

Weekly One Liners 09th October to 15th of October 2023

Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List

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

[Check Out the Nobel Prize 2023 Winners List](#)

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

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

GST Council clears a few measures to boost foreign trade

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

Recommendations on GST Rates for Goods and Services

I. Changes in GST Rates for Goods

1. Food Preparation of Millet Flour:

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

2. Imitation Zari Thread:

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

3. Foreign Going Vessels:

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

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II. Other Changes Related to Goods:

4. Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)

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

5. Molasses:

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

6. Rectified Spirit for Industrial Use:

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

III. Changes in GST Rates for Services:

7. Exemptions for Government Services:

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

8. Job Work Services for Barley Processing:

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

9. GST on Bus Transportation Services via ECOs:

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

10. District Mineral Foundations Trusts (DMFT):

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

11. GST on Indian Railways:

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

Trade Facilitation Measures

i) Amnesty Scheme for Filing Appeals:

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

ii) Clarifications on Taxability of Personal Guarantees:

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

iii) Automatic Restoration of Provisionally Attached Property:

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

iv) Clarifications on Place of Supply:

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

v) Clarification on Export of Services:

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

vi) Supplies to SEZ Units/Developers:

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

Other Measures Related to Law and Procedures:

i) Alignment of CGST Act with Tribunal Reforms Act:

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

ii) Amendment in ISD Procedure:

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

iii) Automatic Restoration of Provisionally Attached Property:

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

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

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

Key Findings of Global Hunger Index 2023

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

Comparison with Neighbors: A Comparative Lens

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

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

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

Top and Worst Performers in Global Hunger Index 2023:

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

National Affairs

- The recent introduction of the **Digital India Act 2023 (DIA)** is a noteworthy stride towards creating a forward-looking legal framework capable of accommodating the growing digital landscape within the country. This initiative, led by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**, demonstrates a proactive stance in governing and molding India’s digital future. The **Digital India Act 2023** aims to harmonize and consolidate digital laws in India, working alongside other key legislation like the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, National Data Governance Policy and Indian Penal Code amendments for cybercrime**. Together, these laws create a framework to govern India’s digital realm. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)
- In the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries, **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, the Hon’ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the **26th Energy Technology Meet** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri spoke about the country’s achievements in the green and clean energy sector during the 26th Energy Technology Meet, shedding light on the nation’s accomplishments and its future goals. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)

- **India** has launched **Operation Ajay**, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from **Israel** amidst the ongoing developments in the region. External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** announced this operation, emphasizing the government’s commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, inaugurated a **month-long celebration drive** in a curtain raiser press conference at the media center, emphasizing the significance of Ayurveda and its role in promoting holistic well-being across India. This celebration marks the **8th National Ayurveda Day**, observed as a tribute to **Lord Dhanvantari**, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with **Dhanteras**, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)
- **The Union Cabinet**, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body named **“Mera Yuva Bharat” (MY Bharat)**. This body is designed to serve as a pivotal mechanism for youth development, with a strong emphasis on technology-driven solutions. **MY Bharat** aims to enable equitable access for young individuals to realize their aspirations and contribute to the holistic development of the nation across various government sectors. This initiative aligns with the **National Youth Policy** and targets individuals between the **ages of 15-29**, with a subset of programs catering to those **aged 10-19**. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)

States in the News

- In a remarkable stride towards promoting eco-friendly and active mobility, **Hyderabad, India**, proudly inaugurated its **first solar roof cycling track, Healthway**. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)
- **NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL)**, a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the **Ministry of Coal**, has recently achieved a remarkable feat in the renewable energy sector by securing an **810 MW solar photovoltaic power project**. This project is awarded by **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)** and marks a significant step forward in NLCIL’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)
- In a significant move, the **Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota** for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state’s judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities. [\(Click to read complete article\)](#)

