a **five-year National Urban Technology Mission** which is able to infuse **technological improvements in municipal providers and infrastructure** of 4,500 city native bodies within the nation. The mission, to be spearheaded by the **ministry of housing and urban affairs**, can have three main sub-heads. A be aware ready for the approval of the **expenditure finance committee (EFC)** pegs the mission outlay at **₹15,000 crore for 5 years**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **P. Sreekumar**, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and advisor to its space science programme, stated that the organisation has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that, as a result, the mission may be delayed until **2031**. **Shukrayaan I**, the ISRO Venus mission, was scheduled to launch in **December 2024**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The entire country will be covered by **Doppler Weather Radar Network** by 2025 to help predict extreme weather events more accurately, **union minister Jitendra Singh** said, speaking at the foundation day of **India Meteorological Department**. Four new radars were added recently taking the number from 33 to 37. They include two at **Murari Devi and Jot in Himachal Pradesh**, and one each at **Banihal Top in Jammu and Kashmir and Surkandaji in Uttarakhand** covering a radius of 100 km. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced that the **James Webb Space Telescope** has discovered its first new exoplanet. Researchers have labelled the planet as **LHS 475 b**, and it's roughly the same size as Earth. Located just 41 light-years away, the planet orbits very close to a red dwarf star and completes a full orbit in just two days. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **MSN Group** launched the 'world's first' generic **Palbociclib** tablets indicated for advanced **breast cancer** therapy under the brand **Palborest**. Palbociclib is approved by the **USFDA, EMA and CDSCO** in combination with **hormonal therapies** for patients with hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Astronomers** from **McGill University** in Canada and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** in Bengaluru have used data from the **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)** in **Pune** to detect a radio signal originating from **atomic hydrogen** in an extremely distant galaxy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft** have signed off, after the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder. Since its launch on **July 24, 1992**, **Geotail orbited Earth**, gathering an immense dataset on the structure and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Important Days News

- 16th January, the founding day of Startup India is commemorated as the **National Startup Day**. The event is being celebrated since 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announceent last year by calling startups as backbone of new India. The Central government has planned several events this year to celebrate the National startup day across the country as the part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. To celebrate the spirit of Indian startup ecosystem and mark this momentous day, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) is organising **Startup India Innovation Week from 10th - 16th January 2023**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **18th National Disaster Response Force day** is celebrated on **January 19, 2023** by the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**. The day has been celebrated on this day since 2006 when the rescue force was officially formed. The specialised, multi-skilled rescue force is made up of battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- **Ray Cordeiro**, who interviewed music acts including the Beatles during a six-decade career on Hong Kong radio that earned him the title of the world's longest-working disc jockey, has passed away. Cordeiro, who was born in Hong Kong in 1924 of Portuguese descent, was recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest-working DJ. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The last Nizam of Hyderabad, **Mukarram Jah Bahadur**, who passed away night in Turkey, will be buried in the family vault in the Mecca Masjid courtyard. The preparation of the vault where other members of the Nizam's family who governed Hyderabad starting in 1724 are buried was overseen by representatives of the Nizam Trust. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Italian film legend **Gina Lollobrigida**, the diva who came to represent Italy's vibrant rebirth after World War Two during the 1950s has passed away at the age of 95. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **AD Damodaran**, leading scientist and former director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 87. He also served as the Chairman of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The world's oldest person, French nun **Lucile Randon**, has died aged 118. Randon, also known as **Sister Andre**, was born in southern France on February 11, 1904, a decade before World War I. She was long regarded as the oldest European, but the death of Japan's Kane Tanaka at the age of 119 last year made her the world's oldest person. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Padma Shri Awardee Prabhaven Sobhagchand Shah** passed away on 18th January 2023 at the age of 92. Prabhaven Sobhagchand Shah was a social worker from the Union Territory of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu**. Prabhaven Sobhagchand Shah was also known as "Daman ki Divya". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **David Crosby**, the father of American folk-rock, has passed away at the age of 81. He was influential musical pioneer of the 1960s and 1970s who created a distinctly American brand of folk-rock with the Byrds and later with Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Renowned Assamese poet and recipient of Jnanpith Award, **Nilamani Phookan** has passed away. He was 89. Phookan was one of the most celebrated poet of Assam and has been awarded the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith for the year 2021. The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurija Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita', and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed **Neelakurinji** under Schedule III of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, including it on the list of protected plants. Neelakurinji has been included in the list after the Center increased the earlier protected list of six plant species to 19. As per the order, those uprooting or destroying the plant will be fined **Rs 25,000** and imprisoned for three years, furthermore, cultivation and possession of Neelakurinji are not permitted. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)** of the Patna circle has unearthed 1200 years old two miniature votive stupas near the Sarai Tila mound on the "**Nalanda Mahavihara**" grounds in the Nalanda district. The stupas found in Nalanda are carved from stones and depict Buddha figures. The Superintendent Archeologist, ASI Patna circle, Goutami Bhattacharya informed that at the beginning of the **7th century CE**, small miniature terracotta stupas became popular as votive offerings. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jammu and Kashmir's governments** have declared the union territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009. According to the notification issued by the government, the declaration has been made in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (5) of section 6 of the **Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act 2009**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jammu & Kashmir** becomes the first **union territory in India** to completely switch to a digital method of administration, leading the way in the digital transformation of governance. All governmental and administrative services in Jammu & Kashmir are currently only offered digitally. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Spanish great-grandmother who was born in the United States has likely become the world's oldest living person at 115, a Guinness World Records. The organisation shared that the woman named **Maria Branyas Morera** was born in March 1907 in the US and presently resides in Spain. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Odisha State AIDS Control Society** organised an awareness program on **HIV AIDS** in coordination with the Department of Sports and Youth Services and Hockey India under the leadership of **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)**, on 19th January 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Union Minister of State for Culture **Arjun Ram Meghwal** handed over the 9th to 10th century Nataraja Idol of the Archeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort in **Rajasthan**. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal noted that there are only 13 idols of ancient importance that could be brought to India by the year 2023 but after 2014, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** brought 229 idols to India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Regional carrier **Flybig** commenced its services from **Itanagar to Guwahati**. The Flybig carrier has commenced flights from Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh to Guwahati in Assam. With this, Itanagar becomes the 10th destination on the Flybig network while the third destination in Arunachal Pradesh alone. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A 63-year-old Italian man, **Michele Santelia** has achieved a world record by typing copies of 81 books backwards, a technique that he calls 'mirror writing', as per a report by the **Guinness World Records (GWR)**. For the purpose of this record, the books must be typed using 'mirror writing', such that the result is the mirror image of any given language's normal writing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MahaMetro)** has announced that the **Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS)** will inspect a stretch of the Pune Metro in February, and clearances are expected in March. This line features India's deepest underground station, which will be ready in a few months at the Civil Court and measures 33.1 metres (108.59 feet) in depth. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
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Static Takeaways

