

Addar Khobor Khoborer Adda CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important for All Exams WBCS, Police, Miscellaneous,
WBPS Food SI, Clerkship, Rail, Bank, SSC

HIGHLIGHTED POINTS



Hoysala Temples now India's
42nd UNESCO's World Heritage Site

West Bengal Assembly Resolution On
'Poila Baisakh' As State Foundation Day

Santiniketan on UNESCO World Heritage List

Waheeda Rehman to Receive Dadasaheb
Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

Father of India's 'Green Revolution,'
MS Swaminathan Passes Away At 98



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Monthly Current Affairs September 2023 - English

National News

Law Minister launches Tele-Law 2.0

Access to justice is a fundamental right that every citizen should enjoy, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic status. In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched Tele-Law 2.0, a revamped version of the Tele-Law program. This initiative, operating under the DISHA Scheme by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, aims to provide free legal aid to the rural and marginalized sections of society through video conferencing. The Tele-Law program achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully delivering 5 million legal consultations. This achievement underscores the program's unwavering commitment to making justice accessible to every corner of the country, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Government Implements Stricter Regulations for SIM Card Sales

The Indian government has taken decisive steps to enhance the safety and security of SIM card acquisition in the country. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued two crucial circulars, one targeting individual SIM card users and the other aimed at telecom companies like Airtel and Jio, with the goal of regulating and improving the process.

1. Stricter Rules for Retail Stores:

Background Checks: Stores selling SIM cards must conduct thorough background checks on their employees.

2. Enhanced Security in Specific Regions:

Police Checks in Certain Areas: In regions such as Assam, Kashmir, and the northeast, telecom companies must undergo police checks in their stores before being authorized to sell new SIM cards.

Additional Security Measure: This added step is implemented to bolster security measures in sensitive areas.

Penalty for Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with this regulation can result in fines of up to 10 lakhs for each non-compliant shop.

3. Telecom Companies' Responsibility:

Oversight of Retail Stores: Major telecommunications companies like Airtel and Jio are responsible for ensuring that the stores selling their SIM cards strictly adhere to the new regulations.

Safeguarding the Process: This oversight is crucial for maintaining safety and security in the distribution of SIM cards.

4. Comprehensive Verification for All Users:

Detailed Verification Process: All individuals purchasing new SIM cards or obtaining replacements due to loss or damage will undergo a comprehensive verification process.

Ensuring Accountability: This process mirrors the steps taken when acquiring a new SIM card, with the primary objective of restricting access to SIM cards to authorized individuals.

India Unveils Worlds First Portable Hospital Arogya Maitri Cube

India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The heart of this innovative disaster hospital lies in its 72 cubes, each containing an array of essential equipment and supplies. Among these are an operation theatre, a mini-ICU, ventilators, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a cooking station, food, water, shelter, a power generator, and more. These cubes are ingeniously designed to provide critical medical care and humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. One of the most remarkable features of the Arogya Maitri Cube is its ability to handle a wide range of severe injuries, including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries, and spinal fractures. This versatile disaster hospital is engineered to address the diverse medical needs of survivors in challenging conditions.

World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue

At the venue of the G20 Summit, world leaders will be greeted by a breathtaking 27-foot-tall statue of Nataraja, Lord Shiva in his cosmic dance. This magnificent sculpture, made from an eight-metal alloy known as ashtadhatu, weighs a staggering 18 tonnes, requiring a trailer with 36 tires for transportation to Delhi. Crafted by skilled artisans from Swamimalai in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, this masterpiece seamlessly blends tradition with modernity, drawing inspiration from ancient Nataraja idols.

Bengali

WBPSB

Miscellaneous Batch

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

Start Oct 14, 2023

Country's First Underground Power Transformer In Bengaluru Installed

In a groundbreaking moment for the city of Bengaluru, Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country's inaugural underground transformer center, a significant step towards modernizing the city's power distribution infrastructure. This monumental achievement reflects Bengaluru's commitment to safety, reliability, and aesthetic enhancement of its urban landscape. Located at 15th Avenue, Malleswaram, the underground transformer center is a collaborative effort between the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). With a budget of Rs 1.98 crore, this pioneering project boasts a 500 KVA capacity transformer. Historically, underground power transformer stations have primarily been found in Western countries, where governments prioritize public convenience and safety.

PM Modi Launches Global Biofuels Alliance at G20 Summit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) during the G20 Summit. The alliance includes more than 30 countries and international organizations, aimed at promoting the adoption of biofuels and expanding bioenergy access in emerging economies. This announcement comes during a month marked by important environmental events, including the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (September 7), International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (September 16), and World Environment Health Day (September 26). The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration also highlights the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance. The GBA launch reflects India's proactive stance as the G20 President and its representation of the 'Voice of the Global South.' The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas emphasized the action-oriented nature of India's positive agenda.

"Bharat: The Mother of Democracy" Portal Unveiled at G20 Exhibition

On the eve of the G20 leadership summit, the Ministry of Culture unveiled a remarkable online portal titled "Bharat: The Mother of Democracy." This portal serves as a comprehensive digital exhibition chronicling the rich history of democracy in India, spanning an astonishing 7,000 years – from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization to the year 2019.

Historical Perspective:

The portal provides an in-depth exploration of the history of democracy in India.

Covers 7,000 years of democratic evolution, beginning with the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization.

Multilingual Accessibility:

Available in 16 languages, ensuring a global audience can access its content.

Supported languages include German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, Russian, English, and Hindi.

Structured Sections:

The portal is thoughtfully organized into five main sections, each with 22 sub-sections.

These sections encapsulate different eras and aspects of India's democratic journey.

Sindhu-Saraswati Civilization (6000-2000 BCE):

Explores the democratic ethos of ancient India during this period.

Mahajanapada and Gantantra (7-8 BCE):

Delves into the emergence of republics and democracy in early India.

Vijaynagar Empire (14-16 century):

Sheds light on the democratic practices of the Vijaynagar Empire.

Mughal Emperor Akbar Reign (1556-1605):

Highlights the democratic elements during Akbar's rule.

Constitution of India (1947):

Covers the making of India's constitution, a pivotal moment in its democratic history.

Elections in Modern India (1952 Onwards):

Explores the democratic electoral processes post-independence.

Curatorial Expertise:

The portal is meticulously curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), ensuring the accuracy and richness of the content.

President Droupadi Murmu Virtually Launches Ayushman Bhav Campaign for Universal Health Coverage

President Droupadi Murmu, in a historic virtual ceremony, launched the Ayushman Bhav campaign and the Ayushman Bhava portal from the Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar, marking a significant stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India. This campaign aims to enhance the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services, especially for underserved communities. President Murmu praised the Ayushman Bhav campaign for its multi-ministerial approach, highlighting its potential to bring healthcare services to the remotest corners of India. This approach is instrumental in realizing the ambitious goal of providing healthcare to all. Emphasizing the principle of antyodaya (good health for all), the President lauded the involvement of local governance and announced that gram panchayats achieving their healthcare goals would be recognized as Ayushman Gram Panchayats.

Cabinet Approves eCourts Phase III For 4 Years

The Indian government has given the green light to Phase III of the e-Courts project, marking another significant step towards modernizing the country's judicial system. With a substantial budget allocation of Rs 7,210 crore, this initiative aims to leverage technology to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of the courts. One of the central objectives of the e-Courts Phase III project is to transition towards a digital, online, and paperless court system. This ambitious endeavor seeks to digitize the entire spectrum of court records, including legacy documents. This digital transformation is poised to streamline court processes, reduce administrative overhead, and expedite access to critical legal information.

Cabinet Approves Expansion Of Ujjwala Yojana

The Indian government has unveiled the third phase of its Ujjwala scheme. This initiative aims to provide free gas connections, along with a stove and a refill, to 7.5 million impoverished households for three years. The move extends the program's total coverage to an impressive 103.5 million households. Under the latest phase of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), beneficiaries will receive a deposit-free gas connection, complete with a stove and their first 14.2kg cylinder, all at no cost. This extension is set to cost approximately ₹1,650 crore, with state-run oil marketing companies initially bearing the financial burden. The government will later reimburse these companies. Notably, the scheme has been expanded to include households previously ineligible for LPG connections, thus encompassing a broader spectrum of the population.

India Achieves Milestone as the 13th Nation to Issue Globally Recognized OIML Certificates

In a significant development, India has joined the ranks of countries authorized to issue International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates. The announcement was made by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry on September 14 in New Delhi, marking a pivotal moment in India's metrological capabilities. Consumer Affairs Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh, revealed that this newfound authority would have far-reaching implications.

India Launches UPag: A Revolutionary Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics

In a significant development for India's agricultural sector, the government has unveiled the UPag (Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics). This groundbreaking initiative is aimed at tackling the complex governance challenges that currently beset the country's farming industry. The Ministry of Agriculture hails UPag as an innovative platform meticulously crafted to streamline and enhance data management within the agricultural domain. It represents a crucial stride towards establishing a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework. Ramesh Chand, a member of NITI Aayog, expressed his enthusiasm after inaugurating the portal. He emphasized that such an initiative was long overdue and envisioned that it could grow into a substantial resource for the agricultural sector. Chand urged the Agriculture Ministry, which will oversee the portal, to prioritize data credibility, as objective data minimizes the need for subjective judgment in policymaking. This, in turn, fosters stability, transparency, and informed decision-making.

PM Modi inaugurates YashoBhoomi convention centre

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment as he unveiled Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), aptly named 'Yashobhoomi.' This state-of-the-art facility, constructed at a cost of Rs 5,400 crore, promises to redefine the landscape of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) on a global scale.

Yashobhoomi stands as a testament to India's commitment to world-class event hosting, boasting an expansive project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and a built-up area exceeding 1.8 lakh square metres. Among the world's largest MICE facilities, 'Yashobhoomi' has been meticulously designed to accommodate diverse needs and preferences.

Old Parliament Building To Be Called As 'Samvidhan Sadan'

As the proceedings of the Indian Parliament shift to a new, state-of-the-art building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new name for the old Parliament building: "Samvidhan Sadan" or "Constitution House." This iconic structure, designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and completed in 1927, has witnessed some of the most pivotal moments in Indian history, including the drafting and passing of India's constitution. In a poignant moment, Prime Minister Modi proposed the renaming of the old Parliament building during a special ceremony. He emphasized the importance of preserving the legacy and significance of this historic edifice. This renaming not only pays homage to the past but also connects future generations to the great leaders who once convened here in the Constituent Assembly. Prime Minister Modi remembered India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and emphasized the historical significance of the old Parliament building.

Cabinet approves Women Reservation Bill granting 33% seats to women in Parliament

On September 18, the Union Cabinet took a historic step by approving the Women Reservation Bill, which mandates a 33 percent reservation for women in both the Lok Sabha and state assemblies of India. This monumental legislation aims to ensure equal representation for women in the highest legislative bodies of the country.

33% Reservation for Women

The Women Reservation Bill mandates that one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will be reserved for women candidates.

This provision aims to promote gender equality and increase women's representation in India's legislative bodies.

Rotational Reservation

To ensure fairness and equitable distribution, the reserved seats will be rotated after each general election.

This mechanism prevents the monopolization of reserved seats by specific political parties or individuals.

Sub-Reservation for Marginalized Groups

The Bill also proposes sub-reservation within the 33 percent quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Anglo-Indians.

This sub-reservation recognizes the importance of addressing intersectional inequalities and promoting diversity in political representation.

Hoysala Temples now India's 42nd UNESCO's World Heritage site

The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list. This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition. The temples were finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023. The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's Tentative list since April 15, 2014. All these three Hoysala temples are already protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

ECI Ropes In Chacha Chaudhary & Sabu To Educate And Motivate Young Voters

Given the immense popularity of Chacha Chaudhary comics, a unique initiative, a comic book titled "Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangal," was launched by CEC (Chief Election Commissioner) Shri Rajiv Kumar and ECs (Election Commissioners) Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Arun Goel today at Nirvachan Sadan. The comic book is a joint initiative of ECI (Election Commission of India) & Pran Comics designed to inspire the youth to enroll and participate in the festival of democracy. It features the iconic cartoon characters Chacha Chaudhary, Sabu, and Billoo brought to life by the renowned Cartoonist late Shri Pran Kumar Sharma. On the occasion, CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar said that comics as an outreach medium are relevant and irreplaceable, even in this age of digital media. These comic characters, with their universal appeal and emphasis on values like honesty, kindness, and compassion, provide an engaging platform to convey election-related information creatively.

Govt Launches Kisan Rin Portal, Ghar Ghar KCC Campaign and WINDS Manual

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently launched a series of initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the agricultural sector in India. These initiatives include the Kisan Rin portal, the Ghar Ghar KCC campaign, and the Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) manual. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Kisan Rin portal in Delhi, which is poised to become a game-changer for the agricultural sector. The portal is designed to serve as an integrated hub that offers a comprehensive view of crucial farmer-related information. Empowering Farmers with Information: The Kisan Rin portal will provide farmers with easy access to vital data, including loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilization progress. This empowerment will enable farmers to make informed decisions about their financial matters. Transparency in Agricultural Finance: One of the key goals of the Kisan Rin portal is to bring transparency to agricultural finance. By centralizing data related to loans and subsidies, it will help combat corruption and ensure that benefits reach farmers as intended.

Prime Minister Modi To Launch 9 Vande Bharat Express Trains On 24th Of September

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to flag off nine Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday, September 24th, according to ministry officials. Among these nine trains, the Indian Railways is launching two trains for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Nadu's Chennai, with one each for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, and the poll-bound state of Rajasthan. These semi-high-speed trains are configured with eight coaches and are expected to offer a significant boost to the country's rail connectivity.

India's first lighthouse festival took place in Goa

On September 23, India witnessed a historic event as the country's first-ever lighthouse festival illuminated the picturesque state of Goa. Organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, this festival is part of a grand vision to transform 75 lighthouses across India into thriving tourist hubs. The Indian Lighthouse Festival in Goa, which commenced on September 23 and extends to September 25, marks a significant milestone in the journey to resurrect these historic structures and celebrate their cultural and historical significance.

Maruti Suzuki Partners With Indian Navy For Northeast Outreach Programme

Maruti Suzuki India, the leading automobile manufacturer in the country, has embarked on a unique journey of collaboration and empowerment by teaming up with the Indian Navy. Their joint mission is to create awareness about career opportunities among the youth of Northeastern India through the 'Khamree Mo Sikkim' outreach programme. This partnership not only reflects the commitment of all stakeholders to the Northeast region but also demonstrates the potential for positive change through collective efforts. On the 24th of September 2023, a remarkable expedition was launched from the Indian Navy base in Lonavala. Covering a staggering distance of 6,500 kilometers, this journey is set to span several weeks and involve the participation of 45 Navy officials. These dedicated individuals will traverse diverse terrains in five vehicles, including three of Maruti Suzuki's iconic off-roader Jimny models and two flagship Grand Vitara ALL GRIP SUVs.

Moody's Concerns About India's Aadhaar Biometric System

Moody's Investors Service, a global rating agency based in New York, recently issued a report on "Decentralized Finance and Digital Assets" on September 23, in which it raised concerns about the security and privacy vulnerabilities associated with biometric technologies, particularly India's Aadhaar program. Acknowledging Aadhaar as "the world's largest digital ID program," Moody's highlighted the fact that it assigns unique identification numbers to over 1.2 billion Indian residents using biometric and demographic data. Moody's expressed doubts regarding the reliability of

biometric technologies, specifically in humid climates, citing concerns about the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) administered Aadhaar system. They noted that the Aadhaar system often leads to service denials, particularly for manual laborers operating in hot and humid conditions, which raises questions about the effectiveness of biometric authentication.

Ministry of Home Affairs Extends AFSPA in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to extend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in certain regions of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for an additional six months, commencing from October 1. This move comes after a previous extension granted in March. The AFSPA extension applies to specific districts and police station areas, with distinct regions identified in both Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. In Nagaland, the AFSPA has been extended across eight entire districts and areas encompassing 21 police stations in five additional districts. The eight districts where AFSPA remains in force are: Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, and Peren.

PM Attends 20th Anniversary Celebration Of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit Event

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, graced the occasion commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. This prestigious event took place at Science City in Ahmedabad, a city that has witnessed the remarkable transformation of Vibrant Gujarat over the past two decades. The inception of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit occurred two decades ago, precisely on September 28, 2003, under the forward-thinking guidance of the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi. As years passed, it evolved into an internationally recognized event, establishing itself as one of India's foremost business summits.

India's Power Demand Surges to Five-Year High in September: CRISIL Report

In a recent report by CRISIL MI&A (Market Intelligence and Advisory), India's power demand for September 2023 reached an impressive five-year high. The report also offers insights into the factors driving this surge and the challenges faced by the power sector. Here, we break down the key findings and observations.

India's power demand in September witnessed remarkable year-on-year growth, reaching 140-142 billion units (BUs), marking a five-year high.

Despite this, the demand in September was about seven percent lower than the previous month, primarily due to exceptionally dry conditions in August, one of the driest months in 122 years.

India experienced two consecutive months of all-time high peak power demand, with 238 GW in August followed by an even higher 240 GW in September.

This surge in peak power demand reflects the need for reliable and efficient power generation and distribution.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Unveils 15-Point Winter Action Plan to Combat Air Pollution

Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, has unveiled a comprehensive 15-point winter action plan aimed at addressing air pollution in the national capital, just in time for the festive season. This initiative is a response to the pressing need for cleaner air in Delhi, which has seen some improvements in air quality metrics, including reductions in PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels.

Kejriwal highlighted the decrease in PM 2.5 levels from 149 in 2014 to 103 presently, showcasing a significant improvement. PM 10 levels have also reduced from 324 in 2014 to 223, signifying a 30% reduction in pollution levels.

International News

Kathmandu-Kalinga Literature Festival Concludes In Lalitpur, Nepal

The three-day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival, a vibrant and culturally enriching event concluded in Lalitpur, Nepal. The festival, which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, NP Saud, served as a platform for the exchange of culture in South Asia, while promoting literary and cultural activities in the region. This gathering of literary minds and artists from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka showcased the diversity and richness of South Asian literature and arts. The festival offered a kaleidoscope of creative expressions, including literature, music, dance, poetry, and various other art forms. This diverse range of offerings helped foster a deeper appreciation for the cultural tapestry of South Asia and encouraged artistic collaboration among the participating countries.

Nobel Foundation Reverses Decision to Invite Russian Ambassador

In a recent development, the Nobel Foundation has decided to cancel its invitation to the Russian Ambassador for this year's Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm. This decision comes after significant controversy surrounding their initial invitation. In 2022, the Nobel Foundation made a notable decision not to invite Ambassadors from Russia and Belarus to the Stockholm award event due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. A similar decision was made regarding the Iranian envoy, citing Iran's crackdown on protests. Recently, the foundation announced a reversal of its policy, stating that it would once again invite Ambassadors from all countries represented in Sweden. This decision, however, sparked outrage and strong reactions from various quarters.

Vanuatu parliament elects Sato Kilman as prime minister

Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands. Kilman, a former prime minister and leader of the People's Progressive Party, was elected prime minister 27/23 in a secret ballot by lawmakers. Kilman received a total of 27 votes, while Kalsakau got 23 votes. Kilman, 65, was the deputy PM in Kalsakau's government before being removed in May. At the time Kalsakau had stated that Kilman's dismissal was for "stability of the coalition government".

Opening of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly

The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world. The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all,' focuses on several critical areas. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, represented by his deputy, Amina Mohammed, delivered a message emphasizing the critical juncture the world finds itself in. He acknowledged the existence of profound global challenges but urged a proactive approach rather than succumbing to pessimism.

African Union Becomes Permanent Member Of G20 Under India's Presidency

During the opening session of the two-day G20 Summit, the African Union (AU) received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member. This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape. Prime Minister Modi, in his opening remarks at the G20 Summit, underlined the importance of inclusivity, expressing India's proposal to grant permanent membership to the African Union within the G20. He emphasized the principle of "sabka saath" demonstrating India's commitment to ensuring that the voices of all nations, especially those in the Global South, are heard and considered on the global stage. Following Prime Minister Modi's announcement, Union of Comoros President and AU Chairperson Azali Assoumani assumed his seat as a full member of the G20.

Modi and Biden Hold Bilateral Meeting in Delhi Ahead of G20 Summit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden, in their second bilateral meeting in less than six months, reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the partnership between their countries. This meeting took place

as Delhi hosted leaders from the Group of 20 (G20) nations, both industrialized and developing. The 29-point joint statement issued by the leaders underscored the multifaceted nature of their relationship in the evolving landscape of global alliances.

United States City Louisville Declares September 3rd As Sanatana Dharma Day

Mayor Craig Greenberg has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day in Louisville, Kentucky in the United States emphasizing the significance of fostering peace, tolerance, and understanding within diverse communities. Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg recently attended a re-consecration ceremony or 'Mahakumbh Abhishekam' at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky, where the official proclamation on September 3 was read by his deputy, Barbara Sexton Smith. The event was attended by several spiritual leaders and dignitaries including Chidanand Saraswati, president of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Bhagawati Saraswati along with Lieutenant governor Jacqueline Coleman, deputy chief of staff Keisha Dorsey, among others. Previously, July 20 was declared as 'Encyclopedia of Hinduism' day in Kentucky by former Louisville mayor Greg Fisher.

India and UK Launch Infrastructure Financing Bridge

India and the United Kingdom have jointly announced the launch of the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD). This collaborative initiative signifies the continued commitment of both nations to work closely together to unlock substantial infrastructure investment opportunities in India.

A joint statement issued by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt outlines the primary objectives of this partnership:

1. Leveraging UK Expertise: The statement highlights that the UK has significant expertise in financial and project management, making it a valuable partner for India in infrastructure development.
2. India's Investment Potential: Recognizing India's status as an investment powerhouse in technology, fintech, and green transition, the collaboration aims to tap into India's pivotal role in driving global economic growth.

