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HIGHLIGHTED POINTS



India's First Semi-High-Speed
Regional Rail Service 'Namo Bharat'



Tamil Writer Ambai Receives Tata
Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award

Tamil writer Sivasankari Presented
with Saraswati Samman 2022

69th National Film Awards 2023 Conferred by
President Droupadi Murmu

Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned
Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag



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English Current Affairs Magazine - October 2023

National News

GoI notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board

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

Ministry Of Tourism Inaugurates PATA Travel Mart 2023 In New Delhi

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

Sarakka Central Tribal University approved for Telangana

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

India To Observe 10 Oct As Good Manufacturing Practice Day

The Indian government, in collaboration with the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), is set to observe the first-ever National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day) on 10th October. This initiative aims to underscore the importance of adhering to cGMP guidelines in pharmaceutical manufacturing, with a focus on improving product quality and ensuring patient safety. Current Good Manufacturing Practices, commonly referred to as cGMP, are stringent quality standards mandated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for pharmaceutical manufacturing. These guidelines serve as the backbone of pharmaceutical operations, providing essential standards to enhance product quality by regulating various aspects of the manufacturing process, including materials, methods, machinery, processes, personnel, facilities, and environmental conditions.

Petroleum Minister Inaugurates 26th Energy Technology Meet At Bharat Mandapam

In the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the 26th Energy Technology Meet at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri spoke about the country's achievements in the green and clean energy sector during the 26th Energy Technology Meet, shedding light on the nation's accomplishments and its future goals. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri proudly announced that India has exceeded its biofuel blending targets, a critical component of the nation's green energy strategy. The initial goal was to achieve a 10 percent biofuel blending rate by November 2022. Surpassing expectations, India reached this milestone five months ahead of schedule. Furthermore, the ambitious target of 20 percent biofuel blending, originally set for 2030, has now been advanced to 2025. This remarkable progress demonstrates India's commitment to cleaner energy sources and reduced environmental impact.



Dr. Jitendra Singh launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard

On 29th September 2023, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, inaugurated the Special Campaign 3.0 in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). This campaign, themed "Digital DARPG," aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices. Under the "Digital DARPG" initiative, DARPG initiated a comprehensive approach towards unified service delivery portals. Collaborating with 27 Senior Officials, including Right to Service Commissioners from States/UTs, DARPG identified 164 services for pan-India e-service delivery, in addition to the 56 mandatory e-services. Efforts were focused on promoting faceless and suo-moto service delivery. Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, and Odisha achieved 100% service saturation through their Unified Service Delivery Portals (e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam, and Odisha One, respectively).

Operation Ajay set to evacuate Indian nationals from Israel

India has launched Operation Ajay, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from Israel amidst the ongoing developments in the region. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar announced this operation, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Special charter flights and other arrangements are being organized to bring back Indian citizens from Israel. The Indian Embassy in Israel has initiated contact with registered Indian citizens, starting with the first group, for the special flight. Subsequent flights will follow, and communication will be made accordingly.

Anurag Thakur Unveils Trailer for Animated Series "Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy - Bharat Hain Hum"

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur has launched the trailer of "Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy - Bharat Hain Hum", an animated series consisting of two seasons, produced by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Graphiti Studios. The series consists of 52 episodes, 11 minutes each, featuring stories from Indian Freedom struggle from 1500s to 1947. The series is hosted by the iconic animated characters Krish, Trish and Balti boy. The series has been created by the creator duo of Munjal Shroff and Tilakraj Shetty from Graphiti Studios. The series is an effort to educate the youth about the lesser known but significant contributors of the freedom struggle, contributors who were forgotten by the education system of the past.

Govt Launches Month-Long Celebration Drive For 8th National Ayurveda Day

Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated a month-long

celebration drive in a curtain raiser press conference at the media center, emphasizing the significance of Ayurveda and its role in promoting holistic well-being across India. This celebration marks the 8th National Ayurveda Day, observed as a tribute to Lord Dhanvantari, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with Dhanteras, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health. Ayurveda Day is not just a celebration of an ancient medical tradition; it's an embodiment of the principles of "Jan Sandesh, Jan Bhagidhari, and Jan Andolan for Jan Arogya," emphasizing community participation and healthcare awareness. The Ministry of Ayush seeks to explore Ayurveda's potential not only for human health but also for the well-being of the environment, plants, and animals. This year's theme, "Ayurveda for One Health," underscores the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

Government Launches Tradable Green Credit Program to Promote Eco-Friendly Actions

The government has initiated a novel program that allows individuals and entities to earn and trade green credits, which are units of incentives for environmentally beneficial actions. This program aims to encourage positive environmental contributions through market-based incentives. The program is introduced at the national level, promoting a competitive market-based approach for green credits to incentivize environmental actions. It is a voluntary initiative stemming from the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign. To earn green credits, individuals or entities need to register their environmental activities electronically through a dedicated website. These activities will be verified by a designated agency, and upon verification, the Administrator will grant a certificate of green credit. The calculation of green credits is based on resource requirements, scale, scope, size, and other relevant parameters required to achieve the desired environmental outcome.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launched IndiaSkills 2023-24 In New Delhi

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship unveiled the IndiaSkills 2023-24 program and celebrated the remarkable achievements of the WorldSkills 2022 winners. India, securing the 11th position in the global competition last year, is now poised to make giant strides in skill development. This event witnessed the announcement of ambitious goals by Union Minister for Skill Development, Dharmendra Pradhan, emphasizing the need for a quantum leap in skill acquisition. In his address, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan outlined the need to increase the number of participants from 0.25 million to 2.5 million. This visionary step aims to provide impetus to the ecosystem of skill development and underscores the significance of competencies over traditional degrees. The minister emphasized the importance of introducing employable skills, which would enhance the market acceptance of the workforce.

Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal To Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

India's Supreme Court recently made a significant decision, declining an appeal to legalize same-sex marriages in the country, dealing a blow to LGBTQ rights in one of the world's most populous nations. The ruling, announced on Tuesday, followed arguments presented in April and May and involved a panel of five justices, with three of them concluding that the matter should be addressed by the parliament rather than the judiciary. In a noteworthy move, Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud emphasized that issues like same-sex marriage should be within the domain of the parliament, highlighting the court's commitment to steering clear of policy matters. Chandrachud acknowledged the importance of providing legal protections to same-sex unions, stating that denying them benefits and services granted to heterosexual couples infringes on their fundamental rights. He argued that the right to choose a life partner is a core element of one's right to life and liberty under Article 21 of India's constitution.

India to Invest ₹143 Lakh Crore in Infrastructure by 2030

India is gearing up for a substantial infrastructure spending spree, with a plan to invest nearly ₹143 lakh crore between fiscal years 2024 and 2030. This represents more than double the ₹67 lakh crore spent on infrastructure over the past seven financial years starting from 2017. The rating agency CRISIL shared this information in its Infrastructure Yearbook 2023, underlining the significance of this ambitious undertaking. A notable aspect of this investment is that ₹36.6 lakh crore will be allocated to green projects. This marks a fivefold increase compared to the amount spent on sustainability-focused initiatives between fiscal years 2017 and 2023. The emphasis on green investments reflects India's commitment to environmental sustainability.

India's First Semi-High-Speed Regional Rail Service 'Namo Bharat'

India's expanding transportation infrastructure is set to reach new heights with the country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service, Namo Bharat. Previously known as RapidX, this innovative project is on the cusp of revolutionizing regional connectivity. This also marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India. The RRTS (Revolutionizing Regional Transit) is a cutting-edge regional transportation system that can compete with the world's best. RRTS is a new kind of train system that's faster than regular ones and runs frequently. It is a big plan to make intercity travel faster and more convenient. Trains will run every 15 minutes, and they can even run more often, every 5 minutes, if needed. The Namo Bharat trains are designed with the utmost passenger convenience and safety in mind. Each coach is equipped with six CCTVs, an emergency door-opening mechanism, and a communication button to connect with the train operator. Moreover, these trains offer features such as overhead luggage racks, Wi-Fi connectivity, and mobile and laptop charging outlets at every seat. A dedicated train

attendant is present in the premium coach, ensuring a comfortable and secure journey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India marked a significant milestone in its quest for self-reliance in the automotive sector by introducing the production of 'reference' petrol and diesel. This development places India among a select group of nations capable of producing these highly specialized fuels, which are crucial for calibrating and testing vehicles. These 'reference' fuels are distinct from regular and premium petrol and diesel, as they possess higher specifications, making them vital for calibrating and testing vehicles by manufacturers and agencies like the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) and the Automotive Research Association of India. For decades, India has heavily relied on imports to meet the demand for these specialized fuels, creating a dependence on foreign suppliers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pro-China Leader Mohamed Muizzu Wins Maldives Presidential Election

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

India Participates in the 5th Meeting of Moscow Format

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

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

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

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

The tallest statue of the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution,' B.R. Ambedkar, known as the 'Statue of Equality,' is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14. This statue of Ambedkar is an integral component of the Ambedkar International Center (AIC), currently under construction on a 13-acre plot in Accokeek city, Maryland. Standing at a towering height of 19 feet, the 'Statue of Equality' is a testament to the enduring impact of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's work. This monumental sculpture is poised to become the largest statue of Babasaheb outside of India. It serves as a pivotal element of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC) project, situated on a sprawling 13-acre expanse in Accokeek, Maryland, approximately 35 kilometers south of Washington. Born on April 14, 1891, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, affectionately known as Babasaheb, played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of post-Independence India. His profound influence can be attributed to his role as the chairman of the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee, which earned him the title "Architect of the Indian Constitution." Additionally, he served as the Minister of Law and Justice in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's inaugural Cabinet.

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

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

Russia Delivers Uranium for Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

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

Swaminarayan Akshardham, Largest Hindu Temple Set Up In New Jersey

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, October 8, in Robbinsville, New Jersey. This architectural marvel is not only a testament to the vibrant Hindu community in the US but also a symbol of the enduring spirit of artistry, spirituality, and human dedication. The temple, set up in the picturesque city of Robbinsville, New Jersey, is a remarkable achievement. It stands as the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era. The grand opening was marked by a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognizing the profound spiritual significance of this momentous occasion.

Biden orders US ships, warplanes to move closer to Israel

Amidst a recent attack by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas, President Joe Biden has promptly demonstrated solidarity with Israel. Given its role as a key arms provider to Israel, the United States is dispatching military reinforcements and aid to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities. The United States' historical role as a major supplier of arms to Israel. A swift and unwavering commitment to providing "rock solid" support. President Biden's communication with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Promise of additional military aid and support for Israel in the face of unprecedented attacks. The significant loss of life on both sides of the conflict, with over 600 lives lost in Israel and at least 370 deaths in Gaza.

India, China hold 20th round of military talks In Ladakh

India and China held their 20th corps commander-level meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border in Ladakh. Both countries engaged in a series of diplomatic discussions to address the persisting issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. These talks, held at the Corps Commander level, aimed to foster an open and constructive atmosphere, fostering an early and mutually acceptable resolution. While these discussions did not yield a clear breakthrough, they emphasized the commitment of both nations to peaceful dialogue and negotiation. The LAC, the de facto border between India and China, has been a source of tension for many years, and eastern Ladakh is no exception. Over three years of confrontation have persisted, leading to periodic clashes and standoffs, mainly in friction points along this border.

