

Weekly One Liners 10th to 16th of July 2023


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

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

THE GRADING INDEX

PARAMETERS CONSIDERED

Learning outcomes, Effective classroom transaction, infrastructure facilities and student's entitlements, school safety and child protection, digital learning and governance process



OVERALL SCORE

Percentage	Districts
Over 90%	0
* 81-90%	3
71-80%	86
61-70%	276
51-60%	238
41-50%	87
31-40%	39
*21-30%	3
* 11-20%	2

DIGITAL LEARNING SCORE

Percentage	Districts
71-80%	8
61-70%	41
51-60%	71
41-50%	79
31-40%	83
21-30%	125
11-20%	146
Below 10%	180

DISTRICT SCORES

<p>11-20%</p> <p>Shi Yomi (Arunachal Pradesh), Lawngtlai (Mizoram)</p>	<p>21-30%</p> <p>KraDaadi and Longding (Arunachal Pradesh), Mamit (Mizoram)</p>	<p>81-90%</p> <p>Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur (all in Rajasthan)</p>
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Reasons for PGI 2.0:

- The previous versions of PGI have become outdated and redundant.

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

Structure of PGI 2.0:

- PGI 2.0 comprises 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management (GM).
- These categories are further divided into six domains: Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP), and Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).

Grading System:

PUNJAB, RAJ, CHANDIGARH BEST IN LEARNING OUTCOMES

Grade	Overall grade Score	States/UTs attaining overall grade	Learning Outcomes	Access	Infra	Equity	Governance Processes	Teacher education & Training
Daksh	941-1000	NIL	NIL	Delhi	NIL	Delhi	NIL	NIL
Utkarsh	881-940	NIL	NIL	8	NIL	31	NIL	Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh
Atti-Uttam	821-880	NIL	NIL	10	NIL	4	Gujarat	10
Uttam	761-820	NIL	NIL	12	Chandigarh	NIL	Kerala	13
Prachesta -1	701-760	NIL	NIL	4	5	NIL	11	5
Prachesta -2	641-700	2 (Chandigarh, Punjab)	Punjab, Chandigarh & Rajasthan	1	10	NIL	15	2
Prachesta -3	581-640	6	4	NIL	14	NIL	7	1
Akanshi-1	521-580	13	19	NIL	6	NIL	1	NIL
Akanshi-2	461-520	12	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Akanshi-3	401-460	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Indian education system is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students

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

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

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Objectives of PGI 2.0:

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

Efficacy of PGI 2.0:

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

Key highlights in short

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

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

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

Why Wanindu Hasaranga?

During the ICC World Cup Qualifiers, Wanindu Hasaranga played a crucial role in Sri Lanka's successful qualification for the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, scheduled to begin on September 5. Hasaranga emerged as the top wicket-taker in the qualifiers, impressively securing 22 wickets in 7 matches with an average of 12.90. He made a significant impact from the very

start of the tournament, claiming six wickets against UAE in the opening match. He continued his remarkable performance with figures of 5-13 and 5-79 against Oman and Ireland, respectively. Notably, Hasaranga achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first spinner to achieve three consecutive five-wicket hauls in ODI history.

Why Ashleigh Gardner ?

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

How they selected?

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

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

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

Changes in GST Tax Rates:

I. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Goods:

A. Changes in GST rates of goods:

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

B. Other changes relating to goods:

1. Dinutuximab (Quarziba) Medicine: IGST exemption will be provided for imported Dinutuximab (Quarziba) medicine for personal use.
2. Medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP): IGST exemption will be extended to imported medicines and FSMP used in the treatment of rare diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, subject to existing conditions. The exemption will also apply to FSMP imported by Centers of Excellence for Rare Diseases or recommended institutions.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Supply of Raw Cotton: Supply of raw cotton, including kala cotton, by agriculturists to cooperatives will be taxable under reverse charge mechanism, and issues related to past periods will be regularized. 4. Imitation Zari Thread or Yarn: GST rate on imitation zari thread or yarn will be reduced from 12% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized. 5. Utility Vehicles: Entry 52B in the compensation cess notification will be amended to include all utility vehicles that meet specified parameters. The ground clearance in unladen condition will be clarified. 6. LD Slag: GST rate on LD slag will be reduced from 18% to 5% to promote better utilization and environmental protection. 7. Implants: Issues relating to trauma, spine, and arthroplasty implants prior to 18.07.2022 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues. 8. Fish Soluble Paste: GST rate on fish soluble paste will be reduced from 18% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized. 9. Desiccated Coconut: Issues relating to desiccated coconut for the period 1.7.2017 to 27.7.2017 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Pan Masala and Tobacco Products: The earlier ad valorem rate applicable on 31st March 2023 will be notified for the levy of Compensation Cess on pan masala, tobacco products, etc., where it is not legally required to declare the retail sale price. 11. Banks for IGST Exemption: RBL Bank and ICBC Bank will be included in the list of specified banks eligible for IGST exemption on imports of gold, silver, or platinum. The list of eligible banks/entities will be updated as per the Foreign Trade Policy 2023. 12. Notifications: Consequential changes will be made in notifications in accordance with the new Foreign Trade Policy 2023. 13. Plates and Cups made of Areca Leaves: Issues relating to GST on plates and cups made of areca leaves prior to 01.10.2019 will be regularized. 14. Biomass Briquettes: Issues relating to GST on biomass briquettes for the period 01.7.2017 to 12.10.2017 will be regularized. |
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Table 1: Changes in GST Tax Rates for Goods

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

II. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Services:

A. Changes in GST rates of services:

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

B. Other changes relating to services:

1. Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs): GTAs will not be required to file a declaration for paying GST under forward charge every year. The option to pay GST under forward charge must be exercised by 31st March of the preceding financial year.

