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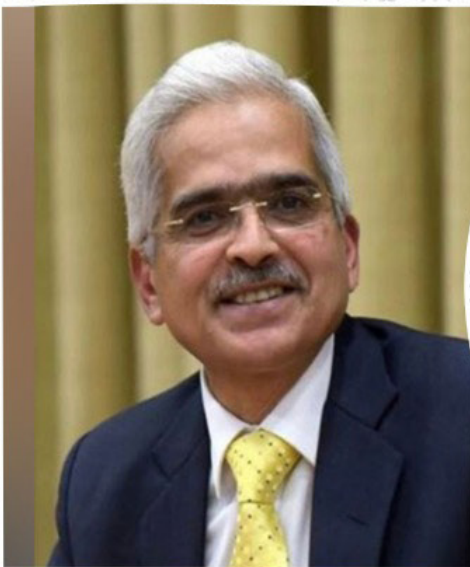
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Founder : Manohar E. Patil • Author : Sandip E. Patil

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Current Affairs

October 2023

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Appointment

Rahul Navin Takes Charge as Director of Enforcement Directorate

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



Rahul Navin's Appointment

- According to an official order, Rahul Navin, a distinguished IRS officer from the 1993 batch, has been appointed as the In-Charge Director. He will hold this position until the appointment of a regular Director or until further orders are issued.

What is Enforcement Directorate (ED) ?

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a specialized law enforcement agency in India responsible for enforcing economic laws and regulations in the country. It is primarily tasked with investigating and prosecuting cases related to financial crimes, money laundering, foreign exchange violations, and economic offenses.

Here are some key functions and responsibilities of the Enforcement Directorate:

- **Prevention of Money Laundering:** One of the primary functions of the ED is to investigate and prosecute cases of money laundering. Money laundering involves concealing the origins of illegally obtained money, typically by transferring it through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions. The ED takes action against individuals and entities involved in money laundering activities.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Violations:** The Enforcement Directorate enforces the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, which regulates foreign exchange transactions and transactions involving foreign exchange assets. It investigates cases of foreign exchange violations and ensures compliance with FEMA regulations.

India's Sindhu Gangadharan appointed as Nasscom Vice-Chairperson

- Sindhu Gangadharan, who holds the position of Senior Vice President and Managing Director at SAP Labs India and is also responsible for SAP User Enablement, has been named the Vice-Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom). In her new role, she will use her extensive experience in technology and corporate leadership, acquired over many years in India and Germany, to help shape India's TechAde initiative. As the first woman to lead SAP Labs India, which is SAP's largest R&D center worldwide,

Gangadharan is in charge of overseeing product development and innovation across all five centers located in Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Furthermore, she leads SAP User Enablement, which provides training and support for SAP's entire product portfolio.

- Earlier this year, Gangadharan was appointed as the Chairperson of the Nasscom GCC Council for the term 2023-2025. She also serves on the boards of organizations such as Siemens India and Titan Company Limited. Additionally, she is a member of the Steering Committee of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, an industry association that promotes bilateral trade and discussions between India and Germany.
- Previously, Indian IT and tech trade body Nasscom announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India, as its new Chairperson. Nambiar is succeeding Anant Maheshwari, former President, Microsoft India as the new Chairperson of the trade body.



About the NASSCOM -

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) is the apex body for the Indian technology industry. It is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1988. NASSCOM's membership comprises over 3000 companies, including both Indian and multinational organizations that have a presence in India. The membership spans across the entire spectrum of the industry from start ups to multinationals and from products to services, Global Service Centers to Engineering firms.
- NASSCOM's mission is to build the architecture integral to the development of the technology sector through policy advocacy, and help in setting up the strategic direction for the sector to unleash its potential and dominate newer frontiers.

Important

- ✓ NASSCOM Founders: Nandan Nilekani, Dewang Mehta;
- ✓ NASSCOM Founded: 1 March 1988;
- ✓ NASSCOM Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India & New Delhi.

Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar appointed Chairman of Mastercard India

- Mastercard, the global financial services corporation, has made a significant appointment in its Indian operations by naming Rajnish Kumar as the Chairman of Mastercard India. This move reflects Mastercard's commitment to strengthening its presence in India and navigating the dynamic landscape of domestic payments. Kumar, the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), brings a wealth of experience to the role.

A Seasoned Banking Veteran

- Rajnish Kumar's career spans nearly four decades in India's largest bank, the State Bank of India. During his tenure, he held various leadership positions and played a pivotal role in managing critical operations not only in India but also in the UK and Canada. His contributions to the banking sector are well-acknowledged, with one of his notable achievements being the spearheading of the YONO platform, a groundbreaking digital banking initiative.



Transition from SBI Chairman to Mastercard India -

- Kumar concluded his three-year term as the Chairman of SBI in October 2020, leaving behind a legacy of banking excellence. Now, he steps into a new role at Mastercard India, where he will provide guidance and leadership to Mastercard's South Asia executive team. This team is headed by Gautam Aggarwal, Division President for South Asia & Country Corporate Officer, India.

Mastercard's Strategic Focus on India -

- Mastercard has long recognized the potential of India as a key growth market for its services. The company has made significant investments in the country, channeling \$2 billion since 2014 into initiatives aimed at building technology centers and fostering innovation in digital payments.

Regulatory Hurdles Overcome -

- Mastercard's journey in India hasn't been without challenges. In 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed regulatory restrictions on the company, preventing it from issuing debit and credit cards to new domestic customers. These measures were rooted in compliance concerns regarding the storage of payment system data. However, in June 2022, the RBI lifted this ban, signaling a positive turn of events for Mastercard in the Indian market.

Jaya Verma Sinha 1st Woman Chairperson to Head the Railway Board

- The government appointed Jaya Verma Sinha as the first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board, the top decision-making body for the Ministry of Railways. Ms. Sinha is the first ever woman to head the Board in its 118-year-old history. The Railway Board came into effect in 1905. She will assume office on or after September 1, and before this she was the Member (Operations and Business Development). She was at the forefront while handling the aftermath of the tragic Balasore accident which killed 291 people. Her tenure will be till August 31, 2024.

**Know more about Ms. Sinha -**

- Ms. Sinha was earlier slated to retire on October 1, but she will be re-employed the same day till her tenure gets over. She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahoti. Ms. Sinha is an Alumnus of the Allahabad University. She joined the Indian Railway Traffic Service in 1988 and worked in the Northern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway. She has also served in Centre for Railway Electrification (CORE). She also worked as Railway Advisor in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh for four years. The Maitree Express from Kolkata to Dhaka was inaugurated during her tenure in Bangladesh. She also worked as the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division.

About the Railway Board of India -

- The Railway Board of India is the apex body of the Indian Railways. It is responsible for the overall administration and management of the railways. The board is headed by the Chairman, who is a member of the Union Cabinet. The other members of the board are the Railway Minister, the Financial Commissioner, the Principal Chief Engineer, and the Principal Chief Accounts Officer.
- The Railway Board has its headquarters in New Delhi. It is divided into several departments, each of which is responsible for a specific area of railway operations. These departments include the Traffic Department, the Engineering Department, the Finance Department, the Personnel Department, and the Stores Department.
- The Railway Board is responsible for formulating policies and strategies for the development and operation of the railways. It also monitors the performance of the railways and takes corrective measures as necessary. The board also interacts with the government and other stakeholders to ensure the smooth functioning of the railways.
- The Railway Board is a vital institution for the Indian Railways. It plays a key role in ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the railways. The board is constantly working to improve the railways and make them more accessible and affordable to the people of India.

Manish Desai Takes Charge of Press Information Bureau (PIB)

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made significant appointments, including the transfer of Manish Desai, the Central Bureau of Communications (CBC) chief, to lead the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Manish Desai's Impressive Career

- Manish Desai, a distinguished officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS) since 1989, has taken on several critical roles in his career. He held the position of CBC chief, overseeing the government's advertising and public communication arm. His responsibilities encompassed a broad spectrum of communication activities across various media platforms, including print, electronic, outdoor, transit, and new media.
- From November 2019 to January 2020, Manish Desai served as the Director General of the Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI). Additionally, he has an impressive six-year tenure as the Additional Director General (ADG) of PIB from 2012 to 2018. He has also held the position of Director General of the West Zone PIB in Mumbai.



PIB's Centennial Anniversary

- It's worth noting that the Press Information Bureau (PIB), which serves as the primary agency for disseminating information on behalf of the Indian government, celebrated its centennial anniversary in June of this year. Established in Shimla in June 1919 as the Central Publicity Board, it originally operated under the colonial government's Home Ministry. Its initial mission was to compile an annual report on India for presentation to the British Parliament.

R. Madhavan Nominated as President of FTII Pune

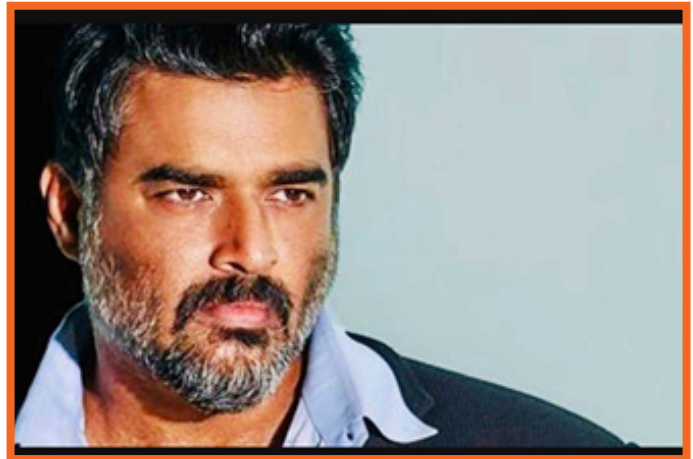
- Renowned actor R Madhavan has been nominated as the new President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Additionally, he will serve as the Chairman of the governing council of FTII.

Honors for 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'

- Madhavan's nomination follows the recent success of his film, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect,' which earned national recognition. The film secured the prestigious Best Feature Film award during the 69th National Film Awards.

'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'

- The acclaimed film, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect,' delves into the life of former ISRO scientist S Nambi Narayanan and his remarkable contributions to India's space agency. Its recognition with a national award is a testament to its compelling storytelling and relevance in showcasing India's scientific achievements.
- Coincidentally, the National Award for 'Rocketry' was conferred on August 24th, just a day after a historic achievement by ISRO. On August 23rd, ISRO successfully achieved the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the lunar surface. This dual recognition highlights India's prowess in both cinematic storytelling and space exploration.



FTII's Legacy in Indian Cinema -

- FTII has played a pivotal role in shaping the Indian film and television industry. It has been instrumental in nurturing and producing numerous talented filmmakers, actors, and technicians who have left an indelible mark on the global cinematic landscape.

- The institute boasts a remarkable roster of alumni who have gone on to make significant contributions to the world of cinema. This includes renowned filmmakers such as Rajkumar Hirani, Mani Kaul, and Shyam Benegal, along with accomplished actors like Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Om Puri, and many others.

Dr. Vasudha Gupta Assumes Charge As Principal DG Of Akashvani

- Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has taken charge as the Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division. This appointment comes after her commendable tenure as Director General at Akashvani, where she played a pivotal role in revitalizing the iconic broadcasting institution. With over 33 years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including her tenure as Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Dr. Vasudha Gupta brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role.



Academic Accomplishments and Transformational Leadership of Dr. Vasudha Gupta

- Dr. Vasudha Gupta holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Over the past year, Dr. Gupta has been instrumental in the rejuvenation of Akashvani. Her vision and leadership have played a pivotal role in transforming the institution, making it more dynamic and in tune with the evolving media landscape. Her academic achievements have contributed to her ability to introduce social media platforms in regional languages through Akashvani, a significant step in making information more accessible to diverse audiences.

Dr. Vasudha Gupta's Innovative Contribution During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- While serving as Director General of the Press Information Bureau, Dr. Vasudha Gupta confronted the unparalleled challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of her remarkable achievements during this period was the creation of a feedback dashboard for the Government of India, accessible through various media platforms. This innovative tool facilitated immediate citizen engagement and feedback, resulting in a more agile and transparent government.

Srinivasan K. Swamy Elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2023-2024

- In a unanimous decision, Srinivasan K. Swamy, the Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, has been elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024. This significant appointment reflects Mr. Swamy's extensive experience and leadership in the advertising and media industry. Alongside Mr. Swamy, other prominent figures were also elected to key positions within the Bureau for the upcoming year.

Srinivasan K. Swamy, A Distinguished Leader

- Srinivasan K. Swamy is a highly regarded figure in the advertising and media world. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations and has held pivotal leadership roles in numerous prominent organizations. These include the International Advertising Association (IAA), IAA India Chapter, Confederation of Asian Advertising Agency Associations, Advertising Agencies Association of India, Advertising Standards Council of



India, All India Management Association, Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Madras Management Association. Mr. Swamy's contributions to the industry have been recognized with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI).

Key Appointments in the Bureau -

- In addition to Mr. Swamy's election as Chairman, several other distinguished individuals have been appointed to crucial positions within the Audit Bureau of Circulations:
- Deputy Chairman: Riyad Mathew, Chief Associate Editor and Director of Malayala Manorama, will serve as the Deputy Chairman representing publisher members on the council.
- Secretary: Mohit Jain, Executive Director of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Limited, has been unanimously elected as the Secretary of the Bureau, representing publisher members on the council.
- Treasurer: Vikram Sakhuja, Partner & Group CEO Media & OOH of Madison Communications Private Limited, has been unanimously re-elected as the Treasurer of the Bureau, representing advertising agencies members on the council.

HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Gets 3-Year Extension

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently given its stamp of approval for the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank. This tenure extension will see Jagdishan at the helm of the bank for an additional three years, extending his leadership until October 26, 2026. This regulatory decision comes as a significant endorsement of his leadership and strategic vision for one of India's largest and most influential banking institutions.



A Remarkable Journey

- Sashidhar Jagdishan's journey within HDFC Bank is nothing short of remarkable. He joined the bank back in 1996 as a manager within the finance function. Over the years, his dedication and commitment propelled him through the ranks. By 1999, he had become the Business Head of Finance, a role that showcased his financial acumen and leadership potential. In 2008, Jagdishan assumed the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), a role he excelled in, laying the foundation for his eventual ascent to the top of the organization.
- In October 2020, Jagdishan took the reins as the CEO, a role that allowed him to steer the bank through challenging times and towards new opportunities. Before becoming CEO, he held the position of Group Head of the bank while overseeing crucial functions like finance, human resources, legal and secretarial, administration, infrastructure, corporate communications, and corporate social responsibility. With over 31 years of experience in the banking industry, his journey exemplifies a commitment to excellence.
- Jagdishan's Contract Extension and the HDFC-HDFC Bank Merger: Creating India's Second-Largest Bank
- Jagdishan's contract extension comes several months following the merger of HDFC Ltd, the parent company, with HDFC Bank. This merger resulted in the formation of the second-largest bank in India, trailing only behind the State Bank of India in terms of size and scope. The merger officially took effect on July 1, 2023, leading to the dissolution of the long-standing institution, HDFC Ltd, which had been in operation for 44 years.
- This merger, considered the most significant transaction in the history of India Inc, was agreed upon on April 4, 2022. In this \$40-billion all-stock deal, HDFC Bank took over its parent company, HDFC Ltd, which was the largest pure-play mortgage lender in the country. This consolidation created a financial services behemoth with combined assets exceeding Rs 18 lakh crore.
- Subsequent to the merger, HDFC Bank became entirely owned by public shareholders. As a consequence of this merger, HDFC shareholders now possess a 41 percent stake in the bank. This distribution occurred as every HDFC shareholder received 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they previously held.

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

- In a recent development, the Central government has granted a one-year extension to M Rajeshwar Rao's term as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The announcement was made via an official statement from the Reserve Bank, indicating that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved this re-appointment.

Continuing the Journey -

- M Rajeshwar Rao was originally appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank in October 2020, with a term of three years. His initial assignment was to oversee financial regulation within the central bank. However, this new extension will allow him to continue his vital role for an additional year, starting from October 9, 2023, or until further orders are issued, whichever comes first.

A Distinguished Career -

- Rao's journey within the Reserve Bank of India has been marked by his contributions in various capacities. Before becoming Deputy Governor, he held the position of Chief General Manager of the Financial Markets Operations Department, where he gained substantial experience in managing the intricacies of financial markets.
- In November 2016, Rao was promoted to the role of Executive Director. During this tenure, he oversaw several key departments, including statistics and information management, financial markets operations, and the international department, highlighting his versatility and deep understanding of the central bank's functions.



Make every
moment count
towards success

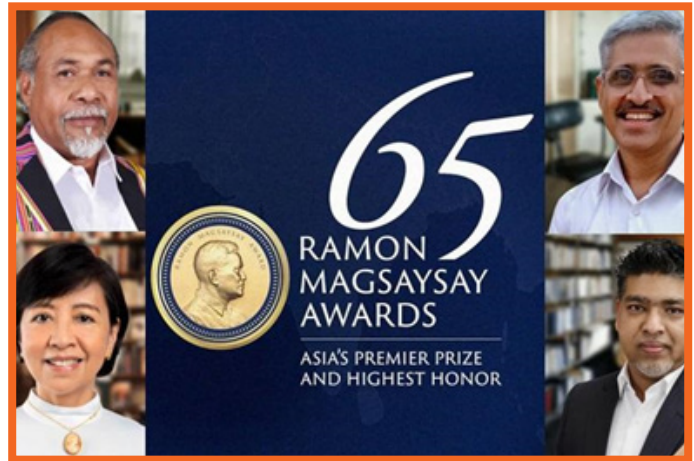


Awards



65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the ‘Nobel Prize of Asia’, is a notable accolade that represents exceptional spirit and influential leadership. This year, in the ceremony’s 65th edition, four Asians were given the Ramon Magsaysay Award, joining the ranks of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama, Satyajit Ray, and many others. They are Korvi Rakshand from Bangladesh, Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from the Philippines, and Dr Ravi Kannan R. from India. The award carries a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize of USD 50,000.



Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 Winners List

Awardee Name	Country	Contribution
Korvi Rakshand	Bangladesh	Developing inclusive education for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh
Eugenio Lemos	Timor-Leste	Notable contributions to how young Timorese views nature and their surroundings.
Miriam Coronel-Ferrer	Philippines	Unwavering belief in the transformative power of non-violent strategies in peacebuilding
Dr Ravi Kannan R.	India	Strong devotion to his medical profession, focusing on what medicine is truly for: pro-health and people-centred treatment.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Rated ‘A+’ In Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

- In a recent announcement that has garnered international attention, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an ‘A+’ rating in the prestigious Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. This commendation places him at the pinnacle of central bank governors worldwide. The announcement was made by the RBI through its official communication channel on social media platform ‘X’ (formerly known as Twitter).

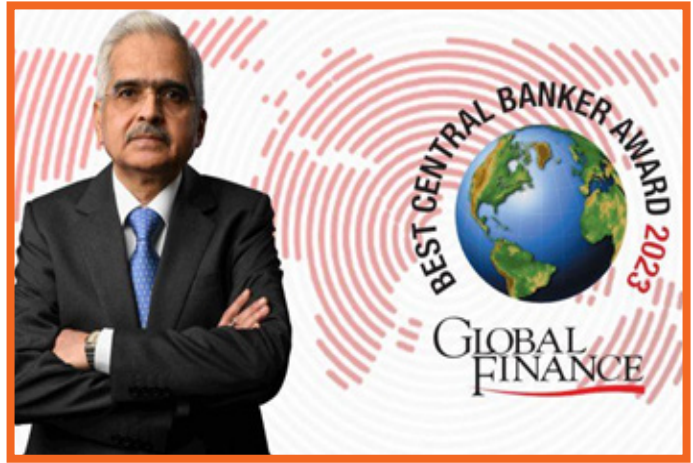
A Global Recognition -

- This recognition has placed Shaktikanta Das at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated ‘A’. Joining Shaktikanta Das in the elite category of central bank governors who earned an ‘A+’ grade in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 are Thomas J. Jordan from Switzerland and

Nguyen Thi Hong from Vietnam. This recognition solidifies Governor Das's standing as one of the most influential and effective central bank leaders in the world.

A Tradition of Excellence -

- The Central Banker Report Cards have been published annually by Global Finance since 1994. These report cards provide a comprehensive assessment of the performance of central bank governors from 101 key countries, territories, and districts, including prominent institutions like the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Bank of Central African States, and the Central Bank of West African States.



Important

- ✓ **Founder and Editorial Director of Global Finance: Joseph Giarraputo**

Karachi's Erica Robin becomes first Miss Universe Pakistan 2023

- Erica Robin, a model from Karachi has been crowned "Miss Universe Pakistan 2023", becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win the title. Four other models from different parts of the country participated in the beauty pageant, including Hira Inam from Lahore, Jessical Wilson from Rawalpindi, Pakistani-American Malika Alvi from Pennsylvania, and Sabrina Wasim. Jessica Wilson, a 28-year-old cyber security engineer was named first runner-up while Hira Inam (24), Malyka Alvi (19), and Sabrina Wasim (26) were the rest of the finalists.
- Award-winning actress, mental health advocate, and former Miss International Kylie Verzosa from the Philippines was one of the distinguished panel of judges who picked the winner.
- Robin will be the official representative of Pakistan at the Miss Universe pageant, scheduled to be held in El Salvador later this year. Pakistan will be sending five models to compete in the prestigious Miss Universe pageant. This landmark moment marks the first time Pakistan has ever been represented in the world's most esteemed beauty competition.



Shanta Thoutam honoured with World Innovation Award at BRICS Innovation Forum

- Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Shanta Thoutam has been presented with the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum hosted at Moscow from August 27 to 29. The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4 that ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all. There were representations from more than 30 countries at the forum.
- The other two nominees in the category were Fernando Padula Novaes, Municipal Minister of Education of Sao Paulo in Brazil and Saif Al-Hiddabi, Undersecretary of Research and Innovation at Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation in Oman.

Work of Shanta Thoutam

- Shanta Thoutam completed 7 years of her service in the innovation ecosystem of Telangana starting with the role of Vice President at T-Hub, then Officer on Special Duty (OSD) for State Handlooms and Textiles Department, and currently serving as the first woman CIO.
- With over 30 countries' representatives at the first-of-its-kind forum, Shanta Thoutam as one of the panelists in the Cloud City Conference enlightened about the various pathbreaking initiatives and achievements of the government of Telangana in the space of open data, digital innovation, and urban development.

**About the World Innovation Award**

- The World Innovation Award, organized by World Organisation for Development, an international NGO with Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic & Social Council, honours leaders from the developing world that have made an outstanding personal contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through a systematic effort to implement innovative solutions.

President Murmu Presented National Teachers' Award 2023

- President Droupadi Murmu presented awards at an event organized by the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education, held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. This year, 75 teachers from all over the country were chosen to receive this prestigious award. The purpose of the award is to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of teachers. It aims to honor those educators who, through their unwavering commitment and dedication, have not only enhanced the quality of education but also positively impacted the lives of their students.
- Each recipient of the award receives a certificate of merit, a cash prize of ₹50,000, and a silver medal. Starting this year, the National Teachers' Award has been extended to include teachers from the Department of Higher Education and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Among the 75 selected teachers, 50 are from the school system, 13 are from higher education institutions, and 12 come from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**Here is the list of National Teachers' Award winners**

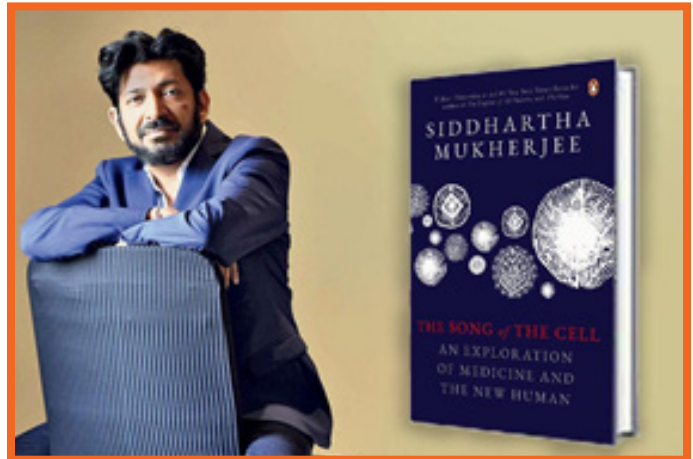
Name	School/Institution	Location
Satyapal Singh	Rewari, Khol	Haryana
Vijay Kumar	Govt. Sen. Sec. School Mohtli, Indora	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
Amritpal Singh	Govt. Sen. Sec. School Chhapar, Pakhowal	Ludhiana, Punjab
Arti Qanungo	Skv Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi	
Daulat Singh Gusain	Govt. Inter College Sendhikhal, Jaiharikhal	Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
Sanjay Kumar	Govt. Model High School, Sector 49D, Cluster 14, Chandigarh	
Asha Rani Suman	Govt. Upper Primary School Kharkhada, Rajgarh	Alwar, Rajasthan
Sheela Asopa	Ggsss, Shyam Sadan, Jodhpur	Rajasthan

Name	School/Institution	Location
Shyamsundar Ramchand Khanchandani	Government Higher Secondary School	Silvassa, Daman And Diu
Avinash Murlidhar Parkhe	Disha School For The Special Children	Panaji, Tiswadi, North Goa
Deepak Jethalal Mota	Shree Hundraibag Primary School	Kachchh, Gujarat
Dr. Ritaben Nikeshchandra Fulwala	Sheth Shree P.H. Bachkaniwala Vidhyamandir	Surat, Gujarat
Sarika Gharu	Govt. H. S. School, Sandiya District	Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh
Seema Agnihotri	CM Rise Govt. Vinoba H.S. School	Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh
Dr. Brajesh Pandey	Swami Atmanand Govt. English School	Sarguja, Chhattisgarh
Md. Ejazul Hague	MS Diwankhana	Chatra, Jharkhand
Bhupinder Gogia	Sat Paul Mittal School	Ludhiana, Punjab
Shashi Sekhar Kar Sharma	Kenduapada Nodal High School	Bhadrak, Odisha
Subhash Chandra Rout	Brundaban Govt. High School	Jagatsinghpur, Odisha
Dr. Chandan Mishra	Raghunathpur, Nafar Academy	Howrah, West Bengal
Reyaz Ahmed Sheikh	Govt. Middle School, Poshnari, Chittergul	Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir
Asiya Farooqui	Primary School, Asti Nagar	Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh
Chndr Prakash Agrwal	Shiv Kumar Agarwal Janta Inter College	Moh, Uttar Pradesh
Anil Kumar Singh	Adarsh Girls Senior Secondary School	Ramgarh, Kaimur-Bhabua, Bihar
Dwijendra Kumar	NS Madhuban, Bangaon Bazaar	Sitamarhi, Bihar
Kumari Guddi	High School Singhia Kishanganj	Bihar
Ravi Kant Mishra	JNV, Beekar, Datia	Madhya Pradesh
Manoranjan Pathak	Sainik School, Tilaiya Kanti, Chandwara, Kodarma	Jharkhand
Dr. Yashpal Singh	Eklavya Model Residential School, Phanda	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Mujib Rahiman K U	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanjikode	Palakkad, Kerala
Chetna Khambete	Kendriya Vidyalay No.2, BSF, Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Narayan Parmeshwar Bhagwat	Shri Marikamba Govt. PUC High School Section	Sirsi, Karnataka
Sapna Shrishail Anigol	K.L.E. Society's S.C.P. Jr College High School	Bagalkot, Karnataka
Netai Chandra Dey	Ramakrishna Mission School, Narottam Nagar	Deomali, Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh
Ningthoujam Binoy Singh	Chingmei Upper Primary School	Moirang, Bishnupur, Manipur
Dr. Purna Bahadur Chhetri	Govt. Senior Secondary School, Soreng	Sikkim
Lalthianghlina	Govt. Diakkawn High School	Kolasib, Bilkhawthlir, Kolasib, Mizoram
Madhav Singh	Alpha English Higher Secondary School	Umling, Meghalaya
Kumud Kalita	Pathshala Senior Secondary School, Muguria	Pathsala, Assam
Jose D Sujeev	Govt. Model Girls Higher Secondary School, Pattom	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Mekala Bhaskar Rao	Mcps Kondayapalem Sw. Sc. Colony Kondayapalem	Spsr Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
Murahara Rao Uma Gandhi	Gvmcp School Sivajipalem, 21	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Settem Anjaneyulu	S.R.R. Z.P. High School Masapeta	Rayachoti, Annamayya, Andhra Pradesh
Archana Nooguri	Mpps Rebbanapally Rebbanpally	Luxettipet, Mancherial, Telangana
Santhosh Kumar Bhedodkar	Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School Nipani	Bheempur, Adilabad, Telangana
Ritika Anand	St. Marks Sec Public School, Paschim Vihar	Delhi
Sudhanshu Shekhar Panda	K.L. International School	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh
Dr. T Godwin Vedanayagam Rajkumar	Government Boys HR Sec. School, Alanganallur	Madurai, Tamil Nadu
Malathi S. S. Malathi	Government Higher Secondary School Veerakeralampudur	Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu
Mrinal Nandkishor Ganjale	Z P School Pimpalgaon Tarfe, Mahalunge,	Ambegaon, Pune, Maharashtra
Dr. S. Brinda	PSG Polytechnic College	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Ms. Mehta Zankhana Dilipbhai	Government Polytechnic	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Keshav Kashinath Sangle	VJTI	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Dr. S.R. Mahadeva Prasanna	IIT	Dharwad, Karnataka
Dr. Dinesh Babu J	International Institute of Information Technology	Bangalore, Karnataka
Dr. Farheen Bano	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Suman Chakraborty	IIT	Kharagpur, West Bengal
Sayam Sen Gupta	IISER	Mohanpur, Kolkata

Name	School/Institution	Location
Dr. Chandragouda Raosaheb Patil	R.C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research	Shirpur, Maharashtra
Dr. Raghavan B. Sunoj	IIT	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Indranath Sengupta	IIT	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Dr. Ashish Baldi	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University	Bathinda, Punjab
Dr. Satya Ranjan Acharya	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Ramesh Rakshit	Government Industrial Training Institute	Durgapur, West Bengal
Raman Kumar	Government ITI Hilsa	Nalanda, Bihar
Shiyad S	Government ITI	Malampuzha, Palakkad
Swati Yogesh Deshmukh	Government Industrial Training Institute	Lower Parel, Mumbai
Timothy Jones Dhar	Government ITI	Shillong
Ajith A Nair	Government ITI	Kalamassery, H.M.T. Colony, Ernakulam
S. Chithrakumar	Government Industrial Training Institute (Women)	Natham Road, Kullanampatti, Dindigul
Rabinarayan Sahu	ITI for PwDs	Khudpur, Khordha
Sunita Singh	Industrial Training Institute	Bhubaneswar
Pooja R Singh	National Skill Training Institute	Bangalore
Divy	National Skill Training Institute for Women	Hosur Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka
Dr. Dibyendu Choudhary	School of Enterprise Management (SEM) National Institute for MSME	Yousufguda, Hyderabad

Indian-American physician Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee in UK's top non-fiction prize longlist

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



Important

- ✓ Six finalists for the award will be announced on October 8 in a live event at England's annual Cheltenham Literature Festival, and the winner will be revealed on November 16 at a ceremony at the Science Museum in London.
- ✓ Founded in 1999, the prize covers all English non-fiction in the areas of current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts.
- ✓ Last year's winner was Katherine Rundell's poet biography "Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne".

Chartered Accountant Praveena Anjana Crowned Miss International India 2023

- Praveena Anjana of Udaipur has been crowned Miss International India 2023, gaining her position to represent India at the Miss International pageant in Japan this October. Anjana, 23, is a chartered accountant by profession who has been interested in fashion and beauty since she was a kid. She began modelling at an early age and has competed in various beauty pageants, most recently winning the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 pageant in August.

About the Anjana -

- Anjana is a strong supporter for women's empowerment and is enthusiastic about utilising her platform to raise awareness about key topics such as gender equality and education. She is also a skilled classical dancer and likes playing the piano.
- Anjana stated in an interview following her victory that she is eager to represent India at the Miss International competition and aims to do the country proud. She stated that she intends to use her platform to showcase the beauty and variety of India, as well as to motivate young women to pursue their aspirations.



Miss International pageant -

- The Miss International pageant is one of the most renowned beauty pageants in the world, conducted annually in Japan. The pageant's goal is to promote international peace and understanding through the power of beauty. Anjana's victory is significant for India and is expected to encourage young women across the country. She is a role model for all women and an inspiration to everybody who aspires to greatness.

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

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



Green Railway Stations Rating System -

- The IGBC-CII Green Railway Stations Rating System is a voluntary initiative that aims to facilitate the adoption of green concepts in railway stations. The system helps to address national priorities such as water conservation, waste management, energy efficiency, reduced use of fossil fuels, and lesser dependency on virgin materials. The rating system also helps the station management to understand their current position with respect to the "green performance" of the station and the measures that need to be taken to enhance the performance on a continual basis.

- The IGBC, with the support of Environment Directorate of Indian Railways, developed the Green Railway Stations rating system to facilitate adoption of green concepts and enhance the overall commuter experience.
- The rating is based on six environmental categories as defined by IGBC which include sustainable station facility, health, hygiene and sanitation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, smart and green initiatives and innovation and development.

Indian-Origin Author Novel 'Western Lane' Shortlisted In Booker Prize 2023

- The Booker Prize 2023 judging panel has unveiled the final list of six novels, carefully curated from the "Booker dozen" longlist of 13 titles. These novels were selected from a pool of 163 books, published between October of the previous year and September of the current year. The announcement of the prize is scheduled for November 26th.

Chetna Maroo's "Western Lane" -

- London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel, 'Western Lane,' has earned a well-deserved place on the prestigious Booker Prize shortlist. The novel tells the poignant story of an 11-year-old British Gujarati girl named Gopi and her profound bonds with her family. At its core, 'Western Lane' explores the challenges faced by an immigrant father who endeavors to raise his family as a single parent. What sets this novel apart is its unique use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions, a choice celebrated by the Booker judges.



The Diverse Shortlist -

Apart from 'Western Lane,' the Booker Prize 2023 shortlist includes a captivating array of works from talented authors around the world:

- "Prophet Song" by Paul Lynch (Ireland): Lynch's novel promises a literary journey that is sure to captivate readers with its Irish charm and storytelling finesse.
- "The Bee Sting" by Paul Murray (Ireland): Murray's work hints at a narrative that may leave readers buzzing with anticipation.
- "Study for Obedience" by Sarah Bernstein (Canada): Bernstein's novel offers an exploration of obedience and its complexities in the modern world.
- "If I Survive You" by Jonathan Escoffery (US): Escoffery's narrative takes readers on a journey of survival, navigating the intricate facets of life.
- "This Other Eden" by Paul Harding (US): Harding's work invites readers into an "Eden" that promises to be both familiar and mysterious.

The Global Reach of the Booker Prize: A Celebration of Literary Diversity -

- The Booker Prize remains open to works of fiction written in English by authors from any corner of the world, as long as the books are published in the UK or Ireland. The diversity within this year's shortlist is remarkable, encompassing authors of Indian, Jamaican, Canadian, and Irish descent, as well as acclaimed writers who have garnered recognition in various literary circles. The Booker Prize continues to be a platform that celebrates the extraordinary talents and vastly varied styles of writers, engaging readers from all walks of life.

The Booker Prize 2023 Prize Money

- The Booker Prize 2023 boasts a substantial prize purse of £50,000, which will be awarded to the winning author of the first-place book. Furthermore, in acknowledgment of their exceptional contributions to contemporary literature, the remaining shortlisted authors will each receive a prize of £2,500.

Important

- ✓ Chief Executive of the Booker Prize Foundation: Gaby Wood.
- ✓ Winner of the 1997 Booker Prize for the novel “The God of Small Things”: Arundhati Roy.
- ✓ Chair of the judging panel of the Booker Prize 2023: Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan.