Putin in Kyrgyzstan for first trip abroad since ICC arrest warrant

Russian President Vladimir Putin embarked on his first foreign trip since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March, raising international attention and scrutiny. The visit took place in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation historically tied to Moscow. Putin, who has seldom traveled abroad since deploying troops into Ukraine in early 2022, notably had not left Russia since the ICC issued a warrant, accusing him of overseeing the illegal deportation of children from Ukraine.

Despite the warrant and ICC's allegations, Russia, including Putin, rejects the court's jurisdiction and claims. Putin's visit comes at a critical time, with signs indicating Russia's influence in former Soviet republics like Armenia is under pressure. Sanctions imposed on Russia by Western countries have strained Moscow's relationships with its neighboring nations.

Jaishankar unveils Rabindranath Tagore's bust in Vietnam

India and Vietnam, two countries with deep-rooted historical connections dating back almost two millennia, have been forging an enduring bond rooted in Buddhism. This relationship has been further solidified by literary exchanges and cultural influences. In a recent diplomatic gesture, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, inaugurated a bust of Nobel Laureate writer and poet Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh city, symbolizing the historical and cultural ties between the two nations. The historical and cultural connections between India and Vietnam, enriched by the introduction of Buddhism, literary exchange, and the influence of Rabindranath Tagore, continue to strengthen the bond between these two nations. The inauguration of Tagore's bust in Bac Ninh city stands as a testament to the enduring relationship and mutual respect that both countries share, fostering a brighter future for their diplomatic and cultural ties.

Sri Lanka's Strategic Trade Revisions: A Roadmap for Economic Transformation

Sri Lanka's State Minister of Finance, Shehan Semasinghe, has announced the country's intentions to renegotiate its free trade agreements (FTAs) with key bilateral partners. This move is part of Sri Lanka's strategy to boost its economic growth and reduce external debt by promoting market access, foreign direct investment, and export-oriented initiatives. Sri Lanka's initial focus in this trade renegotiation effort will be on engaging in discussions with three pivotal partners: India, China, and Thailand. The objective is to successfully conclude the ongoing negotiations with these countries before advancing to a broader regional trade agreement. Sri Lanka's ultimate goal in the renegotiation process is to become a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This agreement involves 16 Asian countries and seeks to enhance trade and economic cooperation within the region.

Tallest BR Ambedkar Statue Outside India Unveiled In Washington

In a historic event, a 19-foot tall statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of India's Constitution, was formally inaugurated in a suburb of Maryland, Washington. This statue is being considered as the tallest of its kind outside of India and holds significant importance for both Indian-Americans and the Indian diaspora around the world. During the inauguration ceremony, the air was filled with enthusiastic chants of 'Jai Bhim.' More than 500 Indian-Americans, including attendees from various parts of the United States,

India and other countries, came together to witness this historic moment. The event was an evident to the global reverence for Dr. Ambedkar's contributions. The statue was crafted by the renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar, who is known for creating the 'Statue of Unity' of Sardar Patel, located on an island in Gujarat's Narmada River. This new masterpiece, named the "Statue of Equality," seeks to address the issue of inequality not just in India but globally, as Ram Kumar, President of the Ambedkar International Center (AIC), emphasized.

Poland pro-EU Opposition tipped to win Parliament polls

Poland's recent parliamentary elections marked a significant turning point, ending eight years of populist rule by the Law and Justice (PiS) party. The liberal opposition, led by former EU chief Donald Tusk, emerged victorious, promising a fresh era for the nation. Tusk's Civic Coalition, along with potential allies Third Way and Left, is set to secure a majority in the 460-seat parliament. This outcome signifies a potential shift towards more liberal policies, including improved relations with the European Union and a promise to unblock frozen EU funds. While many celebrated the opposition's victory, some voters remained cautious. Questions linger about how the new government will act, especially considering potential challenges from President Andrzej Duda, a PiS ally. Despite the opposition's win, the political landscape remains uncertain.

Biden's Visit to Israel Amid Ongoing Conflict

United States President Joe Biden is set to visit Israel amid an ongoing conflict with Hamas fighters. The trip was confirmed by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and the White House released an official statement emphasizing strong support for Israel. Washington aims to prevent the current conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza from spreading to a larger conflict in the Middle East. Biden's visit comes after Hamas fighters breached Israel's heavily fortified Gaza border, initiating a surprise attack. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Hamas, resulting in significant casualties and destruction. The United States has dispatched two aircraft carrier strike groups to the eastern Mediterranean to deter hostile actions against Israel. The Pentagon has also put 2,000 troops on deployment alert for security purposes in the Middle East.

S Jaishankar Unveils Mahatma Gandhi's Bust In Vietnam

Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar embarked on a significant official visit to Vietnam. This visit marked not only the strengthening of bilateral relations but also a celebration of the enduring principles and values adopted by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. The visit underscored the deep-rooted connections between India and Vietnam and the shared commitment to addressing global issues. One of the prominent events during Jaishankar's visit to Vietnam was the unveiling ceremony of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ho Chi Minh City. In his address, Jaishankar emphasized the symbolic importance of this event, highlighting Gandhi's global recognition for his principles of truth, non-violence, and freedom.

Japan Becomes First Nation To Launch An Electromagnetic Railgun From An Offshore Vessel

Japan has recently achieved a significant milestone in the realm of defense technology. On October 17, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in collaboration with the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), a division of the Japanese Ministry of Defense, successfully test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform. ATLA made an official announcement on October 17, announcing the successful testing of the maritime electromagnetic railgun. This remarkable feat marks the first time any nation has managed to launch a railgun from an offshore platform. Typically, railguns are mounted on ships, but Japan aspires to employ this technology both on land and at sea, making this test an unprecedented advancement in the field.

Bhutan and China make progress in border talks

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

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

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

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

US house of representative elected its new speaker

Republican Congressman Mike Johnson from Louisiana has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the United States. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is

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

China replaced missing defence minister Li Shangfu

China's Defense Minister, Li Shangfu, was recently removed from his position in a surprising turn of events. His disappearance from public view two months earlier had sparked rumors about his fate. Li's removal follows a series of unexplained personnel changes in China's government, raising questions about how power is concentrated and party discipline is enforced under Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Li Shangfu was not only removed from his role as Defense Minister but also from his positions as a member of the Central Military Commission and one of China's five state councillors, which are powerful state roles. The decision to remove him was approved by the National People's Congress, but his successor was not named.

Italy Faces Record Low Births: A Deepening Demographic Crisis

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

Declining Birth Rates

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



Bengali

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Start Date: 20 Nov 2023

Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker

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

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

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India's space program. In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists and unveiled plans for a scholarship program to encourage scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students. Chief Minister Stalin highlighted the remarkable journey of these scientists, noting that six of the nine had their education in government schools in Tamil Nadu. First, a cash award of Rs.25 lakh would be granted to each of the nine scientists as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rajasthan to have three new districts: CM Ashok Gehlot

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

Details of the New Districts:

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

Sujangarh: Sujangarh will be created from the Churu district.

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

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

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

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

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

Bihar govt announces 10% reservation for EWS in judicial services

In a significant move, the Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state’s judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities. This announcement comes on the heels of the release of the state’s caste-based survey results. The decision was formally approved by the Bihar cabinet, as announced by Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) S Siddhartha.

NLC India Ltd Secures 810 MW Solar PV Project In Rajasthan

NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL), a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, has recently achieved a remarkable feat in the renewable energy sector by securing an 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project. This project is awarded by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) and marks a significant step forward in NLCIL’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions. The journey towards this achievement started when RRVUNL floated a tender for an 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project on December 21, 2022. The

project is strategically located in the Bikaner district of Rajasthan, a region known for its abundant solar radiation potential. NLCIL, with its expertise and dedication to renewable energy, successfully secured the entire capacity, positioning itself as a key player in the state’s renewable energy landscape.

Dept Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying Launched ‘A-HELP’ Programme In Jharkhand

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, recently unveiled the ‘A-HELP’ (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in the state of Jharkhand. The launch event, graced by dignitaries, shed light on the vital role that women play in the state’s livestock sector and the potential of this new initiative to transform the landscape of animal husbandry. Minister Shri Badal Patralek, the chief guest of the programme, emphasized the pivotal role of women in the overall development of Jharkhand’s livestock sector. He highlighted the ‘A-HELP’ program as a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women by engaging them as Accredited Agents who will significantly contribute to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

3000 Crore has been approved by Assam for economic corridor project

The Assam cabinet has unveiled an ambitious plan to establish a 1000-km long economic corridor, backed by a significant investment of Rs 3000 crore. The cabinet’s decision marks a substantial step forward in regional development. State Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah informed the press that the state cabinet has granted its in-principle approval for the project under the Asom Mala Scheme, indicating the government’s commitment to this substantial infrastructure endeavor. In another significant development, the cabinet has approved projects totaling Rs 950 crore aimed at enhancing rural infrastructure. Funding for these projects will be sourced through a loan from NABARD. The funds will be used to upgrade 90 rural roads and four rural bridges managed by the Public Works Department.

Uttarakhand CM Launches App & Portal To Boost Self-Employment

The state government of Uttarakhand took a significant step towards empowering its youth by launching the ‘Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application.’ The primary objective of this innovative app is to provide valuable information about self-employment opportunities to the state’s unemployed youth. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while addressing a gathering of students about to complete their higher education at the Yuva Mahotsav held at Parade Ground, expressed his vision for a self-reliant and empowered youth. During the event, the Chief Minister also distributed appointment letters to 17 individuals who were selected through employment fairs. Additionally, he took the opportunity to tour the exhibitions organized by various government departments.

UP Declares Gangetic Dolphin as State Aquatic Animal

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has made a significant announcement regarding the Gangetic Dolphin, designating it as the state's aquatic animal. This move highlights the importance of conserving these unique creatures and preserving the purity of the rivers and ponds they inhabit. Uttar Pradesh's decision to declare the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal and the launch of the "Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023" campaign demonstrate the government's commitment to wildlife conservation, environmental preservation, and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining the purity of rivers and ponds. These efforts contribute to the broader goal of protecting India's rich biodiversity and ecological heritage.

Udaipur Set To Become India's First Wetland City

The Rajasthan government, in collaboration with the Environment and Forest Department, is making concerted efforts to elevate Udaipur, also known as the 'City of Lakes,' to international prominence by aiming to become India's first wetland city. According to recent reports, the city has been chosen as a potential Ramsar Convention site of International Importance, a recognition coveted by wetland-rich regions around the globe. The Ramsar Convention, officially known as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, is a global treaty designed to protect and sustainably utilize wetlands of international importance.

'Miniature Eastern Ghats' To Become A Key Tourist Destination In Visakhapatnam Soon

The Eastern Ghats, known for their captivating landscapes and diverse ecosystems, have long captured the fascination of nature enthusiasts. Now, an exciting development is on the horizon for those eager to delve into this unique environment. 'Miniature Eastern Ghats' (MEG) forest arena, scheduled to become a prominent tourist destination in Visakhapatnam from November 2023, will offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the stunning mountain landscape. The MEG is a splendid initiative set to take shape in approximately 30 acres of reserved land, which belongs to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, within the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits. It's strategically located adjacent to the ACA-VDCA cricket stadium along the old NH-16 road. Scheduled to open its gates to the public in November 2023, the MEG promises to be an oasis of natural beauty, biodiversity, and education.

UP wins award for using telecommunication technology in mental health and counselling

On October 10th, Uttar Pradesh was awarded the third prize for its outstanding efforts in operationalizing Telemanas, a tele-technology-based mental health and counseling service.

