

Weekly Current Affairs 23rd to 28th October 2023 - English

National News

PM Modi To Attend The Inauguration Of Lord Ram's Idol At Ayodhya Temple On January 22

The Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust extended a significant invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to attend the installation of Lord Ram's idol in the 'Garbhagriha' of the Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya temple, which Prime Minister Modi politely accepted. The date set for this auspicious occasion is January 22, 2024. The invitation was personally delivered during a meeting with the Prime Minister. Members of the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust were in attendance as they presented the request. Prime Minister Modi graciously accepted the invitation, thereby confirming his presence on January 22. Champat Rai, the Trust's general secretary also emphasized that the date for the 'Pran Pratishtha' has been officially confirmed.

PM Modi Inaugurated The 7th Edition Of Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) In New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. This prestigious event brought together leading figures from the telecommunications industry to showcase cutting-edge technologies, discuss vital issues, and promote innovation. Here are the highlights of this significant event:

During the event, Akash Ambani introduced Reliance Jio's groundbreaking initiative – Space Fibre, India's first satellite-based giga fibre service capable of delivering internet speeds of up to 1 Gbps. This innovation is set to transform high-speed broadband services in previously inaccessible areas of India. Furthermore, the Jio Bharat device, offering 4G services, was on display at the Jio pavilion.

At the Mobile Congress, Bharti Enterprises showcased the "future of innovation" with technologies like 5G Plus, AI-enabled tech, and other digital infrastructure solutions. These advancements are set to revolutionize the telecommunications landscape in India.

Indian Oil Introduces India's First Reference Fuel To Cater To Domestic Demand

India marked a significant milestone in its quest for self-reliance in the automotive sector by introducing the production of 'reference' petrol and diesel. This development places India among a select group of nations capable of producing these highly specialized fuels, which are crucial for calibrating and testing vehicles. These 'reference' fuels are distinct from regular and premium petrol and diesel, as they possess higher specifications, making them vital for calibrating and testing vehicles by manufacturers and agencies like the International Centre for Automotive

Technology (ICAT) and the Automotive Research Association of India. For decades, India has heavily relied on imports to meet the demand for these specialized fuels, creating a dependence on foreign suppliers.

PM Modi Inaugurated 37th Edition Of National Games In Panaji, Goa

The 37th National Games were officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a ceremony held in Panaji, Goa. The event witnessed a massive gathering of sports enthusiasts and supporters, who eagerly awaited the commencement of this sporting spectacle. As a symbol of Goa's culture and identity, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant felicitated the Prime Minister with a traditional Kunbi shawl. The 37th edition of the National Games has marked a historic moment as it is being held in Goa for the very first time. The Games, a prestigious sporting event in India, commenced on October 26 and will run until November 9, bringing together more than 10,000 athletes from across the country.

Modi Government To Kick off Nationwide Yatra To Promote Awareness About Welfare Schemes On November 15

As the nation celebrates the birth anniversary of the revered 'adivasi' icon, Birsa Munda on November 15, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is gearing up to launch its ambitious "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra." This 72-day nationwide outreach and awareness campaign is aimed at promoting government schemes and reaching the vulnerable sections of society. The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' is scheduled to begin on November 15, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a prominent figure in the tribal community. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the campaign by flagging off Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans.

The advertisement features a dark background with a red triangle logo at the top left. The text is in white and yellow. It reads: 'Bengali' in a small box, 'WBPSB' in large white letters, 'Miscellaneous Batch' in yellow on a black background, 'Prelims + Mains + Interview' in white, 'লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ক্লাস + ই-বুক' in white, and 'Start Oct 14, 2023' in white on a red background. At the bottom, there is a group photo of several people in black shirts.

International News

Bhutan and China make progress in border talks

China and Bhutan are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process. China has disputes with only two of its 14 neighboring countries – India and Bhutan. Bhutan and China have ongoing border disputes since the 1980s, specifically in areas like Jakarlung, Pasamlung, and Doklam. Doklam Region: Doklam is a point where the borders of India, China, and Bhutan meet.

