

Weekly Current Affairs 3rd to 7th October 2023 - English

National News

GoI notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board

The Union government of India has notified the constitution of the national turmeric board, which will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. Turmeric is majorly cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Telangana state, Karnataka, MP, Odisha, Bengal and Gujarat. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. It enjoys 62 per cent share in the global turmeric market. During 2022-23, 1.534 lakh tonnes of turmeric and products to the tune of \$207.45 million were exported to Bangladesh, UAE, the USA and Malaysia. With the focused activities of the board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach one billion by 2030.

Ministry Of Tourism Inaugurates PATA Travel Mart 2023 In New Delhi

The Ministry of Tourism, India, took center stage as it organized the inaugural ceremony for the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 in the vibrant city of New Delhi. The 46th edition of this prestigious event is being held at the magnificent International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) within Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Running from October 4th to 6th, 2023, this event serves as a global gathering of tourism professionals and business stakeholders. Importantly, this physical edition marks the return of the Travel Mart after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Chairman PATA, Peter Semone, extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism for hosting this significant event. He emphasized that the PATA Travel Mart represents an invaluable opportunity to spotlight unique destinations and facilitate networking, learning, and socializing among delegates from across the world. Additionally, he commended the "Travel for Life" initiative, highlighting its potential for global replication.



Bengali

WBPSC

Miscellaneous Batch

Prelims + Mains + Interview
লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ক্লাস + ই-বুক

Start Oct 14, 2023

Sarakka Central Tribal University approved for Telangana

On October 4th, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district. The initiative was a commitment made by the Central government as a part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which aimed to support both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in establishing tribal universities. The Telangana tribal university project faced significant challenges, primarily related to land allocation. Securing 500-600 acres of land for the university proved to be a time-consuming process.

International News

Pakistan's Inflation Soars to 31.4%: A Deep Dive into the Economic Crisis

Pakistan's inflation rate surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices. This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation. The International Monetary Fund's approval of a \$3 billion loan in July prevented a sovereign debt default but imposed stringent conditions. Reforms, such as easing import restrictions and removing subsidies, fueled annual inflation, reaching a record 38.0% in May. To curb inflation, Pakistan increased interest rates to a staggering 22%. The country's currency, the rupee, hit all-time lows in August but rebounded in September, becoming the best-performing currency due to authorities' crackdown on unregulated FX trade. The Ministry of Finance anticipates inflation to remain high at 29-31% in the coming months. Despite this, the government recently reduced petrol and diesel prices after consecutive hikes, citing international petroleum prices and an improved exchange rate.

Pro-China Leader Mohamed Muizzu Wins Maldives Presidential Election

In a closely-watched election in the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, the candidate from the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), emerged victorious in the presidential polls after a runoff vote. This victory came after a first round of polling failed to produce a clear winner. Muizzu secured more than 53 percent of the vote in the runoff, defeating the incumbent president, Ibrahim Solih. Here, we provide a breakdown of the election results, Muizzu's political background, and the implications of this election. Mohamed Muizzu is known for his 'pro-China' stance, which stems from significant Chinese loans received by the Maldives during the previous PPM government's tenure. These loans have led to closer economic ties between the Maldives and China, including infrastructure projects and investments in the country.

India Participates in the 5th Meeting of Moscow Format

In a significant diplomatic gathering held in the Russian City of Kazan, representatives from various countries convened for the fifth meeting of the Moscow Format Consultation on Afghanistan. The meeting, which took place on September 29, 2023, featured special representatives and senior officials from India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, among others. Notably, the acting minister for Foreign Affairs appointed by the Taliban in Afghanistan was also in attendance, alongside representatives from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. The primary focus of this high-level meeting was to discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, with an emphasis on regional security and the integration of Afghanistan into border regional economic processes.

