

October 2023

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Banking & Finance

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Introduces Centralised Mechanism To Report Investor's Death

- In accordance with a SEBI circular, an intermediary who receives notification of an investor's death from a nominee, joint account holder, or even a family member is required to obtain and verify the investor's death certificate and PAN.
- This should be completed by the next day after receiving the information and can be done through online or offline modes.
- If the person notifying the death is unable to provide the required details, the account shall be kept on hold until such details are obtained. The status would be revoked only after conducting proper due diligence.
- On verification, the intermediary shall make a KYC update request to the KYC Registration Agency (KRA) on the same day to update the investor's status. It will also block all debit transactions from the investor's account. However, later, after contacting the investor, if the information turns out to be false, an update regarding the same should be made to KRA on the same day.
- The KRA is also bound to undertake an independent verification of death before it blocks the account permanently. This includes verification of the death certificate as well as due diligence with other intermediaries.
- Once the accounts are blocked permanently, the intermediary shall take the necessary steps for the transmission of the investment within five days.

2. RBI forms external working group on expected credit loss framework

- The Reserve Bank of India constituted an external working group on expected credit loss (ECL) based framework for provisioning by banks.
- The ECL model proposed by the regulator, where banks have to recognize stress much earlier, is in contrast to the existing regime where banks make provisions after incurring losses.
- The working group chaired by **R. Narayanaswamy**, former professor of IIM Bangalore, will have domain experts from academia and industry as also representatives from select banks

3. RBI Includes 23 More Banks Under UDGAM Portal For Unclaimed Deposits

- The Reserve Bank of India has included 23 more banks under its UDGAM portal launched to help the public search for unclaimed deposits.
- The Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access information platform now has 30 lenders, according to a statement by the RBI. The search facility for the lenders was activated on the portal on Sept. 28, the RBI said
- The banking regulator launched the centralised UDGAM portal on Aug. 17 to help members of the public to identify and approach their respective banks for claiming unclaimed deposits.
- A total of Rs 35,000 crore as of February 2023 were unclaimed by the public and was transferred to the RBI by the public sector banks, according to a response to parliamentary query.
- Initially, only seven banks, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd., South Indian Bank Ltd., DBS Bank India Ltd. and Citibank N.A. were onboarded onto the UDGAM portal.

The 23 banks added in the second phase are:

Canara Bank
Bank of India
Bank of Baroda
Indian Bank
Union Bank of India
HDFC Bank
Federal Bank
Kotak Mahindra Bank
ICICI Bank
UCO Bank
Bank of Maharashtra
IDBI Bank
Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Punjab and Sind Bank
Axis Bank Ltd.
Indian Overseas Bank
Standard Chartered Bank
HSBC Ltd.
Karnataka Bank Ltd.
The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
Saraswat Co-operative Bank
IndusInd Bank Ltd.
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.

4. International Finance Corporation gets RBI's nod for acquiring 9.7% stake in Federal Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire 9.7 percent stake in Federal Bank.
- The central bank's approval comes in response to IFC's application and is contingent on compliance with several regulatory provisions.
- "These include adherence to the Banking Regulation Act of 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies (dated January 16, 2023, and subsequent amendments), provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act of 1999, regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India,

and other relevant guidelines, regulations, and statutes,".

5. Banks' credit exposure to NBFCs at '14 lakh cr amid concerns of high unsecured loan growth

- Banks' exposure to debt of NBFCs rose 25.8 per cent yoy to '13.8 lakh crore in August 2023.
- This took the share of NBFC credit, as a percentage of total bank credit, to 9.3 per cent from 8.8 per cent a year ago. Compared to February 2018 numbers, Absolute bank lending to NBFCs has jumped to around 3.5 times compared with February 2018.
- The RBI, cautioned banks and NBFCs on the unprecedented growth in unsecured retail loans, and asked them to build their internal risk mechanisms and guardrails. The central bank also advised lenders to be vigilant and grow their books sensibly to avoid any future asset quality challenges.
- NBFCs, the largest net borrowers of funds from the financial system, owed close to 57 per cent in FY23 to banks, followed by 17.3 per cent to MFs and 18 per cent to insurance companies.

6. UPI Transactions Cross 1,000 Cr Mark For Second Consecutive Month In Sept

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed 1,056 Cr transactions worth INR 15.8 Lakh Cr in September this year, crossing the 1,000 Cr transaction threshold for the second consecutive month.
- The number of UPI transactions grew over 3% month-on-month (MoM) while the transacted amount grew a little over 4%, as per data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India.
- In August this year, UPI saw its monthly transactions cross the 1K Cr mark for the first time. The digital payments system

processed 1,024.1 Cr transactions worth INR 15.18 Lakh Cr in August.

- Meanwhile, UPI transactions rose 56% year-on-year (YoY) in September while the transaction value grew 41%.

7. RBI extends prompt corrective action framework to govt NBFCs

- **The Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend the 'prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)' to government NBFCs (except those in base layer) with effect from October 1, 2024.**
- This will be based on the audited financials of these NBFCs as on March 31, 2024, or thereafter.
- The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, so as to restore its financial health.
- The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline.
- The PCA framework does not preclude the Reserve Bank of India from taking any other action as it deems fit at any time in addition to the corrective actions prescribed in the framework.

8. Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to Launch India's First Numberless Credit Card

- To reduce the risk of identity theft and unauthorised access, **Axis Bank and fintech firm Fibe have launched India's first numberless credit card.** The card will not display any card number, expiry date, or CVV number. These details will be available on the Fibe app.

- The Fibe Axis Bank Credit Card is powered by RuPay and allows customers to link their credit card to the UPI.

9. RBI Imposes Monetary Penalty on Rahimatpur Sahakari Bank Limited, Rahimatpur, Dist. Satara (Maharashtra)

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **'1.00 lakh on Rahimatpur Sahakari Bank Ltd., Rahimatpur, Dist. Satara,** (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Maintenance of Deposit Accounts- Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred under the the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

11. RBI Imposes Monetary Penalty on The Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Gadhinglaj, (Maharashtra)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of **'3.00 lakh (Rupees Three lakh only) on The Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Gadhinglaj** (the bank) for contravention of Section 26A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act) and Know Your Customer Directions issued by RBI.

12. RBI imposes monetary penalty on The Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank Limited, Kalyan, Maharashtra

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of **'4.50 lakh (Rupees Four lakh Fifty thousand only) on The Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank Limited, Kalyan, Maharashtra** (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Interest Rates on Deposits' and 'Maintenance of Deposit Accounts'.

13. RBI cancels certificate of registration of Ind Bank Housing

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **cancelled the Certificate of Registration of Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd. Indian Bank and HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) are major shareholders in the housing finance company, holding 51 per cent and 25 per cent stake, respectively.**
- The company was set up in 1991.
- RBI in exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 29A (6) of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, has cancelled the CoR.
- As such, the above company shall transact the business neither of a Housing Finance Institution nor of a Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined in National Housing Bank Act, 1987 and Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, respectively.

15. RBI Approves the amalgamation of The Suvikas People's Co-operative Bank Ltd, The Kalupur Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd

- RBI approved the scheme of amalgamation of The Suvikas People's Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad, with The Kalupur Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad. The scheme comes into force from October 16.
- The branches of The Suvikas People's Co-operative Bank Ltd to function as branches of Kalupur Commercial Co-operative Bank from October 16.

16. Partners with 10% stake to come under beneficial owners: Sebi tweaks rules

- Capital markets regulator Sebi **tweaked guidelines pertaining to anti-money laundering standards, whereby partners holding a 10 per cent stake in**

a firm will come under the definition of beneficial owners.

- Earlier, requirement was 15 per cent. The development comes after the government amended the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules or PMLA rules.

17. RBI slaps Rs 3.95 cr fine on Kotak Mahindra Bank, Rs 12.19 cr on ICICI Bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank and Rs 12.19 crore on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with a few regulatory norms.**
- The action is based on regulatory compliance problems and is not meant to rule on the legitimacy of any transaction or arrangement entered into by the two banks with their customers.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank was penalised for failing to conduct an annual review or due diligence of its service provider and for violation of contact hours with customers, the bank also faced criticism for charging interest from the disbursement due date rather than the actual disbursement date, which is against the terms of sanction
- ICICI Bank, on the other hand, was penalised for committing loans to companies where two of its directors sat on the board, the bank also engaged in marketing and selling non-financial products and showed a negligent attitude towards reporting frauds to the RBI within the prescribed timeline.

18. Sberbank becomes first Russian bank to register with Sebi as FPI: NSDL

- **Sberbank of Russia has become the first Russian bank to register with the Indian markets regulator as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI), according to**

data available on the website of National Stock Depository (NSDL).

- Sberbank of Russia, a state-owned bank which already has a presence in India, registered with the Indian markets regulator for a Category I FPI licence.
- FPIs with category I licence have to follow less lenient beneficial ownership disclosures, can subscribe to overseas derivative instruments which have Indian stocks as underlying and also enjoy certain taxation benefits.
- Category I FPI registration is only granted to government or government related foreign investors or regulated entities such as banks, sovereign wealth funds, investment trusts, pension funds, asset management companies.
- **Sberbank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2010 to set up a branch in India and commenced its banking business from January 2011.**
- It acts as a key partner for Indian and Russian companies in facilitating bilateral trades. Industry experts expect a few more banks to follow Sberbank's suit.

19. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Vadnagar Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Vadnagar, Gujarat

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of '2.00 lakh (Rupees Two lakh only) on Vadnagar Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Vadnagar, Gujarat (the bank) for contravention of directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances to Directors etc. - Directors as surety/guarantors ' Clarification', and 'Co-operative Banks - Interest Rate on Deposits.**
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '**3.00 lakh (Rupees Three lakh only) on People's Co-operative Bank Ltd., Dholka, Gujarat (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and advances to directors, relatives and firms/concerns in which they are interested' and 'Co-operative Banks - Interest Rate on Deposits'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '**1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) on The Chhapi Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Banaskantha, Gujarat (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and advances to directors, relatives and firms /concerns in which they are interested'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of '**2.00 lakh (Rupees Two lakh only) on Mahila Co-operative Nagrik Bank Ltd., Bharuch, Gujarat (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)' and 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '**6.00 lakh (Rupees Six lakh only) on Surat National Co-operative Bank Ltd.,**

Surat, Gujarat (the bank) for contravention of directions issued by RBI on 'Co-operative Banks - Interest Rate on Deposits' and 'Customer Protection - Limiting Liability of Customers of Co-operative Banks in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

20. On Founder's Day, Federal Bank launches 'Mookkannoor Mission' under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- The Federal Bank inaugurated the 'Mookkannoor Mission', an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, on the 106th birth anniversary of its Founder KP Hormis. Mookkannoor, a village in Ernakulam district, is the birthplace of the Founder.
- The Bank adopted a comprehensive plan of digitizing the entire village as well as a cleanliness drive that includes waste management, tree plantation, community development, renewable energy projects, etc that will be implemented in stages.
- The project is designed to be implemented in three phases over three years under the guidance of the Panchayat and K P Hormis Educational and Charitable Society

21. IndusInd Bank introduces a brand campaign for its new digital banking app 'INDIE'

- IndusInd Bank has introduced a brand campaign aimed at promoting its hyper-personalised financial super-app, 'INDIE'.
- 'INDIE' is a recently introduced mobile banking app from IndusInd Bank that offers a banking experience to digitally-

savvy customers seeking a digital experience.

- This brand campaign centres around the theme, 'Everyday Banking shouldn't feel like a battle,'.

22. RBL Bank Introduces Subscription-Model, Zero Balance, GO Savings Accounts

- RBL Bank has introduced a zero-balance digital banking product - GO Savings Account, which has a subscription-based model.
- RBL customers can open their account in minutes by furnishing their PAN and Aadhaar details. Additionally, GO Account holders can conduct transactions without incurring any fees.

23. Individual investors can subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable), under RBI's Retail Direct Portal

- The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, has expanded the basket of products offered through the Retail Direct Portal, allowing retail investors to subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs), 2020 (Taxable).
- FRSBs are interest bearing, non-tradeable bonds, issued by the Government of India, which are repayable on the expiration of seven years from the date of issue.
- Currently, individual (retail) investors can invest in Central Government Securities, Treasury Bills, State Government Securities and Sovereign Gold Bonds through the Retail Direct Portal.
- RBI-Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) was launched on November 12, 2021. Under the Scheme, individual investors are permitted to open Retail Direct Gilt account with RBI, using an online portal (<https://rbiretaildirect.org.in>), through which investments in Government

Securities can be made in primary and secondary market.

24. RBI asks private banks to have at least two whole-time directors including MD, CEO

- **The RBI asked private banks & wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to ensure at least two Whole Time Directors (WTDs), including the MD & CEO, on their boards.**
- "In compliance to these instructions, banks that currently do not meet the minimum requirement are advised to submit their proposals for the appointment of WTD(s) within a period of four months,".
- The RBI asked banks to ensure the presence of at least two WTDs, including the MD & CEO, on their boards, to address issues and challenges. The number of WTDs should be decided by the board of the bank by taking into account factors such as the size of operations, business complexity, and other relevant aspects.

25. IndusInd Bank ties up with Viamericas to enhance Fast Remit platform

- **IndusInd Bank has entered into a collaboration with Viamericas Corporation to offer non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the US digital inward remittance services on the 'Indus Fast Remit' platform.**
- The service will offer competitive exchange rates on remittances to India.
- NRIs can initiate remittance transactions using the auto debit payment mode (automated clearing house - ACH) through their overseas bank accounts on the Fast Remit platform.
- Viamericas Corporation will leverage its existing Vostro relationship with IndusInd Bank to credit beneficiary

accounts in India, utilising the RBI's RDA scheme.

- The digital remittance platform assures customers transparency of payment status, the exact INR amount to be received by the beneficiary, and the expected delivery time

26. Kotak Mahindra Bank collaborates with NeSL to issue electronic Bank Guarantee

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced a new partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) through its platform.**
- This collaboration is poised to usher in the era of digital trade, effectively eliminating the traditional paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees.
- The digital transformation encompasses the issuance, modifications, closures, digital stamping, and signing processes, resulting in a significant reduction in the guaranteed turnaround time (TAT).
- This new approach enables guarantees to be processed in just a few hours, a stark improvement compared to the two to three working days required by the conventional paper-based method.
- Additionally, the e-BG enhances security by mitigating authentication risks.

27. RBI unveils framework for updating credit information, customers to get '100/day in case of delay

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the framework for compensation to customers for delayed updation or rectification of credit information by credit institutions (CIs) and credit information companies (CICs).**
- The compensation framework will come into effect six months from the date of this circular.

- Complainants will be entitled to a compensation of '100 per calendar day in case their complaint is not resolved within a period of thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the initial filing of the complaint by the complainant with a CI/ CIC.

28. Reserve Bank of India allows premature deposit withdrawal up to Rs 1 crore

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the threshold limit of non-callable deposits to Rs 1 crore from Rs 15 lakh now, a move that would provide more flexibility to depositors.**
- These new norms for commercial and co-operative banks are applicable with immediate effect.
- Banks typically offer higher interest rates on non-callable deposits. The callability feature is applicable for non-resident (external) rupee deposits/ordinary non-resident deposits.
- Banks are allowed to offer differential rates on interest on fixed deposits based on non-callability of deposits (i.e., non-availability of premature withdrawal option) in addition to tenor and size of deposits, the RBI said.
- **In 2019, the RBI re-defined bulk deposits as deposits of more than Rs 2 crore from a single customer, which was Rs 1 crore earlier.** According to bankers, the move to increase the threshold for callable deposits was to align it with bulk deposits definition change.

29. Yes Bank acquires additional stake in JC Flowers ARC, reinstates to 9.9%

- **Yes Bank has acquired additional shares in J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction (JC Flowers ARC) to reinstate the bank's stake to 9.9% in the company, the private lender**

informed in its filing to the exchanges in the week hours on 28 Nov.

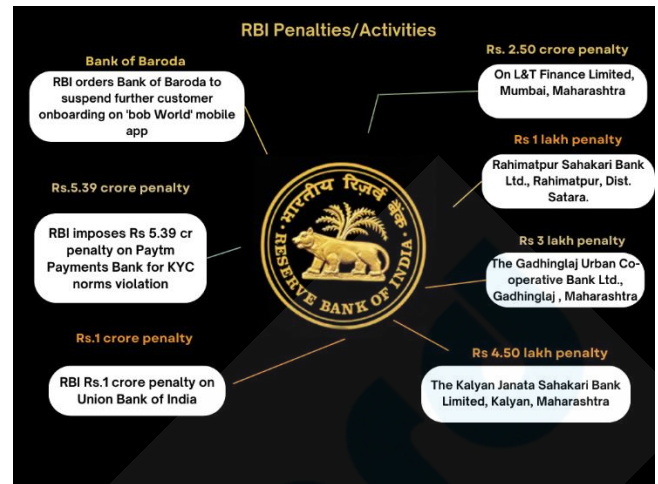
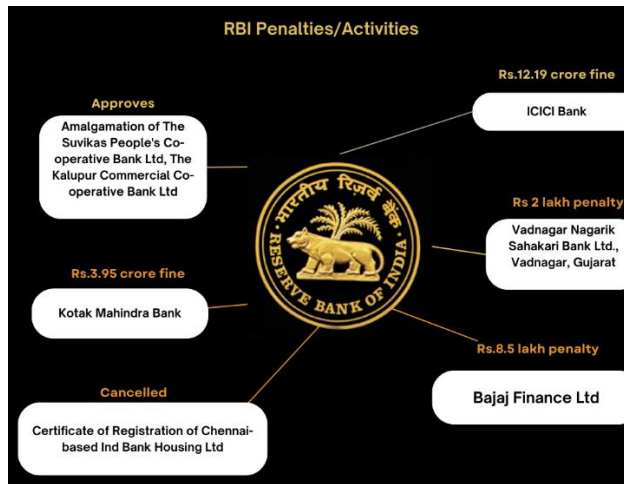
- On November 28, 2022, the bank had acquired 9.9% of the equity share capital of JC Flower ARC, which fell to 5.01% as a result of certain corporate actions in JC Flowers ARC.

30. Axis Bank aims to augment small-ticket loans this year: MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry

- Managing director and CEO Amitabh Chaudhry stated that Axis Bank is aiming to increase small-ticket loans, crop loans to small and marginal farmers, and microfinance business loans for women borrowers from low-income households throughout the year.
- **The bank has established a unique "Bharat Bank" unit with customised rural products, expanded branch and digital presence among other things.**

31. Banks in talks to offer 5-day work week, 15% wage

- **Government-owned and long-established private-sector banks are in negotiations for an approximate 15% salary increase for their staff, and they are also planning to implement a five-day workweek in the near future.**
- The Indian Banks' Association suggested a 15 per cent raise, but reports suggest that the unions are pushing for a more substantial increase along with other alterations.
- Separately, some of the banks, such as PNB, have started making higher provisions for the wage increase. Instead of budgeting for a 10 per cent increase, in the September quarter, the Delhi-headquartered lender has set aside funds for a 15 per cent rise.



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Economy

1. Online gaming, betting, casinos, gambling, horse racing and lottery to attract 28 percent GST

- **Online gaming, betting, casinos, gambling, horse racing and lottery will attract twenty eight percent Goods and Service Tax (GST).**
- In a gazette notification, by Finance Ministry the amended GST provision has come into force from today.
- **The decision to levy 28 percent GST was taken in the 51st GST Council meeting held in New Delhi in August this year.**

2. India's GST collections up 10% y/y to Rs 1.63 lakh crore in September

- **India's goods and services tax (GST) collections reached Rs 1.63 lakh crore in September, a 10% increase compared to the same period last year. The CGST component was Rs 29,818 crore, SGST Rs 37,657 crore, IGST Rs 83,623 crore, and cess Rs 11,613 crore. The government settled Rs 33,736 crore to CGST and Rs 27,578 crore to SGST from IGST.**
- During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.
- The gross GST collection for the first half of the FY 2023-24 ending September, 2023 (Rs 9,92,508 crore) was 11 per cent higher than the gross GST collection in the first half of FY 2022-23 (Rs 8,93,334 crore).
- The average monthly gross collection in FY 2023-24 was Rs 1.65 lakh crore, 11 per cent higher than average monthly gross collection for the first half of FY 2022-23 where it was Rs 1.49 lakh crore.

3. India Inc raises Rs 26,000 crore through IPOs in first half

- After a slow start to the financial year, initial public offerings (IPOs) got a boost in the month of September when Rs 12,000 crore were raised through this route.
- The first half of the financial year saw over Rs 26,000 crore being raised. Almost 50% of them took place in September alone, according to data from PRIME database.

4. World Bank retains India FY24 growth forecast at 6.3%, warns of global challenges

- **The World Bank has retained its GDP growth forecast for India at 6.3 percent for 2023-24 even amid persistent and intensifying global headwinds.**
- The World Bank's growth forecast for the current financial year is 20 basis points lower than that of the Indian government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- One basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point.

5. India's services sector growth surges to 13-year high in September

- India's dominant services sector expanded at its fastest pace in 13 years last month as demand increased significantly despite elevated inflationary pressures.
- **S&P Global's India services purchasing managers' index rose to 62.3 in July from June's 58.5, confounding expectations in a Reuters poll for a dip to 58.0.**
- It was the highest index reading since June 2010.

- The index has remained above the 50-mark that separates growth from expansion for two years.
- A manufacturing sector PMI released dipped to 57.7 in July but strong services activity meant the overall S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index rose to a 13-year high of 61.9.

6. 5-year post office recurring deposit (RD) interest rate hiked

- The government has raised the interest rate on the five-year recurring deposit scheme by 20 basis points for the October-December quarter of the current fiscal year.
- Small savings schemes' interest rates are revised every quarter in accordance with the movement of comparable-maturity benchmark government bonds.
- The interest rate on a 5-year recurring deposit has been raised to 6.7 percent from 6.5 percent for the period October-December, a 20 basis point increase.
- The interest rates of all schemes except the recurring deposit rate have been kept unchanged.

Recurring deposit details

- The minimum amount for a monthly deposit is Rs. 100, with multiples of Rs. 10. The subsequent deposits can be made up to the 15th of the month provided the account is opened before the 15th of the calendar month.
- If the account is started between the 16th and the final working day of the calendar month, subsequent deposits may be made up to the last working day of the month.

7. UNCTAD raises India growth estimate to 6.6% for 2023

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has raised its

economic growth forecast for India in 2023 to 6.6%, up from the previous prediction of 6%.

- However, it expects growth to slow to 6.2% in 2024. The UNCTAD also predicts global economic output growth to decelerate to 2.4% in 2023 before a small uptick to 2.5% in 2024.
- The report highlights the need for policy changes and institutional reforms to prevent a lost decade, and mentions that some economies, including India, have shown resilience while others face challenges.

8. Unemployment rate falls to 7.1% in September 2023 - CMIE

- Unemployment rate in India fell to 7.1 per cent in September 2023 from 8.1 per cent in August, according to CMIE's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey.
- The unemployment rate eased in both rural and urban India. It came alongside a fall in labour participation rate (LPR).
- The LPR climbed down from 41.2 per cent in August to 40.9 per cent in September.
- While LPR for rural India increased marginally, from 41.6 per cent to 41.8 per cent, urban LPR fell from 40.2 per cent to 39 per cent.

9. India's fiscal deficit rises to Rs 6.42 trillion, 36% of FY24 target

- India's fiscal deficit in the first five months of the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) stood at Rs 6.42 trillion, 36 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 trillion, data released by the Controller General of Accounts reported.
- In the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was 32.6 per cent of the full-year target.
- India aims to narrow its fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product

(GDP) by the end of the current financial year, against 6.4 per cent last year.

- **The primary deficit, which shows fiscal deficit without the interest payment, stood at Rs 2.75 trillion, 38.9 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 7.06 trillion.**
- Last year, between April and August, it was 28.2 per cent of the budgetary estimate.
- Moreover, the revenue deficit at Rs 2.84 trillion was 32.7 per cent of the full-year estimate of Rs 8.70 trillion. The net tax revenue in the April-August period was Rs 8.04 trillion, or 34.5 per cent of the annual estimate, higher than Rs 7 trillion in the same period last year, according to the data.
- **The corporate tax collections rose over 15 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2.39 trillion.**
- Also, the total expenditure during the period was Rs 16.72 trillion. It was 37.1 per cent of the annual goal, higher than the Rs 13.90 trillion in the same period last year.

10. India's Unemployment Rate At 6-Year Low Of 3.2% In 12 Months To June: Government Data

- **India's unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above was recorded at a six-year low of 3.2% during July 2022-June 2023, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2022-2023 released by the National Sample Survey Office.**
- Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- Considering the importance of the availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, **the NSSO launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.** The reference period here is from July 2022 to June 2023.

- The Unemployment Rate (UR) in usual status for persons of age 15 years and above at the all-India level came down to 3.2% in 2022-23 from 4.1% in 2021-22.
- The UR was 4.2% in 2020-21, 4.8% in 2019-20, 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 and 6% in 2017-18, the PLFS data showed.