- The state government of **Uttarakhand** took a significant step towards empowering its youth by launching the ‘**Youva Uttarakhand mobile application**.’ The primary objective of this innovative app is to provide valuable information about self-employment opportunities to the state’s unemployed youth. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Assam cabinet** has unveiled an ambitious plan to establish a **1000-km long economic corridor**, backed by a significant investment of **Rs 3000 crore**. The cabinet’s decision marks a substantial step forward in regional development. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, Government of India, recently unveiled the ‘**A-HELP**’ (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) **programme** in the state of **Jharkhand**. The launch event, graced by dignitaries, shed light on the vital role that women play in the state’s livestock sector and the potential of this new initiative to transform the landscape of animal husbandry. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has made a significant announcement regarding the **Gangetic Dolphin**, designating it as the state’s aquatic animal. This move highlights the importance of conserving these unique creatures and preserving the purity of the rivers and ponds they inhabit. Uttar Pradesh’s decision to declare the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal and the launch of the “**Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023**” **campaign** demonstrate the government’s commitment to wildlife conservation, environmental preservation, and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining the purity of rivers and ponds. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Eastern Ghats**, known for their captivating landscapes and diverse ecosystems, have long captured the fascination of nature enthusiasts. Now, an exciting development is on the horizon for those eager to delve into this unique environment. ‘**Miniature Eastern Ghats**’ (MEG) forest arena, scheduled to become a prominent tourist destination in Visakhapatnam from **November 2023**, will offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the stunning mountain landscape. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Rajasthan government**, in collaboration with the **Environment and Forest Department**, is making concerted efforts to elevate **Udaipur**, also known as the ‘**City of Lakes**,’ to international prominence by aiming to become **India’s first wetland city**. According to recent reports, the city has been chosen as a potential Ramsar Convention site of International Importance, a recognition coveted by wetland-rich regions around the globe. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **54th edition of International Film Festival of India** (IFFI), known for its celebration of cinema from around the world, is scheduled to take place from **November 20 to 28** in the beautiful coastal state of Goa. This iconic event promises to be a cinematic extravaganza, showcasing the best of contemporary and classic films from India and across the globe. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a vibrant ceremony at Project Bhawan in Dhurva, Ranchi, Jharkhand, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, **Hemant Soren**, unveiled the mascot for the upcoming **Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2023**. ‘**Juhi**,’ the mascot, takes inspiration from the beloved elephant at Betla National Park. ([Click to read complete article](#))

International Affairs

- **BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham**, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, October 8, in Robbinsville, New Jersey. This architectural marvel is not only a testament to the vibrant Hindu community in the US but also a symbol of the enduring spirit of artistry, spirituality, and human dedication. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **India and Tanzania** are set to boost their bilateral cooperation as Tanzanian President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** visits India after an **eight-year** gap. The visit aims to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership and enhance trade and investment ties. Tanzanian Foreign Minister **January Yusuf Makamba** anticipates the signing of **15 agreements** covering various areas of cooperation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **India and Switzerland** recently celebrated **75 years** of their enduring friendship and fruitful collaboration in a beautiful Kumaon village nestled in the **Uttarakhand** region of India. The three-day event, aptly named ‘**Swiss Himalayan Bounty**,’ unfolded last week at a charming homestay in Satoli village, positioned at an altitude of 6,000 feet near Mukteshwar in the **Nainital district**. This celebration saw the convergence of participants representing various NGOs, stakeholders, and beneficiaries of the longstanding partnership between these two nations. ([Click to read complete article](#))



- Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** marked a historic moment in the country's infrastructure development by inaugurating the **82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link**. This significant project, executed under **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, is poised to transform Bangladesh's connectivity and economic landscape. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **India and China** held their **20th corps commander-level meeting** at the Chushul-Moldo border in Ladakh. Both countries engaged in a series of diplomatic discussions to address the persisting issues along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in eastern Ladakh. These talks, held at the Corps Commander level, aimed to foster an open and constructive atmosphere, fostering an early and mutually acceptable resolution. While these discussions did not yield a clear breakthrough, they emphasized the commitment of both nations to peaceful dialogue and negotiation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** embarked on his first foreign trip since the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for him in March, raising international attention and scrutiny. The visit took place in **Kyrgyzstan**, a **Central Asian nation** historically tied to **Moscow**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India and Saudi Arabia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on securing a **green hydrogen supply chain** and collaborating on power grid interconnection. This significant agreement was formalized in Riyadh during the **MENA Climate Week 2023**, with Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **RK Singh**, representing India and Saudi Minister of Energy, **Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud**, representing **Saudi Arabia**. This MoU sets the stage for multifaceted collaboration in the energy sector between the two nations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Tyre manufacturer **Bridgestone India** has announced a significant collaboration with **Tata Power** to promote electric mobility in the country. Under this partnership, Tata Power will install **high-capacity DC fast chargers** at Bridgestone dealerships across India, making it easier for electric vehicle (EV) owners to recharge their vehicles quickly and conveniently. This initiative represents a major step toward supporting the growing EV ecosystem in India. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** with the **Olympic Museum** has aligned with **Reliance Foundation** to build on the success of the **Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)** in **India** and signed a new cooperation agreement. This agreement underscores the

organisations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **India and Italy** have cemented their **defense cooperation** with the signing of a significant agreement. The agreement, signed during the official visit of India's Defense Minister, **Rajnath Singh**, to **Italy**, encompasses various aspects of security and defense collaboration. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Shri Rajnath Singh**, the Indian Defence Minister, concluded his two-nation European tour with a significant meeting in **Paris** with the French Minister of Armed Forces, **Mr. Sebastien Lecornu**. The **5th Annual Defence Dialogue** between the two ministers was marked by discussions spanning various aspects of defense cooperation. ([Click to read complete article](#))