Uganda Airlines To Initiate A Thrice-Weekly Direct Flight Service To Mumbai

On 3 October, Uganda Airlines announced a significant milestone in its operations by commencing direct flight services between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Entebbe International Airport in Uganda. This development marks a historic moment as it reconnects India and Uganda with a non-stop air service after more than 50 years of hiatus. The maiden flight for this route, UR 430, is scheduled to take off from Entebbe on 7 October, with the return flight, UR 431, departing from Mumbai on 8 October. Uganda Airlines has taken a significant step in expanding its international network by launching direct services between Mumbai and Entebbe. The commencement of this route, effective from 7 October, is set to strengthen the ties between the two nations in various domains, including trade, commerce, and tourism. This move is particularly noteworthy as it revives a non-stop air connection that has been absent for more than half a century.

Tallest Statue Of B.R. Ambedkar To Be Unveiled In North America On October 14

The tallest statue of the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution,' B.R. Ambedkar, known as the 'Statue of Equality,' is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14. This statue of Ambedkar is an integral component of the Ambedkar International Center (AIC), currently under construction on a 13-acre plot in Accokeek city, Maryland. Standing at a towering height of 19 feet, the 'Statue of Equality' is a testament to the enduring impact of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's work. This monumental sculpture is poised to become the largest statue of Babasaheb outside of India. It serves as a pivotal element of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC) project, situated on a sprawling 13-acre expanse in Accokeek, Maryland, approximately 35 kilometers south of Washington. Born on April 14, 1891, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, affectionately known as Babasaheb, played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of

post-Independence India. His profound influence can be attributed to his role as the chairman of the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee, which earned him the title "Architect of the Indian Constitution." Additionally, he served as the Minister of Law and Justice in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's inaugural Cabinet.

Burevestnik Missile: Russia's nuclear missiles can now reach targets in US

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently announced the successful testing of a new nuclear-powered missile called "Burevestnik" during a speech that covered various topics, including nuclear weapons and international relations. This missile, known as "Storm Petrel," has raised concerns and questions about its capabilities and reliability. NATO refers to the Burevestnik missile as "Skyfall," and it has been met with skepticism by Western experts. President Putin first mentioned this missile in 2018, highlighting its significance in Russia's military arsenal. The Burevestnik is a ground-launched, low-flying cruise missile with the capability to carry a nuclear warhead. What sets it apart is its nuclear propulsion, which allows it to remain airborne for an extended period and cover vast distances.

Russia Delivers Uranium for Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Bangladesh recently received its first shipment of uranium from Russia, which will be used to fuel the country's Rooppur nuclear power plant. The plant, financed and constructed by Russia's Rosatom, is a significant project aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's electrical grid and supporting its growing economy. The Rooppur power plant, located in Ishwardi, Bangladesh, will generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity when both units are fully operational. This capacity will provide electricity to approximately 15 million households in Bangladesh, making a substantial contribution to the nation's energy needs. Russia has funded the construction of the Rooppur power plant with an \$11.38 billion loan. Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in 2027.

State News**Tamil Nadu Govt. fetes 9 ISRO Scientists, Announces Award of ₹2.25 Crore**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India's space program. In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists and unveiled plans for a scholarship program to encourage scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students. Chief Minister

Stalin highlighted the remarkable journey of these scientists, noting that six of the nine had their education in government schools in Tamil Nadu. First, a cash award of Rs.25 lakh would be granted to each of the nine scientists as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Arjun Munda inaugurates 4th EMRS National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav-2023

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda, inaugurated the 4th Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav-2023 in the picturesque city of Dehradun on the 3rd of October, 2023. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, and was hosted at the Maharana Pratap Sports College. Organized by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and hosted by the Eklavya Vidyalaya Sangathan Samiti (EVSS) of Uttarakhand, this fest provides a national platform for tribal students to showcase their hidden talents across various spheres. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Cultural Fest is an annual extravaganza eagerly anticipated by tribal students from all corners of India. This year's four-day event, scheduled from the 3rd to the 6th of October, boasts participation from over 2000 tribal students hailing from 22 different states. It promises an array of more than 20 events, ranging from captivating dance and song performances to stimulating quizzes and vibrant visual arts presentations.