Bengali

MISSION

WB FOOD SI

অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট

Start Date: 29 Sept 2023

The formal launch of the UKIIFB, led jointly by Niti Aayog (a policy think tank in India) and the City of London, is a centerpiece of this collaboration. The UKIIFB's primary objective is to unlock infrastructure investment opportunities and utilize the City of London's expertise in structuring and phasing major infrastructure projects.

NATO's Largest Military Exercise Since the Cold War: "Steadfast Defender"

NATO member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era. Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a Russian-led coalition known as Occasus. This expansive military exercise is expected to encompass a multitude of elements, showcasing NATO's commitment to readiness and collective defense. The overarching objective of this exercise, codenamed "Steadfast Defender," is to refine NATO's transformation from a crisis response organization into a robust war-fighting alliance. The scenario envisages repelling a hypothetical Russian-led attack on a NATO member state.

India-Canada Relations Strained Over Allegations of Sikh Separatist Involvement

Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Punjab, India, experienced a violent Khalistan separatist movement, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives. Today, the most outspoken supporters of this movement are mainly found among Punjabi expatriates living abroad. Recently, there was a tragic incident where Hardeep Singh Nijjar was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. Nijjar had been advocating for the creation of an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan within India's Punjab state. He was wanted by Indian authorities and was officially labeled as a "terrorist" in July 2020. Nijjar held a prominent position as the leader of the Khalistan Tiger Force, an organization that India has designated as a terrorist group.

G77+China summit concludes with emphasis on empowering Global South

The two-day Summit of the G77+China recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system. This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government. The Group of 77 (G77), established in 1964, consists of over 130 member nations, with its leadership rotating among member nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Notably, G77 member countries collectively represent over 80 percent of the world's population and comprise more than two-thirds of

UN member nations. China, while not a member of the G77, has been actively cooperating and supporting the group's objectives within the framework of "G77+China." At the summit's opening, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres affirmed the enduring importance of the Group of 77+China within the United Nations system. This acknowledgment underscores the group's influential role in global affairs.

Escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Azerbaijan Launches Military Operation

Azerbaijan's military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh has ignited concerns of a renewed conflict in the region. This long-standing dispute revolves around an ethnic Armenian region within Azerbaijani territory. The recent attacks have escalated tensions and raised international alarm.

Azerbaijan's Offensive:

- Azerbaijan has initiated a military operation backed by artillery strikes in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- They have declared their intent to continue until Armenian forces surrender.
- The operation was triggered by landmine incidents, attributed to Armenian saboteurs, resulting in casualties.

Azerbaijan's Objectives:

- Azerbaijan's defense ministry aims to disarm Armenian forces, secure their withdrawal from Azerbaijani territories, and neutralize their military infrastructure.
- They have reported the capture of over 60 military posts and destruction of numerous military vehicles.

Armenian Response:

- Armenia's foreign ministry condemned Azerbaijan's actions as "large-scale aggression" and accused them of pursuing ethnic cleansing.
- Casualty figures remain unverified, but a separatist Armenian human rights official reported 25 casualties, including civilians.

UK PM Rishi Sunak Delays Ban on New Petrol and Diesel Cars by 5 Years in Net Zero Reset

In a recent announcement, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its Net Zero climate action targets. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035. Despite this delay, Sunak emphasized that the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its Net Zero target by 2050. The core objective is unchanged, but the approach is evolving to be more practical, proportionate, and realistic, particularly in light of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Net Zero, in the context of climate action, refers to the global imperative that the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions must be balanced by carbon dioxide removals within a specified timeframe.

Invitation to U.S. President Biden for Republic Day Celebration

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended an invitation to U.S. President Joe Biden to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on January 26 next year. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed the invitation, stating that it is under consideration by the U.S. government. President Biden is also scheduled to visit India in 2024 for the Quad Summit, and efforts are being made to align the summit with his visit.

PM Modi's Invitation

Prime Minister Modi formally invited President Biden during their bilateral talks at the G-20 summit.

The invitation specifically pertains to Republic Day on January 26 and did not mention the Quad Summit, which requires coordination among all four Quad countries (India, U.S., Japan, and Australia).

Republican-Led House Panel Initiates Biden Impeachment Inquiry

The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has embarked on an impeachment inquiry against Democratic President Joe Biden. Spearheaded by Speaker Kevin McCarthy, this move signifies an attempt to score political points at the onset of the election campaign cycle. This development is steeped in political context, partly influenced by former President Donald Trump's two impeachments and the desire to balance the score. We delve into the charges against President Biden, largely centered around allegations related to his son Hunter Biden's business dealings.

Pakistan Announces General Elections in January 2024

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has officially declared that the general elections in Pakistan will be held in the last week of January 2024. This announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census. The elections will span a 54-day period, culminating in the voting week at the end of January 2024. This extended timeline allows for comprehensive preparations and the smooth execution of the electoral process. In August of the same year, a caretaker government took office following the resignation of the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government just before the completion of its term.

Singapore Overtakes Hong Kong as World's Freest Economy

In a significant shift, Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the title of the world's freest economy, marking the end of Hong Kong's 53-year reign at the top. This shift is according to a report released by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute. The Economic Freedom of the World Index, which has been tracking economic freedom since 1970, placed Hong Kong in second place for the first time.

World's Second Largest Hindu Temple outside India to be Inaugurated in US

In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey, is set to be inaugurated on 8th October 2023, under the guidance of its spiritual head, Mahant Swami Maharaj. This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the second-largest Hindu temple in the world, following the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry. Among its awe-inspiring features are 10,000 statues and statuettes, intricate carvings of Indian musical instruments and dance forms and more. This architectural masterpiece is a reflection of the rich heritage it represents. Measuring an impressive 255ft x 345ft x 191ft, the New Jersey Akshardham temple is possibly the second largest temple globally, only surpassed by Cambodia's Angkor Wat. The temple complex boasts one main shrine, 12 sub-shrines, nine shikhars (spire-like structures) and nine pyramidal shikhars, with the largest elliptical dome of traditional stone architecture ever constructed.

India Allows Export Of 75,000 Tons Of Non-Basmati White Rice To The UAE

The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of 75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies. The export of non-basmati white rice to the UAE will be facilitated through the National Cooperatives Exports Limited (NCEL). NCEL plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of India's export initiatives, and its involvement in this endeavor underscores the government's commitment to balancing domestic and international demands for essential food commodities.

Concerns Raised Over Chinese Research Vessel's Visit to Sri Lanka

Following India's lead, the United States has expressed concerns regarding the planned visit of a Chinese research vessel to Sri Lanka in October. The Chinese vessel, named Shi Yan 6, is set to undertake scientific research projects during an 80-day operation in the Indian Ocean, with 13 research teams on board. In a recent meeting between Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland and Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, the U.S. raised its apprehensions about the upcoming visit of the Chinese research vessel. Sabry assured the American official that Sri Lanka would adhere to a newly established "Standard Operating Procedure" for all

foreign vessels intending to visit Sri Lankan ports. India had previously conveyed its concerns about the Chinese research vessel to Sri Lankan authorities. This underscores a growing international interest in the situation.

Nepal-China Sign 12 Agreements: A Closer Look at the Visit's Outcome

Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, recently concluded his week-long visit to China, which was expected to address critical issues such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, cross-border energy trade, and past agreements. However, the agreements signed during this visit did not cover these key areas. Instead, they focused on various other aspects of bilateral cooperation. The agreements were the result of delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Dahal and Chinese Premier Li Qiang. While some of the expectations and commitments made by the Nepali Prime Minister were not included in the agreements, they may find their way into a joint communiqué. The discussions comprehensively reviewed the state of bilateral relations, expressing satisfaction with the close ties between the two nations. The emphasis was on strengthening economic, trade, and people-to-people cooperation.

Taliban Seeks Economic Support and Recognition from India Ahead of Moscow Format Meeting

Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in Kazan, Russia, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition. This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul. India has previously refused to recognize the Taliban's "Islamic Emirate" and has emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and protecting minority communities. This development comes ahead of the Moscow format discussion scheduled to be held in Kazan, Russia, on September 29, which holds regional significance.

It is the first such meeting after China increased engagement with the Taliban and appointed a new Ambassador to Kabul. The Taliban, represented by Suhail Shaheen, the head of the Political Office of the Taliban administration in Kabul, has expressed a desire for positive traditional relations with India.

They seek India's support for economic stability and international recognition.

The Taliban government refers to itself as the "Islamic Emirate" and claims to have the support of the Afghan people. A Taliban delegation, led by their 'Foreign Minister' Amir Khan Muttaqi, is engaging in discussions with Kremlin officials in Moscow before heading to Kazan.

Sri Lanka's IMF Bailout Faces Delay Amidst Ongoing Debt Restructuring

Sri Lanka is facing delays in receiving the second tranche of its \$2.9 billion IMF bailout package due to unresolved issues with its external debt restructuring. This crisis comes as the nation

grapples with its worst economic downturn in history, characterized by dwindling foreign exchange reserves and public protests over shortages of vital commodities. In March of this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) granted Sri Lanka a 48-month extended arrangement worth \$2.9 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The aim was to bolster Sri Lanka's economic policies and promote essential reforms.

India and UN Launch Global Capacity Building Initiative

In a groundbreaking move, India and the United Nations have jointly introduced a significant capacity-building initiative known as the "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative." This initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South. The announcement of this initiative took place during the "India-UN for the Global South-Delivering for Development" event on September 23 in New York. The event was attended by prominent figures, including India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and Dennis Francis, President of the 78th General Assembly.

Taiwan Unveils 'Haikun', Its First Domestically Built Submarine

Taiwan, a self-governing island in East Asia, has recently unveiled its first domestically-made submarine, named the Haikun, in a move to bolster its defenses against the ever-present threat of a possible Chinese attack. President Tsai Ing-wen presided over the launch ceremony in the port city of Kaohsiung, marking a significant milestone in Taiwan's military capabilities.

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, is a democratic island nation that China regards as a renegade province.

The Chinese government has consistently asserted its intent to reunify Taiwan with the mainland, by force if necessary. This enduring dispute has been a long-standing source of regional tension.

Amidst these tensions, U.S. officials have issued warnings that China could become militarily capable of mounting an invasion of Taiwan within the next few years. This possibility has led to heightened concerns both within Taiwan and among its allies.

Russia to boost its defence spending by 70% in 2024

In a move that underscores Russia's unwavering commitment to its military endeavors, the country is poised to substantially increase its defense spending by nearly 70% in 2024. This financial shift, as revealed in a document published by the Russian Finance Ministry, comes as Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its extensive offensive operations in Ukraine. Since the commencement of the Ukraine conflict, Russia has adopted a progressively aggressive stance, not only on the battlefield but also on the economic front. In an environment characterized by persistently high inflation and a depreciating ruble, Russia

has intensified its arms production and funneled substantial investments into its military infrastructure. The document in question outlines a staggering surge in defense spending, projecting an increase of over 68% compared to the previous year. This uptick will result in defense expenditure reaching nearly 10.8 trillion rubles, which translates to approximately \$111.15 billion. Remarkably, this sum accounts for roughly 6% of Russia's GDP, surpassing the funds allocated for critical social policies.

Eurozone Inflation Hits Two-Year Low

Inflation in the Eurozone has dropped to its lowest level in almost two years, providing potential relief for the European Central Bank (ECB) and raising questions about the continuation of its rate-hiking cycle.

Official data from Eurostat reveals that consumer prices in the 20-nation Eurozone rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, down from 5.2 percent in August. This marks the lowest level of inflation since October 2021.

Analysts had anticipated a slower decline in inflation, with a consensus forecast of 4.5 percent for September, according to data firm FactSet. However, it's important to note that inflation remains well above the ECB's target of two percent.

State News

Uttarakhand CM Releases Logo, Website Of Global Investors Summit In Dehradun

Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, inaugurated the logo and website for the Investor Global Summit set to take place in Dehradun on December 8-9, 2023. This summit is poised to explore investment opportunities across a wide range of sectors and holds the potential to usher in a significant transformation in the state's economic landscape. Accompanying the logo unveiling was the launch of a dedicated website for the Investor Global Summit. This website serves as an information hub, offering insights into the state government's policies and detailing the various sectors ripe for investment. The website will play a pivotal role in attracting investors by providing them with comprehensive data and guidance on opportunities in Uttarakhand. It serves as a virtual gateway to the state's promising prospects, enticing potential investors to explore its untapped potential. The two-day summit, slated for December 8-9, aims to achieve an ambitious target of attracting investments worth ₹2.5 lakh crore across various sectors. CM Dhami expressed his confidence in the event's ability to draw investments into vital sectors such as tourism and wellness, agriculture and horticulture, health, and education.

Telangana Grabs India's First Gorilla Glass Factory

In a significant development for India's electronics manufacturing sector, Corning Inc. is gearing up to establish its cutting-edge Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana. The proposed manufacturing unit will specialize

in producing cover glass for leading players in the smartphone market. The establishment of Corning Inc.'s Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana is poised to revolutionize India's electronics manufacturing landscape. The ambitious project is set to become a reality with a proposed investment of Rs. 934 crore. Moreover, it promises to create employment opportunities for over 800 individuals, thereby contributing significantly to the local economy. This manufacturing facility holds the potential to be a pivotal force in propelling the smartphone manufacturing ecosystem in Telangana and the wider nation. Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is garnering the attention of numerous electronics manufacturing giants as their preferred hub. The state has already experienced substantial investments from industry leaders such as Foxconn earlier this year. With the substantial capital infusion by Corning Inc. into Telangana, the nation is on the brink of a new era in smartphone manufacturing, one that will impact not only the state but also resonate across the entirety of India.

Sanchi Achieves Milestone as India's First Solar City

The World Heritage Site Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district has become India's first solar city. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan formally launched. It has a capacity of 3 megawatts in Nagauri near Sanchi, which will reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 13,747 tonnes. This is equivalent to more than 2,38,000 trees. Sanchi has become India's first solar city. The production of electricity from coal and other resources causes a negative impact on the environment. The citizens of Sanchi, the Renewable Energy Department, and all scientists have done a commendable task by resorting to solar energy option.

Kerala To Host Inaugural Zayed Charity Marathon in 2024

The Higher Organising Committee of the Zayed Charity Marathon has announced a groundbreaking development for India – the inaugural edition of the renowned marathon is set to take place in the vibrant state of Kerala in 2024. This event marks a significant collaboration between Kerala State authorities and the Indian community residing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions. The Zayed Charity Marathon is not just a sporting event; it's a beacon of hope for charitable causes. Since its inception in 2001 in Abu Dhabi, this marathon has been a platform for raising funds and spreading humanitarian and charitable messages that echo the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Former President of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed's philanthropic impact extended across the globe, including charitable and humanitarian institutions in the United States and Egypt, and now, it's set to reach India.

Jharkhand Cabinet Approves Pension And OBC Status For The Transgender Community

In a significant move aimed at fostering social inclusion and providing much-needed support, the Jharkhand government has taken a progressive step by including the transgender community in its universal pension scheme. This decision was announced during a cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, marking a watershed moment in the state's commitment to address the needs of its transgender population. Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel made the announcement, stating, "The council of ministers has approved the proposal of Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana for transgender people under the social assistance scheme. The eligible beneficiary will receive Rs 1,000 per month as financial aid. This step acknowledges the unique challenges that transgender individuals often face, such as discrimination and marginalization, and seeks to provide them with a crucial safety net.

Tamil Nadu govt to launch scheme granting monthly aid to over 1 crore women

In a groundbreaking move, the Tamil Nadu government is all set to launch the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, the largest social welfare initiative aimed at providing monthly financial assistance. This scheme is set to benefit over 1.06 crore eligible women who are the heads of their families. Under this scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive a monthly sum of Rs 1,000. This financial aid will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. To facilitate easy access to the funds, ATM cards will be issued to the eligible women, allowing them to withdraw the allocated amount as needed. Chief Minister M K Stalin officially announced this significant initiative on September 11. He highlighted the direct transfer of funds into beneficiaries' bank accounts and the provision of ATM cards as key features of the program. The launch of the scheme is scheduled for September 15, coinciding with the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C N Annadurai.

MP cabinet approves Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023

In a significant move, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has given the green light to a series of transformative initiatives aimed at addressing critical issues within the state. These initiatives encompass compensation for mob lynching victims, housing schemes for homeless families, enhanced honorarium for guest faculty, flood relief packages, and the expansion of public services. The MP government has taken a strong stance against the menace of mob lynching by introducing the Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023. Under this scheme, families of individuals who fall victim to mob lynching incidents will receive substantial

financial support. In light of recent mob attacks in MP's Khandwa region, including incidents where individuals were assaulted due to carrying meat or for their social media posts, the state government has prioritized addressing this issue. These incidents have underscored the urgency of implementing measures to curb mob violence

Haryana Govt Appoints Actress Mita Vashisth as Chair of Entertainment Policy Council

In a significant development for the entertainment industry in Haryana, the state government has appointed renowned film actress Mita Vashisth as the chairperson of the governing council tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy. This appointment follows the untimely demise of the beloved actor, director, and producer Satish Kaushik, who previously held the position. Mita Vashisth's extensive experience in the world of entertainment and her dedication to the craft make her a fitting choice for this prestigious role.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann Lays Foundation Stone Of Saragarhi Memorial In Ferozpur

In a formal ceremony held in Ferozepur, Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann made a significant announcement that marks a profound tribute to the valiant Sikh warriors who gave their lives in the historic Battle of Saragarhi. A state-of-the-art monument, dedicated to commemorating the martyrdom of 21 brave Sikh soldiers, will grace the landscape of Ferozepur, with an ambitious timeline of completion within six months. The Battle of Saragarhi, which took place on September 12, 1897, near Samana Ridge (now in Pakistan), is a remarkable chapter in military history. 21 soldiers from the 36 Sikhs regiment valiantly defended their post against nearly 10,000 Afghan attackers, ultimately choosing death over surrender. This unparalleled act of bravery continues to hold a special place in India's military history, showcasing the indomitable spirit of Punjabis when pushed to their limits.

State Health Minister Balbir Singh launches "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0 in Mohali, Punjab

In a significant healthcare initiative, the State Health Minister of Punjab, Balbir Singh, inaugurated "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0. The launch took place at Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College in Mohali, Punjab. This mission, initially scheduled for August but delayed due to flooding in the state, aims to provide vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).

Targeting Partially Vaccinated Pregnant Women and Unvaccinated Children:

The mission intends to cover pregnant women who have received partial vaccination or remain unvaccinated. Additionally, it seeks to reach out to children aged 0-5 years who may have missed their vaccinations.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Digital House Of Gujarat Assembly

President Droupadi Murmu officially unveiled the Gujarat legislative assembly's Digital House project, National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), in Gandhinagar. The launch ceremony was graced by the distinguished presence of Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel. This endeavor draws inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary concept of 'One Nation, One Application' and signifies a substantial leap towards achieving a completely paperless Assembly process. The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), a Unicode-compliant software, has been developed by the Union Parliamentary Affairs Ministry with the primary goal of making all legislative work and data available online for both citizens and Assembly members. NeVA encompasses a user-friendly website and a mobile app, simplifying access to a plethora of documents, including the list of questions, business agendas, and reports, among others.

Karnataka Rolls Out Rs 4 Lakh Insurance Cover To Gig Workers

In a significant move aimed at safeguarding the interests and well-being of platform-based gig workers, the Karnataka government unveiled a groundbreaking initiative that offers a comprehensive insurance package worth Rs 4 lakh, including Rs 2 lakh in life insurance and an additional Rs 2 lakh in accidental insurance. This monumental step is expected to benefit approximately 2.3 lakh gig workers who are actively engaged with various platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, and leading e-commerce giants such as Amazon, Flipkart, and BigBasket, among others. The newly introduced initiative, aptly named the 'Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme,' is set to be implemented with immediate effect through the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board. The scheme represents a fulfillment of the 2023-24 budgetary announcement made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Its primary objective is to provide essential social security to workers under labor laws, a long-awaited measure that has been warmly received by gig workers throughout the state.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan To Inaugurate 108-Foot Tall Statue Of Adi Shankaracharya In Omkareshwar

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to unveil a majestic 108-foot-tall statue of the revered philosopher Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar on September 18. This monumental project, named "Eaktmta Ki Pratima" (Statue of Oneness), has garnered significant attention due to its grandeur and spiritual significance. The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has allocated a substantial budget of over Rs 2,141 crore for the construction of the Statue of Oneness project, symbolizing the state's commitment to

preserving its rich cultural and religious heritage. The towering structure is a tribute to Adi Shankaracharya, an influential and revered figure in Hinduism, known for his profound philosophical contributions. Omkareshwar, located approximately 80 kilometers from Indore on the banks of the Narmada river, has long been recognized as a global center for the Advaita Vedanta philosophy, championed by Adi Shankaracharya. This sacred town holds immense significance in the hearts of devotees and seekers of spiritual wisdom. The construction of the 108-foot statue on the Mandhata mountain in Omkareshwar marks the inauguration of the first phase of a comprehensive development project, as revealed in an official statement.

Assam Governor Unveils 'Sarpanch Samvad' Mobile App

In a significant step towards empowering grassroots leaders, Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled the 'Sarpanch Samvad' app in a grand launch ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize the way Sarpanchs, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources. The event witnessed the participation of more than 30 Sarpanchs from various corners of the country, signifying the app's importance in fostering community development. The 'Sarpanch Samvad' app has been meticulously developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI). QCI, as the apex organization responsible for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation system, plays a vital role in improving quality across various sectors and advising the government and stakeholders on quality-related matters. At present, the application offers support for seven languages, including English, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, and Telugu.