- Services Provided by Directors: Services provided by a director of a company in his private or personal capacity, such as renting immovable property, will not be taxable under reverse charge mechanism (RCM). Only services supplied by a director in their capacity as a director of the company or body corporate will be taxable under RCM.
- Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls: Supply of food and beverages in cinema halls will be taxable as a restaurant service if supplied independently of the cinema exhibition service.

Table 2: Changes in GST Rates for Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment of the report:

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

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

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

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

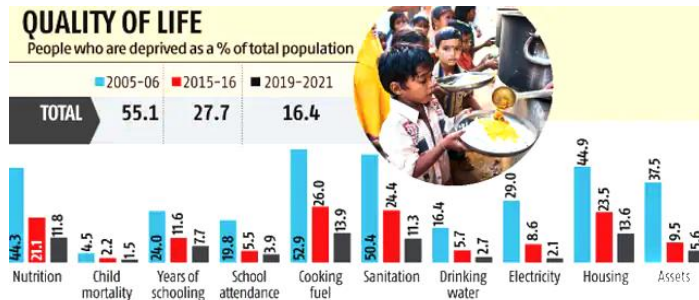
Here are the 10 nations with the least powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country
1	Bhutan
2	Benin
3	Moldova
4	Somalia
5	Liberia
6	Suriname
7	Belize
8	Central African Republic
9	Iceland
10	Sierra Leone

2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

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

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



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

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

Poverty Reduction Trends in Selected Countries (2000-2022)

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

Children and Rural Areas: Key Factors in Poverty Reduction:

- Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people, emphasizing the importance of addressing child poverty through comprehensive programs for their well-being, education, and access to essential services.

- Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84% of the country’s poor residing in these regions. This underscores the need for targeted measures to uplift rural communities and bridge the urban-rural divide.

Global Outlook

Poverty Incidence in Selected Countries and Regions

Country	Region	Poverty Incidence (%)
Burundi	Sub-Saharan Africa	75.1
Central African Republic	Sub-Saharan Africa	80.4
Chad	Sub-Saharan Africa	84.2
Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	91
Afghanistan	South Asia	55.9
Haiti	Latin America	41.3
Papua New Guinea	East Asia	56.6
Sudan	North Africa	52.3
Tajikistan	Central Asia	7.4

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

Outlook for India:

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

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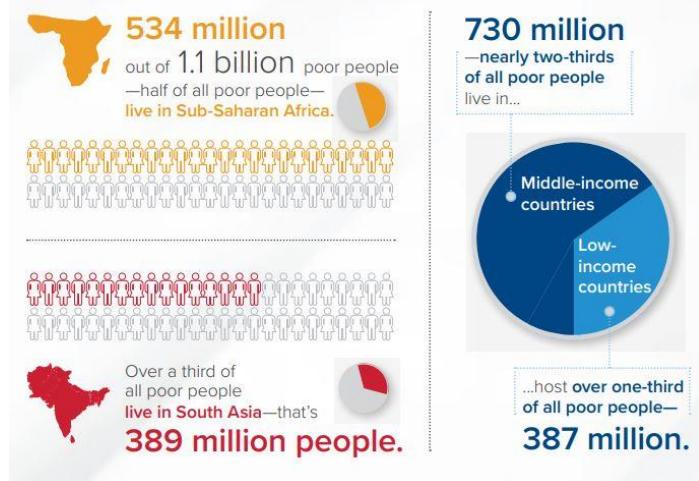
Improvement in Deprivation Indicators:

25 NATIONS HALVE GLOBAL MPI VALUES

<p>➤ India is one of the 25 nations that have successfully halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index values within 15 years</p> <p>➤ In India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021</p> <p>➤ People in India who are multi-dimensionally poor and</p>	<p>deprived under the nutrition indicator declined from 44% in 2005-06 to 12% in 2019/21</p> <p>➤ Those who are poor & deprived of cooking fuel declined from 53% to 14% & those deprived of sanitation dipped from 50% to 11.3%</p> <p>➤ In drinking water, those deprived fell from 16% to 3% & in housing from 44% to 14%</p>
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- India has shown significant progress in all three deprivation indicators: health, education, and standard of living.
- The percentage of people deprived of nutrition decreased from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.