The award was presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and was received by Dr. Pinky Joval, the Mission Director of the National Health Mission in Uttar Pradesh. The award is a testament to UP's dedication to mental health and the invaluable service it provides to its citizens. The National Tele Mental Health Programme was launched on October 10, 2022, coinciding with World Mental Health Day. This initiative aimed to address the urgent need for a digital mental health network, providing tele-mental health care services across the state and ensuring 24/7 mental health care, even in remote regions.

Nitin Gadkari Approves 7 Bridge Projects Worth Rs 118.50 Crore In Arunachal Pradesh

The Union Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, recently announced the approval of seven bridge projects in Arunachal Pradesh. These projects, with a cumulative cost of Rs 118.5 crore, are part of the Setu Bandhan scheme and are aimed at enhancing connectivity and fostering economic development in the state.

Bridge Projects Overview:

1. RCC Bridge Over Pacha River at Lachang:
Location: Laimoya, Nerewa & Sorrowa villages in East Kameng District.
2. RCC Bridge from Goang to Donigaon Village:
Location: Over Pacha river at Goang, on the way to Donigaon in East Kameng District.
3. Three Bridges on NH-313:
Location: Spanning from Roing-Anini road to New Chidu village via NHPC Colony in Lower Dibang District.
4. Double Lane Steel Composite Bridge with RCC Decking at Kharsa, Dirang:
Location: West Kameng District.
5. RCC Bridge at Pikte Point:
Location: Across the river Sigen to connect Tabiripo Saku village on Koyu-Goye road in Lower Siang District.
6. RCC Bridge Over Ngopok River:
Location: Mebo-Dholla road in East Siang District.
7. Steel Composite Bridge Over River Panyor:
Location: To connect Chullyu & Kebi village near Yazali Agri-Farm in Lower Subansiri District.

BRS Promises Monthly Honorarium Of ₹3,000 For Women And Life Insurance In Its Manifesto

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) recently unveiled its manifesto, promising a host of transformative initiatives aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged citizens. In a press conference on October 15th, party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao outlined these pledges, highlighting their commitment to uplift the marginalized sections of society. One of the standout promises in the BRS manifesto is the provision of life insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh to over 93 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. This initiative takes inspiration from the successful Rythu Bima program, which extends insurance to farmers. By extending

similar coverage to BPL families, the BRS aims to provide a much-needed safety net to those who are economically vulnerable. The BRS manifesto emphasizes the importance of food security by pledging to supply superfine rice through the public distribution system to all ration card holders. This commitment falls under the Telangana Annapurna scheme, with the goal of ensuring that no family goes to bed hungry. This move can significantly alleviate the burdens of low-income households and contribute to improving their overall quality of life.

Uttar Pradesh Government's 'Swachh Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' Campaign

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has launched a special cleanliness campaign, 'Swachh Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' (Clean Festival, Healthy Festival), with a focus on maintaining cleanliness in and around temples during Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali festivals. This initiative aims to promote the idea that 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' and calls for active participation from municipal bodies and citizens. The 'Swachh Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' campaign initiated by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh emphasizes the importance of cleanliness during the festive season. By ensuring clean and hygienic surroundings at religious places and actively addressing infrastructure concerns, the government aims to provide a spiritually enriching and enjoyable festival experience for all. This initiative aligns with the age-old adage that 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness,' promoting a harmonious blend of spirituality and hygiene during the upcoming Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali celebrations.

Jharkhand first state to take steps to ensure minimum wages for workers

Jharkhand is making history by becoming the first state in India to take steps towards including gig workers, such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees, under the ambit of minimum wages. This initiative is a significant move towards ensuring fair compensation for those in the gig economy. Jharkhand's groundbreaking move to consider minimum wages for gig workers and review minimum wage standards for other laborers is a significant step toward ensuring fair compensation for workers in various sectors. It also highlights the state's commitment to both local employment and social justice.

PM Inaugurates Rs 4200 Crore Worth Of Development Projects In Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently marked a historic day in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, as he laid the foundation stone and dedicated several development projects worth approximately Rs 4200 crore. These initiatives spanned various sectors, including rural development, road infrastructure, power generation, irrigation, drinking water supply, horticulture, education, healthcare, and disaster management, among others. Before addressing the audience, Prime Minister Modi performed pooja and darshan at Parvati

Kund, seeking blessings for the good health of all Indians and the realization of the aspirations of the people of Uttarakhand. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the resolve for a developed India.

Assam CM Inaugurated 'Shraddhanjali,' Second Longest Flyover In The State

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly constructed 'Shraddhanjali' flyover in Guwahati on October 19, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the state's infrastructure development as it was completed in just 60 days. This achievement stands out, considering that it was completed 300 days ahead of the original schedule. The 2.28-kilometer-long Shraddhanjali flyover, linking Commerce Point with Sundrapur on RG Baruah Road is considered to be the second longest flyover in the state. It was unveiled alongside a range of initiatives, including the deployment of 2,000 CCTV cameras throughout the city by August next year.

Arunachal Cabinet approves formation of Special Tiger Protection Force For 3 Tiger Reserves

The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet gave the green light to a host of transformative measures aimed at safeguarding the state's biodiversity and promoting the preservation of indigenous languages. Among the notable decisions were the establishment of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) for three tiger reserves, the allocation of honorariums to third language teachers, the amendment of the state's industrial and investment policy, and the formulation of the Arunachal Pradesh Home Guard Rules for 2023.

Shillong Hosts Green Tourism Conclave For Responsible Tourism In Northeast

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

International Day of Care and Support 2023 Celebrates on 29 October

Hornbill Festival 2023 will start on December 1 and conclude on December 10, promising ten days of cultural immersion and spectacle. The Hornbill Festival stands out as one of the most anticipated and celebrated events of the year. This colorful festival not only showcases the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland but also draws thousands of curious travelers from around the world to partake in its festivities. Nagaland, often referred to as the 'Land of Festivals,' lives up to its name with a diverse array of celebrations held throughout the year.

These festivals are a testament to the state's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The Hornbill Festival, organized by the State Tourism of Arts and Culture Department under the Government of Nagaland, is a grand celebration that encapsulates the spirit of the Naga people.

Economy News

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

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

1. National GST Revenues:

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

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

2. State-wise Variations:

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

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

3. GST Components:

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

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

4. Historical Context:

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

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

In a recent announcement, the government has decided to keep the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings unchanged at 7.1% for the October-December quarter. This marks the 15th successive quarter where the government has maintained the status quo, ensuring stability for government employees' retirement savings. The Finance Ministry officially notified the retention of the 7.1% interest rate. This rate is also applicable to other provident funds for government employees, including those serving in crucial sectors such as Railways and the Armed Forces.

UNCTAD Raises India's 2023 Growth Estimate to 6.6%

In its latest trade and development report, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 upward to 6.6% from the earlier projection of 6%. However, the report also anticipates

a slowdown in India's growth to 6.2% in 2024. Furthermore, the UNCTAD highlights concerns about the global economic outlook, with a deceleration to 2.4% in 2023, followed by a marginal improvement to 2.5% in 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GST Council clears a few measures to boost foreign trade

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

Recommendations on GST Rates for Goods and Services

I. Changes in GST Rates for Goods

1. Food Preparation of Millet Flour
2. Imitation Zari Thread
3. Foreign Going Vessels
- II. Other Changes Related to Goods
4. Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)

5. Molasses:

6. Rectified Spirit for Industrial Use

III. Changes in GST Rates for Services

7. Exemptions for Government Services
8. Job Work Services for Barley Processing
9. GST on Bus Transportation Services via ECOs
10. District Mineral Foundations Trusts (DMFT)
11. GST on Indian Railways

India's Fiscal Deficit Rose To Rs 6.42 trillion, Which Is 36% Of The FY24 Target

According to the data, released by the Controller General of Accounts, the fiscal deficit for the April-August period in FY24 stood at Rs 6.42 trillion. This accounts for 36 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 trillion. Comparatively, during the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was 32.6 per cent of the full-year target. It's worth noting that India's aim is to narrow its fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the current financial year, down from 6.4 per cent in the previous year. The primary deficit, which represents the fiscal deficit without considering interest payments, stood at Rs 2.75 trillion. This amounts to 38.9 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 7.06 trillion. In the same period last year, between April and August, the primary deficit was 28.2 per cent of the budgetary estimate. The primary deficit is a crucial metric as it reflects the government's ability to meet its expenditure commitments without relying on borrowing for interest payments.

6.Piyush Goyal Unveils 'Status Holder' Certificates Under Foreign Trade Policy 2023

In a meeting with the Export Promotion Councils, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal unveiled a significant initiative to issue system-based automatic 'Status Holder' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. This transformative step not only reduces compliance burden and promotes ease of doing business but also underscores the importance of government collaboration.

Urban unemployment rate drops to 6.6% in Q1

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), shedding light on the urban unemployment situation in India during the first quarter of the fiscal year. In the April-June quarter of this fiscal year, the urban unemployment rate in India dropped to 6.6%. This was the lowest level recorded since the PLFS bulletin was launched in 2018. For males above the age of 15, the urban unemployment rate decreased from 6.0% in the previous quarter to 5.9%. For females in the same age group, the unemployment rate decreased from 9.2% to 9.1% during the same period.

IMF Raises India's FY24 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.3%

In its October 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24. The growth projection was increased from 6.1% to 6.3% due to stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June. The report also highlighted India's resilient domestic economic activity and the positive impact of robust domestic demand, contrasting global economic trends.

Goods exports dipped, but August tally lifts outlook

India's goods exports faced a continuous decline, marking the seventh consecutive month of downturn in August 2023. The year-on-year data revealed a 6.86% decrease, plummeting to \$34.48 billion. Key sectors like petroleum products, gems and jewellery, readymade garments, and chemicals were major contributors to this decline. Despite the overall decrease, half of the top thirty export items, including engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and select agricultural goods, experienced growth in August. This positive trend sparked optimism within the government about future prospects. Imports in August 2023 exhibited a decline of 5.23%, amounting to \$58.64 billion. This fall was primarily attributed to reduced imports of petroleum, coal and coke, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, and fertilizers. The trade deficit in August 2023 reached a ten-month high, stagnating at \$24.16 billion, a figure consistent with the same period in 2022.

India's Economy To Grow At 6.3% In FY24 As Per FICCI Survey

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently unveiled its latest Economic Outlook Survey, providing insights into the anticipated growth of India's economy in the upcoming fiscal year, FY24. The survey, conducted in September 2023, brings together eminent economists from the banking, financial services, and industry sectors to provide a comprehensive analysis of the economic landscape.

The expected economic growth of India in 2023-24

India has shown remarkable resilience amidst global challenges, as per the latest India Development Update (IDU) by the World Bank. Despite a tough global environment, India's economy grew at 7.2% in FY22/23, making it one of the fastest-growing major economies.

Robust Domestic Demand: India's strong internal demand played a vital role in its economic growth.

Infrastructure Investments: Significant investments in public infrastructure boosted economic activity.

Financial Sector Strength: The financial sector grew stronger, contributing to the overall economic resilience.

Increased Bank Credit: Bank credit grew by 15.8% in the first quarter of FY23/24, indicating a healthy financial environment

Centre approves 4% hike in DA for central govt employees

The Union Government recently took a significant step to benefit Central government employees and pensioners by increasing the Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 4%. This increase will be effective from July 1, 2023. Union Minister Anurag Thakur announced a 4% increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief. The DA will go up from 42% to 46%. This decision benefits a large number of people, including 48.67 lakh central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners. The dearness allowance for employees and pensioners is calculated based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), published monthly by the Labour Bureau. The release of the additional installment of DA and DR will be applicable from July 1, 2023.

Increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Rabi Crops in 2024-25

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Rabi Crops for the Marketing Season 2024-25. This decision aims to ensure fair prices for farmers and encourage crop diversification.

Minimum Support Prices are the guaranteed prices that the government offers to farmers for their crops.

These prices act as a safety net, ensuring that farmers receive a reasonable income for their produce.

Wheat: The MSP for wheat has increased by Rs. 150 per quintal, reaching Rs. 2275 per quintal for the 2024-25 season. This provides a 102% margin over the cost of production.

Barley: Barley's MSP has risen by Rs. 115 per quintal, reaching Rs. 1850 per quintal, with a 60% margin over the cost of production.

Gram: The MSP for gram has gone up by Rs. 105 per quintal, now at Rs. 5440 per quintal, with a 60% margin over the cost of production.

Lentil (Masur): Lentil sees the highest increase, with the MSP going up by Rs. 425 per quintal, reaching Rs. 6425 per quintal. This offers an impressive 89% margin over the cost of production.

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

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

Rankings & Reports News

India's Industrial Output Hits 14-Month High at 10.3% in August with Strong Manufacturing Performance

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently unveiled data indicating a remarkable surge in India's industrial output in August. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) reported a staggering growth of 10.3 percent, marking the highest growth in 14 months. This figure surpassed the consensus estimate of 9.1 percent, demonstrating the sector's robust performance.

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

In the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2023, India has been ranked 111 out of 125 countries, marking a decline from its 107th position in 2022. The GHI is an annual assessment of hunger levels globally, published by Irish NGO Concern Worldwide and German NGO Welt Hunger Hilfe. The GHI 2023 report highlights that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, standing at 18.7 percent during 2018-22, which signifies acute undernutrition. The rate of undernourishment in India is reported at 16.6 percent, and the under-five mortality rate is 3.1 percent. The prevalence of anemia among women aged between 15 and 24 years in India is alarmingly high at 58.1 percent. India's overall GHI score is 28.7, categorizing the hunger situation in the country as "serious." The Women and Child Development Ministry, a key governmental body, has raised serious concerns about the GHI 2023 report. According to the ministry, the index suffers from "serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent."

Mumbai Secures 19th Spot, Bengaluru 22nd And New Delhi 25th In The Knight Frank Index

London-based property consultant, Knight Frank, has recently unveiled its Global Prime Residential Index, providing insight into the performance of various cities across the world in the residential real estate market. In the latest report for Q2 2023, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi have showcased impressive growth, securing notable positions on the index. With an astonishing annual percentage change of six percent, Mumbai has ascended 76 places to secure the 19th position on the index, a significant improvement from its 95th position in Q2 2022. This puts Mumbai at the top among Indian cities in terms of percentage increase on the global index. In Q2 2023, Mumbai experienced a residential price appreciation of six percent year-on-year.

Kempegowda International Airport tops global on-time performance rankings

In a recent report published by aviation analytics firm Cirium, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, also known as the Bengaluru International Airport, has earned a remarkable distinction. It has been recognized as the “world’s most punctual airport” for the past three consecutive months. This accolade underscores the airport’s exceptional commitment to on-time departures and an impressive travel experience for passengers. Cirium’s report, titled ‘The On-Time Performance Monthly Report,’ specifically commended KIA for its consistently outstanding on-time departure performance. The airport, managed by Bangalore International Airport Limited, achieved punctuality rates of 87.51% in July, 89.66% in August, and 88.51% in September. Cirium evaluates on-time performance (OTP) by assessing whether an aircraft arrives at the gate within 15 minutes of the scheduled departure time. The report covered approximately 89.03% of the total flights operated from KIA, amounting to 18,913 flights.

Global Remote Work Index, India among world’s worst countries

In a significant shift in the global remote work landscape, India has been ranked 64th out of 108 countries in the Global Remote Work Index (GRWI). This marks a substantial decline of 15 places from the previous year, raising concerns about the country’s readiness for remote work.

The GRWI, developed and published by cybersecurity firm NordLayer, evaluates countries based on four fundamental criteria crucial for remote work success:

- Cyber Safety
- Economic Safety
- Digital and Physical Infrastructure
- Social Safety

India’s remote work challenges are largely rooted in subpar digital and physical infrastructure. The nation ranked 77th in this category, indicating that its e-infrastructure is among the

least developed globally (95th position). India’s internet services, although widely available, are plagued by issues of cost (78th) and quality (70th), hampering remote work efficiency.

Business News

Air India Installs Massive Engineering Warehouse At Delhi Airport

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

Business continuity plan for Israel’s Haifa port ready: ALSEZ

The stock price of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), an entity under the Gautam Adani-led group, experienced a significant decline of over 5 percent on NSE (National Stock Exchange) amid certain events affecting the region. APSEZ operates the Haifa port in Israel and has emphasized its vigilance in ensuring business continuity despite the challenges faced. APSEZ stocks witnessed a sharp decline, falling by 4.89 percent on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and 5.09 percent on the NSE. On the BSE, the stocks closed at Rs 789.90, and on NSE, they closed at Rs 788.5.

SEBI said to probe Adani- Gulf Ties

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an investigation into the relationship between the Adani Group, a prominent Indian conglomerate, and the Gulf Asia Trade & Investment fund based in the British Virgin Islands. The probe aims to determine whether there have been violations of share ownership regulations, following allegations of accountancy fraud and stock manipulation made against the Adani Group. In January, a damning report by short-seller Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of governance risks, asserting that offshore shell firms clandestinely owned stakes in Adani’s publicly-listed companies. This accusation led to SEBI’s scrutiny of the conglomerate’s affairs. In January, a damning report by short-seller Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of governance risks, asserting that offshore shell firms clandestinely owned stakes in Adani’s publicly-listed companies. This accusation led to SEBI’s scrutiny of the conglomerate’s affairs.

Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard

Microsoft has successfully completed its acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the renowned developer behind popular video game franchises like Call of Duty and World of Warcraft. This monumental deal, valued at \$69 billion, signifies Microsoft's largest-ever acquisition in its history, surpassing the \$26 billion purchase of LinkedIn in 2016 and the \$7.5 billion acquisition of Bethesda in 2021. Notably, this acquisition also represents Microsoft's most significant foray into the gaming industry. The United Kingdom's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) initially sought to block the acquisition in April due to concerns that Microsoft, as the creator of the Xbox gaming console, would wield excessive influence in the emerging cloud gaming market. This opposition raised concerns about potential anti-competitive effects in the industry.

IDFC gets CCI nod for merger with IDFC First Bank

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the merger of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and IDFC First Bank. This approval was communicated through a regulatory filing on October 17, 2023. The merger had previously received the green light from the board of directors of both IDFC and IDFC First Bank on July 3. However, for the merger to be finalized, it still needs approval from various statutory and regulatory bodies. These include the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The merger also needs the consent of stock exchanges, as well as the agreement of shareholders and creditors of both IDFC and IDFC First Bank. As of June 30, 2023, IDFC held a 30.93 percent stake in IDFC First Bank through its non-financial holding company.

CCEA Approves ₹20,000 Crore Worth 13 GW Green Energy Corridor Project In Ladakh

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given the green light to the Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for a massive 13-gigawatt (GW) Renewable Energy (RE) project in Ladakh. This ambitious project is poised to reshape the renewable energy landscape in India. The project's primary objective is to establish a colossal 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh, a region known for its complex terrain, harsh climatic conditions, and defense sensitivities. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) revealed that the project has an estimated total cost of ₹20,773.70 crore. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will cover 40 percent of the project cost, amounting to ₹8,309.48 crore.

Tata Motors To Invest ₹150 Crore To Acquire 27% Stake In 'Freight Tiger'

Tata Motors, a prominent name in the Indian automotive sector, announced a significant move that would reshape the country's logistics landscape. The company revealed its plan

to acquire a 27% stake in Freight Tiger, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform specializing in end-to-end logistics solutions. This strategic partnership represents a crucial step in advancing efficiency within the truck and freight ecosystem in India. Tata Motors committed to a substantial investment of ₹150 crore in Freight Tiger, securing a 27% stake in the (Software as a service) SaaS platform. However, Tata Motors also holds the option to further invest ₹100 crore over the next two years, depending on the prevailing market value.

RBI Approves Kotak Mahindra Bank To Acquire MFI Sonata Finance

In a significant development in the financial sector, Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance. This acquisition marks a crucial step for Kotak Mahindra Bank in expanding its footprint in the microfinance sector. Kotak Mahindra Bank, one of India's leading private-sector lenders, has taken a strategic step by acquiring Sonata Finance, a non-banking financial company – microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI). The acquisition, valued at approximately Rs 537 crore, was announced in February and has now received the crucial approval from the RBI.

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

Euro Zone businesses faced a significant setback this October, with a widespread drop in demand, raising concerns about a possible recession. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the region fell sharply, indicating economic challenges.

Downturn Across Europe: Business activity declined across the Euro Zone, including major economies like Germany and France. This downturn hints at economic struggles ahead.

ECB's Concerns: The European Central Bank (ECB) is likely to be disappointed. Market indicators suggest that ECB President Christine Lagarde's positive outlook on interest rates might not hold amid this economic downturn.

Zomato Introduces Maternity Insurance Plan for Women Delivery Partners

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

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

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

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

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

Agreement News

Fintech Unicorn Slice To Merge With North East Small Finance Bank

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

IRCTC Partners With Zomato For Delivery Of Pre-Booked Meals

In a significant development for train travelers in India, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has joined forces with the popular food delivery platform, Zomato. This strategic alliance aims to enhance the dining experience of railway passengers by offering a wider array of food options through IRCTC's E-Catering segment. The collaboration aims to cater to the diverse culinary preferences of railway passengers, ensuring they have access to a variety of meals that suit their tastes and dietary requirements. The partnership is set to provide travelers with increased choices, convenience, and, ultimately, a more enjoyable and comfortable journey. As part of this groundbreaking partnership, IRCTC has launched a Proof of Concept (PoC) at five prominent railway stations: New Delhi,

Prayagraj, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Varanasi. This PoC allows passengers to order and receive pre-ordered meals through the IRCTC E-Catering portal, with the assistance of Zomato.

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

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

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

Appointment News

Ramaswamy N Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re

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

Reliance's JioMart Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

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

Navneet Munot Elected Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has recently elected Navneet Munot, the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as the Chairman during a Board meeting. Munot, a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder, boasts over three decades of experience in the financial services sector. He will succeed A Balasubramanian, Managing Director of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company, who will complete two consecutive terms in October. A Balasubramanian, the outgoing Chairman of AMFI, has played a pivotal role in the organization. Having served two consecutive terms, his leadership has been instrumental in shaping the mutual fund industry in India. As he steps down, he leaves behind a legacy of growth and development.

Sandeep Shandilya Assumes Role As Hyderabad Police Commissioner

The Election Commission of India made a significant announcement on October 13, by appointing senior IPS officer Sandeep Shandilya as the new police commissioner of Hyderabad. Shandilya, an officer of the 1993 IPS batch, is presently serving as the director of the Telangana State Police Academy (TSPA). This decision comes after the transfer of the former police commissioner, CV Anand. Sandeep Shandilya has had a distinguished career in the Indian Police Service. His journey through various positions within the police force is a testament to his experience and leadership. In the year 2006, he served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police for the South Zone, demonstrating his capabilities in maintaining law and order. Sandeep Shandilya has had a distinguished career in the Indian Police Service. His journey through various positions within the police force is a testament to his experience and leadership. In the year 2006, he served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police for the South Zone, demonstrating his capabilities in maintaining law and order.