11. IMF raises India FY24 GDP growth forecast by 20 basis points to 6.3%

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its FY24 growth projection for India by 20 basis points to 6.3 per cent, citing stronger than expected consumption between April and June.**
- The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) kept its global growth forecast unchanged at 3 per cent for 2023 and pared down the 2024 projection by 10 basis points to 2.9 per cent.
- **The IMF's inflation projection for India has been revised upward to 5.5 per cent for FY24.**
- It expects the inflation rate to remain in the range 2-6 per cent this financial year, and 4.6 per cent next year. In its July WEO, the IMF had projected a growth rate of 6.1 per cent for India in FY24, a 0.2 percentage point upward revision as against the April projection.

13. India's exports decline by 2.6% YoY to \$34.47 billion in September; trade deficit at 5-month low of \$19.37 billion

- **India's exports declined by 2.59 per cent to \$34.47 billion in September against \$35.4 billion in September 2022, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.**
- Overall imports to the country also declined by 15% YoY to \$53.84 billion in September 2023 against September 2022.
- With this, its trade deficit stood at \$19.37 billion in the month of September.

14. Govt launches tradeable Green Credit to incentivise eco-friendly actions

- The Government has introduced a special program where an individual or entity can earn green credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange.
- Green Credit refers to a unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity; delivering a positive impact on the environment.
- This programme is a follow-up action of the 'LiFE'-(Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.
- The new programme is a voluntary one.

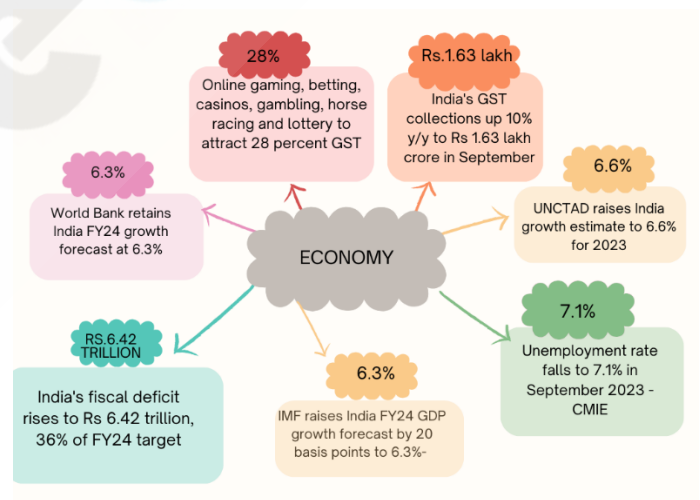
15. US emerges as India's biggest trading partner during April-September this fiscal; China at second

- **The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner during the first half of the current financial year despite global economic uncertainties and declining exports and imports, according to government data.**
- According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the US has declined by 11.3 per cent to USD 59.67 billion during April-September 2023 against USD 67.28 billion in the same period last year.

- Similarly, the two-way trade between India and China also dipped by 3.56 per cent to USD 58.11 billion.
- Exports to China contracted marginally to USD 7.74 billion during the first half of the current fiscal from USD 7.84 billion in the year-ago period.

16. India to surpass Japan to become 2nd largest economy in Asia by 2030: S&P Global

- **India, the world's fifth largest economy in the world, is likely to overtake Japan to become the world's third-largest economy with a GDP of USD 7.3 trillion by 2030, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in its latest issue of PMI.**
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024.





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National

1. 'SHRAMDAAN EVENT' organised by the MINISTRY OF MSME

- Addressing to the national call of Hon'ble Prime Minister to action for '**Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath**', **Ministry of MSME organized 'Shramdaan', on the theme of 'GARBAGE FREE INDIA'** at Development Facilitation Office, Okhla, Phase-1, New Delhi, on Sunday, the 1st October 2023. It was a concerted effort to create a cleaner India.
- Secretary(MSME) led this 'Shramdaan' with more than 200 Officers/staff participating in Swachhata Drive. Citizens from local communities and office bearers of Flatted Factory Complex, Okhla, also participated in event and approximately 25 thousand sq.ft. area was freed from garbage by cleaning nearby i.e. metro station, vegetables market etc. Secretary(MSME) administered 'Swachhata Pledge' to all officers present and urged participants to ensure that all of their neighborhood should be free from garbage so that Swachhata becomes a reality.

2. 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade between India and Bangladesh

- The 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Shri Vipul Bansal and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh.

3. Afghanistan Embassy in India announces decision to cease operations

- After months of uncertainty, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan here has finally shut down.
- In a message shared with the media, the mission that ran on skeletal staff and without the presence of the envoy appointed during the Presidency of Dr. Ashraf Ghani, blamed a number of factors including lack of support from the 'host government' for ending operations.

4. Special Swachhata Campaign 3.0 begins on 2 October

- A Special Campaign 3.0 will begin on 2 October with a focus on Swachhata and reducing pendency in government offices with a saturation approach.
- The campaign coincides with the Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It will continue till 31st of October.
- The Campaign is a sequel of the Special campaigns conducted in the last two years.

5. National Zoological Park's celebration of 69th Wildlife Week with theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation"

- National Zoological Park kick-started the celebration of **69th Wildlife Week** with the theme "**Partnerships for wildlife conservation**", honoring the people who are making a difference, on the theme of UN World Wildlife Day 2023 and activities in context to wildlife conservation. The National Zoological Park will celebrate 'Wildlife Week - 2023' from 02.10.2023 to 08.

6. Shri Narayan Rane Unveils Khadi Mahotsav 2023 amidst Remarkable Growth in Khadi Sector

- Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Narayan Rane flagged off the Khadi Yatra and announced the 'KHADI MAHOTSAV,' scheduled from October 2nd to October 31st, 2023 in Mumbai.
- This festival is dedicated to supporting the "Vocal for Local" initiative and the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shri Vinit Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

7. Government bans manufacturing, possession, imports of electric detonator from April 2025

- **The government has decided to ban manufacturing, possession and imports of electric detonator from April 2025 in view of security concerns and public safety.**
- In a notification, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has said that the central government is of the opinion that electric detonator is of a "dangerous" character.

8. Uber Launches 'Uber Sustainovate' Startup Challenge to Drive Sustainable Mobility in India

- Uber has introduced the 'Uber Sustainovate' Startup Challenge, a dynamic initiative to expedite the adoption of sustainable mobility in India.
- In partnership with Startup India and NASSCOM AI, this competition seeks to reward startups with groundbreaking concepts that can accelerate the transition to sustainable transportation within the nation.

9. Government of India notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board

- **The Government of India has notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.**
- The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- The Board shall have a **Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government, members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government, senior State Government representatives from three states** (on rotation basis), select national/state institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters, and have a Secretary to be appointed by the Department of Commerce.
- In the year 2022-23, an area of 3.24 lakh ha was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production). More than 30 varieties of Turmeric are grown in India and it is grown in over 20 states in the country. **The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.**

10. Jammu and Kashmir's famed Pashmina gets geographical recognition with GI tag

- **The famous Basohli Pashmina, known for its feather-like softness, and Udhampur's churned milk specialty Kalari received the prestigious GI tag.**
- Basohli Pashmina is a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. Earlier this year, the famed Basohli painting and

Chikri wood from Rajouri district of Jammu division received the GI tag.

11. Moratorium under IBC to exempt aircraft and engines, govt. notifies

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) has said that certain protection offered to a corporate debtor from the recovery of dues under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 will not cover aircraft, helicopters and engines.**
- The provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 shall not apply to transactions, arrangements or agreements, under the [Cape Town] Convention and Protocol, relating to aircraft, aircraft engines, airframes and helicopters
- With this notification, the Indian government has officially adopted the **Cape Town Convention (CTC)**, an international treaty that offers time-bound solutions for lessors to repossess aircraft, thereby reducing their inherent risks. Lessors have advocated for the implementation of this treaty, which will grant precedence to the CTC over insolvency laws in India.
- In 2008, India signed the CTC. Lessors have been urging the Indian government to pass a parliamentary Bill to implement this treaty.

12. 52nd GST Council Meeting: GST on molasses will be reduced from 28% to 5% which will benefit sugarcane farmers, says FM Nirmala

- The 52nd GST Council meeting was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The meeting was attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj

Chaudhary along with Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, several important decisions were taken relating to GST Appellate Tribunals, GST on millets and molasses. She said, **the council has taken a decision to reduce GST on molasses from 28 percent to 5 percent which will benefit sugarcane farmers.**
- **The Finance Minister also informed that flour containing 70 percent millets will attract zero percent GST if sold in other than pre-packaged and labeled form.**
- She added that if the same is sold in a pre-packaged and labeled form, it will attract 5 percent GST.
- **Talking about the amendments regarding GST Appellate Tribunal, she said, the President will now have the tenure up to the maximum age of 70 years from 67 years earlier, while the members' will have the tenure upto the maximum age limit of 67 years from 65 years earlier.**
- She added that the **minimum age for the appointment of President and members in the GST Appellate Tribunal will be 50 years and advocates with a minimum of 10 years of experience will be considered for the appointment of judicial member in the Tribunal.**
- **The Finance Minister also said that the GST Council has ceded the right to tax extra-neutral alcohol (ENA) to states.**
- GST Council has recommended keeping Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) used for manufacture of alcoholic liquor for human consumption outside the GST. The Law Committee will examine suitable amendments in law to exclude ENA for use in manufacture of alcoholic liquors for human consumption from ambit of GST.
- **The GST Council has also recommended exempting services of**

water supply, public health, sanitation conservancy, solid waste management, and slum improvement and upgradation supplied to Governmental Authorities.

- The Council also recommended that the supply of all goods and services by Indian Railways will be taxed under Forward Charge Mechanism to enable them to avail Input Tax Credit which will reduce the cost for Indian Railways.

13. Taxpayers can file appeals against demand orders for last fiscal till January next year, says GST Council

- **The 52nd GST Council on October 7 came out with an Amnesty scheme, giving taxpayers time till the 31st of January 2024, to file appeals against demand orders passed by tax officers till March 2023.** As per the GST law, an assessee can file an appeal against an assessment order seeking taxes within three months of the tax officer passing such an order.
- The Council in its meeting also gave extra time to GST-registered businesses to file appeals with an enhanced pre-deposit of 12.5 per cent of the tax demand, against 10 per cent currently.
- In another trade facilitation measure, the GST Council has amended GST rules to provide that provisionally attached property will be released after completion of one year.
- Under the GST law, tax officers can provisionally attach properties, including bank accounts, of GST-registered entities over non-payment of taxes.

14. India's first solar cycling track comes up in Hyderabad

- **In Hyderabad, the country's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated.** This innovative track named Healthway is the second of its kind globally.

- Located on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between the main carriageway and service road, the track will be open 24/7, giving a major push to the dedicated bicycling community in the city.

15. MP CM lays foundation stone for India's largest pumped storage project

- **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually inaugurated India's largest pumped storage project in Madhya Pradesh.** The project is being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company. The project, which is located in the Khemla block, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh, has a capacity of 1440 megawatt (MW).
- This project is an off stream open loop project as it envisages the construction of new off stream reservoir known as the upper reservoir and the existing Gandhi Sagar Reservoir will be used as lower reservoir.

16. Govt eases drone regulations, removes passport requirement

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation said it has notified the new Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023 for drone pilots, effective from the 27th of September 2023.** According to drone regulator DGCA, no individual other than a holder of a valid remote pilot certificate enlisted on the digital sky platform will operate an unmanned aircraft system in India.
- After the amendment, it has now been made clear that a government issued proof of identity and a government issued proof of address i.e. Voter ID, Ration Card or Driving License can now be accepted to apply for a Remote Pilot Certificate if the drone pilot does not have a passport

- **However, no Remote Pilot Certificate is required when the drone is of small to medium-size up to 2kg for non-commercial drone use.**
- **An individual will be eligible to obtain a remote pilot certificate if he is not less than eighteen years of age and not more than sixty-five years of age.**
- **A remote pilot certificate will remain valid for a period of ten years if it is enlisted on the digital sky platform and is not suspended or canceled by DGCA.**

17. Cabinet approves royalty rates for lithium, niobium, Rare Earth Elements

- The Centre approved royalty rate for lithium, niobium, and for Rare Earth Elements (REEs). **For lithium and niobium a royalty rate of 3% each has been fixed, while for Rare Earth Elements (REEs), the rate has been set at 1%.**
- The royalty rate approval will allow the Centre to auction lithium, niobium and REEs blocks for the first time in the country.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) for specifying rate of royalty in respect of 3 critical and strategic minerals, namely, lithium, niobium and Rare Earth Elements.
- Recently, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment act, 2023 was passed by the Parliament, which has come into force from 17th August, 2023. The Amendment, among other things, delisted six minerals, including Lithium and Niobium, from the list of atomic minerals, thereby allowing grant of concessions for these minerals to private sector through auction

- Further, the amendment provided that mining lease and composite license of 24 critical and strategic minerals (which are listed in Part D of the First Schedule of the Act), including Lithium, Niobium and REEs (not containing Uranium and Thorium), shall be auctioned by the Central Government.

21. Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and Papua New Guinea

- Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding between India and Papua New Guinea on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- The MoU shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall be remain in force for a period of 3 years.

22. MTR Foods renamed to Orkla India; Sunay Bhasin promoted as CEO

- **Norwegian consumer goods company Orkla has re-organised its top management operations in India.**
- Orkla has also restructured MTR's operations into three business units: MTR, Eastern, and International Business (IB).
- Each of these verticals will have their own independent chief executive officers who will report to Sanjay Sharma, CEO, Orkla India. In the year 2007, Orkla India acquired MTR Foods.Q

23. India and Sri Lanka resume ferry service after forty years

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka which is a resumption after forty years.

- The ship will reach Kakesanthurai port in three hours if the weather is normal.

24. Zomato Launches Zomato Xtreme to Expand into Logistics Services for Merchants

- Gurugram-based **Zomato has introduced Xtreme**, a hyperlocal delivery service that leverages its substantial two-wheeler fleet, consisting of over three lakh executives. Through Xtreme, users could send small packages weighing up to 10 kg, including items like documents, medicines, food, groceries, apparel, cosmetics and more.

25. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla hands over P20 Presidency to Parliament of Brazil

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, handed over the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) Presidency to the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil after successfully concluding the Ninth P20 Presidency at Yashobhoomi in Delhi.**
- The Ninth P20 Summit was being hosted by Parliament of India in cooperation with IPU on October 13-14, 2023 in New Delhi.
- The theme of the Summit is Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future, which draws inspiration from the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is one Family).

26. Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25.**
- The absolute highest increase in MSP has been approved for lentil (masur) at **Rs.425 per quintal followed by**

rapeseed & mustard at Rs.200 per quintal.

- For wheat and safflower, an increase of Rs.150 per quintal each has been approved. For barley and gram an increase of Rs.115 per quintal and Rs.105 per quintal respectively, has been approved.

27. India Set To Double Infrastructure Spending To Rs 143 Lakh Crore By 2030

- **According to CRISIL, India is set to double its infrastructure spending, reaching approximately Rs 143 lakh crore in the seven fiscal years leading up to 2030.**
- This is a substantial increase compared to the roughly Rs 67 lakh crore spent between fiscal years 2017 and 2023.
- Amish Mehta, Managing Director & CEO of CRISIL Ltd
- A remarkable portion of this investment, approximately Rs 36.6 lakh crore, is earmarked for green initiatives, marking a fivefold increase compared to the previous seven fiscal years.

28. India establishes global standard for combined AC and DC charging connectors for Light EVs

- **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has given its approval for the country's very first domestically developed standard for combined AC and DC charging connectors for light electric vehicles (LEVs), known as IS17017 (Part 2 / Sec 7): 2023.**
- **This is the world's first charging connector standard for light electric vehicles that can handle both AC and DC charging.**
- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- In a unique collaborative effort, NITI Aayog, the Department of Science and Technology, ARAI, EV manufacturers,

and the Bureau of Indian Standards joined forces to establish this national standard. This standard is important in creating an open ecosystem that will accelerate the adoption of EV worldwide, allowing original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to break free from exclusive reliance on international standards and protocols.

- This new standard fills a significant gap in the market by providing a single connector that works for both AC and DC charging in light electric vehicles like two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and microcars. These smaller vehicles have unique charging needs, and using a big, expensive connector designed for four-wheelers just doesn't make sense.

30. Bharat NCX 2023 launched to strengthen India's cyber resilience

- **The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) recently launched the 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 'Bharat NCX 2023.'**
- The primary goal is to provide participants with the knowledge and expertise needed to tackle modern cyber threats, efficiently handle cyber incidents, and develop strong response strategies.
- **Bharat NCX 2023 acts as a unifying platform for more than 300 participants, encompassing a diverse mix of government agencies, public organisations, and private sector representatives.**
- Apart from its training and strategic components, Bharat NCX 2023 will also highlight the creativity and adaptability of Indian cybersecurity startups and Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) through an exclusive exhibition, the press release added.
- The exhibition is expected to host over 200 Chief Information Security Officers

(CISOs) from government agencies, public organisations, and the private sector.

31. Amit Shah inaugurated India's first nano DAP plant in Gujarat

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated **India's first liquid nano diammonia phosphate (DAP) plant of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in Ahmedabad ' Kalol highway in Gandhinagar.**
- IFFCO's Nano DAP (Liquid) contains 8% of nitrogen and 16% of phosphorus. This can replace a 50 kg bag of traditional DAP is currently priced at Rs.1350 for farmers.

32. PM Modi chairs meeting of 43rd edition of PRAGATI

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting of the 43rd edition of PRAGATI involving Centre and State governments.**
- PRAGATI is the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

33. Amit Shah to launch logo, website, and brochure of NCEL

- Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will launch a logo, website and brochure of a newly established National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL) at a national symposium in the national capital.
- Shah will also distribute membership certificates to NCEL members at the symposium to be organised at the Pusa complex here.
- NCEL, which was registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act on January 25 this year, has an authorised share capital of Rs 2,000 crore and those cooperative societies from the level of

primary to apex interested in exports are eligible to become its member.

- It aims to focus on exporting the surplus available in the Indian cooperative sector by accessing wider markets beyond the geographical contours of the country.
- It covers agriculture and allied activities as well as handloom and handicrafts items by enrolling a large number of co-operatives under its fold with a target to double its revenue by 2025 from the current level of about Rs 2,160 crore

34. In relief for farmers, Govt approves '22,303 crore subsidy for P&K fertilisers

- The Cabinet has approved subsidy of '22,303 crore for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for Rabi season in view of rising international prices.
- The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates is for the Rabi season from the period October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.
- For the nitrogen it will be Rs 47.2 per kg, phosphorus will be Rs 20.82 per kg, potash subsidy will be Rs 2.38 per kg and the sulphur subsidy will be Rs 1.89 per kg

35. MoS Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurates popular SARAS Mela at Gurugram on 27 Oct

- Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated the popular SARAS Mela showcasing best of Crafts by Rural SHG Women at Gurugram.
- In her address, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti said that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to enable at least 2 Crore Lakhpati Didis soon from now 10 Crore large family of SHG Didis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

- The SARAS Melas organised by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) is an important initiative to support livelihood enhancement support initiatives.
- This is the second edition of Saras Ajeevika Mela organised in Gurugram where over 800 SHG women from across the country are showcasing their handicraft and handloom products along with regional culinary delight.
- The two-week-long cultural fest is organised at the Leisure Valley ground in Sector 29 will continue till November 11.

36. Launch of 25th bollard pull tug 'mahabali' at m/s shoft shipyard pvt ltd, bharuch, Gujarat

- **25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, 'Mahabali' was launched by Cmde Sunil Kaushik, NM, WPS(Mbi) on 28 Oct 23 at M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd, Bharuch, Gujarat.** This Tug is proud flag bearer of 'Make in India' initiative of Ministry of Defence.
- Contract for construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tug was concluded with M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd (SSPL), an MSME, in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative of the Government of India.
- These Tugs are built under the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). The availability of Tugs will provide impetus to Operational commitments of IN by facilitating assistance to Naval ships and submarines during berthing and un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring in confined waters.
- The Tugs will also provide afloat firefighting assistance to ships alongside, and at anchorage, and will have capability to conduct limited Search and Rescue Operations.

International

1. Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy completes 100 years of its existence

- The Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy has completed 100 years of its existence.
- The office was created in 1923 as the office of the agent of Government of India for the benefit of the Indian Origin Tamils who work in the Sri Lankan tea plantations.
- Notably former President V V Giri had served as the head of the post in 1947 before getting posted as the first High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. The office covers seven districts across four provinces in the island nation. Notably this year also marks the 200 years since the Indian Origin Tamils were first brought to Sri Lanka to work on the plantations.

2. R21/Matrix-M: WHO recommends Malaria vaccine made by Oxford and Serum Institute of India

- **The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India has been recommended for use by the World Health Organisation (WHO) after meeting required safety, quality & effectiveness standards.**
- R21/Matrix-M, developed by Britain's University of Oxford, will become available by mid-2024. The doses would cost between \$2 & \$4.
- WHO chief :Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

3. EU approves world's first green bond standards to avoid greenwashing

- European Union lawmakers approved new standards for companies issuing "green" bonds to help investors pick

sustainable companies and avoid greenwashing or misleading climate-friendly claims.

- **The European Parliament voted in favour of the new voluntary standard for the use of a "European Green Bond" label, calling it the first of its kind in the world.**
- **Europe is the world's biggest issuer of green bonds**, accounting for more than half of global volume in 2021, though issuance is still only 3% to 3.5% of the overall bond market.
- Greenwashing happens **when a company makes an environmental claim about something the organization is doing that is intended to promote a sense of environmental impact that doesn't exist.** The green claim is typically about some form of positive effect on the environment.

4. Israel declares 'state of war', launches 'Operation Iron Swords' against Hamas

- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have launched **Operation 'Iron Swords'** in retaliation for an unprecedented and "surprise" attack by Hamas, a Palestinian militant organisation, on Israel. The ruling Hamas in the Gaza Strip launched a multi-front attack on Israel, firing nearly 5,000 rockets.

5. Mont Blanc, highest peak in Western Europe, shrinks by over 2 metres in 2 years

- The **tallest mountain in France** has shrunk by more than 7 feet in the last two years. Researchers said that Mont Blanc stands 4,805.59 metres tall, which is 2.2 metres shorter than its height in 2021. The Alpine peak measures 4,792 metres above sea level. However, its thick covering of ice and snow gives rise to variations in its height from year to year.

6. H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the 1st woman President of Tanzania, conferred an Honorary Doctorate by JNU

- **H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the 1st woman President of Tanzania, was conferred an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by Jawaharlal Nehru University** for her pivotal role in fostering stronger India-Tanzania relations, promoting economic diplomacy, and achieving success in regional integration and multilateralism.

7. India launches 'Operation Ajay' to evacuate Indian national from Israel-Hamas conflict zone

- **India has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return from Israel of its citizens who wish to return.**
- In view of the ongoing developments in Israel and Palestine, a 24-hour Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of External Affairs to monitor the situation and provide information and assistance.

8. Dubai Soars as World's Fastest-Recovering Services Hub in 2023

- **Dubai, a global economic powerhouse, has proven its mettle as the world's fastest-recovering destination in the services sector, marking an impressive growth rate of 3.2% in the first half of 2023.**
- This achievement has underpinned Dubai's standing as a leading city that defies economic challenges, driven by visionary leadership.
- Dubai's success story in the first half of 2023 is marked by significant growth in key sectors, including transportation, wholesale and retail trade, financial and insurance, accommodation and food services, real estate, information and communication, and manufacturing.

- **These sectors collectively contributed to about 93.9% of growth, with the transportation and storage sector leading with an astonishing 10.5% growth.**
- A special mention goes to the services sector. It confirms Dubai's status as the world's fastest-recovering destination, underpinned by its thriving hospitality, tourism, and digital services.
- This success showcases the emirate's resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing global landscape, setting an inspiring example for recovery and growth

9. Daniel Noboa to become Ecuador's youngest-ever President

- **Daniel Noboa will become Ecuador's youngest-ever president after winning the runoff elections.**
- Noboa received 52.29% of the total votes, against rival Luisa Gonzalez's 47.71%.
- Mr Noboa said, history was made by Ecuadorians as they chose a new future with security and employment. Ecuador currently has the fourth-highest homicide rate in Latin America.

10. CCI becomes member of International Competition Network's steering group

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI) has become a member of the steering group of the International Competition Network (ICN).**
- CCI joins the prestigious Steering group of International Competition Network (ICN) as a member at the ICN Annual Conference 2023 at Barcelona, Spain after consistent efforts. The ICN comprises 140 competition agencies from 130 countries.
- This is the first time that the CCI has become a member of the ICN's steering

group and the membership is for two years.

11. Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker

- Republican Congressman from Louisiana Mike Johnson has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, bringing an end to three weeks of uncertainty in US politics.
- The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most

powerful political chairs in the country and is third in the line of succession after the US President.

- Johnson was elected by 220 to 209 votes in a bitterly divided Congress, three weeks after his predecessor Kevin McCarthy was unceremoniously voted out of the seat for the first time in US history. In the 435-member House, the Republicans hold a slender majority with 221 seats against 212 of the Democrats.