Recommendations:

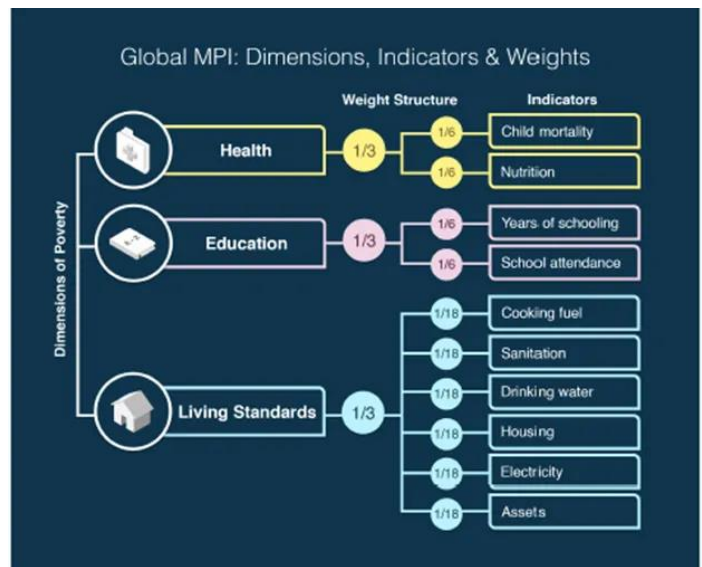


- There is a need for context-specific multidimensional poverty indices that reflect national definitions of poverty.
- While the global MPI provides a standardized methodology, national definitions offer a comprehensive understanding of poverty specific to each country.
- It is crucial to consider these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

About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

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

Inauguration of 'Sagar Sampark' DGNS by Sarbananda Sonowal



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

1. **Monitoring Deprivations:** The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 key indicators that span the domains of health, education, and standard of living. These indicators are carefully selected to reflect the essential aspects of individuals' lives and well-being. By analyzing these indicators, the MPI provides a nuanced picture of poverty and identifies the specific areas where people face significant deprivations.
2. **Incidence and Intensity of Poverty:** The MPI considers both the incidence and intensity of poverty. A person is classified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in one-third or more (33% or more) of the weighted indicators out of the ten indicators. Those who face deprivations in half or more of the weighted indicators are considered to be living in extreme multidimensional poverty. This dual perspective helps to capture the severity and depth of poverty experienced by individuals and communities.

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

1. **Health Indicators:**
 - Nutrition and food security
 - Child mortality
 - Access to healthcare

2. Education Indicators:

- School attendance
- Years of schooling completed

3. Standard of Living Indicators:

- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Electricity and cooking fuel availability
- Housing quality
- Assets ownership

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

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

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

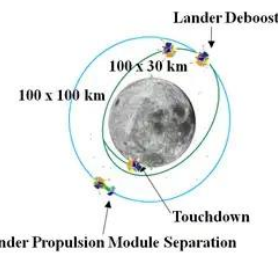
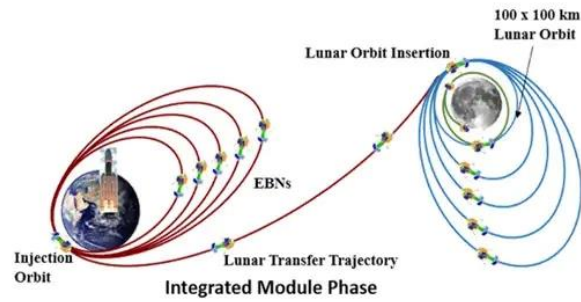
Chandrayaan-3 aims to showcase India's capabilities in landing and exploring the **Moon's South Pole**, a region known for the presence of water molecules.

Launch and Landing:



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

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



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

Objective:

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has three main objectives:

INDIA'S THIRD DATE WITH THE MOON

India will launch its third mission, Chandrayaan-3, to the moon in an attempt to land on its surface in 2020-21. The mission will target a soft-landing near the lunar South Pole later this year or early next year

- 1** GSLV Mark-III (left) had to be operationalised for launching Chandrayaan-2 due to its heavy payload. Chandrayaan-3 will be much lighter as no orbiter would be stacked on it. Isro, however, has not specified the rocket type to be used in Chandrayaan-3
- 2** Chandrayaan-3's payload will be similar to Chandrayaan-2 (above). It will have a lander, rover, like its previous iteration. Since it will not carry an orbiter, a propulsion module will be added to the lander. Isro already has a set of backup lander-rover unit that may be used after some modifications
- 3** The orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 that's already in place will be used by the lander-rover to communicate with Earth. The orbiter, which originally had a mission life of one year, has been given an extension in mission life — it will be operational for 7 years
- 4** The lander-rover is expected to land close to the lunar South Pole like Chandrayaan-2. Changes will be made to the sequence of powered descent, during which a velocity loss had caused the Chandrayaan-2's lander-rover to crash. Isro has not yet revealed the details of the lander