B K Mohanty Assumes Charge As Director Of Finance At IREDA

Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty officially assumed the role of Director (Finance) at the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA). Dr. Mohanty, a highly respected senior finance professional with an impressive career spanning over 25 years in the Indian power sector, brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that promises to enrich IREDA's leadership. The appointment of Dr. Mohanty as Director (Finance) of IREDA was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). In an order issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty was appointed to the post for a period of five years from the date he assumed charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier. This long-term commitment is expected to provide stability and continuity in the financial leadership of IREDA.

Sanjay Kulshrestha named as new Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO

Sanjay Kulshrestha has joined as the Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO from 16th October 2023. He is an electrical engineer with over 32 years of expertise in Infrastructure Financing, Hedging, Risk Management, ALM, thermal power plant management, Power Sector Project Financing etc. For the first 15 years, he has worked in the areas of power project execution, high voltage substations and transmission lines at both State as well as Private sectors. In 2006, he joined REC, initially in Mumbai and later moved to the Delhi Headquarters where he has been a Power Sector Financing expert for the last 17 years where he managed the techno-commercial appraisal of power sector projects and pioneered implementation of multiple government schemes.

Presidential Appointments: New Governors for Odisha and Tripura

President Droupadi Murmu has recently appointed new governors for Odisha and Tripura, bringing experienced leaders to these important roles.

Odisha's New Governor: Raghubar Das

Background: Raghubar Das served as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019.

Remarkable Feat: He is the only leader who completed a full five-year term as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

Political Career: Das was elected as an MLA in 1995 when Bihar and Jharkhand were one state.

Current Role: Presently, he is a national vice president of the BJP.

Tripura's New Governor: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

Background: Nallu Indrasena Reddy is a three-time MLA and a prominent BJP leader from Telangana.

Leadership Role: He previously held the position of national secretary of the BJP.

New Responsibility: President Murmu appointed him as the Governor of Tripura, recognizing his political experience and dedication.

Dr Meenesh Shah elected to Board of International Dairy Federation

Dr. Meenesh Shah, the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has been elected to the Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) during the General Assembly of IDF on October 15. With a long history of involvement with IDF, Dr. Shah's contributions have been instrumental in promoting India's unique smallholder-based dairying system on the global stage. He had spearheaded the successful organisation of the World's largest Dairy Conference – IDF WDS 2022 in India in September 2022, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Puma Ropes in Mohammed Shami as its Brand Ambassador

In an exciting development for sports enthusiasts and fans, Puma, the renowned sports brand, has announced the inclusion of Mohammed Shami, a prominent Indian fast bowler, as its brand ambassador. This strategic partnership adds another star to Puma's impressive roster of brand ambassadors. This article delves into the details of this collaboration and Shami's significant role in the world of cricket. Puma boasts a star-studded lineup of brand ambassadors who have made a mark in their respective sports. The list includes cricket icon Virat Kohli, sprinting legend Usain Bolt, football sensations Neymar Jr and Sunil Chhetri, boxing champion MC Mary Kom, cricketers Harmanpreet Kaur and Harleen Deol, and para-shooter Avani Lekhara.

HP Appoints Ipsita Dasgupta as Senior Vice President & MD for India

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has announced a significant leadership change with the appointment of Ipsita Dasgupta as the Senior Vice President & Managing Director for its India market. Ms. Dasgupta's role will encompass overseeing all facets of HP's strategy and profitability in the India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka regions. In her new role, Ms. Dasgupta will bear the responsibility of leading and steering HP's operations, strategy, and profit and loss (P&L) for these vital South Asian markets.

Lay's announces Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

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

Amol Muzumdar appoints India Women Head Coach

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

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

Professor Sarang Deo, a distinguished figure in the field of Operations Management and healthcare, has been appointed as a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO). This appointment reflects his exceptional expertise and contributions to the battle against tuberculosis, particularly in India. It is not only a personal achievement but also a significant development for India's fight against tuberculosis. His expertise in healthcare management, innovative solutions, and global perspective is poised to make a meaningful contribution to the mission of ending the tuberculosis epidemic and improving healthcare delivery systems in India and beyond. It represents a powerful collaboration between academia and global health organizations in the ongoing battle against one of the world's deadliest diseases.

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

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

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

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

Banking News

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

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

Indian Navy & SBI join hands to launch Nav-eCash' card

To support the Indian government's Digital India initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new card called NAV-eCash on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya. The launch took place on October 1, 2021, at Karwar.

1. Digital Payment Advancement:

The NAV-eCash card is a significant step toward digital payments.

It utilizes dual chip card technology, allowing payments both offline and online. This means it works even without real-time internet connectivity.

2. Joint Unveiling:

The card was jointly unveiled by Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, FOCINC WNC (Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command), and Shri CS Setty, Managing Director (Retail and Digital Banking) of SBI.

3. Unique Features:

In online mode, NAV-eCash functions like a regular debit or prepaid card, offering all standard features.

It serves as an innovative solution for cashless transactions, particularly in areas lacking consistent internet access, such as warships at sea, offshore oil platforms, and remote regions.

4. Collaborative Effort:

The concept for NAV-eCash was developed by a team of officers from INS Vikramaditya and brought to fruition by SBI, India's largest public sector bank.

The card is tailored to replace cash transactions with digital payments, ensuring convenience and security in various challenging environments.

5. Digital Transactions Anywhere:

NAV-eCash is specifically designed for use in locations where real-time internet connections are limited, allowing digital transactions to take place seamlessly.

This innovation aligns with the nation's broader goal of promoting digital financial solutions and enhancing accessibility across diverse settings.

RBI doubles UCB gold loan limit to ₹4 lakh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made an important announcement regarding gold loans offered by urban cooperative banks (UCBs). They have decided to double the lending limits for gold loans under a specific repayment scheme. RBI has decided to increase the existing limit for gold loans under a scheme called "bullet repayment" from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for urban cooperative banks. This change is applicable to UCBs that have met certain lending targets in the Priority Sector. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated that this decision is in line with RBI's earlier promise to provide incentives to UCBs that meet specific lending targets. These targets are related to lending to marginalized sectors of the population.

IDFC FIRST Bank tie up with Outlook Group to present "Outlook Money 40After40"

Outlook Group is excited to announce the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, "40After40," in association with IDFC FIRST Bank. This two-day event and expo will take place at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on January 23-24, 2024. "40After40" aims to be a comprehensive platform for all retirement-related discussions, offering panel discussions, expert chats, masterclasses, interactions with financial planners, and product presentations. According to a National Statistical Office (NSO) report titled "Elderly in India 2021," the elderly population in India is on the rise. It is projected to increase by 41 percent over a decade, from 138 million in 2021 to 194 million in 2031.

Bengali

সংকল্প

WBPSA Clerkship Prelims Batch

লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও স্টাডি ম্যাট
+ Hand Written Notes

Start Date: 3 Nov 2023

A group of people, likely the team or students, are shown at the bottom of the advertisement.

RBI directs Bank of Baroda to halt new customer onboarding on its mobile app

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering Bank of Baroda (BoB) to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, 'bob World'. This action comes in the wake of material deficiencies discovered by the RBI during the customer onboarding process. The directive from RBI underscores the presence of material supervisory concerns that have arisen during the customer onboarding procedures of 'bob World,' the mobile app provided by Bank of Baroda. These concerns have prompted RBI to intervene and ensure the rectification of these deficiencies.

RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a significant fine of ₹5.39 crore on Paytm Payments Bank, highlighting various instances of non-compliance with the RBI's guidelines. The penalties were levied for failing to adhere to specific provisions concerning Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols, cybersecurity measures, and other regulatory requirements. The RBI's decision to impose a ₹5.39 crore fine on Paytm Payments Bank stems from multiple instances where the bank failed to meet regulatory requirements.

RBI Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty On Union Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a stern stance on non-compliance with its regulatory directives by imposing penalties on Union Bank of India, RBL Bank, and Bajaj Finance, all of which have faced penalties for various breaches of RBI's regulatory guidelines. The RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Union Bank of India for its failure to adhere to the regulatory guidelines on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions.' An examination of the bank's financials for the fiscal year 2020-21 revealed significant non-compliance issues. The bank sanctioned a term loan to a corporation in lieu of budgetary resources designated for specific projects, without conducting due diligence on the viability of these projects. Furthermore, the repayment and servicing of the loan were made using budgetary resources, a direct violation of the central bank's directives.

Federal Bank Launched 'Mookkannoor Mission' Initiative At Its Founder's Village

On the occasion of the 106th birth anniversary of its visionary founder, K.P Hormis yesterday, the Federal Bank recently inaugurated the 'Mookkannoor Mission,' a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive change and progress in the village of Mookkannoor, located in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. This initiative is a testament to the bank's commitment to community development, environmental sustainability, and digital transformation, aligning perfectly with the ideals of its illustrious founder. Mookkannoor, a serene village nestled in the beautiful Ernakulam district, is a place of profound cultural heritage and natural beauty. However, like many parts of the country, it faces various challenges related to cleanliness, waste management, and access to essential services. The Federal Bank is committed to executing a

comprehensive plan that covers digitization of the entire village, a rigorous cleanliness drive, waste management, tree plantation, community development, and the implementation of renewable energy projects.

RBI Revises KYC Rules, Offering Improved Guidance To Prevent Money Laundering

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made significant revisions to its master direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) for regulated entities. These changes incorporate amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering rules and, importantly, deal with the requirement of beneficial owner (BO) identification for partnership firms. Under the revised norms, the definition of "Principal Officer" has been clarified. A Principal Officer is now defined as an officer at the management level nominated by the regulated entity (RE). This change aims to provide greater clarity regarding the individuals responsible for furnishing information. It ensures that senior management is held accountable for compliance with KYC regulations.

RBI initiates Pilot Run to Test E-Rupee for Inter-Bank Borrowing

The Reserve Bank of India has taken a significant step in the digital transformation of the nation's financial landscape by initiating a pilot run to test the E-Rupee, a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), for inter-bank borrowing. The E-Rupee pilot project is a remarkable endeavor that seeks to harness the potential of blockchain technology and digital currency to revolutionize the way inter-bank transactions are conducted in India.

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

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

Science & Technology News

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

In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended 24 start-ups for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of Rs 20 crore. This transformative initiative was announced during the ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program. ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with four Technology Innovation Hubs. These hubs,

established under the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), played a crucial role in identifying and nurturing these promising agri-start-ups. A total of 55 start-ups participated in the ATMAN 2023 program, presenting their innovative solutions across five panels. These panels were dedicated to precision farming, agro IoT, agri 4.0, mechanization, automation, market intelligence, yield prediction, farm advisory, and communication. The expert jury, after careful evaluation, identified and recommended 24 start-ups as potential beneficiaries of the Rs 20 Crore fund.

PM Modi directs ISRO to land on the moon by 2040

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has announced ambitious plans to expand the country's space activities, including sending its first astronaut to the moon by 2040 and establishing a native space station by 2035. Following the success of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar probe, India is gearing up for lunar exploration. Originally, India aimed to have its own space station by 2022, but technical issues and the COVID-19 pandemic caused delays. India is developing a roadmap for moon exploration, which includes building a next-generation launch vehicle, constructing a new launch pad, and creating human-centric laboratories and associated technologies. The Gaganyaan mission, expected in 2025, plans to launch three crew members into orbit for three days.