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Sports

1. Aditi Ashok becomes first ever Indian women golfer to win medal at Asian Games

- Golfer Aditi Ashok created history after she became the first Indian woman to win a golf medal at the Asian Games and took the total tally of Golf medals by India at the continental meet to 7.
- Before, Ashok's Silver medal at Hangzhou, India had won six medals in golf at the Asian Games but all of them had been earned by male golfers.
- The young golfer hoped that her experience at the Hangzhou games could result in a medal for her at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

2. Indian women's team bag bronze medals in roller skating

- Indian women's roller skating team won a bronze medal in the 3000m relay event at the Asian Games.
- The team consisting of Sanjana Bathula, Karthika Jagadeeswaran, Heeral Sadhu, and Aarathy Kasturi Raj finished the race in 4 minutes and 34.861 seconds.

3. Indian Table Tennis players picks up historic bronze medal in women's doubles tournament

- In Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, Indian Table Tennis players **Ayhika Mukherjee** and **Sutirtha Mukherjee** picked up a historic bronze medal in the women's doubles tournament.
- The Indian duo lost to Suyong Cha and Sugyong Pak of North Korea in the semi-finals.

4. India won bronze medal in Men's Speed Skating 3000m Relay at Asian Games 2023

- The Indian men's team, comprising Aryanpal Singh Ghuman, Anandkumar Velkumar, Siddhant Rahul Kamble and Vikram Rajendra, won the bronze medal in the 3000m relay event in roller skating in the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

5. Parul Chaudhary, Annu Rani clinch gold; Tejaswin win decathlon silver, Chithravel gets bronze in triple jump @ Asian Games 2022

- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pravin Ojas Deotale win gold in Compound Archery Mixed Team event.
- Annu Rani, with the best throw of 62.92m to finish on top in the javelin throw.
- Tejaswin Shankar Clinched Silver in Decathlon.

6. Neeraj Chopra wins gold, Asian Games Javelin Throw

- Neeraj Chopra bagged gold while Kishore Jena secured silver in men's javelin throw.
- India got Men's gold and women's silver in 4x400m relay race.
- Jyoti Surekha Vennam and Ojas Deotale won gold for the country in compound mixed team archery final.
- Harmilan Bains won silver in women's 800m final while Avinash Sable won silver in men's 5000m final.
- Lovlina Borgohain won silver in women's 75kg boxing event while Parveen Hooda secured bronze in women's 57kg boxing event.
- Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh won India bronze in squash while Ram Babu and Manju Rani won bronze in the 35km mixed relay race walk.
- Sunil Kumar won bronze in men's Greco-Roman 87kg wrestling giving

India a medal in the sport after 13 years.

- Neeraj Chopra finished with a best of 88.88m.
- **The Indian quartet won gold medal in the men's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.**
- The team comprising of Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi finished with a time of 3:01.58.

7. Goa to Host the 37th National Games with a Record 43 Sports Disciplines

- Goa is set to make history by hosting the 37th edition of the National Games, featuring a record-breaking 43 sporting disciplines. Compared to the previous edition in Gujarat, which featured 36 disciplines, and Kerala's 2015 edition with 33, this year's National Games will be the largest ever.
- The Olympic-style multisport event will witness participation from 28 states and 8 union territories and is scheduled to take place from October 26th to November 9th.
- The 37th National Games will mark the debut of several new sports disciplines on the medal stage, including beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kalliyarapattu, and pencak silat.
- Additionally, yachting and taekwondo are making a triumphant return to the Games after their exclusion during the last edition.
- To celebrate tradition, the sports of lagori and gatka have been included as demonstration sports, adding a unique and cultural dimension to the event.

8. David Warner becomes fastest player to score 1000 runs in ODI World Cup history

- **David Warner became the fastest player in the history of the ICC Men's**

ODI World Cup to complete 1000 runs during the match against India at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

- Warner completed the feat within 19 innings, averaging 62 with three half-centuries and four tons since first being a part of the tournament back in 2011.

9. Iran's Shadloui Becomes Costliest Player In Pro Kabaddi League Auction At ₹2.35 Crore

- Star Iranian allrounder Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh was sold to Puneri Paltan for ₹2.35 CR during the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) 2023 Season 10 Auction being held in Mumbai.
- This made him the league's most expensive foreign player, overtaking Fazel Atrachali's previous price of ₹1.38 crore last year with Puneri Paltan.

10. Kenyan Kelvin Kiptum sets world record to win Chicago Marathon

- Kenya's **Kelvin Kiptum** set a world record to win Chicago Marathon men's title in an unofficial time of two hours and 35 seconds. The 23-year-old shattered the old world record of 2:01:09 set by Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge to win the 2022 Berlin Marathon.

11. CM Hemant Soren unveils 'Juhi' mascot for Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023

- Chief Minister Hemant Soren unveiled the mascot for the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 at the Project Bhawan in Dhurva, Jharkhand.
- The mascot is inspired by the inspirational story of Juhi, the elephant, that has become synonymous with the beautiful Betla National Park.

- Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 will take place from Oct 27 to Nov 5

12. IOC apex body accepts a proposal to include cricket in the 2028 Olympics

- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board has accepted a proposal to include T20I Cricket along with squash, lacrosse, flag football and baseball / softball in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.**
- If included, cricket will be making a comeback to the Olympics after a gap of 128 years. Cricket's only appearance in the event was the 1900 Paris Olympics. Cricket, flag football, lacrosse, squash and baseball-softball were approved for 2028.

13. Maharashtra's youngest Grandmaster Raunak crowned U-20 world champion

- **17-year-old Raunak Sadhwani from Nagpur, Maharashtra, emerged as the U-20 World Junior Rapid Chess champion in Italy.**
- Sadhwani became a Grandmaster aged 13, making him the 9th youngest in the world at the time to achieve the norm.

14. Alastair Cook announces retirement from professional cricket

- **Former England captain Alastair Cook, his country's record test run scorer, announced his retirement from professional cricket.** The 38-year-old left-handed opener, who retired from international cricket in 2018, played his entire county career with Essex. Cook was England test captain from 2012 to 2017 and also captain for 69 one day internationals from 2010-14.

16. Ashutosh Sharma Breaks Yuvi's Record for Fastest 50 in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- **Railways' middle-order batter, Ashutosh Sharma broke former India batter Yuvraj Singh's 16-year-old record for the fastest fifty by an Indian.**
- Ashutosh smashed his half-century in 11 balls in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament, in a Group C clash against Arunachal Pradesh in Ranchi.

17. Centre approves setting up of Khelo India State Excellence Centre at Spithuk in Leh district of Ladakh

- In Ladakh, the newly constructed open stadium located at Spithuk in the Leh district has received approval from the Central Government for the establishment of the Khelo India State Excellence Center (KISCE) focusing on athletics, boxing, and archery.
- This center is slated to be completed within a two-year timeframe, with an expenditure of 3.139 crore rupees allocated for the 2023-24 financial year and 1.195 crore rupees for the subsequent financial year.
- In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Sports Authority of India and the Department of Youth Services and Sport, UT Ladakh, in the near future.
- This initiative represents a groundbreaking scientific approach to the development of sports in the Union Territory and provides a platform for emerging young talents to thrive in the realm of sports, following the establishment of the Khelo India centers for ice hockey, archery, athletics, table tennis, and football in the Union Territory.

18. Unnati Hooda captures women's singles title at Abu Dhabi Masters 2023

- In a battle of future Badminton stars from India, Unnati Hooda beat Samiya Imad

Farooqui to capture the women's singles title at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023, on October 22.

- 16-year-old Unnati Hooda defeated the 20-year-old Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-16, 22-20. This is her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title. She became the youngest Indian to clinch a BWF title last year at 14 years of age.

19. India begins its Para Asian Games campaign with 4 medals including 3 gold

- At the 4th Asian Para Games being held in Hangzhou, China, India began its campaign by adding 9 medals including 3 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze to its medal tally.
- **Nishad Kumar won a Gold in the men's high jump T47 category, breaking the Asian Games record by clocking in 2.02 metres.**
- **In women's canoeing, Prachi Yadav bagged the first silver medal for the country.**
- **In the men's high jump T-63 event, India swept the podium with Shailesh Kumar winning the gold, Mariyappan Thangavelu winning the silver and Ram Singh Padhiyar winning the bronze.**
- **India's Monu Ghanghas made the country proud by securing the bronze medal in men's shot put by playing his best throw of 12.33 metres.**
- In the men's club throw, Pranav Soorma, Dharambir, and Amit Siroha won the gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively.

20. 37th edition of National Games begins in Goa

- The 37th edition of the National Games will begin tomorrow in Goa. It will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow.

- The National Games are India's homespun Olympic-style multi-sport event where athletes from the various states and Union Territories compete for medals.

21. Rudransh Khandelwal Wins Silver Medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 at Asian Para Games 2023

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated athlete Rudransh Khandelwal for winning a silver medal in P1 ' Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 event at the Asian Para Games. Khandelwal belongs to Rajasthan.
- This is Rudransh's second medal at the Asian Para Games 2023.

22. Amol Muzumdar appointed head coach of Indian women's cricket team

- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of Amol Muzumdar as the head coach of the India senior women's cricket team.**
- Domestic stalwart Muzumdar takes over from Ramesh Powar, who was removed as coach in December last year as part of a BCCI internal restructuring. The position of the head coach had been lying vacant since then.

23. Para Asian Games 2023: Para Shooter Sidhartha Babu Bags Gold With Games Record In Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1 Event

- **Para Shooter Sidhartha Babu won the gold medal with Games record total of 247.7 in mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event in the ongoing Para Asian Games 2023.**
- This was the fourth medal in shooting at the Hangzhou 2022 Para Asian Games.

24. Indian para athletes create history, bag 111 medals in Hangzhou Asian Para Games

- Indian para athletes created history on October 28, 2023, as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event.
- With 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze in their kitty, the Indian para athletes won four medals more than the record tally of 107 won by the able-bodied athletes in the Hangzhou Asian Games held from September 23 to October 8.

25. Paytm Becomes Official Sponsor For 37th National Games

- The 37th National Games, being held in Goa from October 26 to November 9, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week.
- Paytm has also become the exclusive mobile payments partner for the Goa government for its digitalisation endeavours.
- The fintech giant reported a 49% year-on-year decline in its consolidated net loss to INR 291.7 Cr for the quarter ended September 2023.
- The 37th edition of the National Games is being held from October 26 to November 9. It involves over 10,000 athletes from across the country competing in 43 sports disciplines at 28 venues.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. IBM Collaborates With Government To Scale Digital Skills Training

- **IBM, the Ministry of Education, & the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have tied up to provide curated courses to empower youth in India with future-ready skills.**
- The collaboration will focus on the co-creation of curriculum and access to IBM's learning platform, IBM SkillsBuild, for skilling learners across school education, higher education among others.

2. HCLTech, Business Finland team up to drive digital innovation in generative AI, metaverse

- The collaboration will enable **Finnish companies and technology startups to take their solutions to global enterprises through HCLTech's Innovation Network, eSTiPTM**, which includes 1,500-plus startups, 14-plus venture capitalists, 16-plus trade commissions and five academic institutions globally.

3. WDRA signs pact with Bank of India to fund against e-NWRs

- **The Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bank of India to provide funding against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts.**
- The agreement aims to facilitate farmers and traders by offering low-interest rate loans. The primary objective of the MoU is to raise awareness about funding opportunities of e-NRWs
- Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) system in the country enables farmers to

store their produce for safe and scientific storage and preservation in warehouses near their farms and to seek pledge loan from banks against the NWRs issued against deposit of their stock. Hence, the NWR help the farmers to avoid distress sales of agricultural produce during the peak marketing season and to avoid the post harvest storage loss.

- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), Government of India ensures implementation of the NWR as per the provisions of the Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act, 2007.
- The WDRA is a Statutory Authority under the **Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs**. Government of India. The Authority has its Headquarters in New Delhi.

4. SBI Foundation and Villgro Join Forces to Support Entrepreneurship & Climate Resilience in Agriculture

- **SBI Foundation, under its flagship program, SBIF LEAP (Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program) announced the Innovators for Bharat initiative to support high-impact incubators providing incubation/acceleration to startups working to address pressing development challenges in the country.**
- SBI Foundation partnered with Villgro, one of India's leading social enterprise incubators to launch 'Innovators For Bharat: Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods' program.
- The initiative will support upto 15 high-potential startups, creating impact on agricultural livelihoods, reducing agriculture's climate footprint and enhancing the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change.

- Villgro is India's foremost impact-first incubator with expertise in 4 sectors - Healthcare, Agriculture, Climate Action, and Gender Inclusion.

5. India, Tanzania sign 6 MoUs, agree on 5-year roadmap on defence cooperation

- India and Tanzania announced elevating their ties to strategic partnership and agreed on a five-year roadmap to significantly expand defence cooperation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.
- It provides cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.

6. ICA Congress 2023: India & UAE forge stronger ties in Archival Heritage Preservation

- At the International Council of Archives Congress 2023 in Abu Dhabi, representatives from India and the United Arab Emirates came together in a significant move to strengthen their collaboration in preserving their shared archival heritage.
- Director General - Arun Singhal of the National Archives of India

7. Spice Money partners with NSDL Payments to Revamp Rural Banking in India

- Spice Money (a subsidiary of DiGiSPICE Technologies), India's leading rural fintech company that creates nanopreneurs for emerging India, announced a groundbreaking collaboration with NSDL Payments Bank to make a significant impact in rural India by allowing citizens to open zero balance accounts.

- Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder, Executive Director, & CEO at Spice Money.

8. Indian Bank signs inventory financing pact with Tata Motor's arms

- Indian Bank Ltd signed an agreement with Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd to provide inventory financing solutions to their authorised dealers for electric as well as other passenger vehicles.
- The PSU lender will provide the two wholly-owned subsidiaries of Tata Motors Ltd with inventory financing solutions through its digital SCF.

9. ADB joins hand with Bengal Govt to undertake study for development of economic corridors

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined hands with the West Bengal government to undertake a study for the development of economic corridors in the state.
- The ADB has worked on a number of landmark projects, including the East Coast Economic Corridor and the Bangladesh Corridor study.

10. Skill India Partners With Coca-Cola India To Launch Retailer Skill Development Program

- To empower the retailer community in the states of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, the National Skill Development Corporation, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, announced a partnership with Coca-Cola India to launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission.
- The program is being piloted in the state of Odisha.

11. ICAR-IARI signs pact with IIT Kanpur to support incubators, startups

- **Agriculture research body ICAR-IARI has signed an agreement with IIT Kanpur to support incubators and startups.**
- Through this pact, both sides will provide vital support to incubators and startups, fostering their growth and success.

12. DOLR signs MoU with NRSC to monitor watershed development projects

- **The Department of Land Resources, DOLR and National Remote Sensing Centre, NRSC signed an MoU for monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Watershed Development Component, WDC 2.O.**
- It aims to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving, and developing degraded natural resources such as soil and water.

13. Indian Oil Invests '1,660.15 Crore in Renewable Power Plant Joint Venture with NTPC

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has announced a substantial investment of INR 1,660.15 crore as equity in IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd, a newly established joint venture with NTPC Ltd.**
- Currently, Indian Oil's renewable energy portfolio stands at 239 MW, with ongoing expansion efforts in wind, solar, hydel, and pumped hydro projects.
- In June, Indian Oil and NTPC Green Energy Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, formed a 50:50 joint venture, IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd, with the objective of setting up renewable energy projects to cater to the 24x7 power requirements of IOC's refineries.

- The joint venture's ultimate goal is to generate a minimum capacity of 650 MW of round-the-clock renewable power, thereby contributing to the sustainability of IOC's refineries.

14. Tamil Nadu, UK form partnership to aim for sustainable water, waste and resource management through smart tech project

- The project, named 'Smart district administration using IoT technologies for better quality of life,' was chosen as part of the Frontier Technology Livestreaming (FTL) program, the release said.
- The UK-supported 'Smart district' project has a goal of tackling global sustainability challenges by deploying sensors throughout the district.

15. IBM Signs MoU with Indian Govt to Advance Semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, and Quantum Technologies

- **IBM, a global leader in innovation and technology, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India.**
- The MoU, signed during a high-level meeting between IBM executives and Indian government officials, aims to foster collaboration in the fields of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing.

16. Jakson Green and Deendayal Port Authority Forge Rs.2400 Crore Partnership for State-of-the-Art Green Ammonia Facility in Gujarat

- **Jakson Green said that it has inked an initial pact with Deendayal Port Authority to develop Rs 2,400-crore green ammonia plant at Kandla Port in Gujarat.**
- Additionally, this endeavour is poised to create more than 5,000 jobs, including

O&M, thereby fostering substantial economic growth in the region.

17. IIT-Delhi, THDC India Limited collaborate for transformative research and development initiatives

- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the THDC India Limited (THDCIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise focused on advancing research and development activities in Science, Engineering, and Technology.**
- The agreement is set to span five years.
- Due to this partnership, THDCIL will partner with IIT Delhi to conduct research studies, pilot projects, and consulting engagements led by faculty members.

18. Ensuring Periodical Efficiency Test of Emergency Alert Broadcasting, DoT and NDMA join hands

- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), will conduct comprehensive testing of the Cell Broadcast Alert System.**
- The aim of this partnership is to improve emergency communication during disasters and ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of India.

19. Tata Elxsi partners with IISc to develop Automotive Cyber Security Solutions

- **Tata Elxsi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have collaborated to develop an Automotive Cyber Security Solution under their existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**
- This collaboration leverages Tata Elxsi's expertise in artificial intelligence,

machine learning, software-defined vehicles (SDV), and electric vehicle solutions, along with IISc's advanced research

- The partnership aims to address cybersecurity challenges arising from complex in-vehicle sensor networks and software advancements in modern vehicles.
- With increased vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-everything (V2X) connectivity, there are greater risks of theft, remote control, tampering, and data breaches. Simultaneously, IISc researchers are focusing on automotive vehicle technology, network security, and other critical systems.
- The joint effort will concentrate on security and threat detection in connected vehicles, utilising AI and ML-based intrusion detection.
- Their goal is to prevent and detect potential security threats and anomalies, while also providing insights into future threats.

20. L&T signs pact with IIT Indore for research in renewable energy management

- **Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) said it has inked a pact with IIT Indore to undertake joint research and development projects in various areas like renewable energy management and control software.**
- The MOUs was signed by the digital energy solutions arm of L&T Construction's power transmission and distribution business.

21. NPCI Bharat BillPay Partners MyJio & Arzoo To Foray Into The B2B Space

- **In a bid to diversify offerings, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)-backed Bharat BillPay on October 19 announced its foray into**

the B2B space with the launch of multiple value-added services.

- NPCI Bharat BillPay will offer tailored products such as flexible invoice presentation, complaint management, and MIS, among other things
- The Bharat BillPay-enabled sellers will be able to issue multiple invoices to their buyers while their clients (buyers) will have the flexibility to pay multiple invoices in a single transaction
- The platform will also offer multiple payment modes such as UPI, net banking, cards, wallet, IMPS and cash, including other channels such as mobile app and website.
- The NPCI hived off NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited as a separate entity in early 2021. Since then, it has emerged as a one-stop solution for billers for low-cost collections and payments. It also offers recurring payment services to customers across several segments.
- NPCI Bharat BillPay currently claims to offer more than 20,000 billers across multiple banks and non-banking channels and has over 900 agent institutions live on the platform.

22. Google To Provide Sachet Loans on Google Pay App

- **US-based tech giant Google has announced the launch of sachet loans, along with four other credit initiatives, on the Google Pay app in India.**
- Google has partnered with DMI Finance to provide loans to SMBs loans starting at just INR 15,000 via Google Pay.
- The Company has also joined hand with lenders like ICICI Bank and ePayLater to extend credit lines to small merchants.
- The tech giant also announced the launch of DigiKavach — a programme aimed at keeping online financial frauds in India at bay.
- The tech major has partnered with Axis Bank to allow the lender to extend

personal loans to individuals on Google Pay.

23. Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation & HCCB join hands to train 5000 Youth

- **The Government of Tamil Nadu and Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB) have collaborated to train 5,000 individuals under the government's 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.**
- The partnership with the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation will train 5,000 youths under sales and marketing verticals.
- HCCB will serve as the main contact and offer orientation and programme materials apart from conducting online and offline training sessions in partnership with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, a company statement said here.
- The individuals selected for the scheme, through this initiative, will get to enhance interactions with industry leaders, connect learners with local industries and provide entrepreneurial opportunities at 'zero cost'.

24. Boat Labs Develops Indigenous Neckband IP In Collaboration With CoE For ESDM

- **Audio and wearable device maker Boat has developed an indigenous neckband IP in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing.**
- The CoE was set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in partnership with the Uttar Pradesh government and industry body India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in Noida. Boat's parent firm Imagine Marketing, co-founder and CEO, Sameer Mehta.

- ICEA signed the memorandum of understanding with Boat last year as an industry partner for the Centre of Excellence (CoE) based on Li-ion products (post cell) at CDAC, Noida.
- "boAt is the first company from the consumer lifestyle electronics industry to collaborate with the ICEA to bring out the indigenous IP.

25. Airbus, IIT Kanpur sign MoU to promote aerospace education and innovation in India

- **The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate increased collaboration in developing education programmes.**
- This partnership will focus on advancing research in cutting-edge technologies and creating initiatives to enhance the technical skills of aerospace students in India.

26. Centre launches 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023' to design & prototype innovative app or software

- **The Department of Consumer Affairs in collaboration with IIT (BHU), launched Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023.**
- The deliverables of the Hackathon will be to design & prototype innovative app or software based solutions such as; browser extensions, plugins, add-ons, mobile applications etc. that can detect the use, type and scale of dark patterns for e-Commerce platforms.
- The objective of the initiative is to provide protection to consumers from all types of unfair trade practices.

- The launch event was attended by law Institutes, Higher Educational Institutes, experts from national and International Academia, students, various companies and e-commerce platforms in both physical and online mode.

27. Hindustan Aeronautics partners Safran of France for making engine parts

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines of France signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop industrial cooperation in manufacturing ring forgings for commercial aircraft engines.**
- HAL will produce LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engine forgings at its foundry and forge facility in Bengaluru as part of the MoU.
- The products that HAL and Safran will jointly produce in Bengaluru will power the Airbus A320 Neo family and the Boeing 737 Max single-aisle airliners.

28. PEDDA inks MoU with HPCL for setting up 10 compressed biogas projects in Punjab

- **Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for setting up 10 compressed biogas (CBG) projects and other new and renewable energy projects across the state.**
- The projects will also generate more than 600 direct employment opportunities and about 1,500 indirect employment.

Schemes

1. Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme Approves Over 10,000 Claims Worth Rs 256 Crore For MSMEs Within Six Months Of Launch

- In a significant development benefiting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India have approved over 10,000 claims from MSMEs under the **Vivad se Vishwas - I scheme**, according to a press release by Ministry of Finance.

2. Sagar Parikrama, Phase-IX launched in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

- The government said the ninth phase of the **'Sagar Parikrama' programme** covering coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will kickstart on October 7.
- **The phase-9 of 'Sagar Parikrama' programme will cover Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Viluppuram, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Karaikal and Puducherry.**
- Sagar Parikrama is an outreach program intended to reach out fishermen community across the entire coastal belt of the country. The initiative has been launched to understand the issues, experiences and aspirations of fishermen and also to create awareness of various schemes and programs of the Government available to fishermen in coastal areas.
- **Tamil Nadu has 1,076 km long coastline, which is the second largest in the country.**
- The state is enriched with marine, brackish water and inland fisheries resources amenable for capture and culture fisheries.
- The first eight phases of Sagar Parikrama have covered 4,115 km in 8 Coastal

states/UTs including Gujarat, Diu & Daman, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, and Andaman & Nicobar.

3. Centre raises LPG subsidy for Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries to '300/cylinder

- The government has raised the subsidy amount for **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries from '200 to '300 per LPG cylinder.**
- Ujjwala beneficiaries currently pay '703 per 14.2-kg cylinder as against the market price of '903. After the decision of the Union Cabinet, they will now pay '603.
- **The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), initiated on May 1, 2016, by PM Modi in UP's Ballia,** aims to provide cooking fuel such as LPG to rural households. The scheme's focus is on offering LPG connections to women from below the poverty line (BPL) households, SC/ST communities, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY), forest dwellers, and other disadvantaged groups.
- The Union Cabinet had last month approved the extension of PMUY for release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from the financial year 2023-24 to 2025-26. The 75 lakh additional Ujjwala connections will take total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.

4. Government Launches Shreshta Scheme To Provide Quality Education To Scheduled Caste Students

- In a significant move aimed at advancing education and promoting the socio-economic progress of Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Ministry of Social Justice &

Empowerment has introduced the **'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA)**.