Fashion Designer Rahul Mishra Honored With France’s “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” award

- Rahul Mishra, the visionary Indian designer was honored with the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government, joining a distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora who have previously received this award.

A Champion of Ethical and Sustainable Fashion

- Rahul Mishra’s journey through the world of fashion has been guided by a strong commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. His creations not only captivate the eye but also inspire change by highlighting the highest standards and craft of local artisans in India. Mishra’s designs are an exquisite blend of traditional Indian hand-woven textiles and intricate embroidery techniques, showcasing the country’s rich heritage and culture. Through his work, he has become a staunch advocate for ethical and sustainable fashion, setting a remarkable example for the global fashion industry.

From Mumbai to Paris: A Global Presence

- Mishra’s designs have graced the runways of some of the most prestigious fashion weeks around the world, from Paris and Milan to Mumbai. His unique ability to seamlessly blend traditional Indian craftsmanship with modern design aesthetics has earned him international acclaim. His creations have been worn by a host of celebrities, including the likes of Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Zendaya, and Viola Davis, further solidifying his status as a designer of global repute.

Environment, Employment, and Empowerment: Rahul Mishra’s Design Philosophy -

- At the heart of Rahul Mishra’s design philosophy lies a deep commitment to the principles of environment, employment, and empowerment. He believes in creating fashion that not only makes a statement but also leaves a positive impact on the world. By championing sustainable practices and promoting the work of local artisans, Mishra ensures that his designs contribute to the well-being of both the environment and the people involved in the production process



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

- The Government of India has recently introduced a prestigious set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation, known as the “Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar” (RVP). These awards serve a vital role in recognizing and honoring the exceptional contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators who have significantly impacted various domains of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

The Vision Behind Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar -

- The primary objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable work accomplished by individuals or teams in the realm of science, technology, and innovation. This initiative aims to inspire and motivate scientists, technologists, and innovators to continue their pursuit of excellence, driving progress and innovation in India.



A Landmark Recognition -

- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar stands as one of the highest honors within the scientific and technological community in India. It encompasses individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those working in government, private sector organizations, or as independent contributors to the scientific and technological landscape. The awards recognize path-breaking research, innovative discoveries, and technological advancements that have made a significant impact on society.

The Four Distinct Categories -

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar consists of four distinct categories to accommodate a wide range of contributions:

1) Vigyan Ratna (VR) Award

- This award honors lifetime achievements and substantial contributions made by individuals in any field of science and technology. It recognizes the cumulative impact of their work over the years.

2) Vigyan Shri (VS) Award

- Distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology are acknowledged through this award. It highlights the exceptional efforts of individuals who have made a lasting mark in their respective domains.

3) Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award

- This category encourages and recognizes young scientists under the age of 45 who have made exceptional contributions in the field of science and technology. It aims to nurture and motivate the emerging talent in India.

4) Vigyan Team (VT) Award

- Teamwork often leads to groundbreaking discoveries. The VT Award is presented to teams comprising three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators who have made an outstanding contribution while working collectively in any field of science and technology.

Eligibility Criteria -

- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to scientists, technologists, and innovators working in various sectors, including government and private organizations. To be eligible, candidates must have made distinguished contributions through path-breaking research, innovation, or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology-led innovation. Individuals of Indian origin residing abroad who have significantly benefited Indian communities or society as a whole are also eligible for these prestigious awards.

'2018' is India's official entry in Oscars 2024

- The Film Federation of India has announced that the Malayalam movie "2018: Everyone is a Hero," based on the Kerala floods, will represent India as its official entry at the Academy Awards or Oscars in 2024. The film, directed by Jude Anthony Joseph, delves into the harrowing tales of survival during the devastating floods that struck the state. Its selection was attributed to its poignant portrayal of climate change issues and the societal misconceptions about development.

Selection Amidst Tough Competition :

- The movie faced stiff competition, contending with more than 20 other films vying for the coveted nomination.

Key Competitors :

Several noteworthy films were in contention, including :

- The Kerala Story (Hindi): A cinematic depiction of Kerala's unique cultural narrative.
- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani: A Hindi film exploring the themes of love and relationships.
- Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway (Hindi): A film that delves into a legal battle.
- Balagam (Telugu): A Telugu-language film that likely showcases regional culture and issues.
- Vaalvi (Marathi): A Marathi-language film with a compelling storyline.
- Baaplyok (Marathi): Another Marathi film, offering a diverse perspective.
- August 16, 1947 (Tamil): A Tamil film likely exploring historical events.

Selection Committee's Role -

- All these films underwent rigorous scrutiny before a 16-member selection committee led by Kasaravalli, who played a pivotal role in the decision-making process.



Swati Nayak from Odisha, To Receive the 2023 Norman Borlaug Field Award

- In a momentous recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field of agriculture and food production, Odia scientist Swati Nayak is set to receive the prestigious Borlaug Field Award for 2023. This coveted award honors her innovative approach to engaging farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.

A Rising Star at CGIAR-International Rice Research Institute -

- Swati Nayak currently serves as a scientist and holds the position of South Asia lead for seed system and product management at the CGIAR-International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) located in the Philippines. Her dedication and commitment to revolutionizing rice agriculture have earned her this distinguished accolade from the World Food Prize selection jury.

A Remarkable Career Spanning 13 Years -

- Swati Nayak's impressive career spanning over 13 years has left an indelible mark on the world of agriculture.



She has organized more than 10,000 on-farm and comparative testings, and participatory evaluations for over 500 rice varieties.

- Her efforts have resulted in the dissemination of more than 20 critical path-breaking varieties that are not only climate-resilient but also high-yielding, bio-fortified, and healthier, all achieved through innovative seed systems and scaling channels across multiple countries.

Swati Nayak's Drought-tolerant rice variety -

- One of Swati Nayak's remarkable achievements includes the introduction of the drought-tolerant rice variety, Shahabhazi Dhan, in Mayurbhanj, Odisha. Eight years since her initial intervention, Shahabhazi Dhan continues to be one of the most sought-after rice products in Odisha and the rest of India, as attested by official sources.

Seeds Without Borders: An International Seed Policy Agreement

- Nayak's influence extends beyond national borders. She played a pivotal role in crafting an international seed policy agreement known as "Seeds Without Borders," which expedites the distribution of modern rice varieties throughout South and Southeast Asia. Her work in this domain has contributed significantly to enhancing global food security.

Empowering Women in Agriculture-

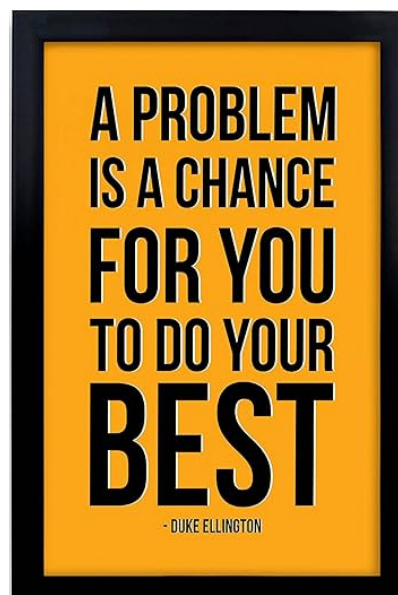
- In addition to her groundbreaking research, Swati Nayak has made a substantial impact on empowering women in agriculture through her collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a project led by the Indian government and the World Bank. Her initiatives have fostered greater gender inclusivity and participation in agriculture-related activities.

The Grand Recognition -

- Swati Nayak is scheduled to receive the Borlaug Field Award during the Borlaug Dialogue, set to take place on October 24 this year in Des Moines, Iowa. This award, named after the renowned agricultural scientist and Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug, is presented annually to individuals under the age of 40 whose work significantly advances global food production and helps alleviate hunger and malnutrition. As part of this honor, Nayak will be awarded \$10,000 and an award diploma.

Important

- ✓ Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik



Economic

The Finance Ministry Predicts 6.5% Real GDP Growth For

- The Union Ministry of Finance recently released its Monthly Economic Review for August 2023, confirming its confidence in a 6.5 percent real GDP growth projection for FY24, characterized by balanced risks. The report paints a promising picture of India's economic performance in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24). This review not only highlighted the impressive real GDP growth in Q1 but also acknowledged the factors driving this growth and the challenges ahead.

Stellar Q1 Growth -

- The report starts by celebrating India's robust economic growth in the first quarter of FY24, with a remarkable 7.8 percent increase in real GDP. This growth was primarily fueled by strong domestic demand for both consumption and investment. The government attributed this to improved corporate profitability, increased private capital formation, and a surge in bank credit growth.

High-Frequency Indicators Confirm Growth -

- The growth recorded in Q1 was not just a statistical anomaly but was consistent with various high-frequency indicators. These indicators suggest that the economic momentum in India is sustainable and supported by a broad range of economic activities.

Challenges and Risks -

- While the report painted a bright picture of India's economic landscape, it didn't ignore the challenges that lie ahead. It raised concerns about steadily climbing crude oil prices in the global market, which can have a significant impact on India's economy. Additionally, the report noted the potential consequences of the monsoon deficit in August on Kharif and Rabi crops, although it did mention that the rains in September helped alleviate some of the rainfall deficit.

Government's Role in Growth -

- The report underscored the government's pivotal role in driving economic growth. It attributed the strength of domestic investment to the government's emphasis on capital expenditure. Furthermore, the measures implemented by the Union government incentivized states to increase their capital expenditure spending, fostering growth at both the national and regional levels.



PLAN
PREPARE
PERFORM

365
DAYS
365
WAYS

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

- In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Axis Bank has recently unveiled its groundbreaking Transaction Banking platform, 'NEO for Business.' This innovative digital offering is designed to comprehensively address the real-time requirements of MSMEs, marking a significant milestone in the landscape of business banking in India.



A Visionary Approach to Business Banking -

- Neeraj Gambhir, Axis Bank's Group Executive and Head of Treasury, Markets, and Wholesale Banking Products, highlighted the rapid evolution in MSME business banking, emphasizing the need for a holistic solution to address both banking and non-banking needs. He stated:
- 'NEO for Business' offers a resolution to their diverse requirements by offering a wide range of products and services through a unified platform.
- This platform, originally designed for corporate banking clients, delivers a full array of digital banking products and services.
- Within this ecosystem, 'NEO for Business' emerges as an innovative solution tailored to cater to the distinct business needs of MSMEs.

Transforming MSME Transaction Banking -

- Vivek Gupta, President and Head of Wholesale Banking Products at Axis Bank, highlighted the distinctiveness of 'NEO for Business.' He stated:
- "NEO for Business" is built to create a distinctive first Transaction Banking platform for MSMEs.
- It has a contemporary UI/UX along with bank-grade security features.
- NEO for Business, will transform the Transaction Banking landscape for MSMEs by creating a strong digital ecosystem to solve all the evolving needs of MSMEs.

IDFC First Bank Grabs 3-Year Title Sponsorship for BCCI Matches at Rs 4.2 Crore Per Match

What's in News ?

- On 25th August, the Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years. The IDFC First Bank will provide a sum of Rs.4.2 crore per international match.

A Thriving Partnership -

- The agreement between IDFC First Bank and BCCI covers a total of 56 matches, spanning across the next three years. This exciting lineup includes 15 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 15 test matches and 26 T20 matches.
- IDFC First Bank's sponsorship is not limited to just the matches that take center stage on the international platform. The agreement also encompasses various domestic cricket events organized the BCCI such as the prestigious Irani Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Ranji Trophy tournaments. Additionally, junior cricket matches including those in the Under 19 and Under 23 categories, held in India, fall under the purview of this partnership.



SBI launches Aadhaar-Based Enrolment For Social Security Schemes

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant step towards enhancing financial inclusivity and social welfare by introducing an innovative Customer Service Points (CSP) functionality. This functionality allows customers to seamlessly enrol in essential social security schemes using just their Aadhaar cards.
- The move was unveiled by SBI's Chairman, Dinesh Khara, who emphasized the bank's commitment to breaking down barriers to financial security through technology-driven solutions.

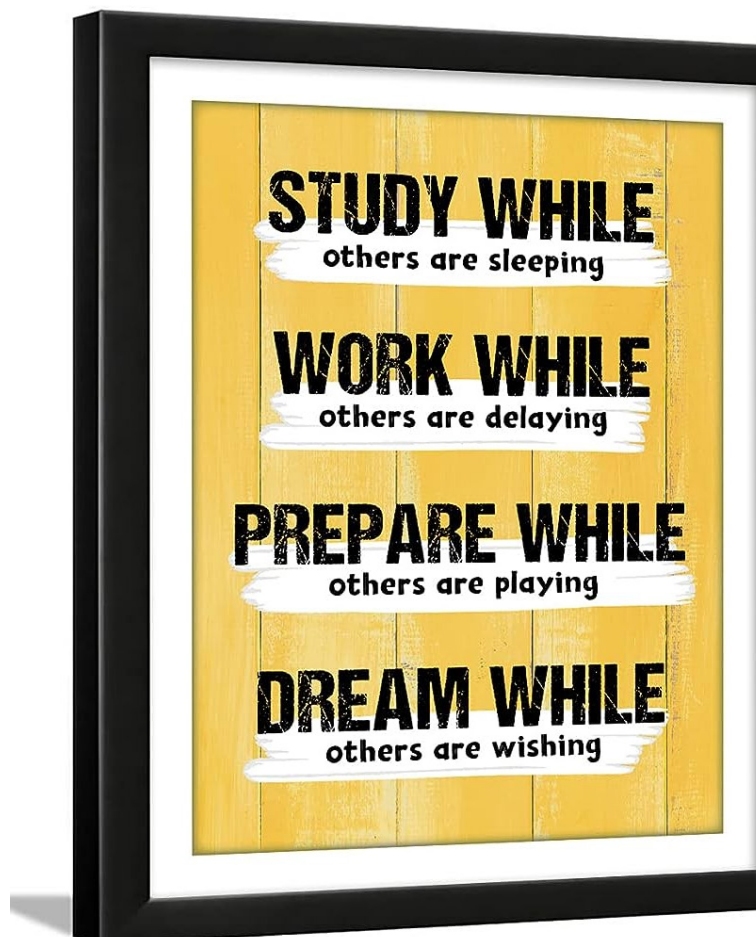


Empowering Society through Digital Financial Inclusion -

- This newly introduced technology-driven enhancement stands as a testament to SBI's dedication to improving financial inclusivity and social welfare through digitization. This strategic step aims to make the process of accessing social security schemes smoother and more accessible to all individuals, especially those who have faced challenges in navigating traditional financial systems.

Aadhaar-Powered Enrolment at Customer Service Points -

- With this groundbreaking feature, customers visiting SBI's Customer Service Points (CSPs) will find enrolling in crucial social security schemes a breeze. By leveraging the power of Aadhaar, India's unique biometric identification system, customers can enrol in key schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). Unlike the previous enrolment process that often required customers to carry passbooks to the CSP outlet, this advanced system streamlines and accelerates the enrolment process, making it faster and more convenient than ever before.



National

Women's Reservation Bill 2023

What is Women's Reservation Bill 2023 ?

- The Women Reservation Bill 2023, formally known as the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, has recently taken center stage in Indian politics. This landmark legislation aims to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women. However, the bill's implementation is tied to the conduct of a Census and a delimitation exercise, raising questions about its timeline and implications for the upcoming elections.



Key Provisions of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023

- The Women's Reservation Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha, seeks to bring about significant changes in Indian political representation. Here are its key provisions:

Reserving One-Third of Seats

- The Women's Reservation Bill 2023 proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women. This move is a significant step towards promoting gender equality in India's political landscape.

Dependent on Census and Delimitation -

- The implementation of this reservation is contingent upon conducting a fresh Census and a delimitation exercise. The delimitation process involves defining the boundaries of territorial constituencies based on population changes.

Delimitation Freeze -

- The last delimitation exercise in India took place in 1976 and the current constituency boundaries are based on the 2001 Census data. Through a constitution amendment in 2002, delimitation was frozen until the first Census conducted after 2026.

Ambiguity Around Census Data -

- While Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Census and delimitation would take place immediately after the general election, the specific dates remain undisclosed. The previous delay was attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, but no clear reasons were provided in prior notifications.

The Historical Context

- The journey of the Women's Reservation Bill dates back to the early 1990s when India took its first steps toward political empowerment for women. The constitution was amended to reserve seats for women in Panchayats and Municipalities in 1992. Subsequently, the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996 and subsequent bills sought to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.
- However, these early attempts faced obstacles and eventually lapsed due to various reasons, including a lack of consensus among political parties. The most recent attempt was made in 2008 when the bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha but lapsed in the Lok Sabha due to its dissolution.

Significance of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 -

1. Gender Equality: Historically, women have been under represented in Indian politics, perpetuating gender equality. The bill provides a fair opportunity for women to participate in decision-making, thus promoting gender equality.

- Empowerment: The bill grants women equal access to the political arena, breaking down traditional barriers and prejudices. As women gain experience in politics, it enhances their leadership skills and empowers them to influence policies that impact their communities.
- Diverse Perspectives: Increased female representation in politics ensures that gender-specific issues are addressed and leads to more comprehensive decision-making. Female political leaders can challenge patriarchal norms and create a more inclusive society.

Implementation Timeline -

- The implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill is contingent on the completion of the delimitation exercise based on the first census taken after the commencement of the Constitution (128th Amendment) Act 2023. This exercise is pending and it is estimated that the bill may not be implemented before 2029.

Political Implications and Concerns

- The Women's Reservation Bill 2023 has generated debates and concerns in the political arena:
 - Reduced Southern State Representation: Some politicians, like DMK MP Kanimozhi, fear that linking delimitation to population Census data might result in reduced representation for southern states. This issue has raised concerns about the fairness of the delimitation process.
 - Delayed Implementation: The bill's provisions, especially Clause 5, indicate that the reservation will only effect after delimitation and the Census provide the necessary figures. This could potentially delay the implementation of the bill beyond the upcoming 2024 general election and simultaneous State Assembly elections.