China launched its youngest ever space crew

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

Schemes and Committees News

PMJDY continues to grow, adding ₹30,000 crore to total balance in H1

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has achieved remarkable success, with over 50 crore beneficiaries and a significant increase in total balance. The scheme's growth, especially post-Covid-19, reflects its effectiveness in promoting financial inclusion. In the first half of the current financial year, the total balance in PMJDY accounts increased by ₹30,000 crore, reaching ₹2.05 lakh crore as of October 4, 2023. The number of beneficiaries rose by over 3.5 crore in the last year, from 47 crore to 50.63 crore, showcasing a steady growth trend in new enrollments. Public sector banks operate 40 crore accounts with a balance of ₹1.60-lakh crore, while the rest is contributed by regional rural banks, co-operative banks, and private sector banks.

RCS- UDAN Completes 6 Successful Years

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

Summits & Conference News

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

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

Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organisation of 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania. It was established in 1997 to promote regional cooperation and development. The IORA Council of Ministers meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Association. It is held annually to discuss and decide on IORA priorities. Foreign Ministers of India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Iran, Malaysia, and South Africa, as well as ministerial and senior-level participation from other member and dialogue partner countries. Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of IORA for the next two years.

IGNOU & ICAI ink MoU for academic collaboration

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has recently renewed and restructured its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). This renewed partnership aims to enhance academic collaboration between these two esteemed institutions, ushering in a new era of educational opportunities for students in the field of Chartered Accountancy. The signing ceremony for the MoU took place in

the presence of eminent figures in the world of education and accountancy. Among those attending were Prof. Nageshwar Rao, the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, and CA Aniket Sunil Talati, President of ICAI, along with dignitaries from ICAI and faculty members from the School of Management Studies (SOMS) at IGNOU. The MoU was officially signed by CA Jai Kumar Batra, Secretary of ICAI, and Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar of IGNOU.

India, France Defence Ministers hold fifth dialogue

Shri Rajnath Singh, the Indian Defence Minister, concluded his two-nation European tour with a significant meeting in Paris with the French Minister of Armed Forces, Mr. Sebastien Lecornu. The 5th Annual Defence Dialogue between the two ministers was marked by discussions spanning various aspects of defense cooperation.

PM Modi to Inaugurate 141st IOC Session in Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai on October 14. This marks India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the 86th IOC session was held in New Delhi in 1983. The IOC session serves as a pivotal platform for making critical decisions concerning the future of the Olympic Games and facilitates interaction and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in the world of sports.

India and UK Explore Collaboration in Trade, Defense, and More During Inaugural 2+2 Dialogue

India and the UK recently held their first-ever 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue in New Delhi. This dialogue signifies a significant step in strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. The officials from both nations discussed ways to enhance collaboration in trade and investment, aiming to boost economic ties between India and the UK. India and the UK explored avenues for cooperation in defense, including maritime security. Both sides discussed strategies to counter terrorism and assist in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts. Focus was placed on critical and emerging technologies, emphasizing the need for joint efforts in areas like cybersecurity and advanced technologies. The dialogue included talks on civil aviation, aiming to improve connectivity between the two countries. Discussions also centered around collaborative efforts in infrastructure development.

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

In a significant event held in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023, with the theme, "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport". The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., aims to address critical aspects of urban transportation in the country.

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

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

Awards & Honors News

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

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

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

Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov "for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots". The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 rewards the discovery and development of quantum dots, nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. These smallest components of nanotechnology now spread their light from televisions and LED lamps, and can also guide surgeons when they remove tumour tissue, among many other things. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize. Everyone who studies chemistry learns that an element's properties are governed by how many electrons it has. However, when matter shrinks to nano-dimensions quantum phenomena arise; these are governed by the size of the matter. The Nobel Laureates in Chemistry 2023 have succeeded in producing particles so small that their properties are determined by quantum phenomena. The particles, which are called quantum dots, are now of great importance in nanotechnology.

Tamil Writer Ambai Receives Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award

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

Nobel Peace Prize 2023 awarded to Narges Mohammadi

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

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

Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Amsterdam, has been awarded the prestigious Dutch Spinoza Prize for her groundbreaking work in the field of climate change. This article explores her achievements, the significance of the Spinoza Prize, and the impact of her research. Dr. Gupta has expressed her intent to allocate this substantial prize fund toward furthering scientific research and knowledge utilization in her field. Dr. Joyeeta Gupta becomes the twelfth researcher affiliated with the University of Amsterdam to receive this prestigious award, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence.

MRPL Secured 'Best Innovation in Refinery' Award For 2022-23

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has once again clinched the prestigious 'Best Innovation in Refinery' award for the year 2022-23, bestowed by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at the 26th Energy Technology Meet 2023. This significant achievement comes after a stiff competition with prominent players in the industry, including IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL, marking the second consecutive year that MRPL has received this accolade. The basis for MRPL

R&D's well-deserved recognition and award was a groundbreaking patent. This patent revolved around an energy-efficient hydrocarbon distillation process, a true milestone in energy technology.

Tamil writer Sivasankari presented with Saraswati Samman 2022

Tamil writer Sivasankari was honored with the prestigious 'Saraswati Samman' in 2022 for her memoirs, "Surya Vamsam." The award, presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation, was given to her by former Union Minister M. Veerappa Moily, along with a citation, a plaque, and a prize of ₹15 lakh. The book was selected by a Chayan Parishad (Selection Committee), led by former Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri. The committee's discerning judgment highlighted the exceptional literary value of Surya Vamsam. Surya Vamsam, a two-volume work, offers a profound glimpse into the life of an innocent child who evolved into an acclaimed author. Additionally, the book beautifully reflects the societal transformations that have occurred over the past seven decades.

Michael Douglas to be conferred Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award

Renowned Hollywood actor Michael Douglas is set to receive the prestigious Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award at the 54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to the world of cinema. In addition to this accolade, the festival will see the presence of Hollywood actor Catherine Zeta Jones, as well as their son. Michael Douglas's illustrious career boasts numerous awards and iconic film roles.

69th National Film Awards 2023 Conferred by President Droupadi Murmu

On 17 October, President Droupadi Murmu will confer the 69th National Film Awards 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. These awards, initially delayed due to the pandemic, are finally set to honor outstanding achievements in Indian cinema. In August of this year, the names of the award winners were officially revealed, building excitement within the film industry and among movie enthusiasts.

Best Actor: Allu Arjun

Best Actresses: Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon

Best Feature Film: "Rocketry: The Nambi Effect"

Best Film on National Integration: "The Kashmir Files"

Shreya Ghoshal 5th National Awards 2023

Renowned playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has added another feather to her cap, receiving the prestigious Best Female Playback Singer award at the 69th National Film Awards. The award was presented to her by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shreya Ghoshal's remarkable journey in the Indian film industry has been adorned with accolades, and this recent win marks her fifth National Film Award. Her first National Award was in 2003 for the soul-stirring rendition of "Bairi Piya" in the iconic movie 'Devdas.' Subsequently, she achieved further acclaim for her melodious contributions to

films like 'Paheli' with "Dheere Jalna" and 'Jab We Met' with "Yeh Ishq Haaye." In 2010, Shreya's talent shone once more as she clinched the National Award for not one but two songs – "Jiv Dangla" from the Marathi film 'Jogva' and "Pherari Mon" from the Bengali movie 'Antaheen.'

ICAI receives UN Award for its contribution to sustainability reporting

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) received a prestigious UN award for its top-ranked sustainability initiatives, including the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) honored ICAI during the 8th World Investment Forum for its contributions to sustainability reporting. ICAI's efforts aim to promote sustainable practices in India and align with international standards. ICAI's sustainability initiatives received the highest score among 70 initiatives worldwide. They were recognized for their work through the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented ICAI with the ISAR Honours 2023 for their outstanding contributions. UNCTAD announced the winners during the 8th World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi on October 17 2023.

Jina Mahsa Amini wins EU's Sakharov Prize 2023

The European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, announced the laureate of the 2023 Sakharov Prize in the Strasbourg plenary chamber. Jina Mahsa Amini and the Iranian "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement were awarded this prestigious prize, joining the ranks of remarkable past recipients like Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela. Mahsa Amini, a young woman of only 22, passed away on September 16, 2022, while in the custody of Iran's religious police. Her alleged offense was a breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. Her untimely death galvanized global attention and support for the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.

Important Dates News

World Nature Day 2023, Date, Significance and Celebrations

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

World Teachers' Day 2023: Celebrating Educators Worldwide

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

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, observed annually on the 13th of October, brings global attention to the critical issues of disasters and inequality. This day serves as a platform for creating awareness, educating communities, and promoting resilience in the face of natural and man-made disasters. The theme of UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future."

World Anaesthesia Day 2023: Theme, History and Significance

World Anaesthesia Day, celebrated on October 16 each year, is a significant occasion that highlights the critical role of anaesthesia in modern medical treatments. This day not only recognizes the birth of anaesthesia but also serves as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of this field in healthcare. World Anaesthesia Day stands as a tribute to the birth of anaesthesia, a groundbreaking development in the history of medicine. It serves to raise awareness about the importance of this field in healthcare and recognizes the ongoing need to ensure safe anaesthesia practices worldwide.

Central Electricity Authority Celebrates Its 50th Foundation Day

The Central Electricity Authority, the organization under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, which provides technical and policy support to the government and to all other stakeholders in the power sector, celebrated its 50th Foundation Day on October 15, 2023. Working towards the vision of ensuring reliable 24x7 power supply of adequate quality to all consumers in the country, the CEA has been at the forefront of the evolution of the power sector in India, with its pivotal role in planning and managing the country's electricity needs. Over the last five decades of its history, the Authority has consistently demonstrated its commitment to ensuring reliable and sustainable power supply to the nation.

Kati Bihu 2023: Date, History, Significance and Celebrations

Kati Bihu, also known as Kongali Bihu, is a significant festival celebrated by the Assamese people in the northeastern state of Assam. It falls on the first day of the 'Kati' month, which typically occurs in the middle of October. Kati Bihu 2023 is celebrated on 18th October and it marks the beginning of the rice crop's growth and the start of the new harvest season. This article explores the history, traditions and significance of Kati Bihu. The festival begins with the washing and placement of a sacred plant, usually Tulsi, on an earthen platform known as "Tulsi Bheti." Families offer prayers and make offerings to Goddess Tulsi for the well-being of their family and a successful harvest. This practice continues throughout the month of Kati. Lamps and candles illuminate various parts of the home, particularly near the revered Tulsi plant, creating a spiritual ambiance.

World Trauma Day 2023, Date, Theme, Significance and History

World Trauma Day, observed every year on 17 October, is dedicated to raising awareness about trauma, its causes, symptoms, and prevention. Trauma encompasses emotional responses to accidents, injuries, physical violence, rape, natural disasters, or any incident affecting an individual both physically and mentally. The primary goal of this day is to educate people about the causes and consequences of trauma and to promote strategies for trauma care and prevention. While the theme for World Trauma Day 2023 has not been announced yet, it typically revolves around the central idea of preventing trauma and providing support to victims.

National Police Commemoration Day 2023 Celebrates on 21 October

On October 21, 1959, ten courageous Policemen laid down their lives in a fierce ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. In their memory and that of all Police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty, October 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the brave men and women who dedicated their lives to preserving national security and integrity. In 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to the nation on Police Commemoration Day.