Security Significance: For India, Doklam holds strategic importance as it connects the Indian mainland to the Northeast. Any Chinese control over Doklam could threaten India's Siliguri Corridor, a narrow stretch vital for India's connectivity.

China Is Building World's Largest Ghost Particle Detector, 'Trident'

China is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the western Pacific Ocean. The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as "ghost particles" or neutrinos. This ambitious undertaking will result in the world's largest neutrino-detecting telescope. Neutrinos are a type of electron but, like neutrons, they do not have any charge. They are among the most abundant particles in our universe. With trillions of neutrinos passing through at any given second, they are also among the tiniest. Neutrinos were long believed to be massless, until scientists found evidence that they do have a very small mass.

US house of representative elected its new speaker

Republican Congressman Mike Johnson from Louisiana has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the United States. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most powerful political positions in the country. It's the third-highest in the line of succession after the U.S. President. Mike Johnson won the election by a vote of 220 to 209 in a divided Congress. The Republican Party holds a slim majority in the House with 221 seats compared to the Democrats' 212. Mike Johnson, a 51-year-old lawyer, is a four-term Congressman from Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District.

China replaced missing defence minister Li Shangfu

China's Defense Minister, Li Shangfu, was recently removed from his position in a surprising turn of events. His disappearance from public view two months earlier had sparked rumors about his fate. Li's removal follows a series of unexplained personnel changes in China's government, raising questions about how power is concentrated and party

discipline is enforced under Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Li Shangfu was not only removed from his role as Defense Minister but also from his positions as a member of the Central Military Commission and one of China's five state councillors, which are powerful state roles. The decision to remove him was approved by the National People's Congress, but his successor was not named.

Italy Faces Record Low Births: A Deepening Demographic Crisis

Italy is experiencing a severe demographic crisis, with the number of births hitting a new low this year. Preliminary data from the national statistics bureau ISTAT reveals a concerning trend, indicating a continuation of the country's longstanding population decline.

Declining Birth Rates

Between January and June of this year, there were 3,500 fewer births compared to the same period in 2022. In 2022, the total number of births fell by 1.7% to 393,000. This marked the 14th consecutive annual drop, reaching the lowest level since Italy's unification in 1861.

Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker

Mike Johnson, a relatively lesser-known Republican from Louisiana, has taken the elected as the new speaker of the US House of Representatives. He has earned the nickname "MAGA Mike" among his hard-right colleagues, a reference to Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again", which continues to be associated with Trumpian ideals. Addressing the House after his election, Johnson promised to quickly move forward on conservative priorities, such as support for Israel and border security.

State News

Shillong Hosts Green Tourism Conclave For Responsible Tourism In Northeast

A Green Tourism Conclave took place in Shillong with the primary objective of nurturing environmentally conscious and responsible tourism in India, with a special emphasis on the Northeastern region and Odisha. The event featured engaging discussions, informative presentations, and captivating cultural performances, emphasizing the importance of sustainable tourism practices. The Green Tourism India conclave, at Shillong's state convention center, brought together key players in the tourism industry, including representatives from Meghalaya Tourism, Incredible India, Odisha Tourism, and Arunachal Tourism. Meghalaya's Tourism Minister, Bah Paul Lyngdoh, graced the event as the chief guest.

International Day of Care and Support 2023 Celebrates on 29 October

Hornbill Festival 2023 will start on December 1 and conclude on December 10, promising ten days of cultural immersion and spectacle. The Hornbill Festival stands out as one of the most anticipated and celebrated events of the year. This colorful festival not only showcases the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland but also draws thousands of curious travelers from around the world to partake in its festivities. Nagaland, often referred to as the 'Land of Festivals,' lives up to its name with a diverse array of celebrations held throughout the year. These festivals are a testament to the state's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The Hornbill Festival, organized by the State Tourism of Arts and Culture Department under the Government of Nagaland, is a grand celebration that encapsulates the spirit of the Naga people.