- According to an official release from the ministry, the primary goal of this initiative is to extend the impact of government development programmes and bridge service gaps in areas predominantly inhabited by SC communities within the education sector.
- 'SHRESHTA envisions the creation of a conducive environment for the socio-economic upliftment and comprehensive development of SC students, ensuring a brighter future for them,' the release reads.
- The scheme's core strategy involves fostering collaboration between grant-in-aid institutions managed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and residential high schools offering quality education.
- The scheme's implementation is structured in two distinct modes.
- First, there are the SHRESHTA schools, which comprise the best CBSE/State Board-affiliated private residential schools. Under this mode, a specified number of outstanding SC students in various States and Union Territories (UTs) will be selected annually through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS), conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The students will then be admitted to the best private residential schools affiliated with CBSE/State Boards for their education from the 9th to the 12th standard. Selection of these schools is based on their exemplary performance, with schools boasting over a 75 per cent pass rate for classes 10 and 12 over the past three years being chosen by a selection committee for the admission of selected students.
- The second mode of implementation pertains to NGO/VO Operated

Schools/Hostels (EXISTING COMPONENT). This mode specifically applies to schools and hostels operated by voluntary organizations (VOs) and NGOs, offering education up to the 12th standard, as outlined in the official release.

- Notably, the scheme covers all fees for each student, including both school fees (tuition fees) and hostel fees (mess charges). The specified admissible fees for each class are as follows:
9th: ' 1,00,000; 10th: ' 1,10,000;
11th: ' 1,25,000; 12th: ' 1,35,000, as detailed in the press release.

6. PM Modi to launch 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 511 **Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras** in Maharashtra through video conferencing.
- These centres, being established across 34 rural districts of the state, will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth. Each centre will train about 100 youngsters.
- The training is being provided by empanelled industry partners and agencies under the National Skill Development Council.
- The establishment of these centres will help the region attain significant strides towards developing more competent and skilled manpower.

7. PM SVANidhi Scheme is a gender equaliser: SBI report

- The female share in the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** Scheme at 43 per cent indicates the empowerment of entrepreneurial capabilities of urban

females, according to a report by State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD).

- This empowerment of urban females makes the Scheme a gender equalizer, it added.
- Almost 75 per cent of loan beneficiaries come from the “non-general category” is a testament to the innate power of

well-intended policy schemes to seed transformative changes, the ERD said in a report.

- The Scheme, which was launched on June 1, 2020, is a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to '50,000 in incremental tranches.



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Appointments & Resignations

1. Govt. extends tenure of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta by nine months

- The government order said the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Gupta as the CBDT Chairman on a contract basis, with effect from 1. 10. 2023 till 30. 06. 2024.**
- The CBDT is the apex policy-making body for the Income-tax department. It is headed by a chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.

2. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM assumed charge as deputy chief of naval staff

- **Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 01 Oct 23.**
- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 88 and is a Navigation and Direction Specialist.
- The Flag Officer was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2020 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022 by the Hon'ble President of India.

3. South Indian Bank appoints PR Seshadri as MD, CEO

- **South Indian Bank has appointed PR Seshadri as its managing director and chief executive officer effective from October 1.**
- He will succeed Murali Ramakrishnan who served at the post from October 1, 2020 till September 30, 2023.
- Sh. Seshadri has served, amongst other positions, as Managing Director & CEO of The Karur Vysya Bank Limited (KVB).

4. Google ropes in former Apple executive Sreenivasa Reddy as India public policy head

- **Google has roped in former Samsung and Apple executive Sreenivasa Reddy to lead its public policy efforts in India** at a time when the internet giant faces mounting anti-trust challenges and the government works on a broad set of tech regulations.
- The appointment comes a full year after former public policy head, Archana Gulati, resigned just five months into the job.

5. Former HDFC Bank chief Aditya Puri joins Deloitte as senior adviser

- **Former managing director and CEO of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri joined Deloitte as senior adviser on October 4.**
- Puri was appointed as CEO of HDFC Bank in 1994 and retired after 26 years of service.
- Earlier in June 2023, Deloitte had announced the appointment of Manoj Kohli, former CEO of Bharati Airtel and Softbank India as senior advisor.

6. Muneesh Kapur appointed as RBI's executive director, takes charge on Oct 3

- **The Reserve Bank of India announced the appointment of Muneesh Kapur as the Executive Director, effective from October 3.**
- In his new capacity, Kapur will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research. Before this role, he acted as the Adviser-in-Charge of the Monetary Policy Department and held the position of Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee.

7. Centre extends Amit Agrawal's tenure as CEO of UIDAI for one year

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of **Amit Agrawal's tenure as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. The extension is for a period of one year starting November 2, 2023 up to November 2, 2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The Aadhaar Act 2016 has been amended by the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 (14 of 2019) w.e.f. 25.07.2019.

8. HDFC AMC's Navneet Munot elected as chairman of AMFI

- **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** said **Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, has been elected as the chairman of the industry body.**
- In addition to AMFI chairman, the board of the industry body also elected **Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund** as its vice-chairman.

9. South Indian Bank appoints VJ Kurian as its new chairman

- **VJ Kurian has been appointed as the non-executive part time chairman of the Thrissur based South Indian Bank with effect from November 2 to March 22, 2026.**
- Kurian will succeed **Salim Gangadharan**, who will be retiring as non-executive

part-time chairman of the bank on November 1 after completion of his term.

10. Pankaj Bohra takes over as national president of IACC

- **Pankaj Bohra, a chartered accountant from Ahmedabad, has assumed the role of national president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).**
- IACC, a 55-year-old chamber of commerce with 14 offices in India and 27 partner organisations in the US, is engaged in the promotion of bilateral trade and investments between India and the US.

11. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi appointed India's ambassador to UN in Geneva

- **External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has been appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva.**
- In Geneva, Bagchi would succeed **Indra Mani Pandey** who is set to return to New Delhi.
- Earlier, Bagchi served as ambassador to Croatia and deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

12. Dr Meenesh Shah, Chairman & MD, NDDB elected to Board of International Dairy Federation

- **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman and Managing Director Meenesh C. Shah has been elected to the Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF).**
- He is the Member Secretary of the Indian National Committee and also a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics.

- IDF Headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium.

13. Sanjay Kulshreshtha appointed Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO

- **Sanjay Kulshreshtha has been appointed the new Chairman and Managing Director of Housing And Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO).**
- HUDCO is a government-owned company in India established in 1970 under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It specialises in providing financial assistance for housing and urban infrastructure projects across the country.

14. Sanjay Kumar Jain appointed Chairman & Managing Director, IRCTC

- **Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer Sanjay Kumar Jain has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).**
- After the recommendation of Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC), his appointment to this post was approved. The post of CMD has been vacant since January 2021, after the retirement

15. Kotak Mahindra Bank gets RBI nod to appoint Ashok Vaswani as MD & CEO for 3 years

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the bank's next Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) following veteran banker and founder Uday Kotak's resignation from the post last month after being associated with the bank for 21 years.**

- Vaswani's appointment is for a period of three years. Currently, he is President of Pagaya Technologies Ltd - a US-Israeli AI Fintech.

16. Senior Diplomat Indra Mani Pandey Appointed As Secretary General Of BIMSTEC

- **Indra Mani Pandey will be the new secretary general of the seven-nation grouping BIMSTEC, in a first for an Indian official to be appointed to the influential position of the regional bloc.**
- Besides India, the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

17. Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker steps down after 27-year tenure

- **Akbar Al Baker, the chief executive officer of Qatar Airways, the country's flag carrier announced his decision to step down from his role after a 27-year tenure.**
- The Qatari government, which manages the affairs of the airline, has decided to appoint Badr Mohammed Al-Meer as his successor. Baker would continue to discharge his role as the CEO till November 5.

18. Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair takes charge as Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)

- **Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair assumed the appointment of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces) in the office of DGAFMS becoming the first woman to hold the position on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal.**
- For her meritorious service she has been awarded the AOC-in-C (WAC) and CAS

Commendations as well as the Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India.

19. Robert Fico to become Slovakia's new prime minister

- Leftist leader Robert Fico was appointed Slovakia's prime minister for the fourth time.
- President Zuzana Caputova appointed Fico and his cabinet after his SMER-SSD party won the Sept. 30 election and formed a coalition with the centre-left HLAS and nationalist SNS parties.
- Fico quit as prime minister in 2018.

20. Sandip Garg takes over as whole-time member of IBBI

- Former tax officer Sandip Garg, who previously served as the executive director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), has been appointed as a whole-time member of the bankruptcy regulator.
- Garg, a 1992-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, had a wide range of responsibilities during his tenure at the IBBI.
- Before the latest appointment, the board of the insolvency regulator comprised chairman Ravi Mittal, two whole-time members and four ex-officio members.



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Awards

1. Nobel Prize 2023 in Physiology (Medicine) goes to Katalin Kariko, Drew Weissman for mRNA Covid vaccines

- **The Nobel Prize in Physiology for 2023 has been awarded to Katalin Kariko, & Drew Weissman for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against Covid-19.**
- Svante Pbo was awarded the prize for Physiology in 2022 "for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution".
- The youngest medicine laureate ever is Frederick G. Banting, who was awarded the 1923 Medicine Prize for the discovery of insulin at the age of 32.
- In vitro produced mRNA is seen by dendritic cells as a foreign material, which causes them to become activated and release inflammatory signalling molecules, as discovered by Karikó and Weissman. Karikó and Weissman came to the conclusion that specific characteristics were required to separate the various mRNA types.
- The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine winner Svante Paabo, directs the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, was recognised for his groundbreaking work in extracting and analysing DNA from ancient bones, particularly those of Neanderthals.

2. Prof. Dr Joyeeta Gupta receives Spinoza Prize in field of climate change

- **Indian-origin professor Dr Joyeeta Gupta has received the Spinoza Prize, the highest distinction in Dutch science for her work in the field of climate change at a ceremony in the Netherlands.**

- The Dutch Research Council (NWO) prize is worth 1.5 million euros which Gupta intends to spend on scientific research and activities related to knowledge utilisation.
- Joyeeta Gupta is a Dutch environmental scientist who is professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam.

3. MRPL wins Petroleum Ministry's innovation award

- **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has won the 'Best Innovation in Refinery' award from the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- MRPL has secured the award for 2022-23 for the second consecutive year amid stiff competition from IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL.
- This award is based on a patent for an energy-efficient hydrocarbon distillation process.

4. Indian-American teen inventor honoured by Jill Biden for leading community improvement in US

- **Teenage Indian-American inventor Gitanjali Rao was honoured by US First Lady Jill Biden, along with 14 other young women leaders, for leading a change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the nation.**
- The 17-year-old scientist was honoured in the first-ever "Girls Leading Change" celebration at the White House.

5. Sivasankari honoured with 32nd Saraswati Samman

- **Noted author and activist Sivasankari was honoured with the prestigious**

Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 for her memoir written in Tamil, Surya Vamsam, at the National Museum in Delhi.

- The Saraswati Samman, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation, carries a plaque, a citation, and a cash prize of '15 lakh.

6. Ministry of Jal Shakti Launches the 5th National Water Awards 2023

- The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has initiated the 5th National Water Awards (NWA), 2023 through the Rashtriya Puraskar portal.
- The deadline for submitting applications is set for December 15, 2023.
- The National Water Awards (NWAs) are open to a wide range of entities and individuals, including:
 1. States
 2. Districts
 3. Village Panchayats
 4. Urban Local Bodies
 5. Schools and Colleges
 6. Institutions (other than schools or colleges)
 7. Industries
 8. Civil society organizations
 9. Water User Associations
 10. Individuals

7. Nawanpind Sardaran village in Punjab receives Best Tourism Village Award for cultural heritage preservation

- **Nawanpind Sardaran village in Punjab receives Best Tourism Village Award for cultural heritage preservation.**
- A total of 750 villages from 31 states and union territories had applied for the best tourism village award 2023 and Nawanpind Sardaran got amongst the 35 selected ones.

8. Bhopal Mahila Thana Gets ISO Certification

- The Mahila thana (women police station) of Bhopal became the first women-centric police station across the entire country to be conferred with the ISO 9001:2015 certificate.
- The certificate was conferred on the police station

9. President Droupadi Murmu to confer National Film Awards in New Delhi

- President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the 69th National Film Awards in New Delhi.
- **'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' directed by R Madhavan has been adjudged as the Best Feature Film for the year 2021.**
- **Allu Arjun has won the Best Actor Award for 'Pushpa: The Rise'.**
- **Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon will share the Best Actress Award for 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' and 'Mimi'.**
- Pallavi Joshi will get the Best Supporting Actress Award for 'Kashmir Files' and Pankaj Tripathi will get the Best Supporting Actor Award for 'Mimi'.
- RRR bagged the award for Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment and 'The Kashmir Files' directed by Vivek Agnihotri will get the Nargis Dutt award for Best Film on National Integration.

10. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das receives award for A+ ranking in Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das received the Award for being ranked 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 in Marakkesh city of Morocco.**
- The award recognizes those central bank governors whose strategies outperformed

their peers through originality, creativity, and tenacity.

11. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the IndiaSkills 2023-24 and felicitates the World Skills 2022 Winners

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the IndiaSkills 2023-24 and felicitated the World Skills 2022 Winners at an event held at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi.
- India has secured 11th position in the global competition, the best-ever ranking so far.

12. Kerala Gramin Bank win Assocham excellence award

- Kerala Gramin Bank has won four prestigious Assocham awards at the 18th Assocham Annual Summit & Awards on Banking & Financial Sector Lending Companies namely 'Bharat @ 100: Financial Transformation in Amrit Kaal' held in Mumbai.
- The Bank was conferred with the titles of winner in Best Digital Initiative, Best

Customer Experience, Best Risk and Cyber Security Initiatives and was the runner up in Outstanding Financial Performance.

13. Global Teacher Prize 2023: West Bengal teacher among top 10 finalists

- Deep Narayan Nayak, a school teacher from West Bengal's Asansol shines as a top 10 finalist for the 2023 Global Teacher Prize, featuring participants from 130 countries.
- Deep Narayan Nayak's innovative teaching methods, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, have positively impacted underprivileged children.
- Lovingly known and popular by the name 'Teacher of the Streets,' Mr. Nayak, from Tilka Manjhi Adivasi Free Primary School in Jamuria, Asansol, took the initiative and stepped outdoors during the Covid-19 lockdown to bridge the digital gap for children in remote areas below the poverty line and provide education to them.
- He transformed mud walls into blackboards and roads into classrooms, ensuring education even for those who were at a risk of being left behind



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Ranks & Reports

1. Mukesh Ambani reclaims top spot on India's 100 richest list; Savitri Jindal wealthiest woman

- **Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani overtook Adani Group's Gautam Adani to become the richest Indian in the rankings of the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023.**
- Ambani's wealth grew marginally by 2 per cent to Rs 8.08 lakh crore. However, his counterpart, Gautam Adani's fortune fell by 57 per cent to Rs 4.74 lakh crore.

2. India Ranks 111th On Global Hunger Index-2023

- **India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index-2023.**
- The index also stated that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world at 18.7%, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- With a score of 28.7 in the Global Hunger Index-2023, India has a level of hunger that is serious, according to a report based on the index.
- **India's neighbouring countries Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th) & Sri Lanka (60th) have fared better than it in the index.**
- South Asia & Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels, with a GHI score of 27 each, indicating serious hunger.
- Rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6% and under-five mortality at 3.1%.
- "India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, at 18.7%, reflecting acute undernutrition," the report based on the index stated. Wasting is measured based on children's weight relative to their height.

- The report also said that the prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years stood at 58.1 per cent.
- The 2023 GHI score for the world is 18.3. For the 2023 GHI report, data were assessed for 136 countries.

5. NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes 'World's Best Employers 2023' List

- **India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, NTPC Limited, has been recognized as one of the 'World's Best Employers 2023' in the Forbes World's Best Employers list 2023 released on 10th Oct 2023.**
- It ranked 261st out of top 700 companies in the World ranking and is the only Indian PSU to figure in the list.
- Every year Forbes publishes the World's Best Employers List through independent market research to identify top 700 companies which offer exciting working and a positive environment, opportunities for training and career advancement, employee benefits, employee centric and workplace diversity. Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to create the seventh annual list of the World's Best Employers this year.

6. Mumbai ranks 19th, Bengaluru 22nd in Knight Frank's Global Prime Residential Index

- **London-based property consultant, Knight Frank, has ranked Mumbai in the 19th position, Bengaluru in the 22nd position, and New Delhi in the 25th position in the Global Prime Residential Index.**
- The Turkish capital Ankara leads Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q2 2023 with the highest growth rate of 105.9 percent, followed by Istanbul at

85.1 percent. In Q2 2023, Chennai and Kolkata were at 39th and 40th ranking on the global index.

- Mumbai has significantly moved up 76 places to secure the 19th position on Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q2 2023, from 95th place in Q2 2022.

7. Female Labour Force Participation Rate Jumps to 37.0%

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shows that the Female Labour Force Participation Rate in the country has improved significantly by 4.2 percentage points to 37.0% in 2023, as per 'usual status' concept of measuring labour force participation.**
- This significant jump in the female labour force participation rate is an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives aimed at their long term socio-economic and political development.
- Government's initiatives have spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace.
- Policies and legislations in these areas have been driving Government's 'women-led development' agenda.

8. Kempegowda International Airport tops global on-time performance rankings

- **Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has secured the top position as the world's most punctual airport for the past three consecutive months, according to Cirium's 'The On-Time Performance Monthly Report.'**
- According to the report, on-time departure ranking measures the

percentage of flights that departed within 15 minutes of the scheduled time.

- The Kempegowda International Airport operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited maintained an "impressive" on-time departure experience for passengers, with 87.51 per cent punctuality in July, 89.66 per cent in August, and 88.51 per cent in September, a BIAL

9. 26 crore Ayushman cards created across country: Health Ministry

- The Centre's health insurance scheme **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** has crossed the milestone of generating 26 crore Ayushman cards across the country, the health ministry said in a statement.
- With four crore cards, **Uttar Pradesh tops the list of states with the highest number.**
- Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh stand at number 2 & 3. MP (3.69 crore) and Chhattisgarh (2.04 crore) Ayushman cards, respectively.
- The health ministry further said in the statement 49 per cent Ayushman cards are held by female beneficiaries.
- The AB PM-JAY has successfully catered to 5.7 crore hospital admissions costing more than Rs 70,000 crore.
- The flagship scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) provides a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary families.
- The NHA has launched the 'Ayushman App' to generate Ayushman card. The app has a unique feature of self-verification, which enables users to generate Ayushman card in four steps without visiting any centre, the statement said.

10. To curb evasion, EU report calls for 2% global wealth tax on billionaires

- **Pointing out that tax evasion is enabling billionaires to enjoy effective tax rates equivalent to 0% to 0.5% of their wealth, the European Union Tax Observatory in its 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024' has called for a global minimum tax on billionaires equal to 2% of their wealth.**
- The report justified the proposal by noting that while the number of taxpayers affected by it would be miniscule, the tax rate for them (2%) “would still be very modest” given that the wealth of billionaires has grown at 7% a year annually on average since 1995 (net of inflation).

11. Mumbai second most polluted major global city as air quality worsens

- **Mumbai was the second most polluted city among 109 places tracked by IQAir, a Swiss technology company measuring air quality in real-time.**
- Air quality index (AQI) score is based on the US system where a score of between 0-50 is good, 51-100 is moderate, 101-150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200 is unhealthy, 201-300 is very unhealthy and >301 is hazardous. Delhi was the sixth most polluted city. Beijing, meanwhile, took the top spot.
- The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in Mumbai was 14.7 times the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline of five micrograms per cubic metre. In Delhi, it was 9.8 times the guideline value.

12. Indians top the list of those seeking citizenship in wealthy OECD nations

- **India maintained its top position as the country of origin of new immigrants to the Organisation for Economic Co-**

operation and Development (OECD) nations in 2021.

- According to OECD's International Migration Outlook: 2023 report, 407,000 Indians moved to OECD nations in 2021.
- It was 86 per cent higher than 220,000 Indians in 2020. China and Romania followed India, with 283,000 and 215,000 immigrants, respectively.
- OECD is a group of 38 countries, most of which are high-income and ranked very high on the Human Development Index (HDI). Out of those Indians who moved to OECD countries, 133,000 were granted nationality of these countries, the highest among all countries. These acquisitions took place mostly in the United States of America (56,000), Australia (24,000) and Canada (21,000).

13. 5 teachers of IIT Palakkad feature among world's top 2% scientists

- **Five faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad have been included on the latest list of the 'world's top two per cent scientists' released by Stanford University, California, US.**
- Last year, IIT Palakkad had three of its teachers on the Stanford list.
- The list features two distinctive categories: entire career until 2022 and for the single year 2022.
- The list features two distinctive categories: entire career until 2022 and for the single year 2022. In the first category, A. Seshadri Sekhar, Director of IIT Palakkad, and Jagadeesh Bayry, Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences and Engineering, have found a place. In this category, as many as 204,633 scientists were acknowledged worldwide.
- In the 'Single Year 2022' category, four faculty members from IIT Palakkad made a significant mark. Prof. Jagadeesh Bayry, Professor, Department of

Biological Sciences and Engineering, Dr. Yugender Goud Kotagiri, Ramanujan Fellow, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Abdul Rasheed P, DBT Ramalingaswami Fellow, Department of Chemistry and Biological Sciences and Engineering and Dr. M. Sabarimalai Manikandan, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering earned spots among the world's top scientists.

- This achievement reaffirms our unwavering dedication to research excellence, and we take immense pride in our faculty member's achievements and join them in celebrating their global recognition.

14. India set to derive 18% of its energy requirements via solar sources by 2023, IEA reports

- **India is on track to reach its 2030 target of having 50% of its electricity capacity generated from non-fossil sources well ahead of the end of the decade, IEA's World Energy Outlook 2023 said.**
- This achievement is dependent on the full utilisation of the new solar PV module manufacturing capacity established under the Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) program by 2026. India's solar PV module imports were valued at \$3.4 billion in 2021-2022.
- International Energy Agency, Headquarters: Paris, France.

15. India ranks third among countries with most fintech unicorns in 2023; US retains the crown globally: Report

- **India has ranked third among the countries with the most financial technology (fintech) unicorns in the world in 2023, with the US and UK**

retaining the top two positions globally.

- While US is home to 134 unicorns and produces the most value in terms of fintech.
- UK took second place with 27 fintech unicorns and India secured the third position with 17 fintech unicorns in 2023 so far.
- India's top profitable companies include stock brokerage platform Zerodha, fintech firm Billdesk, UPI giant Paytm, etc. FinTech giants like Zerodha, Razorpay, Pine Labs, Paytm, Billdesk, among few others have been profitable.

16. 5G, satcoms, semiconductors to boost economy with \$240 bn by FY28: KPMG

- 5G, satellite communication and semiconductors will collectively contribute approximately \$240 billion to India's economy over the next five years and are estimated to contribute 1.6 per cent to the national GDP by FY28, according to a report by KPMG.
- A KPMG report released at the ongoing seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress said India is preparing for a monumental shift to become a global digital powerhouse as the three technologies leverage key national strengths, namely economy, technology, demography and demand.
- The telecommunications sector is currently valued at Rs 3,000 billion and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of nearly 7-9 per cent by FY24.
- "There will be nearly a 40 per cent increase in hiring in the telecom and related industries in the coming years. The rollout of 5G/6G will boost job prospects in the telecom sector," the report said.

Important Days

1. International Day of Non-Violence | 2 October

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in a resolution adopted on June 15, 2007, established the commemoration as an occasion to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. The resolution reaffirms the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.

2. World Habitat Day 2023 | 2 October

- World Habitat Day is celebrated on the first Monday of October each year. In 2023, World Habitat Day will be observed on October 2nd, providing a platform for discussions and initiatives focused on urban development and housing.
- **2023 Theme: Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery.**

3. World Animal Welfare Day | 4 October

- October 4, marks World Animal Welfare Day. The day is celebrated with the aim of celebrating animal rights and welfare all throughout the world.
- This day brings the animal welfare movement together, mobilizing a global force to make the world a better place for all animals.
- **The theme for World Animal Day in 2023 is 'Big or small, we love them all.'**

4. World Teachers' Day | 5 October

- World Teachers' Day is annually celebrated on October 5, marking the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation regarding the Status of Teachers. The global observance of World Teachers' Day began in 1994.
- World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and Education International (EI).
- **This year, the theme for World Teachers' Day is 'The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage'.**

5. World Cerebral Palsy Day | 6 September

- World Cerebral Palsy Day is a global observance that shines a spotlight on cerebral palsy (CP) and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.
- Celebrated every year on October 6th, this day serves as a platform to raise awareness about CP, support those living with the condition, and advocate for greater inclusion and understanding.
- **The theme for World Cerebral Palsy Day in 2023 is 'Together Stronger.'**
- Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture.

6. World Cotton Day | 7 September

- The initiative of World Cotton Day was born in 2019, when four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa' Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four -proposed the World Trade

Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on October 7.

- On third official UN World Cotton Day, under **the theme “Making cotton fair and sustainable for all: from farm to fashion”**, the United Nations wants to raise visibility of the cotton sector and awareness of the critical role that it plays in economic development, international trade and poverty alleviation.
- China's share in the global cotton harvest is 28%; India, the second largest producer produces 24%
- The first World Cotton Day was suggested by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on October 7, 2019, with support from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, known as the Cotton Four or C4 countries.