Two-Day Literature Festival To Be Held This Weekend in Bengaluru

The Neev Literature Festival 2023 is scheduled to take place on October 7th and 8th, 2023, at the Neev Academy in Yemalur, Bengaluru. This year, the theme of the event is 'What is childhood without stories?'. In the aftermath of the pandemic, children's lives have undergone a significant transformation. They now grapple with issues such as artificial intelligence, globalization, mental health challenges, shifting values, and numerous other factors. Consequently, the festival endeavors to address and respond to these changes. The Neev Literature Festival was initiated in 2017, followed by the introduction of the Neev Book Award in 2018. The goal was to discover and present exceptional children's books that center around Indian experiences and stories. Over the years, the festival has delved into thought-provoking themes such as 'Partition: Memory and Memorialization', 'Peripheries: Boundaries on the Edge, Boundaries Within', and 'Embracing Diversity'.

Madhya Pradesh To Provide 35% Reservation For Women In Govt. Jobs

In an important development towards gender equality and women's empowerment, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking policy to reserve 35% of all

state government job positions for women, excluding the Forest Department. This progressive amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997, comes just ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections. The notification states, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any service rules, there shall be reserved 35% of all posts in the service under the state (except Forest Department) in favor of women at the stage of direct recruitment, and the said reservation shall be horizontal and compartment-wise." This announcement is significant not only for its commitment to gender equality but also for introducing the concepts of "horizontal" and "compartment-wise" reservations.

Rajasthan to have three new districts: CM Ashok Gehlot

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently revealed plans to establish three new districts in the state: Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchman City. This development comes ahead of the upcoming Assembly election, bringing the total number of districts in Rajasthan to 53. The state government had previously created 17 new districts in August of the same year. This move is part of the government's efforts to address public demands and align with recommendations from a high-level committee.

Details of the New Districts:

Malpura: This district will be carved out of the existing Tonk district.

Sujangarh: Sujangarh will be created from the Churu district.

Kuchaman City: Kuchaman will emerge as a new district from Nagaur.

NITI Aayog Organized First State Workshop On Women-Led Development In Goa

The inaugural edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) - NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was organized at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Auditorium, Goa. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Goa with a focus on the western region of the country. The workshop recorded over 500 participants, including women entrepreneurs, local self-help groups (SHGs) and clusters, government officials, industry representatives, incubators/accelerators, financial institutions, philanthropic foundations, and more. The primary focus was deliberating on a hub-and-spoke model aimed at extending women-led development to grassroots levels, covering the last mile. Dr. Pramod Sawant, Honorable Chief Minister, Government of Goa, stated that the Goa State Vision 2047 will be prepared with help from NITI Aayog.

All India Police Science Congress Kicked Off In Dehradun on 7th October

The 49th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) organized by the Uttarakhand Police commenced today, October 7th at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. With the theme of "Policing in Amrit Kaal," this annual event, held under the auspices of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), promises to be a platform for insightful discussions on various aspects of modern policing. The event will be graced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the Chief Guest and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami as the Guest of Honor.

Economy News

India's GST Revenue Growth Slows to 10.2% in September

In September 2023, India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues witnessed a significant slowdown, growing at the slowest pace in 27 months. The growth rate dropped to 10.2% from the previous months' approximately 10.8%. This decline, although notable, was coupled with some intriguing state-wise variations in GST collections.

1. National GST Revenues:

Despite the slowdown, GST collections improved by 2.3% over August, reaching ₹1,62,712 crore.

Revenues from domestic transactions, including services imports, were 14% higher compared to September 2022

2. State-wise Variations:

Revenues in strife-torn Manipur recorded the highest growth among states, surging by 47%.

Other states with notable growth included Telangana (33%), Jammu and Kashmir (32%), and Arunachal Pradesh (27%).

3. GST Components:

Components of GST included Central GST (CGST) collections of ₹29,818 crore, State GST (SGST) of ₹37,657 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) of ₹83,623 crore.