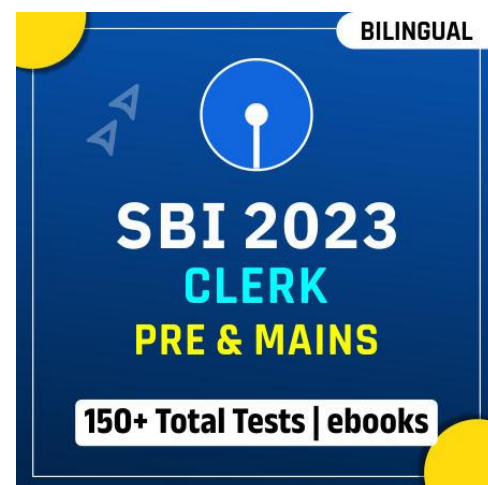
Books and Authors

- **Vivek Agnihotri**, director of The Kashmir Files, has launched his latest book, "**The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success**" in Lucknow. He also directed a medical drama film 'The Vaccine War' in 2023. **Balram Bhargava** is the writer of the book on which the movie is based. Bhargava's book, 'Going Viral – Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story', documents his experiences. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made an important announcement regarding **gold loans** offered by **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)**. They have decided to double the lending limits for gold loans under a specific repayment scheme. RBI has decided to increase the existing limit for gold loans under a scheme called "**bullet repayment**" from **Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh** for urban cooperative banks. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- To support the Indian government's **Digital India initiative**, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** introduced a new card called **NAV-eCash** on the **Indian Navy's** aircraft carrier, **INS Vikramaditya**. The launch took place on **October 1, 2021**, at **Karwar**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **YES Bank**, a prominent financial institution in India, has taken a significant leap forward in the digital commerce space by introducing the **ONDC Network Gift Card**. This move makes YES Bank the **first bank** in the country to issue such a card. In partnership with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), this initiative aims to transform the shopping experience for Indian consumers. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **New Delhi, October 10, 2023** – The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced its ambitious plan to deploy ‘Bima Vahaks’ in every **Gram Panchayat** across the country by **December 31, 2024**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released its quarterly bulletin of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, shedding light on the urban unemployment situation in India during the first quarter of the fiscal year. In the April-June quarter of this fiscal year, the urban unemployment rate in India dropped to **6.6%**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In a meeting with the **Export Promotion Councils**, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles **Shri Piyush Goyal** unveiled a significant initiative to issue system-based automatic ‘**Status Holder**’ certificates under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**. This transformative step not only reduces compliance burden and promotes ease of doing business but also underscores the importance of government collaboration. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The stock price of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, an entity under the **Gautam Adani**-led group, experienced a significant decline of over **5 percent** on **NSE** (National Stock Exchange) amid certain events affecting the region. APSEZ operates the **Haifa port in Israel** and has emphasized its vigilance in ensuring business continuity despite the challenges faced. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- According to the data, released by the **Controller General of Accounts**, the fiscal deficit for the April-August period in FY24 stood at Rs 6.42 trillion. This accounts for **36 per cent** of the full-year target of Rs **17.87 trillion**. Comparatively, during the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was **32.6 per cent** of the full-year target. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Outlook Group** is excited to announce the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, “**40After40**,” in association with **IDFC FIRST Bank**. This two-day event and expo will take place at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on January 23-24, 2024. “40After40” aims to be a comprehensive platform for all retirement-related discussions, offering panel discussions, expert chats, masterclasses, interactions with financial planners, and product presentations. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India has witnessed a remarkable increase in its **net direct tax collections**, with a substantial growth rate of 21.8% amounting to ₹9.57 lakh crore by October 9. This surge has exceeded over half of the annual Budget estimates. The boost is primarily attributed to a **32.5% rise in personal income tax** revenues and a 12.4% increase in corporate taxes. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- In its October 2023 **World Economic Outlook (WEO) report**, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** raised India’s economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24. The growth projection was increased from 6.1% to 6.3% due to stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June. The report also highlighted India’s resilient domestic economic activity and the positive impact of robust domestic demand, contrasting global economic trends. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, ‘**bob World**’. This action comes in the wake of material deficiencies discovered by the RBI during the customer onboarding process. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched an investigation into the relationship between the **Adani Group**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, and the **Gulf Asia Trade & Investment** fund based in the **British Virgin Islands**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda’s** board approved a plan to raise up to Rs **10,000 crore** through long-term bonds. These funds will be used to support infrastructure development and affordable housing. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Bharti Group** has announced its acquisition of **French insurer AXA’s** 49% stake in **Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co**. This move marks the consolidation of a venture that was jointly run for nearly two decades. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a significant fine of **₹5.39 crore** on **Paytm Payments Bank**, highlighting various instances of non-compliance with the RBI’s guidelines. The penalties were levied for failing to adhere to specific provisions concerning **Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols, cybersecurity measures**, and other regulatory requirements. ([Click to read complete article](#))



- In **September, India** experienced a notable drop in retail inflation, marking a significant shift from the peak levels seen **15 months** earlier. This decline, attributed largely to softer vegetable prices, brought the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to a three-month low. Despite this decrease, inflation remained above the 4% target set by the central bank, hindering potential rate adjustments. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently taken a significant regulatory action by canceling the Certificate of Registration of **Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd.** This move has raised eyebrows in the financial sector, as Ind Bank Housing Ltd had major shareholders in the form of **Indian Bank** and **HUDCO** (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd), who held a 51 percent and 25 percent stake in the housing finance company, respectively. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Microsoft** has successfully completed its acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the renowned developer behind popular video game franchises like **Call of Duty** and **World of Warcraft**. This monumental deal, valued at \$69 billion, signifies **Microsoft's largest-ever acquisition** in its history, surpassing the \$26 billion purchase of LinkedIn in 2016 and the \$7.5 billion acquisition of Bethesda in 2021. Notably, this acquisition also represents Microsoft's most significant foray into the gaming industry. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Indian Oil Corporation's board** has given the green light for an equity investment of **₹1,660.15 crore**, securing a 50% stake in the joint venture company Indian Oil NTPC Green Energy. This strategic move aligns with their commitment to renewable energy initiatives. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The prominent Indian food tech company, **Zomato**, has introduced a hyperlocal delivery service called '**Xtreme**'. This service aims to leverage the extensive fleet of over 3 lakh two-wheeler delivery executives that Zomato has at its disposal. Xtreme is designed to cater to the needs of both **small and large businesses** for the intracity delivery of small packages. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** has recently elected **Navneet Munot**, the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as the Chairman during a Board meeting. Munot, a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder, boasts over three decades of experience in the financial services sector. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **VJ Kurian** has been appointed as the non-executive part-time chairman of the **South Indian Bank**, based in Thrissur. His appointment is set to take effect from **November 2, 2023, and will continue until March 22, 2026**. This development follows regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and comes as **Salim Gangadharan**, the current non-executive part-time chairman, is set to retire after the completion of his term on November 1, 2023. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Defence News