Maharashtra Issues Notification On Name Change Of Aurangabad, Osmanabad

The Maharashtra government has issued an official notification regarding the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Dharashiv, respectively. Following a period during which suggestions and objections were sought several months ago, the decision to change these names at various levels, including sub-division, village, taluka, and district, has been finalized. This notification has been issued by the Revenue Department of the state. The decision to rename 'Aurangabad' and 'Osmanabad' to 'Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar' and 'Dharashiv,' respectively, was initially made during the last cabinet meeting of the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. This decision, taken on June 29, 2022, was chaired by the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, just before he resigned from office following a rebellion led by Eknath Shinde. Aurangabad, a historic city in Maharashtra, derived its name from the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Similarly, Osmanabad was named after a 20th-century ruler of the princely state of Hyderabad. The decision to rename 'Aurangabad' as 'Sambhajinagar' carries historical and cultural significance. Chhatrapati Sambhaji, the eldest son of the renowned warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was the second ruler of the Maratha state established by his father. His execution on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689 remains a significant chapter in Maratha history.

CM Pramod Sawant Launches Griha Adhar Scheme To Empower Goan Homemakers

In a significant move aimed at bolstering the financial independence and well-being of homemakers in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant distributed Griha Adhar sanction orders to a multitude of beneficiaries across the state. This proactive step not only acknowledges the invaluable contributions of homemakers but also seeks to uplift their socio-economic status. The Griha Adhar initiative, orchestrated by the Directorate of Women and Child Development, represents a significant stride towards women's empowerment. By providing financial support to homemakers, this initiative aspires to make them self-reliant and enhance their overall quality of life. The sanction orders distributed during this event are a testament to the government's commitment to the welfare of women in Goa.

ICMR Approval for Truenat Test to Detect Nipah in Kerala

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has granted approval for the use of the Truenat test to diagnose Nipah virus (NiV) in Kerala. This development is significant as hospitals equipped with Biosafety Level 2 (BSL 2) laboratories can now conduct the test. The Health Minister, Veena George, has announced that a standard operating procedure (SOP) will be formulated for conducting the Truenat test. With the ICMR's approval, more laboratories in the state of Kerala will have the capacity to perform NiV diagnostics using the Truenat test. Samples testing positive for NiV through the Truenat method can be further analyzed at designated facilities such as Kozhikode or Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospitals or the Institute of Advanced Virology in the capital.

CM Chouhan Unveils 108-ft Adi Shankaracharya Statue in MP's Omkareshwar

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated a 108-foot-tall statue of the 8th-century spiritual leader, Adi Shankaracharya on 21st September. This significant event occurred amidst political dynamics and is an evident to the promotion of Sanatan Dharma and cultural unity. Adi Shankaracharya is known for his pivotal role in reviving Sanatan Dharma and advocating Advaita Vedanta philosophy. The status symbolizes his early years when he visited Omkareshwar, a place steeped in spiritual significance. Weighing an impressive 100 tonnes, the status was brought

to life by a dedicated team of Indian artists, sculptors and engineers. Metal casting took place in China's Nanchang city, with the components subsequently shipped to Mumbai. The idol itself is crafted from bronze, containing 88% copper, 4% zinc and 8% tin. Its internal structure is constructed from high-quality steels, ensuring its stability.

Three-Day Festival 'Nadi Utsav' Commenced From 22nd To 24th September In Delhi

The fourth edition of 'Nadi Utsav,' a celebration of India's rich river culture, begins today on September 22nd and will continue until September 24th, 2023. Organized by the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) of IGNC (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) in collaboration with the Janapada Sampada Division, this year's 'Nadi Utsav' promises to be an enlightening and culturally immersive experience. The event will be hosted in the vibrant city of Delhi, situated on the banks of the sacred River Yamuna. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an institution dedicated to promoting art and culture under the Ministry of Culture, has been the driving force behind 'Nadi Utsav.' This noble initiative was conceived by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi to raise awareness and sensitize people about the ecological and environmental importance of rivers.

India gets its 54th Tiger Reserve "Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve" in MP

Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the most number of tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve'. The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, becoming the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the 54th in India. MP retained the "tiger state" status in the 2022 census with the number of big cats in the state rising to 785 from 526 in 2018. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has become the seventh tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh. About 1,414 square kilometres in the tiger reserve has been included in the core area and 925.12 square kilometres in the buffer zone, the official said.

Goa Has Approved A New Beach Shack Policy To Promote Local Tourism Within The State

Goa, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient," is a coastal paradise in India known for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and rich history. Recently, the government of Goa has approved a groundbreaking policy named "Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026" to enhance the beach experience for tourists while promoting sustainable tourism and economic opportunities for the local community. This policy is set to redefine the beach scene in Goa. One of the most exciting aspects of the "Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026" is the provision for the creation of seasonal structures along the beaches.

Arunachal Pradesh to Gain Three New Air Routes by October

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the imminent launch of three additional air routes in Arunachal Pradesh, set to be operational by October of this year. These new routes will connect Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, to Rupsi, Jorhat, and Delhi as part of the UDAN-5 scheme. UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik, is a regional connectivity initiative designed to enhance accessibility to aviation services for the common citizens. The development comes after the inauguration of enhanced infrastructure at the Tezu airport in Lohit district.

Pramila Malik Makes History as the First Woman Speaker of Odisha Assembly

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party member Pramila Malik became the first woman Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. The election of Pramila Malik as the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly and she was elected unopposed. The post became vacant due to the resignation of Bikram Keshari Arukha in May 2023.

Pramila Malik has been a six-time MLA from the Binjharpur assembly seat in Jajpur district of Odisha. This seat is reserved for the Scheduled Caste community.

She initially became an MLA in 1990 as a member of the Janata Dal and later joined the BJD party led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Before his role as Speaker, he held the post of Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management in the BJD government.

Manipur Government Extends AFSPA in Hill Districts for 6 Months

The Manipur government has decided to extend the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for an additional six months in the entire state, except for specific areas within the Imphal Valley. This decision has been made in response to the security situation, particularly in the hill districts dominated by tribal communities, where ethnic violence and insurgent activities have been on the rise. The government's decision contrasts with the army's demand for the re-imposition of AFSPA in the valley districts to aid counterinsurgency efforts. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is a controversial law that grants extensive powers to the armed forces and Central security forces in "disturbed areas." These powers include the authority to use force, arrest without a warrant, and legal immunity from prosecution without the Union government's approval.

Uttarakhand Govt Signs MoU With Ropeway Construction Firm Poma Group In London

In London, The Uttarakhand government made a significant stride in boosting its tourism and infrastructure sector by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the

Poma Group, a renowned French ropeway construction company . The MoU, valued at a substantial Rs 2,000 crore, was officially inked by Vinay Shankar Pandey, the Secretary of Industries on behalf of the Uttarakhand government. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, who played a pivotal role in facilitating this groundbreaking agreement, expressed his enthusiasm for the project. He emphasized the immense potential for eco-friendly tourism investment in Uttarakhand, considering the state's unique geographical conditions. This landmark investment aims to harness the state's natural beauty and promote responsible tourism.

West Bengal News

West Bengal Assembly Resolution On 'Poila Baisakh' As State Foundation Day

The West Bengal assembly made a significant decision by passing a resolution to officially observe Bengali New Year's Day, known as Poila Baisakh, as the state's foundation day on April 15th. This decision comes amid controversy and disagreements over the date chosen for this celebration. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been a strong advocate for this change, emphasizing that the day will be observed irrespective of the approval of the state's governor. The resolution, put forth under Rule 169, proposes the observance of Poila Baisakh as 'Bangla Diwas' and seeks to declare Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's masterpiece, 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol' (Bengal's soil, Bengal's water), as the official state song. This historic decision was passed with a majority vote of 167 members in favor out of a total of 294 members in the House. However, not everyone in the assembly was in agreement. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with 62 MLAs in the West Bengal assembly, firmly opposed the resolution. They argue that the state's foundation day should be celebrated on June 20, a date with historical significance. On that day in 1947, MLAs from West Bengal voted for the partition of Bengal, an event that was celebrated as Bengal Day by some.



Santiniketan on UNESCO World Heritage List

Santiniketan, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This recognition marks a significant milestone for India and celebrates the enduring legacy of this unique institution located in Bengal's Birbhum district. India has long been striving to secure a UNESCO designation for Santiniketan, acknowledging its cultural and historical significance. The decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia, reaffirming its importance on the global stage. Santiniketan's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List is a testament to its cultural and educational significance. This recognition reaffirms the importance of preserving and promoting the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore and the institution he built. With this latest addition, India now ranks sixth on the World Heritage List, further highlighting the nation's commitment to safeguarding its cultural and natural treasures. The inclusion of Santiniketan reinforces India's status as a custodian of world heritage. Santiniketan now stands as India's 41st World Heritage site, solidifying its place in the nation's rich cultural heritage.

Economy News

GST rules for casinos, e-games notified

The Ministry of Finance has recently issued a significant notification outlining amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules pertaining to online gaming and casinos. These amendments aim to address taxation methodologies employed by online gaming companies and casinos. One of the key changes introduced by these amendments is that individuals visiting a casino are now required to pay GST on the full value of the chips they initially purchase. This means that the GST will be levied on the entire amount spent on chips at the time of purchase. Two new clauses, 31B and 31C, have been introduced in the GST rules to specify the valuation of the supply. Under these changes, any claims made by players are to be included in the total amount paid or payable, ensuring a comprehensive taxation approach.

India Launches 'Hello UPI' and 'Bharat BillPay Connect' for Conversational Payments

In a significant move aimed at enhancing convenience and accessibility for users, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) unveiled two conversational payments initiatives during the Global Fintech Fest. These initiatives, 'Hello UPI' and 'Bharat BillPay Connect,' mark a significant step forward in facilitating seamless digital transactions through natural language conversations.

Indian Retail Inflation Eases to 6.83% in August

In August, India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), showed signs of moderation, dropping to 6.83% from 7.44% in July. However, it remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range of 4+/-2%.

Factors Driving Inflation Drop:

Vegetable prices cooled, contributing to the decline in inflation.

August's CPI is 61 basis points lower than July's 15-month high.

Despite the decrease, it continues to exceed the RBI's acceptable range.

This is the fourth instance of CPI breaching the RBI's upper limit in 2023.

The RBI's medium-term inflation target is 2-6%, and they have projected CPI inflation at 5.4% for 2023-24.

LIC Delivers Dividend Cheque of ₹1,831 Crore to Finance Minister

LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty presented a significant dividend cheque of ₹1,831.09 crore to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This dividend represents the Centre's share for the fiscal year 2022-23. It was officially approved by LIC's shareholders during the Annual General Meeting held on August 22 of the same year. As of the end of June in the current year, the Indian government held an impressive equity stake of 96.5 percent in LIC, making it the majority shareholder. The final dividend declared for the fiscal year 2022-23 amounted to ₹3 per share, and it was agreed upon by LIC's shareholders. In May of the previous year, LIC, as the country's largest insurer, made headlines by launching its colossal ₹21,000 crore initial public offering (IPO). This IPO marked the most substantial public issue in the country's history up to that point.

Government Receives ₹1,487 Crore in Dividend from NTPC

In a significant financial development, the Indian government has received a dividend tranche of ₹1,487 crore from the state-owned power corporation, NTPC. This follows NTPC's recent announcement regarding the payment of its Final Dividend for the financial year 2022-23. NTPC, India's leading power generation company, has disbursed an impressive ₹2,908.99 crore as its Final Dividend for the financial year 2022-23. This substantial dividend payment constitutes 30% of the paid-up equity share capital of NTPC Ltd. The total dividend amount disbursed for FY 2022-23 stands at a remarkable ₹7,030.08 crore, which represents 41% of the Profit After Tax (PAT) for the financial year.

India's Trade Deficit Narrows to \$24.16 Billion in August

India's merchandise exports in August 2023 declined by 6.86% to \$34.48 billion compared to \$37.02 billion in August 2022. The decline is evident in key sectors like Non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery. India's trade deficit for August 2023 narrowed to \$24.16 billion, showing a 2.8% improvement from the \$24.86 billion deficit in the same month last year. Imports of merchandise also saw a decrease, down by 5.23% to \$58.64 billion from \$61.88 billion in August 2022. Despite the decline in both exports and imports, India's trade deficit for August 2023 narrowed to \$24.16 billion, showing a 2.8% improvement from the \$24.86 billion deficit in the same month last year. In the April-August period of 2023, merchandise exports contracted by 11.9% to \$172.95 billion. Merchandise imports also fell by 12% to \$271.83 billion during the same period.

Increasing Regular Jobs but Lingering Unemployment Concerns: Report

In a recent report titled "State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes," a group of economists and researchers from Azim Premji University shed light on the employment landscape in India. This report highlights the dynamics of job creation, the prevalence of regular wage jobs, caste-based segregation, gender-based earnings disparities, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment rates. Let's delve into the key findings of the report.

ADB lowers FY24 GDP forecast to 6.3%, India Ratings raises it to 6.2%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India Ratings and Research have released contrasting forecasts for India's economic growth in the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). While ADB has lowered its projection to 6.3%, India Ratings has raised it to 6.2%. Here's a breakdown of their assessments and key factors influencing these predictions:

ADB's Revision: 6.3% GDP Growth in FY24

Monsoon Patterns Impact: ADB cites erratic monsoon patterns as a primary reason for revising India's growth forecast down by 10 basis points to 6.3% for FY24. These patterns are expected to affect agricultural output.

Inflation Concerns: ADB also revised its inflation projection for India in FY24 to 5.5%, up from the previous 5%. Adverse weather conditions have led to food inflation, contributing to South Asia's overall inflation rate. The continuation of the rice export ban could further escalate food price inflation.

Positive Outlook for FY25: Despite the downward adjustment for FY24, ADB maintains its growth projection for FY25 at 6.7%. This optimistic outlook is based on expectations of rising private investment and industrial output driving economic growth.

S&P Global Ratings Retains India's Growth Forecast at 6% for Current Fiscal

S&P Global Ratings has reaffirmed India's growth forecast for the current fiscal year at 6 percent, citing several factors affecting the economic landscape. This announcement comes amid a backdrop of global economic challenges, concerns over subnormal monsoons, and the delayed effects of interest rate hikes. India's economy posted robust growth of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of 2023, bolstered by strong demand in the services sector and sustained capital expenditure by the government. S&P Global Ratings maintains a positive outlook, projecting India's economy to grow at 6.9 percent in both the fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26. This demonstrates confidence in India's economic prospects despite the global headwinds.

Afghani Currency Has Emerged As The Best Performing Currency In The Current Quarter

The Afghani, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the best-performing currency of the September quarter in 2023. This unexpected surge is attributed to a combination of factors, including massive dollar inflow in the form of humanitarian aid and currency control measures imposed by the ruling Taliban. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar. One of the primary factors contributing to the Afghani's resurgence is the substantial humanitarian aid pouring into the country. In the wake of the regime change in August 2021, Afghanistan faced a dire humanitarian crisis, prompting international organizations to extend a helping hand. The United Nations, for instance, has provided a staggering \$5.8 billion in aid and development since the change in government, with \$4 billion of that sum transferred in 2022 alone. This influx of foreign currency has played a pivotal role in stabilizing the Afghan economy.

India's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 36% of FY Target in August

India's fiscal deficit for the first five months of the 2023-24 financial year has reached 36% of the full-year target, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The fiscal deficit represents the gap between government expenditure and revenue, indicating the government's borrowing needs. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit amounted to Rs 6.42 lakh crore as of the end of August. The fiscal deficit at this point in the current financial year is higher than the previous year, standing at 32.6% of the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2022-23 during the same period. The Union Budget aimed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2023-24, compared to 6.4% in 2022-23.

Government Increases Windfall Tax on Crude Petroleum

In a recent move, the Indian government has announced significant changes to its tax policies related to the petroleum industry. These changes include an increase in the special additional excise duty (SAED) on domestically produced crude petroleum, as well as reductions in levies on diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). Here are the key details:

Windfall Tax on Domestic Crude Oil

Effective from September 30, 2023, the government has raised the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 12,100 per tonne.

Reduction in Diesel Duty

As part of these changes, the government has decided to reduce the SAED on the export of diesel. The duty on diesel will be lowered to Rs 5 per litre, down from the previous rate of Rs 5.50 per litre.

Decrease in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Duty

In a move that will benefit the aviation industry, the SAED on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is set to decrease.

No Change in Petrol SAED

It's important to note that the SAED on petrol will remain unchanged, with no additional duty imposed on petrol.

Rankings & Reports News

Switzerland Ranked No. 1 In The World Best Countries Report 2023

Switzerland has once again claimed the title of the world's best country, according to the latest U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Countries rankings. This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its sixth time overall as the No. 1 nation on the list. Switzerland excels particularly in entrepreneurship (No. 6), quality of life (No. 6), social purpose (No. 8), and cultural influence (No. 8). It also claims the top spot for being open for business. The rankings, released recently, reaffirm Switzerland's supremacy, closely followed by Canada at No. 2, Sweden at No. 3, Australia at No. 4, and the United States at No. 5. The United States has slipped one spot compared to its 2022 ranking. In the 2023 rankings, European countries dominate the top tier, securing 16 of the top 25 spots. Notable shifts include Germany, which has fallen five spots since 2022, and Australia and New Zealand, both climbing three places year over year. The Middle East is represented by the United Arab Emirates, while Asia boasts Japan, Singapore, China, and South Korea within the top 25.

Centre's Report Says India Has 150 Elephant Corridors

A recent report by the Union Environment Ministry has shed light on the state of elephant corridors in India. According to this comprehensive report titled "Elephant Corridors of India," the country boasts at least 150 elephant corridors, spread across 15 range-states, and encompassing four major

elephant-bearing regions. This is a significant increase from the 88 corridors identified in the 2010 Elephant Task Force report, known as the "Gajah report." This expanded understanding of elephant corridors signifies the evolving challenges and the growing awareness of the importance of conserving these vital pathways. Elephant Corridors are land strips that enable the movement of elephants between two or more viable habitat patches. However, it's crucial to note that corridors leading elephants into human-dominated areas without connecting to suitable habitats are not considered true elephant corridors. Such misdirection can lead to increased human-elephant conflict, putting both human and elephant lives at risk.

The Zagorochoria, Nestled On Mount Pindos In Epirus Added To UNESCO's World Heritage List

A cluster of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindos in Epirus, known as the Zagorochoria (or villages of Zagori), was recently inducted onto UNESCO's World Heritage List. This momentous decision was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking a significant milestone in Greece's cultural heritage preservation efforts. Culture Minister Lina Mendoni expressed her elation, stating, "It is the first time that a cultural area of Greece that comprises an outstanding example of our modern cultural heritage is listed." This recognition is a historic achievement for Greece as it diverges from the typical ancient Greek and Byzantine focus of previous listings on the World Heritage List. UNESCO recognized the remarkable ecumenical value of Zagori architecture, showcasing its exemplary fusion of Byzantine and Ottoman architectural influences. Furthermore, UNESCO acknowledged the area's authenticity and integrity as essential criteria for its prestigious inclusion on the World Heritage List. The Culture Minister emphasized that this listing serves as both an invitation and a solemn obligation for Greece to safeguard and preserve the cultural legacy of Zagorochoria.

Bengaluru Leads in Green Office Space as India Witnesses a 36% Increase Since 2019

In a significant development for India's real estate sector, Bengaluru has emerged as the city with the highest green-certified office space. This achievement is part of a broader trend showcased in the 'Indian Real Estate: Taking Giant Strides - 2023 Mid-Year Outlook' report jointly released by real estate consultant CBRE and industry body CII during the CII Realty conference. The report highlights a remarkable 36% growth in green-certified office space across six major Indian cities over the past three and a half years. In 2019, the total green-certified office stock stood at 251 million square feet, but it has now surged to an impressive 342 million square feet.

TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

In the latest edition of the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained its prestigious position at the top of the list with an impressive brand value of \$43 billion. This article delves into the key findings and rankings of the report, shedding light on the Indian brands that continue to thrive despite economic challenges.

The Top 10 Brands in the 2023 Report are – TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Reliance Jio, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HCL Technologies.

Business News**Bajaj Auto's Subsidiary Receives RBI Approval for NBFC Operations**

Bajaj Auto's subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commence its non-banking financial institution (NBFC) operations. This significant development allows the company to expand its financial services without accepting public deposits. The certificate of registration from RBI, permitting Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance to operate as an NBFC, was issued on August 31, 2023, and marked a pivotal moment for the company. Bajaj Auto made the formal application to the Reserve Bank of India for an NBFC license on July 9 of the same year, seeking the regulatory green light to diversify its financial operations.

Cashfree Payments Partners with NPCI for 'AutoPay on QR'

Cashfree Payments, a prominent player in the payments and API banking solutions sector, has joined forces with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to unveil a groundbreaking solution called 'AutoPay on QR.' This innovative offering is poised to empower subscription-based businesses, boosting their customer acquisition, retention, and overall growth prospects. One of the standout features of Cashfree Payments' 'AutoPay on QR' is its ability to simplify the process of mandate creation for subscription services. This two-click solution not only enhances user convenience but also promises to significantly improve return on investment (ROI) for businesses investing in advertising campaigns. Subscription-based enterprises can seamlessly integrate their subscription QR codes into various marketing channels, including online ads, newspapers, websites, TV, and product packaging. This integration enhances the effectiveness of promotional campaigns, ultimately driving more value for businesses.

