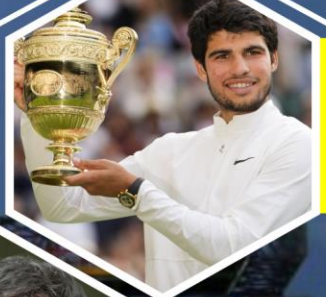


THE HINDU REVIEW

JULY 2023

Monthly Capsule

Current Affairs



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The Most Important Current Affairs July 2023

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

Chandrayaan-3: India's Mission to Soft-Land on the Moon's South Pole

Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar mission, following the Chandrayaan-2 mission, with the goal of achieving a soft landing on the lunar surface and deploying a rover.

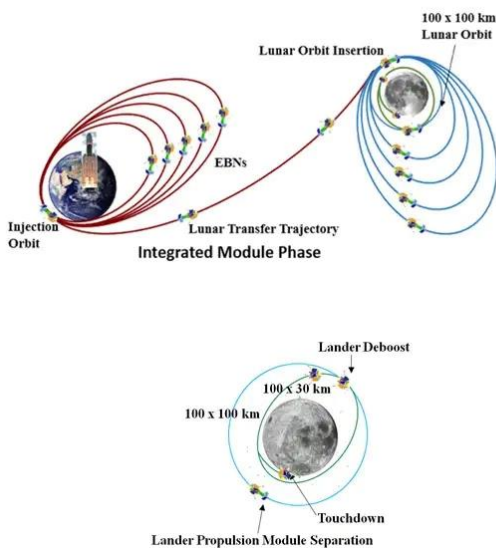
Chandrayaan-3 aims to showcase India's capabilities in landing and exploring the **Moon's South Pole**, a region known for the presence of water molecules.

Launch and Landing:



Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched on July 14, 2023, from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the **Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3)**.

- The spacecraft consists of a lander, a rover, and a propulsion module, collectively weighing 3,900 kg.
- The **GSLV Mark 3** heavy-lift launch vehicle, also known as the Bahubali rocket, supports the moon lander Vikram.
- The craft is scheduled to touch down on the Moon's South Pole on August 23, following a journey lasting over 40 days.



Objective:

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has three main objectives:

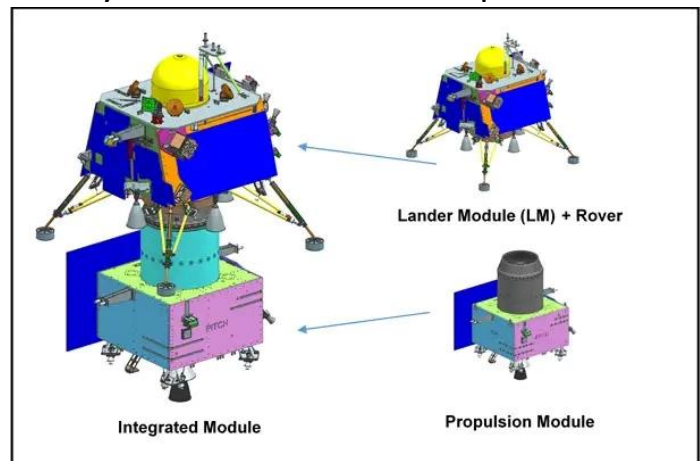
Component	Cost
Chandrayaan-2	₹960cr
Chandrayaan-3	₹610cr
Lander-rover	₹250cr
Launch rocket	₹360cr

Safe and Soft Landing: The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to achieve a safe and soft landing of the lander on the surface of the Moon. Learning from the previous mission's setback, this mission aims to successfully land the lander module on the lunar surface without any issues.

1. **Demonstration of Rover's Capabilities:** Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate the capabilities of the rover by showcasing its roaming and exploration abilities on the lunar surface. The rover will be deployed after the successful landing of the lander and will perform various scientific experiments and observations.
2. **In-Site Scientific Observations:** The mission seeks to conduct in-site scientific observations and experiments to better understand the composition of the Moon. This includes analyzing the chemical and natural elements, soil, water, and other resources available on the lunar surface. These observations will contribute to expanding our knowledge of the Moon's composition and provide insights into the Moon's history and evolution.

Design:

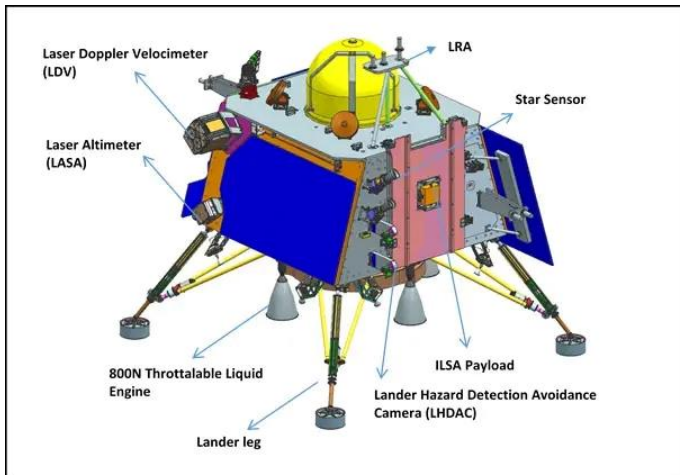
Chandrayaan-3 consists of three main components:



Propulsion Module: The propulsion module is responsible for carrying the lander and rover configuration to the lunar orbit of 100 kilometers. It is a box-like structure with a large solar panel and an intermodular adapter cone that acts as a mounting structure for the lander. Additionally, it carries the SHAPE payload, which studies spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.

1. **Lander:** The lander module is designed for a soft landing on the lunar surface. It has a box-shaped structure with four landing legs and four landing thrusters. The lander carries the rover and various scientific instruments for in-site analysis. It has undergone improvements in terms of structural rigidity, impact legs strength, and instrumentation redundancy compared to its predecessor.

The lander carries three payloads:



Chandra’s Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE):

Measures thermal conductivity and temperature of the lunar surface.

- **Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA):** Measures seismic activity around the landing site.
- **Langmuir Probe (LP):** Estimates plasma density and its variations.

3. **Rover:** The Chandrayaan-3 rover is a six-wheeled vehicle weighing 26 kilograms. It is equipped with scientific instruments, including cameras, spectrometers, and a drill. The rover has a range of 500 meters and is designed to communicate with the lander and the ground control team in India. Its expected lifespan is one lunar day, equivalent to 14 Earth days.

The rover aims to make significant scientific discoveries, including studying the lunar surface composition, detecting the presence of water ice in the lunar soil, investigating lunar impacts’ history, and studying the Moon’s atmosphere evolution.

Modifications and Precautions:

- Chandrayaan-3 has undergone modifications by ISRO to enhance reliability compared to its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2.
- The lander Vikram has been upgraded and carries additional fuel to ensure a successful landing and stay on the intended path to the lunar surface.
- The craft has undergone rigorous testing and incorporates numerous safety measures to increase the mission’s chances of success.

Mission Components:

- The 3,900-kilogram Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consists of three major modules: the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover.
- The lander, named Vikram, and the rover, named Pragyaan, are similar to their counterparts in Chandrayaan-2 but have undergone upgrades for improved reliability.
- The mission’s budget is Rs. 615 crore.

Government of India reduces GST rate on electronics item

The **Union Finance Ministry** recently announced a reduction in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** for electronic items on the sixth anniversary of the GST implementation on **July 1**. The list of electronic products includes mobile phones, TVs up to 27 inches, refrigerators, washing machines, and others. With the aim of making home appliances more affordable, the Finance Ministry has lowered the GST rates for various items. Refrigerators, washing machines, fans, coolers, geysers, and similar products will now be subject to a reduced GST rate of 18 percent, previously being at 31.3 percent.

In addition, there have been reductions in GST rates for various other household items. Products such as mixers, juicers, vacuum cleaners, LEDs, vacuum flasks, and vacuum utensils have also witnessed a decrease in their GST rates. The GST rate for mixers, juicers, and similar items has been lowered from 31.3 percent to 18 percent, while LEDs now have a reduced GST rate of 12 percent, previously being at 15 percent.

New Launch Hinglish

BANK

Test Mate

IBPS | RBI | SBI & others

2800+ Total Tests

Item	Earlier	Now
TV upto 27 inches	31.3%	18%
Refrigerators	31.3%	18%
Washing machine	31.3%	18%
Mixers, Juicers, Vacuum cleaners,,	31.3%	18%
Fans, coolers, geysers	31.3%	18%
LPG stove	21%	18%
LEDs	15%	12%
Sewing Machine	16%	12%
Static Converter UPS	28%	18%
Kerosene Pressure Lantern	8%	5%
Vacuum flasks, and vacuum Vessels	28%	18%
Mobile Phones	31.3%	12%

About June GST Collections

In June, the total GST revenue collected experienced a minimal increase of 2.80 percent, reaching Rs 1,61,497 crore, as compared to the collection of Rs 1,57,090 crore in May. The GST collected in June comprised Rs 31,013 crore under CGST, Rs 38,292 crore under SGST, Rs 80,292 crore under IGST (which includes Rs 39,035 crore collected on imported goods), and Rs 11,900 crore under cess (including Rs 1,028 crore collected on imported goods). From the IGST amount, the government settled Rs 36,224 crore for CGST and Rs 30,269 crore for SGST.

SAFF Championship 2023 Final: India wins 9th title

The **Indian men’s football team** emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against **Kuwait 5-4** in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the **SAFF Championship 2023 title** at Bengaluru’s Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.

India, serving as the hosts, remained undefeated throughout the SAFF Championship 2023. They defeated Pakistan and Nepal while drawing against Kuwait in the group stage. In the semifinals, they overcame Lebanon in a penalty shootout and replicated the same feat against Kuwait in a nail-biting final. In addition to the medals, the team was awarded a cash prize of **USD 50,000, equivalent to INR 41 lakh.**

Kuwait football team received the award for finishing runners-up in the SAFF Championship 2023. While all the players received medals, the team also got a cheque of **US Dollar 25,000 which is around 20 lakh and about 50 thousands in Indian currency.**

Awardees of the tournament

Award	Recipient
Fairplay Award	Nepal football team
Best Goalkeeper	Anisur Rahman Zico
Highest Goal-Scorer	Sunil Chhetri (6 Goals)
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	Sunil Chhetri
Runners-up	Kuwait football team

About the SAFF Football Championship

The SAFF Football Championship, also known as the South Asian Football Federation Championship, is a biennial international football tournament contested by the national teams of South Asian countries. The championship aims to promote and develop football in the region. Here is a brief history of the SAFF Football Championship:

1993: The inaugural edition of the SAFF Championship took place in Lahore, Pakistan. India emerged as the champions by defeating hosts Pakistan in the final.

2023 Global Peace Index

The 2023 Global Peace Index, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, provides a comprehensive ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world. The **17th edition** of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI), the world’s leading measure of peacefulness, reveals the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated for the ninth consecutive year, with 84 countries recording an improvement and 79 a deterioration.

This demonstrates that the deteriorations were larger than the improvements, as the post-COVID rises of civil unrest and political instability remain high while regional and global conflicts accelerate. This article highlights key findings from the report, including Iceland’s continued reign as the most peaceful country and India’s ranking.

- Iceland:** The No. 1 Most Peaceful Country: Iceland has retained its position as the most peaceful country since the inaugural study in 2008. It excels in domains such as ongoing domestic and international conflict, societal safety and security, and militarization. Additionally, Iceland ranks as the third happiest country globally, following Finland and Denmark.
- European Dominance in Peacefulness:** Seven out of the top 10 most peaceful countries in the world are located in Europe. Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland are among the nations that contribute to Europe’s peaceful reputation. New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, and Slovenia also feature prominently in the top 10.

Overall GPI Score

A composite index measuring the peacefulness of countries made up of 23 quantitative and qualitative indicators each weighted on a scale of 1-5. The lower the score the more peaceful the country.

Rank	Region	Score
1	Iceland	1.124
2	Denmark	1.31
3	Ireland	1.312
4	New Zealand	1.313
5	Austria	1.316
6	Singapore	1.332
7	Portugal	1.333
8	Slovenia	1.334
9	Japan	1.336
10	Switzerland	1.339

India's Peacefulness Ranking:

India's position on the Global Peace Index stands at **126 out of 163 countries**. With an overall score of 2.31, India falls below the global average of 2.314. While the country faces ongoing challenges in achieving high levels of peace, it presents an opportunity for improvement.

Key Findings from the Global Peace Index:

a) **Global Peace Deterioration:** For the ninth consecutive year, the average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated. While 84 countries experienced improvements, 79 witnessed a decline. The post-COVID era has seen a rise in civil unrest, political instability, and regional conflicts.

b) **Increase in Conflict Deaths:** Deaths resulting from global conflict rose by 96% to reach 238,000. Surprisingly, conflict-related fatalities in Ethiopia surpassed those in Ukraine, eclipsing previous peak levels observed during the Syrian war. Several countries, including Myanmar, Israel, and South Africa, reported increased conflict levels.

c) **Economic Impact of Violence:** The global economic impact of violence surged by 17% or \$1 trillion, amounting to \$17.5 trillion in 2022. This figure corresponds to approximately 13% of the global GDP. Notably, a hypothetical Chinese blockade of Taiwan would cause a staggering \$2.7 trillion drop in global economic output, nearly double the impact of the 2008 financial crisis.

d) **Changing Military Dynamics:** Despite the conflict in Ukraine, military expenditure improved in 92 countries, while 110 countries reduced their military personnel. Conflicts are increasingly internationalized, with 91 countries currently involved in some form of external conflict, up from 58 in 2008.

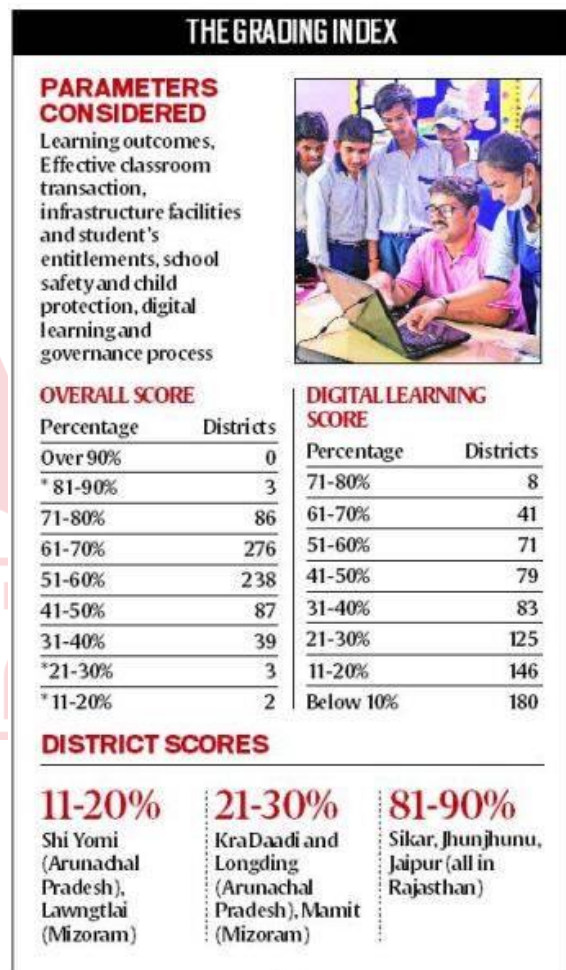
Impact of the War in Ukraine on Peacefulness:

- **Ukraine's Deterioration:** Ukraine experienced the largest decline in peace, falling 14 places to 157th position. The economic impact of violence in Ukraine increased by 479% or \$449 billion, accounting for 64% of the country's GDP.
- **Positive Trends in Russia:** Despite the conflict, Russia showcased improvements in areas such as incarceration rates, violent demonstrations, terrorism impact, and homicide rates. The homicide rate reached its lowest point since 2008.

- **Human Cost:** The conflict in Ukraine has led to significant human losses, with 65% of men aged 20 to 24 either fleeing the country or losing their lives in the conflict.

Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

The Indian Education System is one of the largest globally, with millions of schools, teachers, and students from diverse backgrounds. The Ministry of Education has devised the **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** to assess the performance of the school education system at the state/UT level. The PGI provides a comprehensive analysis and creates an index for evaluating the education system.



Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

Reasons for PGI 2.0:

- The previous versions of PGI have become outdated and redundant.
- The new PGI 2.0 aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and monitors indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It focuses on quality indicators, includes digital initiatives and teacher education, and utilizes data from UDISE+ for better uniformity and comparability.

Structure of PGI 2.0:

- PGI 2.0 comprises 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management (GM).
- These categories are further divided into six domains: Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP), and Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).

Grading System:

PUNJAB, RAJ, CHANDIGARH BEST IN LEARNING OUTCOMES

Grade	Overall grade Score	States/UTs attaining overall grade	Learning Outcomes	Access	Infra	Equity	Governance Processes	Teacher education & Training
Daksh	941-1000	NIL	NIL	Delhi	NIL	Delhi	NIL	NIL
Utkarsh	881-940	NIL	NIL	8	NIL	31	NIL	Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh
Atti-Uttam	821-880	NIL	NIL	10	NIL	4	Gujarat	10
Uttam	761-820	NIL	NIL	12	Chandigarh	NIL	Kerala	13
Prachesta -1	701-760	NIL	NIL	4	5	NIL	11	5
Prachesta -2	641-700	2 (Chandigarh, Punjab)	Punjab, Chandigarh & Rajasthan	1	10	NIL	15	2
Prachesta -3	581-640	6	4	NIL	14	NIL	7	1
Akanshi-1	521-580	13	19	NIL	6	NIL	1	NIL
Akanshi-2	461-520	12	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Akanshi-3	401-460	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Indian education system is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students

Ministry of Education Releases Report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22

- PGI 2.0 classifies States/UTs into ten grades.
- The highest achievable grade is Daksh, awarded to those scoring over 940 points out of a total of 1000.
- The lowest grade is Akanshi-3, given to those scoring up to 460 points.

Objectives of PGI 2.0:

- The aim is to encourage multi-pronged interventions to achieve optimal education outcomes.
- It helps identify gaps and prioritize areas for intervention in the school education system.
- Indicators are aligned with the NEP 2020 and policy initiatives for effective progress tracking.

Efficacy of PGI 2.0:

- PGI 2.0 scores and grades attained by States/UTs in 2021-22 showcase the effectiveness of the system.
- Indicator-wise scores highlight areas for improvement within each State/UT.

Key highlights in short

- The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.
- PGI 2.0 replaces the previous versions and focuses on qualitative assessment, digital initiatives, and teacher education.
- The structure comprises 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management.
- States/UTs are classified into ten grades, with Daksh being the highest achievable grade and Akanshi-3 being the lowest.
- PGI 2.0 aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to improve education outcomes and identify areas for intervention.

- The release of PGI 2.0 demonstrates the efficacy of the system in assessing and improving the education system.

Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashleigh Gardner wins ICC 'Player of the Month' award

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced **Wanindu Hasaranga**, the Sri Lankan spinner, and **Ashleigh Gardner**, the Australian women's team all-rounder, as the recipients of the 'Player of the Month' award for their remarkable performances in **June**. Hasaranga earned this honor for his outstanding achievements during the World Cup Qualifier matches in Zimbabwe, where he set new records. Ashleigh Gardner, the hero of the Women's Ashes, became the first player to win the Player-of-the-Month accolade three times.

Why Wanindu Hasaranga?

During the ICC World Cup Qualifiers, Wanindu Hasaranga played a crucial role in Sri Lanka's successful qualification for the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, scheduled to begin on September 5. Hasaranga emerged as the top wicket-taker in the qualifiers, impressively securing 22 wickets in 7 matches with an average of 12.90. He made a significant impact from the very start of the tournament, claiming six wickets against UAE in the opening match. He continued his remarkable performance with figures of 5-13 and 5-79 against Oman and Ireland, respectively. Notably, Hasaranga achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first spinner to achieve three consecutive five-wicket hauls in ODI history.