GST compensation cess inflows were ₹11,613 crore, which included ₹881 crore collected on the import of goods.

4. Historical Context:

The last time GST revenues grew at a slower pace was in June 2021, during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, when collections rose by a mere 2%.

Government Maintains GPF Interest Rate at 7.1% for 15th Consecutive Quarter

In a recent announcement, the government has decided to keep the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings unchanged at 7.1% for the October-December quarter. This marks the 15th successive quarter where the government has maintained the status quo, ensuring stability for government employees' retirement savings. The Finance

Ministry officially notified the retention of the 7.1% interest rate. This rate is also applicable to other provident funds for government employees, including those serving in crucial sectors such as Railways and the Armed Forces.

UNCTAD Raises India's 2023 Growth Estimate to 6.6%

In its latest trade and development report, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 upward to 6.6% from the earlier projection of 6%. However, the report also anticipates a slowdown in India's growth to 6.2% in 2024. Furthermore, the UNCTAD highlights concerns about the global economic outlook, with a deceleration to 2.4% in 2023, followed by a marginal improvement to 2.5% in 2024.

India's Diesel Exports To Europe Reached Their Peak In September 2023

In September 2023, India witnessed a remarkable surge in its diesel exports to Europe, reaching their highest levels for the year. This surge was driven by a combination of factors, including reduced supplies from West Asia and the United States (US) due to the autumn refinery maintenance season and robust demand in Europe. Data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa sheds light on this significant development. India's diesel exports to Europe in September reached approximately 333,000 barrels per day (bpd), marking a substantial increase of nearly 47 percent from August. This surge was even more impressive when compared to the same month the previous year, with a year-on-year increase of 57 percent, according to data provided by Vortexa. Among the notable insights from the data is that export-oriented private sector refiners played a pivotal role in this surge. Companies such as Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Nayara Energy Ltd (NEL) accounted for the lion's share of diesel exports to Europe in September.

Strong Surge in US Job Growth in September Points to Potential Fed Tightening

In a surprising turn of events, the U.S. job market experienced substantial growth in September, bolstering the case for potential interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve later this year. While wage growth is exhibiting signs of moderation, the latest employment report from the Labor Department suggests that the labor market remains robust. Nonfarm payrolls, a key indicator of employment trends, saw a remarkable increase of 336,000 jobs in September. Even more encouraging, the August data was revised upward, indicating the addition of 227,000 jobs, as opposed to the previously reported 187,000. These figures defy the historical tendency for the initial September payrolls data to appear lower due to seasonal adjustments related to the return of education workers following the summer break.

RBI Flags High Inflation as Key Risk to Macroeconomic Stability, Vows to Bring Inflation to 4%

In a recent announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) underscored the significance of addressing high inflation to maintain macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the central bank's commitment to achieving a durable 4% inflation target while keeping benchmark interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive meeting. RBI Governor Das highlighted that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is steadfastly dedicated to realigning inflation with the 4% target. The MPC has adopted a majority decision to withdraw accommodation, thereby fostering inflation alignment while supporting economic growth.

Business News

Air India Installs Massive Engineering Warehouse At Delhi Airport

Air India, one of India's leading airlines, announced on Friday the inauguration of its state-of-the-art mega warehouse facility in Delhi. This facility, spanning an impressive 54,000 square feet and strategically located near Terminal 3 at Delhi Airport's cargo complex, marks a significant milestone in the airline's commitment to enhancing aircraft maintenance operations. The primary goal of this mega warehouse facility is to streamline and optimize the maintenance and service operations of Air India's extensive fleet, including Air India Express and AIX Connect aircraft. By consolidating the storage of over 1,000,000 engineering spares, tools, and ground support equipment, this facility aims to significantly improve the turnaround time of flights operating out of Delhi.