UN Disarmament Week Observed on 24-30 October

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

World Polio Day 2023: Date, Theme and Significance

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

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

The Indian Army marked the 76th 'Shaurya Diwas' in Jammu and Kashmir, a day dedicated to commemorating a significant historical event, the landing of Indian forces in Kashmir on 27 October 1947. This operation marked the first civil-military victory for Independent India. On October 27, 1947, Indian Army troops landed at Budgam Airport, initiating a mission to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir. This day stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the unity and integrity of the nation. Speaking on this momentous occasion, Lt General Rajiv Ghai, the GoC (General Officer Commanding) of the 15 Corps, emphasized the historical importance of 'Shaurya Diwas.' He highlighted the valor of Major Somnath Sharma, the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra. Despite being wounded, Major Sharma led his company, ultimately saving the Srinagar airfield from the grip of Pakistani tribals. In doing so, he made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

International Day of Care and Support 2023 Celebrates on 29 October

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

Sports News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the highly anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023. This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India. Sachin Tendulkar, who has etched his name into the annals of cricket history, holds the record for participating in six 50-over World Cups. His association with this global cricketing spectacle goes back decades, from being

a ball boy in 1987 to donning the Indian jersey in numerous editions. Sachin's legacy and his passion for the game make him the perfect choice to unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match.

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

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

Ojas Deotale is Nagpur's First Asian Games Gold Medalist

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

David Warner becomes fastest to 1000 ODI World Cup runs

Australia opener David Warner became the fastest batter to complete 1000 runs in ODI World Cup during his side's match against India in Chennai. Warner reached the milestone in 19 innings to break Sachin Tendulkar and AB de Villiers' joint record of 20 innings. Warner completed the feat within averaging 62 with three half-centuries and four tons since first being a part of the tournament back in 2011. He was a part of the Australian World Cup-winning unit in 2015 too. Warner has struck three fifties and four hundreds in World Cups so far. India captain Rohit Sharma is also in the contention to get to the top of the list. Rohit has 978 runs in 17 innings and needs 22 more to pip Warner. Warner has won the Player of the Match award four times in the ODI World Cup, with the highest score of 178 against Afghanistan at home.

National Games 2023 to be held in Goa from Oct. 26 to Nov. 9

The 37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023, is set to take place in the picturesque state of Goa. After multiple delays and changes in hosting rights, the event is finally slated to run from October 26 to November 9, marking the first time Goa has hosted this prestigious competition.

Origin and Early Years: The National Games, formerly known as the Indian Olympic Games, made its debut in Lahore, undivided India, in 1924.

Hosting Troubles: Goa was originally awarded the hosting rights for the 36th edition of the National Games, slated for 2016. However, due to numerous postponements, Gujarat hosted the event in the previous year.

Iran's Shadloui Becomes Costliest Player In Pro Kabaddi League Auction

Iranian Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh became the most expensive overseas player at the auction and was brought by Puneri Paltan for Rs 2.35 crore. Shadloui's countryman Fazel Atrachali became the second-most expensive overseas player and was sold to the Gujarat Giants for Rs 1.60 crore. Maninder Singh stays with the Bengal Warriors, as they used their Final Bid Match (FBM) card to get their captain back for Rs 2.12 crore. He is the second-most expensive domestic player and third overall. A total of 137 matches will be played in the 10th edition of PKL. As many as 132 league stage matches will be followed by the playoff comprising five matches, two eliminators, two semifinals and the final.

IOC and Reliance Foundation Join Forces to Promote Olympic Values in India

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the Olympic Museum has aligned with Reliance Foundation to build on the success of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India and signed a new cooperation agreement. This agreement underscores the organisations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people. The new cooperation was agreed upon by IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson, during a visit to the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy in Mumbai. During the ceremony, President Bach and Mrs Ambani exchanged pennants representing OVEP and Reliance Foundation and joined students in leaving their handprints on a new Olympic Values Pledge Wall, marking a commitment to be a positive role model both in sports and in day-to-day life.

Manikanta H Hoblidhar Sets New National Record In 100m Sprint

The 62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023 kicked off with a bang in Bengaluru, as Manikanta Hoblidhar from Services etched his name in the record books by smashing a new national record in the men's 100m category. The opening day of the championship witnessed an

outstanding performance by the young sprinter, who left spectators in awe with his lightning-fast speed. In the semi-finals of the Men's 100m, Manikanta Hoblidhar sprinted from the third lane, with extraordinary speed and determination. He powered his way to victory, crossing the finish line in first place with a remarkable timing of 10.23 seconds. Earlier in the day, Manikanta had showcased his remarkable speed with a time of 10.50 seconds in the preliminary heat. Manikanta Hoblidhar surpassed the previous national record of 10.26 seconds held by Amiya Kumar Mallick since April 2016.

11th Sultan Of Johor Cup To Be Held In Johor, Malaysia In November 2023

The 11th edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2023 is scheduled to be held in Johor, Malaysia. Hockey India has announced the 20-member Indian junior men's hockey team that will participate in the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup. This prestigious tournament is set to take place from October 27 to November 4. Notably, this year's edition will feature eight teams, expanding from the customary six. In this year's Sultan of Johor Cup, India has been placed in Pool B. They will face tough competition from Malaysia, Pakistan, and New Zealand. Meanwhile, Pool A will consist of Germany, Australia, South Africa, and Great Britain. The tournament promises fierce competition, as these junior teams strive to prove their mettle on the international stage.

IOC has accepted the recommendation to include T20 cricket into the 2028 Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, Cricket, by accepting the recommendation to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. This decision was made during the IOC's executive board meeting in Mumbai, heralding a new era for the sport on the global stage. The acceptance of cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics represents a pivotal moment in the sport's history. The IOC's decision, taken at the executive board meeting, sets the stage for a potentially transformational development. The next step is for the IOC to vote on this recommendation at its Session, scheduled to be held in Mumbai from October 14 to 16.

Neeraj Chopra Nominated for 2023 World Athlete of the Year Award

World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics, has officially nominated Neeraj Chopra for the prestigious Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023. This honor underscores Neeraj's remarkable achievements in the field of javelin throwing and his impressive gold medal victories at the Olympics and World Championships. A panel of international athletics experts, representing all six continental areas of World Athletics, diligently selected the 11 nominees for this prestigious award. Among these nominees, Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic and world champion, is vying for the title of the world's best male athlete.

Shubman Gill named as ICC 'Player of the Month' for September

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has once again acknowledged outstanding cricketer performances by awarding the 'Player of the Month' titles for September 2023. This prestigious recognition highlights the exceptional skills and contributions of cricketers on the global stage. In this edition, India's Shubman Gill clinches the ICC Men's 'Player of the Month,' while Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu emerges as the ICC Women's 'Player of the Month.' Let's dive into their remarkable achievements. The ICC 'Player of the Month' awards for September 2023 celebrate cricketer excellence on both the men's and women's fronts. Shubman Gill's prolific run-scoring and Chamari Athapaththu's all-round brilliance have rightfully earned them these accolades. These awards not only honor their individual performances but also acknowledge their significant contributions to their respective teams' successes. Cricket enthusiasts around the world eagerly anticipate more remarkable displays from these outstanding players in the future.

Most Sixes in International Cricket Matches

After completing 100 runs in World Cups, Rohit Sharma rewrote another record, edging past West Indies legend Chris Gayle hitting most sixes in International Cricket Matches. The Indian skipper hit six off Naveen-ul-Haq's bowling in the 8th over to go past Gayle's tally of 553 sixes in international cricket. India's Rohit Sharma surpassed West Indies' Chris Gayle for the record of most sixes across formats (Tests, ODIs and T20Is) in international cricket. With the six which came just after Rohit had reached his fifty, he now has 554 sixes across the format. In the list follow big cricketer names like Gayle, Shahid Afridi, Brendon McCullum, Martin Gupitil and MS Dhoni.

PM confirms India's bid to host 2036 Olympics

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. The event marked a significant moment in India's sporting history, with PM Modi expressing India's eagerness to host the Olympics and Youth Olympics in the coming years. Upon his arrival, PM Modi was warmly welcomed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis, showcasing the unity and enthusiasm of the Indian state governments for the event. PM Modi articulated India's ambitious dream of hosting the Olympics in 2036, emphasizing the commitment of 1.4 billion Indians towards making this dream a reality. He vowed that no effort would be spared in ensuring the successful organization of the event. In a proactive move, PM Modi extended an invitation to host the 2029 Youth Olympics, showcasing India's readiness to contribute significantly to the global sports arena. He expressed confidence in India receiving constant support from the IOC for this endeavor.

India's represent his Contingent for the Asian Para Games

India is set to be well-represented at the fourth Asian Para Games scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China, from October 22 to 28. The nation is sending a robust contingent of 446 members, including 303 athletes, demonstrating a commitment to para sports. The Sports Ministry of India has played a pivotal role in this endeavor by sanctioning the participation of 303 sportspersons, comprising 191 male and 112 female athletes. This support underscores India's dedication to promoting para sports and creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities. India's contingent spans across 17 different sporting disciplines. This diverse representation reflects the nation's intention to excel in various sports and showcases the talent and dedication of para athletes.

Ashutosh Sharma Breaks Yuvraj Singh's Fastest Fifty Record

In a remarkable display of power hitting, Ashutosh Sharma, a middle-order batter for the Railways cricket team, broke Yuvraj Singh's record for the fastest fifty by an Indian. Ashutosh achieved this milestone during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group C clash in Ranchi against Arunachal Pradesh. Yuvraj Singh, a cricketer legend, had held the record for the fastest fifty by an Indian for 16 years, with his fifty coming off 12 balls during the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 against England. However, Ashutosh Sharma changed the narrative with an astonishing performance.

Karthikeyan Murali's Remarkable Victory Over Magnus Carlsen

In a remarkable turn of events at the ongoing Qatar Masters, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali achieved a stunning feat by defeating the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen. This historic victory marked only the third instance where an Indian player emerged triumphant against the chess legend. Karthikeyan Murali's triumph over Magnus Carlsen in the Qatar Masters is a momentous occasion in the world of chess. It highlights the immense talent and potential of Indian chess players on the international stage. As Karthikeyan continues to hone his skills and make history, he serves as an inspiration to aspiring chess enthusiasts worldwide.

Hyderabad To Host Second Edition Of E-Prix In 2024

After a period of uncertainty, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Formula E have officially confirmed the return of the Hyderabad E-Prix for a second edition. This highly anticipated event is scheduled to take place on February 10, 2024. Despite concerns about the future of the Hyderabad E-Prix, fans and motorsport enthusiasts can now breathe a sigh of relief as the FIA and Formula E have included Hyderabad in the final calendar for the tenth season of the Formula E championship. This season will consist of 16 rounds, promising a thrilling competition for fans worldwide.

One of the most exciting aspects of the 2024 Hyderabad EPrix is the debut of an Indian driver, Jehan Daruvala. Daruvala will be making his mark in the all-electric single-seater championship, driving for Maserati MSG Racing and representing the Indian team Mahindra Racing. This is a significant moment for Indian motorsport as a homegrown talent joins the global stage.

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

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

Obituaries News

Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away

Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old. Anandan's demise occurred while he was undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital in Kerala for a prolonged illness. Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954 when he actively participated in an agitation advocating for higher wages for coir workers in his village. This early involvement laid the foundation for his lifelong dedication to the welfare of the working class. In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964. His commitment to the principles of communism and his passion for workers' rights were unwavering.