- **The Emergency Procurement Power (EP)** was granted to India's armed forces as an interim measure following the **2016 Uri attacks**. This power allowed them to bypass the lengthy procurement process and quickly acquire essential equipment and technology. The EP was extended to all three branches of the military – **the Army, Navy, and Air Force**. In EP-IV, all schemes, amounting to nearly **Rs 11,000 crore**, were contracted with **Indian vendors**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** celebrated its **91st anniversary** at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of the **new IAF ensign** by Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari. This significant event witnessed several historic firsts, including the inclusion of the Air Force crest and the first-ever woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade, Group Captain **Shaliza Dhami** among others. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indian Navy**, known for its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, has embarked on a transformative initiative known as the '**360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism**.' This initiative recognizes the invaluable contributions of both women and men in whites and aims to enhance their professional and personal development. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, the nation's oldest think tank, is set to host the **first-ever Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)**, scheduled for October 21 and 22. This groundbreaking event aims to fill a void in the national discourse and cultural calendar by shedding light on India's rich military history, contemporary security concerns, and the pursuit of self-reliance in military capabilities through the **Atmanirbhar Bharat programs**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE)** is a significant initiative that has evolved since its inception in 2015. It is a direct outcome of the directive issued during the Combined Commanders' Conference of 2015 by India's Honorable Prime Minister. Since then, AJHE, known as **CHAKRAVAT**, has grown into a multi-agency endeavor that includes the active