ITI Limited Develops Self-Branded Laptop & Micro PC 'SMAASH'

ITI Limited, a premier telecom company and multi-unit central public sector undertaking in India, has made significant strides in the technology market by developing its own branded Laptop and Micro PC, branded as 'SMAASH.' These products have taken the market by storm, competing successfully against well-established MNC brands like Acer, HP, Dell, and Lenovo. In an exchange filing, ITI Limited proudly announced the launch of its branded laptops and Micro PCs under the 'SMAASH' label. These products boast quality and performance that match international standards. The key highlight is that ITI Limited has managed to secure numerous tenders, triumphing over formidable global brands. This remarkable feat demonstrates the company's commitment to innovation and excellence. ITI Limited has not achieved this feat alone. The company collaborated with Intel Corporation, a global technology giant, to design and manufacture these flagship products.

Air India's 'Project Abhinandan': Enhancing Passenger Experience

Air India, one of India's prominent airlines, has introduced 'Project Abhinandan,' a new initiative aimed at providing passengers with a personalized and hassle-free experience, particularly in managing baggage issues and dealing with missed flights. Under this initiative, Air India has stationed specially trained service assurance officers (SAOs) at 16 major airports across the country to offer on-ground assistance and support to travelers. The airports where these service assurance officers have been deployed encompass a wide geographical spread, covering Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Calicut, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Varanasi, and Vishakhapatnam. These officers are strategically positioned to assist Air India passengers at various critical points during their journey, including the check-in area, lounges, near boarding gates, during transit, or at the arrival hall.

SIDBI Plans Rs 10,000 Crore Rights Issue for Fiscal Expansion

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), a key player in SME loan refinancing, has unveiled plans to raise Rs 10,000 crore through a rights issue in the upcoming fiscal year. This strategic move is aimed at bolstering its equity capital as the institution anticipates an expansion of its assets, targeting Rs 5 lakh crore by March 2024 from its current standing at approximately Rs 4 lakh crore as of March 2023. SIDBI's growth outlook is primarily driven by the surging demand for direct financing, a segment that has grown significantly over the past two years, now constituting 14% of its loan portfolio compared to a mere 7% previously. SIDBI's Chairman and Managing Director, Sivasubramanian Ramann, has disclosed that the rights issue will be executed in two tranches of Rs 5,000 crore each during the next fiscal year.

This strategy will augment the institution's capital base by a total of Rs 10,000 crore, providing vital support for its burgeoning balance sheet, which is projected to expand by a quarter from its current size.

Volvo To End Diesel Car Production By 2024, To Become All-Electric Carmaker

Volvo Cars, a prominent name in the automotive industry, has recently made a groundbreaking announcement. The Swedish car manufacturer has declared its intention to cease the production of diesel-powered vehicles by early 2024, marking a significant step toward its goal of becoming an all-electric carmaker. This decision aligns with Volvo's commitment to transitioning fully to electric vehicles by 2030. Volvo's bold move to discontinue diesel vehicle production is a proactive response to the evolving landscape of the automotive industry. According to the company's official statement, the last diesel-powered Volvo car will roll off the assembly line in just a few months. This decisive action places Volvo among the pioneers in the automotive world, as one of the first legacy car manufacturers to completely eliminate diesel from its lineup.

RBI Issued Guidelines For Identification Of Wilful Defaulters Within A Six-Month Timeframe

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced significant developments in its guidelines concerning wilful defaulters and large defaulters. These developments include broadening the scope of the definition and mandating lenders to finalize the identification and classification of borrowers as wilful defaulters within six months of loans turning bad. These draft norms, unveiled on Thursday September 22, aim to streamline the process of identifying defaulters and regulating their status.

Amazon To Invest Up To \$4 Billion In AI Startup Anthropic

E-commerce giant Amazon.com has announced a strategic investment of up to \$4 billion in Anthropic, an AI startup, marking a significant move to enhance its presence in generative artificial intelligence. This partnership, as reported by Bloomberg (Software company), not only involves a substantial financial commitment but also provides Anthropic with access to Amazon's formidable computing power. This substantial \$4 billion investment in Anthropic reflects Amazon's commitment to advancing its position in the AI landscape. While it may not have an immediate financial impact on Amazon's cloud-services unit, it signals the company's determination to compete with industry leaders, particularly Microsoft, in the realm of artificial intelligence. Anthropic, founded by veterans from OpenAI, has garnered substantial attention and funding with its mission to develop safer AI systems. Notably, Google, a major player in the tech industry, previously invested nearly \$400 million in Anthropic, demonstrating the widespread interest in the company's vision for AI safety.

All-In-One Affordable Insurance Cover, Bima Vistaar, To Be Rolled Out Soon

Insurance has always been a vital aspect of financial security, offering individuals and families a safety net during unforeseen circumstances. Recognizing the importance of extending insurance coverage to every corner of India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced 'Bima Vistaar'. This all-in-one insurance product, encompassing life, health, and property coverage, is poised to revolutionize the insurance landscape in the country. The brainchild of Debashish Panda, Chairman of IRDAI, Bima Vistaar represents a significant step towards realizing the authority's vision of making insurance accessible to every Indian citizen by 2047. The product's development has reached its final stages after extensive consultations with the Life and General Insurance Councils and industry experts.

RBI Imposed Monetary Penalties On Yet Another Three Co-operative Banks

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its ongoing commitment to maintain the integrity and adherence to banking regulations, has imposed monetary penalties on three co-operative banks. These banks, namely Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, and Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, were found to have deficiencies in regulatory compliance. The penalties levied by the RBI serve as a stern reminder to financial institutions to uphold the highest standards of governance and compliance.

Outlook on Indian Bank Credit Growth: Insights from Crisil

In a recent analysis, Crisil, a leading research and ratings agency, has provided a comprehensive overview of the projected trends in India's bank credit growth for the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24). Several factors have been identified that contribute to the anticipated decline in credit expansion. Here's a breakdown of their insights and predictions:

1. Slower Economic Growth:
 2. Easing Inflation and Softening Commodity Prices:
 3. Robust Bond Issuances:
 4. Base Effect in Later Half of the Year:
- Comparison with Previous Year: Anticipated base effect due to substantial growth observed in the same period of the preceding year.
- Segment-Wise Credit Growth Predictions:
1. Wholesale Credit: Wholesale credit, constituting 60% of total credit, is expected to decelerate significantly.
 2. Retail Credit: Previous Year's Growth: 19-20% Predicted Current Year's Growth: Maintaining momentum. Retail credit, constituting 28% of total credit, is expected to sustain its growth at a steady pace.
 3. Agriculture Credit: Predicted Growth Range: 9-10%

Agreement News**Centre Signs MoU With Adobe To Help Children Learn AI**

In a significant stride towards enhancing the quality of education and nurturing creativity in classrooms across India, the Union Ministry of Education has joined forces with software giant Adobe. This groundbreaking collaboration seeks to promote creative expression and digital literacy among students and educators through the utilization of Adobe Express, an innovative application developed by Adobe. With an ambitious goal of reaching around 20 million students and upskilling 500,000 teachers, this partnership aims to revolutionize the education landscape in India. Under this program, Adobe is committed to providing free access to Adobe Express Premium for schools nationwide. This access will not only empower students to unleash their creativity but also offer a user-friendly platform for educators to foster digital literacy and creative skills among their students. Furthermore, Adobe will facilitate professional development opportunities for 500,000 educators. These training programs will equip educators with the skills to effectively use Adobe Express for creating digital learning content. Those who successfully complete the training will be awarded the prestigious Adobe Creative Educators certification, a recognition of their dedication to enhancing the learning experience for their students.

MoU Signed Between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Vadodara And Airbus In New Delhi

Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus, a global aviation giant, have recently embarked on a strategic collaboration aimed at fortifying the Indian aviation sector. This partnership, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, signifies a significant milestone in fostering industry-academia alliances to propel India's aviation industry to new heights. The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics, and IT, who also serves as the First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. Accompanying him were Ms. Jaya Varma Sinha, the Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board, and other senior officials. This collaboration follows Airbus' recent partnership with Tata to establish a C295 aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, marking a renewed commitment to bolstering India's aerospace sector.

IIM Indore and NSDC Partner to Transform Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in India

In a significant stride towards advancing skill development and entrepreneurship in India, the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore) has forged a strategic partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in

these crucial domains. The MoU, signed online solidified this partnership. It was signed by Prof Himanshu Rai, Director of IIM Indore, and Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC. This alliance seeks to redefine skill development, entrepreneurship, and research in India, aligning the visions of both institutions and leveraging their collective strengths to reshape the nation's skilling ecosystem.

Thomas Cook India Partners With National Payments Corporation Of India

Thomas Cook (India) Limited, India's leading omnichannel forex services company, has entered into a groundbreaking partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a pioneering RuPay prepaid forex card tailored for Indian travelers visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This significant technological endeavor is being enabled by NPCI Certified Partner, CARD91. The strategic alliance between Thomas Cook and RuPay harnesses the vast potential of NPCI's global card payment network of India. This initiative resonates with the "Made in India" ethos, offering comprehensive international payment solutions for Indian travelers venturing overseas. This innovative RuPay prepaid forex card promises to simplify financial transactions for Indian travelers in the UAE and sets the stage for further expansion into global markets, enhancing the overall travel experience for customers. With a strong focus on convenience, security, and rewards, this card exemplifies the evolution of travel currency solutions in the modern age.

Ashok Leyland Signs MoU With UP Govt To Set Up Bus Plant At ₹200 Cr

In a significant move towards promoting clean mobility and bolstering the commercial vehicle industry, Ashok Leyland, a flagship company of the Hinduja Group, announced on Friday, September 15, its plans to invest ₹1,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh. This substantial investment is geared towards establishing a state-of-the-art bus manufacturing facility, marking the company's maiden venture in the state. To kickstart the development of this facility, Ashok Leyland is allocating an initial investment of ₹200 crore. This initial phase will lay the foundation for the larger project, which is expected to reach ₹1,000 crore in investment over the next five years. The proposed manufacturing facility is set to be located near Lucknow, positioning it strategically within the state. This hub will serve as a beacon for clean and eco-friendly mobility solutions, in line with Ashok Leyland's mission to address environmental concerns and embrace sustainability.

REC With Punjab National Bank To Lend Up To ₹55,000 Crore To Power, Infra Projects

In a significant development for the Indian power and infrastructure sectors, state-run REC Ltd. has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to explore collaborative opportunities for funding projects in these sectors under a consortium arrangement.

This partnership aims to co-finance loans amounting to a substantial ₹55,000 crore over the next three years, according to an official statement released by REC. While expressing confidence in REC, the Ministry of Power has granted the company permission to diversify its lending portfolio beyond the power sector. This decision aligns with the ministry's commitment to contribute to the accelerated development of our nation. Notably, REC can now finance up to 33% of its outstanding loan book in the power sector.

Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence

In a significant move towards revolutionizing the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) applications, Infosys, one of India's leading IT majors, has announced a strategic collaboration with tech giant Microsoft. The partnership aims to develop cutting-edge solutions harnessing the combined prowess of Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service, and Azure Cognitive Services. This collaborative effort seeks to bring AI capabilities to the forefront of enterprise functions across various industries, promising to enhance productivity and drive new revenue growth.

Appointment News

Dr. Vasudha Gupta Assumes Charge As Principal DG Of Akashvani

Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has taken charge as the Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division. This appointment comes after her commendable tenure as Director General at Akashvani, where she played a pivotal role in revitalizing the iconic broadcasting institution. With over 33 years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including her tenure as Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Dr. Vasudha Gupta brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role. Dr. Vasudha Gupta holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Over the past year, Dr. Gupta has been instrumental in the rejuvenation of Akashvani. Her vision and leadership have played a pivotal role in transforming the institution, making it more dynamic and in tune with the evolving media landscape. Her academic achievements have contributed to her ability to introduce social media platforms in regional languages through Akashvani, a significant step in making information more accessible to diverse audiences.

Uday Kotak Resigns As Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO, Dipak Gupta Takes Interim Charge

Uday Kotak has formally resigned from his position as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with the change taking effect from September 1st, 2023. This significant development was communicated by the bank to the exchanges on September 2, marking the end

of an era in Indian banking. Mr. Kotak, however, will continue to play a vital role as a non-executive director within the organization until his tenure concludes on December 31, 2023. To ensure a seamless transition, Dipak Gupta, the joint managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, will take on the responsibilities of the Managing Director and CEO on an interim basis. This transition is subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the members of the bank. It reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining stability and continuity in its leadership.

Cognizant India MD Rajesh Nambiar appointed as Nasscom Chairperson

Indian IT and tech trade body Nasscom announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India, as its new Chairperson. Nambiar is succeeding Anant Maheshwari, former President, Microsoft India as the new Chairperson of the trade body. Nambiar takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Anant Maheshwari, Former President, of Microsoft India. Nambiar along with President Debjani Ghosh, will continue to work with the nasscom Executive Council, industry, and the government in strengthening India's position as a global technology hub while navigating the current volatile macro environment.

Lokesh Suji elected to IESF membership committee for three-year term

The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, director, the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and vice-president, the Asian Esports Federation, to its membership committee on a three-year term. The election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation. The elections for Suji's appointment were conducted during the recent Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) of the IESF on August 28 in Iasi, Romania, where out of the 70 voting and present members, a majority of 42 member countries voted in favour of his selection. As part of the membership committee, he will now leverage his experience and expertise to ensure the execution of the process, contributing to a future for esports within the IESF.

Shyam Sunder Gupta Takes Charge As Central Railway's Principal Chief Operations Manager

Shyam Sunder Gupta took over as the Principal Chief Operations Manager of Central Railway on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. His appointment follows the superannuation of Mukul Jain, who retired from the position on August 31, 2023. Shyam Sunder Gupta's illustrious career in the railway services and his extensive experience make him a valuable addition to this pivotal role. Shyam Sunder Gupta, a 1992 batch officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service, brings with him a wealth of experience spanning various regions and responsibilities within the Indian Railways. Over

the years, he has held several key positions across different railway divisions, showcasing his competence and dedication to the service. During his tenure, he has worked on Western Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, and Central Railway in various capacities. His diverse roles have included serving as the Chief Freight Transportation Manager for Central Railway, Chief Passenger Transportation Manager for Central & Western Railway, Chief Commercial Manager (Freight Marketing) for Central Railway, Chief Transportation Planning Manager for Central Railway, and Chief Public Relations Officer for Western Railway.

Women's fashion brand W roped Anushka Sharma as Brand Ambassador

Women's fashion brand W on-boarded Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador. With this partnership, the brand prepares to launch its high-decibel festive campaign that beautifully merges the warmth of festivities with the spirit of modernity. The campaign talks about every festival having a story that is synonymous with the story of women. It captures the essence of women being the centre of every celebration, thereby urging women to cherish their individuality and 'Celebrate your story'. The brand's ideology resonates with my beliefs and values. The brand the essence of every woman, her unique story, her convictions, her beliefs, her challenges and her wins. The specially curated Festive Collection by W includes its widest range of Anarkalis, Festive sets, dresses and lots more. It boasts of an exquisite array of fabrics, carefully selected to enhance the festive experience. From cotton lurex sets adorned with metallic gota trims to velvety textures with matte sequins, the collection offers a tactile journey through the opulence of the festive season.

India's Sindhu Gangadharan appointed as Nasscom Vice-Chairperson

Sindhu Gangadharan, who holds the position of Senior Vice President and Managing Director at SAP Labs India and is also responsible for SAP User Enablement, has been named the Vice-Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom). In her new role, she will use her extensive experience in technology and corporate leadership, acquired over many years in India and Germany, to help shape India's TechAde initiative. As the first woman to lead SAP Labs India, which is SAP's largest R&D center worldwide, Gangadharan is in charge of overseeing product development and innovation across all five centers located in Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Furthermore, she leads SAP User Enablement, which provides training and support for SAP's entire product portfolio.

Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar appointed Chairman of Mastercard India

Mastercard, the global financial services corporation, has made a significant appointment in its Indian operations by naming Rajnish Kumar as the Chairman of Mastercard India.

This move reflects Mastercard's commitment to strengthening its presence in India and navigating the dynamic landscape of domestic payments. Kumar, the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), brings a wealth of experience to the role. Rajnish Kumar's career spans nearly four decades in India's largest bank, the State Bank of India. During his tenure, he held various leadership positions and played a pivotal role in managing critical operations not only in India but also in the UK and Canada. His contributions to the banking sector are well-acknowledged, with one of his notable achievements being the spearheading of the YONO platform, a groundbreaking digital banking initiative.

Rahul Navin Takes Charge as Director of Enforcement Directorate

IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officer Rahul Navin assumed the role of In-Charge Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), succeeding the outgoing Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra. This transition marks an important development in the leadership of the ED, a crucial agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and regulations in India. Mr. Navin is currently serving as the Special Director of the Enforcement Directorate. The official order further stated that the tenure of Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the Director of Enforcement in the Enforcement Directorate concluded on the 15th of September, 2023. This event follows a series of legal developments and extensions that ultimately led to the conclusion of Mr. Mishra's tenure. Sanjay Kumar Mishra was initially appointed as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate for a two-year term on November 19, 2018. Later, in a significant development, the Central government modified the appointment letter retrospectively through an order dated November 13, 2020. This modification extended his term from two years to three years.

Nihar Malaviya named as permanent CEO of Penguin Random House

Nihar Malaviya has been named as permanent CEO of Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive. Malaviya succeeded Markus Dohle, who departed weeks after a federal judge struck down Penguin Random House's attempted merger with Simon & Schuster, a deal Dohle had pushed for. Penguin Random House, the world's largest trade publisher, has been undergoing a company-wide reorganization in 2023, with numerous senior editors either laid off or departing under a voluntary retirement plan. Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate, has owned Random House since 1998. Random House and Penguin merged in 2013. Malaviya, 48, joined Bertelsmann in 2001, and had served in a variety of positions before becoming CEO. He was most recently COO and president of Penguin Random House in the U.S.

HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Gets 3-Year Extension

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently given its stamp of approval for the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank. This tenure extension will see Jagdishan at the helm of the bank for an additional three years, extending his leadership until October 26, 2026. This regulatory decision comes as a significant endorsement of his leadership and strategic vision for one of India's largest and most influential banking institutions. Sashidhar Jagdishan's journey within HDFC Bank is nothing short of remarkable. He joined the bank back in 1996 as a manager within the finance function. Over the years, his dedication and commitment propelled him through the ranks. By 1999, he had become the Business Head of Finance, a role that showcased his financial acumen and leadership potential. In 2008, Jagdishan assumed the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), a role he excelled in, laying the foundation for his eventual ascent to the top of the organization.

Sanjeev Mantri Appointed As MD And CEO Of ICICI Lombard

In a significant leadership transition, the board of ICICI Lombard General Insurance has appointed Sanjeev Mantri as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the company. This move follows the resignation of Bhargav Dasgupta, the outgoing MD & CEO, who stepped down ahead of completing his 15-year tenure due to recent regulatory changes. Bhargav Dasgupta, who had served as the MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard for nearly 15 years, decided to step down from his role. His resignation was prompted by the new regulations governing the tenure of CEOs, which now limit their term to a maximum of 15 years. This regulation comes into effect in April 2024, and Dasgupta chose to make an early exit from his position. It is noteworthy that Bhargav Dasgupta will be taking on a new role at the Asian Development Bank.

Banmali Agarwal Appointed Chairman of Tata Advanced Systems

Tata Sons, the prestigious conglomerate, has announced a significant change in leadership within its aerospace and defense solutions unit, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL). Banmali Agarwal has assumed the role of Chairman at TASL, succeeding Vijay Singh, who has retired. This move comes as part of Tata Group's continued commitment to bolstering its presence in the aerospace and defense sector. In this article, we delve into the key details surrounding this transition and TASL's strategic initiatives.

K.N. Shanth Kumar Elected Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) Board

In a significant development within the realm of Indian journalism, K.N. Shanth Kumar, a seasoned media professional, has been elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term. This announcement came following the Annual General Meeting of

PTI's Board of Directors, held at the news agency's headquarters in New Delhi on a Friday. Mr. Shanth Kumar's election marks a transition in PTI's leadership, as he takes over from Aveek Sarkar, who had served as Chairman for two consecutive terms. This shift in leadership is expected to bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the helm of India's largest and oldest private news agency.

Dr Dinesh Dasa takes oath of Office and Secrecy as Member, UPSC

Dr. Dinesh Dasa, an eminent scholar with a rich background in forestry and public service, recently took the oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The ceremony, administered by UPSC Chairman Dr. Manoj Soni, marks a significant milestone in Dr. Dasa's distinguished career. This article delves into Dr. Dasa's impressive qualifications, his impactful tenure as Chairman of the Gujarat Public Service Commission, and his contributions to the realm of public service examinations.

Marico's Saugata Gupta named as ASCI Chairman

Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico Ltd, has been appointed new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), at the board meeting of the self-regulatory body. Gupta's association with ASCI spans several years, including two years on the Board of Governors and four years as a special invitee on the Board of Governors. Partha Sinha, president of response, Bennett Coleman & Company Limited, was elected vice chairman, and Sudhanshu Vats, deputy managing director, Pidilite Industries Ltd, was appointed honorary treasurer.

Banking News**Record Bank Credit Outstanding to Real Estate Reaches Rs 28 Trillion in July: RBI**

In July 2023, India witnessed a significant surge in bank credit outstanding to the real estate sector, reaching an all-time high of Rs 28 trillion, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This impressive growth was driven by both housing and commercial real estate segments, with annual increases of approximately 37.4% and 38.1%, respectively. This surge indicates a robust revival in demand across the real estate sector, despite challenges such as rising interest rates and property prices. Let's delve deeper into the details. Housing credit outstanding saw a remarkable 37.4% annual growth, surpassing Rs 24.28 lakh crore. Credit outstanding for commercial real estate soared by 38.1% to reach Rs 4.07 lakh crore.

BIS and RBI Announce G20 TechSprint 2023 Winners

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have recently unveiled the winners of the G20 TechSprint 2023 challenge in a prestigious award ceremony held in Mumbai. This initiative, launched by the RBI last May under India's G20 presidency, sought to foster innovative solutions that enhance cross-border payments.