MISSION COST

Chandrayaan-2			
Chandrayaan-3	₹250cr	₹360cr	₹610cr
	Lander-rover	Launch rocket	

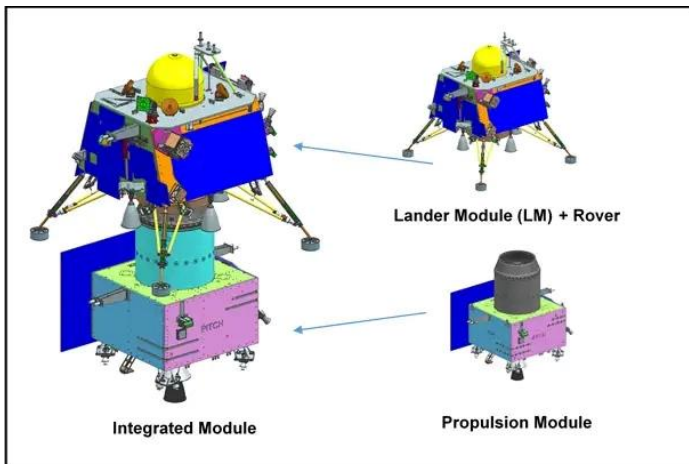
Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

- 1. Safe and Soft Landing:** The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to achieve a safe and soft landing of the lander on the surface of the Moon. Learning from the previous mission's setback, this mission aims to successfully land the lander module on the lunar surface without any issues.

- Demonstration of Rover's Capabilities:** Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate the capabilities of the rover by showcasing its roaming and exploration abilities on the lunar surface. The rover will be deployed after the successful landing of the lander and will perform various scientific experiments and observations.
- In-Site Scientific Observations:** The mission seeks to conduct in-site scientific observations and experiments to better understand the composition of the Moon. This includes analyzing the chemical and natural elements, soil, water, and other resources available on the lunar surface. These observations will contribute to expanding our knowledge of the Moon's composition and provide insights into the Moon's history and evolution.

Design:

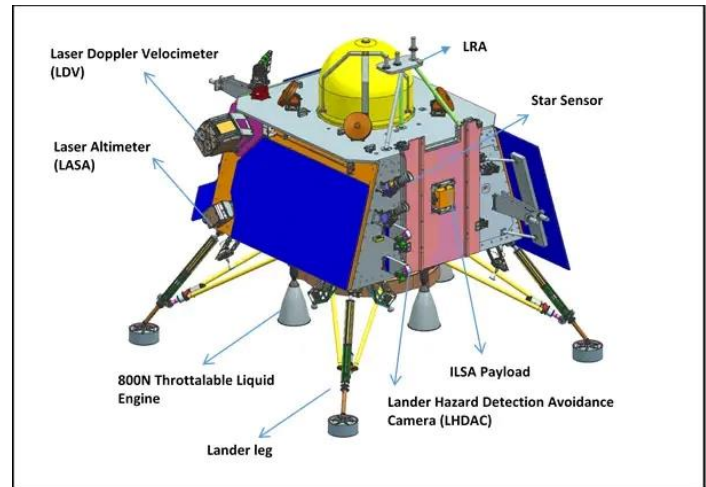
Chandrayaan-3 consists of three main components:



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

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

The lander carries three payloads:



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

- Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE):** Measures thermal conductivity and temperature of the lunar surface.
 - Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA):** Measures seismic activity around the landing site.
 - Langmuir Probe (LP):** Estimates plasma density and its variations.
- Rover:** The Chandrayaan-3 rover is a six-wheeled vehicle weighing 26 kilograms. It is equipped with scientific instruments, including cameras, spectrometers, and a drill. The rover has a range of 500 meters and is designed to communicate with the lander and the ground control team in India. Its expected lifespan is one lunar day, equivalent to 14 Earth days. The rover aims to make significant scientific discoveries, including studying the lunar surface composition, detecting the presence of water ice in the lunar soil, investigating lunar impacts' history, and studying the Moon's atmosphere evolution.

Modifications and Precautions:

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

Mission Components:

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

National Affairs

- The DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) has issued a notification declaring that the import of **potatoes** from **Bhutan** will continue without the need for an import license until **June 30, 2024**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Law University (NLU), Delhi**, has recently introduced a pioneering academic initiative called 'Eklavya' – a Research Affiliate programme. This innovative scheme aims to strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration and draw upon the expertise and diverse perspectives of individuals without traditional law degrees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian government is launching a groundbreaking initiative known as **Nari Adalats**, which are women-only courts established at the village level. These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system. By providing a platform for resolution outside of the traditional **judicial system**, the government aims to empower women and promote gender justice. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France's **Bastille Day** celebrations, which will take place on **July 14**. The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Parliamentary committee has given a go-ahead to the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 without objections. The bill proposes amendments to the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and aims to exempt certain forest lands from legal protection. The bill is expected to be tabled during the monsoon session of the Parliament. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Delhi police has imposed **Section 144 CrPC in the flood prone areas** as the **water level** in the Yamuna River was **recorded at 207.55 metres**, which is the highest ever. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister of State for communications Devusinh Chauhan** on July 8 launched the '**Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojna**' an accident insurance scheme, from **Nadia of Kheda district in Gujarat**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ker Puja** is an annual festival celebrated in the state of **Tripura, India**. During this festival, Prime Minister Modi extended his wishes for happiness, unity, good health, and prosperity to the people of Tripura. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has given its approval for the construction of **two "Obra D"** thermal power projects in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. These projects, with a capacity of **800MW** each, aim to address the rising power demand and provide cheaper electricity to the people of the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's aviation education landscape has witnessed a significant boost with the recent approval of the **first** Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in **Tamil Nadu** by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd has been granted permission to operate from Salem Airport, marking a significant milestone for aspiring pilots in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Telangana High Court** recently made a landmark judgment, declaring the Telangana Eunuchs Act as unconstitutional. The Act, which had been in place since 1919, was deemed discriminatory and a violation of the human rights of the transgender community. The court's decision has significant implications for the recognition and protection of transgender rights in Telangana. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Odisha state cabinet** gave an approval to a proposal which recommended the inclusion of the **Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India**. The cabinet is of opinion that the inclusion of language to 8th schedule will not have any financial implications. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has established itself as one of the **top 20** CPSEs in India in terms of both sales revenue and profitability. It has gained widespread recognition as a high-performing refinery in the country, setting industry benchmarks for distillate production, specific energy usage, and gross refining profit. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum have awarded a **Geographical Indication (GI)** certificate to the **Authoor betel leaves** from Thoothukudi district in **Tamil Nadu**. The certificate is granted in the name of **Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam**. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Authoor betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In an effort to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue, **Assam** has launched the “**Gajah Kotha**” campaign, involving more than 1,200 individuals and promoting coexistence. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- Peru declared a **state of National emergency** amid a surge in patient suffering from **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)** which is a neurological condition characterized by an uncommon immune system mistakenly attack on nervous system. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Bangladesh and India have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade. This bilateral trade agreement marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ukraine war has led to the increased recognition of the term “**Global South**” as many influential countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have shown hesitation in aligning themselves with NATO. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Israel’s parliament** in the first reading **adopted a controversial bill** that would **limit the oversight powers of the Supreme Court**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is embarking on a visit to **France** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from July 13-15, aimed at deepening cooperation between the countries. With a focus on areas such as defence, security, energy, and global partnerships, PM Modi’s visit holds significance for strengthening bilateral ties. This article provides an overview of the key highlights and objectives of the visit. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **UAE** or United Arab Emirates is participating with observer status in the plenary of the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a **Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB)**, taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Australian Treasurer **Jim Chalmers** and Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced **Michele Bullock** would head the **Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)** for the next seven years, having chosen not to reappoint Governor Philip Lowe for a second term. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The European Investment Bank (EIB)** has announced its support for **India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission** by offering a loan facility of up to **€1 billion**. The loan aims to assist India in developing its nascent green hydrogen ecosystem and renewable energy projects. EIB **Vice-President Kris Peeters** will confirm the lender’s interest in providing the loan during his visit to India this week to attend G20 events. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Spain’s Navantia, Larsen & Toubro** signed a Teaming Agreement in the **premises of Spanish Embassy on July 10**, with the purpose of submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy’s **prestigious Project-75 (India) submarine program**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dell Technologies** and **Intel** have joined forces to establish an **artificial intelligence (AI) lab in Telangana** institute. The partnership aims to bridge the digital skills gap and empower students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana by integrating Intel’s ‘**AI for Youth**’ program into their curriculum. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has announced a strategic partnership with **DCB Bank Ltd.**, a new-generation private sector bank in India. The collaboration aims to provide a diverse range of life insurance products to DCB Bank’s customers, including term, savings, and retirement plans, enabling them to secure their financial future and expand their investment portfolio. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Books and Authors