Agreement News

Fintech Unicorn Slice To Merge With North East Small Finance Bank

In a groundbreaking development, Indian fintech unicorn Slice has officially confirmed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB). This announcement comes following the approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marking a rare feat in the financial technology sector. The collaboration between Slice and NESFB aims to revolutionize banking services and expand financial inclusion in India. Slice, renowned for its credit card-like offerings, previously issued over 400,000 cards monthly, surpassing other fintechs and banks. This merger with Guwahati-based NESFB is expected to amplify their ability to serve a broader customer base currently underserved by traditional banking institutions. This strategic merger follows Slice's earlier acquisition of a 10% stake in NESFB, setting the stage for a deeper collaboration between the two entities. Industry experts anticipate that this partnership will enable the newly formed company to enhance its product offerings and accelerate innovation.

Appointment News

Ramaswamy N Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re

On October 4, 2023, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) made a significant announcement regarding the appointment of its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Ramaswamy N.. This appointment, effective from October 1, 2023, follows a decision by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and marks a transition in leadership at the renowned insurance institution. GIC Re welcomed Ramaswamy N as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) with effect from October 1, 2023. This appointment signifies a pivotal change in leadership within the organization. The appointment of Ramaswamy N follows the standard succession planning procedures as Devesh Srivastava, the outgoing CMD, concluded his four-year term at the end of September 2023 upon reaching the age of 60.

Reliance's JioMart Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

Reliance Retail's JioMart has signed up Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. Dhoni's association comes alongside the rebranding of their festive campaign JioMart to "JioUtsav, Celebrations Of India," which is scheduled to launch on October 8, 2023. The JioUtsav campaign is designed to celebrate India's vibrant culture, its people, and the various festivals that mark the country's calendar. This campaign takes inspiration from Dhoni's life, recognizing that he has given the nation numerous reasons to celebrate through his incredible cricketing achievements. The campaign encourages everyone to celebrate all occasions of happiness, festivities, and special moments with loved ones. It positions shopping as an integral part of these celebrations, highlighting JioMart as the go-to platform for all shopping needs. The campaign also promises exciting shopping deals and discounts that will be available on the platform.



Banking News

Centre Extends SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara's Tenure Until August 2024

In a significant development, Centre has decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest lender, until August of the following year. This decision was confirmed by two government sources who preferred to remain anonymous as they are not authorized to speak to the media. Mr. Khara's tenure, which began on October 7, 2020, for a three-year term, is now set to continue until he reaches the age of 63. Dinesh Khara, the man at the helm of India's largest commercial bank, has a remarkable career trajectory within the State Bank of India. He embarked on his journey with the bank as a probationary officer in 1984, marking the beginning of a distinguished service record spanning almost four decades. Khara's qualifications underscore his expertise in the field of finance. He holds a postgraduate degree in commerce and an MBA in Finance from Delhi University's Faculty of Management Studies. These academic achievements provided him with a solid foundation for his career in the world of banking.

Science & Technology News

24 Agri Startups Recommended For Support From Pool of Rs 20 cr

In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended 24 start-ups for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of Rs 20 crore. This transformative initiative was announced during the ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program. ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with four Technology Innovation Hubs. These hubs, established under the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), played a crucial role in identifying and nurturing these promising agri-start-ups. A total of 55 start-ups participated in the ATMAN 2023 program, presenting their innovative solutions across five panels. These panels were dedicated to precision farming, agro IoT, agri 4.0, mechanization, automation, market intelligence, yield prediction, farm advisory, and communication. The expert jury, after careful evaluation, identified and recommended 24 start-ups as potential beneficiaries of the Rs 20 Crore fund.

Schemes and Committees News

PM Modi to Inaugurate 10th Edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. Gujarat's Chief Minister, Bhupendrabhai Patel, has emphasized the state's status as an attractive investment destination and has extended an invitation to global businesses to participate in the Summit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. This event holds significance as it aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," emphasizing India's growth and development.