7. World Post Day | 9 October

- World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
- It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.
- **2023 theme: Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future**

8. World Mental Health Day | 10 October

- World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10th every year.
- It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues and promoting mental well-being globally.
- **The theme for the World Mental Health Day 2023 is 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.'**
- World Mental Health Day was celebrated for the first time on October 10, 1992.

9. India to mark 10 Oct as Good Manufacturing Practice Day

- **The government along with the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) plans to celebrate the first ever National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day) on 10 October**, as they focus on improving the poor quality of many Indian drugs. It is dedicated to entire pharmaceutical industry to create awareness on the cGMP guidelines.
- GMP, as mandated by the World Health Organization (WHO), prescribes essential standards to enhance product quality through control measures related to materials, methods, machinery, processes, personnel, facilities, as well as the environment.
- Right now, GMP under Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rule is under revision wherein it will become applicable for all pharmaceutical firms.

10. International Girl Child Day | 11 October

- International Girl Child Day is observed annually on October 11.
- The day aims to focus on the importance of girls' education, their rights, and promoting gender equality.
- **The theme of International Day of the Girl 2023 is 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being'.** The International Day of the Girl Child was first celebrated in 2012.

11. World Sight Day | 12th October

- World Sight Day observed annually on the second Thursday of October, is a global event meant to draw attention to blindness and vision impairment.
- This year it falls on 12th October.
- **'Love your eyes at work' is the theme of this year's World Sight Day.**

12. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 to Focus on Water

- World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday of May and the second Saturday of October. This year it will be celebrated on 14th October. It is a day to raise awareness about the importance of migratory birds and the need to protect them.
- **World Migratory Bird Day 2023 centres on the theme 'Water: Sustaining Bird Life'.**

13. International Day of Rural Women | 15 October

- The International Day of Rural Women was first celebrated in 2008, following a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The day was established to acknowledge the vital contributions of rural women to their communities and the global economy and celebrate the critical role that rural women play in agriculture, food production and rural development.
- **The theme for 2023 is 'Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All.'**

14. World Students' Day | 15 October

- October 15 is commemorated as World Students' Day in honour of the notable contributions of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in the field of education.
- This observance coincides with the birth anniversary of Dr Kalam, India's 11th President, renowned as the 'Missile Man of India'.
- He was a distinguished scientist and administrator who worked with the DRDO. Dr Kalam was born on October 15, 1931, in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu.

15. World Food Day | 16 October

- The World Food Day is celebrated on October 16 every year.
- The emphasis of World Food Day celebrations every year is on the furtherance of food security all over the world.
- **For the year 2023, the theme of the World Food Day is 'Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind'.**
- The World Food Day was established in 1945 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. After 34 years it was recognized as a world holiday at the 20th FAO conference in November 1979. Following this, 150 countries proceeded to celebrate the day after it gained its official recognition by the United Nations.

16. World anaesthesia day | 16 October

- World Anaesthesia Day is observed on October 16 every year.
- The day strives to raise awareness about the importance of anaesthesia in medical treatments.
- It also supports anaesthesia providers around the world to celebrate their profession.
- **The theme for World Anaesthesia Day 2023 is 'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.'**
- World Anaesthesia Day marks the birth of anaesthesia. Anaesthesia was first used on October 16, 1846. The first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia was performed by William Thomas Green Morton (1819-1868) at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA, USA

17. International Day for Eradication of Poverty | 17 October

- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated annually on October 17, aims to promote understanding and dialogue between

people living in poverty and the wider society.

- **The theme of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023 is 'Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all'.**
- The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to October 17, 1987.
- On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadero in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.
- According to the United Nations, 8.4% of the world's population, or as many as 670 million people, were living in extreme poverty at the end of 2022.
- An estimated 7% of the global population 'around 575 million people' could still find themselves trapped in extreme poverty by 2030.

18. World Osteoporosis Day 2023 | 20 October

- Each year, on October 20th, World Osteoporosis Day is marked to promote awareness regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis.
- The inaugural World Osteoporosis Day took place in 1996.
- World Osteoporosis Day has its origins linked to the formation of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).
- **"Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones,"- the theme of World Osteoporosis Day 2023.**
- In 1998, IOF was established with the mission of addressing the worldwide issue of underdiagnosed and undertreated osteoporosis.

19. World Statistics Day | 20 October

- World Statistics Day is celebrated every year on 20 October.
- The day is dedicated to create awareness about the significant role of advanced, reliable, and good quality statistics in the development of global nations.
- The United Nations General Assembly established World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015.
- National Statistics Day is celebrated on June 29 every year to recognize the contributions of PC Mahalanobis.

20. World Development Information Day | 24 October

- World Development Information Day is celebrated annually on October 24 to raise awareness of development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- **The theme for World Development Information Day 2023 is 'Harnessing the Power of Information and Communication Technologies to Build a Better World.'**
- World Development Information Day (WDID) was established by the UNGA in 1972.

21. Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 | 24-31 October

- Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 will be celebrated from October 24 to 31, 2023. It is an annual event organized by UNESCO to raise awareness of the importance of media and information literacy (MIL).
- **The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 is 'Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda'.**

22. UN Disarmament Week 2023 | 24-30 October

- UN Disarmament Week 2023 will be celebrated from October 24 to 30, 2023.
- It is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- The first UN Disarmament Week was celebrated in 1979.

23. United Nations Day (UN Day) | 24 October

- United Nations Day (UN Day) is celebrated on October 24 each year to commemorate the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations and sets out the rights and responsibilities of member states, as well as the organization's goals and objectives.



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Summit & Conferences

1. Nitin Gadkari addresses the Ministerial Session at the 27th World Road Congress in Prague, Czech Republic

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari addressed the Ministerial Session at the **27th World Road Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, focusing on Road Safety.**
- India has the second largest road network in the world and now at the same time, it is the third largest automobile manufacturing hub in the world.
- India's Ambassador to Czech Republic : Hemant Kotalwar.

2. Prez Droupadi Murmu inaugurated International Research Conference on Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems

- **President inaugurated the International Research Conference on Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems to be organized from 9th October to 12th October in New Delhi.** Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Gender Platform are going to host the four-day conference.
- The conference is titled From Research to Impact- Towards Just and Resilient Agri-food Systems.

3. Nirmala Sitharaman attends World Bank-IMF, G20 meetings in Morocco

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with G20 meetings at Marrakech in Morocco.
- Finance Minister Sitharaman and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das co-chaired the

fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting.

- The Union Finance Minister also participated in a discussion on Partnership for 'Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement' (RISE) ' with the World Bank Group, organised by the G7 Japan Presidency.
- *The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual meetings in Africa for the first time in 50 years as they face a growing chorus of criticism that poorer nations are underrepresented at the two institutions.*

4. 16th Agricultural Science Congress to begin in Kochi

- **In Kerala, the 16th Agricultural Science Congress will begin in Kochi on October 10.**
- The primary aim of the meet, organised by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, is to generate a scientific discourse around transforming India's agri-food systems into sustainable enterprises, to facilitate its benefits for future generations.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala will inaugurate the four day event.
- Kerala is hosting the event for the first time.

5. Competition Commission of India to host 8th BRICS International Competition Conference during October 11-13, 2023 in New Delhi

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will be hosting the 8th BRICS International Competition Conference (BRICS ICC) 2023, themed 'New Issues in Competition Law and Policy ' Dimensions, Perspectives, Challenges'.**

- The Conference, being held in New Delhi from 11th-13th October, would witness participation of more than 600 delegates. Smt. Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson, CCI.

6. India-EU Trade and Technology Council Working Group 2 Holds Two-Day International Workshop on Green & Clean Energy Technologies

- **The India-European Union (EU) Trade & Technology Council (TTC) Working Group 2 (WG2) convened a two-day international workshop on 'Green & Clean Energy Technologies' during October 10-11, 2023.**
- The workshop was organized by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in hybrid mode.
- India-EU-TTC is strategic coordination and engagement on trade and technology between India and Europe.
- It was formally announced on 25 April 2022 after the bilateral cooperation meeting between the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.
- Within the framework of the TTC, three working groups have been set up.

7. PM Inaugurates 141st International Olympic Committee Session In Mumbai

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.**
- The session serves as a key meeting of the members of the International Olympic Committee.
- India is hosting the IOC session for the second time and after a gap of about 40 years. The IOC's 86th session was held in New Delhi in 1983. IOC President, Thomas Bach.

- Nita Ambani, the Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation is the first Indian woman to be elected as an IOC member.
- **Thomas Bach** is a German lawyer, former Olympic foil *fencer*, and Olympic foil team gold medalist.

8. PM Modi inaugurates 9th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in the national capital.**
- The event is being hosted by the Parliament of India as part of India's G20 Presidency.
- The theme of the 9th P20 Summit is 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

9. PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Biggest Maritime Event Global Maritime India Summit 2023 on 17th October

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023) at MMRDA Grounds in Mumbai.**
- This biggest maritime event is being organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- The summit will focus on key areas of the maritime sector with sessions and discussions around ports of the future; decarbonisation; coastal shipping & IWT; shipbuilding; repair and recycling; finance, insurance & arbitration; maritime clusters; innovation & technology; maritime safety and security; and maritime tourism, among others.
- This summit serves as a platform to unveil 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047,' a 25-year blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.
- The plan outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities,

promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration.

- Projects worth INR 23,364 crores will be inaugurated, or foundation stones will be laid during the summit to align with this vision.

10. Gitex Global 2023 Unveils Dubai's AI-Infused Future

- **Dubai, - Gitex Global 2023, a five-day tech extravaganza with the overarching theme, 'The year to imagine AI in everything, highlighting the transformative power of smart technology in shaping Dubai's future.**
- The event serves as the epicenter for the latest innovations and trends in AI (artificial intelligence), cloud computing, Web 3.0, cybersecurity, climate technology,
- Gitex Global 2023 is set to witness a surge in public-private partnerships, with more than 250 government entities intensifying their visions for a futuristic digital city. The event's core focus will delve into the profound themes of the AI era, exploring the ethical, security, and innovative dimensions of AI technology.

11. India to host the world's largest textiles event, Bharat Tex 2024

- **The Indian textile sector, in partnership with industry associations, is planning to stage 'Bharat Tex 2024,' billed as the world's largest textiles show.**
- This mega exhibition is scheduled to take place from February 26 to February 29, 2024, in New Delhi.
- The initiative marks India's dedication to becoming a global textile powerhouse, combining innovation, collaboration, and the "Make in India" spirit.
- Bharat Tex 2024 represents India's 5F vision, encompassing Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

- It emphasises the nation's readiness to take on global competition in the textile sector, creating products not only for India but the entire world.

12. India to host UN Forum on Forests to deliberate on forest fires and certification

- **In Uttarakhand, a two-day Country Led Initiative (CLI) event is being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun.**
- The primary goal of CLI is to contribute to the discussions of the UN Forum on Forests regarding sustainable forest management and the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for forests. This program is a part of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
- More than 70 representatives from about 40 countries and 20 international organizations are participating both in-person and online in this Country Lead Initiative to discuss wildfires and forest certification.
- The meeting is expected to come out with implementable frameworks and recommendations for the management of forest fires and forest certification, which will promote sustainable forest management.
- These recommendations will be considered for discussion at the 19th session of the UNFF scheduled to be held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York in May 2024.

13. Sixteenth Urban Mobility India Conference to begin in New Delhi

- Designing and implementation of efficient, high-quality, integrated, and resilient urban transport systems in the cities will be high on the agenda of the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference 2023 beginning in New Delhi.

- The theme of the conference is Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport.
- The three-day conference under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban

Affairs in collaboration with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited will be inaugurated by Union Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri.

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Science & Technology

1. PM Modi 'directs' ISRO to land man on moon by 2040

- Signalling a roadmap for India's future space ambitions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has 'directed' the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an India-crafted, indigenous space station by 2035 and land an Indian on the moon by 2040.
- This followed a review of preparations for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first manned mission to space, scheduled for 2025

2. ICMR completes clinical trials of world's first injectable male contraceptive

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) completed the clinical trials of the world's first injectable male contraceptive which showed that it is safe and highly efficacious without any serious side effects.
- The findings of the phase-III clinical trial, which involved 303 candidates aged 25-40 years, were published in the international open-access Andrology journal. Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research.
- The open-labelled and non-randomized, multi-centre hospital-based phase-III clinical trials were carried out at five different centres (New Delhi, Udhampur, Ludhiana, Jaipur and Kharagpur) and coordinated by the ICMR, New Delhi. Permission to conduct phase-III clinical trial was granted by the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI) and approved by the institutional ethical committees of the respective centres.

3. Google Rolls Out GenAI-Powered Enhancements For Search In India

- Months after bringing in the generative AI capabilities in Google Search, the US-based tech giant has now announced introducing more new features to enhance the experience in India.
- Google India said that it was introducing new capabilities to help Indian users with more useful AI-powered information overviews in Search.
- Google's generative AI experience in Search would help users in India easily navigate and access critical information of over 100 government schemes, among others.
- Google introduced its generative AI capabilities to Search in the country about two months back.

4. India needs 22 mn skilled workers in 5G focussed industries by 2025: TSSC

- India will require 22 million skilled workers in 5G-focused industries by 2025 in areas such as cloud computing, robots, and the Internet of Things (IoT), according to a report by the Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC).
- Released at the ongoing seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress, the report stated that India is the only country expected to have a surplus of skilled labour, with 1.3 million workers in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications (TMT) sector by 2030.
- At present, the total number of employees in the industry stands at 11.59 million, comprising 2.95 million corporate talent and 8.24 million blue-collar workers.

Defence

1. Army Training Command celebrates 33rd Raising Day

- The Army Training Command is celebrating its 33rd Raising Day today. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, ARTRAC Lt Gen SS Mahal has extended his heartfelt felicitations to All Ranks, Civilians & Families of the command on the occasion.
- Raised on 1st October 1991 in Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), the Command was shifted to its present location at Shimla in March 1993.
- The Army Training Command provides training support to the Indian Army in all its facets, enabling the Army to execute its role and tasks both in peace and war and is also responsible for developing concepts and doctrine for current and future warfare.

2. Indian Navy: First Training Squadron warships reach Malaysia

- As part of the Indian Navy's long range deployment in Southeast Asia, the ships of First Training Squadron (1TS) -INS Tir, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi arrived at Port Klang, Malaysia.
- The activities being undertaken by the 1TS include various professional and community interactions, training exchanges, cross deck visits and sports fixtures with personnel of Royal Malaysian Navy, as well as ships open for visit of school children.
- The deployment of 1 TS is aimed at exposing the trainees to the sociopolitical, military and maritime linkages of India with the friendly countries in the Indian Ocean Region and strengthening of bilateral engagements between the two Navies.

3. Indian Air Force to conduct ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Bamrauli on occasion of 91st anniversary

- **On the occasion of the 91st anniversary the Indian Air Force is conducting a ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Bamrauli and the Air Display over the Sangam area in the vicinity of the Ordnance Depot Fort in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled their new flag during the annual day parade at Air Force Station Bamrauli.
- The flag features the IAF Crest in the upper right corner, with the national symbol, the Ashoka Lion, and the words "Satyamev Jayate" below it.
- Air Force Day commemorates the formal integration of the Indian IAF into the nation's armed forces, a historic event that took place on October 8, 1932. This annual celebration is observed with the participation of the Chief of the Indian Air Force and its senior officers. The IAF initially emerged as a supporting arm of the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force in 1932, and it established its first operational squadron in 1933.

4. Army concludes 70 schemes under EP-4 worth '11,000 crore

- The Army has completed the fourth tranche of Emergency Procurements undertaken between September 2022 to September 2023 with over 70 schemes concluded worth nearly '11,000 crore, according to defence sources who said they have been utilised to fill up 'critical capability voids'. Similarly, the Indian Air Force has concluded 64 contracts under EP-4 worth around '8,137 cr.

5. Northeast's first defence tech show took place in Guwahati

- The first-ever defence tech show in the Northeast took place in Guwahati. From cutting-edge technology to top-end gear, nearly 200 manufacturers have put up their stalls at the two-day 'East Tech', inaugurated by Assam Industries and Commerce Minister Bimal Borah and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Command Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita.

6. 3 Naga, youngest Naga battalion, gets President's Colour

- General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment during an impressive Colour presentation parade held at Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet.
- The Army Chief appreciated the rich traditions of the Naga Regiment in all spheres of military activities to include operations, training, sports.

7. Coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' held in Andhra, TN, Puducherry

- A two-day comprehensive **Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach'** involving all maritime security agencies was conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- The exercise aimed to assess the efficacy and robustness of the coastal security mechanism while dealing with "asymmetric threat" emanating from the sea.

8. Indian Army wins gold medal in Cambrian Patrol 2023 military exercise in UK

- The Indian Army won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023

International Military Exercise in Wales, UK.

- A team from 3/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) represented the Indian Army at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Exercise in Wales, UK, the Army said.
- Exercise Cambrian Patrol, organised by the UK Army, is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and is sometimes referred to as the Olympics of Military Patrolling among militaries in the world. In the year 2021, the Indian Army also won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise held in the UK while competing against 96 teams including 17 international teams representing Special Forces and prestigious Regiments from around the world.

9. Indian Navy gets third guided missile destroyer Imphal

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) handed over Imphal (Yard 12706) - the third in the series of 15B Class stealth guided missile destroyers - to the Indian Navy.
- Incidentally, Imphal is the first naval warship with dedicated accommodation of women officers and sailors.
- The 3rd ship Imphal has been delivered while the 4th ship Surat is at an advanced stage of outfit.
- The first ship of P15B class INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned on 21 November, 2021, while the second ship INS Mormugao was commissioned on 18 December, 2022.
- The ship is constructed using indigenous steel DMR 249A and is amongst the largest Destroyers constructed in India, with an overall length of 164 meters and a displacement of over 7500 Tons. The ship is a potent platform capable of undertaking a variety of tasks and missions, spanning the full spectrum of maritime warfare.

- It is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'Brahmos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles.
- Towards undersea warfare capability the Destroyer is fitted with indigenously developed anti-submarine weapons and sensors, prominently the Hull mounted Sonar Humsa NG, Heavyweight Torpedo Tube Launchers and ASW Rocket Launchers.
- The ship is propelled by a powerful Combined Gas and Gas Propulsion Plant (COGAG), consisting of four reversible Gas Turbines, which enables her to achieve a speed of over 30 knots (approx 55 Kmph).

10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches army's project Udbhav aimed at integrating ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches the army's project Udbhav aimed at integrating ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy.
- Project Udbhav is a joint collaboration of the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India.

- The project aims to promote indigenous discourse through the exploration and integration of the country's ancient strategic acumen into the contemporary military domain.

11. Indian and Malaysian Armies Join Forces in Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023

- Indian and Malaysian armies have commenced their joint bilateral training exercise 'Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023' in Umroi Cantonment.
- This exercise is a continuation of the previous edition that took place in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia, in November 2022.
- "Exercise Harimau Shakti" is scheduled to run until November 5, 2023, engaging approximately 120 personnel from both sides. Its primary objective is to enhance military capabilities for conducting Multi Domain Operations in sub-conventional scenarios.
- Throughout the exercise, both contingents will establish a Joint Command Post and an integrated surveillance grid, along with a Joint Surveillance Centre.




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Miscellaneous

1. Essar group's IT solutions firm Black Box to set up data centres in India

- Essar group's US-based IT solutions firm, Black Box, is planning to set up data centres in India following rising demand for such services from its US-based clients.
- The company aims to take advantage of the Digital India initiative by the Indian government to increase its presence in India, Sanjeev Verma, chief executive officer of Black Box Corporation, said.

2. Aurobindo Pharma's arm gets FDA nod for hypogonadism drug

- Aurobindo Pharma received the final approval from the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market a drug that treats hypogonadism.
- The company has received the approval to make Testosterone Cypionate Injection USP 1,000 mg/10 mL (100 mg/mL) and 2,000 mg/10 mL (200 mg/mL) in Multi-Dose Vial and 200 mg/mL in Single-Dose Vial, which is bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Depo-Testosterone Injection, 100 mg/mL and 200 mg/mL of Pfizer Inc.
- Testosterone Cypionate Injection USP is indicated replacement therapy in the male in conditions associated with symptoms of deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone, Primary hypogonadism (congenital or acquired) and Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (congenital or acquired).

3. Indian Panorama 2023 Announces Official Selection for 54th IFFI, 2023

- Indian Panorama, the flagship component of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), announces the selection of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films. The selected films will be showcased at the 54th IFFI to be held from 20th - 28th November 2023 in Goa.
- The Feature Film Jury, comprising twelve members, was headed by acclaimed Film Director, Actor and Producer; Chairperson Shri. Dr. T. S. Nagabharana.
- The Indian Panorama was introduced in 1978 as part of the IFFI umbrella to promote Indian Films along with India's rich culture and heritage with the help of cinematic art. Since its inception, the Indian Panorama has been completely devoted to showcasing the best Indian films of the year.
- The selected films for Indian Panorama section, with an aim for the promotion of film art through, will also be screened for non-profit screening in international film festivals in India and abroad, Indian Film Weeks held under Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes and Specialized Indian Film Festivals outside cultural exchange protocols, and special Indian Panorama festivals in India.

Obituary

1. Legendary India spinner Bishan Singh Bedi passes away aged 77

- Former **India captain Bishan Singh Bedi** passed away. He was 77 years old.
- The legendary spinner played 67 Tests for India between 1967 and 1979 and picked 266 wickets. He also took seven wickets in 10 One-Day Internationals.

2. Li Keqiang, China's diminished former premier, dies of heart attack at 68

- **Li Keqiang**, who stepped down as Chinese premier earlier this year after a 10-year stint, died of a heart attack.
- Li belonged to the generation of Chinese Communist Party technocrats who, in the aftermath of the disastrous Cultural Revolution (1966-76), helmed China's economic recovery and the reform and liberalisation programme led by Deng Xiaoping.

3. Baijnath Aggarwal, trustee of Geeta Press Gorakhpur, passes away at age of 90

- **Baijnath Aggarwal, the trustee of Geeta Press Gorakhpur**, has passed away at the age of 90. Chief Minister Adityanath Yogi expressed his condolences, emphasising Baijnath's remarkable 40-year dedication as a trustee of Geeta Press to promote social awareness and human welfare. Gita Press of Gorakhpur was conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize 2021.

4. 'Friends' actor Matthew Perry dies at 54

- **Actor Matthew Perry**, who became a household name as Chandler Bing from 'Friends', is no more. The actor died after apparently drowning.
- The late actor had gained international fame after playing Chandler Bing, one of the six main characters, in the hugely popular sitcom Friends, which ran for ten years from 1994 to 2004. In 2002, he received Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series for the show.

Person in news

1. Sudha Murty, the first woman to get Global Indian Award

- Renowned author, philanthropist and wife of Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murthy, **Sudha Murty**, was conferred with the Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation.
- The Global Indian Award, which is worth \$50,000, is given each year to a prominent Indian who has made a major mark in his or her chosen field.

2. Tamil writer C S Lakshmi receives Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023

- C S Lakshmi**, (publishing fiction under her pseudonym Ambai) has been conferred the Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023. She is one of India's leading writers and academicians, forging a trailblazing path at a time when education and literary pursuits were not common for women.
- She is a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, one of India's highest literary awards, for her novel Sivappu Kazhuthudan Oru Pachai Paravai (A Red-Necked Green Bird).
- Past recipients of the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award include Mahesh Elkunchwar, Anita Desai, Ruskin Bond, Shanta Gokhale, Sir Mark Tully, Girish Karnad, Amitav Ghosh, Kiran Nagarkar, M T Vasudevan Nair, Khushwant Singh, Sir V S Naipaul and Mahashweta Devi.

3. Reliance Retail appoints MS Dhoni as JioMart's new brand ambassador

- Reliance Retail has appointed former Indian cricket team captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as the brand ambassador of JioMart.

- The e-commerce platform will also roll out its JioUtsav campaign on October 8, ahead of the festive season in India. The JioUtsav brand is designed and conceptualised in a way to adapt to all celebrations of India.

4. Neeraj Chopra appointed as Laureus ambassador

- India's **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic and world javelin champion, was named a Laureus ambassador. The 25-year-old Chopra became the second Indian to be named Laureus ambassador after former cricketer Yuvraj Singh was honoured in 2017.
- Cricketers Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar are part of Laureus World Sports Academy.

5. Neeraj Chopra Among 11 Nominees For Men's World Athlete Of Year

- Olympic and world champion javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** was named as one of the 11 nominees for the 2023 men's World Athlete of the Year award. The 11 nominees were selected by an international panel of athletics experts, comprising representatives from all six continental areas of World Athletics.
- The other nominees are shot putter Ryan Crouser of USA, pole vaulters Mondo Duplantis of Sweden, 3000m steeplechaser Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco, Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway (1500m/5000m), marathoner Kelvin Kiptum of Kenya, decathlete Pierce LePage of Canada, sprinter Noah Lyles of USA, race walker Alvaro Martin of Spain, long jumper Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece and 400m hurdler Karsten Warholm of Norway.