Economy News

India to surpass Japan in 2030 to become 2nd largest economy of Asia, says S&P Global

India's economy is on the rise! By 2030, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is predicted to reach a whopping \$7.3 trillion, making it the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region, just after China. In 2030, India's GDP is expected to surpass even Germany's. To put this in perspective, as of the end of 2022, India's GDP had already outgrown that of the United Kingdom and France. This impressive economic growth has propelled India to become the third-largest economy in Asia-Pacific and the fifth-largest in the world. This growth opens up exciting opportunities for companies worldwide. India is becoming an essential long-term market for various industries, including manufacturing (such as automobiles, electronics, and chemicals) and services (like banking, insurance, asset management, healthcare, and information technology).

Business News

Euro zone PMI hits lowest in nearly 3 years, stirs recession worries

Euro Zone businesses faced a significant setback this October, with a widespread drop in demand, raising concerns about a possible recession. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the region fell sharply, indicating economic challenges. Downturn Across Europe: Business activity declined across the Euro Zone, including major economies like Germany and France. This downturn hints at economic struggles ahead. ECB's Concerns: The European Central Bank (ECB) is likely to be disappointed. Market indicators suggest that ECB President Christine Lagarde's positive outlook on interest rates might not hold amid this economic downturn.

Zomato Introduces Maternity Insurance Plan for Women Delivery Partners

Zomato has taken a big step to support its women delivery partners by introducing a maternity insurance plan. The goal is to make the Zomato community more welcoming and helpful for these women and their families during pregnancy. This initiative is the first of its kind in the industry. The insurance plan will cover various pregnancy-related expenses, such as the cost of childbirth and any complications that might occur during motherhood. This financial support is meant to ease the burden on women delivery partners and their families. Zomato has partnered with ACKO, a technology-driven insurance company, to provide this maternity insurance coverage. To be eligible for this insurance, women delivery partners must have completed 1,000 deliveries through the Zomato platform. Additionally, they need to have been active on the platform for the last 60 days from the date when the maternity insurance plan was announced.

FPI offload Indian stocks worth Rs 7702 Cr in year's biggest single day sell off

On October 26, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree in the Indian stock market, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) emerged as net buyers. This trend occurred on the day of the monthly Futures and Options (F&O) expiry, with the domestic markets settling lower for the sixth day in a row.

FIIs: According to data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE), FIIs collectively bought ₹10,239.05 crore worth of Indian equities, but they also sold ₹17,941.58 crore. This resulted in a net outflow of ₹7,702.53 crore.

DIIs: In contrast, DIIs were net buyers on this day, infusing ₹13,600.71 crore into Indian stocks and offloading ₹7,042.26 crore. This translated to a net inflow of ₹6,558.45 crore.

Agreement News

QatarEnergy and Italy's Eni Ink 27-Year Natural Gas Deal

State-owned QatarEnergy recently announced a significant development in its efforts to expand its presence in the European gas market. The company has entered into a long-term agreement with Italy's Eni to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) for a period of 27 years. This deal follows similar agreements with the Netherlands, through Shell, and France, via TotalEnergies, signed earlier this month. The agreements mark a notable shift in Qatar's traditional gas export focus towards Asia, now strengthening its foothold in Europe. Affiliates of QatarEnergy and Eni have finalized a long-term sale and purchase agreement for the supply of up to 1 million tons per year (mtpa) of LNG. This gas will be sourced from Qatar's North Field expansion project and delivered to the Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) Italia, located in the port of Piombino in Tuscany, Italy. This operation is scheduled to begin in 2026.

Airbus tie-up with IIT Kanpur to promote aerospace education and innovation in India

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This landmark agreement, signed, aims to significantly enhance the aerospace sector's talent pool in India through research and education initiatives. According to a press release by IITK, the collaboration between these two esteemed institutions will revolve around promoting research in advanced aerospace technologies. The partnership will also involve the development of programs and activities geared towards enhancing the technical capabilities of aerospace students in India. Additionally, both organizations are committed to exploring opportunities for collaboration with global institutes, thereby providing students with real-world, sector-relevant projects.