- The early years of late Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** are captured in a new biography, **Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77**, by **Abhishek Choudhary**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- National award-winning filmmaker-writer **Vinod Mankara's** new book was released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The unique launch of '**Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow**', a collection of science articles, was held at the SDSC-SHAR, as preparations were going on full swing there for the country's much-awaited Moon mission Chandrayaan-3. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The 33rd Conference of the **State Finance Secretaries** was held in Mumbai on July 6, 2023. The conference, inaugurated by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), focused on the theme of '**Debt Sustainability: States' Perspective.**' The event was attended by Finance Secretaries from 23 states, one Union Territory, officials from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Controller General of Accounts, and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Housing Bank (NHB) has announced the operationalization of the ₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), as outlined in this year's Budget. The fund aims to facilitate the creation of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, supplementing the efforts of state governments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union government has cancelled the **Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA)** licence of the **Sadbhavana Trust**, a Delhi-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been actively working to empower Dalit and Muslim women. This cancellation prohibits the trust from receiving or utilizing foreign grants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India received its highest-ever FDI inflow of US\$83.57 billion in the fiscal year 2021-2022. However, FY 2023 saw a drop in FDI inflows due to global uncertainties. Total FDI inflows in FY 2023 amounted to US\$70.97 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **net direct tax collection** in the current fiscal year has witnessed a significant growth of 16%, reaching Rs 4.75 lakh crore, indicating a surge in economic activity. According to the Income Tax department, this collection represents 26.05% of the total budget estimates of **direct taxes** for the full 2023-24 fiscal, which is set at Rs 18.23 lakh crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has announced the launch of **UPI 123PAY**, an IVR-based UPI solution. This offering is in line with the **Digital Payment Vision 2025**, aiming to propel India towards a cashless and cardless society. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank IPO** will begin accepting subscriptions this week. Having a presence across all of India, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is one of the top small finance institutions. The bank is promoted by Utkarsh CoreInvest Ltd, which started operating as an NBFC in Fiscal 2010 and concentrated on offering microloans to underserved and unserved areas, primarily in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)**. The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is set to implement interoperability between its central bank digital currency (CBDC) and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by the end of this month, according to Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar. This move will allow customers to use **UPI QR codes** for transactions using digital currency. The RBI aims to achieve 1 million CBDC transactions per day by the end of the year, significantly increasing the current transaction volume. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's small drugmakers in the **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector** will soon be required to adhere to the good manufacturing practices outlined in Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced this decision after engaging with industry representatives, emphasizing the need for quality assurance and reducing compliance burdens. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card)**, the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed **Abhijit Chakravorty** as **MD & CEO**. Chakravorty, who is presently a Deputy Managing Director at SBI, will assume charge of his new role on August 12, SBI Card said in a filing with stock exchanges. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's retail inflation experienced a surge of 4.81% in June, ending a four-month decline, as food prices increased due to uneven monsoon rains and supply disruptions. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**-based inflation was 4.31% in May, and food inflation rose to 4.49% in June. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently announced the cancellation of registration for four **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** and the surrender of licenses by 11 other entities. This move signifies the RBI's efforts to maintain regulatory compliance and ensure the stability of the financial sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Mumbai- based used car platform **Car Trade Tech** will acquire online marketplace **OLX India's** auto sales business for **Rs.537 cr.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The third edition of the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** for States/UTs of India for the year **2022** is set to be released by **NITI Aayog on July 17, 2023.** This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22. The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves have increased by \$1.229 billion,** reaching a total of \$596.280 billion as per the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marks a nearly 2-month high and the second consecutive weekly rise in reserves. The rise in reserves was primarily driven by the growth in foreign currency assets (FCA) and gold reserves, while special drawing rights (SDRs) experienced a slight dip. ([Click here to read the article](#))
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Appointments/Resignations