Problem Statement #1: Combating Financial Crimes

Winner: Team Secretarium Ltd. (UK)

Solution: Transaction Monitoring and Privacy Protection
Utilized secure privacy technology to combat money laundering, financing of terrorism, tax evasion, and sanctions evasion.

Emphasized protecting anonymity and privacy in financial transactions.

Problem Statement #2: Enhancing Liquidity in Cross-Border Payments

Winner: Team Millicent Labs (UK)

Solution: Hybrid Decentralized Exchange for CBDCs
Introduced a hybrid decentralized exchange for Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

Included automated market makers and traditional order books to optimize liquidity and minimize volatility risks.

Problem Statement #3: Developing Multilateral CBDC Platforms

Winner: Team Knox Networks (US)

Solution: Multilateral CBDC based on File-Based Digital Assets (FBDA)s

Proposed a multilateral CBDC solution using File-Based Digital Assets (FBDA)s.

Addressed the need for efficient cross-border CBDC platforms.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the Malaviya Mission

Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, introduced the Malaviya Mission – Teacher Training Program at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi as a crucial step in improving the standard of education in India. This ambitious project, spearheaded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, seeks to transform faculty capacity building and teacher preparation programs across the country's higher education institutions. One of the primary objectives of the Malaviya Mission is to provide specialized and tailored training programs for teachers. In a symbolic gesture, Minister Pradhan announced the renaming of Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) as Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres. This renaming not only pays tribute to the renowned educationist Madan Mohan Malaviya but also underscores the program's commitment to elevating the status of teacher training in India.

SBI Card unveils additional features on its super-premium card 'AURUM'

SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals. With the enhancements, AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending. The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.

SBI Card Launches 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' To Provide MSMEs With Short-Term Credit

SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has introduced the 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card', a specialized credit card tailored for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This new card is designed to address the short-term credit needs of MSME merchants while providing them with a range of exclusive benefits. The official unveiling of the SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card took place at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, with Mr. Dinesh Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India, doing the honors. The launch of the SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card serves to empower the broader MSME sector by offering them interest-free short-term credit. Considering the significant role played by MSMEs in fostering economic growth and job creation, it becomes imperative to streamline their access to formal credit in a more convenient and prompt fashion.

SBI Unveils Nation First Transit Card For Digital Fare Payments

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has taken a significant step in enhancing the commuting experience and promoting digital payment adoption with the launch of the 'Nation First Transit Card.' This innovative card is designed to facilitate seamless and convenient customer commuting experiences, offering easy digital ticketing fare payments across various modes of transportation, such as metro, buses, water ferries, parking, and more, all through a single card. Additionally, the card can also be used for making retail and e-commerce payments. Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of SBI, emphasized that the Nation First Transit Card, powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology, has the potential to revolutionize the commuting experience for millions of Indians. The card is not just a financial tool but also a symbol of SBI's commitment to the growth and development of the nation.

ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary

ICICI Bank has announced that it has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert I-Process Services (India) Pvt Ltd (I-Process) into a wholly-owned subsidiary, subject to specific conditions, according to the Bank's latest regulatory disclosure. Established in 2005, I-Process has been at the forefront of offering staffing solutions to some of India's leading financial institutions. The company boasts a workforce of over 25,000 employees and an extensive presence spanning nearly 500 locations across India. The anticipated total expenditure for this acquisition is approximately Rs. 15.40 crore. However, this amount is subject to finalization based on pricing considerations in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, pending the receipt of the necessary approvals. The Bank has noted that it currently holds a 19% stake in iProcess.

RBI likely to launch digital rupee pilot for interbank transactions by October: Report

Last November, the RBI initiated the pilot phase for the wholesale CBDC, known as Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W), with a focus on settling secondary market transactions involving government securities. Subsequently, a pilot for the retail CBDC began on December 1. The recent announcement by RBI's Executive Director, Ajay Kumar Choudhary, sheds light on the extension of the wholesale CBDC's use into the call money market. The decision to extend the wholesale CBDC to the call money market aims to experiment with various markets and technologies. This move is in line with the government's vision to introduce CBDC, as outlined in the Union Budget for 2022-23. To facilitate this, necessary amendments were made to the RBI Act 1934 through the Finance Bill 2022.

Re-Appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO Receives RBI Approval

In a significant development, ICICI Bank, the country's second-largest private sector bank, has announced that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of the bank. This approval comes as a crucial step in ensuring the stability and leadership continuity of the bank. As per the exchange filing made on September 11, the RBI has approved Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank with effect from October 4, 2023, extending his term until October 3, 2026. This three-year extension reflects the confidence of both the board of directors and the RBI in Mr. Bakhshi's leadership and vision.

Bank of Baroda Unveils Four New Savings Accounts

In a bid to enhance customer offerings and provide tailored financial solutions, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced four new savings accounts. These accounts cater to a diverse range of customer needs, making banking more accessible and convenient. BoB introduces the BoB LITE Savings Account, offering customers the flexibility of a lifetime no minimum balance requirement. This account empowers individuals to manage their finances without the burden of maintaining a minimum balance. Designed with the youth in mind, BoB presents the BOB BRO Savings Account, a zero balance savings account tailored specifically for students aged 16 to 25 years. This account eases the financial journey of students by eliminating the need for a minimum balance. BoB introduces the My Family My Bank/BOB Parivar Account, a family savings account that addresses the financial needs of the entire household. This account fosters financial unity and convenience for families seeking comprehensive banking solutions. BoB extends its services to the global Indian community with the Baroda NRI PowerPack Account. This account is specially crafted to cater to the unique banking requirements of Non-Resident Indians, offering them a seamless banking experience.

Yes Bank And BriskPe Partner To Enable Seamless Cross-Border Payments For MSMEs

In a groundbreaking collaboration, BriskPe, a pioneering cross-border payments FinTech company, has teamed up with YES BANK to introduce "BriskPe A2A," a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the realm of cross-border payments, offering a seamless and efficient platform for Indian businesses to navigate the complexities of international trade and bolster their global competitiveness. One of the key highlights of this partnership is the ability for BriskPe's customers to seamlessly collect payments in over 36 foreign currencies, spanning across more than 180 countries. These funds can then be efficiently converted into Indian Rupees (INR) and settled directly into their local bank accounts in India within a single business day. This streamlined process eliminates the hassles and delays associated with traditional cross-border transactions, providing a much-needed boost to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the manufacturing and services sectors.

E-rupee worth ₹16.39 crore in circulation as of March 2023: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed that as of March 2023, the circulation of the E-rupee, India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), has reached ₹16.39 crore. This digital currency, which mirrors the country's physical legal tender, comes in different denominations and serves both wholesale and retail purposes.

Breakdown of E-rupee Circulation:

Total E-rupee circulation: ₹16.39 crore.

Wholesale CBDC (e₹-W): ₹10.69 crore.

Retail CBDC (e₹-R): ₹5.70 crore.

The highest circulation is in ₹500 CBDC notes, amounting to ₹2.71 crore.

₹200 notes follow with a circulation of 1.16%.

Bengali
MISSION
WB FOOD SI
অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট
Start Date: 29 Sept 2023

Denominations and Distribution:

Denominations range from 50 paise to ₹100. Circulation for these denominations falls between 0.01% to 0.83%.

Indian Bank Launches 'IB SAATHI' to Enhance Financial Inclusion Services

Indian Bank has introduced a new initiative called 'IB SAATHI' (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion) to bolster its financial inclusion efforts. The primary goal of IB SAATHI is to provide essential banking services to various stakeholders through the business correspondent (BC) channel. Under this revamped model, Indian Bank is committed to offering basic banking services at all its centers for a minimum of four hours each day through fixed outlets. This initiative is a significant step towards ensuring widespread access to banking services. In addition to the fixed outlets, BC agents will also extend their services directly to the doorstep of customers. This move aims to make financial services more accessible, convenient, and inclusive, especially for those in remote or underserved areas.

RBI releases list of 15 NBFCs in 'Upper Layer' under

In the year 2023-24, RBI released the names of 15 NBFCs that fall under the Upper Layer (UL)/NBFC-UL of the SBR. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the SBR framework, its layers, and its implications for the NBFC sector in India. In October 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a groundbreaking regulatory framework known as Scale Based Regulation (SBR) for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). This framework aims to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and other critical factors, providing a clear roadmap for regulation. Scale Based Regulation (SBR) is a revised regulatory framework introduced by RBI for NBFCs in India. This framework is designed to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and activities, allowing for more tailored regulatory oversight.

ACKO Launches "Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu" Campaign for Platinum Health Plan

ACKO, a leading insurance company, has unveiled its latest health insurance offering called the "ACKO Platinum Health Plan." This comprehensive plan boasts several notable features, including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, and zero waiting periods. To promote this new product, ACKO has reintroduced the beloved characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit from the iconic Bollywood movie series. The campaign is aptly titled "Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu" and has been directed by renowned filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani. Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi reprise their original roles in the campaign. Ashish Mishra, EVP-Marketing at ACKO, explained that Munna and Circuit's character traits align with the company's goal of challenging the conventional norms of health insurance. The Platinum Health Plan has been designed to simplify health insurance and eliminate common customer pain points.

Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs

In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Axis Bank has recently unveiled its groundbreaking Transaction Banking platform, 'NEO for Business.' This innovative digital offering is designed to comprehensively address the real-time requirements of MSMEs, marking a significant milestone in the landscape of business banking in India. Neeraj Gambhir, Axis Bank's Group Executive and Head of Treasury, Markets, and Wholesale Banking Products, highlighted the rapid evolution in MSME business banking, emphasizing the need for a holistic solution to address both banking and non-banking needs.

He stated:

'NEO for Business' offers a resolution to their diverse requirements by offering a wide range of products and services through a unified platform.

This platform, originally designed for corporate banking clients, delivers a full array of digital banking products and services.

Within this ecosystem, 'NEO for Business' emerges as an innovative solution tailored to cater to the distinct business needs of MSMEs.

The Finance Ministry Predicts 6.5% Real GDP Growth For India In FY24

The Union Ministry of Finance recently released its Monthly Economic Review for August 2023, confirming its confidence in a 6.5 percent real GDP growth projection for FY24, characterized by balanced risks. The report paints a promising picture of India's economic performance in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24). This review not only highlighted the impressive real GDP growth in Q1 but also acknowledged the factors driving this growth and the challenges ahead. The report starts by celebrating India's robust economic growth in the first quarter of FY24, with a remarkable 7.8 percent increase in real GDP. This growth was primarily fueled by strong domestic demand for both consumption and investment. The government attributed this to improved corporate profitability, increased private capital formation, and a surge in bank credit growth.

RBI Cancels Licence Of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Over Inadequate Capital

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by cancelling the license of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited, a Mumbai-based cooperative bank. This decision was made primarily due to concerns regarding the bank's inadequate capital and earning prospects, which raised questions about its ability to fulfill its commitments to depositors. The RBI, in a statement, announced the cancellation of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited's license.

According to the central bank, this cancellation means that the cooperative bank is prohibited from conducting banking activities, which encompass functions such as accepting deposits and repaying deposits. This decision was made effective immediately, leaving the bank unable to perform its core functions.

RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao Gets One-Year Term Extension

In a recent development, the Central government has granted a one-year extension to M Rajeshwar Rao's term as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The announcement was made via an official statement from the Reserve Bank, indicating that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved this re-appointment. Rao's journey within the Reserve Bank of India has been marked by his contributions in various capacities. Before becoming Deputy Governor, he held the position of Chief General Manager of the Financial Markets Operations Department, where he gained substantial experience in managing the intricacies of financial markets. In November 2016, Rao was promoted to the role of Executive Director. During this tenure, he oversaw several key departments, including statistics and information management, financial markets operations, and the international department, highlighting his versatility and deep understanding of the central bank's functions.

Science & Technology News

Hyderabad Firm Grene Robotics Unveils India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System - Indrajaal

In a remarkable feat of innovation and technological prowess, Hyderabad-based private sector firm Grene Robotics has introduced Indrajaal, world's only autonomous wide area, counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS). This state-of-the-art system is touted as capable of safeguarding against micro, mini, small, large, and extra-large drones, signaling a significant advancement in Indian defense technology. Grene Robotics has spared no expense or effort, utilizing its own financial resources and scientific expertise to create live demonstrations of Indrajaal for government officials and tri-services officers. This commitment to self-reliance in defense technology demonstrates the firm's dedication to bolstering India's indigenous capabilities.

One Week One Lab programme of CSIR to be organised from 11th to 16th September 2023

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is all set to host its annual "One Week One Lab" programme, an exciting event where each of its 37 cutting-edge laboratories situated across the nation will unveil their remarkable research outcomes and accomplishments. The Science and Technology Ministry is extending a warm invitation to the public, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore the inner workings of CSIR's various departments and experience firsthand its exceptional academic and research initiatives.

Japan launches 'moon sniper' lunar lander SLIM into space

Japan has launched "moon sniper" its lunar exploration spacecraft aboard a homegrown H-IIA rocket, clearing a path to become the world's fifth country to land on the moon early next year. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said the rocket took off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan as planned and successfully released the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM). Japan aims to land SLIM within 100 metres of its target site on the lunar surface. The \$100-million mission is expected to reach the moon by February. The launch comes two weeks after India became the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the moon with its Chandrayaan-3 mission to the unexplored lunar south pole. Two earlier lunar landing attempts by Japan failed in the last year.

iPhone 15 Series to Feature ISRO-Certified GPS Technology

Apple's iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max are the company's latest flagship smartphones, and they come with a number of notable upgrades, including a new brushed titanium frame, a powerful A16 Bionic chip, and a more advanced camera system. However, one of the most significant changes under the hood is the integration of precision dual-frequency GPS, including support for NavIC, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). NavIC is a regional navigation satellite system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It consists of seven satellites in geostationary and inclined geosynchronous orbits, providing coverage over India and a region extending 1,500 kilometers beyond its borders. NavIC offers two services:

Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users: SPS provides accurate position and timing information to civilian users within the coverage area. It achieves a positioning accuracy of better than 20 meters and a timing accuracy of better than 50 nanoseconds.

Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users: RS is a more precise service that is available to authorized users. It offers a positioning accuracy of better than 5 meters and a timing accuracy of better than 10 nanoseconds.

NASA's MOXIE Successfully Generates Oxygen On Mars

The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, commonly referred to as MOXIE, has achieved a remarkable feat by producing a substantial 122 grams of oxygen, a quantity sufficient for sustaining a small dog's breathing for approximately 10 hours.. This compact device, roughly the size of a microwave, possesses an extraordinary capability: it can convert the tenuous and inhospitable Martian atmosphere into vital, life-sustaining oxygen. MOXIE, an acronym that stands for the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, is a marvel of engineering innovation.

In Situ Resource Utilization, a term that encapsulates the idea of harnessing local resources rather than relying solely on shipments from Earth. In simpler terms, it's the concept of "living off the land" on Mars. Since the moment Percy, the Mars Perseverance rover, touched down on the Martian surface, MOXIE has been operating flawlessly. To date, it has generated a remarkable 122 grams of oxygen, averaging an impressive rate of 12 grams per hour. This achievement is more than double NASA's initial goal for MOXIE, and the oxygen produced boasts an impressive purity level of 98% or better.

GSITI Signs MoU With ISRO For Five Years

The Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), located in Hyderabad, recently forged a significant collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), headquartered in Bengaluru. This momentous partnership was sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on September 11, marking the initiation of a five-year partnership under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) programme. The MoU signing event was attended by key representatives from both organizations, emphasizing the commitment to enhancing expertise in critical areas. The overarching aim of this collaborative project is to provide comprehensive training programs that bolster capacity building in the fields of mineral resources and disaster management, all under the umbrella of the (National Natural Resources Management System) NNRMS programme. The project's core objectives are centered around the development of skilled human resources capable of addressing critical challenges.

The Next Pandemic: Disease X Looms as a Potential Global Threat

Health experts from around the world are sounding the alarm about a potential global pandemic referred to as "Disease X," which could surpass the lethality of COVID-19 and claim over 50 million lives. They warn that COVID-19 might be just a precursor to more devastating pandemics in the future. Dame Kate Bingham, who chaired the UK's Vaccine Taskforce, issued a grim warning about the severity of Disease X. She emphasized that the world has been fortunate that COVID-19 was not more lethal and cautioned that the next pandemic could be exponentially more deadly. The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized the looming threat of Disease X and suggests that it may already be in motion, posing a significant global health challenge.

NASA's Perseverance Rover Sets Speed Record On Autopilot

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has accomplished an impressive feat by traversing a massive boulder field at a record speed, taking only a third of the time it would have taken its predecessor, Curiosity. The rover's journey through the challenging terrain of Snowdrift Peak in the Jezero Crater

is a testament to its advanced autonomous navigation capabilities and highlights its commitment to maximizing scientific exploration time. Perseverance entered the Jezero Crater on June 26, 2023, and embarked on its challenging mission to explore Snowdrift Peak, a rocky region within the crater. The terrain proved to be more rugged and densely populated with large rocks than any the rover had previously encountered. Rather than circumventing this obstacle, which would have consumed precious weeks, Perseverance opted to take on the challenge directly.

Schemes and Committees News

Why Poshan Abhiyan in News?

September is designated as National Nutrition Month in India, also known as Rashtriya POSHAN Maah or the National Nutrition Mission. The main goal of this initiative is to combat undernutrition among children under six years old, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. POSHAN Abhiyan is now in its sixth year, having been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018. Let's take a look at how different regions across India have begun celebrating Nutrition Month. Poshan Abhiyaan was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018 in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. The focus of Abhiyaan is to lay emphasis on nutritional status of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children from 0-6 years age. The Abhiyaan is being implemented in all districts of Haryana. Nuh and Panipat districts were selected for Phase-I. For Phase-II, 10 districts, namely Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar, Gurugram, Palwal, Rohtak, Sirsa and Sonapat were selected. Remaining districts are covered in the Phase III.

Prayagraj Police Launches 'Savera' Scheme To Assist Senior Citizens

The Prayagraj police have taken a proactive step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of senior citizens in their community. They have recently launched the 'Savera' scheme, aimed at offering essential services during health and other emergencies to senior citizens residing in seven districts within the Prayagraj zone. This initiative has garnered significant attention and participation, with over 700 senior citizens registering in just the past three days. Under the 'Savera' scheme, the Prayagraj police are meticulously maintaining a comprehensive record of individuals aged 60 and above. These records are accessible through a dedicated helpline number, 112, ensuring a quick and efficient response in times of need. One of the primary responsibilities of the police personnel involved in this scheme is to conduct regular safety checks at the homes of registered senior citizens. These checks are crucial in guaranteeing the safety and well-being of elderly individuals who might otherwise be vulnerable.

Indian Government Launches G20 India Mobile App for Visitors

In preparation for the upcoming G20 Summit in Delhi, the Indian government has unveiled the G20 India mobile app, a digital tool designed to facilitate interaction and provide valuable information for all visitors, including ministers. This innovative app, created by the Ministry of External Affairs, aims to enhance the Summit experience for participants and attendees. In a recent announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ministers were urged to download the app, emphasizing its role in fostering communication with foreign delegates.

Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Launches Kalaigarn Women's Rights Fund Scheme

On the 15th of September, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin marked the birth anniversary of Dravidian icon C N Annadurai by unveiling a groundbreaking initiative aimed at uplifting women across the state. The initiative, aptly named the "Kalaigarn Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam" scheme, holds the potential to bring about a significant positive change in the lives of countless women in Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister MK Stalin chose a significant date for the launch of this initiative, as it coincided with the birth anniversary of the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, renowned Dravidian leader C N Annadurai. Annadurai, who hailed from Kancheepuram, played a pivotal role in steering the Dravidian movement and the DMK party to its historic victory in the 1967 assembly election. He subsequently served as Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister from 1967 to 1969 and founded the DMK in 1949. The launch of this scheme on his birth anniversary pays tribute to his remarkable legacy.

IRDAI Standing Committee On Cyber Security

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken a proactive step to enhance the cyber security posture of the country's insurance industry. In response to the issuance of the Information and Cyber Security Guidelines in April, IRDAI has established a standing committee dedicated to regularly assessing cyber threats associated with existing and emerging technologies. This committee is not only tasked with identifying vulnerabilities but also with recommending necessary changes to fortify the cyber security framework within the insurance sector. One of the central tasks of the committee is to review the implementation of the IRDAI Information and Cyber Security Guidelines, 2023. These guidelines serve as a comprehensive framework for insurers and intermediaries to assess, manage, and mitigate cyber risks effectively.

Prime Minister Modi Launches PM Vishwakarma Scheme to Empower Traditional Artisans

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme on the auspicious occasion of 'Vishwakarma Jayanti.' This initiative is designed to provide crucial support to traditional craftsmen and artisans by offering them low-interest loans without requiring collateral. With a substantial financial allocation of Rs 13,000 crore over a five-year period, this scheme aims to benefit approximately 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers. The primary objective is to enhance the accessibility and quality of products and services provided by these skilled individuals.

SHREYAS Scheme Empowers Thousands: Over 2300 Crore Rupees Allocated for Education of SC and OBC Students Since 2014

The Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS scheme), comprising four central sector sub-schemes, has been instrumental in empowering thousands of students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) since its inception in 2014. This umbrella scheme encompasses "Top Class Education for SCs," "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs," "National Overseas Scheme for SCs," and "National Fellowship for SCs." This article provides an overview of these sub-schemes, highlighting the allocated budgets, expenditure details, and the number of beneficiaries over the past nine years.

Union Education Minister Launches 'Skills on Wheels' Initiative to Empower Rural Youth

In a significant move to empower rural youth, especially women, and equip them with essential digital skills, Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, alongside Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, inaugurated the groundbreaking 'Skills on Wheels' initiative. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the employability of rural youth and prepare them for the challenges of the future job market. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and IndusInd Bank.