Why Ashleigh Gardner ?

Ashleigh Gardner played a pivotal role in Australia's triumph in the Women's Ashes one-off Test match, where they emerged victorious by a margin of 89 runs. Gardner's contribution was instrumental in her team's success. In the first innings, she scored 40 runs and followed it up with a remarkable four-wicket haul. However, her most remarkable feat came in the second innings when she single-handedly secured the win for her country by taking eight wickets for just 66 runs. Gardner's exceptional performance proved to be the decisive factor in Australia's victory in the match.

How they selected?

A vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, media representatives and global cricket fans registered at icc-cricket.com decided the winners, following the announcement of nominees last week.

Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting: Changes in GST Rates and Compliance Measures

The **50th Meeting of the GST Council**, led by Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, marked a significant milestone in the journey of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The council discussed and recommended changes in GST tax rates, measures to facilitate trade, and streamline compliance processes. Here are the key highlights of the meeting.

Changes in GST Tax Rates:

I. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Goods:

A. Changes in GST rates of goods:

1. Uncooked/Unfried Snack Pellets: The rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets will be reduced to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.

B. Other changes relating to goods:

1. Dinutuximab (Quarziba) Medicine: IGST exemption will be provided for imported Dinutuximab (Quarziba) medicine for personal use.
2. Medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP): IGST exemption will be extended to imported medicines and FSMP used in the treatment of rare diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, subject to existing conditions. The exemption will also apply to FSMP imported by Centers of Excellence for Rare Diseases or recommended institutions.
3. Supply of Raw Cotton: Supply of raw cotton, including kala cotton, by agriculturists to cooperatives will be taxable under reverse charge mechanism, and issues related to past periods will be regularized.
4. Imitation Zari Thread or Yarn: GST rate on imitation zari thread or yarn will be reduced from 12% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.
5. Utility Vehicles: Entry 52B in the compensation cess notification will be amended to include all utility vehicles that meet specified parameters. The ground clearance in unladen condition will be clarified.

6. LD Slag: GST rate on LD slag will be reduced from 18% to 5% to promote better utilization and environmental protection.
7. Implants: Issues relating to trauma, spine, and arthroplasty implants prior to 18.07.2022 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues.
8. Fish Soluble Paste: GST rate on fish soluble paste will be reduced from 18% to 5%, and payment of GST for past periods will be regularized.
9. Desiccated Coconut: Issues relating to desiccated coconut for the period 1.7.2017 to 27.7.2017 will be regularized due to genuine interpretational issues.
10. Pan Masala and Tobacco Products: The earlier ad valorem rate applicable on 31st March 2023 will be notified for the levy of Compensation Cess on pan masala, tobacco products, etc., where it is not legally required to declare the retail sale price.
11. Banks for IGST Exemption: RBL Bank and ICBC Bank will be included in the list of specified banks eligible for IGST exemption on imports of gold, silver, or platinum. The list of eligible banks/entities will be updated as per the Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
12. Notifications: Consequential changes will be made in notifications in accordance with the new Foreign Trade Policy 2023.
13. Plates and Cups made of Areca Leaves: Issues relating to GST on plates and cups made of areca leaves prior to 01.10.2019 will be regularized.
14. Biomass Briquettes: Issues relating to GST on biomass briquettes for the period 01.7.2017 to 12.10.2017 will be regularized.

Table 1: Changes in GST Tax Rates for Goods

S. No.	Goods/Items	GST Rate Before Recommendation	Recommended GST Rate	Regularization of Past Payment
1.	Uncooked/Unfried Snack Pellets	18%	5%	"As is basis"
2.	Dinutuximab (Quarziba) Medicine	-	Exempt	-
3.	Medicines and FSMP for Rare Diseases	-	Exempt	-
4.	Raw Cotton (including kala cotton)	-	Taxable (under RCM)	"As is basis"
5.	Imitation Zari Thread or Yarn	12%	5%	"As is basis"
6.	Utility Vehicles	-	-	-
7.	LD Slag	18%	5%	-
8.	Trauma, Spine, and Arthroplasty Implants	-	-	"As is basis"
9.	Fish Soluble Paste	18%	5%	"As is basis"
10.	Desiccated Coconut	-	-	"As is basis"
11.	Pan Masala and Tobacco Products	-	-	-
12.	Banks for IGST Exemption on Gold/Silver/Plat	-	-	-
13.	Notifications	-	-	-
14.	Plates and Cups made of Areca Leaves	-	-	"As is basis"
15.	Biomass Briquettes	-	-	"As is basis"

II. Recommendations relating to GST rates on Services:

A. Changes in GST rates of services:

1. Satellite Launch Services: GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by ISRO, Antrix Corporation Limited, and New Space India Limited (NSIL) may be extended to such services supplied by private sector organizations to encourage startups.

B. Other changes relating to services:

1. Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs): GTAs will not be required to file a declaration for paying GST under forward charge every year. The option to pay GST under forward charge must be exercised by 31st March of the preceding financial year.
2. Services Provided by Directors: Services provided by a director of a company in his private or personal capacity, such as renting immovable property, will not be taxable under reverse charge mechanism (RCM). Only services supplied by a director in their capacity as a director of the company or body corporate will be taxable under RCM.
3. Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls: Supply of food and beverages in cinema halls will be taxable as a restaurant service if supplied independently of the cinema exhibition service.

Table 2: Changes in GST Rates for Services

S. No.	Services	GST Rate Before Recommendation	Recommended GST Rate
1.	Satellite Launch Services	-	Exempt (extended to private sector)
2.	Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs)	-	-
3.	Services Provided by Directors	-	-
4.	Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls	-	-

III. Second Report of Group of Ministers (GoM) on Casinos, Race Courses, and Online Gaming:

The GoM recommended taxing casinos, horse racing, and online gaming at a uniform rate of 28%, with tax applicable on the face value of chips purchased in the case of casinos, the full value of bets placed with bookmakers/totalisator in the case of horse racing, and the full value of bets placed in the case of online gaming.

Table 3: Second Report of GoM on Casinos, Race Courses, and Online Gaming

S. No.	Activities	Current GST Rate	Recommended GST Rate
1.	Casinos	18%	28%
2.	Horse Racing	18%	28%
3.	Online Gaming	18%	28%

United States holds title for world's most powerful military make new title

According to **Global Firepower**, a prominent data website specializing in defence-related information, the **United States** possesses the most powerful military force worldwide. **Russia and China** follow closely in second and third place, respectively, while **India secures the fourth position**. The recently released 2023 Military Strength list, which evaluates over 60 factors, also highlights nations with comparatively weaker military forces such as Bhutan and Iceland.

Assessment of the report:

The assessment by Global Firepower takes into account various criteria, including the number of military units, financial resources, logistical capabilities, and geographical considerations, to determine each nation's overall score. The report lists 145 countries and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.

- The top four nations remain as they were in the 2022 Global Firepower list. In a shift from the previous year's rankings, the United Kingdom has advanced from eighth to fifth place in terms of military strength. South Korea retains its sixth position from last year.
- Notably, Pakistan has entered the top 10, securing the seventh spot. **Conversely, Japan and France**, which held the fifth and seventh positions respectively last year, have dropped to eighth and ninth this year.

Here are the 10 nations with the most powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country
1	United States
2	Russia
3	China
4	India
5	United Kingdom
6	South Korea
7	Pakistan
8	Japan
9	France
10	Italy

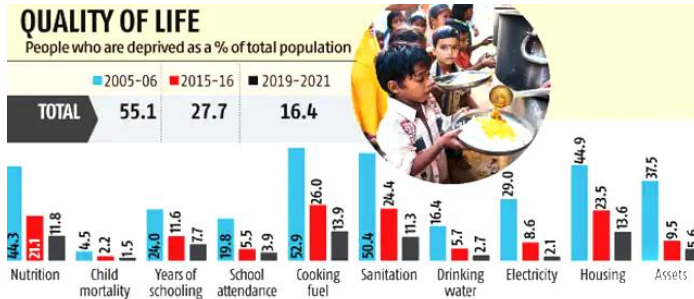
Here are the 10 nations with the least powerful militaries in the world:

Rank	Country
1	Bhutan
2	Benin
3	Moldova
4	Somalia
5	Liberia
6	Suriname
7	Belize
8	Central African Republic
9	Iceland
10	Sierra Leone

2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The latest update of the **global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** highlights India's extraordinary achievement in poverty reduction. The country has lifted a staggering 415 million people out of poverty within a span of 15 years, demonstrating significant progress in improving living conditions. This article examines key highlights from the MPI report released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

India's Journey: From High Poverty Incidence to Impressive Decline:



In 2005/2006, India had a poverty incidence of 55.1%, with approximately 645 million people living in poverty.

- Through concerted efforts and effective policies, poverty rates have dropped to 16.4% in 2019/2021, showcasing substantial improvement in living conditions.
- The decline in poverty has been equal across regions and socio-economic groups, with the poorest states and groups experiencing the fastest progress.

Poverty Reduction Trends in Selected Countries (2000-2022)

Country	Period	Poverty Incidence (2000/2005)	Poverty Incidence (2019/2021)	Number of People Lifted out of Poverty
India	2005/6-2019/21	55.1%	16.4%	415 million
China	2010-2014	N/A	N/A	69 million
Cambodia	2014-2021/22	N/A	16.6%	2.8 million
Indonesia	2012-2017	N/A	N/A	8 million

Children and Rural Areas: Key Factors in Poverty Reduction:

- Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people, emphasizing the importance of addressing child poverty through comprehensive programs for their well-being, education, and access to essential services.

- Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84% of the country's poor residing in these regions. This underscores the need for targeted measures to uplift rural communities and bridge the urban-rural divide.

Global Outlook

Poverty Incidence in Selected Countries and Regions

Country	Region	Poverty Incidence (%)
Burundi	Sub-Saharan Africa	75.1
Central African Republic	Sub-Saharan Africa	80.4
Chad	Sub-Saharan Africa	84.2
Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	91
Afghanistan	South Asia	55.9
Haiti	Latin America	41.3
Papua New Guinea	East Asia	56.6
Sudan	North Africa	52.3
Tajikistan	Central Asia	7.4

- Globally, 1.1 billion people (18% of the total population) across 110 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 534 million poor, while South Asia has 389 million, making these regions home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- Children under 18 years old account for 566 million MPI-poor people globally, with a poverty rate of 27.7%, compared to 13.4% among adults.

Outlook for India:

- Despite significant progress, India still has more than 230 million people living in poverty.
- The UNDP highlights the vulnerability of the population, with approximately 18.7% falling under the category of people who are not poor but have deprivations in 20-33.3% of all weighted indicators.

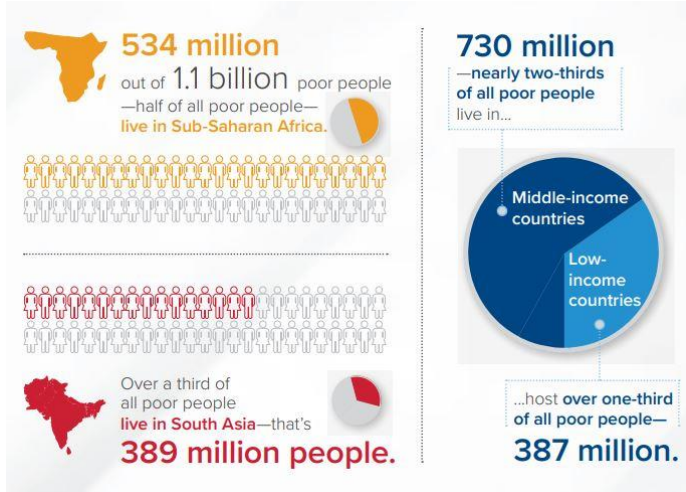
Improvement in Deprivation Indicators:

25 NATIONS HALVE GLOBAL MPI VALUES

<p>> India is one of the 25 nations that have successfully halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index values within 15 years</p> <p>> In India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021</p> <p>> People in India who are multi-dimensionally poor and</p>	<p>deprived under the nutrition indicator declined from 44% in 2005-06 to 12% in 2019/21</p> <p>> Those who are poor & deprived of cooking fuel declined from 53% to 14% & those deprived of sanitation dipped from 50% to 11.3%</p> <p>> In drinking water, those deprived fell from 16% to 3% & in housing from 44% to 14%</p>
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- India has shown significant progress in all three deprivation indicators: health, education, and standard of living.
- The percentage of people deprived of nutrition decreased from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.

Recommendations:

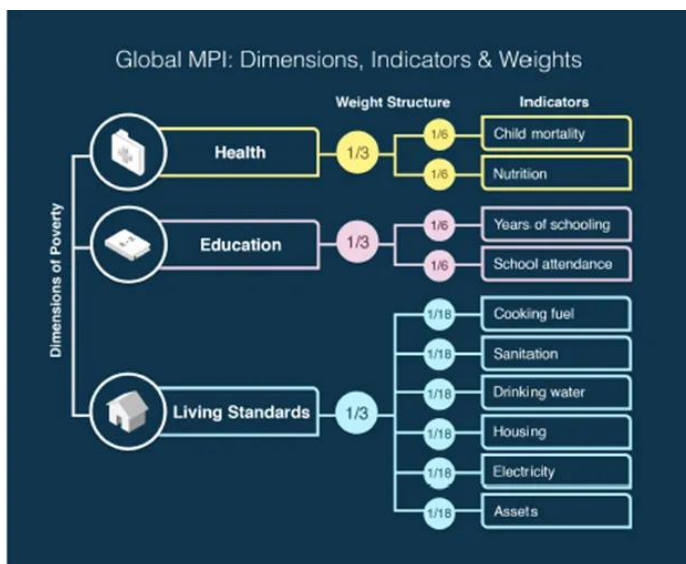


- There is a need for context-specific multidimensional poverty indices that reflect national definitions of poverty.
- While the global MPI provides a standardized methodology, national definitions offer a comprehensive understanding of poverty specific to each country.
- It is crucial to consider these context-specific indices to evaluate and address poverty effectively.

About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a vital international resource designed to measure acute multidimensional poverty in over 100 developing countries. Launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the MPI provides a comprehensive assessment of poverty beyond monetary measures.

Inauguration of 'Sagar Sampark' DGNSS by Sarbananda Sonowal



Purpose and Scope: The MPI serves as a crucial tool to gauge the extent and nature of multidimensional poverty worldwide. It focuses on capturing various dimensions of poverty, including health, education, and standard of living, to provide a holistic understanding of people’s well-being. It is applied across a broad range of developing countries, offering insights into the multifaceted challenges faced by different societies.

1. **Monitoring Deprivations:** The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 key indicators that span the domains of health, education, and standard of living. These indicators are carefully selected to reflect the essential aspects of individuals’ lives and well-being. By analyzing these indicators, the MPI provides a nuanced picture of poverty and identifies the specific areas where people face significant deprivations.
2. **Incidence and Intensity of Poverty:** The MPI considers both the incidence and intensity of poverty. A person is classified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in one-third or more (33% or more) of the weighted indicators out of the ten indicators. Those who face deprivations in half or more of the weighted indicators are considered to be living in extreme multidimensional poverty. This dual perspective helps to capture the severity and depth of poverty experienced by individuals and communities.

MPI Indicators and Dimensions: The MPI incorporates a diverse range of indicators and dimensions to comprehensively assess poverty. While the specific indicators may vary across countries, the following are commonly included:

1. **Health Indicators:**
 - Nutrition and food security
 - Child mortality
 - Access to healthcare
2. **Education Indicators:**
 - School attendance
 - Years of schooling completed
3. **Standard of Living Indicators:**
 - Access to clean water and sanitation
 - Electricity and cooking fuel availability
 - Housing quality
 - Assets ownership

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Wimbledon 2023 Final: Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic

Wimbledon 2023 men's singles final in which **Carlos Alcaraz** beat four-time defending champion **Novak Djokovic** 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win his maiden title at The Championships. The action as it unfolded on Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, England.

On women's singles

Marketa Vondrousova becomes **Wimbledon champion**, the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era. She beats last year's runner-up **Ons Jabeur** 6-4, 6-4 in the final. Marketa Vondrousova is the first **unseeded player** to do so in the Open Era.

Here is the Complete List of Winners in Different Categories:

S.No	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic
2	Women's Singles	Marketa Vondrousova	Ons Jabeur
3	Men's Doubles	WesleyKoolhof & NealSkupski	HoracioZeballos & MarcelGranollers
4	Women's Doubles	Barbora Strýcová & Hsieh Su-wei	Elise Mertens & Storm Sanders
5	Mixed Doubles	Mate Pavić & Lyudmy laKichenok	XuYi fan & Joran Vliegen

Wimbledon Championships 2023

The **Wimbledon Championships 2023** is a **Grand Slam tennis tournament** that takes place at the **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club** in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. The tournament will be played on grass courts, with all main draw matches to be played from Jun 26–Jul 16, 2023, at the All England lawn tennis and croquet club, Wimbledon. The 2023 Championships is the 136th edition, the 129th staging of the Ladies' Singles Championship event, the 55th in the Open Era and the third Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Wimbledon 2023 Prize Money

Men's and Women's Doubles prize money Total amounts for each team in £= Pound

Winner – £600,000
 Runner-up – £300,000

How much players earn by round

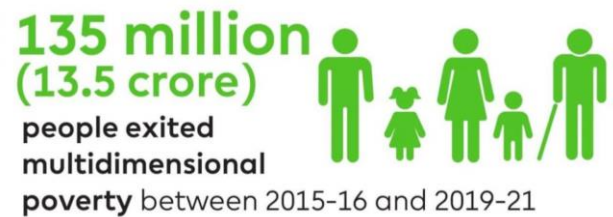
Winner: £2,350,000
 Runner-up: £1,175,000
 Semi-Finalists: £600,000
 Quarter-Finalists: £340,000
 Fourth Round: £207,000
 Third Round: £131,000
 Second Round: £85,000
 First Round: £55,000
 Total prize money: £32,154,000

13.5 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in 5 years

According to the latest **NITI Aayog** report, India has achieved a remarkable feat in its efforts to reduce multidimensional poverty. Between **2015-16** and **2019-21**, a staggering 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainable and equitable development.

Comprehensive Methodology and Progress

The report, 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023,' draws its data from the latest **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** conducted between 2019 and 2021. It builds upon the baseline report launched in 2021 and follows a methodology aligned with global standards. The National MPI measures deprivations in health, education, and standard of living through **12 SDG-aligned indicators**.



Striking Improvements Across Indicators

India has witnessed marked improvements in all **12 indicators**, including nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, education, sanitation, and access to basic amenities like drinking water and electricity. The results indicate a decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor, reducing from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.

Rural Areas Leading the Way

The report highlights that the decline in multidimensional poverty was most prominent in rural areas, decreasing from 32.59% to 19.28%. Urban areas also witnessed a reduction, going from 8.65% to 5.27%. Uttar Pradesh showed significant progress, with 3.43 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty, marking the largest decline among all states.

Path Towards SDG 2030

India's progress is commendable as the MPI value has nearly halved from **0.117 to 0.066**, and the intensity of poverty has reduced from **47% to 44%**. This puts India well on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2 of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half much ahead of the **2030 timeline**. The government's strategic focus on inclusive development and poverty eradication has played a pivotal role in this achievement.

Government Initiatives Driving Change

Flagship programs like **Poshan Abhiyan, Anaemia Mukta Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, PMAY, PMJDY, and Samagra Shiksha** have significantly contributed to improving access to healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, housing, and education. The efforts have resulted in reduced deprivations across various indicators, showcasing the impact of consistent implementation of well-linked initiatives.

Tamil Nadu topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022

Context:

Tamil Nadu topped the **third edition** of the **NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022** with an overall score of **80.89**, piping **Maharashtra (78.20)** and **Karnataka (76.36)**.