6. Actor Michael Douglas to be conferred with Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award

- Hollywood's veteran actor **Michael Douglas** will be conferred with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award at the 54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa, Union minister Anurag Thakur.
- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 's 54th edition will take place from November 20 to 28 in Goa.

7. Sornnarin Tippoch retires from international cricket

- Former Thailand captain **Sornnarin Tippoch** announced her retirement from international cricket in Bangkok, bringing curtains on a near 16-year playing career. Tippoch led Thailand to their first ever T20 World Cup appearance at the 2020 mega-event in Australia.
- Tippoch first represented Thailand in 2008.

8. India's Bornil Aakash Changmai clinches U-15 gold in Badminton Asia Junior Championships

- India's U15 shuttler **Bornil Aakash Changmai** overcame Fan Hong Xuan of China in the final to clinch the gold medal in the Badminton Asia U17 and U15 Junior Championships in Chengdu.
- The 13-year-old became the second junior badminton player after Siril Verma in 2013 to bag the top podium finish in the prestigious tournament.

9. Lay's announces Mahendra Singh Dhoni as brand ambassador, launches campaign No Lay's, No Game!

- Lay's announces cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador,

starring in a campaign ' 'No Lay's, No Game.'

- The 'No Lay's No Game' global campaign has associated with football icons Thierry Henry and Lionel Messi in other markets.

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

- Prof Sarang Deo**, Professor of Operations Management; Deputy Dean of Faculty and Research, Indian School of Business (ISB) has been appointed to the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO). Prof Deo is also the Executive Director of Max Institute of Healthcare Management at ISB.

11. Actor Rajkummar Rao appointed Election Commission's national icon

- The Election Commission appointed actor **Rajkummar Rao** as its national icon.
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar formally appointed Rao to the title. National icons are appointed to motivate voters to participate in elections.
- Earlier this month, the EC announced that over 161 million people across five states will vote in the upcoming assembly elections. Election Commission of India, Founded: 25 January 1950.

12. Bollywood Superstar Katrina Kaif Joins Swiss Watchmaker Rado as Brand Ambassador

- Rado, the iconic Swiss watchmaker renowned for its innovation in materials to create timeless designs, is delighted to announce Bollywood Superstar **Katrina Kaif** as its Global Brand Ambassador.

- This exciting partnership reinforces Rado's commitment in creating memories that last a lifetime.

13. MS Dhoni is the new brand ambassador of SBI

- SBI is pleased to onboard **MS Dhoni** as Brand Ambassador. Mr. Dhoni's

association with SBI as a satisfied customer makes him a perfect embodiment of our brand's ethos. With this partnership, we aim to reinforce our commitment to serving the nation and our customers with trust, integrity and unwavering dedication. - Mr Dinesh Khara, Chairman SBI.



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Insurance

1. Bima Vahak norms to be effective from launch of Bima Vistaar: IRDAI

- The guidelines for women-centric insurance distribution channel, Bima Vahak, will come into force with the launch of Bima Vistaar, according to the insurance regulator. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is working on the final modalities of an all-in-one standard insurance product 'Bima Vistaar' which is expected to be launched soon.
- The main objective of Bima Vahak is to establish women centric dedicated distribution channel that is focused on enhancing insurance inclusion and creating awareness in every village/gram panchayat, and thus, improving accessibility and availability of insurance in every nook and corner of the country.



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India & World

1. PM Modi congratulates Dr Mohamed Muizzu on being elected as President of Maldives

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated and extended greetings to Dr Mohamed Muizzu on being elected as President of the Maldives.
- In a social media post, the Prime Minister said that India remains committed to strengthening the time-tested India-Maldives bilateral relationship and enhancing our overall cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

2. 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade between India and Bangladesh

- The 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) Meetings are held on an annual basis to discuss key trade related issues and explore opportunities for economic and technical collaboration, among others.

3. India, Saudi Arabia tie up for electrical interconnections, green hydrogen

- India & Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in electrical interconnections, green/clean hydrogen and supply chains.
- While regular B2B meetings will be held to set up a complete supply value chain in areas of cooperation, India's Power Ministry has said that the MoU aims to establish a general framework for cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.

4. India, Italy Ink Pact To Expand Defence Ties With Focus On Co-Development Of Military Hardware

- India and Italy inked an agreement to expand their defence ties including for co-development and co-production of military platforms following wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto in Rome.
- It said Singh suggested fostering the interaction of the Indian start-ups with the Italian defence companies.
- The signing of the pact is seen as a major initiative to expand the defence cooperation that came nearly 2 yrs after the defence ministry lifted the ban on AgustaWestland & its parent company Leonardo SpA.
- Leonardo SpA, which was earlier known as Finmeccanica, & AgustaWestland were banned in 2014 in the wake of allegations of corruption in a Rs 3,500-crore VVIP helicopters. Indian Ambassador to Italy : Neena Malhotra.

6. Tallest BR Ambedkar Statue Outside India Unveiled In Washington

- A statue of Dr B R Ambedkar, the principal architect of India's Constitution was formally inaugurated in a Maryland suburb in Washington. It is touted to be the tallest statue of Ambedkar outside India. The statue has been named 'Statue of Equality' and is 19 feet tall. The statue was made by renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar, who also built the statue of Sardar Patel.

7. India has assumed the position of Vice Chair in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- The 23rd Council of Ministers of IORA met in Colombo as Sri Lanka assumed the chairmanship from Bangladesh.
- The Council of Ministers is the highest decision-making body of IORA.
- India has assumed the Vice Chair in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the next two years.
- The IORA, an intergovernmental organization established in 1997, comprises 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners hailing from regions surrounding the Indian Ocean.

8. India-UK 2 plus 2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi

- India-UK 2 plus 2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- The two sides discussed possibilities to boost collaboration, particularly in areas of trade and investment, defence, critical and emerging technologies, civil aviation, health, energy, culture and strengthening people connections.
- The 2 plus 2 dialogue is a mechanism to discuss and review all aspects of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- According to the External Affairs Ministry, both countries expressed satisfaction with the regular high-level political exchanges and interactions which have provided guidance and momentum to India-UK multifaceted ties.

9. ADB approves \$181 mn loan to build infra in Ahmedabad's peri-urban areas

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 181 million loan to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
- The project is also supporting 10 junction improvements along the existing Sardar

Patel Ring Road to improve connectivity of peri-urban areas to Ahmedabad city. Established in 1966, ADB is owned by 68 members 49 from the region.

- The Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project will construct 166 kilometer (km) of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants, the Manila-headquartered multilateral development bank.
- ADB will help strengthen the capacity of the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority and urban local bodies in technology-based urban planning, including climate change and disaster-resilient infrastructure that promote environmental and social safeguards, gender equality and social inclusion

10. EAM Dr. S Jaishankar unveils Mahatma Gandhi's bust in Vietnam

- External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar, unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tao Dan Park of Ho Chi Minh City.
- He is on an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son.
- He also had co-chaired the 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission meeting in Hanoi along with his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son.
- Their discussions covered cooperation in political, defence and maritime security, judicial, trade and investment, energy, development, education and training, science and technology, and cultural domains.
- Following the successful conduct of a productive meeting, EAM Dr. Jaishankar informed that the leaders shared perspectives on the Indo-Pacific region, their commitment to global issues and

our collaboration in various multilateral groupings.

11. TVS Motor Becomes First Indian Automobile Manufacturer To Enter The Venezuela Market

- TVS Motor Company, a global manufacturer of two-wheeler and three-wheelers, announced its entry into the Venezuelan market through an exchange filing.
- This makes TVS Motor the first Indian automobile manufacturer to enter the market with a host of 14 SKUs for the enthusiastic riders of Venezuela, with their local distributor, SERVISUMINISTROS JPG.
- Nino Conersa Giancarlo Olivieri, CEO at SERVISUMINISTROS JPG.

12. ADB Approves \$175 Mn Loan To Upgrade Roads In Madhya Pradesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted approval for a USD 175 million loan to enhance road connectivity and climate resilience in Madhya Pradesh, India.
- ADB has played a pivotal role in supporting the development of road networks in Madhya Pradesh since 2002.
- This endeavour has led to the enhancement of over 9,000 kilometres of state highways and major district road

13. Cabinet Approves Pact Between India, Japan On Semiconductor Supply Chain

- The Union Cabinet has approved a memorandum of cooperation between India and Japan on a Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership.
- Japan has become the second Quad partner after the U.S. to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.



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Environment

1. A group of scientists has discovered a new and rare species of toad in the Dampa Tiger Reserve, a forest located in the eastern

- A group of scientists has discovered a new and rare species of toad in the Dampa Tiger Reserve, a forest located in the eastern Indian state of Mizoram.
- The species will be known as *Bufoides bhupathyi*, named after known Indian herpetologist Subramanian Bhupathy.
- This species has interdigital webbing, colouration, skin tuberculation, and the presence of ovoid, **tuberculated and depressed parotid glands**.
- The two earlier known species from the genus 'bufoides' – ***Bufoides meghalayanus* and *Bufoides kempi*** – were found in Meghalaya.
- Although the new species is known only to be in the Dampa tiger reserve and restricted, the species could be assessed to catogrise as endangered under IUCN's criteria. Amphibians currently make up 41% (approx. 17,220) of the 42,000 animals on the IUCN's list of threatened species.

2. India's first tilapia parvovirus reported in Tamil Nadu

- The occurrence of tilapia parvovirus (TiPV) affecting farm-bred tilapia, a freshwater fish species, and causing a huge mortality rate has been reported for the first time in India at ponds in Walajah in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu.
- The TiPV was first reported in China in 2019 and Thailand in 2021. India is the third country to report the occurrence of TiPV.
- Fish samples were collected from 10 ponds in the farm and fish from eight ponds showed TiPV-positive by PCR. This DNA virus caused mortality ranging from 30 to 50% in the farm and 100% mortality in the laboratory.
- In India, tilapia farming is being carried out in different parts of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, and is sold in domestic markets as whole fish. In 2022, the tilapia production was estimated at about 70,000 tonnes, of which 30,000 tonnes come from aquaculture. The AAHL of C. Abdul Hakeem College has been carrying out screening of tilapia regularly for viral pathogens under the R&D programme, funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, for developing vaccines against them.

3. India braces for twin storms: Cyclone Tej in Arabian Sea, Hamoon in Bay of Bengal

- 'Tej' and 'Hamoon', the twin cyclones, are taking form in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal respectively. The simultaneous occurrence of these storms is a rare phenomenon, previously observed in 2018.
- While India proposed 'Tej', Iran chose 'Hamoon' as per the Indian Ocean Region's cyclone naming convention.

Apps & Portals

1. ICICI Bank introduces 'iFinance', a one-stop for viewing savings and current accounts across banks

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'iFinance', enabling crores of customers-retail and sole proprietors, to get a consolidated view of their savings & current accounts in one place.
- Customers of other banks can also benefit from this facility, which ICICI Bank has introduced by leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem, on the Bank's iMobile Pay app.

2. MeitY urges RBI to design more detailed KYC to ensure traceability

- In a bid to tackle the growing menace of illegal instant loan apps, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to design for banks a more detailed KYC process that companies will have to furnish. It will help trace errant loan apps, the ministry believes.



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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Bharti Group to acquire AXA's 49% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance

- **Bharti Group has signed an agreement with its partner AXA to acquire the latter's 49 per cent stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.**
- Bharti Life Ventures, the group's holding company for Bharti AXA Life Insurance, will become the sole owner of the life insurance post the stake sale, it said in a release.
- The transaction, expected to be completed by December 2023.

2. IDFC gets CCI nod for merger with IDFC First Bank

- **The Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its merger with IDFC First Bank.**
- IDFC held a stake of 30.93 percent in IDFC First Bank through its non-financial holding company, as of June 30, 2023.
- The combination has been approved under the Green Channel Route. V Vaidyanathan, MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST Bank .

3. PTC India Approves ONGC Bid To Acquire Wind Power Unit For Rs 925 Crore

- PTC India said, "PTC India in its Board Meeting approved the bid submitted by ONGC Ltd for the acquisition of a wholly owned subsidiary of PTC India Limited i.e. PTC Energy Limited (PEL) at an equity value of '925 cr.
- PTC I, India's subsidiary PTC Energy was formed in 2008 to develop an asset base and included the business of import & export of coal, power generation, etc.
- The company has commissioned wind projects of 288.8MW capacity, spread across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.

4. NCLT approves resolution plan of Himadri and Dalmia Bharat to acquire B K Birla group

- The bankruptcy court has approved the proposal for Himadri Speciality Chemical and Dalmia Bharat Refractories to acquire Birla Tyres. The company has admitted liabilities of over '1,662 crore. The consortium plans to focus on niche spaces such as electric vehicle (EV) and specialty tyres.
- They also aim to achieve forward integration for their business and explore the use of clean and green power for Birla Tyres' power requirements.

Agri-Business

1. Country's first rice silos built through PPP mode to be commissioned in November

- The country's first silos for storing rice built under a private-public-partnership (PPP) model with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will be commissioned in November.
- Two rice silos with combined capacity of 25,000 tonne have been built by the National Commodity Management Services Ltd (NCML) at Buxar and Kaimur in Bihar under the DBFOT model.

2. Govt imposes minimum export price of USD 800 per tonne on onion exports till 31 Dec 2023 to contain prices in domestic market

- The Centre has notified a Minimum Export Price of 800 US dollars per Metric Ton on onion export to maintain its domestic availability.
- This will be in effect from 28 October to 31st of December this year.
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in a statement said that the measure has been taken to maintain sufficient availability of onion to domestic consumers at affordable prices, by curbing the quantity of onion exports, as the quantity of stored Rabi 2023 onion is declining.
- The Minimum Export Price of 800 dollars per Metric Ton on onion translates into about 67 rupees per kilogram.
- In addition to it, the Government has also announced the procurement of additional two lakh tons of onion for the buffer, over and above the 5 lakh tons already procured.

3. Paddy stubble burning in north India drops by 22%

Incidents of stubble burning after paddy harvesting in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, since September 15, have declined by 22% to 8,395, compared to the same period last year.

- According to the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi, Punjab has reported 4059 paddy straw burning incidents which is 50% less than last year while Haryana has reported 1005 incidents so far which less by 36% on year.

FinTech

1. YES Bank Becomes First Lender To Offer ONDC Network Gift Card

- **YES Bank has announced that it has become the first bank in India to offer the ONDC Network Gift Card.**
- The ONDC Network Gift Card is a new type of gift card that can be used to purchase goods and services from any merchant that is part of the ONDC network. The ONDC network is an open network for digital commerce.

2. MCX gets Sebi approval to launch new commodity derivatives platform

- **The Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) has received approval from the markets regulator to initiate its new commodity derivatives platform (CDP), which was suspended on September 28.**
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) issued this directive as Chennai Financial Markets and Accountability (CFMA) had submitted writ petitions concerning the CDP.

3. Paytm Payments Bank Temporarily Halts International Transactions On Debit Cards

- **Paytm Payments Bank has announced that it will be temporarily disabling international transactions on debit cards.**
- In March 2020, Paytm Payments Bank commenced the issuance of Visa debit cards to its clientele. Initially, the company introduced digital cards as part of their service, which later transitioned into physical Visa cards.
- The announcement comes days after the central bank slapped Paytm Payments Bank with a fine of Rs 5.39 crore. The Reserve Bank of India cited non-compliance with certain guidelines around KYC and cyber security.

4. HDFC Bank Launches XpressWay Digital Banking Platform For Paperless Self-Service Banking

- **HDFC Bank launched a digital banking platform named XpressWay.**
- The platform aims to offer a swift, paperless, and self-service banking experience to the bank's customers.
- With over 30 banking products and more than 14 services, it covers a range of financial offerings, from personal loans to credit cards and savings accounts. XpressWay is part of HDFC Bank's digital ecosystem, known as 'HDFC Bank NOW'.

5. MobiKwik's Zaakpay Gets RBI Nod For Payment Aggregator Business

- **MobiKwik's payment gateway arm Zaakpay has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a payment aggregator.**
- It will enable Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform.
- This development reinforces our commitment to further develop MobiKwik into a comprehensive digital banking services platform. Upasana Taku, chairperson and co-founder of MobiKwik.

PSUs

1. Indian Oil board approves joint ventures for compressed biogas plants

- State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) said on that its board has approved the proposal to form joint venture companies with EverEnviro Resource Management and GPS Renewables to set up compressed biogas (CBG) plants in India.
- The board of directors approved the 'formation of 50:50 joint venture company in India between EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt. Ltd., and Indian Oil or its wholly owned subsidiary, subject to approval of NITI Aayog, DIPAM etc. for setting up of compressed biogas plants". Similarly, the joint venture with GPS Renewables will also be formed with IOCL or a subsidiary of the public sector major.

2. Ircon and RITES attains Navratna Status for Public Sector Enterprises

- **Ircon International Limited and RITES Ltd under the Ministry of Railways, have been announced as the 15th and 16th Navratna among Central Public Sector Enterprise.**
- Both the companies have been conferred Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance.
- With the grant of this status, the companies will benefit in enhancing their market credibility and in undertaking larger size Public-Private Partnership projects.

3. Indian Oil launches country's first reference fuel; to fully meet domestic demand

- **State-run Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) launched India's first gasoline and diesel reference fuel, used by automobile manufacturers for testing vehicles.**
- Production of these specialised fuel by Indian Oil not only reduces India's dependence on imports but also catapults country's energy industry to the select global players armed with exclusive competencies.
- This is the first time that India is venturing into the production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels. The home-grown development of these products in-line with international benchmarks testifies to the brilliance and relentless hard work of Indian Oil.
- Reference fuels are required by automobile manufacturers for developing engines and assessing vehicles' performance to ensure operability in all the global climatic conditions. Currently, these reference fuels are being imported by India from select companies of Europe and the US.

States/UT's

Arunachal Pradesh

1. First ever yak milk product, Arunachal Pradesh Yak Churpi, gets GI tag

- **Yak Churpi, Khamti rice, and Tangsa textile from Arunachal Pradesh have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the GI Registry.**
- Yak Churpi is a fermented milk product made from the milk of Arunachali yak, a unique breed found in the region.
- The product is expected to provide benefits to tribal herders against cold and hypoxia.

Assam

1. ADB Approves \$200 Million Loan to Strengthen Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management in Assam

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650 kilometers (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam.** The project's innovative cost-effective structural and advanced nonstructural measures will strengthen Assam's capacity to better manage flood and riverbank erosion risks.
- The Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam will lead, manage, and coordinate the project activities.
- The Water Resources Department of the Government of Assam will implement the works and the Assam Agroforestry Development Board will use nature-based solutions
- The Brahmaputra Board, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, and the Assam Inland Water Transport

Development Society will be partner agencies of the project.

2. Tata Power, Assam Government sign MoU to set up network of EV chargers

- Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Limited (TPEVCSL), a Tata Power Group Company and a leading provider of EV charging solutions, has announced a forthcoming collaboration with the Assam Government.
- The aim of this partnership is to bring the convenience of EV charging infrastructure to the city of Guwahati.

Bihar

1. Bihar govt releases caste-based survey; OBCs 63%, general: 15.52%

- The Bihar government released a caste-based survey report on, ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.
- **According to the survey, extremely backward caste (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population, OBC 27.12% and general category 15.52% of the covered population. Scheduled caste comprises 19.65% and ST 1.68% of population covered under the survey.**
- The survey also stated that Yadavs, the OBC group, were the largest in terms of population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total.

Jharkhand

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

- **Jharkhand is the first state which has taken steps towards bringing people working on contract or commission for companies like Swiggy-Zomato-Ola-**

Uber-Rapido under the ambit of minimum wages.

- No other state government has taken such an initiative till now.
- This committee will study the conditions in which Swiggy-Zomato, Ola-Uber drivers, gig workers, online delivery boys are working. On this basis, recommendations regarding their minimum wages will be made. It is estimated that about 12 lakh people are engaged in such work in various districts of Jharkhand.
- Earlier, the Jharkhand government made a law to reserve 75 per cent of the posts in all the private companies in the state with a monthly salary of up to Rs 40,000 for the local people. Action has also been taken against hundreds of companies for not following this rule.
- Now, the minimum wages of labourers working on contract in various industrial-business establishments or private-government institutions of the state are also being reviewed. It will be recommended to increase their minimum wages by dividing them into different categories based on their areas of work and nature of work

Karnataka

1. Karnataka govt and AstraZeneca sign MoU to deploy AI lung cancer screening technology

- The Karnataka government recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with AstraZeneca Pharma India Ltd. to implement an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered lung cancer screening technology.
- It will be capable of detecting 29 different lung diseases in a single chest X-ray for patients.
- Developed by 'Qure.ai', a health tech startup, the AI-powered chest X-ray system will be able to assist the

government in identifying lung nodules, frequently indicative of lung cancer, in 19 district hospitals in Karnataka. This development addresses a significant early detection hurdle.

Kerala

1. Kerala to set up '200 crore Graphene production facility in public-private partnership

- Kerala Government has decided to set up a pilot production facility of Graphene.
- The production facility will cost '200 crores.
- Graphene is called a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, in the state.
- The Kerala Digital University would be the implementing agency, and KINFRA has been appointed as a special purpose vehicle for infrastructure development.
- The digital university was given permission to prepare a preliminary proposal to avail loans from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for the project and to find private partners through a global expression of interest, it said.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Madhya Pradesh govt to provide 35% reservation for women in govt jobs

- **The Madhya Pradesh government has issued a notification stating that 35% of all posts in the state, except for the Forest Department, will be reserved for women in direct recruitment.**
- This amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services rules is in line with the government's earlier announcement to provide 35% reservation for women in police and other government jobs.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra govt approves to establish Independent Scheduled Tribes Commission

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that approval has been given to establish an Independent Scheduled Tribes Commission for Maharashtra on the lines of the Central Government.
- The proposal was approved in the State Tribal Advisory Council meeting held in Mumbai.

Nagaland

1. Nagaland gets first medical college in Kohima

- **The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR) in Kohima.**
- This is the first medical college in the northeastern state.
- The NIMSR will serve as both a medical college and also a research institute
- It is affiliated with the Nagaland University and received the appropriate letter of permission for the admission of 100 MBBS students from the academic year 2023-2024 from the National Medical Commission in April

Odisha

1. Odisha CM launches LAccMI public transport system

- The Odisha Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the '**Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)**' scheme to ensure a sustainable, affordable, assured and safe transportation of passengers and commodities across the State.
- About 1,000 buses would be deployed under the Scheme.

- Within the framework of the LAccMI Scheme, women's empowerment stands as a top priority.
- Due to safe transport space, Women would be encouraged to participate actively in the workforce, it added. Mission Shakti Self Help Group (SHGs) will be engaged in various operation & maintenance-related activities within the Blocks

2. Odisha govt to launch programme to promote maize cultivation

- The Odisha cabinet decided to launch a programme under the crop diversification initiative to enhance the production and productivity of maize and improve the value chain of its marketing.
- The scheme - **Mukhyamantri Maka Mission (MMM)** - will be implemented in a "more scientific and progressive way" which now envisages ease of doing for enhancement of area and production.

Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan Govt Launches 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' To Boost Employment Opportunities In The State

- In a bid to boost employment opportunities in the state, the Rajasthan government recently launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub.
- The platform, launched in collaboration with Jaipur-based startup Hyrefox, not only allows companies to discover potential talent but also lets them post job openings and connect with their future employees.
- The state government has created more than 29,000 jobs since the launch of its flagship iStart initiative in 2017

Telangana

1. Telangana Govt launches 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' for all school children

- The Telangana State government launched the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' for all school children studying in government schools besides, those being run by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- The breakfast for all students from Class 1 to 10 will be served 45 minutes before the commencement of classes. The scheme was first introduced in Tamil Nadu.

2. Telangana Police Launches India's First Law Enforcement CISO Council

- Telangana Police with support from the IT industry and academia, have launched the Law Enforcement CISO (Chief Information Security Officers) Council, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India at the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.
- The CISO council will tackle cyber security threats in real time by partnering with public and private institutions.

Tripura

1. CM Dr Manik Saha launches e-Cabinet, makes Tripura fourth state to implement e-Cabinet system

- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched an e-cabinet system at Agartala to promote digital infrastructure development and digitisation of government services and information. Tripura has thus become the fourth state' and second in the Northeast' after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, to have introduced an e-cabinet system.

- The e-cabinet system is expected to eliminate delays caused by the physical movement of paper documents and to infuse dynamism in the government's decision-making process.

Uttar Pradesh

1. UP bags award for using tele tech for mental health & counselling

- UP bagged the third prize in operationalising telemanas- using tele technology for mental health and counselling - on the National Mental Health Day.
- The award was given by ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India.

2. CM Adityanath declares Gangetic Dolphin as U.P's aquatic animal

- Uttar Pradesh declared the Gangetic Dolphin state aquatic animal.
- These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua. The estimated population of Gangetic dolphins in the state is around 2000.