Government Launches Three Transformative Initiatives for Farmers

In a significant move aimed at revolutionizing agriculture in India, the government has announced the launch of three game-changing initiatives. These initiatives, which focus on agri-credit and crop insurance, were unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar. The initiatives are set to amplify financial inclusion, harness technology, and improve the livelihoods of farmers across the country.

Kisan Rin Portal (KRP): A Digital Leap in Agri-Credit

Developed in collaboration with multiple government departments, the Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) is poised to transform access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme.

Door to Door KCC Campaign: Ensuring Universal Financial Inclusion

The Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan is an ambitious campaign that seeks to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer in India. With a total of 7.35 Crore operative KCC accounts and a sanctioned limit of 8.85 lakh crores rupees as of March 2023, this campaign aims to ensure that every farmer has unhindered access to credit facilities.

Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual: Data-Driven Insights for Farmers

The Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative is a groundbreaking innovation that leverages advanced weather data analytics.

Education Scheme For Medical Devices Sector Approved

The Indian government has taken a significant step towards strengthening the country's medical devices industry by approving a ₹480 crore scheme aimed at developing a skilled talent pool. This three-year initiative is poised to provide essential financial support to government institutions for the implementation of various courses related to medical devices, with the goal of upgrading these institutions to global standards. The scheme's approval follows the recent introduction of the National Medical Device Policy, 2023, which envisions the growth of India's medical devices sector from its current \$11 billion to an impressive \$50 billion by the year 2030. One of the primary objectives of this scheme is to ensure a steady supply of skilled professionals across the medical device sector. To achieve this, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is poised to leverage the available resources within the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. This strategic move aims to facilitate skilling, reskilling, and upskilling of individuals within the medical sector, catering to the evolving needs of the industry.

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adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children from 0-6 years age. The Abhiyaan is being implemented in all districts of Haryana. Nuh and Panipat districts were selected for Phase-I. For Phase-II, 10 districts, namely Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar, Gurugram, Palwal, Rohtak, Sirsa and Sonapat were selected. Remaining districts are covered in the Phase III.

Arogya Manthan 2023: Celebrating 5 Years of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and 2 Years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

The National Health Authority (NHA), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), is set to host a two-day event known as 'Arogya Manthan' in New Delhi. This event is being organized to commemorate two significant milestones in India's healthcare sector: the 5th anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the 2nd anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). Arogya Manthan 2023, taking place on September 25th and 26th, promises to be an engaging forum filled with insightful discussions and deliberations on various aspects of these two transformative healthcare schemes.

Arogya Manthan 2023 aims to achieve the following objectives:

Discussion of Challenges: The event will facilitate in-depth discussions on the challenges faced in implementing these healthcare schemes and finding solutions.

Trends Analysis: Participants will analyze emerging healthcare trends and their implications for the future of Indian healthcare.

Best Practices Sharing: Best practices from various stakeholders will be shared, promoting knowledge exchange and synergy.

Summits & Conference News

43rd ASEAN Summit Begins In Jakarta Today

President Joko Widodo and First Lady Iriana extended a warm welcome to the heads of state and government participating in the 43rd summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta. The 43rd ASEAN Summit, hosted by Indonesia and occurring from September 5th to 7th, saw esteemed delegates gathering at the Plenary Hall of the Jakarta Convention Center, the summit's main venue. Indonesia, as the host of the summit and the 2023 chair of ASEAN, demonstrated its commitment to broadening the summit's horizons by inviting President of Bangladesh Mohammed Shahabuddin, who also serves as Chairman of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and Cook Islands PM Mark Brown, Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). This global engagement highlights the importance of ASEAN as a regional powerhouse with far-reaching implications.

The 10th Meeting Of The Ministers Of Law And Justice Of SCO Countries Took Place

The 10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of SCO countries was convened via video conferencing, where several key initiatives and cooperative efforts were discussed. During this meeting, India reaffirmed its commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) by extending support to member countries in enhancing their legal and judicial capabilities. The meeting commenced in a cordial atmosphere with a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping, who emphasized the importance of cooperation and understanding among SCO members. President Xi called for the realization of SCO's objectives and visions, aiming to optimize the organization's contribution to the holistic development of the region. Indian Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal reiterated India's commitment to the SCO charter, which is based on principles such as mutual trust, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and mutual benefit. He cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India as a "universal friend" and highlighted the importance of trust in government policies and practices.

Prime Minister Modi Participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Modi participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and engaged in comprehensive discussions with ASEAN partners to reinforce the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He reaffirmed the central role of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the alignment between India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Emphasis was placed on the timely review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA).

Next G20 Presidency: PM Modi hands over G20 Presidency gavel to Brazil's President

In a symbolic ceremony, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the G20 Presidency gavel to Brazil's President, marking the transition of leadership within the elite group. The transfer of power took place with warm diplomatic exchanges, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and shared priorities. Prime Minister Modi congratulated Brazil's President, Lula da Silva, and referred to him as a friend. This gesture signified the strong relations between the two nations. Brazil was set to assume the G20 Presidency officially on December 1. During the handover ceremony, President Lula da Silva outlined the priorities that Brazil would focus on during its G20 Presidency.

These included:

Social Inclusion and Fight Against Hunger: Highlighting the importance of addressing social inequalities and hunger on a global scale.

Energy Transition and Sustainable Development: Emphasizing the need for a sustainable approach to energy and overall development.

Reform of Global Governance Institutions: Advocating for greater representation of emerging countries in organizations like the UN Security Council, World Bank, and IMF.

India Hosts Inaugural UNCITRAL South Asia Conference

India recently played host to the inaugural United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference, held from September 14 to 16. This significant event was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, UNCITRAL, and the organization's national coordination committee for India. The conference saw the presence of notable dignitaries, including Minister of State for External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, and Attorney General R Venkataramani, among others. This three-day conference marked a continuation of a significant event held in New Delhi in 2016, which celebrated 50 years of UNCITRAL's existence. The primary goal of the conference was to foster closer ties between India and UNCITRAL while encouraging active interaction among UNCITRAL, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, academia, and the legal fraternity.

14th edition of Global Skills Summit begins

The 14th edition of the Global Skills Summit has begun in Delhi. The theme of the two-day Summit is building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future. The Summit aims to focus on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India. The Summit will see future-forward discussions and deliberations on the ways to make the youth of India skilled for the industry and navigate the skilling and education ecosystem in India. Building Skills. Empowering Youth. Creating Future. is a theme that will highlight the role of Industry in all the aspects of education to employment for young India. We already know that we have a few years left before we reap in our demographic dividend and become an old nation. Hence, the youth need to earn, engage, become empowered and entrepreneurial.



Awards & Honors News**Indian-American physician Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee in UK's top non-fiction prize longlist**

A book by Indian-American cancer physician and researcher Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee has been longlisted for the prestigious 50,000 pound Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in London. 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human', which is among the 13-book longlist announced, highlights how cellular research has revolutionised medicine, enabling the treatment of life-altering diseases including Alzheimer's and AIDS. The judging panel described the 53-year-old Rhodes scholar's work as his "most spectacular book yet". His other works include, 'The Gene: An Intimate History', which was a #1 New York Times bestseller, and 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer', which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction. An Associate Professor of medicine at Columbia University, Mukherjee graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford, and Harvard Medical School. He has published articles in many journals, including Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine, Cell, The New York Times and The New Yorker.

Vijayawada Railway Station gets IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' certification

Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers. This is an upgradation of the station's ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023. Some of these measures include use of star-rated electrical appliances, LED lights, installation of a sewage treatment plant to recycle wastewater, periodic testing to check smoke emission, increasing green coverage, improvement in amenities for passengers, provision of medical facilities, proximity to bus stops, avoidance of single-use plastic, use of comprehensive mechanised cleaning for effective waste segregation and its disposal, among others.

Army doctor awarded Dr AM Gokhale award for ophthalmology in Pune

Renowned ophthalmologist Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra of Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital was conferred with the prestigious "Dr AM Gokhale Award" in Pune. The award was conferred to him at the Retina Conclave at Pune. Dr AM Gokhale was a renowned teacher of Ophthalmology and his students progressed to become the doyens of Ophthalmology in the country. Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra hails from Mau, Uttar Pradesh and finished his tutoring from Prayagraj. He has been conferred with Bar to Sena Medal (Distinguished) by the President of India just before 26 January 2021. Earlier he was awarded the Sena Medal and Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).

RITES Ltd wins 'Safety Innovation Award 2023'

RITES Limited has been honoured with the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023', under the 'Construction' category, for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations. The award was presented to RITES' officials during the inaugural function of the 20th Safety Convention organized by The Institution of Engineers (India), the largest multi-disciplinary professional body of engineers, at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. RITES, having multi-sectoral presence, has consistently embraced best safety practices in its operations, exemplifying its commitment to prioritizing safety measures at worksites. RITES remains resolute in its mission to create a safer and more secure infrastructure environment, delivering services that uphold stringent safety protocols, irrespective of geographical or logistical challenges.

Fashion Designer Rahul Mishra Honored With France's "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" award

Rahul Mishra, the visionary Indian designer was honored with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government, joining a distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora who have previously received this award. Rahul Mishra's journey through the world of fashion has been guided by a strong commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. His creations not only captivate the eye but also inspire change by highlighting the highest standards and craft of local artisans in India. Mishra's designs are an exquisite blend of traditional Indian hand-woven textiles and intricate embroidery techniques, showcasing the country's rich heritage and culture. Through his work, he has become a staunch advocate for ethical and sustainable fashion, setting a remarkable example for the global fashion industry.

84 Artistes Conferred With Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a momentous ceremony, presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 distinguished artistes from various realms of the performing arts. The significance of these awards lies in their aim to honor Indian artists aged above 75 years, who, despite their remarkable contributions, have not received any national recognition in their illustrious careers thus far. A total of 84 artists, comprising 70 men and 14 women, were bestowed with this prestigious award at the ceremony. The list includes three artists from Andhra Pradesh, two from Arunachal Pradesh, and six from Maharashtra. Furthermore, three recipients each hailed from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Additionally, two artists each from Punjab and Delhi also received recognition. An equal number of four honorees were celebrated from Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka for their exceptional contributions. Moreover, both Assam and Rajasthan boasted five individuals each who were honored with this prestigious accolade.

Government Comes Out With A New Set Of National Awards Known As "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar"

The Government of India has recently introduced a prestigious set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation, known as the "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" (RVP). These awards serve a vital role in recognizing and honoring the exceptional contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators who have significantly impacted various domains of science, technology, and technology-led innovation. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar stands as one of the highest honors within the scientific and technological community in India. It encompasses individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those working in government, private sector organizations, or as independent contributors to the scientific and technological landscape. The awards recognize path-breaking research, innovative discoveries, and technological advancements that have made a significant impact on society.

Waheeda Rehman to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

Today on September 26, 2023, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, Waheeda Rehman, will be honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, India's highest recognition in the world of cinema. Waheeda Rehman's illustrious career is synonymous with excellence. She has worked in over 90 films. Known for her versatility, she has delivered unforgettable performances in a myriad of iconic films, including "Pyasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul." Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations. Union Minister Anurag Thakur, taking to Twitter, expressed his immense happiness and honor in bestowing this prestigious award upon Waheeda Rehman. He highlighted her stellar contributions to Indian cinema, acknowledging her role in shaping the industry into what it is today.

Ruixiang Zhang Awarded 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics

Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize. This award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics. The prize, which includes a cash award of \$10,000, will be presented during an international conference in Number Theory, held in the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam during the third week of December. In keeping with the legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, whose groundbreaking work was accomplished during his tragically brief life of 32 years, the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize maintains an age limit of 32 years for its recipients. This age restriction pays tribute to the extraordinary achievements of Ramanujan.

Important Dates News**National Teachers' Day 2023: Date, History & Significance**

National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5th every year. It is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions of teachers to society. The day is also observed as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a scholar, philosopher, and teacher. He was also a strong advocate for education and believed that teachers played a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. In 1962, when his students asked him to celebrate his birthday, he requested that they instead observe September 5th as Teachers' Day. This year National Teacher's Day 2023 is celebrated on Tuesday. In 1962, when Dr. S Radhakrishnan assumed office as the President of India his students approached him seeking permission to celebrate September 5 as a special day. Instead, Dr. Radhakrishnan asked his students to observe the date as Teacher's Day in a bid to acknowledge the contribution of teachers to society. Globally, World Teachers Day is observed on October 5. It is an initiative led by organisations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO.

International Day of Police Cooperation 2023: Date, History and Significance

The International Day of Police Cooperation is a United Nations observance held annually on September 7. It was created to commemorate the founding of Interpol and highlight the role of law enforcement from around the globe in maintaining peace, security, and justice. For most of human history, cooperation among law enforcement in different countries was organized largely on a case to case basis. The world's first initiative for international law enforcement cooperation was the Police Union of German States, established in 1851. It brought together secret police forces from various German-speaking countries. The United Nations General Assembly designated September 7 as the International Day of Police Cooperation during its 77th session in December 2022. The inaugural celebration took place on September 7, 2023, coinciding with the 100th founding anniversary of Interpol. It focused on the crucial role of women in policing.

International Literacy Day 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8 every year to promote the importance of literacy for dignity and human rights, and a literate and sustainable society. The day is celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world. The theme 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'. Under this theme, Literacy Day 2023 will be celebrated at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world. At the

global level, a conference will be organized in person and online on Friday, 8 September 2023, in Paris, France. This global celebration will include the award ceremony of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to announce this year's outstanding prizewinning programmes.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2023

The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by the United Nations General Assembly on September 9 every year. It was established in response to the growing number of attacks on schools and educational institutions around the world. These attacks can take many forms, including shelling, bombing, and occupation. They can also include the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. On May 28, 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 74/275, establishing September 9 as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack. Recognizing the importance of raising awareness of the dire need to preserve education and protect it from attack, the Resolution designates UNESCO and UNICEF to serve as co-facilitators for the yearly observance of this Day and calls upon stakeholders to keep this issue at the top of the international agenda and duly act to alleviate the plight of students affected by armed conflicts.

Himalaya Diwas 2023: Date, History and Celebration

Himalaya Day or Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year on 9 September with an aim to preserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. The Himalayas play an important role in saving and maintaining nature and protecting the country from adverse weather conditions. Apart from being rich in biodiversity of flowers and fauna, the Himalayan range is also responsible for bringing rain to the country. Himalaya Day is also an excellent day to raise awareness among the general public and bring about community participation in conservation activities. This year nation celebrates 14th Himalaya Diwas. 9th September was officially declared as Himalaya Day by the then chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat, in 2014. The idea was conceptualized by Anil Joshi of the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization and other Indian environmentalists.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Day 2023: Date, History and Significance

Every year, World Suicide Prevention Day is celebrated on September 10. The day is dedicated to educate and aware people about the measures to prevent the suicides that are currently increasing at an alarming rate across the globe. Suicide is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed in order to eradicate it from the society. Lack of awareness is one of the main factors contributing to the worldwide rise in suicide mortality rates each year. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "It is estimated that there are currently more than 700 000 suicides per year worldwide. The 10 September each year aims to focus

attention on the issue, reduces stigma and raises awareness among organizations, governments, and the public, giving a singular message that suicides are preventable."

Why Engineers Day is celebrated on 15th September Every Year?

Engineers' Day, observed on September 15th each year in India, is a day dedicated to celebrating the remarkable contributions of engineers to society. It is also an opportunity to remember the visionary engineer, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, whose birth anniversary coincides with this special day. In this article, we will explore the history, significance, and the reason why Engineers' Day is celebrated on September 15th.

The Origin of Engineers' Day

Born in 1861, Visvesvaraya initially pursued a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree at the University of Mysore. However, he later transitioned to engineering studies at the prestigious College of Science in Pune, one of Asia's oldest engineering institutions. Beginning his career in the Public Works Department for the Government of Bombay, Visvesvaraya undertook complex projects, including the development of a patented irrigation system featuring water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune and the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2023 observed on 15 September

World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is an annual event observed on September 15th. It is dedicated to increasing awareness about lymphoma, a group of blood cancers that affect the lymphatic system, a crucial part of our immune system. Lymphomas come in various forms, with Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma being the two main types.

Significance of World Lymphoma Awareness Day

1. Education

WLAD strives to educate the public about lymphoma, including its types, symptoms, risk factors, and available treatment options. Increased awareness can lead to earlier diagnosis and improved outcomes for individuals battling lymphoma.

2. Support and Information

This day provides vital support and information to lymphoma patients and their families. It helps them understand the disease and discover available resources to navigate their journey.

3. Research

WLAD emphasizes the importance of ongoing research into lymphoma. Advancements in treatment and improved survival rates often result from dedicated research efforts.

4. Reducing Stigma

Lymphoma, like many health conditions, can carry a stigma. WLAD combats this by providing accurate information and promoting understanding and empathy toward those affected by the disease.

5. Advocacy and Fundraising

Advocacy efforts are encouraged to improve access to quality healthcare for lymphoma patients. WLAD also serves as a platform for fundraising initiatives that support research and patient support programs.

International Day of Democracy 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

The International Day of Democracy, celebrated on September 15th each year, is a global observance that underscores the importance of democracy as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of good governance and peace. Established in 2007 by a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), this day serves as a reminder of the essential role that democracy plays in shaping societies worldwide. Democracy, derived from the Greek words 'demos' (meaning a citizen of a city-state) and 'kratos' (meaning 'power' or 'rule' form of government), is a core value of the United Nations. It encompasses principles such as respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the practice of holding periodic and genuine elections through universal suffrage. At its core, democracy empowers citizens to elect their leaders and actively participate in decision-making processes that impact their lives. The theme for the International Day of Democracy in 2023 is "Empowering the next generation." This theme highlights the pivotal role that young people play in advancing democracy and emphasizes the importance of including their voices in decisions that profoundly affect their world.

World Patient Safety Day 2023 observed on 17 September

World Patient Safety Day, observed on the 17th of September every year, serves as a global platform to emphasize the importance of patient safety in healthcare systems worldwide. The day aims to create awareness and inspire countries to make patient safety a top priority, ultimately striving to eliminate avoidable errors and negative practices within healthcare settings. As healthcare systems have evolved with the introduction of new technologies, treatments, and medicines, the complexity of patient care has increased. Ensuring patient safety in this dynamic environment has become a critical challenge that requires continuous attention and improvement. The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2023 is "Engaging patients for patient safety." This theme highlights the vital role that patients, their families, and caregivers play in ensuring safe healthcare practices. It underscores the importance of involving patients in their care and decision-making processes.

World Ozone Day 2023: Date, theme, history and Significance

World Ozone Day, also known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed annually on 16th September. This day serves as a reminder of the critical role played by the ozone layer in safeguarding our planet Earth.

The ozone layer, primarily composed of Trioxygen molecules (O₃), acts as a shield against harmful Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. The theme for World Ozone Day 2023 is "Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change." This theme emphasizes the pivotal role of the Montreal Protocol in not only protecting the ozone layer but also mitigating climate change.

International Equal Pay Day 2023: Date, History and Significance

International Equal Pay Day, celebrated on 18 September, is a significant global observance that highlights the ongoing struggle for equal pay for work of equal value. This day underscores the commitment of the United Nations to uphold human rights and combat all forms of discrimination, particularly discrimination against women and girls. One pressing issue it addresses is the gender pay gap, which continues to persist in various parts of the world. The gender pay gap is a stark representation of inequality. It quantifies the difference between the average earnings of men and women, typically expressed as a percentage of men's earnings. In 2023, women in the United States, for instance, earn an average of 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. This glaring gap means that women have to work more than 15 months to earn what men do in just 12 months. International Equal Pay Day carries immense significance in contemporary society because it underscores the continuing prevalence of pay inequality. Despite decades of progress, this day serves as a global platform for women to draw attention to this issue through various campaigns and initiatives. It highlights the fact that the battle for equal pay is far from over.

International Red Panda Day 2023: A Call to Protect a Precious Species

Every year, on the third Saturday in September, the world comes together to celebrate International Red Panda Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of these enchanting creatures. This year, on September 16, we once again unite in our efforts to protect the red panda, a species teetering on the brink of extinction. Launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010, this annual observance has grown in importance over the years, especially in the face of mounting challenges posed by global warming and climate change.

The Debut of International Red Panda Day

International Red Panda Day made its debut in September 2010, aiming to shed light on the critical conservation needs of the red panda. These charming animals are native to the Eastern Himalayas, spanning regions in China, Nepal, and Bhutan. Unfortunately, they face imminent danger primarily due to human activities.

International Day of Peace 2023: Date, Theme, Celebration, History and Significance

Each year on 21 September, the world comes together to observe the International Day of Peace (IDP). This day,

established by the United Nations (UN), serves as a reminder of our commitment to peace, non-violence, and conflict resolution. In 2023, the significance of this day is heightened as it coincides with the mid-point milestone of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the interconnectedness of peace and sustainable development. The theme for the 2023 International Day of Peace is "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals." This theme underscores our individual and collective responsibility in fostering peace. It highlights the critical role peace plays in achieving the SDGs, as well as the imperative to engage diverse actors, including the 1.2 billion young people worldwide, to ensure the goals' success.

Antyodaya Diwas 2023: Date, History and Significance

Antyodaya Diwas is an annual celebration in India that commemorates the birth anniversary of the revered Indian leader, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. This day serves as a tribute to his life and enduring legacy, honoring one of the most influential figures in India's political history. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was not only a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) but also a profound thinker associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). His relentless efforts to uplift the marginalized and less fortunate in society are at the core of this celebration, which takes place every year on September 25th. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, born in Mathura on September 25, 1916, holds a significant place in India's history. In recognition of his contributions, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed the station as 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction' in 2018.