- Director General Border Roads Organization: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chowdhary.
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath;
- ISRO's foundation Date: 15th August, 1969;
- ISRO's Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath;
- ISRO's foundation Date: 15th August, 1969;
- ISRO's Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime minister: Élisabeth Borne.
- 5th and current National Security Advisor (NSA): Ajit Kumar Doval;
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva;
- Federal Bank CEO: Shyam Srinivasan (23 Sept 2010-);
- Federal Bank Founder: K.P Hormis;
- Federal Bank Founded: 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram.
- Cuba Capital: Havana;
- Cuba Currency: Cuban Peso;
- Cuba President: Miguel Díaz-Canel;
- Cuba Continent: North America.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.

- Canara Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Canara Bank Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai;
- Canara Bank MD and CEO: L V Prabhakar;
- Canara Bank Founded: 1 July 1906.
- Director Generals of NDRF: Atul Karwal;
- HQ of NDRF: New Delhi;
- NDRF Formed: 2006.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin;
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015-);
- Google Parent organization: Alphabet Inc;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- WEF Founder: Klaus Schwab
- WEF Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
- WEF President: Borge Brende.
- NCRA Founded:- Early 1960's
- NCRA Director:- Yashwant Gupta
- IISc Founded:- 1909
- IISc Founders:- Jamsetji Tata & Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV
- IISc Director:- Govindan Rangrajan.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- NHPC Founded: 7 November 1975
- NHPC Headquarters: Faridabad, India
- NHPC Chairman & Managing Director – Shri Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi
- CEA Founded: 1951
- CEA Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CEA Chairperson – Shri Ghanshyam Prasad.
- New Zealand Capital: Wellington;
- New Zealand Currency : New Zealand dollar.
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States;
- NASA Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower;
- NASA Administrator Bill Nelson;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Head: Hiroshi Yamakawa;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- Spain Government: Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Spain Capital: Madrid
- Spain King: Felipe VI of Spain

- Spain Prime Minister : Pedro Sánchez.
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi Taka
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese Dong.
- EY Headquarter:- London, England
- Chairman & CEO – Carmine Di Sibio.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Bahrain Capital: Manama.
- Bahrain Currency: Bahraini dinar.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Chief Of Naval Staff:- Admiral R. Hari Kumar.
- Egypt Capital: Cairo;
- Egypt President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi;
- Egypt Currency: Egyptian pound.
- National AIDS Control Organization Director General: V Hekali Zhimomi;
- National AIDS Control Organization Headquarters: New Delhi;
- National AIDS Control Organization Founded: 1992.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Headquarters : Thrissur
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Founded : 10 March 2017
- ESAF Small Finance Bank Chairperson :- P. R. Ravi Mohan
- ESAF Small Finance Bank MD & CEO :- K. Paul Thomas.



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