Old Parliament Building To Be Called As 'Samvidhan Sadan'

- As the proceedings of the Indian Parliament shift to a new, state-of-the-art building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new name for the old Parliament building: "Samvidhan Sadan" or "Constitution House." This iconic structure, designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and completed in 1927, has witnessed some of the most pivotal moments in Indian history, including the drafting and passing of India's constitution.



Prime Minister Modi's Touching Tribute: Renaming and Preserving India's Parliamentary Legacy -

- In a poignant moment, Prime Minister Modi proposed the renaming of the old Parliament building during a special ceremony. He emphasized the importance of preserving the legacy and significance of this historic edifice. This renaming not only pays homage to the past but also connects future generations to the great leaders who once convened here in the Constituent Assembly.

Honoring Jawaharlal Nehru and the Historical Legacy of Parliament -

- Prime Minister Modi remembered India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and emphasized the historical significance of the old Parliament building. He stated, "Today when we are entering the new Parliament building, when the 'grih pravesh' of Parliamentary democracy is taking place, the witness to the first rays of Independence and that which will inspire generations to come – the holy Sengol – that which was touched by India's first Prime Minister Pt Nehru. That is why, this Sengol connects us to a very important past." This reference to Nehru underlines the continuity of India's democratic values and its commitment to its founding principles.

Renaming 'Samvidhan Sadan': A Symbolic Commitment to India's Democratic Legacy -

- The renaming of the old Parliament building to "Samvidhan Sadan" is not just a symbolic gesture; it represents a commitment to preserving India's democratic heritage and passing it on to future generations. As India moves forward, the new Parliament building will serve as a symbol of modernity and progress, while the "Samvidhan Sadan" will remain a timeless reminder of the nation's democratic roots and its enduring commitment to the principles enshrined in its constitution.

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

- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list. This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition.
- The temples were finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023. The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's Tentative list since April 15, 2014. All these three Hoysala temples are already protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The Hoysala temples are known for their intricate carvings and exquisite architecture. They were built by the Hoysala Empire, which ruled over a large part of southern India between the 10th and 14th centuries. The three temples that have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List are:



- **Chennakeshava Temple at Belur**
- **Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu**
- **Keshava Temple at Somanathapura**

What is the history and significance of Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala?

- The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, constructed during the 12th and 13th centuries are represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid, and Somnathapura. While the Hoysala temples maintain a fundamental Dravidian morphology, they exhibit substantial influences from the Bhumija style prevalent in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.
- The Hoysalas were a powerful dynasty that ruled over much of southern India from the 11th to the 14th centuries. The Hoysala kings were known for their patronage of the arts, and they built many temples and other religious structures during their reign. The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala are the most impressive examples of Hoysala architecture, and they are a testament to the dynasty's wealth and power.

The three most important Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala are -

- **Belur** : The Chennakeshava Temple at Belur is the largest and most elaborate of the Hoysala temples. It is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu, and it is covered in intricate carvings depicting gods, goddesses, and scenes from Hindu mythology.
- **Halebidu**: The Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu is another impressive Hoysala temple. It is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, and it is known for its exquisite soapstone carvings.
- **Somnathapura**: The Keshava Temple at Somnathapura is a smaller Hoysala temple, but it is no less impressive than the temples at Belur and Halebidu. It is known for its harmonious proportions and its beautiful carvings.
- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala are significant for a number of reasons. First, they are some of the most beautiful and intricate examples of Hindu temple architecture in the world. Second, they are a testament to the wealth and power of the Hoysala dynasty. Third, they provide a unique glimpse into the religious and cultural life of the Hoysala people.

What does it signify when a site is listed on the World Heritage List ?

- According to UNESCO, when a country becomes a signatory to the World Heritage Convention and has its sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, it often brings about increased recognition and appreciation for heritage preservation among both its citizens and government. Furthermore, the country may avail itself of financial assistance and expert guidance from the World Heritage Committee to bolster efforts aimed at safeguarding these precious sites.

- When a site is listed on the World Heritage List, it signifies that it is of outstanding universal value to humanity. This means that it is a place of exceptional cultural or natural significance, and that its preservation is important for the benefit of all people.
- World Heritage sites can be cultural, natural, or mixed. Cultural sites include things like ancient ruins, historical monuments, and religious buildings. Natural sites include things like national parks, wildlife refuges, and geological formations. Mixed sites include places that have both cultural and natural significance, such as a cultural landscape or a national park with important cultural sites.
- There are currently 1,172 World Heritage Sites in 166 countries around the world. Some of the most famous World Heritage Sites include the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the Grand Canyon, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Being listed on the World Heritage List brings a number of benefits, including

- **International recognition and prestige**
- **Legal protection under the World Heritage Convention**
- **Access to funding from the World Heritage Fund**
- **Increased tourism revenue**
- However, listing on the World Heritage List also comes with certain responsibilities. Countries with World Heritage Sites must take steps to protect and conserve these sites, and to ensure that they are accessible to the public.
- Overall, being listed on the World Heritage List is a great honor and a sign that a site is truly special and worth preserving for future generations.

Here are some of the specific things that World Heritage sites can signify -

Cultural sites :

- **The achievements of human creativity and ingenuity**
- **The diversity of human cultures and traditions**
- **The importance of cultural identity and heritage**

Natural sites :

- **The beauty and wonder of the natural world**
- **The importance of biodiversity and conservation**
- **The interconnectedness of nature and culture**
- World Heritage sites also play an important role in education and tourism. They provide opportunities for people to learn about different cultures and natural environments, and to experience the beauty and wonder of the world.

India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity. This milestone marks a pivotal moment in India's quest for energy self-sufficiency and underscores the nation's commitment to harnessing indigenous nuclear technology.

Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant Reaches Full Capacity -

- The Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) had initiated its commercial operations on June 30, 2023, but initially operated at only 90 percent of its capacity. On August 31, 2023, the plant finally achieved its full operational potential.



- The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant is a testament to India's capability in developing and operating nuclear power facilities entirely on its own. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been at the forefront of this endeavor.

Indigenous Development by NPCIL -

- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is responsible for constructing two 700 MW pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, Gujarat. Kakrapar is already home to two 220 MW power plants, and with the new 700 MW unit coming online, it strengthens India's nuclear power generation capacity.

Expanding Nuclear Power in India -

- The NPCIL currently operates 23 commercial nuclear power reactors across the country. Moreover, the organization has plans to build a total of 16 700 MW PHWRs at various locations in India. Financial and administrative sanctions have reportedly been granted for these ambitious projects, emphasizing India's drive to expand its nuclear power capacity.

Important

- ✓ **Chairman & MD of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL): B. C. Pathak**

President to inaugurate 12-foot Mahatma Gandhi statue, 'Gandhi Vatika' near Rajghat

- In a momentous event that pays homage to the father of the nation, President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a 12-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' near Rajghat on September 4.
- This initiative, organized by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, carries immense significance as it coincides with India's celebration of 75 years of independence and its tenure as the G20 presidency. Let's explore the details of this event and its symbolic importance.



A Tribute to the Father of the Nation -

- **The statue of Mahatma Gandhi, towering at 12 feet, will be unveiled at the entrance of the 45-acre Gandhi Darshan complex.**
- **This complex is located near the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, where the revered leader was cremated.**



- **The statue serves as a poignant tribute to the Father of the Nation, who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence through non-violent means.**

Gandhi Vatika: A Serene Oasis -

- **Adjacent to the statue, the 'Gandhi Vatika' promises to be a tranquil haven for visitors.**

- This serene garden area will offer a peaceful ambiance for reflection and contemplation.
- It is a fitting addition to the surroundings of Rajghat, a place that holds deep historical and cultural significance for India.

Celebrating 75 Years of Independence and G20 Presidency -

- The inauguration of the statue and 'Gandhi Vatika' holds special importance as it coincides with the celebration of India's 75th year of independence.
- Additionally, it is a tribute to India's G20 presidency.
- The presence of President Murmu at the event underscores the government's commitment to honoring Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and showcasing India's role on the global stage.

A Symbol of Unity -

- To symbolize India's G20 presidency, flags of member nations have been installed at Gandhi Darshan.
- This gesture highlights India's role as a responsible global player, promoting cooperation and unity among nations.

Renovation in the Wake of Recent Floods

- The Gandhi Darshan complex, where these significant additions are being made, faced damage due to recent floods.
- The library within the complex suffered losses, particularly damage to books.
- Vice Chairperson Vijay Goel assured that the renovation efforts are well underway and are expected to be completed within two months.

India Unveils World's First Portable Hospital Arogya Maitri Cube

- India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



The Arogya Maitri Cube: A Glimpse Inside -

- The heart of this innovative disaster hospital lies in its 72 cubes, each containing an array of essential equipment and supplies. Among these are an operation theatre, a mini-ICU, ventilators, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a cooking station, food, water, shelter, a power generator, and more. These cubes are ingeniously designed to provide critical medical care and humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.
- One of the most remarkable features of the Arogya Maitri Cube is its ability to handle a wide range of severe injuries, including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries, and spinal fractures. This versatile disaster hospital is engineered to address the diverse medical needs of survivors in challenging conditions.

A Modular Solution for Disaster Relief -

- The Arogya Maitri Cube is modular in design, which enhances its efficiency and adaptability during disaster response missions. It comprises 72 cubes, which can be combined to create a specialized cage designed to accommodate 36 mini-cubes. These mini-cubes contain almost everything necessary for the survival of 100 survivors for a period of 48 hours. Remarkably, there are two of these cages, referred to as master cubes, which can be joined together to support up to 200 survivors.
- The design of these cubes draws inspiration from the "Rubik's Cube," ensuring that each cube is lightweight, weighing less than 20kg. This lightweight design allows them to be easily carried manually for distances of up to a kilometer, facilitating rapid deployment to disaster-stricken areas.

Objectives of the Alliance -**The GBA aims to :**

1. **Promote Sustainable Biofuels:** Support the development and deployment of sustainable biofuels globally.
2. **Capacity Building:** Offer capacity-building exercises, technical support, and policy lessons-sharing.
3. **Virtual Marketplace:** Create a virtual marketplace to map demand and supply, connect technology providers with end users.
4. **Standards and Regulations:** Develop and implement internationally recognized standards, sustainability principles, and regulations to incentivize biofuel adoption and trade.

Benefits for India -

The GBA is expected to benefit India in several ways :

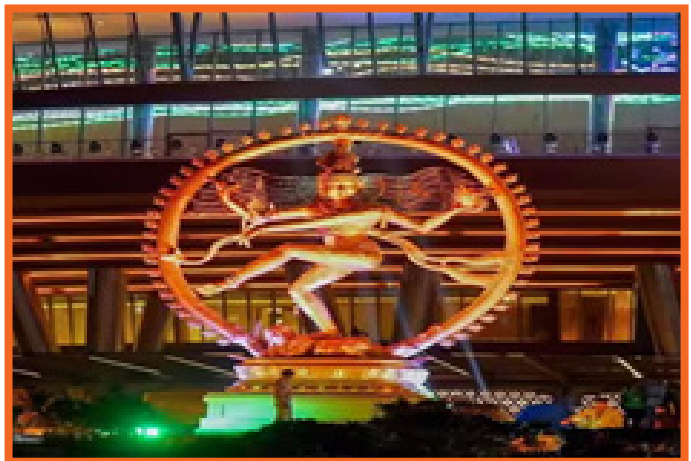
1. **Global Strengthening:** Enhance India's global position and collaboration opportunities.
2. **Export Opportunities:** Provide Indian industries with opportunities to export technology and equipment.
3. **Unlocking Bioenergy Access:** Improve bioenergy access in emerging economies and create new business opportunities.
4. **Low Carbon Energy:** Contribute to low-carbon energy goals and reduce import dependency.

World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue

■ At the G20 Summit venue, there's a gigantic 27-foot-tall statue of Nataraja. Skilled artists from Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu, created it using an ancient method called 'lost-wax' casting.

■ Posted by piyush Published On September 9th, 2023

■ World leaders attending the G20 Summit were welcomed by a stunning 27-foot-tall statue of Nataraja, portraying Lord Shiva in his cosmic dance. This impressive sculpture, crafted from ashtadhatu, an eight-metal alloy, boasts an astonishing weight of 18 tonnes, necessitating a transportation trailer equipped with 36 tires for its journey to Delhi. Skilled artisans from Swamimalai in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district meticulously crafted this masterpiece, skillfully blending traditional and contemporary elements while drawing inspiration from ancient Nataraja idols.

**Master Sculptors from Swamimalai :**

- The Nataraja statue was meticulously crafted by a team of artisans hailing from Swamimalai, a town renowned for its traditional metalwork.
- The primary sculptors behind this masterpiece are 61-year-old Srikanda Sthapathy, along with his brothers Radhakrishna Sthapathy and Swaminatha Sthapathy.
- The Sthapathy family's lineage in sculpture spans an impressive 34 generations, with their craft rooted in the Chola era, notably the construction of the Big (Brihadeeshwara) Temple.

Gurukul Training and Heritage :

- The Sthapathy family received their training in the ancient gurukul system, which has been passed down through generations.
- They were entrusted with the Nataraja project after meeting stringent criteria outlined in a tender by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Ministry of Culture.
- This project draws inspiration from three revered Nataraja idols: Thillai Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram, Uma Maheswarar Temple in Konerirajapuram, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brihadeeshwara Temple in Thanjavur.

The Cost :

- The creation of this remarkable Nataraja statue came at a cost of Rs 10 crore, inclusive of GST.

Government Celebrates Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023 In September

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023. This year, the objective is to comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach.
- The focal point of Poshan Maah 2023 is to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages: pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence. The aim is to foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on “Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat” (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).



Transforming Nutritional Outcomes: The Government of India's Poshan Abhiyaan

- The Government of India's flagship initiative, POSHAN Abhiyaan, has been instrumental in advancing nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children under 6 years of age in a comprehensive manner.
- Launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan operates in mission mode to combat the challenge of malnutrition.
- During the 15th Financial Commission period, Poshan Abhiyaan, the Anganwadi Services Scheme, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls were aligned under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 to launch an integrated nutrition support programme aimed at strengthening content, delivery, outreach, and outcomes. The focus remains on cultivating practices that foster health, wellness, and immunity against diseases and malnutrition.

Empowering Communities: The Heart of Rashtriya Poshan Maah

- This month-long event will witness concentrated efforts nationwide to enhance ground-level nutritional awareness through campaigns focusing on key themes around Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding.
- Activities like Swasth Balak Spardha (Healthy Child Competition) aim to instill a spirit of healthy competition for nutrition and overall well-being. Other initiatives would include Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (Nutrition as well as Education), Improving Nutrition through Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Tribal-Focused Nutrition Sensitization, and addressing Anemia through Test, Treat, Talk.
- Additionally, the Jan Andolan movement under Poshan Maah will serve as an extended platform for united celebration under the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign, commemorating the nation's journey of freedom and progress.

Grassroots Engagement: The Key to Success -

- Outreach programs, identification drives, camps, and home visits will be conducted at the village, block, and district levels, engaging diverse segments of the community to spread awareness about holistic nutrition. Encouraging nutrition-seeking behavior at both the individual and community levels stands as a pivotal component in realizing the goals of the Abhiyaan. This objective continues to be pursued through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.

A Collaborative Effort: Celebrating Rashtriya Poshan Maah

- To achieve this objective, Rashtriya Poshan Maah will be celebrated in collaboration with all stakeholders from the 1st to the 30th of September. Since the inception of the Abhiyaan, five successful Poshan Maah events have been held across the country, with enthusiastic participation from States/UTs as well as convergent Ministries and Departments. During the last Poshan Maah in 2022, more than 170 million sensitization activities were reported across key themes. To date, over 600 million activities have been carried out as part of Jan Andolan under Poshan Pakhwadas (March) and Poshan Maahs (September) each year.

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

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently launched a series of initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the agricultural sector in India. These initiatives include the Kisan Rin portal, the Ghar Ghar KCC campaign, and the Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) manual.

**Kisan Rin Portal: A Comprehensive Farmer Data Hub -**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Kisan Rin portal in Delhi, which is poised to become a game-changer for the agricultural sector. The portal is designed to serve as an integrated hub that offers a comprehensive view of crucial farmer-related information.
- Empowering Farmers with Information: The Kisan Rin portal will provide farmers with easy access to vital data, including loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilization progress. This empowerment will enable farmers to make informed decisions about their financial matters.
- Transparency in Agricultural Finance: One of the key goals of the Kisan Rin portal is to bring transparency to agricultural finance. By centralizing data related to loans and subsidies, it will help combat corruption and ensure that benefits reach farmers as intended.
- Deadline for Data Submission: Finance Minister Sitharaman has set a deadline for banks to provide all relevant data for the Kisan Rin portal by December 31, 2023. This timeline reflects the government's commitment to implementing the portal effectively and swiftly.

Ghar Ghar KCC Campaign: Achieving Saturation of the Scheme -

- Ghar Ghar KCC campaign, scheduled for launch on October 1, 2023 is poised to further strengthen the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, which has been instrumental in providing credit support to farmers across the country.
- Widespread Coverage: The Ghar Ghar KCC campaign aims to achieve saturation of the KCC scheme, ensuring that every eligible farmer has access to this essential financial tool.
- Enhanced Financial Inclusion: By expanding the reach of the KCC scheme, this campaign will promote financial inclusion in rural areas and bolster the economic well-being of farmers.

PM Modi inaugurates Yashobhoomi convention centre

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

Impressive Infrastructure -

- Yashobhoomi stands as a testament to India's commitment to world-class event hosting, boasting an expansive project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and a built-up area exceeding 1.8 lakh square metres.

World's Largest MICE Facility -

- PM Modi inaugurates Yashobhoomi convention centre
- Among the world's largest MICE facilities, 'Yashobhoomi' has been meticulously designed to accommodate diverse needs and preferences.

Key Features of Yashobhoomi Convention Centre

1. Comprehensive Convention Centre

- The convention centre spans more than 73,000 square metres and encompasses 15 convention rooms, including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom, and 13 meeting rooms.

- These facilities collectively offer a remarkable capacity, capable of accommodating up to 11,000 delegates.