Appointment News

Lay's announces Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

Lay's announces cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign - 'No Lay's, No Game.' Lay's is set to introduce the 'No Lay's No Game' campaign to the Indian audience, globally acclaimed for its association with sports tournaments. Harnessing Dhoni's universal appeal, the campaign emphasises truth, a match without Lay's is simply unthinkable for true fans. As Dhoni knocks on different doors, he receives a series of reactions, ranging from astonishment to exhilaration and even searches for Lay's. The TVC encapsulates the blend of the sports-watching experience, Lay's, and fan enjoyment, culminating in the resounding message, 'No Lay's, No Game.'

Amol Muzumdar appoints India Women Head Coach

In a significant development in Indian women's cricket, Amol Muzumdar, the former Mumbai batsman, has been named as the head coach of the India women's national team. The decision came after a three-member cricket advisory committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) conducted interviews with shortlisted candidates for the position. Their unanimous recommendation for Muzumdar to take on the role has been welcomed by cricket enthusiasts and the sporting community alike.

ISB Prof Sarang Deo appointed by WHO on its TB Advisory Group

Professor Sarang Deo, a distinguished figure in the field of Operations Management and healthcare, has been appointed as a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO). This appointment reflects his exceptional expertise and contributions to the battle against tuberculosis, particularly in India. It is not only a personal achievement but also a significant development for India's fight against

tuberculosis. His expertise in healthcare management, innovative solutions, and global perspective is poised to make a meaningful contribution to the mission of ending the tuberculosis epidemic and improving healthcare delivery systems in India and beyond. It represents a powerful collaboration between academia and global health organizations in the ongoing battle against one of the world's deadliest diseases.

EC To Appoint Actor Rajkumar Rao As Its 'National Icon'

Actor Rajkumar Rao, celebrated for his portrayal of a principled government clerk in the Hindi film "Newton," tasked with conducting elections in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, is set to be inducted as a National Icon by the Election Commission (EC). National icons are selected with the aim of inspiring voters to engage in the electoral process. The Election Commission of India has a tradition of appointing prominent individuals as National Icons, whose exemplary contributions inspire and encourage citizens to engage in the democratic process. These National Icons serve as role models, demonstrating the importance of voting, upholding democratic values, and fostering a sense of duty towards the nation.

Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado' Appoints Katrina Kaif As Global Brand Ambassador

Luxury Swiss watch brand, Rado, a brand known for its excellence in watchmaking has welcomed none other than Bollywood sensation Katrina Kaif as its Global Brand Ambassador. Rado watches have consistently captivated enthusiasts with their innovative designs and commitment to quality. Adrian Bosshard, the CEO of Rado also expressed his enthusiasm about this association. Rado, founded in 1917, has long been a pioneer in the world of Swiss watchmaking. The brand is known for its innovative use of materials, including high-tech ceramic, and its commitment to creating watches that combine cutting-edge technology with exceptional design. These principles have made Rado a favorite among watch enthusiasts and connoisseurs.



Banking News

RBI To Impose ₹100 Daily Fine For Credit Bureaus Failing To Resolve Complaints In 30 Days

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed lenders, financial institutions, and credit bureaus that they must resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or face a fine of ₹100 per day to ensure that customers' complaints related to credit information are addressed promptly. Additionally, the RBI has instructed CICs to pay compensation to complainants if they fail to resolve complaints within 30 calendar days, despite receiving updated credit information from CIs within 21 calendar days. This compensation framework seeks to hold CICs accountable for delays in resolving issues related to credit information.

Science & Technology News

China launched its youngest ever space crew

China's space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of Shenzhou 17 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. This mission highlights China's determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the United States. The Shenzhou 17 crew comprises Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie, and Jiang Xinlin, with an average age of 38, making it the youngest team on a space station construction mission. Tang Hongbo, a seasoned astronaut, previously led a 2021 space mission for three months.