World Maritime Day 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

World Maritime Day is celebrated on the last Thursday of every September, on September 28 this year, to honor the tireless work of the international maritime industry workers. The World Maritime Day 2023 takes place on 28 September 2023. The word 'maritime' comes from the Latin word 'maritimus,' which means 'of the sea.' The day illuminates the role that every maritime officer, service agent, and seafarer plays in our individual lives. Life at sea is hard. Long hours, precarious pay, and the emotional toll of being separated from your family for months can be an intense challenge. Since 1978, every last Thursday of September has been celebrated as World Maritime Day. The day coincides with the establishment of the International Maritime Organisation in 1958. This year's World Maritime theme is "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on".

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2023

On September 29th, the world comes together to observe the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of the issue of food loss and waste, and to promote actions to reduce it.

Food loss and waste is a major global problem. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), about one-third of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted each year. This amounts to about 1.3 billion tonnes of food, worth approximately US\$1 trillion. The theme for the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste in 2023 is "Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems."

International Translation Day 2023, Date, Significance and History

International Translation Day, observed on September 30 every year, serves as a global celebration of the invaluable contributions made by translators and language professionals. These individuals play a pivotal role in facilitating cross-cultural dialogue, contributing to global development, and fostering world peace. International Translation Day was first established in 1991 by the International Federation of Translators (FIT). FIT is a collective organization representing translators, interpreters, and terminologists worldwide, founded in 1953. The day was instituted to foster unity within the global translation community and to raise awareness about the significance of the translation profession.

International Day of Non-Violence 2023, Date, Theme, History and Significance

The International Day of Non-Violence, celebrated on October 2nd each year, holds a special place on the global calendar. This day marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, a towering figure in the Indian independence movement and a pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. Beyond honoring his legacy, the day serves as a call to action to educate and inspire young people to develop the skills necessary for resolving conflicts peacefully. Established in 1993, the Non-Violence Project Foundation plays a pivotal role in advancing this cause. This article explores the significance of the International Day of Non-Violence, its historical roots, and its relevance in today's world.

International Day of Older Persons 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

The International Day of Older Persons, observed on October 1st every year, is a global occasion that recognizes the invaluable contributions of senior citizens while shedding light on the unique challenges they face. This day, established by the United Nations General Assembly, serves as an opportunity to honor and celebrate the elderly, acknowledge their vital role in society, and address the issues that impact their well-being. In 2023, the 33rd commemoration of this significant day revolves around the theme of "Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations."

Sports News

Max Verstappen wins Italian Grand Prix 2023

Max Verstappen has won the Italian Grand Prix and sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with 10. Sergio Perez made it a Red Bull 1-2 after he got ahead of Carlos Sainz following a fierce battle with the Ferrari driver in the closing stages. With Leclerc fourth, George Russell was fifth despite being issued a five-second time penalty for gaining an advantage off the track. Lewis Hamilton recovered to sixth place on the road and also overcame a five-second punishment for making contact with McLaren's Oscar Piastri. Alexander Albon was seventh, fending off Lando Norris who was stuck in the rear mirrors of the Williams driver for much of the Grand Prix. Fernando Alonso was ninth, while Valtteri Bottas took Alfa Romeo's first points since Canada.

Pos.	Driver	Team	Time
1.	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	LAP 51
2.	Sergio Pérez	Red Bull	+6.064
3.	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	+11.193
4.	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	+11.377
5.	George Russell	Mercedes	+23.028
6.	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	+42.679
7.	Alexander Albon	Williams	+45.106
8.	Lando Norris	McLaren	+45.449
9.	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	+46.294
10.	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	+64.056

McGahey to become first transgender to play international cricket

For the first time in international cricket, a transgender woman player will feature in ICC-related tournaments. Danielle McGahey, 29, is set to become the first transgender woman player to play in international cricket. The right-hand batter from Australia, who moved to Canada in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for male-to-female (MTF) transition, per ICC. McGahey is named in Canada's squad for the Women's T20 Americas Qualifier, the pathway tournament to the T20 World Cup 2024. According to BBC Sport, the first to break this news, McGahey socially transitioned from male to female three years ago in 2020 before undergoing a medical transition in 2021. Per an ICC statement released on Thursday, Danielle McGahey is eligible to feature in women's international cricket after ticking all the requirements needed to participate.

Divya Deshmukh Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament

Divya Deshmukh, a 17-year-old Chess Woman Grandmaster hailing from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India clinched victory in the women's category of the rapid section at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament. She dominated the competition by securing victories in all three rounds of the tournament,

which took place at the National Library in Kolkata on September 1, 2023. Deshmukh secured the top position with a remarkable score of 7 points, while the reigning world champion, Ju Wenjun of China, closely followed with 6.5 points. Russia's Polina Shuvalova finished third with a score of 5.5 points. Divya Deshmukh embarked on her remarkable journey in the realm of chess through an unforeseen turn of events. Her entry into the prestigious Tata Steel Chess India tournament was a result of a last-minute invitation, prompted by the withdrawal of R. Vaishali. Initially starting as the 10th seed among the 10 participants in the women's rapid section, Divya's ascent to the pinnacle of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament was nothing less than astonishing.

ICC, IndusInd To Ink Multi-Year Sponsorship Deal

IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC). The partnership is set to commence with the highly anticipated Men's Cricket World Cup, which is scheduled to begin on October 5th, showcasing the world's best cricketing talent on the Indian subcontinent. The multi-year sponsorship agreement between IndusInd Bank and the ICC is valued at \$20-\$24 million (approximately Rs 160-200 crore). This substantial financial commitment underscores the bank's dedication to supporting the sport of cricket and its global reach through this prestigious partnership. In addition to IndusInd Bank's exciting announcement, Mastercard has also stepped up to become a top-tier sponsor for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. This move solidifies Mastercard's commitment to the world of cricket and showcases the sport's widespread appeal and global significance.

Amul is official sponsor of Indian contingent at Hangzhou Asian Games

Amul is named as the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023. As part of this association, Amul will use the integrated logo in its communication to celebrate the efforts of the sportsperson. Amul has partnered with Indian sportspersons through the Indian Olympic Association since the London 2012 Olympics for all Indian contingent to Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and we are pleased to further strengthen our decade long relationship.

Nattaya Boochatham becomes 1st bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in T20s

Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket. The 36-year-old spin all-rounder now has taken 101 wickets in 73

ODI matches at an average of 9.96 and becomes the first-ever cricketer to take 100 wickets at a bowling average below 10. She becomes the only 11th cricketer in the world with 100 T20I wickets in women's cricket but possesses the best bowling average in the list. She will join the current world no.1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone's 102 wickets tally if she picks one wicket in Thailand's next game against Hong Kong on September 6.

Street 20: Street Child Cricket World Cup To Be Held In Chennai From Sept 22

For the very first time, Chennai will be the host city for "Street 20," an incredibly heartwarming cricket tournament exclusively dedicated to street children, aiming to captivate the hearts of both cricket enthusiasts and advocates for children's rights alike. Street 20 is a remarkable initiative that brings together street children from 15 countries, transcending borders and backgrounds. Children hailing from the United Kingdom, Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, and more will take part in this extraordinary tournament. What makes this event even more special is that it precedes the ICC World Cup Cricket in India, making it a perfect prelude to the grandest cricketing spectacle on the planet. The defending champions of the Street Child Cricket World Cup, Team India, will be the star attraction of Street 20. This dynamic group of young cricketers has already etched their names in history. In 2019, at the inaugural tournament held in London, Indian children emerged victorious, showcasing their talent and determination to the world.

Goa Governor Launches 'Mashaal' For 37th National Games

Governor of Goa, Shri. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, officially introduced the Mashaal (torch) to mark the commencement of the 37th National Games. This splendid event was organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of Goa, at the Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan, Donapaula. The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Pramod Sawant, the Chief Minister, Shri. Govind Gaude, the Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Shri. Shripad Naik, the Minister of State for Tourism, and several other distinguished guests. Governor Pillai also revealed the National Games' Anthem (theme song), which featured the iconic voice of the legendary actor, Amitabh Bachchan. His participation added an element of grandeur and distinction to the occasion. What sets this Anthem apart is its incorporation of the traditional Goan instrument, the Ghumat, and the collaboration of Goan vocalists alongside other gifted artists.

Prathamesh Jawkar Signs Off With Silver In The 2023 Archery World Cup

During the 2023 Archery World Cup Final held in Hermosillo, Mexico, Prathamesh Jawkar, the Indian compound archer, embarked on a memorable journey in his first-ever World Cup

Final appearance. He clinched a silver medal as Jawkar's incredible run in the competition concluded with a thrilling face-off against Denmark's Mathias Fullerton. Prathamesh Jawkar, the champion of the Shanghai World Cup, created ripples in the archery world by defeating the world No. 1 and reigning champion, Mike Schloesser, for the second time in just four months. In the final, Jawkar and Mathias Fullerton were locked in a fierce battle, with both archers giving it their all. The match ended in a dramatic 148-148 tie, with both archers scoring a perfect 10-10 in the final round. However, it was Fullerton who clinched the gold medal, thanks to the narrowest of margins—a measurement that revealed his arrow was closer to the center.

Praggnanandhaa Finishes Third, Grischuk Takes Open Blitz Title

At the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India tournament held in Kolkata, R Praggnanandhaa from India achieved an impressive third-place finish, establishing himself as the leading Indian contender. In the Open Blitz category, world champion Alexander Grischuk exhibited his dominance by securing the top position, while Arjun Erigaisi secured the second-best position among Indian participants, securing fourth place in the Chess tournament. R Praggnanandhaa made a strong start to the tournament, remaining unbeaten in his initial four games. He displayed his exceptional skills in a fine attacking game against Teimour Radjabov, which set the tone for his performance. However, his journey was not without hurdles, as he encountered defeats in crucial matches against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Alexander Grischuk, and Vidit Gujrathi.

Asia Cup 2023, Rohit Sharma completes 10000 ODI runs

Indian captain Rohit Sharma completed 10,000 ODI runs during the Asia Cup 2023 Super Four match against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Rohit Sharma has crossed the landmark after reaching 23 with a six during his 241st innings in the format. 36-year-old Sharma became the sixth Indian batter to cross the landmark and the second-quickest overall after Virat Kohli in terms of innings played. He is also the third Indian opener to reach the milestone after Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly. Rohit has amassed 30 ODI centuries and 50 half-centuries while averaging nearly 49 since making his debut against Ireland in Belfast in 2007.

Maharashtra Beats Karnataka To Win 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship

Maharashtra clinched the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka, concluding with a final score of 31-10. This championship, which took place at Balewadi in Pune from September 10 to September 11, 2023, was marked by intense competition and served as a testament to the impressive development of wheelchair rugby in India.

The 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 was organized by The Indian Rugby Football Union (Rugby India), the governing body for rugby in India. It was conducted in association with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and Mitsubishi Corporation. This collaborative effort aimed to promote and expand the sport of wheelchair rugby across the nation. The championship saw an overwhelming participation of over 120 athletes from different parts of India, making it a truly national event. This massive turnout reflected the growing interest and enthusiasm for wheelchair rugby in the country.

Simona Halep Handed 4-year Ban From Tennis For Doping

The ITIA (International Tennis Integrity Agency) has taken decisive action against two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep, handing her a four-year ban from professional tennis due to violations of the sport's anti-doping program. This move follows Halep's positive test for Roxadustat at the US Open last year, which led to her provisional suspension. The Integrity Agency stated that Halep had committed "intentional anti-doping violations," a conclusion supported by the analysis of 51 blood samples collected as part of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) program. Halep's ordeal began with her provisional suspension in October of the previous year. The Romanian tennis star's hearing was repeatedly delayed, further fueling speculation and anxiety surrounding her case. In the interim, Halep turned to social media to voice her dissatisfaction with the ITIA's handling of her situation and urged the authorities to expedite the verdict announcement.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second In Diamond League Final

Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the Diamond League finals in Eugene. His best throw of 83.80 meters secured him the second position in this prestigious competition, where he engaged in a remarkable battle against formidable opponents. Neeraj Chopra had previously clinched the Diamond League crown in 2022, making a remarkable best attempt of 88.44 meters. His remarkable journey in the field of javelin throwing had already garnered attention worldwide, and he was poised to continue his impressive streak in the 2023 edition of the competition. Chopra experienced a setback during his first attempt when he faced a "no throw." On his second try, Chopra made a significant comeback, landing the javelin at an impressive distance of 83.80 meters. This throw put him back in contention and served as a testament to his resilience and skill.

Diamond League Final In Eugene 2023: Mondo Duplantis Breaks Pole Vault World Record

Mondo Duplantis, the Swedish pole vault sensation and reigning world and Olympic champion, brought the athletics season to a spectacular close at the 2023 Diamond League

Final in Eugene on September 17th. In a jaw-dropping display of skill and athleticism, Duplantis cleared the bar at 6.23 meters with his first attempt, surpassing his own world record of 6.22 meters set in Clermont-Ferrand back in February. This remarkable achievement marked the seventh time Duplantis had broken the world record in pole vault, and notably, the second time he accomplished this feat outdoors – both times in Eugene, having previously cleared 6.21 meters at the 2022 World Championships. Duplantis made the seemingly impossible look effortless. He navigated through the competition with just three attempts, progressively clearing 5.62 meters, 5.82 meters, and 6.02 meters with remarkable ease. His competitors, including world silver medallist EJ Obiena, found themselves unable to match his prowess.

Elavenil Valarivan Wins Air Rifle Gold In Rio World Cup

Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan secured a remarkable victory in the women's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a thrilling Saturday. The 24-year-old Olympian showcased her exceptional skills and nerves of steel as she outperformed her competitors to clinch the coveted gold medal. In the final of the women's 10m air rifle event, Elavenil Valarivan demonstrated her precision and composure, shooting an impressive score of 252.2 from a series of 24 shots. Her remarkable performance allowed her to narrowly edge out France's Oceanne Muller, who scored 251.9. Jiale Zhang of the People's Republic of China secured the final podium position with a score of 229.0. In a highly competitive field, a total of eight shooters qualified for the final showdown.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS)

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has felicitated players under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) in New Delhi. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) was formulated to help sportspersons who play well but are from poor and needy family. The scheme helps in procurement of sports equipment and training and till date 270 sportspersons have been provided support of around 8 crore 15 lakhs rupees. Government is providing help to athletes be it through TOPS or through Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has provided every possible support for the athletes and will continue to support sportspersons.

India becomes No 1 ranked team in all formats of Cricket

After their 5-wicket win against Australia, India became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings. In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are

right behind them. India is now the world's best ODI team with a rating of 116 and 4,864 points. India (116 rating points) displaced their arch-rivals Pakistan (115) at the top of the rankings after the win in the first ODI. Australia remain third but the gap between the top two has now widened after they dropped two points to 111. Moreover, with the updated ODI rankings, India is now No 1 team in all three formats of the game. In the T20 rankings, India is on top with a rating of 264 and 15,589 points, while in the Test format of the game, India is on top with 3,434 points and a rating of 118. Indian cricket team became the second team in the history of cricket to achieve this wonderful feat after South Africa did this in 2014.

Sports Minister Cancels Visit to Asian Games Due to China's Denial of Entry to Arunachal Players

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has called off his trip to the Asian Games in protest of China's refusal to grant entry to Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh. This decision has come amidst an official protest by the Indian government against China's discriminatory treatment of these athletes.

Three players, Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu, were denied entry into China despite possessing valid e-accreditations from the event organizers.

Ms. Wangsu couldn't board her flight, while the other two were allowed to travel only up to Hong Kong. This casts doubt on their participation in the event scheduled for Sunday.

The Indian government expressed surprise at China's treatment of the Arunachal Pradesh athletes, considering their valid accreditation.

Minister Anurag Thakur was originally scheduled to attend the Asian Games inauguration by Chinese President Xi Jinping in Hangzhou but decided to cancel the visit upon learning of the athletes' situation.

India lodged official protests with Beijing in response.

India Clinched 5 Medals On Day One Of Asian Games At Hangzhou In China

India, known for its strong sporting culture, had a promising start on the first official day of the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. India wrapped up the first official day of the Asian Games 2023 with five medals – three silver and two bronze. The women's 10m air rifle team, comprising Ashi Chouksey, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ramita, set the tone for India by clinching the country's first medal at the Asian Games 2023. They secured a silver medal in the team event. Ramita, displaying exceptional skill, went on to win an individual bronze in the same category. India's impressive medal streak in rowing continued as Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh, competing in the men's lightweight double sculls, secured a silver medal. Additionally, the men's eight teams also performed remarkably and secured a silver medal, further contributing to India's success. Additionally, the men's pair represented by Babu Lal Yadav and Lekh Ram secured a bronze, further adding to India's medal tally in this discipline.

Nepal Shatters Records with Historic Performance in Asian Games 2023 T20I Match

Nepal cricket team rewrote the record books in the Asian Games 2023, achieving remarkable milestones in T20 International cricket. Nepal's extraordinary performance in the tournament led them to become the first team ever to cross the 300-run mark in T20Is. Here, we delve into the key highlights of this historic match, featuring Nepal's batters who set new world records and their incredible team achievement.

Fastest T20I Century: Kushal Malla's Record-Breaking Blitz

Highest T20I Total: Nepal's 314/3

Six-Hitting Extravaganza: 26 Sixes in a Single Inning

Dipendra Singh Airee's Rapid Fifty

Swapnil Kusale, Aishwarya Pratap and Akhil Sheoran wins 7th gold for India

In a stunning display of skill and precision, the Indian men's shooting trio comprising Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Swapnil Suresh Kusale, and Akhil Sheoran secured a gold medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Team event. Their remarkable achievement didn't stop there; they broke the world record with an extraordinary score of 1769 points. As a result of this exceptional performance, India has climbed to the fourth position in the points table at the Asian Games 2023. This achievement not only showcases India's prowess in shooting sports but also adds to the nation's overall medal tally.

Asian Games 2023, Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale wins gold in Tennis

Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale claimed mixed doubles gold with a 2-6 6-3 10-4 win over Chinese Taipei's Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan. It was India's second medal in tennis at the continental event after Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni had won a silver in men's doubles. Bhosale raised her game in nick of time while seasoned Bopanna stayed solid with his big serves as India came from a set down to beat Chinese Taipei's Tsung-hao Huang and En-shuo Liang 2-6, 6-3, 10-4 in the title clash. India's two-medal show in tennis is the country's worst at the Asian Games since the turn of the century.

Obituaries News

Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak Passes Away

Zimbabwe's former cricket captain Heath Streak has passed away at the age of 49, following a long battle with colon and liver cancer. He was Born in Bulawayo, Streak, a cricketing legend, was particularly known for his prowess as a fast bowler. He held the distinction of being Zimbabwe's all-time leading wicket-taker in Test cricket, having taken 216 wickets at an average of 28.14. Additionally, he scored 1990 runs at an average of 22.35 in Test matches. In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Streak claimed 239 wickets at an average of 29.82 and scored 2,943 runs at 28.29.

Piloo Reporter, The First Among Neutral Umpires, Passes Away

Piloo Reporter, a former international umpire, passed away on September 3 at a Thane hospital, Mumbai. He was 84 years old and had been dealing with cerebral contusions, leading to an extended period of bedridden illness. In his long and illustrious career spanning 28 years, Piloo Reporter known for his jovial nature and vigorous style of signaling boundaries, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs. His unique way of signaling boundaries earned him the affectionate nickname "PD" in the cricketing fraternity. Reporter's remarkable skills as an umpire came into the spotlight when he stood in seven matches during the 1992 Cricket World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand. His contributions to the game were celebrated not only in India but on the international stage as well. Piloo Reporter, along with another Indian umpire, V K Ramaswamy, achieved a historic milestone in 1986 when they became the first pair of neutral umpires in the world since 1912. This groundbreaking move came during the Pakistan versus West Indies series in Pakistan, where they officiated to end the stigma of biased umpiring. This event eventually led to the ICC introducing one neutral umpire in Tests from 1992 onwards.

ISRO scientist N Valarmathi, voice behind Chandrayaan-3 countdown, passes away

N Valarmathi, an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist, who lent her voice to countdowns for rocket launches in Sriharikota, died after a cardiac arrest. She was last heard during the countdown announcement for the launch of Chandrayaan-3 that made a historic landing on the Moon. Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 14. Chandrayaan 3 was her final countdown announcement. Valarmathi was a scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for over 30 years. She was the voice behind the countdowns for many ISRO launches, including the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission, which made a soft landing on the Moon in July 2023. Her calm and reassuring voice was a familiar sound to millions of Indians who tuned in to watch the ISRO launches.

SPG Chief Arun Kumar Sinha, Responsible For PM Modi's Protection, Passes Away

Arun Kumar Sinha, who served as the Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), has passed away at the age of 61 while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Gurugram, where he had been receiving medical care for some time. Sinha held a pivotal role in the security apparatus of the country, as he was responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India. This significant duty underscores the magnitude of his contributions to the nation's security. Arun Kumar Sinha, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1987 Kerala cadre, had a distinguished career spanning

multiple decades. His journey in the Special Protection Group (SPG) began in March 2016, when he assumed the role of its 12th director. His appointment was made on a contractual basis, lasting until May 31, 2024, at the rank and compensation level of director general of police. On May 31, he was granted a one-year extension in service, underscoring his unwavering commitment to his responsibilities. This tenure allowed him to lead the SPG with utmost dedication and professionalism.

Hindustani vocalist Malini Rajurkar passes away at 82

Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments. She has performed in major music festivals in India, including Gunidas Sannam (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Festival (Pune), and Shankar Lal Festival (Delhi). She is noted especially for her command over the Tappa and the Tarana genre. Malini Rajurkar was born in Ajmer in Rajasthan in 1941. She studied music from the Ajmer Music College, under the guidance of Govindrao Rajurkar and his nephew Vasantrao Rajurkar, who was to become her future husband. She was an exponent of Gwalior gharana and one of the foremost proponents of 'khyal' and 'tappa' genre.