2. Cutting-Edge Technology

- Yashobhoomi sets a technological benchmark with the largest LED media facade in the country, enhancing visual experiences and communication.

3. Plenary Hall

- The plenary hall within the convention centre stands out with seating for approximately 6,000 guests, providing a grand setting for significant events.

4. Innovative Seating

- The auditorium introduces an innovative automated seating system, transforming the flat floor into an auditorium-style tiered seating arrangement, adaptable for various seating configurations.

5. Grand Ballroom

- The Grand Ballroom, capable of hosting around 2,500 guests, offers a splendid ambience for prestigious gatherings.
- An extended open area adjoining the ballroom accommodates up to 500 people, ensuring ample space for networking and socializing.

6. Connectivity

- Yashobhoomi is seamlessly connected to the Delhi Airport Metro Express line, thanks to the inauguration of the 'Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25' metro station.



Ministry Of Railways Launches 'Swachhata Pakhwada-2023'

- The Ministry of Railways in India, in its unwavering commitment to cleanliness, has officially launched the Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 campaign. This initiative, aimed at promoting cleanliness and environmental consciousness, commenced on the 15th of September, 2023.
- Inauguration of Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 by Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha
- Chairperson & CEO of the Railway Board, Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha, kicked off the event at Rail Bhawan by leading the Swachhata Pledge. This pledge encompassed the entire Railway family, comprising committed railway employees and senior officials from various Railway Zones and Divisions, all brought together through video conferencing.
- The Swachhata Pledge embraced by the entire Railway family is built upon three fundamental principles: an individual's dedication to cleanliness, the allocation of a hundred hours each year for cleanliness-related activities, and actively spreading the message of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A Month-Long Commitment to Cleanliness
- The Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 is observed from the 16th of September to the 30th of September. However, in an extraordinary display of dedication, the Ministry of Railways has extended it suo-moto (at their own initiative) until the 2nd of October, culminating with Mahatma Gandhi's Jayanti, a day that epitomizes the values of cleanliness and sustainable living.



Joining Hands for a Cleaner India: 'Swachhata hi Sewa' (SHS) Campaign'



- This year, the Ministry of Railways joins forces with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the 'Swachhata hi Sewa' (SHS) Campaign, which runs from the 15th of September to the 2nd of October. Activities from the SHS Campaign have been seamlessly integrated into the Indian Railways' Swachhata Pakhwada program, fostering a stronger commitment to cleanliness and sustainability.
- Dedicated Days and Extensive Awareness Campaigns
- To ensure the effectiveness of Swachhata Pakhwada – 2023, dedicated days have been assigned for specific activities, including Swachh Railgadi, Swachh Station, Swachh Aahar, and Swachh Tracks. Additionally, extensive awareness campaigns are planned, utilizing digital media and public announcements via PA systems to educate people about the use of bio-toilets, the importance of avoiding single-use plastic, and fostering cleanliness habits in daily life.

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

- In a significant development, India has joined the ranks of countries authorized to issue International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates. The announcement was made by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry on September 14 in New Delhi, marking a pivotal moment in India's metrological capabilities.

India's New Authority :

Consumer Affairs Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh, revealed that this newfound authority would have far-reaching implications. Here's how:



1. Encouraging Weighing and Measuring Instrument Makers :

- Singh emphasized that this move would serve as an invitation to weighing and measuring instrument manufacturers to operate in India.
- Both domestic and global manufacturers can now have their weighing and measuring instruments tested within the country, opening doors for international market sales.
- **Previously, testing had to be conducted in one of the 12 countries, including China and Japan**

2. Economic Benefits :

- This development is expected to generate significant economic advantages for India.
- Singh highlighted that by offering testing facilities for international manufacturers, India would not only generate revenue but also create employment opportunities.

3. Long-standing Membership with OIML:

- India's membership with the OIML dates back to 1956, demonstrating the country's commitment to international metrological standards.
- With this new authority, India can issue internationally accepted OIML certificates for weights and measures, enabling the sale of such products worldwide.

4. Facilitating International Trade:

- OIML Pattern Approval certificates are mandatory for selling weights and measures in the international market.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs in India can now issue these certificates, streamlining the process for domestic and international manufacturers.

5. Cost Savings for Domestic Manufacturers:

- A significant benefit for domestic manufacturers is the ability to export their weighing and measuring instruments globally without incurring additional testing fees.
- This translates to substantial cost savings, making Indian products more competitive in the international market.

Law Minister launches Tele-Law 2.0

- In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched Tele-Law 2.0, a revamped version of the Tele-Law program.

Posted by piyush Published On September 4th, 2023 -

- Access to justice is a fundamental right that every citizen should enjoy, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic status. In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched Tele-Law 2.0, a revamped version of the Tele-Law program.
- This initiative, operating under the DISHA Scheme by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, aims to provide free legal aid to the rural and marginalized sections of society through video conferencing.

Key Highlights -

Tele-Law Reaches 5 Million Legal Consultations

- The Tele-Law program achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully delivering 5 million legal consultations. This achievement underscores the program's unwavering commitment to making justice accessible to every corner of the country, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Integration with Nyaya Bandhu Pro Bono Legal Services

- During the launch event, an integration between Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services was unveiled. This integration aims to create a direct link between individuals seeking legal aid and pro bono advocates, facilitating a seamless process for accessing legal support.

About Tele-Law -

- Tele-Law is an initiative launched by the Government of India to provide legal assistance and advice to citizens, especially those residing in rural and remote areas, who have limited access to legal services. The initiative utilizes technology to bridge the gap between citizens and legal professionals, making legal aid accessible to all.

Key Features of the Tele-Law Initiative -

- **Remote Access:** Tele-Law enables citizens, regardless of their location, to access legal advice and consultations through telecommunications and digital platforms, eliminating the need for physical visits to legal offices.
- **Legal Aid Clinics:** Legal Aid Clinics equipped with video conferencing facilities are established in various locations, reducing the need for citizens to travel long distances to seek legal assistance.



India Gets Its First Green Hydrogen-Run Bus That Emits Just Water

- On September 25, 2023, the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) achieved a significant milestone in India's transition to clean energy by unveiling the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus. This groundbreaking initiative marks a crucial step towards reducing the nation's dependency on fossil fuels while promoting eco-friendly transportation alternatives.

The Green Hydrogen Revolution -

- IOC is leading the charge in harnessing the power of green hydrogen, produced through the electrolysis of water using electricity from renewable sources. This green hydrogen will be utilized to fuel two buses, which are slated for trial runs in the national capital region.
- Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, during the ceremonial flag-off of these innovative buses, emphasized that hydrogen is set to become India's transitional fuel, paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future. The IOC's Research and Development Center in Faridabad is spearheading the production of green hydrogen for the initial pilot run.



Hydrogen: A Clean and Efficient Energy Source -

- Green hydrogen is gaining prominence as an eco-friendly energy source with several advantages over traditional fossil fuels. When burned, hydrogen emits only water vapor as a by-product, making it a clean and environmentally friendly choice. Furthermore, it boasts three times the energy density of conventional fuels, offering enhanced efficiency for various applications.
- Producing green hydrogen is a resource-intensive process, requiring approximately 50 units of renewable electricity and 9 kg of deionized water to generate one kilogram of this clean fuel. However, the benefits it offers in terms of sustainability and reduced emissions make it a compelling choice for India's energy transition.

A Promising Future -

- Oil Minister Puri outlined IOC's ambitious plans, aiming to scale up the number of green hydrogen-powered buses to 15 by the end of 2023. These buses will undergo operational trials on designated routes in Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. This initiative aligns with India's commitment to low-carbon development and emerging clean energy technologies.
- India's extensive synchronous grid infrastructure, capable of managing intermittent renewable energy sources, positions the nation as a global leader in hydrogen production and export. With the combination of low-cost solar energy, a robust grid, substantial demand, and engineering expertise, India is poised to emerge as a hub for green hydrogen production.

WE HAVE FUN
WE ARE HELPFUL
WE STAY POSITIVE
WE ARE RESPECTFUL
WE DO GREAT THINGS
WE LOVE WHAT WE DO
WE WORK HARD AND SMART
WE COMMUNICATE AND LISTEN
WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE
WE ARE A TEAM

International

Singapore Overtakes Hong Kong as World's Freest Economy

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

Singapore's Rise :

■ Factors Leading to the Top Rank :

- Singapore's ascent to the top spot is attributed to improvements in its government size and regulation components. These enhancements resulted in a slight increase in its overall score.



India's Economic Freedom Index Ranking :

1. Rank Decline: India slipped from the 86th position to 87th out of 165 countries on the Economic Freedom Index.
2. Report Source: The 'Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Annual Report' by Canada's Fraser Institute was jointly released in India with the Centre For Civil Society in New Delhi.
3. Relative Improvement: Despite an increase in its rating from 4.90 to 6.62 since 1980, India's rank has fallen, indicating that while it has made absolute improvements, it lags behind other countries in relative terms. However, it performs relatively well in South Asia.
4. Score Changes: India saw a marginal increase in the size of government (7.64 from 7.57) and regulation of credit, labor, and business (5.98 from 5.96). Conversely, it experienced slight decreases in the legal system and property rights (5.29 from 5.3) and freedom to trade internationally (6.19 from 6.27). A score closer to 10 signifies higher economic freedom.
5. Global Rankings: Singapore claimed the top spot in the index, followed by Hong Kong, Switzerland, New Zealand, the United States, Ireland, Denmark, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada.
6. Comparison with China: India ranked higher than China, which held the 111th position on the index.
7. Venezuela's Ranking: Venezuela ranked at the bottom of the index, once again, indicating its lack of economic freedom.

Global Rankings :

Top 5 Freest Economies :

1. Singapore
2. Hong Kong
3. Switzerland
4. New Zealand
5. United States

Other Notable Mentions :

- The United Kingdom secured the ninth position, while Japan and Germany claimed the 20th and 23rd spots, respectively.
- China maintained its ranking at 111th place.

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

- During the opening session of the two-day G20 Summit, the African Union (AU) received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member. This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape.

The Vision of Inclusivity -

- Prime Minister Modi, in his opening remarks at the G20 Summit, underlined the importance of inclusivity, expressing India's proposal to grant permanent membership to the African Union within the G20. He emphasized the principle of "sabka saath" demonstrating India's commitment to ensuring that the voices of all nations, especially those in the Global South, are heard and considered on the global stage.



The AU Takes Its Seat -

- Following Prime Minister Modi's announcement, Union of Comoros President and AU Chairperson Azali Assoumani assumed his seat as a full member of the G20. This marked a moment of pride and triumph for the African Union, as it secured its place among the world's most influential economies.

India's Persistent Advocacy -

- India's role in championing the AU's membership in the G20 cannot be understated. Prime Minister Modi has consistently advocated for the AU's inclusion in the group, positioning India as a leading voice for the concerns, challenges, and aspirations of the Global South, particularly the African continent. This diplomatic effort culminated in Modi's formal proposal to G20 leaders in June, which found its way into the draft communique for the G20 Summit following the third G20 Sherpas meeting in July.

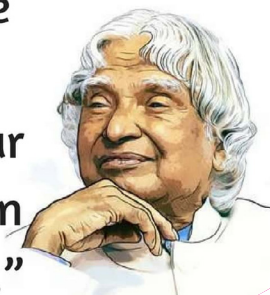
The Significance of the African Union -

- The African Union, comprising 55 member states from across the African continent, wields substantial influence in regional and global affairs. Its permanent membership in the G20 reflects the increasing recognition of Africa's economic and geopolitical importance. Prime Minister Modi, in an exclusive interview, emphasized that Africa remains a top priority for India, highlighting India's commitment to the inclusion of voices that have historically been underrepresented in global decision-making.

The G20 : A Brief Overview -

- The G20, established in 1999 in response to various world economic crises, is a forum that brings together the world's leading economies to discuss and address global economic challenges. The G20 member countries collectively represent approximately 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and around two-thirds of the world's population. The inclusion of the African Union strengthens the G20's role as a platform for addressing global economic issues comprehensively.

"You have to dream before your dreams can come true."



Pakistan Announces General Elections in January 2024

- The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has officially declared that the general elections in Pakistan will be held in the last week of January 2024. This announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census.



Publication of Constituencies Lists -

- The preliminary list of constituencies is set to be made public on September 27. Subsequently, after considering complaints and feedback on the preliminary lists, the final list of constituencies will be released on November 30. This meticulous process ensures transparency and fairness in constituency delineation.

Election Schedule -

- The elections will span a 54-day period, culminating in the voting week at the end of January 2024. This extended timeline allows for comprehensive preparations and the smooth execution of the electoral process.

Caretaker Government and Census-Related Delay -

- In August of the same year, a caretaker government took office following the resignation of the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government just before the completion of its term. This transition pushed the election date back by an additional month. Additionally, the prior administration had stipulated that elections could only proceed after a new census was conducted and new constituency boundaries were established.
- This delimitation process became imperative in light of the recent census, leading to concerns that it might further delay the polls, given that delimitation typically requires about four months to conclude.

Pressure and Constitutional Mandate -

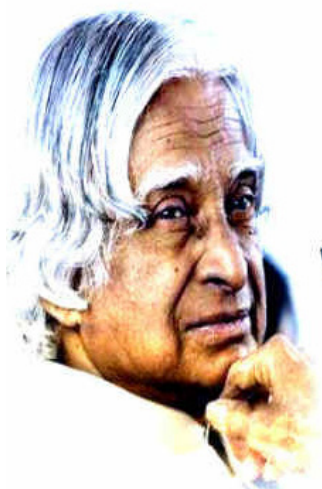
- Pressure mounted on the Election Commission from various political parties to expedite the delimitation process. The Constitution mandates that the ECP should complete the delimitation within 120 days, reflecting the critical role of this process in ensuring fair and representative elections.

Political Landscape and Challenges -

- The upcoming elections are set against the backdrop of a significant political crisis in Pakistan. This crisis has witnessed the imprisonment of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, one of the country's most prominent politicians, as well as a robust crackdown on his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

Caretaker Government's Commitment -

- Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has expressed unwavering commitment to upholding Pakistan's democratic process by ensuring the timely conduct of general elections. The caretaker government emphasizes its determination to proceed without making any excuses for further delays.



We should not
give up and
we should not allow the
problem to defeat us

-A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Georgia Declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as 'Hindu Heritage Month' within the state. This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.

Georgia Joins a Growing List -

- Georgia joins a growing list of states that have recognized the importance of Hindu heritage and culture. These states include Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, Virginia, and others. The declaration of 'Hindu Heritage Month' serves as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and significance of Hinduism in American society.



Significance of October -

- The choice of October for this celebration holds special meaning. It is the birth month of Mahatma Gandhi, an iconic figure known for his principles of peace, non-violence, and civil rights. Additionally, October is a time when major Hindu festivals, such as Navratri and Diwali, are celebrated, making it an ideal month to honor Hindu heritage.
- The proclamation recognizes that Hindu heritage, culture, traditions, and values offer valuable solutions to many of life's challenges. These teachings often serve as a source of inspiration, reflection, and contemplation for millions of individuals who seek guidance from the wisdom of Hinduism.

Communal Celebration Across Georgia -

- During the month of October 2023, the Hindu community across the state of Georgia, as well as across the entire nation, will come together to collectively celebrate their heritage. This celebration will focus on promoting and preserving Hindu culture and the diverse spiritual traditions that originated in India.

Tharman Shanmugaratnam Wins Singapore Presidential Election

- In a significant political development, Indian-origin economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam has emerged victorious in Singapore's presidential election. This victory is especially noteworthy as it comes after a gap of ten years, marking the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011.

Electoral Margins -

- Tharman Shanmugaratnam secured a substantial majority in the presidential elections, receiving a resounding 70.4 percent of the votes. His victory was achieved against two other contenders of Chinese origin, Ng Kok Song and Tan Kin Lian, who garnered 15.7 percent and 13.88 percent of the votes, respectively.



Profile of Tharman Shanmugaratnam -

- Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the president-elect, entered the realm of politics in 2001. During his campaign, he articulated a vision for Singapore, promising to cultivate the country's culture and uphold its standing as a "shining spot" on the global stage.
- Shanmugaratnam, aged sixty-six, previously held the position of Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister from 2011

to 2019. His political journey began in 2001, and he has also made significant contributions in the public sector, holding various ministerial positions.

High Voter Turnout -

- The presidential election witnessed active civic participation, with over 2.7 million voters casting their ballots. The voting process commenced at 8 AM when polling stations opened and concluded at 8 PM local time. The strong turnout reflects the public's engagement and interest in the electoral process.

Transition from Incumbent President -

- Madam Halimah Yacob, Singapore's eighth and first female president, is set to conclude her six-year term on September 13. Tharman Shanmugaratnam's election signals the start of a new era in Singapore's presidential leadership, marking the first competitive presidential race since 2011.

G20 Summit 2023 New Delhi

- Delhi is gearing up to host the G20 Summit on September 9 and 10, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasizing its historic significance due to the expected attendance of over 40 world leaders. Here, we provide an overview of the leaders attending and those notably absent.

G20 Summit 2023 : Attendees

1. United States

- US President Joe Biden will participate, focusing on global issues such as clean energy, climate change, and economic impacts of the Ukraine war.

2. China

- Premier of the State Council Li Qiang will represent China, with President Xi Jinping opting not to attend.

3. United Kingdom

- UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will be present and may discuss UK-India trade negotiations with PM Modi.

4. Russia

- Russian President Vladimir Putin will be absent, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend on Russia's behalf.

5. South Korea

- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will attend, emphasizing the significance of the summit.

6. France

- French President Emmanuel Macron will participate and stay at Claridges hotel in New Delhi.

7. Canada

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will attend, expressing solidarity with Ukraine.

8. Australia

- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's visit to India is part of a larger tour.

9. Turkey

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will attend before heading to the UN General Assembly in New York.

10. Bangladesh

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present and expected to host French President Macron after the summit.



G20 SUMMIT

भारत 2023 INDIA

NEW DELHI, INDIA | 2023

9-10 SEPTEMBER



G20 Summit 2023 : Notable Absences

1. Ukraine

- President Volodymyr Zelensky has not been invited to attend the summit, resulting in his absence.