Schemes and Committees News

RCS- UDAN Completes 6 Successful Years

RCS-UDAN, launched in 2016, has significantly improved air connectivity in India, focusing on remote areas and underserved regions. It completed six successful years in 2023, marking a milestone in the country's aviation sector. RCS-UDAN connected previously unserved routes, linking cities and towns that lacked air connectivity. Started with UDAN 1.0, expanding to UDAN 5.2, the scheme continuously evolved, addressing various challenges and demands. More than 130 lakh passengers benefited from RCS-UDAN, demonstrating its success in making air travel accessible. Various versions of UDAN introduced different elements, like helipads and seaplanes, to diversify connectivity options. Notable airports like Shimla, Khajuraho, and Tezu were connected, fostering tourism and local economic growth.

Summits & Conference News

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Inaugurates 16th Urban Mobility India Conference & Exhibition 2023 in New Delhi

In a significant event held in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023,

with the theme, "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport". The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., aims to address critical aspects of urban transportation in the country.

Centre Launches 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023' to Combat Deceptive Practices in E-Commerce

In a pioneering move, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in India, in partnership with IIT-BHU, has launched the 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023.' This initiative aims to harness the collective power of hackers to develop cutting-edge solutions that protect consumers from the deceptive practices of dark patterns in e-commerce platforms. Dark patterns are deceptive design practices in user interface/user experience interactions across digital platforms, designed to mislead or trick users into unintended actions.

Important Dates News

UN Disarmament Week Observed on 24-30 October

UN Disarmament Week, celebrated on October 24 to 30, 2023, is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). It plays a vital role in raising awareness of the significance of disarmament and advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This article explores the four key pillars of the Agenda for Disarmament and delves into the historical background of this crucial observance.

World Polio Day 2023: Date, Theme and Significance

World Polio Day every October 24 highlights global efforts to eliminate polio and the importance of vaccination in protecting children from the disease. It is also an opportunity to highlight the importance of all mothers, fathers, caregivers, health workers and volunteers who play a key role in getting polio vaccines to children and their communities. On January 13, this year, India completes 12 polio-free years which is considered as a remarkable achievement; the last polio case in India was detected in 2011. World Polio Day is celebrated every year on October 24 to create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children. Oral polio vaccine is highly effective in protection from polio. The theme for World Polio Day 2023 is "A healthier future for mothers and children."

76th Shaurya Diwas Celebrates to mark landing of forces in Kashmir

The Indian Army marked the 76th 'Shaurya Diwas' in Jammu and Kashmir, a day dedicated to commemorating a significant historical event, the landing of Indian forces in Kashmir on 27 October 1947. This operation marked the first civil-military victory for Independent India. On October 27, 1947, Indian

Army troops landed at Budgam Airport, initiating a mission to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir. This day stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the unity and integrity of the nation. Speaking on this momentous occasion, Lt General Rajiv Ghai, the GoC (General Officer Commanding) of the 15 Corps, emphasized the historical importance of 'Shaurya Diwas.' He highlighted the valor of Major Somnath Sharma, the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra. Despite being wounded, Major Sharma led his company, ultimately saving the Srinagar airfield from the grip of Pakistani tribals. In doing so, he made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

International Day of Care and Support 2023 Celebrates on 29 October

This 29 October marks the UN's first official International Day for Care and Support, which recognises the legacy of the first International Day for Care founded four years ago by trade unions to accelerate public investment in to the care economy. The International Day of Care and Support was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 29 October as International Day of Care and Support, through resolution A/RES/77/317. The resolution was adopted in recognition of the importance of care and support in advancing gender equality, promoting healthy aging, and ensuring the sustainability of our societies and economies.

Sports News

Sundar Singh Gurjar breaks World Record in men's javelin F46 event with gold

In a remarkable display of talent and dominance, Indian para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, with Sundar Singh Gurjar breaking a world record and Sumit Antil successfully defending his gold medal. In the men's javelin throw-F46 final, India's Sundar Singh Gurjar delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of 68.60 meters. This incredible achievement not only secured him the gold medal but also surpassed the previous world record held by Sri Lankan Dinesh Priyantha at 67.79 meters. Sundar's throw also set new Games and Asian Records.