Uttarakhand

1. Govt approves inclusion of Jamrani Dam under PMKSY-AIBP

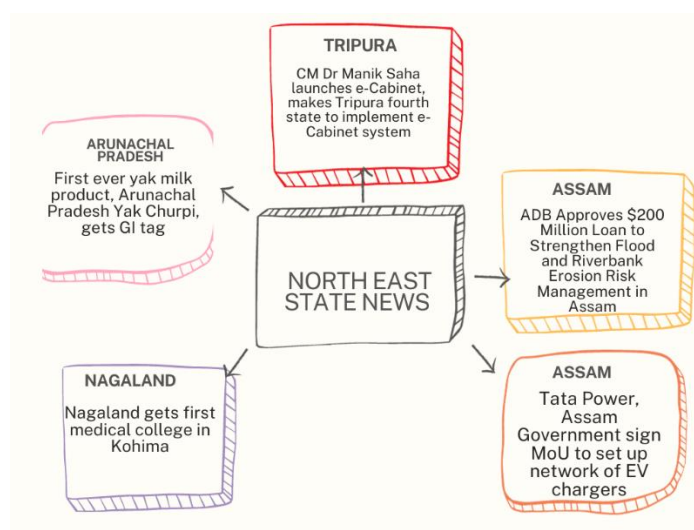
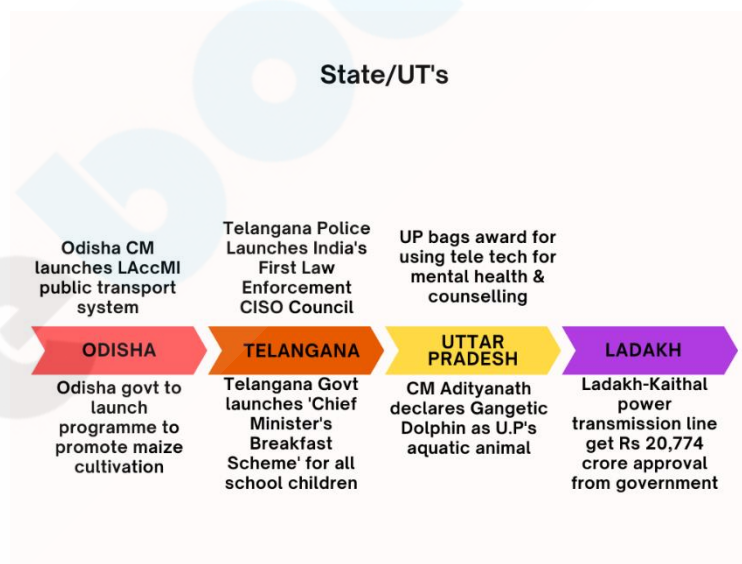
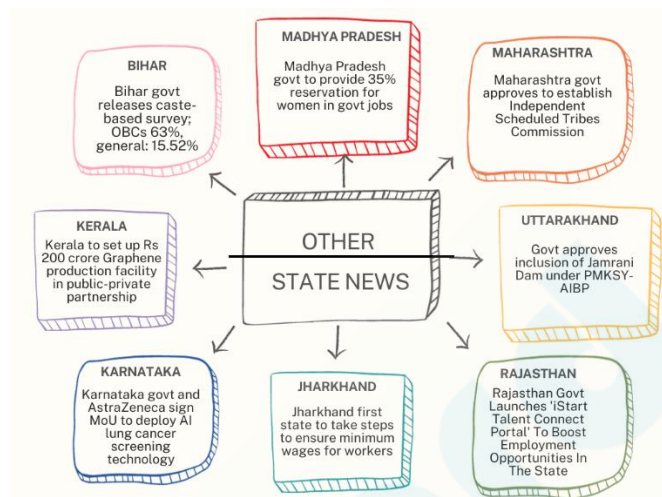
- The government approved the inclusion of the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP), which will cost Rs 2,584 crore.
- The project envisages the construction of a dam near Jamrani village across river Gola, a tributary of river Ram Ganga, in the Nainital district.

- The dam will feed the existing Gola barrage through its 40.5 km length of canal system and 244 km long canal system completed in 1981.

Ladakh

1. Ladakh-Kaithal power transmission line get Rs 20,774 crore approval from government

- The government recently approved the establishment of a transmission line costing Rs 20,773.70 crore to transport solar power from a 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh to Kaithal in Haryana.
- This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier announcement of a 7.5 GW solar park in Ladakh.
- Following an extensive field survey, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) formulated a plan to set up a **13 GW** renewable energy generation capacity in Pang, Ladakh, which includes a 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- Furthermore, it will be linked to the Leh-Alusteng-Srinagar line to provide power to Jammu & Kashmir. The project involves the construction of 713 km of transmission lines, including a 480 km HVDC line, and setting up 5 GW capacity high-voltage direct current (HVDC) terminals in Pang (Ladakh) and Kaithal (Haryana).
- This project is expected to contribute to achieving the target of 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030.



Important CA

1. India's CDIL Semiconductors Unveils Country's First Silicon Carbide Device Production To Meet EV And Solar Demand

- **Continental Device India Pvt. Ltd (CDIL), an indigenous semiconductor assembly and packaging firm based in India, has recently commenced the manufacturing of Silicon Carbide (SiC) devices through surface mount technology at its Mohali production plant.**
- Since its establishment in 1964, CDIL has become the first manufacturer of Silicon Carbide components in India.

Possible Question: Which of the following semiconductor assembly and packaging firm based in India, has recently commenced the manufacturing of India's first Silicon Carbide (SiC) devices through surface mount technology at its Mohali production plant?

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

- **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics to 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".**
- The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022 was awarded jointly to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger. 1 attosecond = quintillionth (1 followed by 18 0s) of a second.
- Lawrence Bragg holds the distinction of being the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in physics to date, receiving the award alongside his father in 1915 at the age of 25. Arthur Ashkin became the oldest Nobel Prize laureate in physics to date

when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2018 at the age of 96.

- The three 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, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its press release.
- Pierre Agostini (Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA), Ferenc Krausz (Director at Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching and Professor at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitt Mnchen, Germany), and Anne L'Huillier (Professor at Lund University, Sweden) 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, the release said.
- The laureates' experiments have produced pulses of light so short that they are measured in attoseconds, thus demonstrating that these pulses can be used to provide images of processes inside atoms and molecules.
- 'Eva Olsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier for their work in which of the following areas?

3. SAMPRITI-XI: Indian Army and Bangladesh Army commence joint military exercise

- The exercise -- "**SAMPRITI-XI**" -- promises to further enhance the defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering deeper bilateral relations, cultural understanding and mutual benefits from shared experiences.

- With its inception in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed 10 successful editions till 2022. It's a two-week military exercise, being held in Meghalaya's Umroi.

Possible Question: The joint exercise -- "SAMPRITI-XI" -- commenced in October 2023 between India and Bangladesh, it promises to further enhance the defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering deeper bilateral relations, cultural understanding and mutual benefits from shared experiences, the military exercise was first conducted in which year?

4. Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang to receive 2023 Sastra Ramanujan Prize

- **Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics.**
- The annual cash prize of USD 10,000 will be given at an international conference in Number Theory during December 20 and December 22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam.
- The award was instituted by the **Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in 2005.**

Possible Question: Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics. the SASTRA University is located in which state of India?

5. NIIF and JBIC launch \$600 million India-Japan Fund to boost investments in environmental sustainability

- **The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the**

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) jointly launched the India-Japan Fund (IJF).

- **The \$600 million fund has the JBIC and Government of India (GoI) as its anchor investors.**
- The joint initiative is focused on increasing investments in environmental sustainability and low-carbon emission strategies.
- The joint initiative is focused on increasing investments in environmental sustainability and low-carbon emission strategies.
- The IJF is NIIF's first bi-lateral fund, with the government of India contributing 49 percent of the target corpus and JBIC contributing the remaining 51 percent.
- NIIF Limited (NIIFL) and JBIC IG (a subsidiary of JBIC) will support NIIFL in promoting Japanese investments in India and manage the \$600 million fund.

Possible Question: The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) jointly launched the India-Japan Fund (IJF) of _____ to focus on increasing investments in environmental sustainability and low-carbon emission strategies.

6. Army Launches 'Project Udbhav' To Draw Insights From Ancient Indian Texts On Statecraft, Diplomacy And War-Fighting

- **The Indian Army, in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence think tank, has launched 'Project Udbhav'.**
- This initiative aims to rediscover the ancient Indian texts on statecraft, warfare, diplomacy, and grand strategy, in order to understand the profound Indic heritage in these areas.
- 'The project endeavours to explore India's rich historical narratives in the realms of

statecraft and strategic thoughts. It focuses on a broad spectrum including indigenous military systems, historical texts, regional texts and kingdoms, thematic studies, and intricate Kautilya studies,' a statement released by the army said.

Possible Question: The Indian Army, in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence think tank, has launched 'Project Udbhav' for which of the following purpose?

7. World Space Week | 4-10 October

- From 4-10 October World Space Week will be celebrated to highlight the contributions of space science and technology.
- The World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world.
- **The theme for World Space Week 2023, 'Space and Entrepreneurship'**
- On 4 October 1957, the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, opened the way for space exploration.
- On 10 October 1967, the "Magna Carta of Space", also known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies entered into force.
- On 4 October the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the United Nations office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

India's space achievements

- On 23 August India made history by becoming the fourth country to successfully land on the moon. The Chandrayaan-3 mission executed a soft landing near the moon's south pole.

- On 2 September, India launched the Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.
- But before Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1, the Indian Space Agency had accomplished other milestones too.
- For instance, India launched its first satellite Aryabhata on 19 April 1975.
- On July 18, 1980, India reached a significant milestone with the successful launch of RS-1, an experimental spin-stabilised satellite.
- Initiated with the launch of IRS-1A on March 17, 1988, India's IRS program has introduced a series of advanced indigenous remote-sensing satellites.
- On 5 November 2013, the mission to Mars was inaugurated.

Possible Question: From 4-10 October World Space Week will be celebrated to highlight the contributions of space science and technology. The theme for Space Week 2023 is

8. Nobel Prize 2023 in Chemistry awarded to Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus & Alexei Ekimov for the discovery, synthesis of quantum dots

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 to,
- **'Moungi G. Bawendi'** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, USA
- **'Louis E. Brus'** Columbia University, New York, NY, USA
- **'Alexei I. Ekimov'** Nanocrystals Technology Inc., New York, NY, USA
- **"for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots" Prize amount**
- 11 million Swedish kronor, to be shared equally between the Laureates.
- 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.

- "Quantum dots now illuminate computer monitors and television screens based on QLED technology. They also add nuance to the light of some LED lamps, and biochemists and doctors use them to map biological tissue. Quantum dots are thus bringing the greatest benefit to humankind. Researchers believe that in the future they could contribute to flexible electronics, tiny sensors, thinner solar cells and encrypted quantum communication – so we have just started exploring the potential of these tiny particles", the academy said.
- **Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless** won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry".
- Frédéric Joliot became the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in chemistry to date when he received the chemistry prize in 1935 at the age of 35, along with his wife Irène Joliot-Curie. John B. Goodenough, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2019, holds the distinction of being the oldest laureate in the field to date, having been awarded the prize at the age of 97.

Possible Question: In October 2023, Nobel Prize 2023 in Chemistry was awarded to Mounji Bawendi, Louis Brus & Alexei Ekimov for

9. GIC Re appoints Ramaswamy N as Chairman and Managing Director

- **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** appointed **Ramaswamy Narayanan** as its new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**, effective from **October 1, 2023**.

- He will replace **Devesh Srivastava**, whose four-year term ended in **September**.
- **Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)** recommended **Ramaswamy** as the head of **GIC Re** in **June 2023**.

Possible Question: General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) appointed **Ramaswamy Narayanan** as its new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**, effective from **October 1, 2023**. He will replace who among the following?

10. Cabinet approved Amendment to the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University

- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** gave its approval for introduction in **Parliament, a Bill, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment), Bill, 2023** further to amend the **Central Universities Act, 2009** for setting up of **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University at Mulugu District in the State of Telangana**
- It is provided by the **Thirteenth Schedule** to the **Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014**
- There would be provision of funds of **Rs. 889.07 crore**.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for introduction in Parliament, a Bill, namely, the **Central Universities (Amendment), Bill, 2023** further to amend the **Central Universities Act, 2009** for setting up of **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University** in which state of India?

11. Fintech unicorn Slice announces merger with North East Small Finance Bank

- **Slice, a financial technology company, said, Slice and North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) has merged with it after getting approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- NESFB, which will continue to service parts of Northeast India, said collaborating with Slice will help it support the underserved in the financial services space.
- Slice, among other fintechs, had stopped issuing prepaid cards loaded with credit line after the RBI issued a circular banning credit over prepaid payment instruments (PPIs).

Possible Question: In October 2023, which of the following fintech technology company has merged with the North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) after getting approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

12. ICC names Sachin Tendulkar as 'Global Ambassador' for ODI World Cup

- **The ICC named legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the men's Cricket World Cup 2023 beginning on October 5 in Ahmedabad.**
- Tendulkar, who has an enviable record of featuring in six 50 over World Cups in his decorated career, will walk out with the World Cup trophy before the opening match between England and New Zealand.
- The biggest Cricket World Cup ever will also witness an eclectic cast of ICC ambassadors ' West Indies legend Vivian Richards, South Africa's AB de Villiers, England World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, Australia's Aaron Finch, Sri Lanka spin great Muttiah Muralitharan, New Zealand's Ross Taylor, India's Suresh Raina and ex-captain Mithali Raj and Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez.

Possible Question: The ICC named legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the men's Cricket World Cup 2023 beginning on October 5 in Ahmedabad. Sachin Tendulkar has featured in how many 50 over world cup tournaments?

13. Norwegian author Jon Fosse wins Nobel Prize in Literature 2023

- **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 is awarded to the Norwegian author Jon Fosse, "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable."**
- His immense oeuvre written in Norwegian Nynorsk and spanning a variety of genres consists of a wealth of plays, novels, poetry collections, essays, children's books and translations.
- This year, the prize money to be awarded to the winner has been hiked to 11 million Swedish kronor from 10 million SEK.
- French author Annie Ernaux, whose work provides an insight into life and society in modern-day France, won this prestigious award last year.

Possible Question: The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 is awarded to author Jon Fosse, "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable." Jon Fosse belongs to which country?

14. SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara's Tenure Extended Till August 2024

- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has given its nod for extending the tenure of SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara till August 28, 2024.**
- Khara was appointed as Chairman of the country's largest commercial bank on October 7, 2020, for a period of three years. The current norms stipulate that a

person can hold the post of SBI Chairman up to the age of 63.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the extension of the tenure of Ashwini Kumar Tiwari as the managing director for two years beyond January 27, 2024.

Possible Question: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has given its nod for extending the tenure of SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara till August 28, 2024. The current norms stipulate that a person can hold the post of SBI Chairman up to the age of _____.

15. NPCI Signs Agreement With Al Etihad Payments Of UAE

- **NPCI International Payments Ltd, the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India inked an agreement with Al Etihad Payments of UAE to provide real-time and cost-effective cross-border remittances for the users of both countries.**
- It would be as seamless as a domestic transaction, using a beneficiary identifier (mobile number VPA). Mr. Ritesh Shukla, CEO ' NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- The objectives of the agreement include integrating the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and the Instant Payments Platform (IPP) of the UAE, to process cross-border transactions between two countries more efficiently; and interlinking card switches of the two countries -- RuPay switch and UAESWITCH -- to facilitate the mutual acceptance of their domestic cards and processing of card transactions directly without relying on any other network.
- The Central Bank of the UAE introduced UAESWITCH in 1996 to link the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) network of all banks in the UAE, enabling customers of different banks to

use any ATM and Point of Sale (POS) facilities in the UAE.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), along with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), has been engaging with the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) to link fast payment systems (FPS) and bilateral acceptance of domestic cards between India and the UAE.
- Following several rounds of discussions in this regard, including a meeting between the RBI and CBUAE (The Central Bank of the UAE) in January this year, CBUAE shared a draft MOU for collaboration on linkages of FPS, cards, and messaging systems. In 2022, the National Payments Corporation Of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation that offers UPI services, signed an MoU with France's fast and secure online payment system called **Lyra**.
- In 2023, UPI and Singapore's PayNow signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.
- The **UAE, Bhutan, and Nepal** have already adopted the UPI payment system.
- NPCI International is in talks to extend UPI services in the U.S., European countries, and West Asia.
- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI facilitating inter-bank transactions.

Possible Question: In October 2023, NPCI International Payments Ltd, the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India inked an agreement with a payment platform of which country to provide real-time and cost-effective cross-border remittances for the users of both countries?

16. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the monetary policy committee**

(MPC) has decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 4th, 5th and 6th October 2023.
- As per a statement issued by the RBI today, after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook, it decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged fourth time in a row.
- **Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 percent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.**
- The MPC also decided by a majority of 5 out of 6 members to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth.
- The statement mentioned that the headline inflation had surged in July driven by tomato and other vegetable prices. The statement added that it corrected partly in August, and is expected to see further easing in September on the back of moderation in these prices. It further added that a silver lining amidst all these is declining core inflation, i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel. It further said, the overall inflation outlook, however, is clouded by uncertainties from the fall in kharif sowing for key crops like pulses and oilseeds, low reservoir levels, and volatile global food and energy prices.
- **As per the statement issued by the RBI, the real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5 per cent with Q2 at 6.5 per cent; Q3 at 6.0 per cent; and Q4 at 5.7 per cent.** It added the risks are evenly balanced and the real GDP growth for Q1:2024-25 is projected at 6.6 per cent.
- The statement also mentioned that the MPC remains highly alert and prepared to undertake timely policy measures, as

may be necessary, in order to align inflation to the target and anchor inflation expectations.

Possible Question: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 4th, 5th and 6th October 2023. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the monetary policy committee (MPC) has decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at _____.

17. Iranian Women's Rights Activist Narges Mohammadi is 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

- **Jailed Iranian women rights' activist Narges Mohammadi has been conferred with the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced on October 6.**
- The 2022 Peace Prize was awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.

Possible Question: Who among the following has been conferred with the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize?

18. India Re-elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a Third Successive Term

- In an unprecedented development where India had already served two terms as President, **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) from 2018 ' 2021 and 2021 ' 2023, India has been elected as President of AIBD GC for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation.**

- AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation, currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries, including 26 Government Members (countries) represented by 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters, and 44 Affiliates (organisations) of which represented by 28 countries and regions in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.
- India is one of the founding members of AIBD and Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India at AIBD.
- The 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023 (GC 2023) of Asia- Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was chaired by its President Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO Prasar Bharati and concluded successfully from 02-04 October, 2023 in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- The men's Cricket team also bagged gold after the final match against Afghanistan was called off due to rain. Another notable performance includes the duo **of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** clinching gold in badminton men's doubles.
- The Indian Men's and women's Chess team bagged silver medal. In wrestling, Deepak Punia held silver in men's 86kg freestyle category.
- India has made history at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, surpassing the 100-medal mark for the first time.
- **The nation has amassed a medal tally of 107 medals including 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze at Hangzhou.** This is also only the second time India has won more than 100 medals in any of the three major Games - The Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games.
- **India finished in fourth place in the Asian Games.** The fourth-place finish was also India's best-ever rank since the 1962 Jakarta edition when India finished third.

Possible Question: India had already served two terms as President, Asia- Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) from 2018 ' 2021 and 2021 ' 2023, and now has been elected as President of AIBD GC for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation. In October 2023, The 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023 (GC 2023) of Asia- Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was chaired by its President Shri Gaurav Dwivedi in which country?

Possible Question: The Asian Games 2023 is the only the second time India has won more than 100 medals in any of the three major Games - The Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games. In this edition of Asian Games, India won a total of how many medals?

19. India concludes historic Asian Games campaign with 107 medals including 28 Gold, 38 Silver, and 41 Bronze

- The men's kabaddi team gave a stunning performance, as they clinched the gold against Iran.

20. RBI doubles UCB gold loan limit to '4 lakh

- **The Reserve Bank of India has increased the existing limit for gold loans under the Bullet Repayment scheme from '2 lakh to '4 lakh for Urban Co-operative Banks that have met the overall target and sub-targets under the Priority Sector Lending as of March-end.**

- The move comes on the back of sharp jump in gold prices.
- The RBI permitted bullet repayment of gold loans of up to '1 lakh to start with in 2007, which was increased later in 2014 to '2 lakh, with the repayment being restricted to 12 months. UCBs are allowed to extend gold loans under Bullet repayment and Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) repayment route for 12 months.
- Under bullet repayment, the principal and interest on a loan are paid in lump sum by a borrower to a lender at the end of the loan tenure.
- Under EMI, a fixed amount of payment (includes principal and interest components) is made by a borrower to a lender at a specified date each month.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Reserve Bank of India has increased the existing limit for gold loans under the Bullet Repayment scheme to _____ for Urban Co-operative Banks that have met the overall target and sub-targets under the Priority Sector Lending as of March-end.

21. Claudia Goldin Awarded 2023 Economics Nobel Prize For Pay-Gap Work

- **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2023 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel to Claudia Goldin 'for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes.'**
- Goldin is the 55th recipient of the prize and the third woman to receive the award since its inception in 1969.
- "This year's economic sciences laureate Claudia Goldin showed that female participation in the labor market did not follow an upward trend over a 200-year period, but instead formed a U-shaped curve."

- Last year, Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond, and Philip Dybvig received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.
- Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard is only the third woman to ever be awarded the economics prize ' with just two since it was first awarded in 1969 ' Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.
- Goldin will receive a 11 million-krona (\$1 million) award, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. The economic sciences award was added by Sweden's central bank in 1968, called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2023 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel to Claudia Goldin for

22. RBI orders Bank of Baroda to suspend further customer onboarding on 'bob World' mobile app

- **The RBI directed Bank of Baroda to stop onboarding new customers on its mobile application, Bob World.**
- "This action is based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the manner of onboarding their customers onto this mobile application,".
- It would not have a material impact on the overall business and growth plans.
- As of March this year, the number of active users on Bob World doubled to 30 million from 14 million at the end of the September quarter in 2022, according to the quarterly earnings presentation. However, the daily active users remained stagnant at around 4 million.
- The bank also said that the RBI's decision would not impact its other digital banking channels such as net banking, WhatsApp banking, debit cards, ATMs, etc., while adding that the Bob World mobile application is "fully secure

with robust security controls and features".

Possible Question: In October 2023, The RBI directed which bank to stop onboarding new customers on its mobile application, Bob World ?

23. Cabinet approves MOUs between India and France on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies

- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on cooperation in the field of digital technologies.**
- The cooperation under this MoU will start on the date of its signature by both participants and will last five years.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Union Cabinet has approved MoUs between India and which country on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies?

24. Cabinet approves establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat

- **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.**
- **In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of 10-19 years.**
- The Mera Yuva Bharat will be launched on 31st October.

Possible Question: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age group of _____, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.

25. RBI imposes '5.39 cr penalty on Paytm Payments Bank for KYC norms violation

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '5.39 crore on Paytm Payments Bank for violating KYC norms.**
- "This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949,".
- RBI said that this action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Possible Question: In October, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of '5.39 crore on which fintech company for violating KYC norms?

26. RBI Penalises Union Bank, RBL Bank, Bajaj Finance Over Non-Compliance

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said '1 crore penalty has been imposed on state-run Union Bank of India for contravention of its directions related to 'Loans and Advances ' Statutory and Other Restrictions'.**
- Penalty of '8.5 lakh has been imposed on Bajaj Finance Ltd for non-compliance with the 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016'.
- A penalty of Rs 64 lakh has been slapped on private sector RBL Bank Ltd for non-compliance with certain directions of the RBI (Prior approval for acquisition of shares or voting rights in private sector banks) Directions, 2015.

Possible Question: In October 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed _____ penalty on state-run Union Bank of India for contravention of its directions related to 'Loans and Advances ' Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

27. Gill and Athapaththu named ICC Players of the Month for September

- **India batting prodigy Shubman Gill secures his second Men's Player of the Month crown after fluid scoring in September ODIs.**
- Influential Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu wins her first Women's Player of the Month accolade after spearheading an historic T20I series win in England.

Possible Question: Who among the following pairs were named ICC Players of the Month for September 2023?

28. Christopher Luxon wins New Zealand election after incumbent Prime Minister Chris Hipkins concedes

- **Conservative Former businessman Christopher Luxon will be New Zealand's next Prime Minister after winning a decisive election victory.**
- People voted for change after six years of a liberal government led for most of that time by Jacinda Ardern.
- With more than two-thirds of the vote counted, Mr. Luxon's National Party had about 40% of the vote.

Possible Question: In October 2023, who among the following has been elected as the new Prime Minister of New Zealand?

29. Avanse Financial Services secures \$145 million ECB for education financing

- **Avanse Financial Services has signed a syndicated social-linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) facility of USD 145 million.**
- The education-focused non-banking financial company, said it will receive the amount in tranches as per the agreed-upon guidelines.
- This syndicated social-linked ECB transaction is among the first in the Indian education financing segment.

Possible Question: In October 2023, Avanse Financial Services has signed a syndicated social-linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) facility of _____.