2. Uncertain Participation

- Several countries, including Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Mexico, Japan, Italy, Germany, Indonesia, Brazil, and Argentina, have not confirmed their participation.

G20 Summit 2023 : Guest Countries

- The summit will also welcome “guest countries,” including Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, UAE, Oman, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, and Nigeria.

G20 Summit 2023 : Theme

- Under India’s presidency, the G20 Summit will revolve around the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth · One Family · One Future,” drawing inspiration from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad.

G20 Member Countries

- The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU).

Opening of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly

- The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world.

Key Themes and Initiatives for UNGA 78 -

- The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all,' focuses on several critical areas.
 1. Challenges to Peace: The session acknowledges the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and poverty to achieving global peace.
 2. Geopolitical Divides: Geopolitical divisions have made it challenging for many countries to pursue positive societal changes. The session welcomes initiatives aimed at greater transparency and accountability, including the UNGA's Security Council veto initiative.
 3. Prosperity and Development: Ensuring prosperity, particularly in regions with development deficits, is a priority. This involves enhanced financing, technology, debt sustainability, and capacity building.
 4. Key Workstreams: The session identifies critical workstreams, including the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It also highlights forthcoming events like the SIDS4 conference in 2024 and the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in Rwanda in 2024.



Secretary-General's Call to Action -

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, represented by his deputy, Amina Mohammed, delivered a message emphasizing the critical juncture the world finds itself in. He acknowledged the existence of profound global challenges but urged a proactive approach rather than succumbing to pessimism.

Key points from Guterres's message :

1. Action for Peace and Human Rights: Guterres stressed the necessity of taking action to promote peace and protect human rights worldwide.
2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate Change: He highlighted the imperative of rescuing the SDGs and addressing the existential threat posed by climate change.
3. Economic Opportunity: Guterres emphasized the need to create jobs and economic opportunities, particularly for women and young people.
4. Technology and Artificial Intelligence: He called for responsible use of evolving technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to benefit humanity rather than harm it.
5. Inclusivity: Guterres stressed the importance of leaving no one behind and creating a world of hope and promise for all.

India and UK Launch Infrastructure Financing Bridge

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

Key Objectives :

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

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

The UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB) :

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

Long-Term Investment Focus :

- The partnership seeks to secure long-term investments for vital infrastructure sectors in India. UKIIFB stakeholders are committed to building a diverse investment and financing system characterized by stability, sustainability, and manageable risks.

Sustainability and Environmental Focus :

- This landmark collaboration places a strong emphasis on sustainable infrastructure development, prioritizing environmentally friendly projects that align with the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals.



North Korea Launches New 'Tactical Nuclear Attack Submarine'

- North Korea has made headlines by launching its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine," designated Submarine No. 841 and named Hero Kim Kun Ok, an ex-commander of the North Korean navy. The launch ceremony took place with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in attendance, where he highlighted the significance of this new addition to their naval force.

A Modified Soviet-Era Submarine -

- Analysts believe that Submarine No. 841 is a modified version of the Soviet-era Romeo-class submarine, which North Korea acquired from China in the 1970s and later began producing domestically. Its design features 10 launch tube hatches, indicating that it is likely armed with ballistic missiles and cruise missiles. Nevertheless, concerns arise regarding the submarine's effectiveness in modern warfare due to its age, noise level, slower speed, and limited range.



Understanding the "Tactical" Designation -

- The designation of Submarine No. 841 as a "tactical" submarine suggests that it may not carry submarine-

launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. Instead, it likely carries smaller, short-range SLBMs or submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCM) with the ability to strike regional targets such as South Korea and Japan. The expanded rear of the submarine's sail and the installation of 10 vertical launch tubes, including both large and small ones, indicate its capacity for launching SLBMs and SLCMs.

A Growing Submarine Fleet -

- North Korea's submarine fleet includes around 20 Romeo-class submarines, which are powered by diesel-electric engines and considered obsolete by modern standards. While North Korea has shown its commitment to enhancing its naval capabilities over the years, only one experimental ballistic missile submarine, the 8.24 Yongung (August 24th Hero), is known to have fired a missile.

Important

- ✓ North Korea marked its 75th founding anniversary on: September 11, 2023

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

- NATO member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era. Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a Russian-led coalition known as Occasus.

Scope and Scale :

- This expansive military exercise is expected to encompass a multitude of elements, showcasing NATO's commitment to readiness and collective defense.

The key components include :

Air Combat Missions :

- The exercise is set to involve an impressive range of between 500 and 700 air combat missions. These missions will test the alliance's aerial capabilities, coordination, and response to potential threats.

Naval Deployment :

- Over 50 naval vessels from NATO member states will participate in the exercise. This naval component will emphasize maritime security and the protection of vital sea lanes.

Ground Forces Engagement :

- Approximately 41,000 troops will be deployed to simulate ground operations. These forces will engage in various tactical scenarios to enhance their readiness and interoperability.



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

- In a recent announcement, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its Net Zero climate action targets. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035.

Maintaining the Net Zero Commitment -

- Despite this delay, Sunak emphasized that the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its Net Zero target by 2050. The core objective is unchanged, but the approach is evolving to be more practical, proportionate, and realistic, particularly in light of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Defining Net Zero -

- Net Zero, in the context of climate action, refers to the global imperative that the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions must be balanced by carbon dioxide removals within a specified timeframe.

A Pragmatic Path to Net Zero -

- Sunak stated, "This country is proud to be a world leader in reaching Net Zero by 2050. But we simply won't achieve it unless we change." The new approach seeks to strike a balance between easing the financial burdens on families and promoting the growth of green industries crucial for the future.

Mixed Reactions and Resistance -

- The announcement has garnered mixed reactions, with environmental groups and even segments of Sunak's own Conservative Party expressing concerns about the delays. However, Sunak stressed that this modified approach is necessary to alleviate financial strain on already struggling households. He remains determined to bring about transformative change and secure a better future for the nation's children.



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

- In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey, is set to be inaugurated on 8th October 2023, under the guidance of its spiritual head, Mahant Swami Maharaj. This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the second-largest Hindu temple in the world, following the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry.



An Evident to Ancient Wisdom -

- The temple's design is a true evident to ancient wisdom, featuring elements drawn from Hindu scriptures and culture. Among its awe-inspiring features are 10,000 statues and statuettes, intricate carvings of Indian musical instruments and dance forms and more. This architectural masterpiece is a reflection of the rich heritage it represents.

A Glimpse of Grandeur -

- Measuring an impressive 255ft x 345ft x 191ft, the New Jersey Akshardham temple is possibly the second largest temple globally, only surpassed by Cambodia's Angkor Wat. The temple complex boasts one main shrine, 12 sub-shrines, nine shikhars (spire-like structures) and nine pyramidal shikhars, with the largest elliptical dome of traditional stone architecture ever constructed.

A Vision of Inclusivity

- Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader behind this endeavour, envisioned a place of universal significance. It was his wish to create a space not just for Hindus or Indians but for people from all corner of the world. This Akshardham serves as a hub for learning and embracing universal values rooted in Hindu traditions.

The Power of Voluntarism

- The temple's construction is an evident to the power of voluntarism, with over 12,500 volunteers from across the United States dedicating more than 12 years to its realization. Guided by artisan volunteers from India, they brought this monumental project to life, embodying the rich tradition of Seva (selfless service).

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

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

**Objective and Focus of Arogya Manthan 2023 :**

Arogya Manthan 2023 aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Discussion of Challenges: The event will facilitate in-depth discussions on the challenges faced in implementing these healthcare schemes and finding solutions.
2. Trends Analysis: Participants will analyze emerging healthcare trends and their implications for the future of Indian healthcare.
3. Best Practices Sharing: Best practices from various stakeholders will be shared, promoting knowledge exchange and synergy.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY – A Health Success Story :

AB PM-JAY, launched on September 23, 2018, has been a resounding success:

- 5.5 Crore Free Hospitalizations: The scheme has provided free hospitalizations to 5.5 crore individuals, with a total value of Rs. 69,000 Crore.
- Health Security: It has not only ensured good health for millions of underprivileged families but has also shielded them from catastrophic healthcare expenses.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission – A Digital Healthcare Revolution :

ABDM, initiated on September 27, 2021, has ushered in a digital healthcare transformation:

- Digital Highway: The mission aspires to create a digital highway connecting various healthcare stakeholders.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA): Over the past two years, more than 45 Crore ABHA accounts have been established.
- Health Records Integration: More than 30 Crore health records have been linked to ABHA accounts, enhancing healthcare delivery.

Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence

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

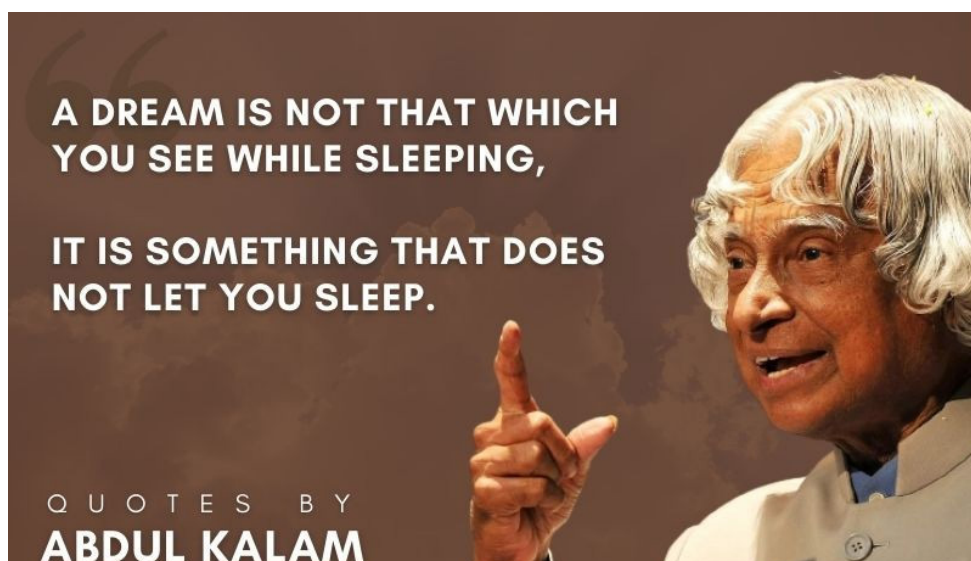


Infosys: Pioneering AI in Diverse Applications -

- Infosys is no stranger to the world of AI, having already ventured into various application areas such as semantic search, document summarization, contact center transformation, AI-augmented software development lifecycle (SDLC), and marketing content creation.
- A noteworthy instance involves the effective deployment of an AI-driven solution for a leading financial services firm. This solution, driven by generative AI, produced concise document summaries and facilitated semantic search functionalities, resulting in automated document management, decreased workloads, and heightened productivity for financial advisors.

Infosys Topaz Meets Microsoft Azure -

- Now, with the collaboration between Infosys and Microsoft, Infosys Topaz is set to leverage the capabilities of Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services to further enhance its offerings.
- The goal is to assist enterprise customers in transitioning from traditional digital solutions to AI-powered innovations.
- The resulting integrated solutions are poised to boost operational efficiency, reduce turn-around time, future-proof investments, and pave the way for new business models.



Sports

India becomes No 1 ranked team in all formats of Cricket

■ After their 5-wicket win against Australia, India became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings. In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are right behind them. India is now the world's best ODI team with a rating of 116 and 4,864 points. India (116 rating points) displaced their arch-rivals Pakistan (115) at the top of the rankings after the win in the first ODI. Australia remain third but the gap between the top two has now widened after they dropped two points to 111.



■ Moreover, with the updated ODI rankings, India is now No 1 team in all three formats of the game. In the T20 rankings, India is on top with a rating of 264 and 15,589 points, while in the Test format of the game, India is on top with 3,434 points and a rating of 118. Indian cricket team became the second team in the history of cricket to achieve this wonderful feat after South Africa did this in 2014.

What Does the No. 1 Ranking Mean for India ?

- The No. 1 ranking is a huge achievement for Indian cricket. It is a validation of the team's hard work and dedication, and it also shows that India is now one of the most dominant teams in the world.
- The No. 1 ranking will also give India a psychological boost ahead of the upcoming ICC World Cup in 2023. India is one of the favorites to win the tournament, and the No. 1 ranking will only make them more confident.

India National Cricket Team Players Name For World Cup 2023

- The Indian National Cricket Team, often referred to as Team India, is under the governance of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. This team holds full membership in the International Cricket Council (ICC), granting them the privilege to participate in Test Matches, One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty-20 International (T20Is).
- Team India boasts intense rivalries with several other cricketing nations, with its most notable ones being against Pakistan. Additionally, competitive relationships are cultivated with teams like Australia, South Africa and England.



India National Cricket Team Players Name For World Cup 2023 -

- India squad : **Rohit Sharma (c)**, **Hardik Pandya (vc)**, **Shubman Gill**, **Virat Kohli**, **Shreyas Iyer**, **KL Rahul**, **Ravindra Jadeja**, **Shardul Thakur**, **Jasprit Bumrah**, **Mohammed Siraj**, **Kuldeep Yadav**, **Mohammed Shami**, **Axar Patel**, **Ishan Kishan**, **Suryakumar Yadav**.

India National Cricket Team

- The governing body of cricket in the country namely Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The first recorded match in India was in 1721. The Indian Cricket team played its first official test match on 25th June 1932 at the famous Lord's cricket ground in England. Indian cricket played the test match with just six layers which make it traditionally strong at home but not really making an impact on away tours.

Indian Cricket team get stronger in the 1970s with the emergence of batsman:

- Sunil Gavaskar
- Gundappa Viswanath
- All-rounder Kapil Dev
- Quality spin bowlers
- India developed a more aggressive batting line-up with stroke makers such as Azharuddin, Dilip Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri. In 1983, India went to defeat the favorites and two-time defending champions West Indies in the third ICC Cricket World Cup. This created a point in Indian Sporting history.
- The end of the 80s and 90s witnessed the debuts of Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath, considered to be among the greatest Indian players and brought much glory for the country with their stellar contributions.

India National Cricket Team Captain -

- Rohit Sharma is the captain of the Indian men's Cricket Team. He is popularly known as Hitman for his hard hitting skills, Rohit Sharma is a gifted batsman and an immensely talented cricketer who is pleasing on the eye with his elegance and ability to time the ball. Harmanpreet Kaur is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team. She plays as an all rounder in the team and was awarded the Arjuna Award for Cricket in the year 2017.

Indian National Cricket Team- 21st Century

- In the 2000s, Indian Cricket team took centre-stage in the form of M.S. Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh etc.
- The infrastructure of the Indian national cricket team has improved by leaps and bounds in the last decade or so. Giving chance to youngsters increased the strength of the Indian Cricket team and made it achieve many titles.

ICC Player of the Month Winners August 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named ICC Players of the Month for August 2023. Ireland's Arlene Kelly and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for August 2023.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam -

- Pakistan skipper Babar Azam becomes the first player to win three ICC Men's Player of the Month prizes with August triumph. Pakistan captain Babar Azam won the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for August 2023 for his exceptional showing in ODIs against Afghanistan and Nepal. Babar won the honour for the 3rd time in his career as the World No. 1 batter continued to dominate the 50-over format of the game. In total, Babar's 264 runs in the month came at an average of 66 and at a strike rate of 92.30.

**Ireland's Arlene Kelly -**

- Ireland's Arlene Kelly is named Women's Player of the Month for her bowling exploits in convincing T20I wins over Netherlands. Kelly beat Netherlands youngster Iris Zwilling and Malaysia all-rounder Ainna Hamizah Hashim for the coveted monthly award, following impressive individual efforts with the ball during the month. The right-armed was at her brilliant best during Ireland's three-match T20I series against the Netherlands as she collected 10 wickets at a miserly average of just 4.30 to help her side claim an emphatic 3-0 series sweep.

How ICC select Player of the Month ?

- In order to acknowledge the regular efforts of the players, the International Cricket Council (ICC) introduced 'Player of the Month' awards for both men and women cricketers in 2021. To select the winner, ICC formed an independent Voting Academy which comprises former cricketers, commentators, and journalists from different corners of the world.
- These officials, with the help of the fans, finalize the ICC Men's Player of the Month and ICC Women's Player of the Month. As far as the process is concerned, the ICC Awards Nominations Committee selects three nominees for monthly awards on the basis of individual performances and overall achievements of players during a particular month.

Important

- ✓ **ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
- ✓ **ICC Founded: 15 June 1909**
- ✓ **ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice**
- ✓ **ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay**

New York, Dallas, and Florida to host T20 Cricket World Cup matches in 2024

- In a significant announcement, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially designated three prestigious venues in the United States for hosting the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This marks a historic moment as the tournament makes its debut on American soil, with Dallas, Florida, and New York being selected as the host cities.

Venue Selection and Background -

- The ICC Board made the decision to entrust the hosting rights of the event to the West Indies and the USA back in November 2021. After a meticulous evaluation process, these three cities were chosen as the ideal locations to showcase this thrilling cricket spectacle. Let's delve deeper into each of these venues:

1. Grand Prairie, Dallas

- Grand Prairie in Dallas, Texas, will be one of the proud hosts of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This vibrant city in the Lone Star State is set to witness thrilling cricket action as it gears up to accommodate cricket enthusiasts from around the world.

2. Broward County, Florida

- Florida, known for its sunny weather and diverse culture, will also play a pivotal role in this historic event. Broward County, located in the southeastern part of the state, will provide an ideal setting for T20 cricket at its finest.

3. Nassau County, New York

- The cricket fever extends to the iconic Nassau County in New York. This world-famous destination will become an integral part of cricket history as it hosts matches that promise to captivate audiences worldwide.

Infrastructure Development

- To ensure the success of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, preparations are in full swing, including infrastructure development. Notably, a groundbreaking agreement has been reached for the construction of a cutting-edge, 34,000-seat modular stadium in Eisenhower Park, Nassau County, New York. The construction will commence upon the issuance of the required permits next month. Moreover, the existing venues in Grand Prairie and Broward County will undergo expansions through modular stadium solutions. These upgrades will enhance seating capacity, media facilities, and premium hospitality areas, subject to final agreement.