- Telecom Secretary **K Rajaraman** has been selected by the government as the new chairperson of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **B.Neeraja Prabhakar** has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the **ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)** located in Pedavegi, **Andhra Pradesh.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Kuwait's Sheikh **Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah** has been elected as the new President of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** following a vote overshadowed by allegations of corruption. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development, the board of ITC Ltd has re-appointed **Sanjiv Puri** as the company's Chairman and Managing Director for a period of **five years.** The decision, made on the recommendation of the committee, is set to take effect from **July 22, 2024.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Telangana Chief Justice **Ujjal Bhuyan** and Kerala Chief Justice **S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti** have been appointed as judges of the **Supreme Court by the President.** These appointments were made shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud,** recommended their names to the government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has announced establishment of its **Delhi** chapter. **Harshvardhan Bansal,** Director of **Unity Group,** has been appointed as the president of the NAREDCO Delhi Chapter. NAREDCO is a leading national organization that represents the real estate sector, it works under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- **India and the United States** recently joined forces in **Operation Broader Sword,** a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS). The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **North Korea** has launched an **unidentified ballistic missile** off its eastern coast, as confirmed by statements from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Japan's military. The missile launch followed a series of strongly worded grievances from North Korea regarding US military operations, including accusations of airspace violations by American spy planes in its economic zones and condemnation of the visit of a US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine to South Korea. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC),** chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, convened on July 13, 2023, and approved three significant proposals aimed at bolstering India's naval capabilities. Under the first proposal, the DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine aircraft** from the French Government. This procurement will include associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulators, spares, documentation, crew training, and logistic support for the **Indian Navy.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- With the aim of fostering digitalization in the maritime domain, Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, launched Sagar Sampark, an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** presented French President **Emmanuel Macron** with a special gift during his two-day trip to France – a sandalwood sitar. This remarkable replica of a musical instrument showcases the traditional art of sandalwood carving that has been a cherished practice in Southern India for countless generations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the **third** World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in **Bangkok** in November 2023. The three-day event, known as Vishwa Hindu Sammelan, will take place at the Convention Center in Bangkok. With the theme "**Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah**" meaning "Dharma, the Abode of Victory," the conference will focus on exploring opportunities and addressing challenges faced by the global Hindu community. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The two-day **Urban 20 Mayoral Summit**, hosted by the chair city **Ahmedabad, in Gandhinagar from 7-8 July**, concluded with the handover of the Communiqué from the Mayors to G20 leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Chief Election Commissioner of India, **Shri Rajiv Kumar**, along with a delegation from the Election Commission of India (ECI), recently attended the **11th** meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) in Cartagena, **Colombia**. The meeting provided an opportunity for Electoral management bodies (EMBs) from around the world to collaborate and address challenges affecting election integrity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** will serve as the host for the ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines on July 20, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. A total of 75 participants will convene at this one-day conference which will include international delegates from **eight** ASEAN countries, with an additional **two** international delegates participating virtually. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate brainstorming sessions and idea sharing on the topic of **Traditional Medicines**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **International Temple Convention and Expo (ITCX)** will be inaugurated by Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghchalak (Chief) of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Rudraksh Convention Center, **Varanasi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hampi**, located in Karnataka, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is hosting the **third** Sherpas meeting as part of India's G20 Presidency, with Amitabh Kant leading the meeting as the chairperson. The summit, organized by the **Ministry of Cultural and External Affairs**, anticipates the participation of more than 200 individuals representing 43 countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published an updated bulletin on the ozone layer, signaling promising signs of recovery. After a seven-year hiatus, the WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch bulletin has returned to provide the latest information on stratospheric ozone and ultraviolet radiation worldwide. The recovery of the **ozone layer** is crucial for safeguarding life on Earth from harmful **UV radiation** and ensuring the health of ecosystems. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India has achieved significant progress in digital and sustainable trade facilitation, according to the latest global survey conducted by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)**. The survey evaluates trade facilitation measures in over 140 economies, and India has emerged as a leading player, with a score of 93.55% in 2023 compared to 90.32% in 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Goldman Sachs analysts project India to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075. The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075. China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- The **Forbes 2023 list of America's 100** most successful women is released. As many as four Indian-origin women **Jayshree Ullal, Indira Nooyi, Neha Narkhede, and Neerja Sethi** have made it to this coveted list of America's 100 richest self-made women. Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have made it to the Forbes list of America's 100 most successful self-made women, with a combined net worth of a whopping USD 4.06 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A recent United Nations report titled "A World of Debt" highlights the severity of the global debt crisis, urging immediate action to address the issue. The report reveals that global public debt reached an all-time high of \$92 trillion in 2022, with 30% of that burden falling on developing nations. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns that 52 countries, nearly 40% of the developing world, are in serious debt trouble, adversely affecting their ability to invest in crucial sectors like education and healthcare. The UN emphasizes the need for multilateral efforts to combat the crisis. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- **Max Verstappen** reeled off his sixth straight wins **British Grand Prix** with **Lando Norris** for McLaren in second. Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** completed the Silverstone podium. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lakshya Sen** clinched the men's singles title at the **58th Canada Open 2023**. In an exhilarating final match, Sen defeated **Li Shi Feng**, the reigning All England champion, in straight games. This remarkable victory marks Sen's **second BWF World Tour title** and adds another prestigious accolade to his growing list of accomplishments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **England** emerged victorious in the Under-21 European Championship final against **Spain** in **Georgia**, securing their first title since 1984. 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship Best player: **Anthony Gordon**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, India has emerged as the overall winner at the **34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO)** held in Al Ain, **UAE** from 2-11 July. The Indian student team clinched an unprecedented all-gold performance, securing the top position on the medals tally for the first time. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** has secured the **second** position with an impressive haul of **11** medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze in the recently concluded biannual event, 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in **Limerick, Ireland**. Parth Salunkhe, a rising Indian archer created history by becoming the first Indian male archer to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission(NSCAEM) **2047** in Shahdol, **Madhya Pradesh**. The mission aims to tackle the challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population in India. PM Modi also unveiled a portal and released guidelines for disease management, along with different monitoring modules. ([Click here to read the article](#))
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- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme** is a centrally sponsored scheme **launched on 1 December, 2018** by the **department of agriculture and farmers welfare** for the benefits of the small and marginal farmers **with the aim to provide Rs.6,000 per year given in three instalments**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the Textile Ministry, 43 new implementing partners empanelled under **SAMARTH schemes** with an additional training target of **75,000 beneficiaries** and **5% increment** in support to implementing partners. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Centre has recently made a significant change to the income criteria for individuals falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)** in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**. The income threshold has been raised from **Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh**, aiming to expand eligibility and accessibility to affordable housing. This article explores the impact of this decision and its implications for housing applicants in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Southern Railway** has taken a significant step towards enhancing the facilities at railway stations by identifying **90 stations** for development under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**. The scheme aims to prepare master plans for these stations and implement them in a phased manner. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) scheme**, a pension scheme for unorganised workers in India, has witnessed a significant number of subscribers leaving the program in less than six months. This trend has raised concerns about the scheme's viability and sustainability. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- India, the interest of **producing green hydrogen** has been increasing which is hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources. **Green house significantly reduce green-house gas emission** as it **does not contain any carbon dioxide when burned.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has recently launched the **Euclid Space Telescope**, a specially designed instrument aimed at revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. This state-of-the-art telescope will enable scientists to create a detailed **three-dimensional map** of billions of galaxies spread across a vast area of 10 billion light-years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Space Research Organization** decided to transfer the **SSLV** completely to the private sector, not just the manufacturing but full transfer. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources** has unveiled draft and roadmap to outline the research and development priorities **for manufacturing and storing of Green Hydrogen.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- SpaceX founder, **Elon Musk**, the well-known billionaire entrepreneur recognized for his accomplishments in electric vehicles, space exploration, and social media, has introduced his highly anticipated artificial intelligence startup, **xAI**. The primary objective of the company is to disrupt the dominance of major technology corporations in the AI industry, with a particular focus on developing an alternative to **OpenAI's ChatGPT.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** launched its ambitious **Chandrayaan-3 mission** to the Moon. The spacecraft launched aboard India's heaviest rocket, Launch vehicle **Mark-III a.k.a LVM3** on a journey to the Moon. The spacecraft will complete the **3,84,000 kilometers-long journey** in nearly **45 days** to attempt a soft-landing on the Moon by end of August. ([Click here to read the article](#))