30. Raghubar Das appointed governor of Odisha, Indra Sena Reddy Nallu of Tripura

- **Former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das and Telangana BJP leader Indra Sena Reddy Nallu have been appointed as the governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively.**
- Das, currently a national vice president of the BJP, was the first non-tribal chief minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019.
- He has been appointed to the gubernatorial post in place of Prof. Ganeshi Lal. Mr. Reddy succeeds Satyadeo Narain Arya as the Tripura governor.

Possible Question: Who among the following has been appointed as governor of Tripura?

31. India's rank on Global Pension Index falls to 45 out of 47 countries

- **The 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) has been published, and it shows that the Netherlands' retirement income system has once again secured the first position.**
- **Iceland and Denmark have claimed the second and third positions in the ranking, respectively.**
- India had an overall index value of 45.9 from 44.5 in 2022, ranking 45 out of the 47 retirement income systems analyzed primarily due to improvements in adequacy and sustainability sub-indices, according to the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index(MCGPI).
- This year, the Global Pension Index compares 47 retirement income systems across the globe and covers 64 per cent of the world's population.

- The Global Pension Index uses the weighted average of the sub-indices of adequacy, sustainability, and integrity to measure each retirement system against more than 50 indicators.
- The 2023 Global Pension Index includes three new retirement income systems: Botswana, Croatia, and Kazakhstan.

Possible Question: Which Country retirement income system has secured first position in the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) 2023 ?

32. Google India launches 'DigiKavach' to combat online financial fraud

- Google has collaborated with The Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment & onboarded them as a **priority flagger to combat predatory digital lending apps on Play Store in India.**
- DigiKavach, an early threat detection & warning system designed to identify & study emerging financial fraud patterns. It develops & implements effective counter measures before they cause harm.

Possible Question: US-based tech giant Google has announced the launch of sachet loans, along with four other credit initiatives, on the Google Pay app in India. Identify the correct statement(s) with respect to this announcement.

- Google has partnered with DMI Finance to provide loans to SMBs loans starting at just INR 15,000 via Google Pay.
- The Company has also joined hand with lenders like SBI and ePayLater to extend credit lines to small merchants.

- The tech giant also announced the launch of DigiKavach ' a programme aimed at keeping online financial frauds in India at bay.

33. Delhi-Meerut RRTS: RapidX Train Now To Be Known As NaMo Bharat

- **India's first Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) will be known as NaMo Bharat, Hardeep Singh Puri said.**
- **India's first semi-high speed regional rail service was flagged off by Prime Minister on the Priority Section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.**
- The section between Sahibabad & Duhai Depot has five stations -- Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and Duhai Depot. Hardeep Singh Puri: Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister.
- The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system with a design speed of 180 kmph.
- This is the second time the name of the RRTS, which is being developed by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), has been changed. In April this year, the RRTS project was named RAPIDX and a logo of the new high-speed mass transit project was released by NCRTC.

Possible Question: India's first semi-high speed regional rail service was flagged off by Prime Minister on the Priority Section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor. The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system with a design speed of _____.

34. RBI's e-Kuber will be operational on Sunday, March 31, 2024 as an exception

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that its core banking solution, e-Kuber, will be operational on Sunday, March 31, 2024.**
- Traditionally, e-Kuber remains inactive on public holidays such as Republic Day (January 26), Independence Day (August 15), Gandhi Jayanti (October 2), as well as on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month and all Sundays.
- This decision means that government transactions integrated with e-Kuber on March 31, 2024, will be recorded in the financial year 2023-24, aiding in the calculation of the Government of India's cash balance.

Possible Question: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that its core banking solution, e-Kuber, will be operational on Sundays from _____.

35. Kasaragod becomes first district in India to declare official tree, flower, bird, species

- **Kasaragod district has become the first district in India to officially designate its own tree, flower, bird and species. The decision is a testament to the region's rich biodiversity and natural heritage.**
- The white-bellied sea eagle, native to the region spanning from Mahe to Manjeswaram, has been declared as the official bird of Kasaragod district, Kerala.
- The official tree of the district is 'Kanjiram' (*Strychnos nux-vomica* Linn), a species deriving its name from 'kasara', meaning wormwood, from which the name of the district originates. This declaration has played a vital role in conserving these trees, preventing their unnecessary felling.
- Notably, White Bellied Sea Hawk is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, and its nest-building habits play a crucial role in protecting the trees where it resides.

- Kasaragod has also chosen the Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle, locally known as 'Bheemanama', as the district species. This rare species is listed on the Red List of Endangered Freshwater Turtles and relies on estuaries for laying eggs, making its conservation particularly critical.
- The district flower, 'Periya Polathali' or *Crinum malabarica*, with its distinctive white flowers tinged with red, is another remarkable addition to the list. This plant is found exclusively in the streams originating from the laterite hills in Kasaragod, emphasising its significance.

Possible Question: Recently, 'Kasaragod' district has become the first district in India to officially designate its own tree, flower, bird and species. 'Kasaragod' is a district in _____.

36. India launches test flight for future Gaganyaan astronaut mission

- The nation conducted an uncrewed test of the emergency-escape system of its new crew capsule, showing that the vehicle can jet away from its rocket if there's a problem during launch.
- **The trial, known as TV-D1, sent an unpressurized test version of the Gaganyaan crew module (CM) and its attached crew escape system (CES).**
- The test was performed from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, on the island of Sriharikota just off India's southeastern coast.
- The mission plan called for the CM-CES pair to separate from their rocket at an altitude of about 7.5 miles (12 kilometers), then for the CES to engage its escape motors. The CM and CES were to separate from each other about 10.6 miles (17 km) above Earth, and the CM would deploy parachutes and come down safely for a soft touchdown in the sea,

about 6 miles (10 km) off the Sriharikota coast.

Possible Question: Which of the following is a human spaceflight mission by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)?

37. RBI imposes monetary penalty of '2.50 crore on L&T Finance Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '2.50 crore (Rupees Two crore Fifty lakh only) on L&T Finance Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 58G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of Section 58B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Possible Question: In October 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on L&T Finance Limited (the company) for non-

compliance with certain provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.

38. Japan Becomes 1st Country Ever To Fire Electromagnetic Railgun From An Offshore Vessel

- Japan has successfully test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform as it continues to advance its defenses in the face of burgeoning regional security threats.
- For the test, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force collaborated with the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), a Japanese Ministry of Defense division
- ATLA announced the successful testing, claiming that this was the first time any nation had achieved such a feat since maritime railguns are obviously mounted on ships. Japan hopes to use the railgun on land and at sea. Thus, the test would be a significant advancement for this novel technology.

Possible Question: Which country became the first country to successfully test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform?

QUICK LEARNERS

BANKING

| | |
|--|--------|
| Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) | 4.50% |
| Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) | 18.00% |

| POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO | PERCENTAGE |
|---|-------------------|
| Repo Rate | 6.50% |
| Reverse Repo Rate | 3.35% |
| Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF) | 6.75% |
| Bank Rate | 6.75% |

APPOINTMENTS

| APPOINTMENT | POST |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Nitin Gupta | Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) |
| Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti | Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff |
| PR Seshadri | Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of South Indian Bank |
| Sreenivasa Reddy | Google India's Public Policy Head |
| Aditya Puri | Senior Advisor Deloitte |
| Muneesh Kapur | Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India |
| Amit Agrawal | Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) |
| Navneet Munot | Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India |
| VJ Kurian | Non-Executive part time Chairman of South Indian Bank |
| Pankaj Bohra | National President of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) |
| Arindam Bagchi | India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other International Organizations in Geneva |
| Meenesh C. Shah | Chairman and Managing Director of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) |
| Sanjay Kulshreshtha | Chairman and Managing Director of Housing And Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) |
| Sanjay Kumar Jain | Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) |
| Ashok Vaswani | Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank |
| Indra Mani Pandey | Secretary General of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) |
| Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair | Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces) |
| Robert Fico | Prime Minister of Slovakia |
| Sandip Garg | Executive Director of Insolvency And Bankruptcy Board Of India |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Prof Sarang Deo | Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO) |
| Dr Mohamed Muizzu | President of the Maldives |
| Daniel Noboa | President of Ecuador |
| Amol Muzumdar | Head Coach of India's Senior Women's cricket team |

IMPORTANT DAYS

| DATE | DAY | THEME |
|--|--|---|
| 2nd October | International Day of Non-Violence | |
| 2nd October | World Habitat Day | Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery |
| 4th- 10th October | World Space Week | Space and Entrepreneurship |
| 4th October | World Animal Welfare Day | Big or small, we love them all |
| 5th October | World Teacher's Day | The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage |
| 6th September | World Cerebral Palsy Day | Together Stronger |
| 7th October | World Cotton Day | Making cotton fair and sustainable for all: from farm to fashion |
| 9th October | World Post Day | Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future |
| 10th October | World Mental Health Day | Mental Health is a Universal Human Right |
| 10th October | National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day | |
| 11th October | International Girl Child Day | Invest in Girl's Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being |
| 12th October | World Sight Day | Love your eyes at work |
| Second Saturday of October | World Migratory Bird Day | Water: Sustaining Bird Life |
| 15th October | International Day of Rural Women | Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All |
| 15th October | World Students' Day | |
| 16th October | World Food Day | Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind |
| 16th October | World Anaesthesia Day | Anaesthesia and Cancer Care |
| 17th October | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty | Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all |
| 20th October | World Osteoporosis Day | Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones |
| 20th October | World Statistics Day | |
| 24th October | World Development Information Day | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 24th- 31st October | Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 | |
| 24th- 30th October | UN Disarmament Week 2023 | |
| 24th October | United Nations Day | |
| 27th October | World Day for Audiovisual Heritage | |
| 29th October | International Day of Care and Support | |
| 31st October | World Cities Day | |

SPORTS

| NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON | RELATED FIELD |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aditi Ashok | Golf |
| Sanjana Bathula | Roller Skating |
| Karthika Jagadeeswaran | Roller Skating |
| Heeral Sadhu | Roller Skating |
| Aarathy Kasturi Raj | Roller Skating |
| Ayhika Mukherjee | Table Tennis |
| Sutirtha Mukherjee | Table Tennis |
| Aryanpal Singh Ghuman | Speed Skating |
| Anandkumar Velkumar | Speed Skating |
| Siddhant Rahul Kamble | Speed Skating |
| Vikram Rajendra | Speed Skating |
| Jyothi Surekha Vennam | Archery |
| Pravin Ojas Deotale | Archery |
| Neeraj Chopra | Javelin Throw |
| Kishore Jena | Javelin Throw |
| Lovlina Borgohain | Wrestling |
| Amoj Jacob | Track Events- Relay |
| Muhammed Anas Yahiya | Track Events- Relay |
| Rajesh Ramesh | Track Events- Relay |
| Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi | Track Events- Relay |
| Saurav Ghosal | Squash |
| Dipika Pallikal | Squash |
| Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu | Squash |
| David Warner | Cricket |
| Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh | Kabaddi |
| Kelvin Kiptum | Marathon |
| Raunak Sadhwani | Chess |
| Alastair Cook | Cricket |
| Ashutosh Sharma | Cricket |
| Unnati Hooda | Badminton |
| Rudransh Khandelwal | Shooting |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Sidhartha Babu | Shooting |
| Sornnarain Tippoch | Cricket |
| Bornil Aakash Changmai | Badminton |

SCHEMES

| NAME OF THE SCHEME | THEME |
|--|--|
| Vivad se Vishwas - I scheme | To reduce vexatious litigation associated with timely direct tax payments |
| Sagar Parikrama | Outreach Program among fishermen community |
| Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana | Aims to provide cooking fuel such as LPG to rural households. |
| Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA). | Aims in advancing education and promoting the socio-economic progress of Scheduled Castes (SCs), |
| Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras | Skill Training centres for Youth |

AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

| ENTITIES INVOLVED | MOU THEME |
|--|--|
| IBM and the Ministry of Education, & the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship | To provide curated courses to empower youth in India with future-ready skills. |
| HCL Tech and Business Finlan | To drive digital innovation in generative AI, metaverse |
| Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and Bank of India | To provide funding against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts. |
| SBI Foundation and Villgro | To Support Entrepreneurship & ClimateResilience in Agriculture |
| India and Tanzania | Expand defence cooperation |
| India and the United Arab Emirates | Strengthen their collaboration in preserving their shared archival heritage. |
| Spice Money and NSDL Payment Bank | Make a significant impact in rural India by allowing citizens to open zero balance accounts. |
| Indian Bank Ltd and Tata Motors | Provide inventory financing solutions |
| Asian Development Bank (ADB) and West Bengal government | Undertake a study for the development of economic corridors in the state |
| National Skill Development Corporation and Coca- Cola | Launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission |
| ICAR-IARI and IIT Kanpur | Support incubators and startups |
| Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre | Monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Watershed Development Component |

| | |
|---|--|
| Tamil Nadu and United Kingdom | Aim for sustainable water, waste and resource management through smart tech project |
| IBM and Government of India | To foster collaboration in the fields of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing |
| Jakson Green and Deendayal Port Authority | To develop Rs 2,400-crore green ammonia plant at Kandla Port in Gujarat |
| Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and THDC India Limited (THDCIL) | Advancing research and development activities in Science, Engineering, and Technology. |
| Tata Elxsi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) | Develop an Automotive Cyber Security Solution |
| Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and IIT Indore | Research in renewable energy management |
| NPCI Bharat BillPay with MyJio & Arzooo | Foray into the B2B space |
| Government of Tamil Nadu and Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd | Train Youth |
| Boat and Centre of Excellence for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing. | Develop an indigenous neckband IP |
| Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus | To facilitate increased collaboration in developing education programmes |
| Department of Consumer Affairs and IIT (BHU) | Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023 |
| Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines of France | To develop industrial cooperation in manufacturing ring forgings for commercial aircraft engines |
| Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) | Setting up 10 compressed biogas (CBG) projects |

OBITUARY

| OBITUARY | RELATED FIELD |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bishan Singh Bedi | Former India cricket team captain |
| Li Keqiang | Former Chinese Premier |
| Bajjnath Aggarwal | Trustee of Geetha Press |
| Matthew Perry | Actor |

DEFENCE

| DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME | COUNTRIES INVOLVED |
|--|---------------------------|
| SAMPRITI-XI | India and Bangladesh |
| Sagar Kavach | Coastal Security Exercise |
| Cambrian Patrol Military Exercise | UK and other countries |
| Harimau Shakti 2023 | India and Malaysia |
| Kazind 2023 | India and Kazakhstan |

INDIA AND WORLD

| COUNTRIES INVOLVED | FIELD OF CO-OPERATION |
|------------------------|---|
| India and Sri Lanka | Ferry service |
| India and Saudi Arabia | Electrical Interconnections, green hydrogen |
| India and Italy | Defence |
| India and Vietnam | Mahatma Gandhi bust unveiled |
| India and Venezuela | TVS Motor enters their market |
| India and Japan | Semiconductor Supply Chain |

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

| ENTITY | ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Slice | North East Small Finance Bank |
| Bharti AXA Life Insurance | Bharti Group |
| IDFC | IDFC First Bank |
| PTC Energy Limited | ONGC |
| BK Birla Group | Himadri and Dalmia Bharat |

AWARDS

| AWARDEE | AWARD NAME | RELATED FIELD |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier | Nobel Prize 2023 | Physics |
| Moungi G Bawendi, Louis E Brus and Alexei Ekimov | | Chemistry |
| Jon Fosse | | Literature |
| Narges Mohammadi | | Peace |
| Claudia Goldin | | Economics |
| Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman | | Physiology (Medicine) |
| Ruixiang Zhang | 2023 Sastra Ramanujan Prize | Mathematics |
| Joyeeta Gupta | Spinoza Prize | Science |
| Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd | Best Innovation in Refinery | |
| Gitanjali Rao | Honoured by US First Lady Jill Biden | Community Improvement in US |
| Sivasankari | 32nd Saraswati Samman | Literature |
| Nawanpind Sardaran village in Punjab | Best Tourism Award | |
| Bhopal Mahila Thana | ISO Certification | |
| Shakikanta Das | A+ ranking | Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards |
| Kerala Gramin Bank | Assocham excellence award | |

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Deep Narayan Nayak (top 10 finalist) | 2023 Global Teacher Prize | |
| Michael Douglas | Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award | |
| C S Lakshmi | Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 | Literature |
| Sudha Murty | Global Indian Award | |

Winners at the 69th National Film Awards:

- Best Feature Film: Rocketry
- Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun, Pushpa
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
- Best Supporting Actor: Pankaj Tripathi, Mimi
- Best Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files
- Best Child Artist: Bhavin Rabari, Chhello Show
- Best Screenplay (Original): Shahi Kabir, Nayattu
- Best Screenplay (Adapted): Sanjay Leela Bhansali & Utkarshini Vashishtha, Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Dialogue Writer: Utkarshini Vashishtha & Prakash Kapadia, Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Music Director (Songs): Devi Sri Prasad, Pushpa
- Best Music Direction (Background Music): MM Keeravaani, RRR
- Best Male Playback Singer: Kaala Bhairava, RRR
- Best Female Playback Singer: Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal
- Best Lyrics: Chandrabose, Konda Polam's Dham Dham Dham
- Best Hindi Film: Sardar Udham
- Best Kannada Film: 777 Charlie
- Best Malayalam Film: Home
- Best Gujarati Film: Chhello Show
- Best Tamil Film: Kadaisi Vivasayi
- Best Telugu Film: Uppena
- Best Maithili Film: Samanantar
- Best Mishing Film: Boomba Ride
- Best Marathi Film: Ekda Kaay Zala
- Best Bengali Film: Kalkokkho
- Best Assamese Film: Anur
- Best Meiteilon Film: Eikhoigi Yum
- Best Odiya Film: Pratikshya
- Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director: Meppadiyan, Vishnu Mohan

- Best Film on Social Issues: Anunaad - The Resonance
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation: Aavasavyuham
- Best Children's Film: Gandhi and Co
- Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist): Arun Asok & Sonu K P, Chavittu
- 'Best Audiography (Sound Designer): Aneesh Basu, Jhilli
- Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track): Sinoy Joseph, Sardar Udham
- Best Choreography: Prem Rakshith, RRR
- Best Cinematography: Avik Mukhopadhyay, Sardar Udham
- Best Costume Designer: Veera Kapur Ee, Sardar Udham
- Best Special Effects: Srinivas Mohan, RRR
- Best Production Design: Dmitrii Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta, Sardar Udham
- Best Editing: Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Make-up: Preetisheel Singh, Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Stunt Choreography: King Solomon, RRR
- Special Jury Award: Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
- Special Mention: 1. Late Shri Nallandi, Kadaisi Vivasayi 2. Aranya Gupta & Bithan Biswas, Jhilli 3. Indrans, Home 4. Jahanara Begum, Anur

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

| SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME | THEME | LOCATION |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| Shramdaan Event | Garbage Free India | New Delhi |
| 15th Joint Working Group Meeting on Trade between India and Bangladesh | | Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| Khadi Mahotsav 2023 | | Mumbai |
| IndiaSkills 2023-24 | | New Delhi |
| 18th Assocham Annual Summit and Awards | | Mumbai |
| 27th World Road Congress | | Prague, Czech Republic |
| International Research Conference on Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems | | New Delhi |
| World Bank-IMF, G20 meetings | | Marrakech, Morocco |
| 16th Agricultural Science Congress | | Kochi |
| 8th BRICS International Competition Conference | | New Delhi |
| Green and Clean Energy Technologies Workshop | | Hybrid Format |
| 141st International Olympic Committee Session | | Mumbai |
| 9th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit | | New Delhi |
| Global Maritime India Summit 2023 | | Mumbai |
| Gitex Global 2023 | | Dubai |
| Bharat Tex 2024 | | New Delhi |
| Country Led Initiative for UN Forum on Forests | | Dehradun |
| 16th Urban Mobility India Conference 2023 | | New Delhi |

India-UK 2 plus 2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue

New Delhi

RANKS AND REPORTS

| NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX | RELEASED BY | RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC | COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Global Pension Index | Mercer CFA Institute | India - 45th | Top 3 - Netherlands, Iceland and Denmark |
| Hurun India Rich List 2023 | Hurun India | Mukesh Ambani | |
| Global Hunger Index 2023 | Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe | India - 111 | |
| World's Best Employers 2023 | Forbes | NTPC - ranked 261 | |
| Global Prime Residential Index | Knight Frank's | Mumbai - 19th, Bengaluru - 22nd, New Delhi - 25th | Top 2 - Ankara and Istanbul |
| On-Time Performance Monthly Report | Cirium | Kempegowda International Airport topped as world's most punctual airport | |
| Most Polluted City | IQAir | Mumbai - 2nd, New Delhi - 6th | Beijing |
| International Migration Outlook: 2023 report | OECD | India - top position as the country of origin of new immigrants to OECD nations | |
| World's top 2% scientists | Stanford University, California | 5 teachers of IIT Palakkad | |
| World Energy Outlook 2023 | IEA | India set to derive 18% of its energy requirements via solar sources by 2023 | |
| Most Financial Technology(fintech) Unicorns | Statista | India - 3rd spot | Top 2 - USA and UK |

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

| STATE | CAPITAL | CHIEF MINISTER | GOVERNOR |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Andhra Pradesh | Amaravati | Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy | Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Itanagar | Pema Khandu | Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik |
| Assam | Dispur | Himanta Biswa Sarma | Gulab Chand Kataria |
| Bihar | Patna | Nitish Kumar | Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar |
| Chhattisgarh | Raipur | Bhupesh Baghel | Biswa Bhusan Harichandan |
| Goa | Panaji | Pramod Sawant | P.S. Sreedharan Pillai |
| Gujarat | Gandhi Nagar | Bhupendra Patel | Acharya Dev Vrat |
| Haryana | Chandigarh | Manohar Lal Khattar | Bandaru Dattatraya |
| Himachal Pradesh | Shimla | Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu | Shiv Pratap Shukla |
| Jharkhand | Ranchi | Hemant Soren | CP Radhakrishnan |
| Karnataka | Bengaluru | Siddaramaiah | Thaawarchand Gehlot |
| Kerala | Thiruvananthapuram | Pinarayi Vijayan | Arif Mohammed Khan |
| Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal | Shivraj Singh Chauhan | Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel |
| Maharashtra | Mumbai | Eknath Shinde | Ramesh Bais |
| Manipur | Imphal | N Biren Singh | Sushri Anusuiya Uikye |
| Meghalaya | Shillong | Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Phagu Chauhan |
| Mizoram | Aizawl | Pu Zoramthanga | Dr Kambhampati Haribabu |
| Nagaland | Kohima | Neiphiu Rio | La. Ganesan |
| Odisha | Bhubaneswar | Naveen Patnaik | Raghubar Das |
| Punjab | Chandigarh | Bhagwant Mann | Banwarilal Purohit |
| Rajasthan | Jaipur | Ashok Gehlot | Kalraj Mishra |
| Sikkim | Gangtok | PS Golay | Lakshman Prasad Acharya |
| Tamil Nadu | Chennai | M. K. Stalin | R. N. Ravi |
| Telangana | Hyderabad | K. Chandrasekhar Rao | Tamilisai Soundararajan |
| Tripura | Agartala | Dr. Manik Saha | Indra Sena Reddy Nallu |
| Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | Yogi Aditya Nath | Anandiben Patel |
| Uttarakhand | Dehradun | Pushkar Singh Dhami | Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh |
| West Bengal | Kolkata | Mamata Banerjee | C V Ananda Bose |


UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

| UNION TERRITORY | LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR |
|---|--|
| Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT) | Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor) |
| Chandigarh (UT) | Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator) |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT) | Praful Patel (Administrator) |
| Delhi (NCT) | Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor) |
| Jammu and Kashmir (UT) | Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor) |
| Lakshadweep (UT) | Praful Patel (Administrator) |
| Puducherry (UT) | Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor) |
| Ladakh (UT) | Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor) |

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

| UNION MINISTER | PORTFOLIO |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Narendra Modi | Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space |
| Rajnath Singh | Ministry of Defence |
| Amit Shah | Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation |
| Nitin Gadkari | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways |
| Nirmala Sitharaman | Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs |
| Piyush Goyal | Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution |
| Narendra Singh Tomar | Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare |
| Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Ministry of External Affairs |
| Arjun Munda | Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| Smriti Zubin Irani | Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs |
| Dharmendra Pradhan | Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship |
| Pralhad Joshi | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines |
| Narayan Tatu Rane | Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises |
| Sarbananda Sonowal | Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) |
| Dr. Virendra Kumar | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment |
| Giriraj Singh | Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel |
| Ashwini Vaishnaw | Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology |
| Pashu Pati Kumar Paras | Ministry of Food Processing Industries |
| Gajendra Singh Shekhawat | Ministry of Jal Shakti |
| Kiren Rijiju | Ministry of Earth Sciences |
| Raj Kumar Singh | Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy |
| Hardeep Singh Puri | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs |
| Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers |
| Bhupender Yadav | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment |
| Mahendra Nath Pandey | Ministry of Heavy Industries |
| Parshottam Rupala | Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying |
| G. Kishan Reddy | Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region |
| Anurag Singh Thakur | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports |
| Arjun Meghwal | Ministry of Law and Justice |




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