participation of India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and international organizations. The 2023 edition of AJHE promises to further synergize national efforts and expand its scope by involving eight countries from the Indian Ocean Region. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The **Siachen Glacier**, known as the **world's highest battlefield**, has witnessed a groundbreaking development with the installation of a mobile tower. The **Fire and Fury Corps** of the Indian Army, in collaboration with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**, achieved this remarkable feat, bringing enhanced mobile communication to soldiers deployed at elevations exceeding **15,500 feet**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2023** was awarded to **Claudia Goldin** "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes". This year's Laureate in the Economic Sciences, Claudia Goldin, provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** was awarded the **third prize** for its outstanding efforts in operationalizing **Telemanas**, a tele-technology-based mental health and counseling service. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Tamil writer **Sivasankari** was honored with the prestigious '**Saraswati Samman**' in **2022** for her memoirs, "**Surya Vamsam**." The award, presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Asian Games gold medalist and reigning Olympic and World Champion in men's javelin, **Neeraj Chopra**, has been honored as a **Laureus Ambassador**, pledging his support to the Laureus Sport for Good initiative. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Renowned Hollywood actor **Michael Douglas** is set to receive the prestigious **Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award** at the **54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, **NTPC Limited**, has achieved a remarkable distinction by being named one of the "**World's Best Employers 2023**" in the **Forbes World's Best Employers list**, which was officially unveiled on October 10, 2023. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** is an intergovernmental organisation of **23 member states** and **11 dialogue partners** from **Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania**. It was established in **1997** to promote regional cooperation and development. **Sri Lanka** to take over as **Chair of IORA** for the next two years. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL)** has once again clinched the prestigious '**Best Innovation in Refinery**' award for the year **2022-23**, bestowed by the **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** at the **26th Energy Technology Meet 2023**. This significant achievement comes after a stiff competition with prominent players in the industry, including **IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL**, marking the **second consecutive year** that MRPL has received this accolade. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** has recently renewed and restructured its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**. This renewed partnership aims to **enhance academic collaboration** between these two esteemed institutions, ushering in a new era of educational opportunities for students in the field of Chartered Accountancy. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **Ninth P20 Summit**, in collaboration with the **International Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, is hosted by the **Parliament of India**. This significant event will take place in New Delhi on **13-14 October 2023**, with a Pre-Summit Parliamentary Forum scheduled for **12 October 2023**. The summit's theme, "**Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future**," derives its essence from the ancient **Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world as one family. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the **Jio World Centre** in Mumbai on October 14. This marks India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the **86th IOC session** was held in New Delhi in 1983. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **tourism sector** has become a vital force in driving economic growth and development. In 2022, India witnessed a remarkable surge in **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs)**, reflecting its increasing significance. As India prioritizes sustainability during its **G20 Presidency**, responsible and sustainable tourism emerges as a critical focus to leverage the country's strengths and ensure long-term growth. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- According to the **360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List for 2023** released recently, Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has surged ahead of Adani Group's **Gautam Adani** to claim the title of the **richest Indian**. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, saw his wealth grow by a modest 2 percent, reaching a staggering **Rs 8.08 lakh crore**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** recently unveiled data indicating a remarkable surge in India's industrial output in August. **The Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** reported a staggering growth of **10.3 percent**, marking the highest growth in **14 months**. This figure surpassed the consensus estimate of **9.1 percent**, demonstrating the sector's robust performance. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Sports News

- Australia opener **David Warner** became the fastest batter to complete **1000 runs in ODI World Cup** during his side's match against India in Chennai. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The 19th Asian Games 2023** concluded with a spectacular **closing ceremony held at the Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China**. The event celebrated the love and unity between the participating countries, showcasing the cultural diversity and sporting excellence of the Asian nations. Renowned hockey player **P. R. Sreejesh** had the honor of being India's flag bearer during the closing ceremony, representing his country with pride on the international stage. **India's contingent shone at the 19th Asian Games, securing a total of 107 medals, including 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze**. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- Kenya's **Kelvin Kiptum** left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just **two hours and 35 seconds**, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. He broke the previous record set by **Eliud Kipchoge** in the 2022 Berlin Marathon. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Iranian **Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh** became the most expensive overseas player at the auction and was brought by **Puneri Paltan** for **Rs 2.35 crore**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The 37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023**, is set to take place in the picturesque **state of Goa**. After multiple delays and changes in hosting rights, the event is finally slated to run from October 26 to November 9, marking the first time Goa has hosted this prestigious competition. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- After completing 100 runs in World Cups, **Rohit Sharma** rewrote another record, edging past **West Indies legend Chris Gayle** hitting most sixes in International Cricket Matches. The Indian skipper hit six off Naveen-ul-Haq's bowling in the 8th over to go past Gayle's tally of 553 sixes in international cricket. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- India captain **Rohit Sharma** smashed his **31st ODI century** and put India on course for a mammoth win against **Afghanistan in their World Cup 2023** tie at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. Rohit Sharma completed his hundred off **63 balls**, fetching him the record for the fastest century ever by an Indian in the history of World Cup. Before Rohit, the milestone belonged to **Kapil Dev off 72 balls** against Zimbabwe in 1983, the India captain bested the former all-rounder's accomplishment by nine balls as India dominated Afghanistan in their chase of 273 and won by 8 wickets. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The 62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023** kicked off with a bang in **Bengaluru**, as **Manikanta Hoblidhar** from **Services** etched his name in the record books by smashing a new national record in the **men's 100m category**. He powered his way to victory, crossing the finish line in first place with a remarkable timing of **10.23 seconds**. Manikanta Hoblidhar surpassed the previous national record of **10.26 seconds** held by **Amiya Kumar Mallick** since **April 2016**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The 11th edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2023** is scheduled to be held in **Johor, Malaysia**. Hockey India has announced the 20-member Indian junior men's hockey team that will participate in the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup. This prestigious tournament is set to take place from **October 27 to November 4**. Notably, this year's edition will feature **eight teams**, expanding from the customary six. ([Click to read complete article](#))



- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has once again acknowledged outstanding cricketing performances by awarding the 'Player of the Month' titles for September 2023. This prestigious recognition highlights the exceptional skills and contributions of cricketers on the global stage. In this edition, India's **Shubman Gill** clinches the **ICC Men's 'Player of the Month,'** while Sri Lanka's **Chamari Athapaththu** emerges as the **ICC Women's 'Player of the Month.'** Let's dive into their remarkable achievements. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics, has officially nominated **Neeraj Chopra** for the prestigious **Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023.** This honor underscores Neeraj's remarkable achievements in the field of javelin throwing and his impressive gold medal victories at the Olympics and World Championships. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, **Cricket,** by accepting the **recommendation** to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the **2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics** This decision was made during the IOC's executive board meeting in **Mumbai,** heralding a new era for the sport on the global stage. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In a remarkable move towards enhancing education and bolstering the socio-economic advancement of **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has unveiled the '**Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas**' (SHRESHTA). The primary objective of this initiative is to extend the influence of government development programs and address service gaps in regions predominantly inhabited by SC communities within the education sector. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh,** the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, inaugurated the Special Campaign 3.0 in the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).** This campaign, themed "**Digital DARPG,**" aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices.
- The Union Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, recently announced the approval of **seven bridge projects in Arunachal Pradesh.** These projects, with a cumulative cost of **Rs 118.5 crore,** are part of the **Setu Bandhan scheme** and are aimed at enhancing connectivity and fostering economic development in the state. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **India's Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0,** a flagship immunization campaign launched by the Health Ministry, is nearing its conclusion today. This campaign, which strives to reach **children** who have missed vaccine doses or fallen behind their vaccination schedule, along with **pregnant women** across the country, has undergone some remarkable transformations this year. As of September 30, the campaign had already made impressive strides, with over **34,69,705 children** and **6,55,480 pregnant women** receiving vaccine doses during the first two rounds. A significant achievement given the challenges posed by the ongoing global pandemic. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Jitendra Singh,** Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21, The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the **first** in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated **Gaganyaan mission,** which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on **October 9th** to commemorate the creation of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in 1874. The theme for World Post Day 2023, "**Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future,**" underscores the importance of governments and postal services working together to develop a digital single postal territory. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day** is an annual celebration held on **October 9th.** The roots of IFS Day trace back to a significant moment in Indian history. **On October 9, 1946,** the Indian government formally established the Indian Foreign Service. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA),** is set to observe the first-ever **National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day)** on **10th October.** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Mental Health Day on October 10th** is a global initiative that brings organizations and individuals together to commemorate the importance of mental well-being. **World Mental Health Day 2023** provides a platform for individuals and communities to unite under the theme "**Mental health is a universal human right.**" ([Click to read complete article](#))

- The **International Day of the Girl**, observed every year on **October 11**, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls. The theme for the International Day of the Girl in 2023 is **“Invest in Girls’ Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being.”** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- Every year, the **second Thursday of October** marks a crucial occasion on the global calendar, **World Sight Day**. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about vision impairment and blindness. This year it falls on **12th October**. The theme for World Sight Day 2023, **‘Love Your Eyes at Work,’** resonates deeply in our fast-paced, digital age where we increasingly strain our eyes through prolonged screen time and demanding work schedules. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**, observed annually on the **13th of October**, brings global attention to the critical issues of disasters and inequality. The theme of UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 is **“Fighting inequality for a resilient future.”** ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023** is a global event celebrated twice a year, each with a unique focus. This year, the fall celebration falls on **October 14** and revolves around the theme **“Water: Sustaining Bird Life.”** ([Click to read complete article](#))