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Important Days News

- **National Fish Farmer's Day** is an annual celebration held on **July 10th** to honor and appreciate the vital role played by fish farmers, aquaculture industry professionals, and other stakeholders in developing a sustainable and successful fisheries sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Population Day** is commemorated annually on **July 11th** to raise awareness and educate individuals about the challenges and consequences associated with global population growth. According to United Nations, the theme for this year's World Population Day is – **Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **July 12** as **International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs)**, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of health, and sustainability. The day is intended to raise awareness about the serious environmental, economic, and social impacts of SDS, and to promote action to mitigate their effects. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **International Malala Day** is observed on **July 12** each year to honor the bravery and activism of **Malala Yousafzai**, a Pakistani advocate for girls' education and the youngest person to receive the Nobel Prize. International Malala Day 2023 will be addressing the **10th anniversary** of Malala Yousafzai event. Malala is an inspirational figure who strongly advocates for women's rights and education. The theme of fame is prominent in the book "**I Am Malala**,". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **On July 12, World Paper Bag Day** is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic. This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives and encourages individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable alternatives. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** celebrated its **42nd Foundation Day** on July 12, 2023. The day was marked by a series of events across the country, including a webinar on the theme of "**NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation.**" ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **World Youth Skills Day**, observed annually on **July 15th** since 2014 as declared by the United Nations, serves the purpose of recognizing the significance of imparting young individuals with the necessary skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023 is **Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Recently, the **Tamil Nadu** Forest Department has intensified its efforts to curb **poaching** in the Mukurthi National Park (MNP) and its surrounding areas in the Nilgiris district in an effort to safeguard the park's wildlife. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Recently, a rare disease called **Brucellosis**, caused by bacteria capable of infecting both animals and humans, afflicted a young girl hailing from Kerala. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Nikki McCray-Penson**, a renowned basketball player and coach, has passed away at the age of 51. She was a two-time Olympic gold medalist and received the MVP award in the **American Basketball League (ABL)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Marathi actor **Ravindra Mahajani** has passed away at the age of 77, known for his notable contributions to Marathi cinema, had established himself as a respected actor and director. With a career spanning several decades, he had worked in numerous films and theater productions, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. His performances in movies like **Mumbaicha Faujdar, Aram Haram Ahe, Zoonj, and Bolo He Chakradhari** garnered critical acclaim and earned him a dedicated fan base. His son Gashmeer Mahajani is also an actor and best known for his work in Marathi cinema. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- United Nations Population Fund Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Population Fund Founded: 1969;
- United Nations Population Fund Head: Natalia Kanem.
- Prime minister of Bhutan: Lotay Tshering
- India's largest potato-producing state: Uttar Pradesh
- Minister of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal
- Founder of World Hindu Congress: Swami Vigyanananda
- World Hindu Congress founded in: 2010
- Director General of The European Space Agency: Josef Aschbacher
- Headquarters of European Space Agency: Paris, France
- Olympic Council of Asia Headquarters: Kuwait City, Kuwait;
- Olympic Council of Asia President: Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah;
- Membership: 45 National Olympic Committees;
- Olympic Council of Asia Founded: 16 November 1982, New Delhi;
- Olympic Council of Asia Motto: Ever Onward.
- CEO of Dell Technologies: Michael S. Dell
- CEO of Intel: Patrick P. Gelsinger
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank MD and CEO: Mr. Govind Singh;
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Headquartered: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh;
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Established: 2015.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.
- Prime Minister of France: Élisabeth Borne
- President of France: Emmanuel Macron
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998.
- Full form of ITC: Indian Tobacco Company

Miscellaneous News

- India's G-20 Presidency recently achieved a remarkable feat by setting a **new Guinness World record**. The record-breaking involved **the largest display of Lambani items**, showcasing the rich heritage of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, **Odisha TV**, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "**Lisa**," **India's first regional AI news anchor**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Microsoft** researchers have achieved a significant milestone in the field of **quantum computing** by making progress in the creation of **Majorana zero modes**. These particles, which are their own antiparticles, possess remarkable properties that could revolutionize the field of quantum computing. This breakthrough has garnered attention due to the potential impact it could have on the development of more robust and powerful quantum computers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA)** provides an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- ITC Founded in: 24 August 1910
- Reserve Bank of Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Prime minister: Anthony Albanese;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Currency: Australian dollar (\$) (AUD).
- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu: M. K. Stalin
- Reserve Bank of Australia Capital: Canberra;
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