BCCI announces SBI Life as official partner for 2023-26 Season

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced SBI Life as the official partner for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-26 on September 20, 2023. This is a three-year deal, and the partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22, 2023. This is a significant partnership for both the BCCI and SBI Life. The BCCI is one of the most powerful and influential sports organizations in the world, and SBI Life is a leading life insurance company in India. This partnership will help to promote and support cricket at all levels in India. SBI Life's commitment to excellence aligns perfectly with BCCI's vision for cricket. This collaboration reflects our commitment to promoting and supporting the sport of cricket at all levels. As a brand driven to make a meaningful connect with the consumer, SBI Life's association as the official partner of BCCI with its undisputed reach and impeccable credibility is a marketer's delight.



About SBI Life -

- SBI Life Insurance Company Limited, commonly known as SBI Life, is one of the leading life insurance companies in India. It is a joint venture between the State Bank of India (SBI), one of the largest and most trusted banks in India, and the BNP Paribas Cardif, a multinational insurance company based in France. SBI holds the majority stake in this partnership.

Here are some key points and information about SBI Life -0

- Establishment and Ownership:** SBI Life was established in 2001 and has its headquarters in Mumbai, India. It is a public limited company and operates as a subsidiary of the State Bank of India.
- Product Portfolio:** SBI Life offers a wide range of life insurance products, including term insurance plans, savings and investment plans, retirement plans, child plans, and health insurance plans. These policies cater to the diverse financial needs and goals of individuals and families.
- Distribution Network:** The company has an extensive distribution network that includes bancassurance (selling insurance products through the bank's branches), individual agents, brokers, and direct sales channels. Leveraging SBI's vast branch network, SBI Life reaches customers across urban and rural areas of India.

Important

- ✓ **BCCI President: Roger Binny;**
- ✓ **BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;**
- ✓ **BCCI Founded: December 1928;**
- ✓ **BCCI Secretary Jay Shah.**

**Defend till the finish,
regardless of the outcome.**

Cricketer Deepak Chahar launches new brand 'DNINE Sports'

- Cricketer Deepak Chahar, known for his stellar performances on the cricket field, has ventured into the world of sports equipment with the launch of DNINE Sports. With an investment of ₹2.5 crore, this sports line promises to revolutionize athletic gear, offering a wide range of products catering to the needs of athletes, including professional cricketers. In this article, we explore the inception, products, and vision of DNINE Sports.

Inception of DNINE Sports -

- This section delves into the origins of DNINE Sports, highlighting Deepak Chahar's entrepreneurial journey and the decision to bootstrap the venture. It also provides insight into the company's incorporation under the entity LCDC Athletics Private Limited, with Deepak Chahar and his father, Lokendra Singh Chahar, as co-founders.
- This section explores the groundbreaking innovation represented by DNINE Sports' cricket shoes. Deepak Chahar's involvement in their development is emphasized, showcasing how these cricket spikes and rubber studs are poised to set new benchmarks in performance and safety within the sport. The endorsement of international physiotherapists, coaches, and athletes adds credibility to their injury-reduction and muscle recovery capabilities.
- DNINE Sports adopts a multi-pronged approach to distribution, both online and offline. It discusses the company's strategy for reaching consumers through various channels and the importance of word-of-mouth marketing in building brand awareness.



Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second In Diamond League Final

- Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the Diamond League finals in Eugene. His best throw of 83.80 meters secured him the second position in this prestigious competition, where he engaged in a remarkable battle against formidable opponents.

A Recap of Neeraj Chopra's Journey -

- Neeraj Chopra had previously clinched the Diamond League crown in 2022, making a remarkable best attempt of 88.44 meters. His remarkable journey in the field of javelin throwing had already garnered attention worldwide, and he was poised to continue his impressive streak in the 2023 edition of the competition.

Initial Setbacks and Steady Progress -

- Chopra experienced a setback during his first attempt when he faced a "no throw." On his second try, Chopra made a significant comeback, landing the javelin at an impressive distance of 83.80 meters. This throw put him back in contention and served as a testament to his resilience and skill.
- Chopra followed up his noteworthy effort with throws of 81.37, 80.74, and 80.90 meters. While these throws were commendable, they were not enough to surpass the eventual Diamond League champion, Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic.

Jakub Vadlejch: The Diamond League Champion -

- Jakub Vadlejch, who had also earned the bronze medal at the World Championships that year, established his dominance from the very beginning. His opening throw of 84.01 meters set the tone for his performance. However, what made his victory even more impressive was his final attempt, where he improved upon his initial distance, landing the javelin at an outstanding 84.24 meters. Vadlejch's consistent performance throughout the competition ultimately earned him the title of Diamond League champion.



Maharashtra Beats Karnataka To Win 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship

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



Rugby India's Grand Initiative -

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

Position	Team
1st	Maharashtra
2nd	Karnataka
3rd	Bihar
4th	Haryana
5th	Odisha
6th	Chhattisgarh
7th	Rajasthan
8th	Uttar Pradesh

A Day-Long Wheelchair Rugby Workshop and Commitment to Growth -

- In addition to the thrilling competition, the Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation hosted a day-long wheelchair rugby workshop earlier in the week. Coaches and experts from Japan collaborated with athletes from all participating states during this coaching clinic, providing valuable insights and training that further enriched the experience of the athletes.

**Those who play the game
realise that nothing is
impossible if tried sincerely.**

India's Kiran George Clinches Indonesia Badminton Masters Title

- Indian badminton player Kiran George secured a remarkable victory at the Indonesia Masters 2023, held in Medan, North Sumatra. Competing at the GOR PBSI Pancing court, Kiran George, currently ranked 50th in the badminton rankings, displayed exceptional prowess as he defeated world No. 82 Koo Takahashi of Japan with a score of 21-19, 22-20, all within an intense battle lasting 56 minutes. This triumph marked Kiran George's Second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title, following his victory at the Odisha Open the previous year, where he defeated compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.



A Grueling Final Showdown

First Round -

- In the Indonesia Masters final, Kiran George and Koo Takahashi showcased an electrifying match, with both players matching each other's intensity in the first game. The tension escalated as the scores were tied at 15-all, but Kiran George seized control by winning six of the next 10 points, securing a 1-0 lead.

Second Round -

- The second game followed a similar script, with the 23-year-old Indian shuttler elevating his game after a 6-all tie to gain a five-point advantage at 16-11. Despite Koo Takahashi's spirited comeback in the closing stages, Kiran George's determination prevailed. He clinched victory with back-to-back points after the scores were level at 20-all, earning him his first BWF World Tour Super 100 title of the 2023 badminton season.

Semi-Final Triumph and Indian Representation -

- Kiran George's path to victory at the Indonesia Masters 2023 was not without challenges. In the semi-finals, he faced the 2014 World Championships bronze medallist, Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia, in a grueling three-game match.
- Remarkably, Kiran George was the sole Indian player to reach the final at the Indonesia Masters 2023, a testament to his exceptional skills and determination on the court.

Goa Governor Launches 'Mashaal' For 37th National Games

- Governor of Goa, Shri. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, officially introduced the Mashaal (torch) to mark the commencement of the 37th National Games. This splendid event was organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of Goa, at the Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan, Donapaula. The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Pramod Sawant, the Chief Minister, Shri. Govind Gaude, the Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Shri. Shripad Naik, the Minister of State for Tourism, and several other distinguished guests.



Anthem Unveiling: Amitabh Bachchan's Voice -

- Governor Pillai also revealed the National Games' Anthem (theme song), which featured the iconic voice of the legendary actor, Amitabh Bachchan. His participation added an element of grandeur and distinction to the occasion. What sets this Anthem apart is its incorporation of the traditional Goan instrument, the Ghumat, and the collaboration of Goan vocalists alongside other gifted artists.

A Digital Gateway: Launch of the Official Website -

- In this digital age, a specially designed website was launched during the ceremony. The Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant, did the honors by unveiling this digital gateway to all things related to the upcoming National Games. The website is a comprehensive resource, providing information and updates about the event. It promises to be an invaluable tool for participants, spectators, and enthusiasts alike.

Prathamesh Jawkar Signs Off With Silver 2023 Archery World Cup

- During the 2023 Archery World Cup Final held in Hermosillo, Mexico, Prathamesh Jawkar, the Indian compound archer, embarked on a memorable journey in his first-ever World Cup Final appearance. He clinched a silver medal as Jawkar's incredible run in the competition concluded with a thrilling face-off against Denmark's Mathias Fullerton.

**Jawkar's Stunning Victory Over World No. 1 -**

- Prathamesh Jawkar, the champion of the Shanghai World Cup, created ripples in the archery world by defeating the world No. 1 and reigning champion, Mike Schloesser, for the second time in just four months.

A Semifinal Masterpiece

- Before reaching the final, Prathamesh Jawkar displayed his flawless archery skills in the semifinals. He achieved a perfect score of 150 out of a possible 150 points, narrowly edging out Mike Schloesser by just one point. Jawkar's victory in the semifinals not only secured his place in the final but also denied Schloesser a hat-trick of World Cup Final titles, adding another feather to the cap of this young Indian archer.

SAFF U16 Championship Final : India Crowned Champions After Beating Bangladesh In Final

- India secured the championship title by triumphing over Bangladesh with a 2-0 victory in the final match of the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023, which took place on September 10 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Blue Colts Clinch Top Spot in Group A -

- Under the guidance of head coach Ishfaq Ahmed, the Blue Colts claimed the top position in Group A. They secured hard-fought 1-0 victories against Bangladesh and Nepal, followed by a commanding performance that saw them net eight goals against the Maldives in the semifinals. Remarkably, the team achieved this remarkable feat without allowing a single goal against them throughout the entire tournament.

**The Early Breakthrough -**

- India's initial breakthrough came early, just eight minutes into the match. Levis Zangminlun provided an incisive through ball to forward Bharat Lairenjam, who swiftly invaded the space ahead and slotted the ball between the legs of Bangladesh goalkeeper Mohammad Nahidul Islam to score.

Bangladesh's Response and Missed Opportunity -

- Bangladesh responded to India's goal and got a chance to equalise but Mohammed Mursed Ali made an unfortunate mistake. The forward beat the offside trap and took control of a through ball from Bangladesh captain Nazmul Huda Faysal. However, India goalkeeper Suraj Singh swiftly charged forward to cut down the angle, causing Ali to miss the target.

India's Dominance in the First Half -

- Throughout the first half, Levis Lairenjam and India's captain, Mate Ngamgouhou, consistently pressured the Bangladeshi defence, creating multiple scoring opportunities. In the 34th minute, a particularly promising chance materialised. A long ball was lofted towards the Bangladesh penalty area, prompting Indian forward Mohammad Arbash to give chase. Recognising that Bangladeshi goalkeeper Nahidul Islam had ventured off his line to attempt a clearance, Arbash seized the moment. He skillfully attempted to head the ball over the onrushing keeper. However, Islam was quick to react, successfully punching the ball out of harm's way and preserving the 1-0 scoreline as the teams entered halftime.

Sealing the Victory with Style

- India started the second half with the same intensity. Their relentless search for another goal bore fruit in the 74th minute with a sublime strike. Samson Ahongshangbam initiated a promising move down the left wing before expertly switching play to send the ball to Levis Zangminlun on the opposite flank. Engaging in a swift one-two pass with Vishal Yadav, Zangminlun outsmarted his defender to find himself in open space. Taking a moment to set himself, he then unleashed a devastating left-footed strike that sailed into the back of the net, doubling India's advantage.

Important

- ✓ **India Under-17 Head coach: Ishfaq Ahmed**
- ✓ **Best Goalkeeper of SAFF U16 Championship: Suraj Singh**
- ✓ **Most Valuable Player (MVP) & Highest Scorer of SAFF U16 Championship : Mohammed Arbash**
-

Asia Cup 2023, Virat Kohli becomes fastest ODI player to reach 13,000 runs

- India's Virat Kohli became the fastest batter to reach 13,000 ODI runs during the Asia Cup Super 4 against Pakistan at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The 34-year-old record of fellow Indian veteran Sachin Tendulkar (321 innings), by achieving in just 267 innings. He reached his 47th ton in ODIs. With this century, Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South African great Hashim Amla. The other three tons were against Sri Lanka— two of which came in 2017 and one in 2012.



- This makes him the fastest batter to 8000, 9000, 10000, 11000, 12000 and now 13000 ODI runs.
- Fifth player to reach the landmark
- Kohli completed 13,000 ODI runs, becoming the fifth player to reach the landmark in men's ODIs. Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Sanath Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene are the others before him to reach the milestone. He became the quickest batter to reach this milestone, Ponting (341) and Sangakkara (363) took over 300 innings too while Jayasuriya reached the mark in 416 innings.
-

Overall ODI runs top 5 Cricketers

Player	Innings	Runs	Average	Hundreds
Sachin Tendulkar	452	18426	44.83	49
Kumar Sangakkara	380	14234	41.98	25
Ricky Ponting	365	13704	42.03	30
Sanath Jayasuriya	433	13430	32.36	28
Virat Kohli	267	13024	57.62	47

“The secret of
your success
is determined by
your daily agenda.”

— JOHN C. MAXWELL



Important Days

September 2023

Important Days And Dates in September 2023

1st September - National Nutrition Week

- National Nutrition Week is observed from 1st September to 7th September to provide knowledge among people about the importance of nutrition and its importance for the human body, for better health.

2nd September - World Coconut Day

- World Coconut Day is observed on 2nd September every year to make people aware of the importance of this crop in poverty reduction. This day also commemorates the formation day of the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).

2nd September- Aditya L-1 Mission Launch

- Aditya L1 is India's first solar mission that carries the objective to study the sun. This mission will determine the sun's effects on the Earth and its atmosphere in real time.

5 September - Teachers' Day (India)

- Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on 5 September every year to mark the birth anniversary of India's second President Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. On this day we appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of teachers in making responsible individuals.

8 September - International Literacy Day

- International Literacy Day is observed on 8 September every year to make people aware of the importance of literacy which no doubt is a matter of dignity and human rights. Let us tell you that it is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Developmental Goals.

9 September- G 20 New Delhi Summit

- The G-20 is an international forum for governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies of the world. India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. Here is the set of questions and answers on G20 and its summits.

10 September - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)

- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed on 10 September every year to raise awareness to prevent cases of suicide. This day is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). And this day is co-sponsored by WHO.

11 September - National Forest Martyrs Day

- The date 11 September has historical significance and due to this, the date was chosen as National Forest Martyrs Day. In 1730, on this day, over 360 people of the Bishnoi tribe led by Amrita Devi, objected to the felling of trees. Due to their protest of saving the trees, they were killed in Khejarli, Rajasthan on the orders of the king.

11 September - World First Aid Day

- It is observed on the second Saturday of September and this year it falls on 11 September. The day raises awareness among the public about how first aid can save lives in case of crises. According to the International Federation, first aid should be accessible to all people and should be an important part of developmental societies.

11 September- Digvijay Diwas

- Digvijay Diwas is observed annually on September 11 to mark the historic speech of Swami Vivekananda in Chicago. In 1893, he attended the Parliament of the World's Religions as a representative of India and Hinduism. The inaugural World's Parliament of Religions took place from September 11 to September 27 1893.

14 September - Hindi Diwas

- Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 14 September as on this day the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script in 1949 as the official language of the Republic of India.

15 September - Engineer's Day (India)

- Engineer's Day is celebrated in India on 15 September every year to mark the tribute to the Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

15 September - International Day of Democracy

- International Day of Democracy is observed on 15 September to remind people that democracy is about people. This day provides an opportunity to make people understand the importance of democracy and the effective realization of Human Rights.

16 September - World Ozone Day

- World Ozone Day is observed on 16 September annually. On this day in 1987, the Montreal Protocol was signed. Since 1994, World Ozone Day has been celebrated which was established by the United Nations General Assembly. This day reminds people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and to find solutions to preserve it.

17 September - World Patient Safety Day

- The day is observed on 17 September. It was established by the 72nd World Health Assembly in May 2019, following the adoption of resolution WHA72.6 on 'Global action on patient safety'.

17 September- PM Narendra Modi's Birthday

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is celebrating his 73rd birthday on September 17, 2023. He is the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the 15th Prime Minister of India. He was born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat's Vadnagar.

18 September - World Bamboo Day

- The day is observed on 18 September to increase awareness about bamboo globally.

19 September- Ganesh Chaturthi

- Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayak Chaturthi or Ganeshotsav is a popular Hindu festival celebrated in India. The day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha to prosper wisdom and good fortune. This year, the 10-day-long Hindu festival will be celebrated from September 19 and end will end on September 28.

21 September - International Day of Peace (UN)

- International Day of Peace (UN) is observed on 21 September around the world. For the first time it was observed in September 1982 and in 2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as International Day of Peace of non-violence and cease-fire.

21 September - World Alzheimer's Day

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September to raise awareness among people about the challenges that patient faces due to dementia. In 2012, World Alzheimer's Month was launched.

22 September - World Rhino Day

- It is observed on 22 September every year. The day raises awareness and builds a safe natural habitat for this incredible species.

23 September - International Day of Sign Languages

- On 23rd September, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the day as International Day of Sign Languages. The day provides a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.

25 September - World Pharmacists Day

- It is observed on 25th September annually. In 2009, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress in Istanbul, Turkey designated 25th September as the annual World Pharmacists Day (WPD).

25 September - Antyodaya Diwas

- In 2014, on 25th September 'Antyodaya Diwas' was declared in honour of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's 98th Birth Anniversary.

26 September - World Environmental Health Day

- The day has been declared by the International Federation of Environmental Health.

27 September - World Tourism Day

- World Tourism Day is annually celebrated on 27 September to highlight the importance of tourism which helps in generating employment and build a future for millions of people around the world.

28 September - World Rabies Day

- World Rabies Day is observed on 28 September every year to make people aware of the prevention regarding rabies and to highlight the progress in defeating this horrifying disease.