Overview of the Export Preparedness Index 2022:

The third edition of the NITI Aayog's Preparedness Index 2022 has released on **17th July 2023**. According to the report, out of the **680 districts** engaged in exports, the top 100 districts contribute about **87% of the total exports** from India. To promote exports, **647 districts** have formed a **District Export Promotion Committee**, while **557** have formulated a **District Export Action Plan**.

- According to the Export Preparedness Index 2022, Tamil Nadu topped the ranking with an overall score of 80.89 while Maharashtra with a score of 78.20 was second and Karnataka was third with a score of 76.36.
- **Gujarat** scored **fourth** position with a score of **73.22** followed by Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Kerala in the ranking of coastal areas.
- Among hilly/**Himalayan states** **Uttarakhand** topped the ranking with a score of **59.13** followed by Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in that order.
- Among the **landlocked regions**, **Harayana** topped the ranking with a score of **63.65** followed by Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- In the category of **Union Territories/small states**, **Goa** topped the ranking with a score of **51.58** followed by Jammu-Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh.
- Among export districts, **Jamnagar in Gujarat** topped the chart which was followed by Surat, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai, Pune, Bharuch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bengaluru Urban.
- Gujarat has **8 districts**, the highest number of districts in the top 25 export districts in the country.

About the Export Preparedness Index:

- The Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive assess the export preparedness of the States and UTs in the country.
- The index conducts a comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters to identify their strengths and weaknesses.
- The methodology of the index is an evolving process that constantly incorporates stakeholder feedback.

Objectives of Export Preparedness Index:

- To provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the export preparedness of the States and UTs.
- To highlight the achievements and best practices adopted by the States and UTs to improve their ranking in the index.
- To foster a competitive spirit among States and UTs.

- To enhance cooperation between them and the Centre, to achieve sustainable growth and development for India.

Pillars of Export Preparedness Index:

The index uses 4 pillars to assess the export preparedness and the performance:

- **Policy Pillar:** This pillar evaluated how well the states and UTs adopted and implemented export related policies at state and district level.
- **Business Ecosystem:** This pillar assesses the quality and availability of business supportive infrastructure such as power, water, land and logistics as well as the transport connectivity of the States and UTs to domestic and international market.
- **Export Ecosystem:** This pillar focuses on the export supportive infrastructure and trade services provided by the States and the UTs.
- **Export Performance:** This pillar measures the actual export outcomes of the states and UTs such as export growth, diversification and competitiveness.

Singapore Passport Tops Henley Passport Index 2023 as World's Most Powerful

According to the Henley Passport Index, **Singapore** now holds the title of the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to **192 out of 227 global travel destinations**. Three European countries, namely Germany, Italy, and Spain, have moved up one rank to share the second position, with visa-free access to 190 destinations. For the first time in five years, Japan has been dethroned from the top spot and now ranks third, with its passport providing visa-free access to 189 destinations.

India's ranking in Henley Passport Index

India has made significant progress in the Henley Passport Index, improving its ranking by 5 spots compared to the previous year. It currently shares the **80th position** on the index with **Togo and Senegal**. Indian passport holders now enjoy visa-free access to 57 countries, reflecting the country's enhanced global travel privileges.

Overview of the Henley Passport Index

- The **United States**, formerly the top-ranked country almost a decade ago, has now slipped to the eighth position in the Henley Passport Index. It shares this position with Lithuania, with both countries offering visa-free access to 184 destinations.
- On the other hand, the **United Kingdom** has made significant progress, jumping two places to claim the fourth spot in the index. British passport holders can now access 188 countries without a visa, a position they last held in 2017.
- At the opposite end of the spectrum, **Afghanistan** holds the lowest rank in the ranking, with its passport holders having visa-free access to only 27 destinations. Just above Afghanistan are Iraq with a score of 29 and Syria with 30, making them the three weakest passports in the world.

- The influx of migrants into Singapore, driven by a crackdown on private enterprise in China and concerns over geopolitical tensions, has resulted in increased citizenship grants in the nation. Approximately 23,100 people were granted Singaporean citizenship last year.

Passports of these countries hold the top 10 spots on the Henley Index:

Rank	Country	Visa-free travel to (out of 277 nations)
1	Singapore	192
2	Germany, Italy, Spain	190
3	Austria, Finland, France, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Sweden	189
4	Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, UK	188
5	Belgium, Czech Republic, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland	187
6	Australia, Hungary, Poland	186
7	Canada, Greece	185
8	Lithuania, US	184
9	Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	183
10	Estonia, Iceland	182

Passports of these countries hold the bottom 10 spots on the Henley Index:

Rank	Country	Visa-free travel to (out of 277 nations)
103	Afghanistan	27
102	Iraq	29
101	Syria	30
100	Pakistan	33
99	Yemen, Somalia	35
98	Palestinian territory, Nepal	38
97	North Korea	39
96	Bangladesh	40
95	Sri Lanka, Libya	41
94	Kosovo	42

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About the Henley Passport Index

Invented nearly 20 years ago by **Dr Christian H Kaelin, Chairman, Henley & Partners**, the index is based on the exclusive and official data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. It is the original ranking of all the passports according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. It's worth noting that the Henley Passport Index relies on data from the International Air Transport Association to calculate its rankings. The methodology used by this index differs from other passport rankings, such as the one published by financial advisory Arton Capital, which placed the United Arab Emirates in the top position last year.

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur confers 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards

Union Minister, **Shri Anurag Thakur** presented the **8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards** during the Inaugural session of the **two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelon**.

What's in News?

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting presented the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards during the Inaugural Session of two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelon held at the **Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi**.

Award Winners:

Thematic Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Raah.
- Second Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odissa. Programme: Adhar O Poshan Bigyan.
- Third Prize: Green Radio, Sabour, Bihar. Programme: Poshan Shrinkhla.

Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards:

- First Prize: Radio SD, Mazaffarnagar, UP. Programme: Hizra in Between.
- Second Prize: Kabir Radio, Sant Kabir Nagar, UP. Programme: Selfie Le Le Re.
- Third Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Book Bugs.

Promoting Local Culture Awards:

- First Prize: Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odissa. Programme: Asmita.
- Second Prize: Friends FM, Tripura, Agartala. Programme: Revived a dying art: MASK & POT.
- Third Prize: Pantnagar Janvani, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Programme: Dadi Maa Ka Batua.

Sustainability Modern Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odissa.
- Second Prize: Vayalaga Vanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- Third Prize: VAGAD Radio "90.8", Banswara, Rajasthan.

Role of Community Radio Stations:

Community Radio Stations played a vital role in realizing Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan**. Union Minister, Anurag Thakur praised these stations for their contributions in keeping listeners informed during calamities and highlighted their significance in education,

awareness generation, and problem solving across the remotest concerns of India.

Significance:

Community Radio Stations plays a significant role by making people aware about any calamities and also plays key role in the fields of education, health and awareness generation.

Union Minister during the Inaugural Session emphasized the increasing popularity of Community Radio Stations and expressed the government’s commitment to realizing Prime Minister Modi’s vision of having a Community Radio Station in each district.

Apurva Chandra, Secretary, highlighted the need for a platform to bring together the experiences of Community Radio Stations and lauded their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government’s Efforts:

- The licensing time has been significantly reduced **from four years to six months.**
- The number of processes involved has been **reduced from thirteen to eight.**
- The Government **will auction 808 channels in 284 cities** during **the 3rd e-auction**, thereby expanding the reach of radio in India.

Amended Rules Relating to Retirement Benefits of IAS, IPS, IFOS Pensioners

The **central government** has made significant amendments to the rules governing retirement benefits for officers of the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS).**

The amendments empower the central government to take action against pensioners, including withholding or withdrawing their pension, even without a reference from the state government. Such actions can be taken if the pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a **serious crime**, particularly one involving an offence under the **Official Secrets Act.**

Definition of ‘Grave Misconduct’ and ‘Serious Crime’

The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** issued a notification on **July 6, 2023**, specifying that ‘grave misconduct’ includes the communication or disclosure of any document or information mentioned in the **Official Secrets Act.** Additionally, a ‘serious crime’ encompasses any offence under the Official Secrets Act.

Eliminating Dependency on State Government References

- The amended **All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958**, have removed the dependency on state government references for action against retired officials.
- Previously, the central government required a reference from the respective state government if a pensioner was convicted.
- However, the amended rules now include the phrase **“or otherwise”** after **“...the State Government concerned,”** allowing the central government to act on its own if a pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a serious crime.

Addressing Challenges in Taking Action Against Officers

- The rationale behind this amendment was to address instances where state governments did not send references for action against retired officials, even after their conviction by courts of law.
- This lack of cooperation from state governments made it challenging for the central government to take appropriate action against the concerned officers, especially when dealing with **All India Services officials.**

Final Decision on Withholding or Withdrawing Pension

The amended rules now state that the decision of the central government regarding withholding or withdrawing pension shall be considered final.

Restrictions on Publication of Sensitive Information

- The amended rules also introduce new provisions regarding the publication of sensitive information by officers who served in intelligence or security-related organizations.
- Such officers must seek prior clearance from the **Head of the Organization** before making any publication related to the domain of the organization, including any reference or information about personnel and their designations, as well as expertise or knowledge gained while working in that organization.
- Failure to adhere to this undertaking may result in severe action, including treating it as grave misconduct.

India’s Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate

In 1973, the Government of India launched **Project Tiger**, a comprehensive conservation project aimed at protecting the nation’s tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved remarkable success, with India currently harboring **almost 75% of the world’s wild tiger population.** On Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Ashwini Kumar**, released a comprehensive report revealing India’s tiger population estimate of 3,925, with an annual growth rate of 6.1%.

I. Project Tiger’s Success and Evolution:

- Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km². It has now expanded to 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km², effectively covering **2.3% of India’s total land area.**
- The first phase of tiger conservation focused on enacting the **Wildlife Protection Act** and establishing protected areas, while the second phase in 2005 adopted a landscape-level approach, community involvement, strict law enforcement, and scientific monitoring.

II. The Growth of India’s Tiger Population:

- In 2022, during the celebration of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Hon’ble Prime Minister declared the minimum tiger population estimate of 3,167 from the camera-trapped area.

- Further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, considering both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, resulted in an estimated **tiger population of 3,925** with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- Notably, Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains saw significant increases in tiger population, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. However, certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, requiring targeted conservation efforts.

III. States with Largest Tiger Populations



BEST AND WORST PERFORMING STATES ON TIGER POPULATION			
STATES	TIGERS	STATES	TIGERS
Madhya Pradesh	785	Mizoram	0
Karnataka	563	Nagaland	0
Uttarakhand	560	Jharkhand	1
Maharashtra	444	Arunachal	9

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population

State	Tiger Population
Madhya Pradesh	785
Karnataka	563
Uttarakhand	560
Maharashtra	444

IV. Tiger Reserve Abundance

Tiger Reserve	Tiger Population
Corbett	260
Bandipur	150
Nagarhole	141
Bandhavgarh	135
Dudhwa	135
Mudumalai	114
Kanha	105
Kaziranga	104
Sundarbans	100
Tadoba	97
Sathyamangalam	85
Pench-MP	77

V. Conservation Challenges and Measures:

- Approximately 35% of tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.
- Challenges like poaching continue to pose a threat to tiger conservation.
- To preserve ecological integrity, eco-friendly development, minimizing mining impacts, and addressing human-wildlife conflict are crucial steps.
- Fortifying protected area management and intensifying anti-poaching measures are essential for the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

IDFC First Bank to Merge with IDFC Ltd in 155:100 Share Exchange Ratio

- IDFC First Bank** and IDFC Ltd have announced their merger plans, with a share exchange ratio of 155 equity shares of IDFC First Bank for every 100 equity shares of IDFC. The merger aims to simplify the corporate structure, increase the book value per share, and streamline regulatory compliances. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

State Bank of India Appoints Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti as CFO

- State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has announced the appointment of **Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti** as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Kodavanti, who has been with the bank since 1991, assumed the position on July 1, 2023. This article provides details about Kodavanti's appointment and his professional background. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

State Bank of India Launches 34 Transaction Banking Hubs Nationwide

- On the occasion of its 68th foundation day, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has inaugurated 34 Transaction Banking Hubs across 21 district centres in the country. These hubs aim to provide efficient and quick Transaction Banking solutions to customers. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India and Malaysia can now trade in Indian rupee

- The Ministry of External Affairs declared that trade between **India and Malaysia** can now be conducted using the **Indian Rupee (INR)** as a mode of settlement, in addition to other currencies. This announcement follows the launch of the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** by the Ministry of Commerce the day before, which reaffirmed the government's determination to establish the rupee as a global currency. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

State Bank of India celebrates 68th Bank Day

- State Bank of India** celebrated its **68th Bank Day** on **01st July 2023**. The Bank was incorporated by an Act of Parliament on 01.07.1955. The day was celebrated throughout the country by organizing various programmes at different centers. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

RBI Launches Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) for Enhanced Data Management

- The system leverages advanced technology to manage big data, enabling powerful data mining, text mining, visual analytics, and statistical analysis. Governor **Shaktikanta Das** announced the launch during the 17th Statistics Day Conference in Mumbai, highlighting the system's potential

to transform economic analysis, supervision, monitoring, and enforcement across various domains. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Piramal Finance opens first all-women branch in Kochi

- **Piramal Finance**, a leading housing finance company, has taken a significant step towards empowering women by opening its first all-women branch called “**Maitreyi**” in Tripunithura, a suburban area in **Kochi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PNB Launches Virtual Branch in the Metaverse with Immersive 3D Experience

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has announced the launch of PNB Metaverse, a virtual branch that offers a unique banking experience. Customers can explore various products and services such as bank deposits, loans, digital products, and government schemes through their mobile phones and laptops. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI Releases Draft Circular on Credit Card Network Portability

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled a draft regulation that grants debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders the authority to select their desired card network, marking a potentially revolutionary development on a global scale. This regulation challenges the prevailing practice where card network options are predetermined through agreements between issuers and networks. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NHB Operationalizes ₹10,000-Crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund

- **The National Housing Bank (NHB)** has announced the operationalization of the **₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)**, as outlined in this year’s Budget. The fund aims to facilitate the creation of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, supplementing the efforts of state governments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Sadbhavana Trust’s FCRA Licence Cancelled by Union Government

- The Union government has cancelled the **Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA)** licence of the **Sadbhavana Trust**, a Delhi-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been actively working to empower Dalit and Muslim women. This cancellation prohibits the trust from receiving or utilizing foreign grants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PNB Introduces IVR-Based UPI Solution: UPI 123PAY

- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has announced the launch of **UPI 123PAY**, an IVR-based UPI solution. This offering is in line with the **Digital Payment Vision 2025**, aiming to propel India towards a cashless and cardless society. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank IPO opened on 12th July

- **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank IPO** will begin accepting subscriptions this week. Having a presence across all of India, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is one of the top small finance institutions. The bank is promoted by Utkarsh CoreInvest Ltd, which started operating as an NBFC in Fiscal 2010 and concentrated on offering microloans to underserved and unserved areas, primarily in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI to Introduce UPI QR Codes for CBDC Transactions

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is set to implement interoperability between its central bank digital currency (CBDC) and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by the end of this month, according to Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar. This move will allow customers to use **UPI QR codes** for transactions using digital currency. The RBI aims to achieve 1 million CBDC transactions per day by the end of the year, significantly increasing the current transaction volume. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SBI appoints Abhijit Chakravorty as SBI Card's CEO

- **SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card)**, the country’s largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed **Abhijit Chakravorty** as **MD & CEO**. Chakravorty, who is presently a Deputy Managing Director at SBI, will assume charge of his new role on August 12, SBI Card said in a filing with stock exchanges. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI Cancels Registration of Four NBFCs, 11 Surrender Certificates

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently announced the cancellation of registration for four **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** and the surrender of licenses by 11 other entities. This move signifies the RBI’s efforts to maintain regulatory compliance and ensure the stability of the financial sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

HDFC Bank breaks into \$100 billion market-cap club as world's 7th largest lender

- **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender, has achieved a significant milestone by entering the **\$100 billion market-capitalization club**. This accomplishment came after its reverse merger with its parent company, HDFC Ltd. Despite this achievement, the bank currently ranks third on the Indian stock exchanges, trailing behind Reliance Industries (RIL) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Needs Average Annual 7.6% GDP Growth To Become Developed By 2047: RBI

- **The Reserve Bank of India**, in its monthly bulletin, has outlined the significant growth targets India must achieve over the next 25 years to become a developed economy with high per capita income. Currently estimated at \$2,500, India's per capita income needs to surpass **\$21,664 by 2047**, as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a high-income country. To achieve this ambitious goal, the country must maintain a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6% in real GDP during 2023-24 to 2047-48. ([Click here to read the article](#))

€500 million in EU's first phase funding for India green energy

- **The European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the lending arm of the **European Union**, has expressed its intention to invest approximately **€1 billion in India's renewable energy sector**. EIB's Vice President, **Kris Peeter**, confirmed that discussions are underway with the Central government to provide **€500 million** during the first phase of funding. The investment aims to bolster renewable sectors, focusing on **green hydrogen and solar panels**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Digital currency pilot gains pace; SBI, HDFC Bank step up campaigns

- **The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot in India is gaining traction as banks accelerate their efforts to onboard customers, with the pilot now in its second phase. After covering major cities like **Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, and Chandigarh**, banks are extending their reach to select customers in cities like **Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna, Shimla, Goa, Guwahati**, and Tier-II locations such as **Varanasi**. This expansion aims to attract more users to enrol in the pilot. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI to detail SOP for banks to help expedite rupee trade

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is set to introduce a standard operating procedure (SOP) to enable banks to expedite the issuance of **Foreign Inward Remittance Certificates (FIRC)** and **Electronic Bank Realization Certificates (e-BRCs)**. This proactive step comes in response to the challenges faced by exporters using the rupee-based trading mechanism for foreign trade. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Why AT-1 BOND in news?

- Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds worth **Rs. 10,000 crore** at the coupon **rate of 8.1%** recently issued by the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. But the issue did not get a good response by the subscribers as only **Rs.3,100 crore** worth of bonds were subscribed. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IDBI Bank Amrit Mahotsav deposits

- **IDBI Bank**, a private sector lender, has announced revised interest rates for fixed deposits (FDs) under **₹2 crore**, effective from **April 1st, 2023**. The bank has launched the **"Amrit Mahotsav FD"** scheme, offering attractive returns for both elderly individuals and the general public. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI cancels licence of Uttar Pradesh-based United India Co-operative Bank

- Due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to cancel the registration certificate of **United India Cooperative Bank Ltd**, based in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

HDFC Bank becomes 2nd most valuable company

- **HDFC Bank** achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become the second most valuable company in India based on **market capitalization**. The recent merger of its parent company HDFC into itself further bolstered the bank's position. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Russia's Sberbank establishes major IT unit in Bengaluru

- **Sberbank's** branch in **India** has been granted permission by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to set up an **IT unit in Bengaluru**. The newly established IT office will serve as **Sberbank's in-house Data Processing Center**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI Treasury Bill and Bond Auction Update: T-Bill Yield 6.86%

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the next auction of **Treasury bills** and **state development loans (SDLs)** with attractive yields for various maturities. The T-bill yields for three-month, six-month, and 364-day maturities are set at **6.71 per cent, 6.83 per cent, and 6.86 per cent**, respectively. The auction will see the participation of 11 states, including **Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal**, and others. ([Click here to read the article](#))

RBI Includes 'NongHyup Bank' In The List of Scheduled Banks Under Schedule II of RBI Act, 1934

- In a recent notification, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the addition of **"NongHyup Bank"** to the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**. This significant move marks a pivotal moment for NongHyup Bank, which hails from **Jung-gu, Seoul, South**

RBI Includes 'NongHyup Bank' In The List Of Scheduled Banks Under Schedule II of RBI Act, 1934

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Canara Bank Tops Public Sector Banks in Lending to State PSUs and Corporations for Fifth Consecutive Year

- Canara Bank** has once again emerged as the leading public sector bank in lending to state-owned corporations and **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** for the fifth consecutive year. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Swiggy Launches Co-branded Credit Card With HDFC Bank

- Swiggy**, a popular food delivery platform, has collaborated with **HDFC Bank** to launch a co-branded **credit card**. This move follows the trend of various ecommerce platforms partnering with banks to introduce similar credit cards. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Mahindra & Mahindra confirms buying 3.53% stake in RBL Bank for ₹417 crores

- On July 26, 2023, **Mahindra & Mahindra**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, confirmed its investment in **RBL Bank** by acquiring a 3.53% stake for ₹417 crores. The acquisition was announced through a regulatory filing, and Mahindra & Mahindra expressed its potential to make further investments in RBL Bank, subject to pricing, regulatory approvals, and required procedures. However, the company clarified that it would not exceed a stake of 9.9%. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Banks write off bad loans worth Rs 2.09 lakh crore in 2022-23

- In the fiscal year ending March 2023, Indian banks wrote off bad loans amounting to Rs 2.09 lakh crore, bringing the total loan write-off by the banking sector to Rs 10.57 lakh crore in the past five years. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** disclosed this information in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

RBI permits banks to open vostro accounts from 22 countries for trade in rupee

- The RBI has taken a pivotal step by permitting 20 banks operating in India to open **92 Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** with partner banks from 22 countries. This allows exporters and importers from these nations to conduct trade transactions in domestic currencies, facilitating smoother and more efficient trade practices. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

HDFC Bank Surpasses SBI in CRISIL's Corporate Banking Ranking for 2023

- In 2023, **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender, achieved a significant milestone by overtaking **State Bank of India (SBI)** to secure the top spot in CRISIL's Greenwich market share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking. The report by Coalition Greenwich, a division of CRISIL, highlights the changing dynamics in India's corporate banking landscape, with larger private and foreign banks gaining traction at the expense of smaller banks, including public sector banks. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Banknotes with a Star (*) symbol identical to any other legal banknotes: RBI

- Banknotes with a Star (*) symbol have recently become a subject of discussion on social media platforms. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a press release to clarify that these banknotes, known as the **"Star Series" banknotes**, are legitimate and have a specific purpose. The Star symbol is added to identify banknotes used as replacements for defectively printed ones in a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Economy Current Affairs

Gross GST Collection in June Reaches ₹1.61 Trillion, Marking Fourth Occurrence Above ₹1.60 Trillion

- India's **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection for the month of June reached ₹1.61 trillion, according to the Ministry of Finance. This amount represents a significant 12% increase compared to the revenue collected from GST in the same month of the previous year. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India's External Debt Reaches \$624.7 Billion at End-March 2023

- India's **external debt** has witnessed a slight increase, reaching **USD 624.7 billion** at the end of March 2023, according to data released by the Reserve Bank. However, the debt-to-GDP ratio has declined during the same period.

Valuation gains resulting from the appreciation of the US dollar against major currencies, including the Indian rupee, yen, SDR, and euro, amounted to USD 20.6 billion. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Narrows to 11.8% as Non-Tax Revenue Surges: CGA Data

- According to official data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the central government's fiscal deficit for the financial year 2023-24 stood at Rs 2.1 lakh crore **or 11.8%** of the full-year budget estimates at the end of May 2023. This marks a significant improvement compared to the previous year when the fiscal deficit **was 12.3% of the budget estimates**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

GST Council Proposes Stricter Registration Rules to Counter Fake Registrations

- In a bid to tackle fake registrations and enhance the integrity of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** system, the GST Council is considering implementing new measures. These measures include reducing the time period for submission of PAN-linked bank account details, introducing mandatory physical verification for “high risk” applicants, and amending GST Rules regarding the presence of applicants during verification. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India FDI Inflow in FY 2023: Latest Data Analysis on Investment Landscape

- India received its highest-ever **FDI inflow** of **US\$83.57 billion** in the fiscal year 2021-2022. However, FY 2023 saw a drop in FDI inflows due to global uncertainties. Total FDI inflows in FY 2023 amounted to US\$70.97 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Net Direct Tax Collection Grows 16% to Rs 4.75 Lakh Crore in FY24: Income Tax Department

- The **net direct tax collection** in the current fiscal year has witnessed a significant growth of 16%, reaching Rs 4.75 lakh crore, indicating a surge in economic activity. According to the Income Tax department, this collection represents 26.05% of the total budget estimates of **direct taxes** for the full 2023-24 fiscal, which is set at Rs 18.23 lakh crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India’s Retail Inflation Surges to 4.81% in June; May IIP Rises to 5.2%

- India’s retail inflation experienced a surge of 4.81% in June**, ending a four-month decline, as food prices increased due to uneven monsoon rains and supply disruptions. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**-based inflation was 4.31% in May, and food inflation rose to 4.49% in June. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report 2022

- The third edition of the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** for States/UTs of India for the year **2022** is set to be released by **NITI Aayog on July 17, 2023**. This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22. The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Forex reserves at near 2-month high, rises by \$1.23 billion to \$596.28 billion

- India’s foreign exchange (forex) reserves have increased by \$1.229 billion**, reaching a total of \$596.280 billion as per the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marks a nearly 2-month high and the second consecutive weekly rise in reserves. The rise in reserves was primarily driven by

the growth in foreign currency assets (FCA) and gold reserves, while special drawing rights (SDRs) experienced a slight dip. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India to Surpass US and Become World’s 2nd Largest Economy by 2075: Goldman Sachs Report

- Goldman Sachs** analysts project India to become the **world’s second-largest economy** by 2075. The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075. China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s. ([Click here to read the article](#))

ADB keeps India’s FY24 growth forecast at 6.4% banking on demand strength

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently projected India’s economic growth to moderate in the current financial year, **FY24, to 6.4 per cent**, down from the **6.8 per cent** expansion witnessed in **FY23**. The slowdown is attributed to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices. However, ADB remains optimistic about India’s economic prospects, expecting growth to accelerate to **6.7 per cent in FY25**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates GST Bhawan at Agartala

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the ‘**GST Bhawan**’ in **Agartala, Tripura’s capital**. The newly established office complex will serve as the headquarters for **CGST, CX, and Customs** for the **Agartala, Guwahati Zone under CBIC**. Situated at **Mantri Bari Road, Agartala**, the GST Bhawan is designed to offer quick and easy accessibility to all taxpayers in the region, with its proximity to the newly created **Agartala Airport complex**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's forex reserves breach \$600 billion-mark

- India’s foreign exchange reserves** have recorded their most substantial weekly surge in four months, witnessing a remarkable increase of **\$12.74 billion**, reaching an impressive total of **\$609.02 billion**, as reported by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. This surge comes after a previous uptick of **\$1.23 billion** in the preceding week ending on July 7. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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India's forex reserves breach \$600 billion-mark

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has recently revised **India's GDP growth** forecast for the current fiscal year to 6.1%, up from the previous prediction of 5.9%. This upward revision is attributed to stronger domestic investments and reflects the momentum from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 (FY23). [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Govt Approves 8.15% Interest Rate on Employees Provident Fund Deposits for 2022-23

- The Union government has approved an increased interest rate of 8.15% on **Employees Provident Fund (EPF) deposits** for the financial year 2022-23. This decision comes after the EPFO trustees ratified the proposal to raise the interest rates, which had been at a four-decade low of 8.10% for the previous fiscal year. The higher interest rate will benefit over six crore EPF subscribers and is expected to be credited to their accounts soon. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India's GDP to reach \$6 trillion by 2030: Standard Chartered Research

- Standard Chartered's India research team has projected a transformative growth trajectory for **India's economy**, expecting it to reach **\$6 trillion by 2030**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

SEBI Introduces Framework for Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced the establishment of the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**. This fund, regulated by SEBI, is designed to function as a 'backstop facility,' providing support during stressed market conditions by purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities. The **Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD)** aims to offer guarantee cover against debt raised or to be raised by the CDMDF, adding stability to the market in times of dislocation. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Business Current Affairs

Government Releases Draft Framework for India's First Carbon Market

- The Indian government has taken a significant step towards establishing **India's first carbon market** by notifying a draft framework for the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023. The framework outlines the regulatory structure and key stakeholders responsible for the formation and functioning of the carbon market. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India's Global Commercial Services Exports Share Doubles to 4.4%: WTO-World Bank Report

- According to a recent report by the **World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO)**, India has witnessed a significant increase in its share of global commercial services exports. The country's share has doubled from 2% in 2005 to 4.4% in 2022. This growth is attributed to various factors, including the rise of the services sector and the implementation of reforms to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) in services. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

ONGC Becomes India's First PSU to Achieve Anti-Bribery Management System Certification

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)**. The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Schedule M to be Made Mandatory for MSME Pharma Firms

- India's small drugmakers in the **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector** will soon be required to adhere to the good manufacturing practices outlined in Schedule

M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced this decision after engaging with industry representatives, emphasizing the need for quality assurance and reducing compliance burdens. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

CarTrade Tech to acquire OLX India's auto business for ₹537 cr

- Mumbai-based used car platform **Car Trade Tech** will acquire online marketplace **OLX India's** auto sales business for **Rs.537 cr**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Razorpay launches first international payment gateway in Malaysia

- India's renowned fintech giant and leading Full-Stack Payments and Business Banking Platform, **Razorpay**, has made a significant announcement regarding its first-ever international Payment Gateway for the **Malaysian** market as it acquires Malaysian fintech start-up '**Curlec**' for \$20 million, which has been rebranded as '**Curlec by Razorpay**'. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Reliance set to buy Alia Bhatt's brand Ed-a-Mamma

- Reliance Brands Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries' retail arm, Reliance Retail Ventures, is nearing the acquisition of actor Alia Bhatt's kidswear brand, **Ed-a-Mamma**, at an estimated value of ₹300-350 crore. The agreement is anticipated to be concluded in the next seven to ten days, and it is poised to transform the children's wear market Reliance Brands' acquisition of Ed-a-Mamma not only broadens the retail powerhouse's children's wear offerings but also opens up new prospects for Ed-a-Mamma to strengthen its presence in physical stores. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Algeria applies to join BRICS, would contribute \$1.5 bln to group bank

- Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** announced that **Algeria** has formally submitted an application to join the **BRICS** group of nations. The move aims to create new economic prospects for the oil and gas-rich nation in **North Africa**, as it seeks to diversify its economy and strengthen ties with countries like **China**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Jio Financial and BlackRock Announce Joint Venture to Revolutionize India's Mutual Fund Market

- Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFS)** of the Reliance Industries Ltd Group and global asset manager **BlackRock** have joined

forces to create a groundbreaking 50:50 joint venture called "**Jio BlackRock**." This strategic partnership aims to provide millions of Indian investors with access to affordable and innovative investment solutions through technology-enabled platforms. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amazon India to open first-ever floating store in Dal Lake

- Amazon India** has inaugurated its **first-ever** floating store on **Dal Lake** in Srinagar, Kashmir. This initiative aligns with Amazon India's commitment to providing customers with reliable and convenient delivery services, while simultaneously enabling small businesses to seize profitable earning prospects. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Current Affairs

New Zealand becomes first country to ban plastic produce bags

- New Zealand** has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the **first** country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Iran Becomes New Permanent Member Of SCO

- Iran** has officially become a full member of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on this significant occasion. ([Click here to read the article](#))

King Charles III presented with Scottish Crown Jewels

- In a significant ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, **King Charles III** of the **United Kingdom** was presented with the Scottish Crown Jewels, solidifying his authority in Scotland. The event took place two months after his official coronation and included the unveiling of a new sword named after the late Queen Elizabeth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DGCA to collaborate with EASA on Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- During **India-EU Aviation summit** held at New Delhi, India, the **Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has signed a MoU with the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** for cooperation in unmanned aircraft and systems and innovative air mobility. ([Click here to read the article](#))

In boost to ties, Taiwan to set up office in Mumbai

- Taiwan** has announced its decision to open its third representative office in India, this time in Mumbai. The move comes after more than a decade since Taiwan last expanded its presence in the country. The establishment of the **Taiwan Economic and Cultural Center (TECC)** in Mumbai aims to facilitate trade, investment, and provide various services to Taiwanese nationals and Indian businesspeople and tourists. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Dutch Government Collapses over Migration Row

- Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's** coalition government collapses due to "**insurmountable**" differences on handling migration. After days of crisis talks, the four-party coalition fails to reach a deal. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Peru declared National Emergency due to spike in Guillain-Barre Syndrome cases

- Peru declared a **state of National emergency** amid a surge in patient suffering from **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)** which is a neurological condition characterized by an uncommon immune system mistakenly attack on nervous system. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bangladesh and India Launch Trade Transactions in Rupees

- Bangladesh and India** have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade. This **bilateral trade agreement** marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

What is Global South?

- The **Ukraine war** has led to the increased recognition of the term "**Global South**" as many influential countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have shown hesitation in aligning themselves with NATO. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Israel parliament approves bill that limits Supreme Court power

- Israel's parliament** in the first reading **adopted a controversial bill** that would **limit the oversight powers of the Supreme Court**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Narendra Modi's Visit to France and UAE

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is embarking on a visit to **France** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from July 13-15, aimed at deepening cooperation between the countries. With a focus on areas such as defence, security, energy, and global partnerships, PM Modi's visit holds

significance for strengthening bilateral ties. This article provides an overview of the key highlights and objectives of the visit. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asian-Pacific Money Laundering

- **UAE** or United Arab Emirates is participating with observer status in the plenary of the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a **Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB)**, taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Australia picks first female central bank head to shepherd through reform

- Australian Treasurer **Jim Chalmers** and Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced **Michele Bullock** would head the **Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)** for the next seven years, having chosen not to reappoint Governor Philip Lowe for a second term. ([Click here to read the article](#))

EIB keen to extend 1 bn euro for green hydrogen, RE projects in India

- **The European Investment Bank (EIB)** has announced its support for **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission** by offering a loan facility of up to **€1 billion**. The loan aims to assist India in developing its nascent green hydrogen ecosystem and renewable energy projects. EIB **Vice-President Kris Peeters** will confirm the lender's interest in providing the loan during his visit to India this week to attend G20 events. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN's TAC

- **Jakarta, Indonesia** – On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, **Saudi Arabia** has officially become the **51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)**. The accession signing ceremony took place on July 12, and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, on behalf of ASEAN, expressed her appreciation to Saudi Arabia for joining the treaty. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China launched world's first methane-fuelled space rocket

- A private Chinese company launched the World's first **methane-fuelled space rocket** into orbit named "**Zhuque-2**". ([Click here to read the article](#))

Typhoon Talim Disrupts Hong Kong

- **Talim** made landfall in Zhanjiang city, located in **Guangdong** province. China typically experiences its primary flood season from late July to early August. During this period, there is an upsurge in tropical cyclone and typhoon activity, particularly in the South China Sea and Western Pacific regions, with particular emphasis on the southern and southeastern coastal areas of the country. Hong Kong hoisted the Tropical Cyclone **Warning Signal No 8**, the **third-highest** warning level first time this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India, US to work on MDBs, climate action, inclusion

- **India** and the **United States** have recently agreed to enhance cooperation on various fronts, including strengthening multilateral development banks, promoting climate action, and facilitating energy transition. The Union Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, met with US Treasury Secretary, **Janet Yellen**, during a **G20** event to discuss their bilateral interests and explore new investment opportunities in renewable energy. The collaboration between the two nations spans economic, commercial, and technological issues, with a focus on supply chain strengthening and catalyzing clean energy transition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

North Korea tested its latest Hwasong-18

- North Korea recently tested its latest **intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) – Hwasong-18**. Hwasong-18 is a **three stage solid-fuelled** intercontinental ballistic missile (IBM) developed by North Korea. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project

- The external minister of India **S. Jaishankar** met his Myanmar counterpart **Tha Swe** to discuss the expeditions projects especially the **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway** and the challenges faced in the smooth implementation of the project. The total distance of this highway is approximately **1,400 km (845 miles)** which starts from **Moreh in Manipur**, India and passes through Myanmar and ends at **Mae Sot in Thailand**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Japan becomes second Quad partner to sign semiconductor pact with India

- In a significant move, **India and Japan** have solidified their partnership by signing an agreement to jointly develop the **semiconductor ecosystem**. The deal aims to bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry. This marks Japan as the second Quad partner, after the **United States**, to join hands with India in this endeavor. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Italy Honours Indian Army contribution in Second World War

- "The **"V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial"** was jointly unveiled by the Commune of Monotone in Italy and Italian military historians at Montone, Perugia, Italy. This memorial stands as a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the **Second World War**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India bans export of non-basmati white rice

- As per a notification issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade**, India, world's top rice exporter, has implemented a **ban** on all exports of "**non-basmati white rice**" to stabilize domestic prices. However, the government will permit the export of white rice to other nations upon request, subject to the fulfillment of their food security requirements and their government's formal approval. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Russia bans sex change and transgender marriages

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the **LGBTQ+** community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia's embattled **LGBTQ+ population**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

WHO identifies first case of MERS-CoV in UAE this year

- According to WHO, a first case of **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)** has been identified in a **28-year old male** from **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China names Pan Gongsheng to lead central bank, succeeding Yi Gang

- **Pan Gongsheng** was named **China's central bank governor on July 25** in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling Communist Party's once-a-decade change of power. Mr. Pan, a deputy central bank governor and veteran of China's state-owned banking industry, succeeds **Yi Gang**, an American-trained economist who held the post for five years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Bank of Israel joins the ICCR

- **On 13th July**, the **World Bank** issued an official approval for the **Bank of Israel to join the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR)**, consists of worldwide committees on credit reporting. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UNESCO wants a global smartphone ban in schools

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has urged to prohibit the use of smartphones in schools, asserting the need for a more **"human-centred vision" of education**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Cambodia's Hun Sen to resign after four decades and appoint son as PM

- Cambodia's Prime Minister, **Hun Sen** recently announced his decision to step down and appoint his eldest son, **Hun Manet**, as the new prime minister. Despite leaving the prime ministerial position, **Hun Sen** will continue to hold leadership roles as the head of the ruling **Cambodian People's Party** and as a member of the National Assembly. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Antarctica's sea ice is at its lowest extent ever recorded

- **Antarctica's sea ice** has been recorded low level of **about 14.2 million sq. km**, significantly below the **normal extent of 16.7 million sq. km for this time of year**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China's Use of Stapled Visas for Indian Athletes from Arunachal Pradesh: A Matter of Concern

- **China's** issuance of stapled visas to Indian citizens from **Arunachal Pradesh** has sparked controversy and diplomatic tensions between the two neighboring countries. This practice involves attaching a separate piece of paper to the visa instead of directly stamping it on the passport. The recent incident involving three Indian wushu players receiving stapled visas led to India's withdrawal of its wushu contingent from the Summer World University Games in Chengdu. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Scotsman James Skea elected new IPCC chair in Nairobi

- **James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea** of the **United Kingdom** was elected as the new chair of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, in **Nairobi, Kenya**. Skea beat his nearest rival, **Thelma Krug** of **Brazil**, in a run-off. He won 90 votes while Krug won 69. Krug, an IPCC vice-chair and former researcher at **Brazil's national space institute**, narrowly missed a chance to be the first female chair of the IPCC. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Current Affairs

India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor Starts Commercial Operation in Gujarat

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)** in **Gujarat** has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi Inaugurates Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Andhra Pradesh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the **Sai Hira Global Convention Centre** in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**. The grand event witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world. The Convention Centre, constructed by the **Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust**, stands as a testament to the vision of

promoting cultural exchange, spirituality, and global harmony. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India handed over torch of Startup 20 to Brazil

- The **Startup20 Shikhar Summit**, organized by the **Startup20 Engagement Group** under the **India G20 Presidency**, concluded successfully in **Gurugram**. This two-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amit Shah lays foundation stone of the first cooperative-run Sainik School