Obituaries News

- British filmmaker **Terence Davies**, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away at the age of 77 at home after a short illness. He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including **‘Distant Voices, Still Lives’** and **‘The Long Day Closes’**. ([Click to read complete article](#))
- **Chef Michael Chiarello**, a culinary expert known for his extraordinary talent and passion for food, passed away at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, **California**. He succumbed to an acute allergic reaction that led to **anaphylactic shock**, as announced by his company Gruppo Chiarello in a statement. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Union Minister Shri **Anurag Thakur** has launched the trailer of **“Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum”**, an animated series consisting of two seasons, produced by **Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Graphiti Studios**. The series consists of 52 episodes, 11 minutes each, featuring

stories from Indian Freedom struggle from 1500s to 1947. The series is hosted by the iconic animated characters **Krish, Trish and Balti boy**. The series has been created by the creator duo of Munjal Shroff and Tilakraj Shetty from Graphiti Studios. ([Click to read complete article](#))

- **RITES Ltd**, a prominent **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious **‘Navratna’ status**, becoming the 16th CPSE in India to be granted this distinction. This article explores why RITES Ltd earned this coveted status and the potential benefits it offers. ([Click to read complete article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Universal Postal Union Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland;
- Universal Postal Union Founded: 9 October 1874;
- Universal Postal Union Founder: Heinrich von Stephan;
- Universal Postal Union Head: Director-General; Masahiko Metoki;
- Universal Postal Union Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- President of the World Federation for Mental Health: Dr. Nasser Loza;
- World Federation for Mental Health Founded: 1948.
- Bihar Capital: Patna
- Bihar Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Bihar Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018–);
- IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd: Mumbai.
- CEO & Managing Director of The Tata Power Company Limited: Praveer Sinha
- MD of Bridgestone India: Stefano Sanchini
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach;
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France;
- International Olympic Committee Director General: Christophe De Kepper;
- International Olympic Committee Founders: Pierre de Coubertin, D. Bikélas;
- International Olympic Committee Official language: French.
- Association of Mutual Funds in India Founded: 22 August 1995;
- Association of Mutual Funds in India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;

- World Health Organization (WHO) Founded: 7 April 1948;
- World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Founded: 1975;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Chief Executive: Peter Holland;
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Headquarters: London.
- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch);
- Uttar Pradesh Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath;
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel;
- Uttar Pradesh Region: North India;
- Uttar Pradesh Land area: 243,286 km²;
- Uttar Pradesh Official sport: Field hockey.
- Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi;
- Jharkhand Chief minister: Hemant Soren;
- Jharkhand Governor: C.P. Radhakrishnan;
- Jharkhand Official flower: Sacred Tree;
- Jharkhand Districts: 24 (5 divisions);
- Jharkhand Region: East India;
- Jharkhand Bird: Koel.

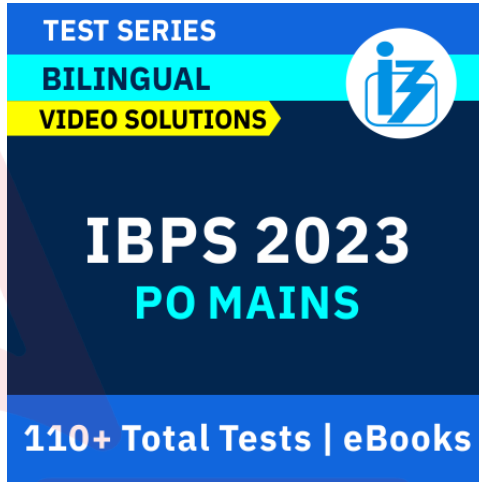


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