Awards & Honors News

Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier

Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter". This year Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognised for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy. Fast-moving events flow into each other when perceived by humans, just like a film that consists of still images is perceived as continual movement. If we want to investigate really brief events, we need special technology. In the world of electrons, changes occur in a few tenths of an attosecond, an attosecond is so short that there are as many in one second as there have been seconds since the birth of the universe.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 awarded to Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov

Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov "for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots". The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 rewards the discovery and development of quantum dots, nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. These smallest components of nanotechnology now spread their light from televisions and LED lamps, and can also guide surgeons when they remove tumour tissue, among many other things. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million

per full Nobel Prize. Everyone who studies chemistry learns that an element's properties are governed by how many electrons it has. However, when matter shrinks to nano-dimensions quantum phenomena arise; these are governed by the size of the matter. The Nobel Laureates in Chemistry 2023 have succeeded in producing particles so small that their properties are determined by quantum phenomena. The particles, which are called quantum dots, are now of great importance in nanotechnology.

Tamil Writer Ambai Receives Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award

Tamil writer Ambai, born C.S. Lakshmi in Coimbatore, has been awarded the prestigious Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award. This esteemed award is presented in recognition of sustained and outstanding contributions to the world of Indian writing and literature. Past recipients include renowned authors such as Anita Desai, Mark Tully, Amitav Ghosh, Ruskin Bond, and Girish Karnad. In 2021, Ambai received the Sahitya Akademi award for her remarkable collection of short stories titled Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai (A Red-Necked Green Bird). This accolade is among the highest literary honors in India and underscores Ambai's mastery of storytelling.

Nobel Peace Prize 2023 awarded to Narges Mohammadi

Narges Mohammadi "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all". The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all. Her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. This year's peace prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women. The motto adopted by the demonstrators - "Woman - Life - Freedom" - suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

Professor Dr. Joyeeta Gupta Honored with Dutch Spinoza Prize for Climate Change Research

Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Amsterdam, has been awarded the prestigious Dutch Spinoza Prize for her groundbreaking work in the field of climate change. This article explores her achievements, the significance of the Spinoza Prize, and the impact of her research. Dr. Gupta has expressed her intent to allocate this

substantial prize fund toward furthering scientific research and knowledge utilization in her field. Dr. Joyeeta Gupta becomes the twelfth researcher affiliated with the University of Amsterdam to receive this prestigious award, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence.

Important Dates News

World Nature Day 2023, Date, Significance and Celebrations

World Nature Day, established by the World Nature Organization (WNO) on October 3, 2010, serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness about the challenges our environment faces, particularly due to climate change. This annual celebration unites individuals, groups, and organizations worldwide in their commitment to spreading information about climate change and advocating for its mitigation. In this article, we delve into the significance, celebration, and key facts about World Nature Day, highlighting its vital role in addressing the environmental issues that affect us all. This year, the theme for World Nature Conversation Day 2023 is 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'.

World Teachers' Day 2023: Celebrating Educators Worldwide

World Teachers' Day, observed annually on October 5th, is a global celebration dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers to society. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize the vital role teachers play in shaping the future and to address the challenges they face. In this article, we will delve into the history, significance, and the 2023 celebrations of World Teachers' Day. In 1966, UNESCO and the International Labor Organization (ILO) joined forces to convene the Special Intergovernmental Conference on the Status of Teachers in Paris. The conference led to the adoption of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, a seminal document that delineates the rights and responsibilities of teachers, as well as standards for their preparation, recruitment, employment, and working conditions.

Sports News

Indian men's football team wins SAFF Under-19 Championship

India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in a dominating display in the finals at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was India's eighth youth title in the SAFF

championships, a clear testimony of their regional supremacy. India U19: Lionel Daryl Rymmei, Ishaan Shishodia, Ricky Meetei Haobam, Manabir Basumatary (Surajkumar Singh Ngangbam 46th minute), Raja Harijan, Gwngwmsar Goyary, Naoba Meitei Pangambam (Kelvin Singh Taorem 81st minute), Sahil Khurshid, A Siba Prasad, Ebindas Yesudasan (Manglenthang Kipgen 46th minute), Thomas Kanamoottil Cherian.