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony of **Shri Motibhai R. Chaudhary Sagar Sainik School** in **Boriyavi village of Mehsana, Gujarat** marked a significant milestone in the education sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 approved by the Cabinet

- The **Union Government** approved the draft **Digital Personal Data Bill** and come before Parliament in the monsoon season. Sources in the government said the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** received and considered 21,666 suggestions to the draft bill that have been circulated for comments in **November, 2022**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Joins Champions Group of Global Crisis Response Group

- India has joined the Champions Group of the **Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)** at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General. The GCRG was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM unveils 29 projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently unveiled a series of development projects worth **Rs 12,100** crores in its parliamentary constituency, **Varanasi**. These initiatives, spanning various sectors, reflect the government's focus on transforming the city and fostering growth in key areas such as infrastructure, education, and more. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India Permits Potato Imports from Bhutan Till June 2024

- The DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) has issued a notification declaring that the import of **potatoes** from **Bhutan** will continue without the need for an import license until **June 30, 2024**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Law University Delhi launches 'Eklavya'

- National Law University (NLU), Delhi**, has recently introduced a pioneering academic initiative called 'Eklavya' – a Research Affiliate programme. This innovative scheme aims to strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration and draw upon the expertise and diverse perspectives of individuals without traditional law degrees. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Nari Adalats: Women-Only Courts for Alternative Dispute Resolution

- The Indian government is launching a groundbreaking initiative known as **Nari Adalats**, which are women-only courts established at the village level. These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system. By providing a platform for resolution outside of the traditional **judicial system**, the government aims to empower women and promote gender justice. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi to be guest of honour for French military parade

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France's **Bastille Day** celebrations, which will take place on **July 14**. The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 Explained

- A Parliamentary committee has given a go-ahead to the **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023** without objections. The bill proposes amendments to the **Forest Conservation Act 1980** and aims to exempt certain forest lands from legal protection. The bill is expected to be tabled during the monsoon session of the Parliament. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SECTION 144 IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

- Delhi police has imposed **Section 144 CrPC in the flood prone areas** as the **water level** in the Yamuna River was recorded at **207.55 metres**, which is the highest ever. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi to inaugurate Port Blair airport terminal building

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to virtually inaugurate the new integrated terminal building of **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in Port Blair on July 18 at 10:30 am via video conferencing. The event will witness the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V K Singh, and other senior officials attending the ceremony in person. ([Click here to read the article](#))

NITI Aayog unveils TCRM Matrix Framework to Revolutionize Technology Assessment and drive Innovation in India

- New Delhi:** In a groundbreaking move, **NITI Aayog**, India's premier policy think tank, introduced the **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix)** framework. Aimed at transforming technology assessment, the framework seeks to ignite innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Launch of 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' by Amit Shah

- Shri **Amit Shah**, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, officially inaugurated the CRCS – Sahara Refund Portal (<https://mocrefund.crccs.gov.in/>) in New Delhi. This user-friendly portal has been specifically designed to facilitate genuine depositors of Cooperative Societies of **Sahara Group**, including Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited, and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, to submit their claims conveniently. ([Click here to read the article](#))

INDIA coalition — Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance

- The leaders of 26 Opposition political parties from across India have united to create the INDIA coalition, which stands for the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance**. The main objective of this alliance is to challenge the ruling **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** led by the BJP in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha election. ([Click here to read the article](#))

IRCTC offers ₹20 meal menu for general category passengers

- **Indian Railway** has taken an effective initiative to provide the passengers of the general coaches with the economic meal at an affordable price of **Rs.20 and snacks would cost Rs. 50 with glasses of water of 200ml at affordable prices**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India donates \$1 million to promote Hindi at UN

- **India** has donated **\$1 million** to the United Nations to support the promotion of the Hindi language. **Melissa Fleming**, the Global Communications under-secretary-general, expressed gratitude to **@IndiaUNNewYork** and **@ruchirakamboj** for their generous investment in the **@UNinHindi service**, aimed at delivering UN news and stories to Hindi-speaking audiences in India and beyond. ([Click here to read the article](#))

New guidelines for designation of senior advocates in the SC

- **The Supreme Court** has issued new guidelines for designating senior advocates, replacing the existing 2017 guidelines. Under the new regulations, lawyers with a minimum of **10 years** of standing and **aged 45 years or above** are eligible to apply. The applications will be reviewed by a committee comprising the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, two senior most judges, the **Attorney General**, and a bar representative, who will meet twice a year to assess the candidates. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India supports U.N. on Black Sea initiative

- India has thrown its weight behind the **United Nations'** efforts to continue the **Black Sea Grain** initiative and has called for a swift resolution to the impasse. The Black Sea Initiative holds significant importance for Ukraine's agricultural sector, known as **"Europe's breadbasket,"** which faces disruptions due to the Russian invasion in February 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ground water law implemented in 21 states and union territories

- On **July 20, 2023**, the **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti** revealed that **21 states and union territories** in India have successfully implemented the **Ground Water Act**. This legislation includes a crucial provision for rainwater harvesting, aimed at promoting sustainable water management. In response to a question in the **Lok Sabha**, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, **Bishweshwar Tudu**, informed that the ministry has prepared a model bill to assist all states and union territories in enacting suitable groundwater laws. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PFC becomes first member from India to join Asia Transition Finance Study Group

- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd(PFC)** has achieved a milestone by becoming the **first** Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), an initiative spearheaded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries. By becoming a part of this initiative, PFC will not only contribute India's perspective but also collaborate on devising policy considerations to facilitate efficient energy transition financing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Over 5 Crore MGNREGA Job Cards Deleted in 2022-23

- The Lok Sabha was informed about the significant increase in the number of **MGNREGA** job card deletions in the financial year 2022-23 compared to the previous year. Rural Development Minister **Giriraj Singh** provided a written reply outlining the reasons for the deletions, which included issues like fake job cards, duplicates, people opting out, relocations, and deaths. ([Click here to read the article](#))

What is no-confidence motion?

- In the Lok Sabha, both the Congress party and **K Chandrashekar Rao's Bharat Rashtra Samithi (TRS)** separately submitted notices for a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. The motion was related to the Manipur issue. Subsequently, the no-confidence motion was accepted by the Speaker. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amit Shah inaugurates centralised security control centre for 66 airports under CISF cover

- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, officially inaugurated a centralized **Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC)** established by the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** in New Delhi. The primary objective behind this initiative is to effectively address the prevailing security challenges. The ASCC will be responsible for monitoring all potential threats and social media activity pertaining to the **66 civil airports** currently under the CISF's security coverage. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Phangnon Konyak becomes first woman MP from Nagaland to preside over Rajya Sabha

- **S Phangnon Konyak**, a distinguished **BJP** leader and Nagaland's first female Rajya Sabha MP, achieved a historic feat as she took on the role of presiding over the Rajya Sabha. This remarkable milestone in her political journey marks her as the **first woman** from Nagaland to assume this prestigious position. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India launched international Big Cat Alliance for conserving 7 big cats

- **India** has recently launched the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM inaugurates International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre

- On a recent occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the newly revamped **Pragati Maidan** complex in Delhi, unveiling the impressive International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), also known as **'Bharat Mandapam.'** The IECC is set to become the largest conference and exhibition site in India and will be the venue for the upcoming **G-20 Summit** in September. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bill Proposed to Digitize Birth Records and Link Aadhaar for Registration

- The Union Home Ministry has introduced a new Bill to amend the **Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969** in the ongoing session of Parliament. The proposed amendments seek to digitize birth records and make Aadhaar mandatory for **birth and death registration**. The key objective is to streamline documentation processes, ensure accurate record-keeping, and facilitate various government services. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi urges Sri Lanka President to implement 13th Amendment

- During the Sri Lanka President's visit to India, Indian PM expressed his hope to implement **13th Amendment to Sri Lanka Constitution** which flows from the **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord 1987**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to be launched in run-up to Independence Day

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the launch of **"Meri Mati Mera Desh"** campaign in run-up to Independence Day to **honor the martyred bravehearts** of the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy

- The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023**, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the **ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition in Chennai

- Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, in line with India's G20 Presidency, launched the **Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** in Chennai. The coalition aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices worldwide, bringing together companies from various sectors and countries. The event took place during the G20's Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States Current Affairs

NCP Leader Ajit Pawar Sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

- Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **Ajit Pawar**, who took oath as the **Deputy chief minister of Maharashtra** after joining the Eknath Shinde-led government, is the son of Sharad Pawar's elder brother Anantrao. He made his first foray into politics by being elected to the board of a sugar cooperative in 1982. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tamil Nadu regained the top spot in electronic exports in India

- In a significant achievement, **Tamil Nadu** has reclaimed its position as the leader in electronic exports in India. The state's electronic exports, valued at USD 5.37 billion in the

2022-23 financial year, now account for a 23% share in the electronics market. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' scheme

- Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh has taken a significant step towards promoting education and empowering mothers through the implementation of the **Jagananna Amma Vodi** scheme. By releasing a substantial amount of **₹6,392 crore**, the government is demonstrating its commitment to providing quality education for all. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's first 'Police Drone Unit' launched in Chennai

- **The Greater Chennai City Police (GCP) has launched 'Police Drone Unit'** for aerial surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities. The project, which costs approximately **Rs 3.6 crore** according a press release by the GCP, was inaugurated by outgoing Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, in the presence of Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwai at Besant Avenue, Adyar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bihar Surpasses Tamil Nadu as State with Highest Microlending Borrowings

- **Bihar** has overtaken **Tamil Nadu** to become the state with the highest **microlending borrowings in India** as of March 2023, according to a report released. The report, published by credit information company Crif High Mark, highlighted Bihar's impressive growth with a **13.5 percent** increase in the gross lending portfolio during the March quarter compared to the previous quarter. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indore Municipal Corporation to be the first urban body to get EPR credit

- **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh, India**, has made history by becoming the **first** urban body in the country to receive Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CMV and ToMV virus hit tomato crop in Maharashtra and Karnataka

- **Tomato farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka** have attributed the decline in their yields earlier this year to two distinct viruses. Those in Maharashtra reported that their tomato crops were adversely affected by the **cucumber mosaic virus (CMV)**, whereas growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states attributed their losses to the **tomato mosaic virus (ToMV)**. In the past three years, farmers cultivating tomatoes have observed a rise in the prevalence of these two viruses, resulting in varying degrees of crop damage, ranging from partial to total loss. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gujarat government doubles insurance cover

- The state government of **Gujarat** has taken a significant step towards improving healthcare access for its citizens by doubling the insurance cover under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**. Starting from the 11th of July, beneficiaries of PMJAY in Gujarat will now receive an insurance cover of **Rs 10 lakhs**, a twofold rise from the previous coverage of Rs 5 lakhs. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gujarat CM Launches Pilot Project of 'Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojana' in State

- **Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister of State for communications Devusinh Chauhan** on July 8 launched the '**Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojna**' an accident insurance scheme, from **Nadia of Kheda district in Gujarat**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ker Puja celebrations 2023

- **Ker Puja** is an annual festival celebrated in the state of **Tripura, India**. During this festival, Prime Minister Modi extended his wishes for happiness, unity, good health, and prosperity to the people of Tripura. ([Click here to read the article](#))

UP govt approves two thermal power projects with NTPC

- **The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has given its approval for the construction of **two "Obra D"** thermal power projects in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. These projects, with a capacity of **800MW** each, aim to address the rising power demand and provide cheaper electricity to the people of the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India gets its 36th and Tamil Nadu its first flying training school

- India's aviation education landscape has witnessed a significant boost with the recent approval of the **first** Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in **Tamil Nadu** by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. **EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd** has been granted permission to operate from Salem Airport, marking a significant milestone for aspiring pilots in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Telangana High Court Declares Telangana Eunuchs Act Unconstitutional: A Victory for Transgender Rights

- The **Telangana High Court** recently made a landmark judgment, declaring the Telangana Eunuchs Act as unconstitutional. The Act, which had been in place since 1919, was deemed discriminatory and a violation of the human rights of the transgender community. The court's decision has significant implications for the recognition and protection of transgender rights in Telangana. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kui language inclusion in 8th schedule gets approval of Odisha govt

- The **Odisha state cabinet** gave an approval to a proposal which recommended the inclusion of the **Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India**. The cabinet is of opinion that the inclusion of language to 8th schedule will not have any financial implications. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Numaligarh Refinery in Assam upgraded to 'Schedule A' category enterprise

- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has established itself as one of the **top 20** CPSEs in India in terms of both sales revenue and profitability. It has gained widespread recognition as a high-performing refinery in the country, setting industry benchmarks for distillate production, specific energy usage, and gross refining profit. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Authoor betel leaves from Tamil Nadu receives GI certificate

- The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum have awarded a **Geographical Indication (GI)** certificate to the **Authoor betel leaves** from Thoothukudi district in **Tamil Nadu**. The certificate is granted in the name of **Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam**. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Authoor betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Project Gajah Kotha Launched in Assam

- In an effort to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue, **Assam** has launched the "**Gajah Kotha**" campaign, involving more than 1,200 individuals and promoting coexistence. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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PM MITRA Park launched in Amravati, Maharashtra

- The **Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)**, the Maharashtra government, and the Indian Ministry of Textiles joined hands by signing a memorandum of understanding to establish the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) in **Amravati, Maharashtra**. The inauguration of the PM MITRA mega textile park took place with the aim of attracting an investment of ₹10,000 crore and creating 300,000 job opportunities. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

- The local graziers of the Tawang region near Bumla Pass, **Arunachal Pradesh**, celebrated the **Chachin grazing festival** on July 14-15. The two-day event held at Chachin saw enthusiastic participation from Graziers from all over the Tawang region. The event was attended by nearly 100 graziers and their herd of yaks numbering more than 400. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gomti River declared as a "non perennial river"

- Water experts and river rights activists have criticized a government order (GO) issued by the irrigation department of the **Uttar Pradesh** government on September 3, 2020 which declared the **Gomti river** as a "non-perennial river". ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gujarat to get country's 1st Satellite Network Portal Site

- To set up a 'Satellite Network Portal Site', Gujarat signed a MoU on **19th July** with London-Based Company, **OneWeb Company** and the **Department of Science and Technology**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rajasthan Assembly passes Bills on minimum income

- The **Rajasthan Assembly** passed '**The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023**,' aiming to provide a guarantee of wages or pension to the entire adult population in the state. The bill is hailed as "**incomparable and historic**" by Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Shanti Dhariwal**, as it promises employment guarantee for **125 days every year** and a minimum pension of **Rs 1,000 per month** to all families, including those in urban and rural areas. The pension will also see an annual automatic increase of **15 percent**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Naveen Patnaik Becomes 2nd Longest-Serving CM in Indian History

- **Naveen Patnaik of Odisha** has become the second longest serving chief minister of a state in India with a tenure of 23 years and 139 days on Sunday, surpassing the record of former West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu. Patnaik, the five-time Chief Minister of Odisha, took charge on March 5, 2000, and has been holding the post for the last **23 years and 139 days**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mukhya Mantri Khet Suraksha Yojana to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh

- The Agriculture Department of **Uttar Pradesh** is gearing up to implement the **Mukhya Mantri Khet Suraksha Yojana**, intending to uplift the welfare of farmers across the entire state. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Odisha cabinet approves Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the **Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana**, a scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rajasthan tables Bill to guarantee social security to gig workers

- The Rajasthan government presented the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023, becoming the **first** state in India to ensure social security assurance for gig workers. As part of this initiative, the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be established, enabling **gig workers** in the state to register with all the state's aggregators. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Nagaland officially declared as Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State

- **Nagaland** has been officially declared as a **Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State**. The declaration is made following the detection of the Lumpy skin disease in four districts of the state, under The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009. ([Click here to read the article](#))

First-ever transgender birth certificate issued to Noor Shekhawat in Rajasthan

- **Noor Shekhawat** became the first transgender person in **Rajasthan** to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender. In her old birth certificate, her gender was marked as male. Shekhawat was handed her new birth certificate by municipal and state government officials. She runs an NGO for the transgender community and also wants to complete her graduation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bengaluru Becomes 1st Indian City to Join World Cities Culture Forum

- **Bengaluru**, the capital of Karnataka became the first Indian city to be part of the **World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)**, a global network of cities that share research and intelligence to explore the role of culture in future prosperity. Bengaluru became the 41st city to join the forum and the network currently includes 40 cities across six continents. **The forum includes cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's first online gaming academy in MP

- **Madhya Pradesh** is set to launch its first online gaming industry named "**MP State Esports Academy**" to provide the young **esports player** an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ratan Tata to get state's first Udyog Ratna Award

- The **Maharashtra Government** will confer Tata group Chairman **Ratan Tata** with the first prestigious **Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year**, state industries minister Uday Samant announced in the State Legislative Assembly. ([Click here to read the article](#))

'CM Command Centre' launched in Uttar Pradesh for evaluating governance

- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** launched **Command Centre and CM Dashboard** to ensure needy and deserving have access to the benefits of the government schemes and services. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurates new building of Assam Legislative Assembly

- **Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla** inaugurated new building of **Assam Legislative Assembly** on **30th July** in **Guhawati** in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committees

'Mission Vatsalya' scheme for rape victims minor girls

- The Central Government has started a new relief scheme under the '**Mission Vatsalya**' scheme in relation to the abandonment of the families of minor girls who are victims of rape when they become pregnant. ([Click here to read the article](#))

New Swarnima Scheme For Women

- The **Swarnima Scheme** is a term loan scheme introduced by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes. The scheme aims to empower women by offering social and financial security through term loans. Implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and carried out by State Channelising Agencies (SCAs), the scheme facilitates access to loans of up to ₹2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ministry of Home Affairs Launches Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in States

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the "**Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States**" with a significant allocation of **Rs. 5,000 Crore**. This scheme was announced by Union Home Minister and

Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah during a meeting with Ministers of Disaster Management of the States/Union Territories in New Delhi on June 13, 2023. The objective of the scheme is to strengthen fire services across the country and make India disaster-resilient. ([Click here to read the article](#))

PM Modi launches National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the **National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission(NSCAEM) 2047** in Shahdol, **Madhya Pradesh**. The mission aims to tackle the challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population in India. PM Modi also unveiled a portal and released guidelines for disease management, along with different monitoring modules. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi: Benefits & Registration

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme** is a Centre sector Scheme **launched on 1 December, 2018** by the **department of agriculture and farmers welfare** for the benefits of the small and marginal farmers **with the aim to provide Rs.6,000 per year** given in three instalments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

43 new implementing partners empanelled under SAMARTH Scheme

- According to the Textile Ministry, 43 new implementing partners empanelled under **SAMARTH schemes** with an additional training target of **75,000 beneficiaries** and **5% increment** in support to implementing partners. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Govt doubles income slab for EWS under PMAY

- The Centre has recently made a significant change to the income criteria for individuals falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U)** in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**. The income threshold has been raised from **Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh**, aiming to expand eligibility and accessibility to affordable housing. This article explores the impact of this decision and its implications for housing applicants in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

- **Southern Railway** has taken a significant step towards enhancing the facilities at railway stations by identifying **90 stations** for development under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**. The scheme aims to prepare master plans for these stations and implement them in a phased manner. ([Click here to read the article](#))

21% unorganised workers exit PM pension scheme

- **The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) scheme**, a pension scheme for unorganised workers in India, has witnessed a significant number of subscribers leaving the program in less than six months. This trend has raised concerns about the scheme’s viability and sustainability. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Loans Witness 23% Disbursal Increase in Q1 FY24

- The disbursal of loans under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** in India has seen a significant increase, reaching ₹81,597 crore in the first quarter of FY24. This marks a notable 23% growth compared to ₹62,650 crore disbursed in the same quarter last year. The surge in disbursals can be attributed to the rising demand for loans in the **Tarun category** and other factors. It is the highest-ever increase in disbursals during the first quarter since the launch of the scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DGFT implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme

- **The Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, through the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, oversees the Advance Authorisation Scheme, enabling duty-free import of inputs for export purposes. The scheme’s eligibility is determined by Sector-specific Norms Committees, evaluating input-output norms. To enhance efficiency and streamline the norms fixation process, the DGFT has made significant advancements to the Advance Authorisation and Norms Fixation Workflow. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme: Benefits, Registration Started

- Registration for Gruha Lakshmi starts on **19th July 2023**, an effective scheme launched by the **Karnataka Government** to provide financial assistance to women heads of a household. The beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi Yojana would be able to register for free without being lured by any middleman. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Over 1 Lakh Houses Under PMAY-G Diverted to UP

- The Union Government has diverted the allocation of **1.44 lakh houses** under **PMAY-G** from about **24 States** and **UTs** to U.P. as they missed the deadline **30 June 2023** to sanction them. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CM Baghel launched new rural housing scheme

- **CM Bhupesh Baghel** announced the launching of New Rural Housing Scheme named **Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna** on **19th July** to provide free housing facility to the poor. ([Click here to read the article](#))

First ever “Credit Guarantee Scheme” for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

- The Indian government has introduced a pioneering **“Credit Guarantee Scheme”** for the **Livestock Sector** aimed at revitalizing the rural economy and empowering **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CM Sukhu launched scheme to economically empower women

- CM of Himachal Pradesh announced the launching of a collateral-free loan scheme, namely **Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna** to economically empower women. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C to a number of Pacific Island countries

- India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C initiative operated by ISA, to a number of Pacific Island countries. **Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C)** is one of the initiative of **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates registration camp for applicants to avail Rs 1,000 monthly assistance scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, **M K Stalin** has inaugurated a camp on **24th July** to facilitate the registration of applicants to avail the Rs.1,000 monthly assistance scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Why PM DevINE scheme in news?

- Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme** was announced as a new Central Sector Scheme. This scheme was 100% funded by Central Government in the Union Budget of 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs.1500 crore. PM-DevINE scheme got approval by the Cabinet on 12th October 2022 with an overall outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore** for the 4 years period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Why 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' Scheme in News?

- Ministry of Cooperation** has taken various initiatives in order to envision 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi' scheme, strengthening the cooperation movement in the country, deepening its reach to the grassroots and to enhance the performance, productivity and profitability of cooperative societies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) umbrella scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has been given its nod for the continuation of the **umbrella scheme**

"Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" for the next finance cycle of five years (2021-2026). The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** is implementing the **ACROSS scheme** through its units, namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Gujarat govt completes SAUNI Yojana

- Under the **SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) scheme**, the Government of Gujarat has successfully completed the construction of Package 8 and Package 9 of **Link-3**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and dedicate this significant project to the people of Saurashtra in the near future. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Why Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in news?

- Minister of State for health S.P. Singh Baghel** told about the target achievement of **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna** which has resulted in huge out-of-pocket expenditure savings related to hospitalisations for the targeted beneficiaries. Minister of State for health stated a **total of 3.14 crore beneficiaries are benefitted** under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna **during the last two years**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

NADA India signs MoU with SARADO in New Delhi

- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India** and the South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) joined forces through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in anti-doping efforts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of India and the Public Service Division of the Republic of **Singapore** recently signed a protocol document to extend their memorandum of understanding for five more years until 2028. The MoU encompasses various areas of cooperation aimed at promoting administrative reforms, public sector transformation, and capacity building. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Navantia, L&T sign pact to jointly bid for Navy's P75 (I) submarine programme

- Spain's Navantia, Larsen & Toubro** signed a Teaming Agreement in the premises of **Spanish Embassy on July 10**, with the purpose of submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's **prestigious Project-75 (India) submarine program**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Dell joins Intel to launch AI skills lab in India

- Dell Technologies** and **Intel** have joined forces to establish an **artificial intelligence (AI) lab** in **Telangana** institute. The partnership aims to bridge the digital skills gap and empower students at **Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology** in **Telangana** by integrating Intel's '**AI for Youth**' program into their curriculum. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Max Life Insurance Partners With DCB Bank to Offer Comprehensive Range of Life Insurance Solutions

- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has announced a strategic partnership with **DCB Bank Ltd.**, a new-generation private sector bank in India. The collaboration aims to provide a diverse range of life insurance products to DCB Bank's customers, including term, savings, and retirement plans, enabling them to secure their financial future and expand their investment portfolio. ([Click here to read the article](#))

CAIT and Meta expand 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' partnership

- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** and **Meta**, the parent company of **Facebook**, have announced the expansion of their '**WhatsApp Se Wyapaar**' program. The

initiative aims to digitally train and upskill **10 million** local traders using the **WhatsApp Business App**, with the goal of empowering small enterprises across India. This collaboration comes as a continuation of Meta’s commitment to upskill one million traders on the WhatsApp Business App, as announced in **June**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India, ADB sign \$295 million loan to upgrade state highways in Bihar

- The Indian government and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have joined hands once again to enhance infrastructure in **Bihar**. Through a \$295-million loan, the project aims to upgrade approximately **265 km of state highways in Bihar**, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient designs and road safety measures. ([Click here to read the article](#))

New Appointments: International

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by nine months	Brajendra Navnit’s
2.	Solicitor General of India	Tushar Mehta
3.	Judges of the Supreme Court	Ujjal Bhuyan
4.	Judges of the Supreme Court	S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti
5.	Member in the Board of International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)	Pramod Rao
6.	Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)	Manoj Yadava
7.	25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).	Rakesh Pal
8.	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court	Justice Alok Aradhe
9.	38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.	, Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai
10.	Chief justice of Bombay High Court	Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
11.	Chief justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court	Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur
12.	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL),	P M Prasad
13.	State Bank of India appoints as Chief Financial Officer	Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti
14.	president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).	Aadhav Arjuna
15.	chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)	B. Neeraja Prabhakar
16.	Asics India Private Limited appoints as its new brand ambassador	Shraddha Kapoor
17.	Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)	B.Neeraja Prabhakar
18.	President of the NAREDCO Delhi Chapter	Harshvardhan Bansal
19.	Google government affairs executive in India	Sreenivasa Reddy
20.	Lloyds Banking Group appoints the chief executive officer and managing director	Sirisha Voruganti
21.	Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) of India appoints as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Krishan Mishra ,
22.	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appoints as executive director	P. Vasudevan
23.	ITC Ltd reappoints Chairman and Managing Director	Sanjiv Puri
24.	Cement Manufacturers’ Association (CMA) President	Neeraj Akhoury
25.	Chief at SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS).	Rajay Kumar Sinha
26.	Managing Director & CEO of Invest India	Ms. Nivruti Rai
27.	Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Chief Executive Officer	Adrian Mardell
28.	Chairman-elect of the Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)	S. Vincent Rajkumar
29.	Noida Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Lokesh M
30.	Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Tata Steel	T V Narendran
31.	Chairman of Asian Paints’ board of directors	R Seshasayee

32	Director of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED)	SK Mishra
33	Russion energy giant Rosneft as its board member	Govind Kottis Satish
34	Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	K Rajaraman
35	President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)	Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah
36	Chairman & Managing Director at Engineering Projects India Ltd (EPIL)	Shivendra Nath
37	Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)	Nisha Biswal
38	The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) new director	Prof Ganesan Kannabiran

Ranks and Reports News

Union Minister Kapil Moreshwar Patil Releases Report on Panchayat Development Index

- Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri **Kapil Moreshwar Patil**, released the Report on Panchayat Development Index (PDI) at a National Workshop on PDI. The workshop saw the participation of over 250 stakeholders, including senior government officials, ministry representatives, and key stakeholders in the field. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

FDI in Developing Asia Remains Flat at \$662 Billion in 2022

- The **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023** reveals that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to developing Asia remained unchanged at **\$662 billion** in 2022 compared to the previous year. However, the report highlights significant variations among countries in the region. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

WMO Revives Ozone-UV Bulletin After 7 Years, Shows Steady Recovery of Ozone Layer

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published an updated bulletin on the ozone layer, signaling promising signs of recovery. After a seven-year hiatus, the WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch bulletin has returned to provide the latest information on stratospheric ozone and ultraviolet radiation worldwide. The recovery of the **ozone layer** is crucial for safeguarding life on Earth from harmful **UV radiation** and ensuring the health of ecosystems. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India rises in digital and sustainable trade facilitation rankings, scores 100% on transparency

- India has achieved significant progress in digital and sustainable trade facilitation, according to the latest global survey conducted by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)**. The survey evaluates trade facilitation measures in over 140 economies, and India has emerged as a leading player, with a score of 93.55% in 2023 compared to 90.32% in 2021. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

4 Indian-origin biz leaders in 2023 Forbes' 100 richest self-made women list

- The **Forbes 2023 list of America's 100** most successful women is released. As many as four Indian-origin women **Jayshree Ullal, Indira Nooyi, Neha Narkhede, and Neerja Sethi** have made it to this coveted list of America's 100 richest self-made women. Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have made it to the Forbes list of America's 100 most successful self-made women, with a combined net worth of a whopping USD 4.06 billion. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

UN: Global Public Debt Hit \$92 Trillion in 2022

- A recent United Nations report titled **"A World of Debt"** highlights the severity of the global debt crisis, urging immediate action to address the issue. The report reveals that global public debt reached an all-time high of **\$92 trillion in 2022**, with 30% of that burden falling on developing nations. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns that 52 countries, nearly 40% of the developing world, are in serious debt trouble, adversely affecting their ability to invest in crucial sectors like education and healthcare. The UN emphasizes the need for multilateral efforts to combat the crisis. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

The first GSI survey of the Siachen

- In **June, 1958**, the First Geological Survey of India (**GSI**) of the **Siachen** took place by an Indian geologist, **V.K. Raina**. It is just northeast of the point **NJ9842** where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

QS ranking on world's best cities for students

- **Mumbai** has been ranked as the best Indian city for students in the **QS Best Student Cities 2024 ranking**. However, its global ranking dropped to **118**, indicating a decline from the previous year's position. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Only 1% women live in countries with high gender parity, female empowerment: UN report

- A new global report, launched by **UN Women** and **UNDP** at the **Women Deliver Conference**, highlights the challenges

in achieving gender parity and women’s empowerment worldwide. The report introduces two indices – **Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI)** and **Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI)** – as tools to assess progress in women’s human development. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports Current Affairs

Max Verstappen wins Austrian GP 2023

- **Max Verstappen**, the reigning Formula One champion, continued his impressive performance by securing a commanding victory at the **Austrian Grand Prix 2023**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

132nd Durand Cup tournament to be organized in Kolkata

- The **132nd** edition of the **Durand Cup**, India’s oldest football tournament is scheduled to commence at Kolkata from 03 August to 03 September 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lallianzuala Chhangte wins AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year award for 2022-23

- Indian football team midfielder **Lallianzuala Chhangte** was named the **AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year for 2022-23** while **Manisha Kalyan** won her second consecutive Women’s Footballer of the Year award. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Cricketer Ajit Agarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men’s Selection Committee

- **The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI)** has appointed **Ajit Agarkar** as the chairman of the **Senior Men’s Cricket Selection Committee**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal announces retirement

- **Bangladesh** one-day captain **Tamim Iqbal** announced his shock retirement from international cricket, three months before the team begins its ODI World Cup campaign in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Netherlands men team wins second FIH Hockey Pro League title

- **Netherlands** men team finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the **FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season**. With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men’s competition to win a second title, successfully defending their first title, won in the competition last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Max Verstappen Claims Victory at British Grand Prix 2023

- **Max Verstappen** reeled off his sixth straight wins **British Grand Prix** with **Lando Norris** for McLaren in second. Mercedes’ **Lewis Hamilton** completed the Silverstone podium. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lakshya Sen wins 58th Canada Open 2023

- **Lakshya Sen** clinched the men’s singles title at the **58th** Canada Open 2023. In an exhilarating final match, Sen defeated **Li Shi Feng**, the reigning All England champion, in

straight games. This remarkable victory marks Sen’s **second** BWF World Tour title and adds another prestigious accolade to his growing list of accomplishments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

England beats Spain to win dramatic Under-21 Euro final

- **England** emerged victorious in the Under-21 European Championship final against **Spain** in **Georgia**, securing their first title since 1984. 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship Best player: **Anthony Gordon**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India wins 34th International Biology Olympiad

- In a remarkable achievement, India has emerged as the overall winner at the **34th** International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Al Ain, **UAE** from 2-11 July. The Indian student team clinched an unprecedented all-gold performance, securing the top position on the medals tally for the first time. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India bags 11 medals in World Archery Youth Championships, 2023

- **India** has secured the **second** position with an impressive haul of **11** medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze in the recently concluded biannual event, 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in **Limerick, Ireland**. Parth Salunkhe, a rising Indian archer created history by becoming the first Indian male archer to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Australia pull out as Commonwealth Games 2026 host

- **Australia’s Victoria state** has withdrawn as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games** because of a massive increase in the projected cost of staging the multi-sports event. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said his government last year agreed to host the next edition of the quadrennial event “but not at any cost.” ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ajeet Singh clinches gold medal in Para Athletics Championships in Paris

- The Charlety Stadium in **Paris** hosted the **Para Athletics World Championships** from 8 to 17 July, attracting a diverse participation of more than 1200 athletes from 107 nations. **Ajeet Singh** displayed his exceptional prowess in the finals of the Men's javelin throw F46 category, emerging as the champion and claiming the gold medal. With a remarkable throw measuring **65.41 meters**, he secured the **top spot** in the competition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Prithviraj Tondaiman wins bronze in trap in Shotgun World Cup

- India's lone medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, **Italy** came from **Prithviraj Tondaiman**, who clinched the **bronze medal** in the **trap event**. In the final round, Prithviraj secured the **third** position with a total of 34 points which marked his second individual ISSF World Cup medal, as he had previously won a bronze in Doha back in March. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian contingent won 27 medals at 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023

- India achieved a historic milestone at the recently concluded **25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023** in Bangkok, **Thailand**. The Championship took place from July 12 to 16. With an impressive tally of 27 medals, including **six gold**, 12 silver, and nine bronze, India secured the **third** position overall, following China and Japan. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Satwik 'smashes' Guinness world record with fastest badminton hit

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**, achieved the remarkable feat of setting a new Guinness world record for the fastest hit by a male player in badminton in the ongoing Korea Open 2023. His smash reached an astonishing speed of **565 km/h**, surpassing the decade-long record set in May 2013 by **Malaysian** player Tan Boon Heong, who had previously recorded a speed of 493 km/h with his smash. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DD Sports secures Television rights for FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- DD Sports has partnered with 1Stadia to broadcast the highly anticipated **9th** edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup, bringing joy and excitement to fans. The tournament, starting on July 20, 2023, will mark the inaugural occasion when the World Cup is co-hosted by two countries, namely **Australia** and **New Zealand**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian GM Praggnanandhaa wins Super GM chess tournament in Hungary

- R Praggnanandhaa**, the 17-year-old Indian Grandmaster, achieved a remarkable triumph in the Super GM chess tournament 2023, scoring an impressive 6.5 points. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Virat Kohli becomes 10th cricketer to make 500 international appearances

- Indian cricketing legend **Virat Kohli** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **10th cricketer in history** to

make **500 international appearances**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Duleep Trophy: A decade long wait ends for South Zone

- South Zone** outclassed **West Zone** to win the **Duleep Trophy** with a 75-run victory at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. In pursuit of a target of 298 runs, West Zone, who resumed their innings at 182/5 on the final day, were eventually bowled out for 222. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shah Rukh Khan appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023

- Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **ICC World Cup 2023**. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan launched the World Cup 2023 campaign 'It takes one day' in his iconic voiceover. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Virat Kohli becomes 5th highest run-scorer in international cricket

- Star India batter **Virat Kohli** has surpassed South Africa's **Jacques Kallis** to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket history. Kohli achieved this upward movement in the batting charts during India's second Test against West Indies at Port of Spain. On the first day of the match, which is also his **500th international game**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Stuart Broad, the second fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket

- England's **Stuart Broad** has become the second pace bowler to take **600 wickets in Test cricket**. The 36 year cricketer reached the mark by removing Australia's Travis Head on day one of the fourth Ashes Test at Old Trafford. England team-mate James Anderson is the only other quick bowler to achieve the feat. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Hungarian GP: Verstappen hands Red Bull record 12th straight win

- Max Verstappen** won the **Hungarian GP** at the Hungaroring, by a comfortable 33.731 secs margin over **McLaren's Lando Norris**. Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings grows to an even more gargantuan 110 points, and the Dutchman seems firmly on course to pick up a second world championship in a row. Teammate Perez also furthered his advantage over third place man Fernando Alonso, who finished a disappointing ninth in Hungary. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Satwik-Chirag win Korea Open for year's fourth title

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** secured their **fourth** championship this year as they emerged triumphant in the men's doubles final at the Korea Open. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lahiru Thirimanne announces retirement from international cricket

- Sri Lanka batter **Lahiru Thirimanne** has announced his retirement from international cricket after a 13-year

career. The 33-year-old top-order batter made his international debut in 2010 and went on to represent Sri Lanka in 44 Tests, 127 ODIs, and 26 T20Is. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shubhankar Sharma records best finish by an Indian in The 2023 Open golf Championship

- **Shubhankar Sharma** achieved a remarkable feat, securing the best result ever by an Indian golfer at the Open At the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, **England**. He finished in a tied-**eighth** position alongside Cameron Young from USA. Sharma displayed his skill and determination, carding an impressive 68-71-70-70 to finish just five strokes behind the leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Pakistan A Wins ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023

- **Pakistan A** cricket team won **Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023** by defeating **India A** in the finals at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This marks Pakistan's second consecutive win in the tournament, previously it won the cup in the 2019 finals against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard has won 110th edition of the Tour de France

- Denmark's **Jonas Vingegaard** of the Jumbo-Visma, Dutch professional bicycle racing team, has won **110th edition of the Tour de France** for a second straight year on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France. The Tour de France (Tour of France) is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race primarily held in France. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India's Nidhi Buley and Ritika among four females to enter BCCI umpiring panel

- The Indore-based Buley sisters, **Nidhi and Ritika Buley**, are among the four retired female cricketers who have made their way into the BCCI umpires' panel with a distinction. Nidhi played a Test and ODI for India back in 2006 while her younger sister Ritika represented Madhya Pradesh in 31 First-Class games. The BCCI conducted the exam for retired cricketers from June 10-13 and the result was declared. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster at Biel Chess Festival

- **Aditya Samant**, hailing from Maharashtra, achieved the title of India's **83rd** Grandmaster by obtaining his third GM norm during the Master Tournament (MTO) at the Biel International Chess Festival. His journey began with his first GM norm earned at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August 2022, followed by securing his second GM norm at the 3rd El Llobregat Open in December of the same year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports Ministry accords recognition to Handball Association of India

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has made the decision to grant official recognition to the **Handball Association of India (HAI)** as the National Sports Federation (NSF) responsible for promoting and regulating the sport within the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Tripura's Asmita Dey wins gold at Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023

- **Asmita Dey**, representing Tripura, has achieved remarkable success by securing a **gold medal** at the **Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship** hosted in Macau, China. In addition to her gold medal at the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 in Macau, China, she had secured a silver medal at the Asian Open 2023 held in Kuwait City in April of this year and a bronze medal at the Asian Junior Championships in 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India ranked second at ISSF Junior World Championship in South Korea 2023

- The **ISSF Junior World Championships 2023** took place at Changwon Shooting Range, **South Korea** from July 16 to 24. In its **third edition** this year, the event featured 90 skilled Indian shooters participating in pistol, rifle, and shotgun disciplines within the under-21 age category, all striving to secure medals. India's impressive performance led to a total of **17 medals**, including **six gold**, six silver, and five bronze at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023. Remarkably, **seven** Indian shooters managed to secure more than one medal during the competition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Harmanpreet Kaur suspended for Code of Conduct breach