Political Cartoonist Ajit Ninan passes away at 68

Renowned political cartoonist Ajit Ninan passed away at the age of 68. Ninan was best known for the Centrestage series in India Today magazine and Ninan's World in Times of India. A popular political cartoonist, Nina was equally well known for his work in children's literature. One of his beloved creations is Detective Mochwala and his dog Poch, which appeared in 1980s in Target, a youth magazine. His defiance in the form of political cartoons, satire on the ruling government as well as the opposition, cartoons on environment and caricatures, are fondly remembered by everyone of his time.

Dennis Austin, software developer who created PowerPoint, passes away at 76

Dennis Austin, one of the two creators of Microsoft PowerPoint, passed away at the age of 76. Austin created PowerPoint with Robert Gaskins and released it in 1987. The pair of software developers were part of software company Forethought, which was acquired by Microsoft for \$14m months after PowerPoint, then called Presenter was launched. Initially only available for the Macintosh, PowerPoint soon gained popularity as an alternative to overhead projectors for presentations after it was bundled with other tools in the Microsoft Office suite, including Word and Excel. Today, 33 years after it was first launched on Windows, the Silicon Valley software has become ubiquitous in meetings, classrooms and online collaborations with a near-monopoly over the global presentation software market.

3 Idiots Actor Akhil Mishra Passed Away At 67

Renowned actor Akhil Mishra, celebrated for his memorable portrayal of librarian Dubey in the hit movie "3 Idiots," tragically met his demise after a fatal fall at his residence. Mishra, aged 67, had been grappling with blood pressure issues, and his untimely departure has left the film industry and his fans in mourning. Akhil Mishra's sudden demise was confirmed by a publicist representing his actor-wife Suzanne Bernert. Mishra, who had been coping with blood pressure problems, succumbed to injuries sustained during a fall in his kitchen. Akhil Mishra's career was marked by versatility and a knack for portraying character roles with finesse. While he achieved widespread recognition for his role as librarian Dubey in "3 Idiots," alongside Aamir Khan, R Madhavan, and Sharman Joshi, his body of work extended far beyond this iconic character. He left his mark in various films and serials, including "Don," "Gandhi, My Father," "Uttaran," "Udaan," and "Shrimaan Shrimati," among others.

National Award-Winning Malayalam Filmmaker K G George Passed Away At 78

On Sunday, The world of Malayalam cinema mourned the loss of veteran filmmaker K G George, who passed away at the age of 78 in an old age home near Kakkanad. The filmmaker had been battling health issues for the last five years, following a stroke that significantly impacted his life. The news of his demise drew condolences and tributes from people across the spectrum, including politicians, actors, and fellow directors, who took to social media to express their sorrow. K G George's contributions to Malayalam cinema were unparalleled. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences and hailed George's legacy as an "irreparable loss to the Malayalam film industry."

Father of India's 'Green Revolution,' MS Swaminathan Passes Away At 98

Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, fondly known as M.S. Swaminathan, was a legendary figure in the field of agriculture and a true humanitarian, passed away at the age of 98. Born on August 7, 1925, in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, he dedicated his life to improving the lives of India's low-income farmers and revolutionizing the nation's agricultural landscape.

Swaminathan's journey in agriculture began in 1949 when he embarked on research into the genetics of important crops like potato, wheat, rice, and jute. Little did he know that his work would later become a lifeline for India.

The Green Revolution

During a critical juncture in India's history, when the country was on the brink of a mass famine and faced severe food shortages, Swaminathan collaborated with fellow scientist Norman Borlaug and others to develop high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice. This marked the inception of the 'Green Revolution,' a transformative initiative that would significantly increase crop productivity through the adoption of chemical-biological technology.

Actor Michael Gambon, Who Played Professor Dumbledore In Harry Potter Passed Away

The world of acting mourns the loss of a legendary talent, as Michael Gambon, renowned for his portrayal of Professor Dumbledore in the Harry Potter film series, has passed away at the age of 82. Born in Ireland on October 19, 1940, Gambon was raised in London. Gambon's breakthrough in the world of acting came in 1980 when he delivered a mesmerizing performance in Bertolt Brecht's "Life of Galileo" at London's National Theatre. It was this performance that prompted actor Ralph Richardson to famously refer to him as "the great Gambon." Even though he had previously enjoyed modest success in plays by Alan Ayckbourn and Harold Pinter, it was this portrayal that truly catapulted him into the spotlight. Gambon's portrayal of Galileo earned him a Best Actor nomination at the Olivier Awards. However, it was his portrayal of Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge" in 1987 that won him the prestigious award.

Co-Founder Of Asian Paints, Ashwin Dani passed away At 79

The world of business recently bid farewell to a visionary leader, Ashwin Dani, the Co-founder & non-executive director of Asian Paints, who passed away on 28 September 2023 at the age of 79. Ashwin Dani's contributions to Asian Paints and the global paint industry have left an indelible mark. Ashwin Dani's association with Asian Paints was nothing short of legendary. This iconic company, which began its journey in 1942, was founded by his father and three others. Ashwin Dani joined Asian Paints in 1968, and under his leadership, the company witnessed unprecedented growth and expansion. One of Ashwin Dani's most significant achievements was the global expansion of Asian Paints. He played a pivotal role in transforming the company into one of the leading paint manufacturers worldwide. Dani's visionary approach helped Asian Paints establish a strong global presence.

Bengali

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Start Date: 29 Sept 2023

Defence News

Indian Air Force And Drone Federation Of India To Co-host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to co-host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.' This upcoming event, scheduled for the 25th and 26th of September 2023, will take place at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad). It is anticipated to be a pioneering exhibition highlighting the prowess of the Indian drone industry, with more than 50 live aerial demonstrations. 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' is set to impress attendees with a diverse array of live aerial demonstrations. The event will encompass a wide range of drone applications, including survey drones, agriculture drones, fire suppression drones, tactical surveillance drones, heavy-lift logistics drones, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions. This comprehensive exhibition will underscore the versatility and innovation present within the Indian drone sector.

INS Sumedha Has Arrived In Egypt To Participate In 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23'

Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt to participate in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from 34 countries. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in the Middle East and North Africa region. This joint military exercise, hosted in Egypt, marks a historic milestone for the Indian Navy and strengthens India's diplomatic and strategic ties with partner nations. The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase. This Phase of the Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 is a crucial starting point where participating nations engage in a variety of activities to foster cooperation and understanding. Cross-deck visits and professional exchanges allow naval personnel to learn from one another, sharing expertise and best practices. Additionally, sports fixtures and interactions promote camaraderie among the servicemen and women.

21st EDITION OF INDIA FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE 'VARUNA' – 2023

The Indian and French Navies, steeped in rich maritime traditions and strategic cooperation, recently concluded the Phase II of the 21st edition of the Varuna naval exercise, Varuna-23. Held in the Arabian Sea, this exercise exemplifies the commitment of both nations to enhance their warfighting capabilities, improve interoperability, and promote peace, security, and stability in the region. The Varuna-23 exercise spanned three days and saw the active participation of guided missile frigates, a tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and integral helicopters from both the Indian and French Navies.

This robust collaboration showcased joint operations, underway replenishment, and various tactical maneuvers designed to sharpen the skills of both navies. It is through exercises like Varuna-23 that these naval forces hone their capabilities to respond effectively to regional and global security challenges. The roots of the Varuna naval exercise trace back to 1993 when Indian and French naval forces initiated their bilateral engagement. Over the years, this exercise has evolved significantly, earning the moniker 'Varuna' in 2001. Today, Varuna stands as a testament to the enduring India-France strategic relationship.

Indian Coast Guard Participates In 19th Heads Of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting

Indian Coast Guard participated in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) from 05-08 Sep 2023 at Istanbul, Turkey. A four-member ICG delegation led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General Indian Coast Guard took part in the annual event of the independent forum with 23 members of Coast Guard Agencies and 02 associate members in the form of ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia and UNODC (The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) convened to address pressing issues related to maritime law enforcement, safety and security of life at sea, marine environment protection, and the illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans at sea. The HACGAM, an offshoot of a Japanese initiative, was established to foster cooperation among regional Coast Guards. It was inspired by the capture of the pirated vessel MV Alondra Rainbow by the Indian Coast Guard in November 1999.

Indian Navy, Uber Team Up For Private Travel Of Naval Personnel, Families

The Indian Navy has taken a significant step towards enhancing the travel experience of its personnel and their families by collaborating with Uber, a leading global cab aggregator service. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and senior officials from Uber, marking a milestone in providing reliable, convenient, safe, and economical mobility solutions for naval personnel and their families across the country. The core objective of this collaboration is to offer a comprehensive range of benefits to Indian Navy personnel, aligning with the Chief of Naval Staff's vision of ensuring "happy personnel" under the 'SHIPS FIRST' initiative. This partnership is also in line with the Government of India's ambitious 'Digital India' vision, which emphasizes the transformative potential of technology.

North Korea Launches New ‘Tactical Nuclear Attack Submarine’

North Korea has made headlines by launching its first operational “tactical nuclear attack submarine,” designated Submarine No. 841 and named Hero Kim Kun Ok, an ex-commander of the North Korean navy. The launch ceremony took place with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in attendance, where he highlighted the significance of this new addition to their naval force. Analysts believe that Submarine No. 841 is a modified version of the Soviet-era Romeo-class submarine, which North Korea acquired from China in the 1970s and later began producing domestically. Its design features 10 launch tube hatches, indicating that it is likely armed with ballistic missiles and cruise missiles. Nevertheless, concerns arise regarding the submarine’s effectiveness in modern warfare due to its age, noise level, slower speed, and limited range. The designation of Submarine No. 841 as a “tactical” submarine suggests that it may not carry submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. Instead, it likely carries smaller, short-range SLBMs or submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCM) with the ability to strike regional targets such as South Korea and Japan.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 90 BRO Infrastructure Projects Valued At More Than Rs 2,900 Crore

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories. The projects were inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri at an event in Jammu on September 12, 2023. These include Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu & Kashmir; five in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand & West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved an extraordinary feat by completing the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time, with most of them being executed within a single working season using state-of-the-art technology. In his address, the Raksha Mantri described the BRO as the ‘brother’ of the Armed Forces, emphasizing that through its infrastructure projects, the BRO is not only securing India’s borders but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of remote areas.

DAC Approves Proposals Worth Rs 45,000 crore, Including Procurement Of 12 Su-30MKIs

On September 15, the Government of India took a significant step towards strengthening the country’s defense capabilities by approving a series of proposals. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, gave

the green light to nine acquisition proposals, amounting to a total of Rs 45,000 crore. These proposals encompassed various aspects of defense, from the Indian Air Force’s modernization to improving the Indian Navy’s capabilities and enhancing the overall indigenous content in defense projects. One of the key decisions made by the DAC was the approval of the procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft for the Indian Air Force. These advanced fighter jets will be manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a significant step towards bolstering the nation’s indigenous defense production capabilities. The project involves not only the assembly of aircraft but also the development of related ground systems.

P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System: A Game Changer for India’s Armed Forces

India’s defense capabilities receive a significant boost with the development of the P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System, an indigenous marvel designed to enhance the paradropping capabilities of the country’s Armed Forces. This innovative system, entirely developed within India, promises to revolutionize the way military stores are paradropped on the battlefield. It has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para-dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft. The system has been manufactured with 100 percent indigenous Ferrous/Non-Ferrous Materials. Engineering textiles for Parachutes have been developed with the latest combination of Fluorocarbon and Silicon treatment to provide water/oil repellency and improved abrasion resistance. This system is fully indigenous and made under the Make in India program.

2ND EDITION OF INDIAN NAVY’S NAVAL INNOVATION AND INDIGENISATION SEMINAR (SWAVLAMBAN-2023)

The Indian Navy is all set to host the second edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, known as ‘Swavlamban 2023,’ scheduled to take place on 4th and 5th October 2023. This event follows the maiden edition of the seminar, which was held in July 2022 and marked a significant milestone in the Navy’s quest for innovation and self-reliance. In the inaugural edition of ‘Swavlamban’ in 2022, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India unveiled the ‘SPRINT’ initiative, which has since become a driving force behind the Indian Navy’s pursuit of indigenous technology adoption. ‘SPRINT’ stands for Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO, and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC). This collaborative effort aims to foster innovation and indigenisation in the defense sector. A key highlight of the ‘SPRINT’ initiative is the issuance of 75 challenges to start-ups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These challenges serve as a clarion call to harness indigenous innovation for the benefit of the Indian Navy.

INDIAN NAVAL SHIPS, SUBMARINE & LRMP AIRCRAFT REACH SINGAPORE TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMBEX 23

The 30th edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) has commenced, marking another milestone in the strong and enduring partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). This annual naval exercise, which began in 1994, stands as a testament to the deep-rooted maritime cooperation between the two nations. Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay and Kavaratti, alongside the submarine INS Sindhukesari, have arrived in Singapore to participate in SIMBEX-2023. The exercise also sees the inclusion of the Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I.

Indian Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) Has Officially Approved The Indigenous Dhruvastra Missile

In a significant development, India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile. This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built DHRUV MK-IV helicopters and is poised to elevate India's combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armored vehicles significantly. The approval of the Dhruvastra missile system by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) marks a substantial enhancement in India's military capabilities. This advanced missile system, originally named Helina and developed as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), represents a formidable addition to India's array of military assets.

Israel unveiled its cutting-edge main battle tank, the Merkava Mark 5

Israel unveiled its cutting-edge main battle tank, the Merkava Mark 5, known as "Barak," signifying a significant leap in technological advancement and military capability. The development of the Barak tank involved collaboration between the Israeli Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate, the IDF's Ground Forces, Armored Corps, and multiple Israeli defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, and the Israel Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, Elta. The Barak tank's technological advancements and combat capabilities have broader implications for military innovation worldwide. It showcases Israel's prowess in defense technology and may influence the development of future armored vehicles.

India Introduces A Policy To Uphold Dignity Of Border Roads Workers

India, on a mission to enhance its infrastructure along the country's remote frontiers, has recently unveiled a groundbreaking policy aimed at dignifying the lives of casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved this policy, which not only addresses the preservation and transportation of mortal remains but also raises funeral expenses. This move emphasizes the perilous nature of the work undertaken by these individuals in challenging terrains. Until now, the facility for preserving and transporting mortal remains at government expense was exclusively available to BRO's General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) personnel. However, recognizing the invaluable contribution of casual laborers, this policy extends this privilege to them as well.

IAF Receives First Dornier Do-228 Aircraft From HAL

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently celebrated the arrival of the first of six state-of-the-art Dornier Do-228 aircraft, exclusively manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This upgraded version of the aircraft is set to bolster the IAF's operational capabilities with its advanced features, marking a significant milestone in the modernization efforts of the Indian defense forces. The foundation for this crucial development was laid in March when the Ministry of Defence inked a deal with HAL for the procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft, allocating a budget of Rs 667 crore. This deal represents a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to modernize and upgrade the Indian Air Force's fleet.

Books & Authors News

Fire on the Ganges Life among the Dead in Banaras by Radhika Iyengar

Radhika Iyengar is the author of the book 'Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras,' released by HarperCollins. The book explores the city of Banaras (also known as Varanasi) in India, particularly its relationship with death and the afterlife. Fire on the Ganges is the first attempt to chronicle the everyday realities of the Doms in Banaras. Through their tales of struggle and survival, betrayal and love, it tells the at-times-heartbreaking, at-times-exhilarating story of a community struggling to find a place beyond that accorded to it by ancient tradition. Fire on the Ganges is the first attempt to chronicle the everyday realities of the Doms in Banaras. It plunges into Banaras's historical past, while narrowing its lens on a few spirited characters from the Dom community. Radhika Iyengar is an award-winning journalist with a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York.

A book on UP CM Yogi Adityanath creates history with 67 launches

The recently launched graphic novel, 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,' has made history by achieving the highest number of book launches, earning it a place in the Asia Book of Records. This remarkable novel, penned by renowned author Shantanu Gupta, delves into the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of political leadership.

'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' is not just a graphic novel; it's a historical record of a remarkable journey. Yogi Adityanath's life story, as vividly depicted by Shantanu Gupta, serves as an inspiration for countless individuals striving to overcome obstacles and make a significant impact on society. This graphic novel not only breaks records but also sheds light on the incredible journey of a man who rose from the hinterlands of Uttarakhand to lead India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh. This novel has been introduced in 29 locations within Uttar Pradesh and seven locations in National Capital Region (NCR). An inaugural event marked its simultaneous release on June 5, 2023, coinciding with the 51st birthday of Chief Minister Yogi, at more than 51 venues across 25 districts in Uttar Pradesh. 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' is actually the voyage of Ajay Singh Bisht, a young boy born in the hinterland of Uttarakhand along with six other siblings. His father Anand Singh Bisht was a junior forest officer and his mother Savitri Devi was a housewife.

Shri Apurva Chandra Unveils "People's G20", An eBook On India's G20 Presidency

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Apurva Chandra, recently unveiled an ebook titled "People's G20" in New Delhi, offering a detailed insight into India's G20 Presidency. This ebook serves as a comprehensive documentation of India's significant role in the G20 Summit and its various initiatives during its tenure. The book is divided into three distinct parts, each shedding light on different aspects of India's G20 Presidency. The ebook "People's G20" serves as a valuable resource for those interested in understanding India's role in the G20 and the impact of its Presidency. It not only provides a detailed account of the G20 Summit but also sheds light on the behind-the-scenes efforts and the people-powered movement that made India's G20 Presidency truly remarkable.

Miscellaneous News

Salem Sago Gets GI Tag

Salem district in the state of Tamil Nadu has gained acclaim for its sago production, which is widely recognized as Sabudana. Salem Sago, locally known as Javvarisi, is derived from the wet starch powder extracted from tapioca roots. Indian tapioca roots are known to contain approximately 30-35% starch content. Sago production has been a cornerstone of Salem's economic development since 1967. Currently, over 80% of sago in India is produced in the Salem region, with a significant portion marketed through Sagoserve. The request for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Salem Sago (Javvarisi) was filed by the Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, commonly known as Sagoserve. The GI tag can significantly boost business for farmers in the Salem region and the over-400 sago and starch units in areas like Salem, Erode, Nammakal, and Dharmapuri. These regions have a long-standing tradition of sago production.

Odisha: GI Tags For Rayagada Shawls And Koraput's Kala Jeera Rice

In a significant development for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Dongria Kondhs of Rayagada district in Odisha, their exquisite handwoven shawls, known as Kapdaganda, are on the verge of acquiring the prestigious Geographical Indicator (GI) tag while Koraput district's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice,' has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) status.

Kapdaganda Shawls: A Cultural Treasure and the Quest for a GI Tag

Kapdaganda shawls, adorned with intricate embroidery, hold a special place in the Dongria Kondh culture, symbolizing gratitude and showcasing traditional craftsmanship at its finest. The journey towards obtaining the GI tag for Kapdaganda began with the Niyamgiri Dongria Kondh Weavers' Association (NDKWA) collaborating with the Directorate of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute.

Koraput Kalajeera Rice: The Prince of Rice Receives GI Recognition

In another remarkable achievement for Odisha, 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice,' has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) status. This aromatic rice variety, cherished for its nutritional value, has been cultivated by tribal farmers in Koraput district for generations. Koraput Kalajeera Rice, often likened to coriander seeds in appearance, is renowned for its black color, exceptional aroma, delicious taste, and pleasing texture.

J&K L-G inaugurates Bangus Valley Festival

In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, inaugurated the much-anticipated Bangus Valley Festival in the picturesque Kupwara district. The festival's primary objective is to shed light on the untapped rural and adventure tourism opportunities within the Bangus Valley. Speaking at the inauguration, L-G Manoj Sinha emphasized the festival's role in promoting the rich tribal culture of this offbeat destination. Furthermore, the festival provides a valuable platform for local artisans to exhibit their traditional arts and crafts, contributing to the preservation and propagation of indigenous heritage. L-G Manoj Sinha also highlighted the incredible diversity of experiences that Jammu and Kashmir offers to travelers. The region is a haven for adventure enthusiasts, food connoisseurs, pilgrims, and aficionados of traditional handicrafts. The state's serene mountains and stunning natural beauty only add to its allure.

Northeast's mithun gets 'food animal' tag

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently recognized the mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use. The recognition of Mithun as a 'food animal' and the efforts to promote its meat as a commercial product can indeed have significant economic and cultural implications for the region. Mithun is a

captivating and culturally significant bovine species found in Northeast India. Its role in the livelihoods of indigenous communities, ecological balance, and local traditions make it a species of immense importance that warrants conservation and sustainable management efforts.

'Jhaadu Daan' Initiative Earns Place In India Book Of Records

SP Singh, the principal of the UPSRTC Model Driving Training and Research Institute, has earned a remarkable distinction by securing a place in the prestigious India Book of Records. This recognition is a testament to his exceptional contributions, particularly through his innovative 'Jhaadu

Daan' (broom donation) initiative, which aligns with the nationwide Swachh Bharat Campaign. Singh's commitment to promoting cleanliness and hygiene has made a substantial impact on various districts, fostering a cleaner environment and empowering communities. SP Singh initiated the 'Jhaadu Daan' initiative in 2014, coinciding with the launch of the Swachh Bharat campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The primary objective of this initiative is to provide essential tools for maintaining cleanliness in various surroundings. Singh recognized that access to basic cleaning tools, such as brooms, is crucial for individuals, particularly those in underprivileged communities.

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Miscellaneous Batch

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

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অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট

Start Date: 29 Sept 2023