Ajay Jadeja Appointed As Mentor For Afghanistan Cricket Team In ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

On Monday, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) appointed former India captain Ajay Jadeja as the team mentor for the upcoming ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India from October 5 to November 19. Ajay Jadeja, a former Indian captain and middle-order batter, has a distinguished cricketing career to his name. He played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, amassing 576 runs at an impressive average of 26.18, with four half-centuries to his name, and a highest score of 96. In One Day Internationals (ODIs), he made a significant impact, representing India in 196 matches, scoring 5359 runs at a stellar average of 37.47. This included six centuries and 30 half-centuries in the limited-overs format.

Master Training Of Football For Schools (F4S) Kicked Off At Sambalpur, Odisha

On October 2, 2023, a two-day master training program for capacity-building within the F4S program was launched in Sambalpur, Odisha. This event saw the participation of 95 Physical Education Teachers/Trainees from various States/UTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and AIFF. The primary goal of this training was to equip these educators with the skills and knowledge needed to promote football as an integral part of physical education. Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious program spearheaded by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In collaboration with the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, and the support of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), F4S aims to revolutionize physical education in Indian schools. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to empower millions of children across the country through football, fostering holistic development and empowerment.

ICC Names Sachin Tendulkar As 'Global Ambassador' for ODI World Cup 2023

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the highly anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023. This prestigious

event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India. Sachin Tendulkar, who has etched his name into the annals of cricket history, holds the record for participating in six 50-over World Cups. His association with this global cricketing spectacle goes back decades, from being a ball boy in 1987 to donning the Indian jersey in numerous editions. Sachin's legacy and his passion for the game make him the perfect choice to unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match.

Asian Games 2023: Dipika Pallikal, Harinder Pal Sandhu clinch gold in Squash Mixed

India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Malaysia's Aifa Azman-Mohd Syafiq Kamal 2-0 (11-10, 11-10) in the mixed doubles final. This is the first time a squash mixed doubles tournament has featured at the Asian Games. Aifa Azman and Mohd Syafiq Kamal, both gold medallists in team events at the Asian Games, began aggressively and didn't let the Indian pair settle. Pallikal and Sandhu struggled with their returns as Azman-Kamal raced to a 10-8 lead.

Ojas Deotale is Nagpur's First Asian Games Gold Medalist

In the final of 19th Asian Games 2023, on Saturday at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, Indian archer Ojas Deotale from Nagpur won gold medal in the men's individual compound archery event. This victory marks Ojus Deotale third gold medal in the Asian Games 2023, solidifying his position as one of India's most successful athlete in the tournament. Ojus Deotale's third gold medal in this edition of the Asian Games 2023, making him the joint most successful Indian sportsperson in this Asian Games. Prior to his victory, Deotale had earlier won gold medals in Compound Men's Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions. Ojus Deotale's success can be attributed to his exceptional precision and determination in the archery field. Deotale missed the 10-point circle only once in the centre of the target only once as he compiled a score of 140 out of a possible 150 in the final in which each archer shoots five rounds (called End in archery) with three arrows in each round.

Obituaries News

Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away

Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old. Anandan's demise occurred while he was undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital in Kerala for a prolonged illness.

Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954 when he actively participated in an agitation advocating for higher wages for coir workers in his village. This early involvement laid the foundation for his lifelong dedication to the welfare of the working class. In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964. His commitment to the principles of communism and his passion for workers' rights were unwavering.

Defence News

Indian Air Force Set to Induct Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is making significant strides towards enhancing its air defense capabilities with the impending induction of indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air Missiles. The IAF has entered into contracts with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for these advanced missiles, marking a crucial step towards reducing import dependency and bolstering national security. The first batch of Astra-MK1 missiles, developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI) among other DRDO laboratories, is slated for induction by the end of 2023. BDL has already received Bulk Production Clearance for Astra-MK1 missiles, signifying a significant milestone in indigenous missile production.