- India captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been suspended for her team's next two international matches following two separate breaches of the **ICC Code of Conduct** during the third match of their **ICC Women's Championship** series against Bangladesh in Dhaka. Harmanpreet Kaur becomes 1st women cricketer to breach ICC Code of Conduct. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Stuart Broad to retire from cricket after Ashes 2023

- England pacer **Stuart Broad** has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. The 37-year-old has played 167 Test matches, picking 602 wickets. He has also featured in 121 ODIs and 56 T20Is. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Iga Swiatek wins home WTA title in Warsaw

- **Iga Swiatek** achieved a significant achievement by securing her **fourth** WTA title of the year and her very first on home soil. The Polish tennis player showcased her dominance in the final, defeating Germany's **Laura Siegemund** with an incredible 6-0, 6-1 scoreline in just 68 minutes, denying her opponent any break points throughout the match. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Torneo del Centenario 2023: Indian women's hockey team wins title

- The **Indian women's hockey team** wins the title of **Torneo del Centenario 2023** by defeating hosts Spain **3-0** in Terrassa, Barcelona on 30th July. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences

Startup20 Shikhar Summit Under India's G20 Presidency Begins in Gurugram

- The **Startup20 Shikhar Summit**, organized by the **Startup20 Engagement Group** under the India G20 Presidency, commenced in Gurugram, marking a significant achievement for the global startup ecosystem. The two-day event celebrates the successful completion of Startup20's inaugural year and the release of the final Policy Communiqué. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) Inaugurated in New Delhi: Promoting a Green Hydrogen Ecosystem

- The three-day **International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)** commenced in New Delhi, organized by the Government of India. The conference aims to establish a **Green Hydrogen ecosystem** and discuss advancements in the green hydrogen value chain. It brings together global leaders from scientific, policy, academic, and industrial sectors to foster innovation and sustainability in the industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Highlights from the 67th TAAI Conference in Colombo

- The three-day **67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)** convention commenced in Colombo on July 6. The conference brought together industry professionals from India and Sri Lanka, offering valuable business opportunities and fostering collaboration in the travel industry. The convention kicked off with a star-studded opening ceremony featuring esteemed guests such as Sri Lankan President **Ranil Wickremesinghe** and High Commissioner of India **Gopal Baglay**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Third World Hindu Conference to be organized in Bangkok

- The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the **third** World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in **Bangkok** in November 2023. The three-day event, known as Vishwa Hindu Sammelan, will take place at the Convention Center in Bangkok. With the theme "**Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah**" meaning "Dharma, the Abode of Victory," the conference will focus on exploring opportunities and addressing

challenges faced by the global Hindu community. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit concludes

- The two-day **Urban 20 Mayoral Summit**, hosted by the chair city **Ahmedabad, in Gandhinagar from 7-8 July**, concluded with the handover of the Communiqué from the Mayors to G20 leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))

11th meeting of the Executive Board of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

- The Chief Election Commissioner of India, **Shri Rajiv Kumar**, along with a delegation from the Election Commission of India (ECI), recently attended the **11th** meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) in Cartagena, **Colombia**. The meeting provided an opportunity for Electoral management bodies (EMBs) from around the world to collaborate and address challenges affecting election integrity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India to host ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines

- **India** will serve as the host for the ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines on July 20, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. A total of 75 participants will convene at this one-day conference which will include international delegates from **eight** ASEAN countries, with an additional **two** international delegates participating virtually. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate brainstorming sessions and idea sharing on the topic of **Traditional Medicines**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Bhagwat to visit ashrams in UP, inaugurate international temples convention in Varanasi

- The **International Temple Convention and Expo (ITCX)** will be inaugurated by Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghchalak (Chief) of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Rudraksh Convention Center, **Varanasi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

3rd Sherpas G20 meeting began in Hampi, Karnataka

- **Hampi**, located in Karnataka, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is hosting the **third** Sherpas meeting as part of India's G20 Presidency, with Amitabh Kant leading the meeting as the chairperson. The summit, organized by the **Ministry of Cultural and External Affairs**, anticipates the

participation of more than 200 individuals representing 43 countries. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Reserve Bank Holds 33rd Conference Of State Finance Secretaries

- The 33rd Conference of the **State Finance Secretaries** was held in Mumbai on July 6, 2023. The conference, inaugurated by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), focused on the theme of **‘Debt Sustainability: States’ Perspective.’** The event was attended by Finance Secretaries from 23 states, one Union Territory, officials from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Controller General of Accounts, and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India and Indonesia to launch “India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue”

- Nirmala Sitharaman, during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Gandhinagar, announced the commencement of the **“India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue.”** This dialogue intends to strengthen cooperation and promote mutual understanding on global issues between the two nations. It will serve as a platform for discussing shared interests and exploring mutually beneficial matters. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India Mobile Congress 2023 to be held in Pragati Maidan

- The **seventh edition** of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023, Asia’s premier digital technology exhibition, will take place from 27 October to 30 October at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.** [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India to host global summit of food safety regulators

- India will inaugurate the **Global Food Regulators Summit** in **New Delhi** on July 20th and 21st. The summit is expected

to include participation from a wide range of stakeholders representing various countries, international organizations, and national entities. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit, 2023

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has launched the **Curtain Raiser event** of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 on **18th July 2023.** According to the **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the **third edition** of Global Maritime India Summit is going to be held in **October 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.** [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Key Takeaways from NATO Summit

- In a momentous **NATO** summit held in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, the alliance achieved significant growth and unity, highlighting **Russia’s** strategic failure in its invasion of **Ukraine.** The summit witnessed one new member joining the table, with two more countries set to follow suit, symbolizing NATO’s robust expansion and resolve in the face of aggression. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi elected as chair of WTO’s 13th Ministerial Conference

- In a significant development, two prominent officials from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have been elected to key positions in international organizations. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, the UAE Minister for Foreign Trade, has been chosen as the chair of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates Heli Summit 2023 and UDAN 5.2 in Khajuraho

- The Heli Summit 2023, the **5th** edition of the Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit, was collaboratively hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of **Madhya Pradesh**, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with the theme **“Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft.”** [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

SemiconIndia 2023 Exhibition Inaugurated in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The **second** edition of **‘SemiconIndia 2023’** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel. Organized by the India Semiconductor Mission in collaboration with various industry associations and under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this event is scheduled from 25th to 30th July. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
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July 1st or First Saturday of July	The International Day of Cooperatives Theme: Cooperatives for Sustainable Development
July 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Sports Journalist Day World UFO Day
July 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Plastic Bag Free Day Dharma Chakra Divas
July 6th	World Zoonoses Day
7th July	World Kiswahili Language Day
July 10th	National Fish Farmer's Day
July 11th	World Population Day Theme: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities
July 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms International Malala Day I Am Malala World Paper Bag Day National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation
July 15th	World Youth Skills Day Theme: Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future
July 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) commemorated its 95th Foundation and Technology Day World Snake Day
17 July	Day of International Criminal Justice
July 18	Nelson Mandela day
20th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Moon Day World Chess Day
July 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pi Approximation Day International Brain Day Theme: Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind National Mango Day
July 23rd	National Broadcasting Day
July 24	Income Tax Day or 'Aaykar Diwas'
July 25	World Drowning Prevention Day
July 26th	Kargil Vijay Diwas
July 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Hepatitis Day Theme: 'one life, one liver' World Nature Conservation Day Theme: "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".
July 29th	International Tiger Day
July 30th	International Friendship Day
July 30th	World Day against Trafficking in Persons theme, "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind,"
July 31st	World Ranger Day Theme: "30 by 30,"

Defence Current Affairs

Lt Gen M U Nair appointed as new National Cybersecurity Coordinator

- The government has named **Lt Gen M U Nair** as the newly appointed **National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC)**. Lt Gen Nair, who took on the role of the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the areas of cyber warfare, signal intelligence, and communication and information technology. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

JAPAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE 2023 (JIMEX 23)

- The **seventh** edition of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)** is set to take place from 5th to

10th July 2023 in Visakhapatnam, India. This exercise marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012 and aims to enhance the interoperability and cooperation between the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Indian Navy and US Navy Conduct Seventh Edition of SALVEX Exercise in Kochi

- The Indian Navy and the US Navy successfully concluded the seventh edition of the Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) **Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX**, held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in Kochi. This joint exercise has been a regular feature since 2005,

promoting collaboration and cooperation between the two navies in the fields of salvage and EOD operations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-US Joint Operation 'Broader Sword' Halts Illegal Drug Shipments via International Mail System

- **India and the United States** recently joined forces in **Operation Broader Sword**, a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS). The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers. ([Click here to read the article](#))

North Korea Launches Unspecified Ballistic Missile off East Coast

- **North Korea** has launched an **unidentified ballistic missile** off its eastern coast, as confirmed by statements from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Japan's military. The missile launch followed a series of strongly worded grievances from North Korea regarding US military operations, including accusations of airspace violations by American spy planes in its economic zones and condemnation of the visit of a US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine to South Korea. ([Click here to read the article](#))

DAC Approves Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft and Additional Scorpene Submarines

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, convened on July 13, 2023, and approved three significant proposals aimed at bolstering India's naval capabilities. Under the first proposal, the DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine aircraft** from the French Government. This procurement will include associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulators, spares, documentation, crew training, and logistic support for the **Indian Navy**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Inauguration of 'Sagar Sampark' DGNSS by Sarbananda Sonowal

- With the aim of fostering **digitalization** in the maritime domain, **Sarbananda Sonowal**, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, launched Sagar Sampark, an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS). ([Click here to read the article](#))

India-Mongolia joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant

- A group of 43 Indian Army personnel departed for Mongolia today to take part in the **15th edition** of the joint military exercise called "**NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23.**" The exercise is set to occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17th to July 31st, 2023. NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event between India and Mongolia, held

alternately in both countries. The previous edition took place in October 2019 at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

China and Russia to hold joint naval drills

- A joint naval exercise called "**Security Bond-2023**" has been initiated by China, Russia, and Iran in the **Gulf of Oman**. This exercise, spanning five days, aims to safeguard critical maritime routes. The exercise will encompass various activities such as aerial search operations, sea rescue operations, fleet formation exercises, and other assigned tasks. ([Click here to read the article](#))

J&K: Operation Trinetra II to neutralise hiding terrorists continue

- Jammu-Kashmir continues **Operation Trinetra-II** in **Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil** on 17th July to neutralize hiding terrorists. ([Click here to read the article](#))

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata in Jakarta for Bilateral Maritime Exercise

- **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata**, the two flagship ships of the Indian Navy, reached Jakarta to take part in a bilateral maritime exercise alongside the Indonesian Naval Forces. Upon their arrival in Jakarta, The Indonesian Navy extended a warm welcome to both naval ships deployed for the South-Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) mission. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ashok Leyland bags major orders worth Rs 800 crore from Indian Army

- The commercial vehicles manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland** recently disclosed securing defense contracts valued at Rs 800 Crore. These contracts entail the supply of specialized 4x4 Field, Artillery Tractors and 6x6 Gun Towing Vehicles to the Indian army within the next 12 months. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Argentina to acquire light and medium utility helicopters from HAL

- The Defence Minister of Argentina visited **Bengaluru** where he signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** to foster cooperation between the two parties for the acquisition of Light and Medium Utility **Helicopters** for the armed forces of **Argentina**. This LoI signifies a commitment to productive collaboration between HAL and the Ministry of Defence of The Republic of Argentina. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ministry of Culture and Indian Navy signed a MoU to revive the Tankai method

- The **Ministry of Culture** and the **Indian Navy** have collaborated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to revive and preserve the ancient 2000-year-old shipbuilding technique known as the '**stitched shipbuilding method**' or 'Tankai method'. ([Click here to read the article](#))

The Indian Navy Quiz "G20 THINQ"

- The **second** edition of "G20 THINQ" has been launched by the **Indian Navy** and the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA), with the support of the G20 Secretariat. Its purpose is to unite youth from diverse regions and geographies, fostering lasting friendships with the spirit of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' – World is One Family. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India hands over INS Kirpan to Vietnam in landmark move

- Indian Naval Ship Kirpan**, a corvette that served the **Indian Navy for 32 years**, has been decommissioned and handed over to the **Vietnam People's Navy (VPN)** in a ceremony held at **Cam Ranh, Vietnam**. The momentous occasion marked the first time India has transferred a fully operational corvette to a foreign country. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Australia's largest bilateral military exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 begins

- Australia's** largest bilateral military exercise with United States, **Exercise Talisman Sabre**, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra. Now in its tenth edition, 2023 is the largest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of its geographical area and the number of participating partners. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Newly Constructed National Martyr's Memorial Unveiled at Jagjivan RPF Academy Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Sanjay Chander, Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF), unveiled the recently constructed **National Martyr's Memorial** and National Museum for Railway Security at Jagjivan RPF Academy, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

85th CRPF Raising Day Observed on 27 July 2023

- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, observed its **85th Raising Day on 27 July 2023**. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Pixxel Secures Grant from Ministry of Defence to Develop Satellites for Indian Air Force

- Pixxel**, a prominent space-tech startup supported by renowned entities such as Google, Blume Ventures, and Omnivore VC, has been awarded a significant grant from **iDEX (Innovations For Defence Excellence)**, an initiative established by the **Ministry of Defence**. This grant will enable Pixxel to develop small, multi-purpose satellites for the **Indian Air Force**, contributing to India's ambitious space and defense plans. The grant is part of the Mission DefSpace Challenge under the broader iDEX Prime (Space) initiative. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Awards Current Affairs

British children's writer Michael Rosen awarded the PEN Pinter Prize 2023

- Renowned children's writer and performance poet, **Michael Rosen**, aged 77, has been honored with the esteemed **PEN Pinter Prize 2023**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Rajindar Singh Dhatt Receives Points of Light Award

- Rajindar Singh Dhatt**, the driving force behind the "Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association" has been honored with the prestigious **Points of Light** award for his exceptional service and relentless efforts to bring together British Indian war veterans. Dhatt demonstrated his dedication to serving his country by joining the British Indian Army during the Second World War. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Britain Gave Environmental award to Indian Conservationists

- King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom** recently presented the prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists. The award ceremony recognized filmmaker **Kartiki Gonsalves**, the creative mind behind the Oscar-winning documentary "The Elephant Whisperers," and the Real Elephant Collective

(TREC), a group of 70 Adivasi artists. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

NMDC wins ASSOCHAM Awards for Mineral Development and Employer Brand

- India's mining major, **NMDC** (National Mineral Development Corporation), was honored with two prestigious awards at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 held in Kolkata. The company received the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' in recognition of its significant contributions to the mining sector and its exemplary human resources practices. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

President of India to present the "Bhoomi Samman" 2023

- On July 18, 2023**, the President of India will bestow the prestigious "**Bhoomi Samman**" awards at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The awards will be presented to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors, along with their teams, who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in implementing the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** – a crucial component of governance. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission bagged SKOCH Award 2023

- The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRL) has received the SKOCH Award under the theme “**State of Governance India 2047**” in Gold category for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in the Union Territory. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Honorary doctorate to be conferred on Communist leader N. Sankaraiah

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** has announced that veteran communist leader N. Sankaraiah will receive an Honorary Doctorate from **Madurai Kamaraj University**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

SJVN bags 1st Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by MoP

- SJVN Limited** has been honored with the 1st Prize in the **Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023** by the Ministry of Power. NL Sharma, the **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN**, received the award from Pankaj Agarwal, the Secretary of the Ministry of Power, during a ceremony held in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Prof Thalappil Pradeep wins the prestigious International Eni Award

- Prof. **Thalappil Pradeep** from the Department of Chemistry at the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has been honored with the prestigious ‘**Eni Award**,’ a highly regarded global recognition for scientific research in the fields of energy and environment. **Established in 2007**, this is the **15th edition of the Eni Award**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Indian-origin 7-year-old schoolgirl wins UK PM’s Points of Light award

- A seven-year-old girl of Indian origin has received the **British Prime Minister’s Points of Light award** for her outstanding efforts in helping the environment. **Moksha Roy** began volunteering for a United Nations sustainability initiative against microplastic pollution when she was only three years old. She is now recognized as the world’s youngest sustainability advocate. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Kartik Aaryan to Be Honoured With The Rising Global Superstar Of Indian Cinema Award At IFFM

- Bollywood actor **Kartik Aaryan** will be honoured with the **Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award** at the annual awards Gala night of the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 11. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Shankari Chandran wins Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023

- Ten years ago, Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer **Shankari Chandran** faced difficulty in getting her debut book published. The reason: publishers thought her novel wasn't "Australian" enough to be successful in their local market. And now, Chandran has been announced as the winner of the **2023 Literary Award for her novel ‘Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens’**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Byculla railway station gets UNESCO’s Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award

- Mumbai’s Byculla Railway Station** received **UNESCO’s Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award** on Monday i.e. **24th July**, which was declared in November 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology

India launches Bharat 6G Alliance

- India** has taken a significant stride forward in the field of telecommunications, with the acquisition of over 200 patents for **6G** technology. The announcement was made by the Communications and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, during the launch of the **Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Meta launches "Threads" Twitter killer app

- Meta**, the owner of Instagram, has introduced a new social media platform called **Threads**. With **Twitter** facing instability under its billionaire owner **Elon Musk**, Meta aims to capitalize on the situation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chandrayaan-3 Launched

- India’s lunar mission Chandrayaan-3** is going to be launched on July 14, at 2:35 P.M. from **Satish Dhawan**

Space Centre in Sriharikota announced by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The date was later confirmed by Secretary of Space department and ISRO Chairman S. Somnath at a press briefing on the sidelines of the **G-20 Fourth Economy Leaders Meeting in Bengaluru**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Elena Introduces India's First NavIC

- In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, **Elena Geo Systems**, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country’s first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC). ([Click here to read the article](#))

SpaceX gets licenses in Mongolia to offer high-speed internet

- SpaceX**, the aerospace company founded by Elon Musk, has achieved two significant milestones in its quest to expand global internet connectivity through its **Starlink** satellite communications service. The **Mongolian**

government has granted SpaceX licenses to operate as an internet service provider. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Issues with Green Hydrogen

- India, the interest of **producing green hydrogen** has been increasing which is hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources. **Green house significantly reduce green-house gas emission** as it **does not contain any carbon dioxide when burned**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

ESA launches 'Euclid Space Telescope' to review solar system bodies

- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has recently launched the **Euclid Space Telescope**, a specially designed instrument aimed at revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. This state-of-the-art telescope will enable scientists to create a detailed **three-dimensional map** of billions of galaxies spread across a vast area of 10 billion light-years. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

ISRO to transfer SSLV to private sector

- Indian Space Research Organization** decided to transfer the **SSLV** completely to the private sector, not just the manufacturing but full transfer. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India Unveils Draft and Roadmap for Green Hydrogen Ecosystem

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources** has unveiled draft and roadmap to outline the research and development priorities for **manufacturing and storing of Green Hydrogen**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Elon Musk Reveals xAI to Challenge OpenAI

- SpaceX founder, **Elon Musk**, the well-known billionaire entrepreneur recognized for his accomplishments in electric vehicles, space exploration, and social media, has introduced his highly anticipated artificial intelligence startup, **xAI**. The primary objective of the company is to disrupt the dominance of major technology corporations in the AI industry, with a particular focus on developing an alternative to **OpenAI's ChatGPT**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Chandrayaan 3 Lifts Off for its Journey To the Moon

- India** launched its ambitious **Chandrayaan-3 mission** to the Moon. The spacecraft launched aboard India's heaviest rocket, Launch vehicle **Mark-III a.k.a LVM3** on a journey to the Moon. The spacecraft will complete the **3,84,000** kilometers-long journey in nearly **45 days** to attempt a soft-landing on the Moon by end of August. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Gaganyaan Human spaceflight mission: ISRO successfully tested service module propulsion system