British Filmmaker Terence Davies Dies At 77

British filmmaker Terence Davies, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away at the age of 77 at home after a short illness. He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including 'Distant Voices, Still Lives' and 'The Long Day Closes'. Terence Davies was celebrated for his unique approach to cinema, which often delved into themes such as LGBT life, Catholicism, and other common aspects of human existence. His films were characterized by their sympathetic portrayals and philosophical depth, earning him a special place in the hearts of cinephiles worldwide. Terence Davies was born into a large Catholic family in Liverpool. He left school at the age of 16 and spent a decade working as a clerk before pursuing his passion

for filmmaking. His journey into the world of cinema began at Coventry Drama School. It was there that he crafted his first short film, "Children," an autobiographical piece that reflected his experiences during his school years.

Terence Davies' Autobiographical Journey: 'The Terence Davies Trilogy'

Celebrity Chef And Former Food Network Star, Michael Chiarello Passed Away

Chef Michael Chiarello, a culinary expert known for his extraordinary talent and passion for food, passed away at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California. He succumbed to an acute allergic reaction that led to anaphylactic shock, as announced by his company Gruppo Chiarello in a statement. Born on January 26, 1962, in Red Bluff, Calif., Chiarello's culinary journey began in his home state. In 1987, he opened his first restaurant, Tra Vigne, in the picturesque Napa Valley. This marked the beginning of his enduring relationship with the region and its culinary traditions. Over the years, Chiarello expanded his culinary empire, opening renowned restaurants such as Bottega, Ottimo, and Coqueta, each reflecting his distinct style and passion for creating unforgettable dining experiences.

Former Chief Election Commissioner MS Gill Passed Away

Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Manohar Singh Gill passed away at a South Delhi hospital on Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of public service and dedication. He served as a significant figure in both the Indian bureaucracy and politics. Manohar Singh Gill, who recently passed away at the age of 86, began his career as a young bureaucrat. During this time, he served under Parkash Singh Badal when the latter was the Punjab Chief Minister. Gill's early years in public service laid the foundation for a long and distinguished career dedicated to the betterment of the nation. One of the most significant chapters in Manohar Singh Gill's career was his appointment as the Chief Election Commissioner. He assumed this prestigious role in December 1996 and held it until June 2001. During his tenure, Gill played a crucial role in shaping the electoral processes of the country. It was also during his time as CEC that the Election Commission evolved into a multi-member body with the inclusion of GVG Krishnamurthy, a pivotal change that expanded the commission's expertise and capabilities.

Noted Malayalam film producer PV Gangadharan passes away at 80

Noted Malayalam film producer and director of Mathrubhumi group of publications P.V. Gangadharan passed away in Kozhikode on October 13 morning. He was 80. Mr. Gangadharan had made his mark in the realm of cinema and politics. An active member of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), he had contested in the Kerala Legislative Assembly elections from the Kozhikode North constituency in 2011. He was born in 1943 to P.V. Sami, founder of the KTC group of companies, and Madhavi Sami. P.V. Chandran, managing editor of Mathrubhumi is his elder brother. He is survived by wife, Sherin, and daughters Shenuga, Shegna and Sherga. The funeral will be held on October 14 evening.

First Black Action Hero, Richard Roundtree Passed Away At 81

Richard Roundtree, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in "Shaft," passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the "first black action hero." "Shaft," released in 1971, was a groundbreaking film, marking one of the first entries in the Blaxploitation genre (A sub-genre of exploitation cinema characterized by modest budgets and a departure from mainstream production). This movie not only made Roundtree a star at the young age of 29 but also left an indelible mark on cinematic history. Richard Roundtree was born on July 9, 1942 in New Rochelle, New York. He was the son of John Roundtree and Kathryn Watkins Roundtree, who were identified as a butler and a cook in the 1940 census, both working in the same household.

Defence News**Indian Air Force Set to Induct Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile**

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

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

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

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

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

India and Bangladesh annual joint military exercise "SAMPRITI" begins

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

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

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

360 Degree Appraisal System Introduced In The Indian Navy

The Indian Navy, known for its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, has embarked on a transformative initiative known as the '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism.' This initiative recognizes the invaluable contributions of both women and men in whites and aims to enhance their professional and personal development. The Indian Navy has always prioritized its personnel as the cornerstone of its operational efficiency. The men and women who serve in white uniforms play a pivotal role in the Indian Navy's 'SHIPS FIRST' approach, which places the safety and effectiveness of naval operations above all else. This approach underscores the critical importance of having a skilled, motivated, and cohesive workforce. Traditionally, the Indian Navy relied on periodic Confidential Reports submitted by senior officers as the primary mechanism for evaluating its personnel. While this system had its merits, it also had inherent limitations. One of the key limitations was its 'Top-down' approach, which did not adequately account for a leader's impact on subordinates. In a rapidly evolving world, the need for a more comprehensive and inclusive appraisal mechanism became evident.

Indian Air Force Unveils New Ensign On Its 91st Anniversary

The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 91st anniversary at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of the new IAF ensign by Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari. This significant event witnessed several historic firsts, including the inclusion of the Air Force crest and the first-ever woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade, Group Captain Shaliza Dhama among others. One of the notable features of the celebration was the introduction of the new IAF ensign. The key change is the addition of the Air Force crest, which now graces the top right corner of the ensign, towards the fly side. This symbolic addition reinforces the IAF's commitment to its identity and heritage.



Bengali

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Army concludes 70 schemes under EP-4 worth 11000 Crore

The Emergency Procurement Power (EP) was granted to India's armed forces as an interim measure following the 2016 Uri attacks. This power allowed them to bypass the lengthy procurement process and quickly acquire essential equipment and technology. The EP was extended to all three branches of the military – the Army, Navy, and Air Force. In the case of the Army, it has been crucial in acquiring various equipment and technologies through approximately 140 schemes spread across four tranches (EP-I to IV). EP was first introduced in 2016 after the Uri attack to expedite the procurement of necessary items, allowing services to sign contracts worth up to Rs 300 crore each independently. It was reintroduced in 2020 amid tensions along the India-China border, primarily to enhance security along the northern borders.

3 Naga, youngest Naga battalion, gets President's Colour

In a momentous ceremony at the Kumaon Regimental Centre (KRC) in Ranikhet, the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment, also known as 3 Naga, was presented with the prestigious President's Colour award. This significant recognition, symbolized by a flag, was bestowed upon the battalion by Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande, marking a remarkable milestone in the unit's illustrious history. Let's delve into the significance of the President's Colour award and the achievements of 3 Naga. The presentation of the President's Colour to the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment is not just a ceremony; it signifies the highest level of recognition for the battalion's achievements. This award acknowledges their unwavering commitment, dedication, and acts of valor. 3 Naga has consistently demonstrated excellence and has added yet another feather to its cap with this prestigious honor. It is a moment of pride not only for the battalion but also for the entire nation.

Proposals for acquisition of aircraft carrier, LCA Mk1A jets lined up for approval by DAC

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is set to review two significant proposals with a cumulative budget exceeding 1 lakh crore. These proposals come from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, presenting ambitious plans for the country's defense capabilities. The Navy has proposed a repeat order of an Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)-II, following the success of the INS Vikrant. This carrier is estimated to cost around 40,000 crore. IAC-II, displacing 45,000 tonnes, will incorporate modifications and newer technologies, enhancing the original design. It will be manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The proposal has already been cleared by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) and is expected to be discussed at the upcoming DAC meeting.

Indian Army Clinched Gold Medal In 2023 Cambrian Patrol Military Exercise Held In UK

The Indian Army showcased its exceptional military prowess on the international stage by securing a gold medal at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Competition in 2023. The event, held in Wales, UK, witnessed the participation of an elite team from the 3/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force), marking a significant achievement for the Indian Army. The Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023 is renowned as a grueling test of endurance and teamwork, often referred to as the "Olympics of Military Patrolling." The Indian Army team competed against a total of 111 teams, including 38 international teams representing special forces and esteemed regiments from across the globe.

Indian Navy gets Third Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal

In a significant development for the Indian Navy, the state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyer, Yard 12706 (Imphal), has been officially transferred to Indian Navy on October 20, 2023. This momentous occasion marks a major milestone in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, enhancing its maritime strength in the Indian Ocean region. Imphal is the third vessel of Project 15B that was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The Project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade. Imphal follows in the wake of her predecessors Indian Naval Ships Visakhapatnam and Mormugao commissioned in the past two years.

Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair takes charge as DG Hospital Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miscellaneous News**Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag**

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

Arunachal Pradesh's Yak Churpi' Receives GI Tag

Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition not only celebrates the culinary heritage of the region but also plays a vital role in the conservation of the yak population in the Himalayan region. Churpi, rich in protein, has been a lifeline for tribal yak herders in the harsh, vegetation-starved, cold, and hilly mountainous regions of the state. Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh. Its nutritional profile, rich in protein, makes it a vital dietary source, especially in regions where fresh vegetables are scarce. The yak herders, belonging mainly to the Brokpa and Monpa tribes in West Kameng and Tawang districts, rely on churpi as a substitute for vegetables in their diet. Its versatility allows it to be incorporated into various dishes, including vegetable or meat curries, and served with rice, serving as a crucial component of the daily tribal diet.

'Gadkari': The Biopic of 'Expressway Man of India'

A biographical film about Nitin Gadkari, who serves as the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, is scheduled for release on October 27th. Titled 'Gadkari,' the movie will explore different facets of his life. Actor Rahul Chopda has been cast to portray the role of Nitin Gadkari in this biopic. The film celebrates his inspiring journey, from a common political worker to becoming a distinguished Cabinet Minister, who has left an indelible mark on the Indian infrastructure landscape. The Marathi movie, presented by Abhijit Majumdar, is produced by Akshay Anant Deshmukh and directed by Anurag Ranjan Bhusari. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, hailing from Nagpur, has come a long way in the Indian political landscape. He has a deep passion for infrastructure. From his humble beginnings as an ordinary Jan Sangh activist, he has risen to become a prominent leader in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a driving force in India's infrastructure development.

Air India Express Reveals New Logo, Airplane Designs, To Add 50 Planes In 15 Months

In an exciting development, Tata Group-owned Air India Express has unveiled a dynamic new brand identity, characterized by a striking color scheme dominated by shades of orange and turquoise. The unveiling of this fresh visual identity took place at the Mumbai airport, marking a significant milestone in the airline's evolution. The airline's new visual identity features an energetic and premium color palette of Express Orange and Express Turquoise with Express Tangerine and Express Ice Blue as secondary colors. The prominent use of Express Orange signifies the airline's core values of enthusiasm and agility, embodying the quintessential warmth of India. Meanwhile, Express Turquoise represents the brand's style, contemporary sensibility, and a digital-first approach.

India Is Set To Become 4th largest Spender In Global Travel By 2030

India's tourism industry is experiencing an unprecedented boom, especially in the wake of the global pandemic and the country is poised to become the fourth-largest global spender in the travel sector by 2030, with total expenditures estimated to soar to a staggering \$410 billion. This represents a massive 173 percent increase compared to pre-Covid times in 2019 when Indian travellers spent a total of \$150 billion, ranking India as the sixth-largest global spender. The incredible recovery of India's tourism expenditure is showcased in Booking.com and McKinsey & Company's latest report titled 'How India Travels.' This report highlights several key factors that are propelling this resurgence.

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

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

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

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