J&K Lt Governor Flags Off CRPF Women Bike Expedition 'Yashasvini' From Srinagar

In a groundbreaking initiative to empower women, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) kick-started an all-female bikers' expedition rally named 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar to Gujarat on Tuesday. The rally, an ode to women empowerment, was flagged off from the iconic Ghanta Ghar near the city center of Lal Chowk in Srinagar. The esteemed guest who inaugurated this remarkable journey was the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha. This all-female cross-country bike rally is not just an ordinary road trip; it's a testament to determination and strength. Covering a staggering distance of 2134 kilometers, the rally will traverse through 40 districts, spanning across 15 states and Union Territories. The expedition aims to culminate in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on October 31st, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Throughout this exhilarating journey, a series of events promoting women's empowerment have been meticulously planned.

IAF To Stop Flying MiG-21 By 2025: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari

Amidst its ongoing efforts to modernize and replace its aging Russian-origin aircraft, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced plans to retire its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets and replace them with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari made this significant revelation during a press conference held in Delhi ahead of the Air Force Day celebrations scheduled for October 8th in Prayagraj. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari disclosed that the IAF had signed a contract for 83 LCA Mark 1A aircraft, which will be supplemented with an additional 97 units, bringing the total to 180 LCA Mark 1As. This move marks a crucial step towards retiring the aging MiG-21 squadrons from active service. The Air Chief Marshal confirmed that the MiG-21 fighter aircraft would cease operations by 2025, with the LCA Mark 1A being the replacement of choice.

India and Bangladesh annual joint military exercise "SAMPRITI" begins

India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of their annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, in Umroi, Meghalaya. This collaborative endeavor, organized alternately by both countries, highlights their robust bilateral defence cooperation initiatives. Since its inception in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009, SAMPRITI has successfully conducted ten editions until 2022. SAMPRITI-XI, spanning 14 days, engages approximately 350 personnel from both sides, emphasizing the significance of enhancing interoperability, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practice. The history of SAMPRITI dates back to 2009, when it was first established as a platform for joint military exercises between India and Bangladesh. Over the past decade, this initiative has witnessed substantial growth, becoming a symbol of the strong defence ties between the two nations.

IAF Receives First LCA Trainer From HAL, Seven more to come by March 2024

State-run aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently delivered the first trainer version of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF). This milestone is significant, as the twin-seater Tejas trainer will play a crucial role in training IAF pilots and can also serve as a fighter aircraft when needed. The Tejas trainer aircraft is part of an earlier order for 40 Mk-1 jets, which includes both the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and the more advanced Final Operational Clearance (FOC) configurations. Out of these 40 aircraft, the IAF has already inducted 32 single-seater jets and established two LCA squadrons. The remaining eight aircraft are trainers. HAL has committed to delivering seven more twin-seater aircraft to the IAF by March 2024.

Miscellaneous News

Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag

Basohli Pashmina, an age-old traditional craft originating from the picturesque district of Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir, has recently earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition not only celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship of the artisans but also protects the authenticity and uniqueness of this artisanal heritage. Basohli Pashmina is renowned for its exceptional softness, fineness, and feather-like weight. Crafted by skilled artisans using traditional hand-spinning techniques, this exquisite fabric has been a symbol of luxury and elegance for over a century. Its hallmark is its remarkable ability to provide warmth without adding bulk, making it an ideal choice for cold climates and discerning fashion enthusiasts.

Arunachal Pradesh's Yak Churpi' Receives GI Tag

Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition not only celebrates the culinary heritage of the region but also plays a vital role in the conservation of the yak population in the Himalayan region. Churpi, rich in protein, has been a lifeline for tribal yak herders in the harsh,

vegetation-starved, cold, and hilly mountainous regions of the state. Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh. Its nutritional profile, rich in protein, makes it a vital dietary source, especially in regions where fresh vegetables are scarce. The yak herders, belonging mainly to the Brokpa and Monpa tribes in West Kameng and Tawang districts, rely on churpi as a substitute for vegetables in their diet. Its versatility allows it to be incorporated into various dishes, including vegetable or meat curries, and served with rice, serving as a crucial component of the daily tribal diet.