- ISRO successfully tested **Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission** on **19th July** at ISRO Propulsion Complex (**IPRC**) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

HCLTech joins XR Startup Programme with MeitY, Meta

- HCL Tech**, a multinational IT company, has joined the **XR Startup Program**, a collaborative effort between **Meta** and the MeitY Startup Hub, to bolster and accelerate extended reality (XR) technology startups in India. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Twitter replaces iconic bird logo with 'X'

- Elon Musk**, owner of Twitter launched the **new logo of Twitter 'X'** by replacing the iconic bird logo. The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app". Before he bought Twitter for \$44 billion, Musk described the platform as "an accelerant to creating X, the everything app" - something he plans to launch eventually. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

ISRO launches PSLV-C56 carrying Singapore's DS-SAR and six other satellites

- ISRO to launch **PSLV-C56** with **six co-passenger satellite** on **30th July at 6:30 AM** from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

CERT-In cautions against ransomware 'Akira' attack

- A new Internet ransomware virus called '**Akira**' has surfaced in cyberspace, designed to steal crucial personal information and encrypt data, thereby coercing individuals into paying ransom money. The Indian **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** said in a latest advisory to Internet users. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

India AI and Meta to foster advancements in AI & Emerging Technologies

- India AI** and **Meta** have forged a collaborative partnership with the shared objective of propelling the progress of AI & Emerging Technologies research and development. The partnership's primary aim is to achieve groundbreaking advancements in AI technology and its practical applications. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

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Books & Authors News

Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva by Sudha Pai & Sajjan Kumar

- **Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar** have authored a book called “**Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva.**” In this book, they provide a perceptive and thought-provoking examination of the interplay between Maya, Modi, and Azad in the realm of Dalit politics. ([Click here to read the article](#))

A book titled "Colours of devotion" by Anita Bharat Shah

- A book titled “**Colours of devotion**” authored by **Anita Bharat Shah**. ‘Colours of Devotion’ aims at understanding the underlying connection of Indian philosophical concepts of Pushti Marg, as laid down by the saint and founder Shri Vallabhacharya, which inspired the art that was created for use in the religious practices of the Vallabha Sampradaya. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Abhishek Choudhary's Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-1977

- The early years of late Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** are captured in a new biography, **Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77**, by **Abhishek Choudhary**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

A new book released 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow' before Chandrayaan 3 launch

- National award-winning filmmaker-writer **Vinod Mankara's new book** was released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The unique launch of ‘**Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow**’, a collection of science articles, was held at the SDSC-SHAR, as preparations were going on full swing there for the country's much-awaited Moon mission Chandrayaan-3. ([Click here to read the article](#))

A book titled "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra

- A book titled “**India Rising Memoir of a Scientist**” authored by **R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra**. The book looks at the life of one of India's foremost scientists, Dr R. Chidambaram, who served as principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India and as chairman of the

Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) from November 2001 to March 2018. ([Click here to read the article](#))

"Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography" authored by T.N. Seshan

- ‘**Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography**’ authored by **T.N. Seshan**, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, who made a significant difference to Indian elections. It was published by Rupa Publications India. This autobiography also covers his term as the CEC from 1990 to 1995 with a page count of 368. It has been published 4 years after he passed away in 2019. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan released the Malayalam translation of Krishna – the 7th Sense

- **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** released the Malayalam translation of **Krishna – the 7th Sense** by Debashis Chatterjee, Director IIM-Kozhikode. He also unveiled the latest edition of Mr. Chatterjee's work **Karma Sutras, Leadership and Wisdom in Uncertain Times**, the lead book of the IIM-Penguin Series for New Managers. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu releases book named "As the wheel turns"

- On the occasion of Rayala Corporation's Diamond Jubilee, the Managing Director of Rayala Corporation, **Ranjit Pratap** has released an insightful book that offers a captivating account of his remarkable journey in the world of business. Titled “**As the wheel turns,**” this compelling narrative hopes to motivate readers by sharing Ranjit Pratap's personal experiences, hardships, and triumphs. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Amit Shah released the 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri **Amit Shah** released the ‘**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die**’ book in Rameshwaram. The Union Home Minister visited Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

Full moon July 2023: How to see Buck Moon?

- The **full moon in July 2023** will be called the **Buck Moon**. It is also known as the Thunder Moon, Berry Moon, Salmon Moon, Feather Moulting Moon, and Raspberry Moon. The name Buck Moon comes from the fact that the antlers of male deer are in full growth at this time of year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Dalai Lama's 88th Birthday

- **Dalai Lama**, the revered Tibetan spiritual leader, marked his **88th** birthday with a joyous celebration at his headquarters in **Dharamsala**, India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lambani Art set Guinness World record in 3rd G20 CWC meeting

- India's G-20 Presidency recently achieved a remarkable feat by setting a **new Guinness World record**. The record-

breaking involved **the largest display of Lambani items**, showcasing the rich heritage of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

India welcomes its first regional AI news anchor, 'Lisa'

- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, **Odisha TV**, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled **"Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Majorana Zero Modes: Revolutionizing Quantum Computing

- **Microsoft** researchers have achieved a significant milestone in the field of **quantum computing** by making progress in the creation of **Majorana zero modes**. These particles, which are their own antiparticles, possess remarkable properties that could revolutionize the field of quantum computing. This breakthrough has garnered attention due to the potential impact it could have on the development of more robust and powerful quantum computers. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority, India

- **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA)** provides an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Mukurthi National Park

- Recently, the **Tamil Nadu** Forest Department has intensified its efforts to curb **poaching** in the Mukurthi National Park (MNP) and its surrounding areas in the Nilgiris district in an effort to safeguard the park's wildlife. ([Click here to read the article](#))

BRUCELLOSIS DISEASE in News

- Recently, a rare disease called **Brucellosis**, caused by bacteria capable of infecting both animals and humans, afflicted a young girl hailing from **Kerala**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Delhi's IGIA Becomes 1st Airport in India with Four Runways & An Elevated Cross Taxiway

- **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** achieved a significant milestone as it became **India's first airport to have four runways**. The civil aviation minister, **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, inaugurated the airport's fourth runway, increasing its throughput capacity from approximately 1400-1500 air traffic movements per day to almost 2000 air traffic movements per day. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Jammu and Kashmir launched Mobile-Dost-App

- Jammu-Kashmir launched a path breaking Mobile-Dost App in sync with the vision of **Apka-Mobila-Humara-Daftar**, an effective initiative for mobile based delivery of **citizen-centric services** in the Union Territory. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Google Doodle honours Sudanese Oud player and composer Asma Hamza

- **Google** honours **Asma Hamza**, a prominent Sudanese composer and oud player, with Doodle. On this day in **1997**, **Hamza** achieved a remarkable milestone by emerging as one of the winners in the prestigious **Laylat AIQadr AIKubra music** competition held in Sudan. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Google Doodle celebrates 204th birthday of Eunice Newton Foote

- With an engaging slideshow on its homepage, **Google Doodle** honors the **204th** birthday of **Eunice Newton Foote**, an **American scientist** and advocate for women's rights. Foote, born in 1819 in Goshen, Connecticut, USA, achieved a noteworthy milestone in climate science by being the first to discover the greenhouse effect and its impact on the Earth's warming. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Why measles in news?

- India and many other countries are facing outbreak of Measles, the cases of which are increasing at a faster rate after the **Covid-19**. According the data of **WHO**, the maximum number of cases of measles are seen in India which is about **73,536** and after that in Yemen and Pakistan. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Lone Naga woman MP Phangnon nominated as a vice chairperson of Rajya Sabha

- In a historic move, **S Phangnon Konyak**, the lone **Nagaland MP** in the **Upper House**, has been nominated as one of the vice chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha. This appointment comes as a recognition of BJP's commitment to women empowerment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Rock art in Rudragiri hillock

- In Andhra Pradesh, a fascinating combination of prehistoric rock painting from **Mesolithic period** and exquisite artwork from the **Kakatiya dynasty** were found in the Rudragiri hillock. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Julius Robert Oppenheimer the "father of the atomic bomb"

- **Christopher Nolan's** movie **Oppenheimer** hits theatres across the world. Oppenheimer film chronicles the story of the scientist Julius Robert Oppenheimer the **"Father of the Atomic Bomb"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Chief Minister inaugurates Delhi's first RO 'water ATM'

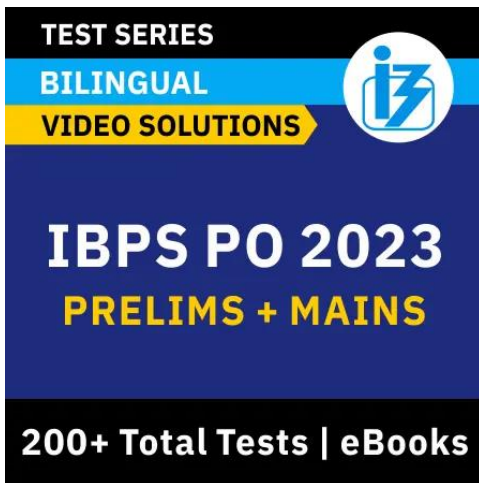
- Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** unveiled **Delhi's first 'water ATM'** aiming to offer water access in regions without piped supply and reducing reliance on water tankers. These water ATM machines will grant underprivileged sections of the city the same quality of RO(Reverse Osmosis) water that has traditionally been available to more affluent segments of society. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Jammu to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project

- The 'Cannabis Research Project' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks the first-ever initiative of its kind in India. This groundbreaking project is carried out in partnership with a Canadian firm 'IndusScan' with the aim of harnessing the potential of cannabis, a substance known for its abuse potential, for the benefit of humanity, particularly for patients afflicted with neuropathies, cancer, and epilepsy. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Kargil gets first women police station in Ladakh

- Ladakh, the Union Territory, has marked a momentous occasion with the establishment of its first-ever women police station. This significant step is aimed at empowering women and ensuring their safety within the region. The inauguration of the police station in Kargil, overseen by Additional Director General of Police S D Singh Jamwal, demonstrates the commitment to addressing crimes against women. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)



Missile Man of India' APJ Abdul Kalam death anniversary

- 27th July is celebrated as death anniversary of Missile Man of India APJ Abdul Kalam. 27th July 2023 is celebrated as 8th death anniversary of APJ Abdul Kalam. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

The Batagaika crater, the world's largest permafrost crater

- The Batagaika crater, the world's largest permafrost crater is expanding at an alarming rate in Russia's Far East. Aerial footage of the world's largest permafrost crater, the Batagaika crater has revealed its details. The crater has been seen in the far- eastern Siberian taiga (that is, boreal forest). It's a rapidly growing 1 km (0.6 mile) pit. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Mount Kailash View Point from India Likely By September

- The Boarder Road Organization is cutting a new road through which the devotees will soon be able to visit Mount Kailash from Indian Territory. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Machail Mata Yatra begins in Kishtwa, Jammu

- The yearly Machail Mata Yatra began as numerous devotees gathered to pay their respects at the high-altitude temple located in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. The yatra was initiated with a ceremonial "Pratham Pooja" at the shrine, which is devoted to goddess Durga, also known as 'Kaali' or 'Chandi'. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

600 million year old river droplets found in Himalayas

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Japan's Niigata University have made a groundbreaking discovery by finding water droplets in rocks from the Himalayas. These water droplets are believed to be from an ancient ocean that existed around 600 million years ago. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Obituaries Current Affairs

Alan Arkin, Oscar-winning actor, dies at 89

- Alan Arkin, a veteran US actor known for his remarkable talent and a career that spanned over six decades died due to heart problems. Arkin, who received multiple Academy Award and Emmy nominations, left an indelible mark on both the film and television industry. His unforgettable performances in films like "Catch-22," "Edward Scissorhands," and his Oscar-winning role in "Little Miss Sunshine" endeared him to audiences. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Well known Painter and sculptor Namboothiri passes away

- Renowned artist Namboothiri, recognized for his exceptional talent in painting and sculpture, has passed away at the age of 97 in Kottakkal, Malappuram district. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Basketball star and Olympic gold medalist Nikki McCray-Penson passes away

- Nikki McCray-Penson, a renowned basketball player and coach, has passed away at the age of 51. She was a two-time Olympic gold medalist and received the MVP award in the American Basketball League (ABL). [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Veteran Marathi actor Ravindra Mahajani passes away

- Marathi actor Ravindra Mahajani has passed away at the age of 77, known for his notable contributions to Marathi cinema, had established himself as a respected actor and director. With a career spanning several decades, he had worked in numerous films and theater productions, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. His performances in movies like Mumbaicha Faujdar, Aram Haram Ahe, Zoonj, and Bolo He Chakradhari garnered critical acclaim and

earned him a dedicated fan base. His son Gashmeer Mahajani is also an actor and best known for his work in Marathi cinema. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away at 80

- **Dr Mangala Narlikar**, an eminent mathematician and the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar who is the founder director of Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), passed away. She was 80. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

- **Oommen Chandy**, the former Chief Minister of Kerala, passed away at the age of 79. He was a well-respected public figure and a prominent legislator, representing the Puthupally constituency in Kottayam district. Chandy held the office of Chief Minister twice during his political career. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Famed computer hacker Kevin Mitnick passes away at age 59

- **Kevin Mitnick**, who was once one of the most wanted computer hackers in the world, has passed away at the age of 59. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Former Australia wicketkeeper Brian Taber dies aged 83

- Former Australia and New South Wales wicketkeeper **Brian Taber** has passed away at the age of 83. Taber, who played 16 Test matches for Australia between 1966 and 1970. He made his Test debut against South Africa in Johannesburg where he claimed seven catches and a stumping. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Renowned Marathi Writer Shirish Kanekar Passes Away

- **Shirish Kanekar**, Veteran Marathi writer and columnist passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 80. He was born on June 6, 1943 in Pune, Maharashtra. He worked at Marathi and English language publications like Loksatta, Indian Express, Samana, and Free Press Journal. He was popular for his newspaper columns on Cinema, Cricket and Politics.Pune, Maharashtra. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Current Affairs

- International Sports Press Association Executive Director: Dave Goren;
- International Sports Press Association of Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Sports Press Association Founded in 1924.
- Austria Capital: Vienna;
- Austria Chancellor of Austria: Karl Nehammer;
- Austria Currency: Euro.
- World UFO Day is observed annually on July 2 worldwide
- First UFO was spotted on June 24, 1947 in Washinton D.C.,US
- Full form of UFO is Unidentified Flying Objects
- Prime Minister of New Zealand is Chris Hipkins
- Rachel Brooking is the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries of New Zealand.
- Durand Cup was established in: 1888
- President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) is: Mr Kalyan Chaubey
- All India Football Federation President: Kalyan Chaubey;
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937;
- All India Football Federation Headquarters: New Delhi;
- All India Football Federation affiliation: 1954;
- All India Football Federation Parent organization: South Asian Football Federation.
- South Korea to launch 6G network and services by: 2028
- The Elephant Whisperers was launched in: 2022
- Director of The Elephant Whisperers is: Kartiki Gonsalvesis
- Chairman & MD of National Mineral Development Corporation: Sumit Deb

- National Mineral Development Corporation is a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise headquartered in: Hyderabad
- National Mineral Development Corporation comes under: Ministry of Steel
- State Bank of India Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara;
- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Managing directors: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Director General (ICAR): Himanshu Pathak;
- ICAR established: 16 July 1929;
- ICAR HQ: New Delhi.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- Google Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–)
- Managing Director of Piramal Finance is: Jairam Sridharan
- Headquarters of Piramal Finance: Mumbai.
- Lloyds Banking Group Headquarters: Edinburgh, United Kingdom;
- Lloyds Banking Group chairman: Robin Budenberg;
- Lloyds Banking Group Founded: 19 January 2009.
- Meta Founders: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Meta Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- Meta Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States.

- United Nations Population Fund Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- United Nations Population Fund Founded: 1969;
- United Nations Population Fund Head: Natalia Kanem.
- Prime minister of Bhutan: Lotay Tshering
- India's largest potato-producing state: Uttar Pradesh
- Minister of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal
- Founder of World Hindu Congress: Swami Vigyanananda
- World Hindu Congress founded in: 2010
- Director General of The European Space Agency: Josef Aschbacher
- Headquarters of European Space Agency: Paris, France
- Olympic Council of Asia Headquarters: Kuwait City, Kuwait;
- Olympic Council of Asia President: Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah;
- Membership: 45 National Olympic Committees;
- Olympic Council of Asia Founded: 16 November 1982, New Delhi;
- Olympic Council of Asia Motto: Ever Onward.
- CEO of Dell Technologies: Michael S. Dell
- CEO of Intel: Patrick P. Gelsinger
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank MD and CEO: Mr. Govind Singh;
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Headquartered: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh;
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Established: 2015.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.
- Prime Minister of France: Élisabeth Borne
- President of France: Emmanuel Macron
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998.
- Full form of ITC: Indian Tobacco Company
- ITC Founded in: 24 August 1910
- Reserve Bank of Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Prime minister: Anthony Albanese;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Currency: Australian dollar (\$) (AUD).
- Reserve Bank of Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Prime minister: Anthony Albanese;
- Reserve Bank of Australia Currency: Australian dollar (\$) (AUD).
- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Tugrik
- Minister of Finance of Indonesia: Sri Mulyani
- Director of Indian Council of Agricultural Research: Himashu Pathak
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research establishment year: 16 July 1929
- CEO and Co-founder of Razorpay: Harshil Mathur
- CEO and Co-founder of Curlec: Zac Liew
- Razorpay Founded: 2013
- Union Minister of Textiles: Piyush Goyal
- India's first PM MITRA Park in: Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu
- CEO of Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI): G. Kamala Vardhana Rao
- Current chairperson of FSSAI : Rajesh Bhushan
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- World Federation of Neurology Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom;
- World Federation of Neurology Founded: July 1957;
- World Federation of Neurology President: Prof. Wolfgang Grisold.
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu
- Indian Coast Guard Founded: 1 February 1977;
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: Indian Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.
- Chairman of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation: Dr M.D. Patra
- Headquarters of Life Insurance Corporation of India: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland: Shenu Agarwal
- Chairperson & MD of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: CB Ananthakrishnan
- Headquarters of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Minister of Defense of Argentina: Jorge Taiana
- National Startup Day: January 16
- CEO of HCL Tech: C Vijayakumar
- The current/25th Navy Chief: Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte;
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee;
- Sri Lanka Official languages: Sinhala, Tamil;
- Sri Lanka President: Ranil Wickremesinghe;
- Sri Lanka Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena.
- Chairman & Managing director of Power Finance Corporation: Ravinder Singh Dhillon
- Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court: Augustine George Masih
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
- Delhi Water Minister : Saurabh Bharadwaj
- Chief Scientist at CSIR-IIIM Jammu: Dr Zabeer Ahmed
- World Animal Health Organization Founded: 1924;
- World Animal Health Organization Founder: Emmanuel Leclainche;
- World Animal Health Organization Headquarters: Paris;
- Director General of the World Animal Health Organization: Dr Monique Eloit.
- Founder of Tata Group: Jamsetji Tata
- Asian Cricket Council(ACC) President: Jay Shah;
- Asian Cricket Council(ACC) Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

India's International Airports - Total international airports in India	City - International Airports in India	State/ Union territory
Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport	Varanasi	Airports In Uttar Pradesh
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport	Kolkata	Airports In West Bengal
Gaya Airport	Gaya	Airports In Bihar
Surat International Airport	Surat	Airports In Gujarat
Vadodara International Airport	Vadodara	Airports In Gujarat
Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport	Srinagar	Airports In Jammu & Kashmir
Kannur International Airport	Kannur	Airports In Kerala
Pune International Airport	Pune	Airports In Maharashtra
Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Airports In Jharkhand
Bagdogra Airport	Siliguri	Airports In West Bengal