28 September - International Day For Universal Access To Information (IDUAI)

- International Day For Universal Access To Information (IDUAI) 2022 is observed on 28 September every year. The day focuses on the right to seek, receive, and impart information.

29 September - World Heart Day

- World Heart Day is observed annually on 29 September. This day informs people about heart disease and stroke which is the world's leading cause of death.

30 September - International Translation Day

- International Translation Day is observed on 30 September every year. This day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of language professionals. It also plays an important role in bringing nations together and strengthening world peace and security.



BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB QUIZ

- What is the name of the seventh and last stealth frigate of Project 17A, that was recently launched?
[A] Kailashgiri [B] Mahendragiri [C] Sivagiri [D] Bharatgiri
- Which state launched the 'Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chatra Protshan Yojana (MMCPY)'?
[A] West Bengal [B] Odisha [C] Karnataka [D] Bihar
- Which country's central bank Governors topped the 'Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023'?
[A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] USA [D] UK
- Which city is the host of 'International Aerospace Conference'?
[A] Pune [B] Gwalior [C] Bengaluru [D] Hyderabad
- 'International Literacy Day' is observed on which day?
[A] July 8 [B] August 8 [C] September 8 [D] October 8
- Which Indian has won the 2023 Ramon Magsaysay award?
[A] Ravi Kannan [B] Gautam Adani [C] Ghazal Alagh [D] Kailash Vidyarthi
- Who is the first woman to head the Railway Board of India?
[A] Jaya Verma Sinha [B] Soma Mondal
[C] Madhabi Puri Buch [D] Rekha Sharma
- What is India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) percent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal (2023-2024)?
[A] 5.8 per cent [B] 6.8 per cent [C] 7.8 per cent [D] 8.8 per cent
- What was India's goods and services tax collection in August 2023?
[A] Rs 1.34 lakh crore [B] Rs 1.59 lakh crore
[C] Rs 1.65 lakh crore [D] Rs 1.72 lakh crore
- In the August, the number of UPI transactions performed which milestone?
[A] 5 billion [B] 10 billion [C] 15 billion [D] 20 billion
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve, that was recently making news, is in which state?
[A] Odisha [B] Andhra Pradesh [C] Gujarat [D] Jharkhand
- The 12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated recently along with 'Gandhi Vatika' in which city?
[A] New Delhi [B] Surat [C] Mumbai [D] Kolkata

1-B 2-B 3-A 4-B 5-C 6-A 7-A 8-C 9-B
10-B 11-A 12-A

13. MQ-9B Predator Drone, that was in news recently, was developed by which country?
[A] Israel [B] Russia [C] United States [D] Germany
14. Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), was launched by which agency?
[A] NASA [B] ISRO [C] ROCOSMOS [D] JAXA
15. Which Railway Station was recently awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council?
[A] Chengalpattu Railway Station, Tamil Nadu [B] Hubballi Railway Station, Karnataka
[C] Kalyan Railway Station, Maharashtra [D] Vijaywada Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh
16. Umiam lake, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
[A] West Bengal [B] Arunachal Pradesh [C] Sikkim [D] Meghalaya
17. The Indian Army's new headquarter Thal Sena Bhawan (TSB), is to come up in which state/UT?
[A] Punjab [B] New Delhi [C] Uttarakhand [D] Rajasthan
18. 'National Conference on KCC for Fisheries' is organized in which city?
[A] Chennai [B] Mumbai [C] Varanasi [D] Pune
19. Kirkuk, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
[A] Israel [B] Iraq [C] Australia [D] Greece
20. Which city's metro railway has launched 'Tourist Smart Cards'?
[A] Mumbai [B] Delhi [C] Chennai [D] Kolkata
21. India recently organised its first 'Investment Forum 2023' with which country?
[A] UAE [B] Saudi Arabia [C] Australia [D] Germany
22. Which city is the host of 'Workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)?'
[A] Mumbai [B] Chennai [C] Gandhi Nagar [D] Bhubaneswar
23. Which Union Ministry organised the 'International Conference on Dam Safety'?
[A] Ministry of Jal Shakti [B] Ministry of MSME
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology [D] Ministry of Coal
24. Araku coffee, which was one of the gifts presented to leaders at G-20 summit, is from which state?
[A] Kerala [B] Andhra Pradesh [C] Assam [D] West Bengal
25. Which institution has developed a new Approach for Early Detection and Treatment of Lung and Cervical Cancer?
[A] IIT- Madras [B] IISc- Bengaluru [C] IIT- Delhi [D] IIT- Kharagpur

13-C 14-A 15-D 16-D 17-B 18-B 19-B 20-B 21-B 22-A
23-A 24-B 25-B

26. Varuna is the bilateral exercise between the navies of which countries?
[A] India and France [B] India and Sri Lanka
[C] India and Australia [D] India and USA
27. Which city is the host of the 'First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights'?
[A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi [C] Varanasi [D] Amritsar
28. Which Indian tennis player won the runners trophy in the US Open doubles final?
[A] Rohan Bopanna [B] Somdev Devvarman
[C] Chirag Shetty [D] K Srikanth
29. India recently organised the meeting of Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) formed with which country?
[A] Brazil [B] Argentina [C] Egypt [D] Saudi Arabia
30. Which department launched 'Recognition Scheme for ISPs Promoting Rural FTTH Broadband'?
[A] Department of Telecommunications [B] Department of Post
[C] Department of Electronics [D] Department of Expenditure
31. 'India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor' was formed along the sidelines of which summit?
[A] G-20 [B] ASEAN [C] BIMSTEC [D] SAARC
32. Which country/bloc has been recently admitted as the Permanent Member of G20?
[A] Mauritius [B] African Union [C] Maldives [D] Egypt
33. Which bank launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' to facilitate seamless customer commuting experience?
[A] State Bank of India [B] Punjab National Bank
[C] Canara Bank [D] Axis Bank
34. Which institutions recommended cross border co-operation and information sharing, in a joint report to the Group of 20 nations?
[A] IMF- FSB [B] IMF- WEF [C] World Bank- WEF [D] ADB- AIIB
35. Which country has recently rejoined the European Union's science research programme -Horizon Europe?
[A] U.K [B] Germany [C] France [D] Italy
36. Kishore Jena, who was seen in the news, is associated with which sports?
[A] Tennis [B] Javelin Throw [C] Badminton [D] Table Tennis
37. Pragyan rover of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, has confirmed the presence of which element on the moon's surface?
[A] Potassium [B] Sulphur [C] Sodium [D] Chlorine
38. Which state raised the OBC quota to 27% in local bodies?
[A] Gujarat [B] Assam [C] Jharkhand [D] Madhya Pradesh

26-A 27-B 28-A 29-D 30-A 31-A 32-B 33-A 34-A 35-A
36-B 37-B 38-A

39. Goa Shipyard Ltd signed an MoU for capacity building and collaboration in ship design and construction with which country?
[A] Australia [B] France [C] Kenya [D] UAE
40. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to construct 25-mw solar power plant in which state?
[A] Gujarat [B] Rajasthan [C] Tamil Nadu [D] West Bengal
41. 'Operation Muskaan', which was seen in the news, was implemented in which city?
[A] Indore [B] Mumbai [C] Ahmedabad [D] Guwahati
42. What is the transaction limit for small value digital payments in offline mode, as of September 2023?
[A] Rs 1000 [B] Rs 500 [C] Rs 200 [D] Rs 100
43. Which state implements the 'Ladli Behna Scheme'?
[A] Maharashtra [B] Madhya Pradesh [C] Goa [D] Odisha
44. Cabinet declared which day as 'National Space Day' in India?
[A] August 20 [B] August 23 [C] August 25 [D] August 27
45. Archaeologists have unearthed 3,000-year-old priestly tomb in which country?
[A] Peru [B] Argentina [C] Greece [D] Japan
46. Which state launched 'Gruha Lakshmi scheme'?
[A] Kerala [B] Karnataka [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Odisha
47. Which company has launched a new mobile application called 'Share(dot)Market'?
[A] PhonePe [B] Paytm [C] BharatPe [D] CRED
48. Gabon, which was seen in the news, is located in which region?
[A] Africa [B] Europe [C] Australia [D] Asia
49. Which country is set to hold a referendum to recognize the country's Indigenous people in its constitution?
[A] Greece [B] Australia [C] Sri Lanka [D] China
50. Which country/countries are the hosts of Asia Cup 2023 tournament?
[A] Sri Lanka and Pakistan [B] India and Bangladesh
[C] Nepal and Bangladesh [D] Pakistan and Afghanistan
51. The Viability Gap Funding for development of BESS aims to generate 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by?
[A] 2024-25 [B] 2030-31 [C] 2035-36 [D] 2040-41

39-C 40-C 41-B 42-B 43-B 44-B 45-A 46-B 47-A 48-A
49-B 50-A 51-B

52. The Cabinet granted approval for allocation of Rs. 1164 crore for the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 in which states?
[A] Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand [B] Punjab and Rajasthan
[C] Kerala and Tamil Nadu [D] West Bengal and Odisha
53. Which city is the host of 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023'?
[A] Pune [B] Ghaziabad [C] Mysuru [D] Hyderabad
54. Which institution launched 'Face Authentication system' at the Global Fintech Festival?
[A] NPCI [B] NITI Aayog [C] NASSCOM [D] UIDAI
55. Which city is the host of Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) Conference?
[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai [C] Gandhi Nagar [D] Bengaluru
56. Consider the following statements National Judicial Data Grid portal (NJDG)
1. It is the flagship project under the e-Courts project.
 2. It is the national repository of all case related information pertaining to the Supreme Court, High Courts, District and Taluka Courts.
- Choose the incorrect statements:
[A] 1 only [B] 2 only [C] Both 1 and 2 [D] Neither 1 nor 2
57. Consider the following statements about International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML)
1. It is an intergovernmental treaty organization that was established in 1955, headquartered at Paris.
 2. It aims to develop model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.
 3. India is a member of the organisation.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
[A] Only one [B] Only two [C] All three [D] None of the above
58. Consider the following statements about Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSKs)
1. VSK is a data repository which will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry of Education.
 2. Repository will include regularly updated data from Performance Grading Index and PM-POSHAN.
- Choose the correct statements:
[A] 1 only [B] 2 only [C] Both 1 and 2 [D] Neither 1 nor 2
59. Consider the following statements about Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards
1. It is instituted in the memory of the first Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
 2. Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years is eligible for the award.
 3. The awardee is provided with the value of Rs 10, 00,000.
- Which one of the statements given above are incorrect?
[A] only 1 [B] only 2 [C] only 3 [D] None of the above

52-A 53-B 54-D 55-A 56-D 57-C 58-C 59-C

60. How many crore rupees has been approved by the Union Cabinet for the Industrial Development Scheme in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand?
[A] 1164.53 crore [B] 1166.53 crores [C] 1170.53 crores [D] 1180.53 crore
61. Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) approves to conduct Truenat test to detect which infection?
[A] Dengue [B] Nipah [C] Malaria [D] Tuberculosis
62. What is the new award instituted to honour scientists in India?
[A] PM Vigyan Puraskar [B] Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar
[C] Bharat Vigyan Puraskar [D] DeenDayal Vigyan Puraskar
63. What is the name of the first indigenous aircraft carrier of India?
[A] Vikrant [B] Bhim [C] Virat [D] Akash
64. Which city hosted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit in September 2023?
[A] New Delhi [B] New York [C] Paris [D] Nairobi
65. India has partnered with which country to deploy 10,000 made-in-India electric buses across Indian cities?
[A] Germany [B] Finland [C] USA [D] Australia
66. The Chausath Yogini temple, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
[A] Gujarat [B] Bihar [C] Rajasthan [D] Madhya Pradesh
67. Which Indian armed force conducted the 'Operation Sajag' drill?
[A] Indian Army [B] Indian Navy [C] Indian Air Force [D] Indian Coast Guard
68. The 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2023, which was introduced recently, is associated with?
[A] Reserve 33% of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
[B] Identify Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
[C] Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs)
[D] Goods and Services Tax
69. Which institution is set to launch the online platform called 'Bima Sugam'?
[A] IRDAI [B] NITI Aayog [C] PFRDA [D] RBI
70. 'Hoysala Temples', which received UNESCO World Heritage Tag, are located in which state?
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Karnataka [C] Odisha [D] West Bengal
71. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a ban on cruise ships operating on water bodies of which state?
[A] Odisha [B] Madhya Pradesh [C] Gujarat [D] Rajasthan
72. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is associated with which country?
[A] USA [B] UK [C] Australia [D] Germany

60-A 61-B 62-B 63-A 64-B 65-C 66-D 67-D 68-A 69-A
70-B 71-A 72-B

73. Which state Chief Minister has been awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship?
[A] West Bengal [B] Assam [C] Rajasthan [D] Tamil Nadu
74. Which state announced Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana (MMSKY)?
[A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Sikkim [C] Meghalaya [D] Arunachal Pradesh
75. Which country has enforced a European Union (EU) ban on all Russian-registered passenger cars entering the country?
[A] France [B] Italy [C] Poland [D] Germany
76. Which state launched 'Mobile Van Program' to promote Natural Farming?
[A] Assam [B] Himachal Pradesh [C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Rajasthan
77. Which state launched 'Griha Adhar' and 'Chavath e Bazaar' initiatives?
[A] Kerala [B] Gujarat [C] Goa [D] Odisha
78. As per recent research, exposure to which element was linked to 5.5 Million Cardiovascular Disease Deaths Globally in 2019?
[A] Mercury [B] Lead [C] Cadmium [D] Titanium
79. Which Indian state launched free breakfast scheme in schools for students, after Tamil Nadu?
[A] Kerala [B] Telangana [C] West Bengal [D] Rajasthan
80. Which institution announced special awards to artists above 75 years of age?
[A] Sangeet Natak Akademi [B] Lalit Kala Akademi
[C] Sahitya Akademi [D] ICCR
81. 'National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)' is associated with which country?
[A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] USA [D] UK
82. All reported births and deaths in the country will be digitally registered on the Centre's portal from which date?
[A] October 1, 2023 [B] December 1, 2023 [C] January 1, 2024 [D] April 1, 2024
83. Which state launched a subsidy scheme to attract investment and boost the state's stainless-steel production?
[A] Karnataka [B] Odisha [C] Jharkhand [D] Assam
84. Which space agency released its findings after a yearlong study into unidentified flying object (UFOs)?
[A] ISRO [B] NASA [C] JAXA [D] ESA
85. Where is the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) racetrack located in India?
[A] Pune [B] Bengaluru [C] Greater Noida [D] Hyderabad

73-B 74-D 75-D 76-B 77-C 78-B 79-B 80-A 81-A 82-A
83-B 84-B 85-C

86. The foundation stone of Downstream Petrochemical Complex and Refinery Expansion Project has been laid in which state?
[A] Maharashtra [B] Madhya Pradesh [C] Gujarat [D] Rajasthan
87. Which Union Ministry recently launched the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 Portal?
[A] Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
[C] Ministry of Women and Child Development
[D] Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
88. Which Ministry is associated with OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates?
[A] Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food Distribution
[B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology
[D] Ministry of MSME
89. Which city is the host of '4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting'?
[A] Gandhi Nagar [B] Varanasi [C] Mysuru [D] Guwahati
90. When was the National Logistics Policy (NLP) launched in India?
[A] 2022 [B] 2020 [C] 2018 [D] 2016
91. Which state/UT recorded deaths due to Nipah virus infection?
[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Kerala [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Odisha
92. What is the name of the festival organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)?
[A] Vindhyas [B] Ramayan [C] Vaishali [D] Himalayan
93. What is the name of the campaign launched by Union Health Ministry, to mark Prime Minister's birthday?
[A] Ayushman Bhav campaign [B] Bharath Bhav campaign
[C] Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign [D] Bharat Arogya campaign
94. What is the retail inflation recorded in August, in India?
[A] 4.83 % [B] 5.83 % [C] 6.83 % [D] 7.83 %
95. Which Union Ministry launched 'Skill India Digital' programme?
[A] Ministry of Education
[B] Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship
[C] Ministry of Women and Child Development
[D] Ministry of Home Affairs
96. India handed over the G-20 Presidency to which country?
[A] Indonesia [B] Sri Lanka [C] Brazil [D] UAE

86-B 87-A 88-A 89-B 90-A 91-B 92-C 93-A 94-C 95-B
96-C

97. Which North-Indian state has unveiled its new State Education Policy, 2023?
[A] Uttarakhand [B] Assam [C] West Bengal [D] Uttar Pradesh
98. What is L-1, specified in the Aditya-L1 observatory?
[A] First Sun-Earth Lagrangian point [B] First Sun-Moon Lagrangian point
[C] First Moon-Earth Lagrangian point [D] First Space-Earth Lagrangian point
99. Nifty 50 hits which mark for the first time, on the following day of the G20 Summit?
[A] 10,000 mark [B] 15,000 mark [C] 20,000 mark [D] 25,000 mark
100. Which state implements the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai (women's basic income) scheme?
[A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Odisha [D] Karnataka

**"SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL,
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL: IT IS
THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE
THAT COUNTS."**

- Winston Churchill

97-C 98-A 99-C 100-B



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YOGESH DAS
GP Parsi Bank - Jr. Officer / PNB - MT



DEEPAK PATIL
CIDCO - Account Clerk



Bhumi Shah
Bank Of India Clerk



Anisha Tonde
CIDCO - Account Clerk



Kimaya Kathade
ICICI Bank PO



Pushpa Gupta
Saraswat Bank - Deputy Manager



Sonu Singh
Axis Bank - Assistant Manager



Gaurav Meena
Canara Bank - Clerk



Bhumi Shah
Bank Of India - Clerk



Hitesh Vekhande
Punjab Maharashtra Bank Mang. Tr.



Ravi Pankhade
DNS Bank Asst. Manager



Shankar Rathod
Jr. Electric Supervisor



Nitesh Ghodake
Sr. Section Engg. Railway



Manish Kumar Singh
PNB - Clerk



Nandu Babu
Union Bank of India - Clerk



Moham Kumbhare
CIDCO 1st In Maharashtra



Prestesh Saini
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