Obituaries News

First Black Action Hero, Richard Roundtree Passed Away At 81

Richard Roundtree, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in "Shaft," passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the "first black action hero." "Shaft," released in 1971, was a groundbreaking film, marking

one of the first entries in the Blaxploitation genre (A sub-genre of exploitation cinema characterized by modest budgets and a departure from mainstream production). This movie not only made Roundtree a star at the young age of 29 but also left an indelible mark on cinematic history. Richard Roundtree was born on July 9, 1942 in New Rochelle, New York. He was the son of John Roundtree and Kathryn Watkins Roundtree, who were identified as a butler and a cook in the 1940 census, both working in the same household.

Defence News

Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair takes charge as DG Hospital Services

In a groundbreaking development, Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair has taken on the distinguished role of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces), marking a significant milestone in the Indian military. Notably, she is the first woman to hold this esteemed position upon her promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Before her historic appointment, Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair held the vital position of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), situated in Bangalore.

India and Malaysia Kick Off "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023" Bilateral Training

In a testament to their ongoing defense cooperation, the Indian and Malaysian armies have initiated "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023." This joint bilateral training exercise, held at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to strengthen military capabilities and enhance the synergy between the two nations. "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023" not only advances military capabilities but also symbolizes the enduring friendship between India and Malaysia, reinforcing their commitment to regional security and stability.

First Vertical Wind Tunnel Installed at Indian Army's Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh

The Indian Army inaugurated its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh. This cutting-edge facility provides military trainees with a controlled environment to enhance their Combat Free Fall (CFF) skills by simulating real-life free fall conditions. The Indian Army Chief, Gen Manoj Pande, virtually inaugurated the Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh. This advanced wind tunnel is the first of its kind in the Indian Army and aims to revolutionize military training methods. The Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) functions as a free fall simulator, creating a column of air at specific speeds to simulate various Combat Free Fall (CFF) conditions. This controlled environment allows trainees to refine their skills and assess their reactions to different free fall scenarios.

EU and India Conduct Maiden Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Guinea

In a significant display of international cooperation, India and the European Union (EU) recently carried out their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea, aimed at strengthening maritime security in the region. This exercise marked a milestone in their maritime security partnership and came following the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran to Make Aircraft Engine Parts

In a significant development for the aviation industry, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines, a leading French aero engine design, development, and manufacturing company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration. This strategic partnership encompasses various key areas within the aviation sector and marks a pivotal moment in India's aerospace landscape.

Miscellaneous News

Cyclone 'Hphoon' Weakens into Deep Depression Over Bangladesh and Mizoram

Cyclone Hphoon, a severe weather phenomenon, struck the southeastern coast of Bangladesh on the 25th October 2023, causing widespread concern and necessitating the evacuation of thousands of people. The storm, originating from the Bay of Bengal, has further raised questions about the increasing frequency and intensity of such weather events in the region, driven by the impacts of climate change. This meteorological event is being closely monitored by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and is expected to weaken in the hours to come. Cyclone 'Hphoon' was named by Iran. 'Hphoon' is a Persian term signifying temporary desert lakes and marshlands that naturally form in region near the Helmand basin. These areas serve as seasonal water reservoirs.

Jio MAMI Film Festival Began In Mumbai After A Four-Year Break

The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival made a return after a four-year interval with a grand ceremony at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai on October 27. The festival once again brought a diverse selection of Indian, South Asian, and world cinema to the city. The festival opened with a spectacular master ceremony, led by Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the chairperson of Jio MAMI. From October 27 to November 5, the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival will unfold over ten days, showcasing more than 250 features and shorts across 20 screens in eight venues throughout Mumbai. The festival opened with Hansal Mehta's highly anticipated film, "The Buckingham Murders," a gritty crime drama set in the UK and starring Kareena Kapoor Khan. A new addition to the festival lineup is "Icons South Asia." This segment will feature standout films by talented filmmakers from the region. Notable entries include Anand Patwardhan's "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," Vikramaditya Motwane's "Indi(r)a's Emergency," Prasanna Vithanage's "Paradise," and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Something Like An Autobiography."

